



## STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### MEMBER REPORT

|                                      |                            |
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| <b>NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY</b>     | Leadership Gloucestershire |
| <b>DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED</b> | 3 March 2022               |

#### BRIEF REPORT:

The meeting considered reports on the following:

#### **Living with Covid update**

Sarah Scott, the Director of Public Health, gave an update on the Gloucestershire approach to the Government's Living with Covid Plan. A County Living Safely with Covid Plan is being developed with multi-agency partners and will replace the Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP), following a similar structure.

In terms of preventing Covid, the Plan will promote vaccination and communication to encourage responsible behaviour. Protection will concentrate on prevention control, for example in care homes, and managing Covid outbreaks. The rate of infection in the county is high at the moment at 540 per 100,000, highest in Cheltenham Borough at 582 per 100,000 and with race week coming a Covid surge is possible. Whilst Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) has been extended for a year, staff are already leaving their posts and so there may not be the staff resources needed to carry out surge testing and contact tracing.

In terms of governance, the Engagement Board will be stood down and whilst the Health protection Board is meeting twice this month, it will revert to a monthly hazard board meeting.

There is a need to work out where outbreak management sits. This used to be with PHA but it is not clear that this has transferred to UKHSA; it could be Public Health authorities (GCC) but there is no money to fund these responsibilities.

Most organisations are now carrying out pandemic organisational debriefs.

There was no further update on the Immensa lab test results investigation.

#### **One Gloucestershire – Integrated Care System**

Mark Walkingshaw of Gloucestershire CCG updated the meeting on progress. Non- Executive Director appointments to the Board are being signed off at regional level and will be communicated soon, ahead of the July go live for the Integrated Care Board (delayed from April). Engagement with partners is anticipated soon. Work is being carried out on a Systems Plan for 2022-23; elective surgery will be a top priority.

Covid is still having a significant impact, with about 100 hospital in-patients with Covid in Gloucestershire hospitals, although Covid is not necessarily the primary reason for all the patients being in hospital.



## **Climate Leadership Gloucestershire**

Jon McGinty, MD of Gloucester City, introduced Julian Atkins, interim county co-ordinator while Afriqmun Lovejoy is on maternity leave. Julian is a former CE of the Brecon Beacons National Park. He presented a short report on the governance arrangements for Climate Leadership Gloucestershire, which had been agreed at its February meeting. Cllr David Gray of GCC would initially Chair and Cllr Chris McFarling of Forest of Dean DC would be Vice Chair, with Emma Hanby to be the LEP's representative.

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire's Terms of Reference were approved by Leadership Gloucestershire.

## **Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee and City Region Board**

Mike Dawson, CE of TBC, gave his last report on this prior to his retirement in June. The inter-authority agreement and the Joint Committee is to continue for the next 12 months, as this has now been agreed by all councils individually (see report to SDC Council on 17 February). Next steps for the City Region Board will be clearer when further progress has been made on the question of a county deal.

Mark Hawthorne, Leader of GCC, thanked Mike for his significant contribution to work in the county during his time as CE at Tewkesbury BC. The newly appointed CE, Alistair Cunningham, takes up his post in June.

## **Levelling Up White Paper and County Deals**

Steve Mawson of GCC introduced the county's position on the White Paper, which he described as simple in its approach and complicated in its implementation. Essentially Gloucestershire, with the current Joint Committee, is already operating at Level 1. GCC considers that it should advance to Level 2 (no elected mayor) where 11 out of 23 potential additional powers but unspecified funding might be available through a county deal. The county's clear preference is not to have an elected mayor, a prerequisite of Level 3 where all 23 powers (and any others we thought might be needed) and unspecified funding might be available.

Whilst GCC said it was interested in talking to partners, it made it clear that districts could not veto any county decisions, as set out in the White Paper. Mark Hawthorne's view is that the financial benefits of Level 3 would be low given the infrastructure funding for Gloucestershire already in the pipeline, but that there could later be progression from Level 2 to Level 3 if appropriate. In his view devolution is about powers from Government to counties, not about Local Government Reorganisation.

The GCC plan is to produce a 5 page summary of where Gloucestershire is and the current thinking around Level 2 by next month, and promote an early conversation with Government given that Gloucestershire is an easy prospect for a county deal with contiguous boundaries for Local Government, Police, Health and LEP.



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Districts suggested that a county deal should start with a discussion between all partners about what we wanted to achieve for Gloucestershire and should explore the powers on offer at Level 2 and Level 3, and indicate a strong desire for engagement from the start. GCC felt that this would slow up production of their 5 page summary but invited any input in advance of wider consultation on the summary.

## Western Gateway

Pete Bungard updated on Western Gateway. Green energy ambition needed to map hydrogen and Severn tidal projects. Ruth Dooley, CE of the LEP, reported on the House of Commons Fusion event and the importance of demonstrating the strength of business and community engagement and support for the proposed Fusion project.

Western Gateway has not yet had its funding confirmed for next year although it had been mentioned in the Levelling Up White Paper.

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| <b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>     | 23 June 2022 – potentially in person<br>29 September 2022<br>1 December 2022 |
| <b>REPORT SUBMITTED BY</b> | Cllr Doina Cornell, Leader<br>Kathy O’Leary, Chief Executive                 |
| <b>DATE</b>                | 3 March 2022   |