

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP:  
DRAFT GLOUCESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY (LIS)**

<b>Cabinet</b>	13 November 2019
<b>Economy, Education and Skills</b>	Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<b>Environment and Planning</b>	Cllr Nigel Moor
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Background Documents</b>	Draft Gloucestershire Local Industrial Strategy Table outlining LIS core content and feedback comments from GCC departments
<b>Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents</b>	<a href="https://www.gfirstlep.com/industrial-strategy/">https://www.gfirstlep.com/industrial-strategy/</a>  <i>Appendix 1 – Core Content and GCC Officer Consultation Feedback</i>  <i>Appendix 2 and 2a – GCC Officer Response to LEP Consultation Questions</i>
<b>Main Consultees</b>	Senior Officers, Corporate Management Team, Cabinet Members.
<b>Planned Dates</b>	Consultation on first Draft Gloucestershire LIS 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 to 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2019  Member/Chief Officer liaison – SCIMB 14 <sup>th</sup> October, COMT 17 <sup>th</sup> October and Cabinet COMT 28 <sup>th</sup> October. GEGJC 20 <sup>th</sup> November  Publication of the final Gloucestershire LIS by March 2020
<b>Divisional Councillor</b>	All
<b>Officer</b>	Claire Edwards  Team Leader - Economic Growth and Strategic Planning  Tel: 01452 328303  Email: <a href="mailto:claire.edwards@gloucestershire.gov.uk">claire.edwards@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To inform Cabinet of the consultation process for the Draft Gloucestershire Local Industrial Strategy and seek endorsement of the recommended GCC response.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That the Cabinet approve the submission of the proposed formal GCC consultation response to GFirst LEP to help shape the final LIS version.

<p><b>Reasons for recommendations</b></p>	<p>The Gloucestershire Local Industrial Strategy is a key document that will support future economic growth opportunities for the County. Although not a bidding document, the LIS will be seen as the blueprint for potential future Government investment. The LIS is being co written by GFirst LEP and Government. However, it is important that the contents of the draft LIS has the full oversight and support of key stakeholders such as the County Council, as this will strengthen future discussions GFirst LEP have with Government on what is presented in the final version of the Strategy by March 2020.</p>
<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>	<p>The resource provided by GCC staff from the Economic Growth and Planning, Performance and Change teams are funded from within existing revenue budgets. There are no additional financial implications to this report</p>

## **MAIN REPORT CONTENTS**

### **1. Background**

1.1 As part of its modern Industrial Strategy, the government aims to agree Local Industrial Strategies (LISs) with all parts of England by March 2020. LISs will guide future action and investment, locally and nationally, to improve productivity. They are not bidding documents or project pipelines. They will be agreed with Mayoral Combined Authorities where relevant, and Local Enterprise Partnerships everywhere else. Gloucestershire is in the final wave (Wave 3) of LEPs working with government on their LISs, with a March 2020 target for publication. LISs for the West Midlands, Greater Manchester, the West of England, Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Buckinghamshire and South East Midlands (the Oxford-Cambridge Arc LEPs) have been published to date.

### **2. Key Points**

2.1 The drafting of the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) process began in 2018 with two meetings of a LIS 'Vision Group' comprising a range of stakeholders from the public, private and third sector in Gloucestershire and two LEP Board strategy away days.

2.2 There was an open call for evidence March to May 2019 with over 270 pieces of evidence, both quantitative and qualitative, building a rich picture of the county's strengths and weaknesses and the views of various stakeholders.

2.3 Supported by a small officer working group, including GCC staff from the Economic Growth and Planning, Performance and Change teams, an Evidence Baseline report was commissioned, bringing together the latest statistical data available under the 5 foundations of productivity (Ideas, People, Business Environment, Infrastructure and Places). GCC staff also guided the LEP in cross referencing to relevant strategic documents, such as the Gloucestershire Vision 2050, Council Strategy 'Looking to the Future', the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (emerging draft), Fastershire Broadband Strategy, Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, JCS and the Sustainable Energy Strategy.

