



STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Leadership Gloucestershire
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	13 January 2022

BRIEF REPORT:

The meeting considered reports on the following:

Gloucester Commission to review Race Relations

Rupert Walters, Chair of the Commission and Anne Brinkhoff, consultant and former Gloucester City Director explained the work and findings of the Commission, which was set up in December 2020 with a call for evidence, and whose report was published on 30 December 2021. The background to the report and the report itself can be accessed at:

<https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/latest-news/race-commission-report-shines-spotlight-on-race-relations/>.

The report was well received. It sets out 7 conclusions, which are, in brief:

1. Race inequality exists in all the areas the Commission examined.
2. Many people from racially minoritised groups experience unacceptable racism, hatred or micro-aggressions every day.
3. Public servants in Gloucester and Gloucestershire are aware of existing race inequalities and many work with positive intent to make changes.
4. There is an absence of a properly resourced, Black-led infrastructure institution to provide advocacy, knowledge, expertise and experience to reduce race inequality, challenge those in power to fulfil their commitments, and provides a voice to those who experience discrimination.
5. Having comprehensive and good quality ethnicity data in all public services (directly provided and commissioned) as well as workforce data, is fundamental to reducing race inequality.
6. Ensuring people from racially minoritised communities are heard requires us to recognise the importance of putting in place the necessary infrastructure such as the availability and quality of translation and interpretation services.
7. We need to showcase and celebrate the incredible diversity of talent, skills, experiences and passions of racially minoritised people in Gloucester and Gloucestershire.

The report also sets out 4 calls to action, which in brief are:

1. Establish an independent, permanent, funded and high-profile legacy institution for Gloucestershire.
2. Set out a Gloucestershire wide vision for workforce equality in the public sector.

3. Commit to putting in place measures and driving the required changes in culture and mindsets to ensure the collection and use of comprehensive and high-quality ethnicity data in planning and delivering public sector services, including commissioned services.
4. Acknowledge the existence of racism, prejudice and micro-aggressions in Gloucester and Gloucestershire, and commit to and step up individual and organisational leadership to tackle these with confidence and clarity.

Leadership Gloucestershire was asked to:

1. Note the report of the Gloucester Commission to Review Race Relations and support the implementation of the four calls to action, and
2. Invite Gloucester City Council, with involvement from other interested partners, to take a lead in preparing a proposal of how to implement the four calls to action, and to present this proposal to the March meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire.

The discussion concluded that:

1. Countywide work is needed, with officers from all Leadership Gloucestershire organisations to reflect and correlate what their organisations are already doing to ensure that a consistent approach is taken.
2. There needs to be a gap analysis of the challenges and issues to identify what is missing and what needs to be done before this is brought back to Leadership Gloucestershire to consider setting up a Gloucestershire-wide organisation.
3. Specific gaps within the BAME community need to be identified. There was some discussion about Syrian refugees, Afghan resettlement and asylum seekers in this connection.

Covid-19 update

Sarah Scott, the Director of Public Health, gave an update on the latest position. The peak of the Omicron wave is expected in Gloucestershire in the next week or two. Case numbers in 5 to 9 year-olds are rising as children have returned to school and case numbers in the under 30s are also higher than other age groups immediately after the New Year. Hospital figures are decreasing and there is some evidence that although Omicron is highly transmissible, it is less serious. There are currently 77 outbreaks in care settings and 3 in schools.

In terms of vaccination, 87% of the eligible population in Gloucestershire has now been vaccinated and the county is leading the way nationally.

Mass transit in central Gloucestershire

Colin Chick of GCC and Kevin Mather of Atkins gave a presentation on a feasibility study carried out for mass transit in central Gloucestershire, between Cheltenham and Gloucester, which had established a need for intervention and which would support wider active travel.

A number of questions were raised about how this would benefit the more rural, outlying districts which were experiencing very poor basic public transport provision.

Western Gateway

Pete Bungard updated that Western Gateway has improved its organisational capacity, has submitted its Strategic Economic Assessment to Government, and is working on a prospectus

for the Gateway. In his view there is a bit too much focus on the core cities of Bristol and Cardiff, but he is pleased to report that the Severn Edge fusion bid is being strongly supported by the Western Gateway as the only remaining fusion site in the sub-region. This might mean a tactical focus on Oldbury rather than Berkeley due to the openness and land ownership of the Oldbury site.

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee Governance Review

Mike Dawson led a discussion on the future options for this committee, which is due to end in March 2022 if no action is taken. It was agreed that pending the publication of the Levelling Up white paper, the committee should be continued for a period of up to 12 months to allow time for the publication of the White Paper and to review the governance of meetings in Gloucestershire including GEGJC and the Central Gloucestershire City Region Board. A draft common resolution is to be circulated for all constituent councils to take to relevant committee / Council meetings prior to the end of March 2022.

Cllr Catherine Braun suggested that the name of the continued GEGJC should be changed to the Gloucestershire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity which was dismissed by the Chair of Leadership Gloucestershire although was subsequently supported by the Leader of Cotswold DC.

One Gloucestershire – Integrated Care System

Ellen Rule of NHS Gloucestershire updated the meeting on progress. There has been a delay to the ICS becoming a statutory organisation, from 1 April to 1 July 2022 due to Government parliamentary tabling time. This will present a greater challenge as it is beyond financial year end and the CCG will have to continue in shadow form.

Dame Jill Morgan has been confirmed as the Chair of the ICS and Mary Hutton as the CE designate.

Issues around the relationship of the Health and Wellbeing Board with the new Integrated Care Board and Partnership are being explored to avoid duplication. Emerging strategic priorities will be shared at some point.

FUTURE MEETINGS	3 March 2022 23 June 2022 29 September 2022 1 December 2022
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Catherine Braun, Deputy Leader Kathy O'Leary, Chief Executive
DATE	17 January 2022