

Briefing for Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2nd November 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.

COVID-19

The Gloucestershire Covid-19 Outbreak Engagement Board has now met 4 times – 3 monthly meetings from August and a special on 16th October. To quote the Terms of Reference “the purpose of the Gloucestershire Covid-19 Outbreak Engagement Board is to provide member and community oversight of the Gloucestershire Local Outbreak Management Plan and communicate appropriately with local communities and settings.”

The 16th October meeting mentioned was set up specifically to discuss the proposed 6 point action plan to help prevent the local spread of Covid-19, subsequently published by the County Council, and the partnership work between districts on spending the extra funding allocated for this.

Members of the Engagement Board are sent a weekly dashboard of data. Some of this is provided by Public Health England on the basis that it is not published. As a result the dashboard is only circulated to Cabinet and ELT members within CBC.

It appears that a recent version of the dashboard reached the media and the county has now suspended circulation of the confidential data. This is a concerning development since with the speed of change with Covid-19 it is important that all decision makers have the most accurate and up to date information possible. We are taking steps to ensure those involved in decisions on behalf of CBC have the data they need.

Airport

It had been hoped to bring a report relating to the airport to the special council meeting on 16th November. It is unlikely to be ready by then but a report will be brought to the 7th December Council at the latest and member briefing session(s) will be set up in advance.