

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (GEGSC)

REPORT TO O&S OF THE MEETING HELD IN SHIRE HALL ON THURSDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2022

The agenda and a recording of the meeting are to be found here:

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=731&MIId=10817&Ver=4>

https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/701839

I would just highlight the following:

- 1) A presentation by Paul Minnis updating the Committee about the Golden Valley project; it starts about 2 minutes into the recording. (If you watch the video and click the 'slides' tab you can get the video and the slides up on the same screen.) I asked a question about 55 minutes in which got a good, wide-ranging answer from Tracey Birkenshaw. (Basically about how Golden Valley, Junction 10, and the Tewkesbury Road developments are to be co-ordinated.)
- 2) At 1hr 14 minutes Tracey updates on the statement of 'Common Ground' and its role in Planning. [It won't affect individual Planning Applications, it's far more strategic than that.]
- 3) At 1hr 23 minutes an up-to-date picture of what is happening economically in Gloucestershire from Kate Martin. The presentation includes demographics, unemployment, job vacancies etc. It is not Good News! The proportion of people of working age (16 to 64) is dropping and those aged 65+ in increasing. [I've seen separate figures indicating that between now and 2050 the working age population will drop by 28% whilst the pensioner population continues to rise.]
The presentation then moves on to look at Growth, and job vacancies (19,192). Given the low level of unemployment (2.2% of population – 8,615 people - claiming unemployment), the employment situation is clearly tightening which is putting inflationary pressure on wages. There are some great infographics that make the data a lot more digestible.

After the presentation finishes, there is an excellent question (from me!) that gleaned more information.

Cllr Paul McCloskey
24th October 2022