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STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the next meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| 9 | c) | <u>Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee (GEGSC)</u> (Pages 3 - 4) |
| 9 | d) | <u>Canal Update</u> (Pages 5 - 6) |

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STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	22 September 2022

BRIEF REPORT:

1. Golden Valley Development Project Update

Paul Minnis of Cheltenham District Council shared with the Committee the plans for the Golden Valley Development <https://www.goldenvalleyuk.com/>, envisaged as a Garden Community integrating hi-tech business, residential and leisure uses. A proposed National Cyber Innovation Centre will be at the heart of the development, with the intention of boosting Cheltenham's international reputation for cyber and providing high quality jobs for the housing element of the site (1,100 homes across CBC land and the northern section of the site which will be developed by St Modwen) and the local area. The site, allocated as A7 in the Joint Core Strategy, is adjacent to GCHQ, and will be developed in partnership with HBD X Factory.

Members had questions on affordable homes (35% provision), renewable energy (detailed plans are work-in-progress but renewable energy and green infrastructure are fundamental principles in the master plan) and Building with Nature accreditation (the project has been designed to comply with these standards). There was also discussion on the impact of additional vehicle movements on existing high traffic volumes in this part of Cheltenham. Paul was urged by GCC's Simon Excell to make contact the relevant GCC officer lead for Health, Education, Transport, etc at an early stage (where this has not yet been done). CBC expect to apply for outline planning permission for the development in the spring.

2. Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground – update

Tracey Birkinshaw updated the committee on the approvals of the Gloucestershire SOCG (Tewkesbury BC are expected to approve soon, all other councils alongside GFirst LEP have already done so) and explained that an action plan will now be developed to deliver actions arising from the SOCG. This plan will have linkages to other key desired outcomes, such as those of Climate Leadership Gloucestershire. SEDF funding is to be sought to resource the action plan.

3. GCC Economic Dashboard

GCC's Katherine Martin presented a wide-ranging report of key economic indicators for the county. Members found this interesting and helpful, and it was agreed that Katherine would return on a regular basis with updates to the data.



STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEMBER REPORT

4. Future workplan

Officers were keen that an item referred to the Committee by GEGJC (regarding bus services) should await the launch of the Bus Services task and finish group later in the year, but members with inboxes full of bus-related queries, myself included, felt that the matter was too urgent for any further delay – it was agreed that a short report would be brought to a joint meeting of JEGSC and the Environment Scrutiny Committee as soon as practicable, with a fuller report to follow.

I requested an update on each of the Gloucestershire Strategic Economic Plan (as referred to in the Committee’s purpose statement - now the Local Industrial Strategy) and on the long term funding strategy for infrastructure delivery countywide – both added to workplan.

FUTURE MEETINGS	29 November 2022
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Chloe Turner
DATE	28 September 2022



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STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBER/OFFICER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	COTSWOLD CANALS CONNECTED (CCC) PARTNERS PROJECT BOARD
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	27 JULY 2022

BRIEF REPORT:

Members will be aware that the Cotswold Canals Connected Project was successful in securing £8.9m funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) towards a £20+m project to restore sections of the Stroudwater Navigation and reconnect this to the National canal network. The project will bring economic, social and environmental benefits and a lasting legacy for our communities. As well as NLHF, core funding partners include SDC as lead and accountable body, Gloucestershire County Council, Canal and Rivers Trust, Cotswold Canals Trust (co-lead of the project with SDC) and Stroud Valleys Canal Company.

The Partners' Project Board last met on 27 July 2022 and will meet next on 18 October. Key items under discussion by the board at this time include:

Funding

The board is looking at the current financial position with the project, and ways to manage escalating project costs. A progress update on this work will come to the next board meeting on 18 October, and a substantive report is also planned to come to the November meeting of Strategy and Resources Committee.

Land Acquisitions

Good progress is being made in the acquisition of all remaining third-party land that will be necessary to restore the canal. It is anticipated that all of this land will be acquired – or have options to be acquired – by the end of this calendar year or very early in 2023.

Planning Application (Missing Mile)

A planning application to create the 'missing mile' section of the canal between Stonehouse Ocean and under the M5 motorway is in the final stages of being drawn together. It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted in the coming weeks, for determination by the Council's Development Control Committee in December 2022 (or possibly January 2023).



STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBER/OFFICER REPORT

Activity Planning and Community Benefit

Good progress has been made in reviewing and re-prioritising the 'activity plan' for the project, which has seen disruption and delays in being implemented largely because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a critical area of work that is central to the NLHF support for the project and will set out the key areas of wider community benefit to be secured over the lifetime of the funding and beyond. NLHF has been working with SDC and other key partners in this work which will be completed by December 2022.

Continued progress and resolution on all of the above items is necessary to achieve final 'permission to start' for the project from NHLF.

A substantive report on the project will come to Strategy and Resources Committee on 24 November 2022.

FUTURE MEETINGS	18 October 2022
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Brendan Cleere and Chris Mitford-Slade
DATE	28 September 2022