

**GEGSC – REPORT TO O&S MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023  
COVERING THE 29/11/2022 AND THE 18/01/2023 MEETINGS**

The full recording of the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 meeting, together with all the papers, presentations etc. can be found here:

[https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/736121](https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/736121)

The recording and papers for the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 meeting can be found here:

[https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/720657](https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/720657)

**Please note that the next meeting of GEGSC will be hosted by Cheltenham in the Council Chamber at 10:00am on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023. All Councillors are invited to attend and ask questions.**

**The Main event will be a presentation from the CBC SLT on its vision for Economic Growth within the District/County.**

**The main item in November was ‘The Gloucestershire Food and Farming Strategy’.**

The Agrifood sector accounts for 30% of climate change gases, but accordingly offers the chance to contribute hugely to meeting commitments. There are also opportunities to improve biodiversity, water quality in our rivers and everyone’s health through healthier diets and lifestyles.

The presentation from Dr Ben Dent starts about 5 minutes in. Well worth a watch. There are huge opportunities if we can manage to produce and distribute more food locally, as the money would stay in Gloucestershire rather than being siphoned off by large super-markets.

**The January Meeting had three linked presentations:**

- Supporting Small Businesses and Assistance for Start-Ups – David Owen, G-First LEP
- Addressing the Labour Shortage (There are currently 2.4 jobs for everyone seeking work in Gloucestershire!??) – Pete Carr G-First LEP.
- Economic Dashboard (all the data) – Kate Middleton

The presentations start about 3 minutes into the meeting recording. Both LEP reports were taken as read, with the speakers giving a succinct overview of the main findings followed by Q&As.

The fantastic work of the Growth Hubs supporting start-up businesses was highlighted, but it was noted that traditionally the Growth Hub funding was all EU Money, and that had now ceased. This year, it had meant a 50% cut in government support. Next year it is still undecided what funding may emerge from the Shared Prosperity Fund.

There used to be a few sectors that struggled with vacancies; it is now across the board. Employers were having to be more creative with their job offers, as applicants were interested in work-life balance, and the opportunity to work from home at least part of the time. Job Seekers were also using ‘Glassdoor’ an anonymous website that allows current employees to give an accurate (?) picture of what it was really like to work for their employer.

This is all putting more emphasis on growing your own employees, rather than trying to poach ones that someone else has trained. (Would you want to work for an organisation that

didn't put ongoing training and staff development at the heart of everything it does? People are voting with their feet.)

One of the least economically active groups was 30 to 44 women. There is growing evidence that this is caused by unaffordable (even if you can find it) childcare.

It was noted that the non-UK population had reduced by 1.3 million recently. (You'll notice I've avoided the 'B' word, a habit which seems to be very much in vogue now.)

Cllr Paul McCloskey  
Charlton Kings  
CBC Representative on GEGSG  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023