

Executive Director's Report, Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Report

June 2022

This report summarises key areas likely to lead to decisions over the next 6 months, including updates on areas previously reported.

1.0 Decisions

Relevant forthcoming decisions, by date due:

- [Gloucestershire County Council's submission to the Multiply Programme element of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) Between 7 Jun 2022 and 21 Jun 2022 by Cabinet Member - Education, Skills and Bus Transport
- [Proposed re-location of Stroud Library](#) 22 Jun 2022 by Cabinet
- [To seek approval to go out to public consultation on the proposed draft library strategy](#) 22 Jun 2022 by Cabinet
- [Scheme development funding for M5 Junction 9 and A46 \(Ashchurch\) Strategic Transport Scheme in 2022/23](#) 22 Jun 2022 by Cabinet
- [Severn River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan](#) Between 25 May 2022 and 30 Jun 2022 by Cabinet Member - Highways and Flooding
- [Review of Community Offer provided as part of Stage 5 of the Fastershire delivery programme](#) Between 10 May 2022 and 5 Aug 2022 by Cabinet Member - Education, Skills and Bus Transport

Pending items for publication

- Road Safety Policy
- Tender and Award of Transport Contracts under the Dynamic Purchasing System for Transport

2.0 Highways

M5 J10

- Preferred Route Announcement took place on 16th June 2021 along with associated communications and publication via GCC website.
- Land agents progressing land acquisition/negotiations in partnership with GCC Property.
- Successful bid for £35k Capacity Funding from Homes England to support local planning authorities in both their statutory and non-statutory functions in respect of the Development Consent Order process. Further bid for this f/y of £125k has just been awarded by Homes England
- Claims to date total just under £22m.
- Consultation for A38/A4019 Coombe Hill package of works have concluded and design is being finalised for the planning application.
- Statutory Public Consultation is complete. Formal responses have been provided to prescribed consultees' comments. Next stage will be full consultation report released in summer 2022 which will then feed into the DCO.
- Arle Court Transport Hub – Civils element– Planning granted and contract awarded to Knights Brown. Works commenced on site on 6th June 2022.

- Tenders received for the MSCP element of the scheme and currently undergoing assessment. Planning decision is expected in July.
- Work continues on the draft DCO documents, along with engagement with stakeholders on the Statements of Common Ground.

West Cheltenham Transport Infrastructure Scheme / Cyber

- Work started on site for Phases 1 and 2 in June 2020 and are now complete. The Phase 3 and 4 Design and Build contract started in January 2021 and are now substantially complete with a public unveiling event undertaken in early June. Wider walking and cycling improvement works will continue on Hubble Road and in the St Marks area of West Cheltenham.
- National Highways' safety critical works at Staverton Bridge and Brookfield Bridge are underway. The M5 J11 works were completed as scheduled in March 2022 with full co-ordination with the West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme.

Gloucester SW Bypass / Llanthony Road

- All premises are now owned by GCC, utility disconnections and demolition works are completed. Planning application for change of use (part of City Business Centre to become car park for displaced parking) has been approved. Scheme includes segregated footway and cycleway facilities that are compliant with latest government design guidance from the DfT.
- A successful DfT Levelling Up Fund bid has allocated £12.822m to the scheme and a procurement exercise is now complete with highway works starting in early July with works expected to last for 12 months. A contractor share event was undertaken on the 15th June alongside wider scheme communications.

Gloucester Station Access Works (Delivery with Gloucester City Council)

- New access/egress at Metz Way now complete. Revised Bruton Way access works including additional drainage works commenced in May 2022 following confirmation of GWR license requirements.

Structures/Geotechnical Schemes

- Blakeney West – Construction ongoing – piling operations now underway but are taking longer than anticipated due to ground conditions and piling rig capacity. Target completion is Summer/Autumn 2022.
- Rushmire Hill – investigations ongoing to determine slip failure mechanism to inform design.
- Badgeworth Road – Discussions re roadspace and with National Highways to co-ordinate activities in the area, along with joint comms. Also requires Network Rail engagement.
- Tintern Bridge – Tenders received and assessed, with successful contractor to be appointed by end June. Start planned for mid-July for a duration of 6-9 months. Ongoing co-ordination with Monmouthshire CC who jointly have responsibility for the bridge including joint comms and public share events.
- Walk Bridge – tendering Design and Build contract for Stroud District Council. Project specification delivered for design and build procurement.

Ashchurch Bridge over Rail (Delivery for Tewkesbury Borough Council)

- Planning permission for the bridge has been granted. Development of legal agreement is concluding.

