



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBER/OFFICER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	16 th November 2022

BRIEF REPORT:

The meeting considered updates and decisions on the following items

Business Rates Pool

Andrew Cummings updated the Committee on the current estimated position of the Business Rates Pool.

There is currently £180k unallocated in the Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF). It is estimated that this will be topped up by £727k in the coming financial year, but this will not be confirmed until the Summer of 2023.

Bids into the SEDF

Two bids were considered for allocations from the County wide fund.

The first was £50k for the development of an action plan around the Statement of Common Ground. All authorities have signed up to that Statement except for Tewkesbury which is expected to follow shortly.

The £50k allocation is from the amount previously allocated to the City Region Board. After a considerable level of debate the allocation was approved by a majority decision.

The second bid was from Gfirst LEP who were seeking a one-year extension of the £250k annual grant that they have previously received from the SEDF for a number of years. As the unallocated funding in the fund is currently less than the £250k sum requested, the Senior Officers Group (SOG) recommended an allocation of £125k.

This revised ask of £125k was approved and the LEP will come back to the Committee to request the further £125k when details of their funding from Central Government is known.

Future governance of Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC)

This joint committee has previously been extended to run until the end of March 2023.

Gareth Edmundson, working with the other Chief Execs, has prepared a paper setting out future governance options, which has also been discussed at Leadership Gloucestershire. Full details are provided in the member/officer report from that meeting.

Consideration was given as to whether the new body should be chaired by the County Council or by a District Councillor. The current proposal is linked to the consideration in the Levelling Up Bill that Upper Tier Authorities take the lead in preparation of County Deals and devolution proposals..

There was a discussion around the possibility of needing a small extension to the GEGJC whilst the plans for the Committee are approved. The legal support officers to the Committee are to consider the necessary arrangements.

Review of Skills

A comprehensive update, including the first year of the Skills Hub was given by Pete Carr and colleagues of the County Council. This included detail about the work that they are doing to bring people into employment.

Consideration was given to how there has been an increase in support provided to people coming back into the workplace having previously taken retirement.

The full presentation is included on the County Council website ([link](#)).

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

All Districts are still waiting to hear the outcome of their investment plans submitted to Central Government. Those Districts eligible for additional rural funding are currently taking their plans through their relevant local decision-making processes.

GFirst LEP

Dev Chakraborty presented the latest update from the LEP.

This included details of how David Owen has been seconded to the County Council for four days a week to act as Director of Economy and Environment.

Updates were also given on the Inward Investment Project and the Made in Gloucestershire Campaign.

Again the full presentation is on the County Council website ([link](#))

FUTURE MEETINGS	9 th February
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Natalie Bennett, Deputy Leader Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources
DATE	24/11/2022