

Briefing for Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24th February 2020

The Forward Plan lists the reports expected to come to Cabinet in the next 3 or 4 months. This note supplements that with other issues that may be of interest to O&S.

Countywide Governance

3 new boards (Central Gloucestershire; Severn Vale & Rural) were proposed and created as part of the 2050 vision work. There is ongoing discussion about the best way forward, what role these play in the existing structure and whether a single board would be a better option.

The Strategic Economic Development Fund (sourced from Gloucestershire Business Rates Pool) was discussed at recent Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee Meetings. A bid for £500k to fund the Central Gloucestershire City Region Board was withdrawn for further discussion. However it was agreed to continue providing £250k to match fund central government core funding for GFirst LEP. Funding bids for Cyber Central (£200k), Local Nature Partnership Capital Mapping Work (£40k) and Rail Investment Strategy (£70k) were also agreed.

Rail Industry

Members will be aware of the seminar on this on 27th February. As background information, the GEGJC has received initial feedback on the Rail Investment Strategy (mentioned above) although work is ongoing and this is intended to inform the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan.

Improvement work at Cheltenham Spa station is continuing but is well behind schedule. While the cycle link to Lansdown Road is not part of the current work, project managers GWR are committed to providing it. However, the overrun on the current work and uncertainty about the future franchise which currently ends 31st March 2020 means we still are not sure if/when this will happen.