



**REPORT TITLE: Executive Director's Report, Economy, Environment & Infrastructure**

<b>Scrutiny meeting</b>	Environment Scrutiny, 17 July 2024
<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Chloe Turner
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	N/A – To be taken as read
<b>Item Type</b>	Information
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide information regarding progress and proposals for each of the areas within EE&I.
<b>Recommendations / Action sought</b>	N/A
<b>Forthcoming Decisions</b>	<p><b>Relevant forthcoming decisions, by date due:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <a href="#">The procurement of highway services and construction phase works in connection with the delivery of B4058 Rushmire Hill Geotechnical Stabilisation Scheme</a> – Decision due 24 July 2024 by Cabinet</li><li>▪ <a href="#">B4008 Standish Multi User-Path – Construction Procurement</a> – Decision due before 30 August 2024 by Cabinet Member of Environment &amp; Planning</li><li>▪ <a href="#">ULEV Strategy - Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Acceptance of Awarded Funding and Authority to Procure a New Contract to Deliver EV Charge Points</a> – Decision due 18 Sept 2024 by Cabinet</li><li>▪ <a href="#">The procurement of design, preparation and construction works in connection with the delivery of Winchcombe Bridge Refurbishment Project</a> – Decision due between 5 August 2024 and 28 February 2025 by Cabinet Member of Highways &amp; Flooding</li></ul> <p><b>Pending Publication:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Social Value Policy – December Cabinet</li><li>▪ Waste Haulage Contract – December Cabinet</li><li>▪ TBC Annual Climate Change report and action plan – December Cabinet</li><li>▪ Local Development Guide – March 2025 Cabinet</li></ul>
<b>Background Documents</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Information</b>	Colin Chick: Executive Director: Economy, Environment and Infrastructure <a href="mailto:Colin.Chick@gloucestershire.gov.uk">Colin.Chick@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>

## **1.0 Highways**

### **M5 J10**

- J10/A4019/Link Road – Development Consent Order Examination started on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and is anticipated that it will conclude in November. Deed of Variation with Homes England signed May 2024.
- Arle Court Transport Hub – Stage 2 completion on track for Summer 2024, full completion late Autumn 2024.
- A38/A4019 Coombe Hill – planning permission now granted.

### **Gloucester SW Bypass / Llanthony Road**

- Planning permission for access road between Sudmeadow Road and Hemmingsdale Road has been approved – works to be progressed.

### **Gloucestershire Cycle Spine**

- Cycle spine works shortlisted for National Transport Awards
- A435 Cheltenham to Bishops Cleeve – Phase 1 (Prince of Wales Stadium to Racecourse) on site and progressing well. Phase 2 (Racecourse to Bishops Cleeve) consultation complete, hedges relocated for northern section, out to tender on remainder of scheme.
- Cheltenham to Lansdown Rail Bridge – additional £300k from Cabinet now allows this to be progressed beyond concept design
- B4063 Elmbridge Court to Estcourt Road – construction on site, progressing well
- Gloucester City Cycle Spine – Llanthony Road section under construction, gated streets programme to be agreed, London Road options appraisal discussed, Estcourt Road rbt under design.
- Gloucester to Stroud – Sustrans assessment of routes south of Gloucester considered, further work needed, Standish phase design being finalised for delivery 24/25.

### **Structures/Geotechnical Schemes**

- A40 London Road, Charlton Kings - Investigation works underway – road under temp signals.
- A46 Pincot Lane – road has now been reopened under temp signals – further investigation work required over the dryer summer period.
- Badgeworth Lane – landslip of the embankments for structure over railway, owned and being addressed by Network Rail – road closed.
- Tintern Bridge – shortlisted for New Civil Engineer Historic Bridge of the Year and Institution of Civil Engineers Project of the Year awards.