- Project delivery through Design and Build contract with procurement documents being drafted. Works continue with Tewkesbury Borough Council and Network Rail to understand the complexities of the legal agreements required for the construction phase.

A435 Junction Improvements

- Works completed in May 2022 to deliver junction improvements associated with local housing developments. The project has also provided some enabling works for future cycle route between Cheltenham and Bishops Cleeve.

A435 Cheltenham to Bishops Cleeve Cycleway

- A recent funding announcement from the DfT Active Travel Fund means the scheme is now fully funded and preliminary design work is now progressing of the cycle route following an initial concept design.

A419 Junction Improvements (Stonehouse)

- Works substantially complete. Alterations planned at Horsetrough Roundabout to improve cycling provision planned for later in 2022.

Highways Contracts

- Term maintenance (Ringway) – Fourth year of the contract has now commenced. Cyclical maintenance and defect repair performance remains on target. From April 2022 Gloucestershire funded a dedicated spray injection patching machine in order to enable a proactive approach without reliance on supply chain – the effectiveness of this approach is scheduled for review in July. Recruitment across the sector remains difficult - commercial discussions underway to address retention/ recruitment challenges in construction sector.
- Professional services (Atkins) – Fourth year of contract underway.
- Bridge Inspections – investigating a risk-based approach to inspection regime as opposed to calendar-based approach, this will bring in to line with Safety Policy.
- Structural maintenance (Tarmac) – First year of new 4-year contract started April 2022. Delivery of capital resurfacing programme well under way and on track.
- Street lighting (M Group) – Performance on key indicators remains satisfactory.
- Highway Skills Academy – Focus for 23/24 will be on the formation of a development/career path for those staff which are progressing through their apprenticeships in order that GCC retains the investment in time, funds and skills. Our first cohort of Level 4 (HNC equivalent) Apprenticeships of 10 staff. A second cohort planned to follow this year with the high level of interest from existing staff. Highways have also welcomed some participants from the Kickstart programme into the teams which has been a successful initiative resulting in individuals wishing to stay with the authority and applying for permanent roles.

Highways Delivery

- Depots/property – development of strategic plan for highways depots included in 22/23 Service Plan in order to ensure facilities are fit for purpose. Construction works have been completed at Cirencester depot including refurbishment of the existing building and a new building built to provide Operative Welfare facilities and GCC hub provision. IT provision is currently being undertaken. Decoration works have been completed in Stroudwater and we have improved the operative welfare facility. A new kitchen for the operatives is being installed at Cannop and plans are being prepared to improvements to other welfare facilities.

- Ash die back – continued programme in 22/23 including planting programme to ensure that two trees are planted for each one felled with ash die back disease. Discussions are underway with external organisations such as National Trust and others to identify larger woodland planting schemes off the public highway. Latest inspections indicate that the disease is spreading quickly – prioritisation of works to ensure a risk-based approach is being taken is essential.

3.0 Traffic and Transport

Recent DMMO Statistics

Total number of ‘unresolved’ applications:	209 (static from last month)
No. of new ‘min.14(1) compliant’ applications received in 2022 to date	32 (21 in 2021)
Number of applications ‘resolved’ in 2022 to date	3 (10 in 2021)
Number of routes added to DM&S by ‘other means’ in 2022 to date	2 (3 in 2021)

Currently resolving, on average over the past 5 years, 7.2 applications a year.

Number of all ‘undetermined’ applications, as at 16 June 2022:

	Undetermined	Undet-Archived	Undet-Non14(2)
No.	49 (down 1)	52	72

(“Archived” applications are whereby the intended effect of the application is essentially 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, as at 16 June 2022:

	Apps at publication/ confirmation stage	Apps with unresolved objections	
		Submitted to SoS	Awaiting submission
No.	2 (up 1)	0	34

Recent CROWC determinations:

Last 2 CROW Committees	1 App on 29 March - decision to make Order for additional FP 1 App on 16 May - decision to make Order for additional FP
Next CROW Committee	4 Oct 2022

DfT Emergency Active Travel Fund

- Tranche 2: Works on an LTN 1/20 compliant cycle route along the B4063 between the M5 overbridge and Pheasant Lane were substantially completed in June. Good progress is being on the adjacent section from Pheasant Lane to Arle Court.

ITU Public Transport and School Transport

- The DfT is currently providing revenue support to the bus network to mitigate the long-term impact of Covid on passenger numbers. On average services are at approx. 70% of their pre-pandemic level, with park and ride much lower. DfT support ends on 4 October and officers are developing proposals to locally manage the impact of any reductions in financial support.

