



## STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY</b>	Leadership Gloucestershire
<b>DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED</b>	1 March 2023

### BRIEF REPORT:

There were verbal updates on the following:

#### **Levelling Up, County Deals and Investment Zones**

Pete Bungard, CE of GCC, advised that there was no further news on Levelling Up.

Following comments from the districts, GCC wrote to Secretary of State Michael Gove on 25 January suggesting a county deal. GCC received a reply on 15 February which said that the Government would be concentrating on those areas that wanted to embrace an elected mayor as part of a county deal, which GCC does not want at this stage.

It had been confirmed by the Government that Investment Zones introduced by the Truss Government would not be continuing and therefore the work done on Expressions of Interest in the county would not be being taken forward. The Autumn Statement referred to research-led Investment Zones but there is no new guidance yet.

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

Gareth Edmundson, CE of Cheltenham BC, gave a brief update. The outstanding issues of who chairs the new City Region Board and its name have been broadly agreed. An extension of GEGJC for a further 6 months is needed while the details of the City Region Board are agreed (see report to Council on 16 February where SDC agreed to this extension).

#### **Western Gateway**

Pete Bungard advised that:

- John Williamson is the new director of Western Gateway, seconded from DLUHC for 2 years.
- There had been a good meeting at Berkeley / Oldbury with Rolls Royce to discuss post fusion plans for the sites.
- Western Gateway was keen to push cyber development and in particular the Golden Valley development centred on GCHQ.
- He has joined the Severn Estuary Working Group of the Western Gateway.



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#### **Covid and Flu Vaccination Programme**

Siobhan Farmer, GCC Director of Public Health, reported that 72.1% of those eligible for the Covid booster had had the jab, and that a similar proportion had had flu jabs which is a good uptake.

It is recognised that Covid vaccine protection is waning, community immunity is quite high and that Covid is now endemic rather than pandemic. In future the Winter Vaccination Programme will align eligibility for flu and Covid vaccines for vulnerable people and the over 50s, and Covid is expected to continue in shorter waves with flatter peaks. As Covid is endemic, GCC is ceasing local Covid reporting at the end of March.

Questions were asked about the impact of long Covid and preparedness for future pandemics. Further information on the former is to be provided and, on the latter, the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is reviewing its plans and awaiting the outcomes of the current Covid Inquiry.

#### **One Gloucestershire Integrated Care Partnership**

Mary Hutton from the ICS advised that the ICS Strategy had now been published. Nationally, more money was being allocated by Government to deprived areas which meant that Gloucestershire is losing £15m of NHS funding. She reported that access to dental services across the county is abysmal especially for children and young people, and that attention is being given to that.

<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	Tuesday 20 June, 10am – in person Tuesday 26 September, 2pm Tuesday 5 December, 10am
<b>REPORT SUBMITTED BY</b>	Cllr Catherine Braun, Leader Kathy O’Leary, Chief Executive
<b>DATE</b>	1 March 2023