### **Highways Contracts/Delivery**

- Term maintenance (Ringway) – Routine and cyclical maintenance performance on target, more U class inspections moved to summer increasing current defect workload and grass / vegetation growth exceptional this year. Supplementary resources and trials of Find and Fix, Spray Injection Patching, JCB Pothole Pro, Roadmender and bobcat patching.
- Professional services (AtkinsRealis) – Procurement of a new professional services arrangement underway to start Apr 2025. Demobilisation of AtkinsRealis arrangement underway. Out to tender in Sep 2024.
- Structural maintenance (Tarmac) – Delivery of resurfacing programme on track.

- Street lighting (Milestone Group) – Mobilisation with Milestone Group underway with start date of August 2024.
- Depots/property – Plans to provide a new Northern Area depot away from Bamfurlong being progressed with AMPS. Property Board supportive of progressing more detailed business case.

## **2.0 Traffic and Transport**

### **Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO) - as of 1 July 2024**

	End of 2020	End of 2021	End of 2022	End of 2023	In 2024
Total number of 'unresolved' applications:	168	171	210	213	2004
No. of new 'min.14(1) compliant' applications received in Year:	7	21	35	13	2
No. of applications 'determined' in Year:	4	8	6	17	6
No. of applications fully 'resolved' in Year:	3	11	5	13	8
No. of routes added to DM&S by 'other mean is in Year:	n/a	3	4	3	0

Number of all 'undetermined' applications:

	End of 2020	End of 2021	End of 2022	End of 2023	In 2024
Undetermined	23	21	50	53	52
Undet-Archived*	54	52	52	44	41
Undet-Non14(2) *	57	61	72	74	73

\* "Archived" applications are whereby the intended effect of the application is likely to be nulled by a subsequent change in legislation (for example, the NERC Act); "Non14(2)" applications have not been 'fully made' but are still valid applications in terms of needing determination.

Number of all unresolved 'determined' applications:

No.	Apps at publication/ confirmation stage	Apps with unresolved objections	
		Submitted to SoS	Awaiting submission
	2	1 pending	36

- The "January 2031 cut-off" provisions are now in force, but the Guidelines around the secondary legislation and the exceptions regulations to the cut-off are still yet to be published. We await further information from Defra on the revised timings.
- The Council's budget for 2024/25 included base budget funding for an additional Officer role in the team, bringing the permanent number of Officer posts to three.

### **Streetworks /Signals**

- New regulations for Section 50 Licences are being proposed to aid EV on street charging point rollout. This could lead to more private apparatus being placed on the street, outside

of the Council's control. June consultation hasn't progressed and delays are now expected.

- Coring programme commenced on excavations; update will be provided as results come in.
- City Fibre defects in Gloucester City and Cheltenham are improving, moving from 630 outstanding earlier this year, now down to less than 80. City Fibre/Kier have engaged a new sub-contractor who is providing a higher standard of remedial works and are bringing additional resources in to deal with defects that are left in complex locations.
- Working with Gigaclear on the Gigabit City rollout of fibre for "small" villages in the Cotswolds, to be updated once information becomes available from GigaClear.
- Working with FullFibre on future Forest of Dean fibre roll out for Gigabit City. Working with Herefordshire Council on comms and limiting the impact of the works. No details known at this stage on which villages are likely to be affected.

### **Highways Development Management**

- Work has begun on the Swindon Farm housing development. This is the first phase of the North-west Cheltenham growth area that will be unlocked by delivery of the M5 Junction 10 DCO scheme. The local road infrastructure for Swindon Farm will involve a temporary closure of Manor Road, that will result in delays in north Cheltenham during construction.

### **Public and School Transport**

- The revised GCC BSIP was submitted to DfT ahead the deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and as required has been published on our website but with no promotion due to the pre-election period.
- We continue to work with our Zebra 2 partner operators towards signed legal agreements. These are hoped to be signed during July. The project continues on the agreed DfT timescales with both Pulhams and Stagecoach undertaking or having completed their procurement processes for both vehicles and charging equipment.
- The 3 additional Robin services for Tewkesbury, South Cotswolds and Berkeley are now operational from June. Feedback has been positive and we have been working with potential users to make alterations to stopping arrangements.

