



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices • Ebley Mill • Ebley Wharf • Stroud • GL5 4UB
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STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	31 October 2023

BRIEF REPORT:

This was a joint meeting with the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

1) Economic Strategy

Ben Watts – Team Manager Economy and Strategic Planning – gave members of the two Committees an update on the emerging Gloucestershire Economic Strategy.

In July, Cabinet had approved a seven-week public engagement on the Gloucestershire Economic Strategy. <https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2076>

The Strategy is intended to consider the priorities of the next 5-years as well as a long-term perspective by including an updated 2050 vision for the county. Once the strategy is completed it will include an action plan. The aim is to have the strategy substantially completed by December 2023 and seek formal adoption in early 2024.

Engagement on the strategy included online consultation on a specially designed engagement document, as well as five stakeholder workshops. Feedback was provided by 119 individuals and organisations using the County Council's online consultation portal (contrast over 1000 for the Bus Improvement Plan). Each of the three audiences - public, private, VCSE - suggested the strategy could be more ambitious and be 'more Gloucestershire'. Another strong theme was the need for a greater focus on net zero. Members of the Committees gave feedback along the same and additional lines.

Next steps: a first draft of the Economic Strategy will be shared with peers for review during November 2023 with the aim of producing a final draft by the end of December 2023. It will then be considered for approval by the LEP Board and the County Council early in 2024.

2) Public Transport update

Members received an update on the Bus Service Improvement funding deployment and were directed towards updates in relation to the proposed Mass Transit Service and to rail services that had been given in other recent Committee meetings.



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MEMBER REPORT

Meeting documents:

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=731&MId=11636>

FUTURE MEETINGS	24 January 2024
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Chloe Turner
DATE	14 November 2023