2.4 An extensive youth engagement programme was commissioned; with over 5000 survey responses gathered from young people aged 14-25.

2.5 Further engagement with Gloucestershire's local authorities, the Gloucestershire Strategic Planning Coordinator, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and local Nature Partnership, officials across public sector bodies representing transport, health and well-being together with the LEP Business Groups including a dedicated LIS meeting of the Cyber Business Group also took place over the summer.

2.6 Based on all the evidence and intelligence gathered, a draft LIS has been produced which was launched along with a set of consultation questions at the LEP Annual Review on 19th September.

2.7 In its final published form (anticipated March 2020), whilst not a bidding document per se, the strategy will serve as an important reference framework to guide future priorities for investment and resource planning. It is vital therefore that, along with a level of ambition, there are also adequate investment 'hooks' in the document to support the emerging economic growth agenda, as it unfolds over the next ten years. This has to be balanced with Government expectations of producing a concise, focused and meaningful plan.

2.8 As a result, each LIS follows a format prescribed by Government as 'co authors', to ensure alignment to the National Industrial Strategy's four Grand Challenges:

- Artificial Intelligence and Data
- Ageing Population
- Clean Growth
- Intelligent Mobility

2.9 These are identified as areas that can

- Put the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution
- Maximise the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth
- Become a world leader in shaping the future of mobility; and
- Harness the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an aging society

2.10 In addition each LIS is required to form around the "five foundations of productivity"

- Ideas
- People
- Infrastructure
- Business Environment
- Places

2.11 The key aims of the LIS are to increase productivity and realise potential whilst also allowing all communities to contribute to and benefit from enhanced economic prosperity. The final strategy must also be supported by robust and open evidence; be aligned to the National Industrial Strategy; focus on opportunities and challenges and be produced in collaboration with public and private stakeholders.

### **3. Consultation Process**

3.1 In Gloucestershire's case, the key priorities within the Gloucestershire *draft* LIS are:

- Cyber-tech
- Digital
- Green
- Agri-tech
- Advanced Manufacturing
- A Central Gloucestershire City Region

- Flexible working

3.2 A strong inclusive growth theme also needs to cross-cut the strategy to ensure that all communities within the county have access to the opportunities that the LIS will create.

3.3 The open consultation closed on 31 October 2019. Drop-in sessions were held in Growth Hubs, with bookable slots, to discuss the strategy with the LEP. All of the LEP's Business Groups will meet to discuss and give their feedback on the draft LIS between September and November and there will be opportunities for key stakeholders to engage further in the process.

3.4 Dialogue with government will also take place based on the draft LIS, helping to shape/develop it further, agreeing priorities and areas of activity, working towards a jointly agreed final document by March 2020.

3.5 The consultation process invites respondents to consider a number of key consultation questions to be answered via the GFirst LEP website. General observations and minor additions, where relevant, will also be well received.

3.6 In parallel, work will continue on strengthening the baseline, duly recognising that there are acknowledged data gaps and improved linkages to the strategy narrative, still required. GCC officers will remain part of this exercise, working alongside the LEP team to help develop/proof the final version of the LIS document.

#### **4. Summary of the Contents of the Draft LIS**

4.1 The Draft LIS follows a prescribed format but the key focus for Gloucestershire's LIS is outlined below:

##### Main Focus

- Upskilling to keep pace with technological change
- Positioning the County to maximise economic opportunities through the digital revolution, fighting climate change, protecting nature and future proofing development of new communities/provision of infrastructure
- Attraction/retention of young people
- Exploiting opportunities in key/emerging growth sectors – advanced engineering and cyber/agri/green tech

4.2 The document also acknowledges a number of the key strengths and challenges in the County as follows:

##### Key Strengths

- Pivotal geographical location, well connected
- Attractive natural environment

- ‘Innovation active’ (national measure of high levels of business R & D and number of people working in R & D roles)
- Diversity

#### Key Weaknesses/Challenges

- Aging population/workforce development challenge
- Need for young talent challenge
- Weaker trends in business growth/productivity
- Inclusivity and social mobility challenges

4.3 There then follows a section on “Seizing Opportunities” and a focus on two main areas of considered strength in the County, Cyber Tech and Green Gloucestershire.