### **Corporate Fleet Unit**

- Two significant procurements have passed key milestones. The Fleet Management System, a single ICT system to replace two legacy systems has been awarded. The other major procurement is for ten fire appliances for GFRS. Both contract award decisions were made in May. Contract now signed for new Fleet System with implementation to begin at the start of November.
- Work continues to implement the programme of electric vehicle charging infrastructure on council premises such as fire stations, highways depots and libraries. EV Charge Point installs completed at Newent, Stroud & Dursley Fire Stations, Scanner carpark Quayside, GIS Hempstead. with St Georges Car park Cheltenham civils work for chargers also complete. This will total 30 new charging bays for Fleet vehicles. Up to 12 future sites to be in Phase 2 with power loading testing (grid capacity) underway at several of these sites.
- Considerable work is underway replacing over 60 vehicles used by GFRS and other council service areas including GIS. This includes specialist fire and community safety vehicles, pickups, vans, and cars. 10 new 3.5t EV vans and 4 new EV & 3 new PHEV Flexy Duty Officer vehicles ordered. GFRS Officer vehicles now delivered, with blue light fitment underway, due for completion by end of June.
- A new Aerial ladder platform for GFRS. tender has now successfully been awarded from the Framework. Contracts being finalised for sign off and for order to be placed.

- 8 new EV and plugin vehicles ordered for Parking Enforcement Contract Team. EV use in NSL being used as a case study for NSL.
- GFRS new Community Safety Vehicle - Vehicle now complete, serviced in April.
- Incident Command Unit for GFRS specification requirements continue to be developed with GFRS before tender later in year.

## Road Safety Partnership, ThinkTravel, Electric Vehicles and Parking

### Road Safety and Community Speedwatch

#### Community SpeedWatch

- 183 bids were made for local road safety measures over the 2yrs under the £600,000 Community Speedwatch Fund. These covered measures including speed surveys, vehicle activated speed signs, Speedwatch cameras, bin stickers and a visit from a road safety officer. A series new cameras, posts and speed camera signage is being developed in July for its roll out in August to 25 parish councils.
- Data from AutoSpeedWatch (ASW) camera sites has demonstrated very positive results. For example, in the 6 months to June 2023 compliance with the speed limit on the three roads in the Quenington Community SpeedWatch Scheme improved - in one case compliance increased from 5% to 43%. The percentage of vehicles exceeding the police enforcement threshold improved from 40% to 8%.

#### KSI Hotspot List

- The KSI Hotspot List programme for 2024/25 is at design stage and prioritised according to fatalities and legal parameters such as TROs.

### Think Travel

- Think Travel have now continued to deliver enhanced Bikeability training new bikes/storage to 10 Schools who have agreed to be a community Cycle hub across the county. These are now being delivered and schools hubs will be delivering additional cycle training throughout the summer term.
- Recruitment is ongoing for the vacant Schools and Active Travel Officer role. Workload is being covered across the team at present and additional support is now planned to be secured through ATE Capability Funds, due to the limited capacity of the team.
- Think Travel Active Travel grants are supporting the delivery of the 20 successful applicants across workplaces and schools.
- Think Travel Service have Been working with Love To Ride/Gloucestershire to promote May 2024 Bike Challenge in May which resulted in the following fanatsic increase in participation compared to 2023, with number of workplaces participating increasing by 15%, miles travelled by 17% and 30 more riders taking part to try out the challenge.



- Think Travel are also supporting the procurement for an emerging e-bike hire and storage schemes alongside the NHS travel plan actions which is developing.

