



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	31 March 2022
BRIEF REPORT:	
<p>The committee received an update on the work of the Joint Economic Committee from its chair, Cllr Tony Dale, in particular on the decision to approve £150k funding for the 'Made in Gloucestershire' scheme and to refuse £850k funding for the Chelt/Glos mass transit scheme – this provoked some discussion later in the meeting, and will no doubt be explored further at the joint session on transport with Environment Scrutiny in May.</p> <p>It was noted later in the meeting that the work programme of the Scrutiny committee seems to have less connection with GJEC than it did previously, in part perhaps because the meetings have been separated to different days (for operational reasons). It was agreed that a close connection should be maintained and that the GJEC workplan should be considered in agreeing the work of the Scrutiny committee.</p> <p>The committee received an excellent presentation on the Low Carbon Renewable Energy Economy (LCREE) from Rachel Brain (SDC), Julian Atkins (Countywide Climate Coordinator) and Simon Pickering (Ecotricity), supported by data from Lisa McCance. Gloucestershire is projected to have 12,584 LCREE jobs by 2030 and this is expected to rise by 61% to 20,263 by 2050 (more than half from the low carbon electricity generation sector). There is a clear opportunity for the county to secure and boost these figures, and we discussed how councils could best support that.</p> <p>A joint presentation from GFirstLEP and GCC on Youth Unemployment – statistics, the specific challenges for these young people, and initiatives underway - provoked a lengthy and interesting debate. There are many positive initiatives underway at GCC and its partners, but in several cases ongoing funding is not secured. There was some discussion about the age group focus, when the highest rate of unemployment is in fact the age group above those being targeted through the NEET programmes (25-34 versus 16-24).</p>	
FUTURE MEETINGS	Additional: Tuesday 24 May [Item on transport decarbonisation at Environment Scrutiny] 31 May 2022 22 September 2022
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Chloe Turner
DATE	06 April 2022