4.4 The LIS continues by setting out its main aims under each of the five foundations, linked to the National Strategy’s Grand Challenges of Artificial Intelligence and Data; Ageing Population; Clean Growth and Intelligent Mobility.

## 5. GCC Feedback

5.1 The full *draft* LIS is currently out for consultation, following its launch at the LEP Annual Review Event on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, with a closing date for general feedback on 31st October 2019. However, GFirst are aware that the GCC response will be a little later than this date in order to facilitate discussion at Cabinet.

5.2 In order to seek approval from Cabinet Members on a collective GCC response to the Gloucestershire LIS, Heads of Departments were asked to feedback to the Communities and Infrastructure team by the end of September, ahead of the consultation closing date, in order to provide GFirst LEP with a single collective GCC response to the consultation.

5.3 Accordingly, attached as Appendix 1 is an outline of the core content of the LIS, together with feedback/ comments received from GCC officers used to help shape the proposed formal GCC consultation response back to GFirst.

5.4 Feedback was received from the following departments - Communities and Infrastructure (including Transport Planning, Strategic Planning and Minerals and Waste), Public Health, Adult Social Care (Disability Employment) and the Planning, Performance and Change team.

5.6 In addition and attached as Appendix 2 is the LEP issued pro-forma featuring key consultation questions populated with a summary of the feedback received from GCC departments, plus a number of technical observations.

5.7 Our key responses are focused on:

- Skills – ensuring we have a workforce that can support our future growth
- Social Mobility and Inclusive Growth - to ensure that everyone in the county has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy

- Clean Growth –managing future transport demand to enable the economy to grow (without congestion) to meet the emerging obligations associated with climate emergency. Engaging with Districts to support green construction methods for future housing needs. Support for innovative businesses producing green products and services that are already evident in the County and the ability to expand these businesses
- Connectivity – continued support for enhancing our digital connectivity across the County through the Fastershire programme. Ensuring we are a fully mobile and connected county, in particular in our rural areas where we will have extensive fibre and the capability to develop future Mobility As A Service (MaaS) and a responsive transport solution.
- Magnet County – ensuring we have affordable homes, jobs and opportunities to attract nurture and retain young people.

Further updates resulting in a final draft Local Industrial Strategy will be made available by the LEP towards the end of the year and following detailed dialogue with Government.

5.8 It is requested that Members consider the consultation feedback and endorse the proposed formal GCC response.

## **6. Options**

### **6.1 Option 1 – GCC does not respond to the Glos LIS Consultation**

With such a wide field of content within the LIS which impacts on the way the Council carries out its business and supports the citizens of Gloucestershire, it would be unfeasible not to respond to the consultation on the first draft of the LIS.

### **6.2 Option 2 – GCC department consultation responses are sent individually**

Some departments will respond separately to specific areas of the LIS, one example being Adult Education which has a Foundation Lead working directly with GFirst LEP, plus a mandate to facilitate discussion through the Gloucestershire Employment and Skills Board who will submit a direct response. In addition, it is understood that the Health and Wellbeing Board are also likely to respond direct. However, GCC departments interested in the Infrastructure Foundation could be better represented by submitting a combined response to the LIS.

### **6.3 Option 3 – GCC sends a co-ordinated and collective response to the Glos LIS Consultation**

An endorsed collective response which reflects a wide section of GCC departments and functions will be more fully representative and provide clear and concise feedback to the first draft, more readily digested by GFirst LEP. As such, it will carry greater weight and is more likely to influence the final LIS.

It is recommended that Cabinet pursue Option 3

## **7. Risk Assessment**

7.1 There is very little risk in providing the collective response which it is hoped will provide greater emphasis to the final version of the LIS whilst also being of assistance in the LEPs ongoing negotiations with Government.