### **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging**

- 124 public EV charge points installed with 64 currently live
- 7 more sites (28 EV charge points) are expected to be made live by 11<sup>th</sup> July bringing a total of 92 live charge points
- Arle Court 100 charge point delivery commences on site in July for completion of installation this quarter, 50 to be made live, 50 to be phased in based on uptake in usage.
- Next phase of Local Electric Vehicle Investment (LEVI) fund deployment underway to approximately 50 sites with 200 EV charge points this financial year. Site identification and reviews ongoing

### **Parking**

- Zone 15 Parking Review – Press release due to be issued on 8<sup>th</sup> July highlighting the upcoming community reach out sessions at the end of July.
- Moreton-in-Marsh and Stow Parking changes: Initial discussions taken place with town councils. Schemes currently on hold pending review.
- Cirencester Parking changes: Some snagging of scheme required, such as at West Way and Cricklade Street (loading bays require re-siting).
- The Parking Team are working with Bibury Parish Council to find solutions to the issues of tourist/visitor parking in the village. There are concerns regarding the impact on Swan Bridge GCC structures team investigating.
- Parking signage at Arle Court P&R is due to be erected w/c 15-07 with them all being erected by the opening date of 29.07.24.

### **Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)**

- All “live” TROs are continuing to progress although there are still a small number of more complex historic schemes to complete.
- Further improvements to the internal TRO process and digitisation of all existing TROs are being investigated.
- DfT will be updating the Primary and Secondary legislation for TROs post-election which may incur extra work and cost
- The Road Safety Team and Traffic Engineering Team will be taking on more feasibility studies for requests for TROs
- Both the On-street and Off-Street Parking Consolidation Orders are due for reconsolidation.
- Recruitment for the vacant posts has been unsuccessful despite the deadline being extended. HR are engaged in the challenges and job roles are being reviewed to provide more career progression and make these hard to fill roles more attractive. In the meantime the service is taking on temporary staff and using an external consultant to help cover workload.
- Work is starting for the TRO Environment Scrutiny Task Group.

## **3.0 Economy & Environment**

**Devolution** – DLUHC officials continue to work on the case for devolution for county areas during the purdah period. No further progress expected until the Autumn.

**Economic Growth Board** – Recruitment is now almost complete. One gap at the moment to represent Agri-Tech which we are resolving. First meeting will be in September on a date before the full council on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**Growth & Enterprise Team** – Now fully integrated into GCC and continuing to deliver business groups, growth hub, Invest in Gloucestershire and Made in Gloucestershire initiatives.

## **4.0 Planning and Economic Development**

### **M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch)**

- The Strategic Outline Business Case for the M5 J9 / A46 scheme was submitted to the DfT in January 2020;
- Strategic Outline Case (SOC) submitted to DfT on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
- GCC Cabinet report (re- future expenditure on M5 J9 / A46) was considered and approved on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- The project is currently being reviewed given the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 MP debate in the House of Commons.
- A detailed response to the latest set of DfT questions on the submitted SOC was sent to the DfT in January 2024. This consisted of six Technical Notes. The DfT will now consider the approval of the SOC.

### **Digital – Connecting Gloucestershire**

- A new Digital Team is being formed within the Economy and Strategic Planning Team. The team will consist of two new roles supporting GCC's Digital Champion role. One officer will lead on supporting the delivery of fixed and wireless digital infrastructure and the other officer will lead on reducing digital exclusion. As these are new roles, they will be subject to job evaluation before the recruitment commences later in the year. The aim is for these three-year Fixed Term roles to be occupied before the end of the year.

### **Local Transport Plan (LTP)**

- The LTP was adopted at Full Council on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021. A review of the LTP is currently being considered in 2024/25. Government guidance is currently awaited.

### **Waste Local Plan (WLP)**

- A new WLP is currently being prepared. The target date for adoption is end 2026.

### **Mass Rapid Transit**

- Cabinet report was approved on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 outlining proposed future expenditure on this project and the next stages (2024/25), including the progression of the business case.

