



STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBER/OFFICER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Leadership Gloucestershire
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	20 June 2023

BRIEF REPORT:

There were updates on the following items:

International Resettlement in Gloucestershire

Currently around 1,700 people, not including unaccompanied children on the main resettlement schemes in Gloucestershire (including Syrian, Afghan, Ukrainian schemes).

An update was provided on the current numbers of people on each scheme and the funding sources that have been provided.

An update was given on the Local Authority Housing Fund – Stroud has been awarded £1.8m to buy 15 homes.

The National Dispersal Plan expects that Stroud district will provide 81 bed spaces – the district does not currently have any.

In discussion consideration was given to the wellbeing position of people on the schemes and what support is given, particular with regards to finding employment.

The main issues and challenges highlighted by officers were as follows:

- Safeguarding – unaccompanied migrants, hotel concerns, host / guest safeguarding for Homes for Ukraine or employment exploitation; mitigated/managed but additional pressures on local services
- Finances – complex/multiple arrangements/differing criteria; consider opportunities for pooled budgets
- Commissioning – multiple contracts with same provider (GARAS), much of which is one off or short term; consider longer term sustainability, joint commissioning/contract arrangements
- Equality - multiple schemes operating, risk of inequality across resettlement provision is high (as well as with non-resettlement housing provision); consider county wide position on this
- Hotels – minimal funding, unpaid work by local organisations; opportunities to improve day-to-day wellbeing, better nutrition etc
- Education - access to ESOL classes; consider joining up funding streams
- Community cohesion – community concerns regarding hotels, equity arguments, media coverage
- Longer term accommodation – challenging in county, market prices are higher than average in many places, shortage in private rental sector

Economic Growth Update

Severn Estuary Steering Group Update

a) Levelling Up, County Deals and Investment Zones

Pete Bungard gave an update at this point – There have been no further updates on County Deals, as Gloucestershire is not being prioritised by Government. No changes are expected before a General Election.

There have been no further updates on the revised version of investment zones which featured on the Government's Autumn statement.

b) City Region Board

Gareth Edmunson is working with County Council legal team to develop the documentation around the new Board for approval by each partner Council. The Senior Officer Group (SOG) is considering transition arrangements from Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee to the City Region Board, including for the Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF). The SOG is also looking at what the funding from SEDF has been used for in the past and what is left in the pot.

c) Western Gateway

WG are starting recruitment process for new Chair as Katherine Bennett the current chair is standing down. The recruitment is expected by the end of September. WG continue to work on a Net Zero strategy and are very supportive of the cyber cluster.

Severn Estuary – An independent commission is being set up to explore tidal energy in the estuary. Consultants have been recruited for a 3 month evidence gathering exercise, which will involve summarising the 20+ studies that have been done about the potential for tidal power in the Severn Estuary since the 1980s. This work should be complete by the end of August. The Commission does not yet have a chair. The consultants WSP to be asked to present to Leadership Gloucestershire at the September meeting. It was noted that Climate Leadership Gloucestershire is also looking at energy – with the Forest of Dean leading this work. They are reviewing the previous LEP energy strategy and considering both energy demand and generation.

Hydrogen - feedback from the recent Western Gateway Hydrogen Conference. The Hydrogen Strategy has been shared with the GFirst LEP energy group.

Western Gateway will host an All Party Parliamentary Group meeting in July to discuss the strategic rail agenda and net zero projects.

Business investment fund - GFirst LEP mentioned that the British Business Bank is launching its South West Investment fund – to support the growth of small and medium sized businesses in July.

Health Update

a) One Gloucestershire – ICS

The Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Partnership is the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) for the county, and brings together public, voluntary and community sector partners. The partnership has developed a strategy which builds on existing work, which is being used as a roadmap for future work.

Questions were asked and answered around healthcare support for those arriving in the Country and on the current workforce challenges around NHS.

There was an update on dental, pharmacy and optometry services. A Gloucestershire Dental Strategy Group was established in January 2023 in response to delegated commissioning of primary, community and acute dental services from April 2023.

There was a discussion around supporting those who have had adverse childhood experiences.

FUTURE MEETINGS	Tuesday 26 September, 2pm Tuesday 5 December, 10am
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Catherine Braun, Leader Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources
DATE	29/06/2023