

## GFIRST LEP UPDATE FOR GEGJC MEETING

20 NOVEMBER 2019

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### 1) Gloucestershire Growth Deal – attachments

Attached to this report are the most up to date spreadsheets (up to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019) for the Growth Deal programme.

These highlight;

- i) **'Forward Look'** – a comprehensive list of all Growth Deal funded projects with a focus on their current status.
- ii) **'Projects Summary'** – a comprehensive list of all Growth Deal funded projects that highlights forecasted outputs from each project.

These documents are also available on GFirst LEP's website;

<http://www.gfirstlep.com/projects/>

### 2) Growth Deal – 'Headlines' (to end of October 2019)

- **Growth Hub:** The ERDF contract for the 3-year project extension for the Growth Hub Core has been confirmed, and the funding agreement has been signed.
- **Growth Hub Network:** Forest of Dean (Vantage Point) Growth Hub opening – further delayed to Spring 2020. Stroud Growth Hub opening - February 2020. Cheltenham Growth Hub Opening – Summer 2020.
- **Farm 491:** The Programme Manager role has been filled by Luke Halsey. A celebratory event took place on 18<sup>th</sup> September to mark a year since the Alliston Centre (Cirencester Growth Hub) was opened.
- **Hartpury University Tech-Plate:** All of the buildings have now been handed over from the contractors. The first phase of the branding is complete and there is considerable technology in place. Visitor engagements are starting to take place and are being recorded. Formal launch to take place in February 2020, with Minette Batters, NFU President confirmed for VIP speech.
- **Cyber Central (Cheltenham Cyber Park):** Full Business Case and detailed design work on West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme (WCTIS)

Phases 1 and 2 continues – these will both go to LEP Investment Panel and Board approval in December 2019.

Phase 1 construction programmed for April 2020. Phase 2 in Summer 2020.

- **A40 Innsworth Gateway:** Work is currently ongoing to get a funding agreement finalised. Draft Heads of Terms have been agreed with Robert Hitchins Ltd and GCC. Detailed design of the scheme has commenced with drawings submitted to Highways England and GCC as part of the technical approval process.
- **A419 Corridor:** Unchartered Severn Trent apparatus has become an issue with mitigation plans agreed. Due to these issues, programmed completion is now end of spring 2020.
- **Lydney Cycling Improvements:** Construction to begin in October 2019. A recent ‘meet the contractor’ event was held with positive feedback from the attendees.
- **Five Valleys Shopping Centre, Stroud:** The project is in Phase 3 of 4 and is taking shape at considerable pace – the Mall area is being redeveloped as well as wrapping the car park. New residential apartments have been released to the market, finished to a high quality specification.

### **3) GFirst LEP Annual Review - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

The event was a great success, attracting over 350 attendees and extensive media coverage. At the event, the draft Local Industrial Strategy was launched for public consultation as well as a focus on Cyber Central, the GFirst LEP Education team, our new Mentoring Service and our Inward Investment project. Our VIP guest speaker was Jeremy Fleming, Director of GCHQ.

Please see <https://www.gfirstlep.com/news/gfirst-lep-annual-review-2019/>

### **4) Gloucestershire Economic Growth Capital Investment Pipeline (CIP)**

At the same time as producing Gloucestershire's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) GFirst LEP will be developing an **Investment Plan** to demonstrate how we could use capital investment to deliver on our strategy.

The investment required comes in all forms to deliver against a broad range of priorities including:

**Innovation** – to ensure new ideas can be brought forward.

**Skills and employment** – delivering inclusive opportunities for our residents and businesses.

**Business environment** – to make sure our business community thrives.

**Infrastructure, including energy and digital connectivity** – crucial to the future of our business and resident population.

**Housing** – across a range of tenures and locations.

**Regeneration and place shaping** – to make sure that Gloucestershire is a great place to live, work and visit.

**The Gloucestershire Economic Growth Capital Investment Pipeline (CIP)** is shared across GFirst LEP, Gloucestershire County Council and the six District Councils in Gloucestershire, to maintain a viable pipeline of capital projects that have the potential to support significant economic growth, and are seeking public funding, wherever it may come from. This will form the backbone of our Investment plan.

Although no new funding has currently been identified, we felt the time was right to set up a LEP Board sub-group to start the process of agreeing the scoring criteria, starting to shorten the current long list of projects and potentially identifying any gaps.

This sub-group is scheduled to meet on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **5) Inward Investment project**

This is the collaborative bid with the County Council and the six District Councils supported by ERDF European funding to set up a dedicated team to focus on inward investment in the county, in particular (non- EU) foreign direct investment.

The overall project value is £1 million with 50% coming via ERDF and is for a period of 3 years – January 2019 to December 2021.

The focus is on four key sectors; Cyber, Agri-Tech, Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing & Renewables.