Network Management (Road Safety and Parking)

- A cabinet member decision will be taken to consult this summer on a draft Road Safety Policy. In developing draft proposals consideration has been given to the international Vision Zero aspiration by 2050 and interim targets to halve the number of people killed and seriously injured on Gloucestershire's roads by 2032. This follows the recent Council decision to invest £550k in 2022/23 in community road safety measures and the launch in May of the first phase.
- The ULEV Programme Manager has briefed districts on the council's EV charge point contract with Connected Kerb and has submitted a £1.9m bid to the DfT LEVI fund for a package of EV chargepoint investment in rural areas. A number of parish councils have also been engaged as part of this process. Meetings are also underway with Connected Kerb to firm up locations for charge points in urban areas as part of the 22/23 workplan.
- Orders have been placed to upgrade all the council's on street pay and display machines in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Cirencester to take contactless payment. The first 20 machines have been installed in Cheltenham. This not only provides better customer access but will also address the problem of criminals stealing cash from pay & display machines. Last year GCC Parking officers helped police catch one such gang.

4.0 Strategic Infrastructure

B4063 / A40 Highways England Cycling Scheme – Cheltenham to Gloucester

- The original HE scheme, in order to fulfil funding criteria, needed to be completed by March 2020. This, however, was subsequently extended to construction starting in 2021, as part of the RIS2 process. GCC officers continue to engage with HE's Route Manager to attempt to ensure everything is 'joined up'.
- GCC has decided to take over the detailed design of this project, with the design fully underway with the East part of the route designed and consulted upon in Spring 2021, an independent audit has now been completed by a leading industry expert to ensure we provide the best possible facility we can within the constraints. The audit findings have led to extensive enhancement of the provision, which have been heavily endorsed by Sustrans to the extent that they are due to become a major funding provider for the scheme. The revised proposals for the East part of the route between the M5 overbridge and Arle Court have now been published on the County Council's website reflecting the feedback received to date.
- Works started in October 2021, delivering the east part of the route first between the M5 and Pheasant Lane which is now substantially complete.
- The subsequent phase between Pheasant Lane and Arle Court is also now being constructed with an expected completion date of late Early Autumn 2022.
- Works on the wider route West of the M5 Overbridge in Staverton are in the process of being tendered with works expected to start in Autumn 2022.
- Consultation is due to be undertaken on the West part of the route between Elmbridge Court and Gloucester in Autumn 2022.
- This scheme will have the key advantage of directly linking the project to the emerging £22M West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme (WCTIS) providing a continuous link between Gloucester and Cheltenham rail station once complete and include the recently successfully delivered Emergency Active Travel Scheme on London Road in Gloucester. The GFirst LEP Board, in December 2020, agreed that any future underspend on the £22M WCTIS would be ringfenced to the B4063 cycle scheme. Prior

to this, in November 2020, £864k was secured from an EATF Tranche 2 bid from the Department for Transport (DfT), which will part fund a section of the works. National Highways have now allocated £5 million to the construction of this scheme and Sustrans have allocated a further £1 million to the delivery of the route.

- The County Council has recently successfully secured DfT Levelling Up Funding to extend the route through Gloucester City Centre and Gloucester Docks providing linkage to the Gloucester Canal Towpath.
- A recent DfT Tranche 3 Active Travel Fund (ATF) bid announcement has been made in relation to the County Council securing its full bid allocation for the cycle route in Gloucester including Estcourt Road Roundabout.

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;
- Positive Government announcement in March 2020, stating that the scheme should progress to the next stage, which is the Outline Business Case;
- The progression of the scheme was considered and approved by GCC Cabinet on 24th March 2021;
- Discussions re- possible future funding ongoing with both Homes England and Tewkesbury BC due to the links to the emerging 'garden town' – and an additional £1.5M funding was secured in March 2022;
- Ongoing discussions with HE to secure approval of options for Junction 9;
- Detailed HE feedback has been received and is currently being analysed by officers and Atkins.
- Baroness Vere has confirmed support for the project in November 2021.
- Cabinet report (re- future expenditure on M5 J9 / A46) was considered on 22nd June 2022.
- Non statutory public consultation anticipated end September 2022.

