

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee Report, May 2024

GEGSC has been pending the formation of the Gloucestershire City Region Board. It now has revised Terms of Reference (February 2024).

1. To review the decisions, plans and policies of the Gloucestershire City Region Board and
2. To scrutinise the impact and delivery outcomes of successful Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF) bids;
3. To identify future areas of economic growth that could be added to the Economic Strategy;
4. To provide a scrutiny function for any potential devolution deal in so far as it relates to the Gloucestershire City Region Board or the Economic Strategy.

The Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee may not exercise any function other than those outlined above.

The following provides an update on governance proposals relating to the transition from the Gloucestershire Economic Joint Committee (GEGJC) and the Gloucestershire City Region Board (GCRB) and also cover future Scrutiny arrangements for GCRB.

A report to GEGJC in November 2022 contained proposals for establishing a single forum under the retained name of the Gloucestershire City Region Board. Views on the proposals, as part of consultation and engagement across the Local Authorities were made – around the chair, composition of the board, voting, relationship to County Deals and how the Board would function in practice. Further consultation and discussion took place via Leadership Gloucestershire and with Gloucestershire Local Authorities to reach the finalised principals on the future of the Governance structures and arrangements for Local Authorities to agree on outlined below:-

THE PROPOSAL

A singular forum will replace the GEGJC and the GCRB under the retained title of the Gloucestershire City Region Board to engage in strategic discussions and act as the primary consultative forum to set a dynamic vision for Gloucestershire and to present and discuss key strategic issues and opportunities. An overarching vision has been agreed which is the

‘The Board is high level multi-agency partnership to develop and support a shared vision for strategic growth and economic success for the County of Gloucestershire’.

Examples of areas of focus may include –

- Economy and growth
- Funding and bids

- Devolution
- Skills and employment
- Sustainable growth, infrastructure and spatial strategy.

1. The full members of the GCRB be elected representatives from each of the seven Gloucestershire Local Authorities. Each member will have an equal vote at the Board. This will allow the GCRB to continue to have the decision-making capability over items such as funding and allocation of the Social Economic Development Fund to continue.
2. The GCRB will be chaired by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) but the Chair will not be the Leader of GCC who will continue to lead the GCC Cabinet and administration as the overall upper tier authority lead for the County Deal as per the legislation in the Levelling Up Bill. A GCC cabinet member will be nominated as Chair of the GCRB.
3. Meetings will remain in public inviting external attendees to present and engage in discussion about the economy, spatial planning and sustainable growth in Gloucestershire
4. The future development of the GCRB will be dependent on any County Deal that is negotiated and agreed with Central Government. For example, clarity on the future role and responsibilities of the LEP will be an important part in determining any necessary future governance.
5. The Senior Officers Support Group and GCC DSU will continue to coordinate and support the work of the singular GCRB.
6. The scrutiny arrangements, that had previously been in place for the GEGSC will continue to oversee the activities of the GCRBA.

GEGJC will be extended for a further period of approximately 6 months to allow for the appropriate transfer to the new governance for the GCRB to be finalised, ratified and established by the end of 2023.

The work on the new arrangement included work on the terms of reference [see above], and plans for the governance and decision-making processes including legal work on the revised Inter Authority Agreements to cover the Gloucestershire City Region Board. GCRB will draw on its mandate from Leadership Gloucestershire and any proposed changes to the GCRB will go via Leadership Gloucestershire, to discuss and agree in principle with any necessary amendments to the Inter-Authority Agreement.

[Update on progress and latest position](#)

The current GEGJC Inter Authority Agreement has been used as the basis for the new agreement and reviewed, and largely remains unchanged, with most changes in schedule I

relating to the Terms of Reference of the Committee and a minor change to composition. The agreement is now finalized. The aim was to future proof the new IAA to allow for future change **such as progress on devolution deal**. There are built in review points for the GCRB e.g. change of national government policy, post GCC election as upper tier authority.

The composition of the GCRB no longer includes the LEP.

The first GCRB is planned to be convened after ratification by all partners.

GCRG Scrutiny Committee Arrangements

The GCC scrutiny committee arrangements, that had been in place for the GEGSC will continue to oversee the activities of the GCRB as part of its scope. The current purpose of the GEGJC was being responsible for reviewing the decisions of the GEGJC. It was also responsible for reviewing the overall impact and delivery outcomes of the Gloucestershire Strategic Economic Plan (and subsequent Local Industrial Strategy) and make recommendations to the GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (CIC) and GEGJC on issues and improvements.

Next Steps

- Ratification of the IAA by member Authorities in progress.
- A draft forward plan for the GCRB schedule of meetings for discussion in a meeting scheduled with the chairs of the GCRB and Scrutiny and officers, to discuss the forward plan for future meetings, and future scrutiny arrangements and areas of focus, to agree with members at the first meetings of the Board and Scrutiny Committee.