## **8. Officer Advice**

8.1 That Cabinet pursue option 3 and note and approve the core content of the GCC consultation feedback on the Glos LIS and recommend it be sent to GFirst LEP.

8.2 Note that this report provides captured feedback on the consultation of the draft LIS from GCC departments only and not the full range of and final consultation responses received by GFirst LEP.

## **9. Equalities considerations**

9.1 The County Council's response makes specific comments about the need for more recognition of the diversity of the workforce to ensure that the LIS is fully inclusive and ensures that the productivity of the County is strengthened and associated opportunities benefitted by all its residents, as the ethos of the National LIS states:

*"We need to ensure that everyone, no matter what their background or level of skill, has an opportunity to enter into and progress at work and through the education and training system. Barriers that prevent under-represented groups from realising their full potential need to be broken down"*

*-People section: National Industrial Strategy*

Ultimately it will be for Government and GFirst LEP to demonstrate its consideration of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010, within the overall strategy, before adoption. However, the County Council's response emphasises these obligations to GFirst to enable them to consider any further changes necessary to advance equality of opportunity and comply with the overarching equality duties.

## **10. Performance Management/Follow-up**

10.1 As the body responsible for the full consultation, it is anticipated that GFirst LEP will be providing further feedback on the outcome of the consultation process at a later date. One of the first opportunities for this will be at the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee on 20th November.

10.2 GCC officers will remain on the GFirst Task and Finish Groups throughout the drafting of the final version to be published by March 2020. GFirst are also working on an Investment Plan to complement the Strategy and GCC officers will continue to collaborate and help shape this next phase of work, as appropriate, to ensure the Strategy has clear purpose and a strong and effective outcome.



<b>Report Title</b>	Consultation response to the Local Enterprise Partnership on the draft Gloucestershire Industrial Strategy (LIS)
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	
<b>Relevant County Council policy</b>	Alignment with the Council Strategy 'Looking to the Future'
<b>Sustainability checklist:</b>	
Partnerships	GFirst LEP, Government, Business and VCS Groups
Decision Making and Involvement	GFirst LEP, Government, Gloucestershire's local authorities, the Gloucestershire Strategic Planning Coordinator, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Local Nature Partnership, officials across public sector bodies representing transport, health and well-being, Business Groups including the Cyber Business Group and other specialist sector forums
Economy and Employment	A range of policy and planned interventions feature in the emerging strategy
Caring for people	A range of policy and planned interventions feature in the emerging strategy
Social Value	Core objective of the strategy
Built Environment	A range of policy and planned interventions feature in the emerging strategy
Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity)	A range of policy and planned interventions feature in the emerging strategy
Education and Information	A range of policy and planned interventions feature in the emerging strategy
<b>Tackling Climate Change</b>	Carbon Emissions Implications? Positive interventions planned within the strategy Vulnerable to climate change? Part of the planned wider partnership policy response
<b>Due Regard Statement</b>	Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? No The Gloucestershire Local Industrial Strategy is a document that will support future economic growth opportunities for the County which will be implemented through the GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership. The strategy follows a Government

	<p>prescribed format and consistent with the National Industrial Strategy, is required to focus on effort to increase business productivity. Of relevance to the Public Sector Equality Duty however is the secondary objective of the strategy which is one of 'inclusive growth and enabling all communities to contribute to and benefit from the enhanced economic prosperity enabled through the strategy.</p> <p>However, GCC is not responsible for preparing or delivering the strategy directly, but aims to be an active public sector contributor to the efforts of the wider partnership. In this respect the Council will be an advocate (rather than a key service provider) for ensuring the 'reach' of the strategy, in equality terms, is as broad as possible.</p>
<b>Human rights Implications</b>	None Identified
<b>Consultation Arrangements</b>	<p>Once the draft consultation feedback has been sent to GFirst LEP, officers will continue to consult with GCC associates through regular and planned meetings to ensure emerging views and new evidence is fed back to the LEP, to be taken into account to support the final version of the Gloucestershire LIS, due for publication by March 2020.</p>