

Cheltenham Borough Council
Continuation of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint
Committee - September 2020 to March 2022

Accountable member	Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Jordan
Accountable officer	Chief Executive, Gareth Edmundson
Ward(s) affected	All
Key/Significant Decision	No
Executive summary	To consider a request from the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) to extend the operation of the GEGJC for a period of eighteen months from 4 September 2020 together with agreement to waive the 12 months' notice period set out in the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) between the partner authorities, to enable the GEGJC) to continue.
Recommendations	To: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. waive and remove the twelve months' notice period set out in the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) dated 4 September 2014 required to extend the IAA, including removing the need for future notice periods, and 2. agree to the GEGJC continuing to operate from September 2020 for a period of eighteen months and 3. authorises the Chief Executive to agree and complete the appropriate legal formalities to allow the IAA to be extended for 18 months to enable the GEGJC to continue until March 2022 on terms to be approved by the Borough Solicitor.
Financial implications	<i>[None directly associated with this report].</i> Contact officer: , @cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242
Legal implications	The proposal contained in this report, if approved, will extend the provisions of the Inter Authority Agreement until 31 March 2022. Contact officer: One Legal, legal.services@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272691
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<i>[None directly associated with this report].</i> Contact officer: , @cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242
Key risks	The proposed eighteen-month extension to the GEGJC does not present any particular risks to the authority.

Corporate and community plan Implications	The GEGJC supports the authority's The Corporate Plan 219- 2023- specifically the following guiding principle, ' We will provide strategic co-ordination across Cheltenham's agencies, partnerships and networks to drive the delivery of the Place Vision'.
Environmental and climate change implications	None directly associated with this report].
Property/Asset Implications	None directly associated with this report]. Contact officer: Dominic.Stead@cheltenham.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 3 June 2020 the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) considered a report in respect of its overall governance arrangements. The report, which sets out the purpose of the Committee and the issues involved, is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 1.2 The report included an update regarding the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) dated 4 September 2014 which all Gloucestershire local authorities entered into to establish the Joint Committee. The report to the Joint Committee confirms that the initial term for the GEGJC was for a six-year term which is due to end in September 2020.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 The GEGJC considered a proposal to extend its future operation for a further eighteen months following the end of the IAA in September 2020 and resolved to:

'Request the partner authorities to waive and remove the twelve months' notice period set out in the Inter Authority Agreement dated 4 September 2014, including removing the need for future notice periods, and to agree to the GEGJC continuing to operate from September 2020 for a period of eighteen months.'
- 2.2 The proposed eighteen months' extension will allow the Gloucestershire local authorities to continue to work together through an effective governance mechanism in respect of the development of the Gloucestershire economy, including economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this work the Committee's operation of the countywide Strategic Economic Development Fund, currently standing at £4.5million, will be vital.
- 2.3 There are currently several partnership bodies in Gloucestershire with economic development roles. Therefore, the extension of eighteen months will be used to undertake a review of economic partnership governance arrangements to determine the most effective structures to support the future economic success of the county. This may result in a recommendation to continue the GEGJC or an alternative arrangement.
- 2.4 The IAA included a notice period of twelve months to allow partner councils to consider options for renewal. Unfortunately, this period has been passed and therefore partner Councils will need to agree waive and remove the notice period to allow the extension of the IAA to proceed.
- 2.5 It is therefore proposed that the authority proceeds as requested by the GEGJC resolution.

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1 Not extending the IAA. This will result in there being no formal joint decision-making arrangements in Gloucestershire, at this critical time, to support economic growth, coordinate local authority combined response to COVID-19 economic impacts and operate the Strategic

4. How this initiative contributes to the corporate plan

- 4.1 The GEGJC supports the authority's Corporate Plan 219- 2023-specifically the guiding principle, 'We will provide strategic co-ordination across Cheltenham's agencies, partnerships and networks to drive the delivery of the Place Vision.'

5. Consultation and feedback

- 5.1 The GEGJC Senior Officer Group, which includes senior officers from all local authorities and GFirst LEP, supported the proposal.

6. Performance management –monitoring and review

- 6.1 Each partner council will be required to complete the legal formalities by each partner authority to waive and remove the reference to the twelve months' notice period in the IAA and to extend the IAA for a further 18 month period from September 2020, to enable the Joint Committee to operate during this period.

Report author	Contact officer: Gareth.Edmundson@cheltenham.gov.uk , 01242 264100
Appendices	1 – GEGJC Report 3 June 2020.
Background information	1. None

APPENDIX