



STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	25 September 2023

BRIEF REPORT:

There were updates on the following items:

Economic Inactivity in Gloucestershire

A presentation was delivered on the latest statistics regarding economic activity in the County. Some of the main points were as follows. There is a growing number of people who are 'economically inactive', neither in work nor unemployed.

- There are more 18-64 year olds not in economic activity than before Covid
- Of the increase – 79.6% of people are in the 50-64 year age bracket
- No clear reason overall – multiple intersecting reasons at individual level
- There has been an increase in long term sickness – this actually started pre pandemic
- Most of the long term sick were already inactive but listed another reason (Only 19% were previously in employment)
- In Gloucestershire, 17.3% of 18-64 years olds are economically inactive – less than national average.
- Health appears to be a factor with those who are economically inactive more likely to say their health is not good or that they have a disability
- Caring responsibilities are another major influence
- Those with a higher level qualification are more likely to be in the workforce

There was also an update on the Employment and Skills Hub Outreach project partnership from the Skills hub who talked about their network of partners across the Districts. The partners for the Stroud District are GL11 and Stroud Valleys Project.

About 68% of the referrals come from the partners
264 referrals to date of which 63% declared a disability or health condition. 27% BAME.
30% inactive for over 10 years; 25% participants into employment; 13% into education.
Most partners have good networks but the hub is also going to look beyond for additional referrals. A referral matrix has been developed to share knowledge of wider support available.



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Business Rates Pool

Councillors considered the in-year position on the Gloucestershire Business Rates pool. This is expected to deliver a gain of £4.4 million of which £874k will go to the Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF).

There was also an update on a new Strategic Process for allocating the fund with a twice yearly call for bids. This was approved subject to the need for the Strategic Officer Group to consider additional wording on how the bids contribute to net zero, an amendment requested by Cllr Braun.

There was also a verbal update on arrangements for the new City Region Board. The new inter authority agreement is similar to previous arrangements. Leadership Gloucestershire will consider this and it will need to go ahead to the full Council meeting in October. The first date is not yet set but is likely to be in November.

Information Reports

Information updates were considered on the GCC Economic Dashboard and the GFirst LEP

FUTURE MEETINGS	To be determined – GEGJC now replaced by City Region Board
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Catherine Braun, Leader Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources
DATE	04/10/2023