### **Local Plans / JLP / CIL**

- Review of the Cheltenham / Gloucester / Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan (formerly known as the Joint Strategic Plan) now underway following an 'Issues and Options' consultation which ended in January 2019;
- The Reg.18 public consultation (part one) started in January 2024 and GCC officers sent a consultation response in March 2024.
- Progress has been made with Cheltenham / Gloucester / Tewkesbury to review the JCS CIL – this task is being progressed in liaison with GCC officers and stakeholders;
- GCC education and library contributions are in the process of being reviewed by GCC;
- Correspondence sent to all six District Councils outlining the GCC position, with offer to work collaboratively in the future;
- GCC continues to not receive a penny of CIL from Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council;

- Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury are currently working up governance proposals to distribute the 'strategic' element of their CIL;
- Bids and Expressions of Interest have been submitted to both Stroud District Council (SDC) and Cotswold District Council to secure CIL funding in 2024/25 - some have been successful;
- The published GCC Infrastructure Funding Statement (December 2023) shows that GCC received £75K of CIL throughout 2022/23 (from SDC);
- Stroud Local Plan – The Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration. GCC officers and consultants are actively involved in the Public Examination, which started on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Local Plan Inspectors have written to SDC (4<sup>th</sup> August 2023). SDC have responded (29<sup>th</sup> August 2023) requesting a 6 month 'pause' of the Examination, whilst additional work is completed. The Inspectors considered this request and SDC, GCC, National Highways and South Gloucestershire Council were all asked for further information, which was provided to the Inspectors in November 2023. The Inspectors have subsequently agreed to the 'pausing' of the Examination, which is proposed to resume in December 2024. In the meantime, all parties are working through all of the actions in the agreed 'Joint Action Plan';
- Cotswold Local Plan – 'Issues and Options' consultation period ended on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022. GCC officers submitted representations prior to the deadline on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The Cotswold Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation started on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 and ended on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024. GCC officers considered the consultation document and submitted a response before the deadline.
- Forest of Dean Local Plan – FoDDC consulted on a 'preferred option' – the closing date for comments was 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. GCC officers commented before this deadline. The Forest of Dean District Local Plan Second Preferred Option was subject to public consultation (ending 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022). GCC officers formally responded prior to the deadline. A Draft Plan is expected to be subject to public consultation later in 2024.

## **5.0 Libraries**

- The official opening of Stroud Library will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- Jane Everiss, Head of Libraries & Registration will be leaving her post at the end of July 2024. Interviews, from a strong field of candidates, will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Jenny Jones will step up to cover the Head of Service role in any gap between appointments.

## **6.0 Registration**

- No update

## **7.0 Waste Management**

- The public engagement campaign on reducing food waste continues to end of July. 300,000 leaflets have been delivered to households across Gloucestershire. This will be followed by 'door to door' engagement in some areas to support the campaign. Door to door engagement has been slightly delayed but roles are now live on the temporary staffing site.
- We will also be preparing our first draft 2024/25 waste engagement programme during the coming quarter.

## **Sustainability/Climate Change**

- 23/24 tree planting season, resulted in over 145000 trees being planted.



- The paper for the £1 million Salix loan fund was approved by cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> June. These will be approved with Salix finance and GCC finance colleagues before the installations are tendered.

### **Travellers Service**

- Plans for the delivery of the capital works including new utility blocks, for washing and cooking, on the council owned sites; along with investment in a community hub are being developed.

### **Staffing**

- The new Climate Action Programme manager started in post 10<sup>th</sup> June. The post is overseeing the roll out of the PV programme under the Salix loan, the trees projects, air quality and biodiversity. The post will also support the decarbonisation of GCC operations and services. Interviews for the tree administrator post took place for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June with a new administrator starting in post 8<sup>th</sup> July.

## **8.0 Employment and Skills**

### **Employment & Skills Chapter of Economic Strategy**

- The SLT of the E & S Service is reviewing the actions arising from the strategy and building these into service/workplans for the year ahead.

