



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3RD APRIL 2014

AGENDA ITEM (7)

GLoucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee

Accountable Member	Councillor Lynden Stowe Leader of the Council
Accountable Officer	Andrew Fotherby Strategic Director 01285 623000 andrew.fotherby@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To consider the proposal to establish a joint committee; its terms of reference and function; and its role in taking forward a Strategic Economic Plan for Gloucestershire
Recommendation(s)	<p>(a) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to endorse the Gloucestershire Strategic Economic Plan for submission to Government by GFirst;</p> <p>(b) that agreement be given to the establishment of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee, in accordance with Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, and the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions)(England) Regulations 2001;</p> <p>(c) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to finalise and complete the Inter Authority Agreement (including the Constitution) and other documentation on terms to be approved by the Head of Legal and Property Services and to take all necessary steps to create the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee;</p> <p>(d) that it be agreed that the above recommendations will not be effective until equivalent resolutions have been passed by all the Gloucestershire Councils named in this report;</p> <p>(e) that, on the establishment of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee, this Council's functions be delegated to the Joint Committee, as described in detail in paragraph 3 of the Terms of Reference, but subject to the protocols as set out in paragraphs 2.6 (iv) and (v) of this report;</p> <p>(f) that it be agreed to appoint Gloucestershire County Council as Administering Authority to undertake the role set out in paragraphs 2 and 9 of the Terms of Reference;</p> <p>(e) that the Leader of the Council be appointed as this Council's representative on the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee and the Leader appoints a Member of</p>

	the Executive as his substitute.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	The Council is to be a partner on the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee which will take forward a Strategic Economic Plan for Gloucestershire

Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	Yes
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	None arise directly from this report
Legal and Human Rights Implications	The relationship between the parties to the GEGJC will be set out in an Inter Authority Agreement (IAA), which will detail the responsibilities, the scope and the constitution of the GEGJC. This agreement is currently being finalised by legal representatives from each participant authority.
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None arise directly from this report
Human Resource Implications	None arise directly from this report
Key Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Council does not participate in the development of the SEP and/or work in partnership to ensure its success, the Council may miss out on funding opportunities to support economic growth. • The SEP should not be in conflict with the Council's Local Plan as, should this be the case, the process of both Plans will be threatened. Officers are working with GFirst to ensure both plans are complementary.
Equalities Analysis	No effect on protected groups identified.

Related Decisions	None
Background Documents	None
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee - Draft Terms of Reference (version 14.03.14)

Performance Management Follow Up	To implement the Cabinet's decisions
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Options for Joint Working	As this is a Joint Committee, the Council will be working in partnership with the other Gloucestershire local authorities
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Background Information

1. Introduction

1.1. The Government requires Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to prepare Strategic Economic Plans (SEPs) for their areas, which sets out the plans to deliver economic growth which exceeds that which would be delivered through existing plans. The SEP will then form the basis of a bid to the Government for funding under the Local Growth Deals programme. The Government expects that the SEP will be supported by strong and effective partnerships between the LEP and local authorities. The SEP should include a single vision and priorities to deliver economic growth which are shared by all partners.

1.2. The SEP has been submitted to the Government by GFirst and work has also been commissioned by Leadership Gloucestershire to develop the necessary governance arrangements to provide a strong, collective and binding partnership to co-ordinate the local authority support for the delivery of the SEP.

2. The Current Position

2.1 Work is underway to develop the local authority contribution to support the delivery of the SEP. This contribution may include staff resources, effective partnership working and contributions delivered through housing provision. It is likely in time that financial contributions may be required and Officers from all Councils in Gloucestershire are working to develop options that might be considered. However, although financial support for the SEP may be needed at some point, in Officers' view, resource contributions beyond the existing budget allocations need not be considered at this time. Any resource allocations will need the specific authority of the Council before they can be agreed by the Joint Committee.

2.2. Leadership Gloucestershire has discussed the local government contribution to the LEP and the SEP. It has examined the options for local democratic oversight of the use of the growth fund resources and for collective and binding decisions between the Councils in the LEP area. It has also discussed how the accountable body function could be provided.

2.3. Leadership Gloucestershire has agreed, in principle, that the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) should be established. Committee membership will comprise one Member from each Council and the Chair of the LEP Board. The LEP Chair will, however, be a non-voting member.

2.4. The relationship between the parties to the GEGJC will be set out in an Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) which will detail the responsibilities, scope and constitution of the Joint Committee. This Agreement is currently being finalised by legal representatives from each participant authority.

2.5. Draft Terms of reference, which set out the purpose, powers and administrative arrangements for the GEGJC, have been prepared. A copy of the draft Terms of Reference is attached at **Appendix 'A'**.

2.6 The following points of detail explain the nature of the authority to be given to the GEGJC:-

- (i) use of the word 'empower' in section 3.1 of the Terms of Reference will enable the Joint Committee to make collective and binding decisions;
- (ii) in this arrangement, whilst the GEGJC's remit will be as wide as possible, Partner Councils will not have 'delegated' their economic development or other functions to the Joint Committee;
- (iii) Members of the GEGJC will still need to operate within the authority delegated to them by their own Councils when participating in Joint Committee decisions. Members and Officers will therefore need to work with their own Councils to secure the necessary authority to facilitate the Joint Committee's decisions;

- (iv) each Partner Council will be free to undertake any economic activity it deems necessary within its own area. Notwithstanding this, it will be necessary for Partner Councils to agree a protocol that they will not make decisions, or undertake any activities, which are contrary to those decisions made by the Joint Committee;
- (v) in order to protect the interests of Partner Councils, it will be necessary to agree a protocol that, although the Joint Committee's decisions are by a majority, the Joint Committee will not make decisions which impact on any one Council's area, without that Council's agreement.

3. Next Steps

Pending the establishment of the formal GEGJC, a Shadow Joint Committee will take forward the work to co-ordinate the local authority input to the development of the Gloucestershire SEP, and to develop appropriate governance arrangements for the formation of the GEGJ, and any associated joint scrutiny arrangements.

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