



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	27 September 2023

BRIEF REPORT:

The September meeting was hosted by Tewkesbury Borough Council, and began with an interesting update on the town's Heritage Access Zone project, which has brought £1m of investment in heritage buildings and the public realm – more here

<https://teWKesbury.gov.uk/services/planning/conservation/teWKesbury-high-street-heritage-action-zone/>

The Ashchurch Garden Town update prompted a lively debate about sustainable development and the link between the new town and Tewkesbury's heritage centre. The proposed 10,000 home development is not included within TBC's Local Plan, which presents considerable planning challenges, but the council is actively engaged with local developers to try and ensure that sites that come forward before the new Plan is in place are delivered in a way that is sympathetic to the overall vision for the Garden Town.

Officers also gave an update on progress with the rollout of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural Prosperity Fund in TBC, grant programmes for both of which are now live (or will be very shortly). As shared county objectives have been used to direct the spending, the programme looks very similar in Tewkesbury to the rollout in Stroud.

An officer from the Tewkesbury Growth Hub reported on the Hub's activity. Co-location with the council and other public bodies (eg police) seems to have contributed to the success of this very active Hub, which offers fully-funded business support, co-working, meeting rooms and dedicated office space for local businesses. Members were interested to know what work was being done on net zero (a key focus this last year, in part due to customer demand) and social value (a new area of work, as it becomes an increasingly important element of procurement).

Finally, a number of member questions were put to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure, based on his report.

Papers: <https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=11207&x=1>
Recording (not yet archived): <https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>

FUTURE MEETINGS	31 October 2023
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Chloe Turner
DATE	26 September 2023