### **Social Value**

- The SV Steering Group will meet in July with its expanded membership and terms of reference.
- Light touch changes to the GCC Social Value Policy have been drafted and will be finalised by the steering group in July ready for an individual cabinet member paper to be prepared, timing tbc.
- Those working on the social value workstream have contributed to the Anchor Organisation self-assessment and these two workstreams are now closely linked and aligned.
- J10 M5 Social Value work relating to employment & skills is progressing on track. Opportunities for social value gains from other contracts are being collated for further discussion with E & S managers. The Microsoft contract did not contain specific social value commitments but this is now being tackled retrospectively and a meeting to confirm the offer will take place in July.

### **Adult Education Service**

- Support for refugees and asylum seekers (see above update) – This provision is up and running and the team are working closely with PC to define the funding commitments associated with the project. Work has taken place to set up a variety of courses at the Beachley Barracks to support families and those wanting to move into job roles to prepare for that option.
- We have requested further support for the next academic year from the FEC to work to further develop our Self Assessment report, our community learning quality process and our Governance procedures. Accountability Agreement –We are currently on track to update and submit the 2024-2025 Accountability Agreement by the June deadline.
- New LMS system. This has now been moved to the implementation stage with the aim to go live on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. Internal ICT support is required to ensure the smooth installation of the new software and that there are no blockers due to internal process delays. PC to request support from ICT from a dedicated member of the team. This system will replace 5 existing systems and offer a more efficient system for data

collection and management of learner data. It will also offer a significant cost saving to the service.

## **Multiply**

- Year 3 - is underway with learner numbers already up on the previous year, showing that the marketing strategy is working and that the programme is growing in momentum.
- National Numeracy day took place at The Heritage at Kingsholm, it was a hugely successful day that brought all delivery partners and stakeholders together to celebrate National Numeracy day. We awarded our new Numeracy Champions (we have recruited over 50 in the part year) awards and thanked them publicly for their input into this programme.
- Red Door TV event took place at Gloucester Quays on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May which has led to an increase in referrals to the Multiply programme, we also now have 2 promotional videos to use across the service for advertising.
- The Multiply team were all interviewed over the course of a week at the end of May on BBC radio highlighting the work that the team are carrying out and promoting the Numeracy Champion network that has recently been set up.

## **Employment & Skills Hub**

- In June we had 90 referrals into the E&S Hub bringing the total number of referrals to 1867 to date
- The Hub restructure is complete, and we now have all positions filled
- 87% of Hub customers sustain employment for at least 26 weeks and 84% for 52 weeks
- 38 young people with SEND have graduated from their Supported Internship, 12 have already secured employment with their host employers
- We have agreed with the ICB a joint initiative utilising the WorkWell Grant. The WorkWell Project aims to strengthen relationships between health and employment and the E&S Hub will host a secondment from Health and recruit a further member of staff to raise awareness across Health business areas and develop sustainable employment pathways helping people receiving health interventions to gain and sustain work.
- We have picked up work around social value with employers including J10, Ringway and the cycle path project – the latter resulting in two paid roles
- We continue our focus on helping the care sector to recruit and our Proud to Care Employment Adviser is currently working with 15 employers to develop resources to promote the sector and encourage people to consider this a viable employment option.
- In June we held our second Employment, Health, Wellbeing and Inequalities Summit (now called Gloucestershire Employment Alliance). This was attended by 82 people – slightly more than the previous summit in November and the focus was on how we can become exemplar employers. Anecdotal feedback is that this has been well received and we continue to develop a site allowing virtual networking, information sharing and discussion forums to help build collaboration around the provision of employment and skills.

## **Employment and Skills Hub Outreach Project**

### **ESHO – April – June 2024**

- 77 referrals in period.
- 71 people signed up.
- 54 are currently on programme
- 5 have moved into Employment or Self Employment following support
- 16 have moved into Volunteering opportunities

- 25 have started Job Searching
- 3 have accessed basic skills
- 4 have engaged in mainstream skills education and training
- 2 have Gained a qualification or licence

**National Picture**

- We continue to wait for further information about Universal Support due to the General Election.

**-REPORT END-**