

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee

A special meeting of the committee was held online on 9.6.25 to respond to concerns raised by the committee, and I should disclose led by myself.

The purpose of the meeting was to confirm that committee members deserved and needed greater clarity about the role of the new GESSC and to give it. The gist is that the committee is in response to a proposal that we should align economic strategy with the terminology and operative policy of the government, which is geared towards funding "City Region Boards". A City Region Board has therefore been created with representatives from each of the District Councils and it is the policies approved by this body that we are scrutinise.

My initial assessment is that this has relevance to the scrutiny process for local government reorganisation, to be confirmed. There is also a county economic strategy. The original county economic strategy, of which I have given reports, was not approved by all district councils. It therefore does not have a county wide approval although, as I understand it, it remains operative for the county itself. Any scrutiny of what the county is doing economically in its own right would depend on a scrutiny committee formed within the county but excluding districts. Whether this particular arrangement should continue now that there is a new political leadership and under the circumstances of local government organisation, apparently remains to be seen.

I will be able to report further after the vacation and after studying the minutes, so please consider this an interim impressionistic assessment from my notes.