

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee – 17 July 2020 (update from Councillor McCloskey)

Distilled to the essence the most important subject is 'Recovery', and the emergent Gloucestershire Plan.

The full document can be read here:

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s60501/Item%209%20Gloucestershire%20OC-19%20Economic%20Recovery%20-%20GEGJC%20Paper%20Final.pdf>

These few lines provide an overview:

“There is a growing consensus that a three-stage process is needed to consider what action and activity may be required to support the economy going forward. These stages are:

- Addressing the immediate crisis (short term) – a role played by the Recovery Cell which has been overseeing and helping to co-ordinate the immediate needs of businesses and local communities.
- A potentially lengthy period of transition (medium term) – **an unknown timeframe, expected to last for 18-months** and supported by existing structures within the County Council, with matters referred, by exception, to the Recovery Cell.
- The emergence of a new normal – the longer-term, business as usual approach with amended structures as required.

There is both a need and an opportunity to think creatively about how to use the transition to effectively develop, test and learn about new ways of working, including different forms of collaboration and partnership. The impact on the economy is central to this and as such, partners such as the LEP, the rest of the public sector together with the private sector must work together to shape the response.”

And perhaps of most significance is that the emergence of a 'new normal' is expected to take at least 18 months. The Scrutiny Group has had other items on its workplan like 'The Impact of Brexit on the County', but there was little detail to scrutinise before lockdown, and we are still some way from knowing how Brexit is going to impact us.

There are more links to background reading in the Agenda pack for the last meeting on 2nd July, available on the GCC website should O&S members wish to research further.