### **‘Headlines’ since our last meeting;**

- 24 July: **DIT Agri-Tech Team Visit**  
The Agri-Tech Team from Department for International Trade visited Gloucestershire for a full day to learn about its Agri-Tech offer. The visit was hosted at Hartpury University & Hartpury College, Gloucester Growth Hub and Farm491 at the Royal Agricultural University.
- 30 August: **Forest of Dean Listening to Business Visit - Assurant**

Together with the Forest of Dean District Council, we visited Assurant, a global US insurance firm based in the Forest of Dean. We are supporting Assurant on its expansion and access of skills and talent in the local area.

- **12 September: Agri-Tech New Zealand Delegation Visit**  
We hosted a delegation of 10 Agri-Tech companies and educative institutions from New Zealand. We arranged meetings and ‘speed dating’ with some of our top local agri-tech companies. The visit was delivered jointly with our agri-tech partners, including Campden BRI, Hartpury University & Hartpury College, Royal Agricultural University, Sibling Distillery and the University of Gloucestershire.
- **23-27 September: Visit to China**  
David Owen, CEO, and Chris Lau, Head of Inward Investment, visited four cities in China to promote Gloucestershire and meet with potential key investors.  
In Shenzhen the team met with BYD to explore green transport alternatives for Gloucestershire.  
At the UK Zhengzhou City Regeneration Forum, David Owen presented Gloucestershire’s inward investment opportunities alongside Manchester and leading British companies such as Arup, Atkins and Mott Macdonald.  
A meeting was held with Renishaw in Shanghai, to help the company with access to the China market.  
In Guangzhou we had the opportunity to understand first-hand trade and investment opportunities from the Greater Bay Area.
- **1 October: Retail DSK**  
Diane Savory, Chair and Nigel Jobson, Chair of Retail and the high street business group, together with Chris Lau, presented exciting developments in the Gloucestershire’s retail sector to a group of overseas officers based in British Embassies and Consulates. This included Gloucester Quays, Market Towns as well as UK:DRIC.
- **14-15 October: MIPIM UK, London**  
We promoted Gloucestershire’s capital investment offer to institutional investors at the largest property conference in the UK.
- **15-18 October: World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit and Future Food-Tech**  
A Gloucestershire team including Farm491, Hartpury University & Hartpury College, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council visited two of the most important Agri-Tech events in the UK. At **World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit** we had the opportunity to meet with some of the agri-business leaders and to present Gloucestershire’s Agri-Tech proposition. **Future Food-Tech**, on the other hand, gave us the opportunity to learn more about current and future development in the agri-food sector.
- **21-23 October: World China Entrepreneur Convention (WCEC)**  
With over 3,000 Chinese delegates attending the convention, WCEC is the largest Chinese entrepreneurs’ event and for the first time it was held outside of China.

- **29 October: Agri-Tech Cornwall Business Forum**  
This was the second in the series of Business Forums organised by Agri-Tech Cornwall. The main focus of the event was around data collection and data management in the Agri-Tech sector. It provided good networking opportunities with innovative companies.
- **30-31 October: Advanced Engineering Show at the NEC, Birmingham**  
We attended the UK's largest annual advanced manufacturing trade show and had the chance to see the latest advances in aerospace, composites, automotive, medical devices, etc. An excellent to meet with local, national and international companies in the advanced manufacturing sector.

## **6) Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)**

Our draft Local Industrial Strategy (and the Gloucestershire Five Foundations of Productivity Evidence Report) were launched on September 19<sup>th</sup> along with a set of consultation questions.

Open consultation closed on October 31<sup>st</sup>, however, we extended the deadline for a number of organisations who requested an extension.

Drop-in sessions for businesses were held in Growth Hubs and all of our Business Groups will have responded to the consultation questions.

We were very keen to hear the voice of the next generation in our Local Industrial Strategy and so commissioned Young Gloucestershire and The Participation People to collaborate on a research project. As far as we are aware we were the only LEP to commission specific research with young people. In total, we engaged with 5,261 young people aged between 14 and 25 years of age.

Our aim was to ensure that our draft would dovetail with other existing and emerging strategies including the Local Transport Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Joint Core Strategy, and the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy, reflecting shared ambitions and synergies across the county.

We received feedback from a wide range of organisations from the private, public and voluntary sectors and overall were encouraged by the responses.

**I thought it might be useful to share the feedback we received from our local authority partners and there is a collated response attached to this report.**

Please see links below to read the draft Local Industrial Strategy, the Gloucestershire Five Foundations of Productivity Evidence Report and our Youth Survey;

[https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/gloucestershire\\_draft\\_local-industrial-strategy\\_2019.pdf](https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/gloucestershire_draft_local-industrial-strategy_2019.pdf)

[https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/gloucestershire\\_five-foundations-of-productivity\\_evidence-report\\_2019.pdf](https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/gloucestershire_five-foundations-of-productivity_evidence-report_2019.pdf)

<https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/gfirst-lep-youth-survey-2019v2.pdf>

Dialogue with Government has commenced on the draft Local Industrial Strategy, developing it further, agreeing priorities and joint areas of activity, working towards a jointly agreed document by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

Our intention is to prepare a consultation report for the December 10<sup>th</sup> LEP Board meeting, setting out the results of the local consultation and the headlines from HMG's initial feedback, with a set of recommendations.