Fastershire

- **Fastershire Partnership Agreement** – An officer meeting took place in June with the new Senior Responsible Officer for the project at Herefordshire Council. The meeting focussed on discussing the future working relationship between the authorities both in relation to Fastershire and Project Gigabit. Discussions are ongoing.
- **Project Gigabit** – Discussions are still ongoing with Herefordshire Council and BDUK regarding how Project Gigabit will be delivered within the county.
- **Fastershire household and business grants** - The publication of the decision report outlining the updated household and business grants has been paused while discussions regarding the Fastershire Partnership Agreement are taking place.

A417 Missing Link

- Preferred Route Announcement (Route 30) made March 2019;
- Further public consultation took place in Autumn 2019;
- A supportive officer-level response to this consultation (a joint response from CDC, TBC and GCC) was sent on 8th November 2019;
- Positive announcement in March 2020 stating that the scheme has secured funding and should progress to DCO;
- Revised proposals were subject to a further public consultation, which started on 12th October 2020. A detailed GCC officer response was sent, meeting the external deadline of 12th November 2020;
- The DCO planning application was submitted in June 2021 and the Planning Inspectorate's Public Examination concluded on 16th May 2022;

- The Planning Inspectorate will now compile a report, which will make a recommendation of decision to the Secretary of State for Transport. This report is expected to be sent to the Secretary of State in Summer 2022 and a final decision to be made later in 2022.

Local Transport Plan (LTP)

- The LTP was adopted at Full Council on 17th March 2021. A review of the LTP is currently being considered.

Chepstow Transport Improvements

- Consultant's report outlined scheme options;
- Monmouthshire CC keen to progress to Full Business Cases;
- GCC Lead Cabinet Members supported a GCC financial contribution of £20K (2020/21) towards Stage 2 of the Chepstow Transport Study;
- A further GCC financial contribution of £30K for 2021/22 has been made to Monmouthshire CC;
- Meeting with relevant MPs held on 28th January 2022.

Cinderford

- FoDDC yet to secure planning permission and funding for proposed extension of phase one of the road;
- A Section 73 amendment to vary the existing planning permission was submitted in April 2021 and is awaiting determination by FoDDC;
- FoDDC held a Cinderford Northern Quarter Scrutiny Inquiry in November 2021, with GCC senior officer input;
- Until planning and funding for the road is in place, no further action for GCC.

Local Plans / JSP / CIL

- Review of Joint Strategic Plan (JSP – formerly known as the JCS) now underway following an 'Issues and Options' consultation which ended in January 2019;
- The JSP Reg.18 public consultation has now been delayed to Spring 2023;
- Progress has been made with the JSP authorities to review the JCS CIL – consultants are now undertaking this task in liaison with GCC officers and stakeholders;
- GCC education and library contributions continue to be challenged and declined by some District Councils and developers – these are in the process of being reviewed by GCC;
- GCC continues to not receive a penny of CIL from any of the JSP authorities;
- Stroud Local Plan – Consultation on Draft Local Plan – closed 22nd January 2020. Significant officer-level concerns submitted to SDC – especially transport issues re- the significant proposed development at Whaddon and Sharpness. Another SDC consultation took place with additional possible housing sites, which was responded to in December 2020. The most recent public consultation stage (pre-submission draft consultation) ended on 21st July 2021. GCC officer comments were submitted prior to the deadline. The Plan has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration. GCC officers and consultants will be actively involved in the future Public Examination and have secured approval to do so.
- Cotswold Local Plan – 'Issues and Options' consultation recently ended – the deadline for comments was 20th March 2022. GCC officers submitted representations prior to the deadline on 18th March 2022.
- Forest of Dean Local Plan – Issues and Options consultation ended on 31st October 2019. FoDDC consulted on a 'preferred option' – the closing date for comments was 29th January 2021. GCC officers commented before this deadline. The Draft Plan is expected to be published for public consultation in Autumn 2022.

5.0 Libraries & Registration

Libraries

- A 12-week public consultation will be launched on the new Library Strategy (2023-2028) following the decision to consult taken at the 22nd June Cabinet meeting. The consultation will be available online and through hard copy surveys in all County libraries.
- The relocation of Stroud library was agreed at the Cabinet meeting of 22nd June – following the standstill period, plans will now progress to relocate the service to the Five Valleys Shopping Centre with an anticipated move at the end of the calendar year.
- Gloucestershire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge 2022 launches on 9th July. This year's theme is 'Gadgeteers' and links well with the new Innovation labs and the libraries 'Greener Together' climate and sustainability programme.

Registration

- No new update.

6.0 Waste Management

- The procurement for the sale of electricity generated by the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility at Javelin Park is ongoing. All energy sales from the Gloucestershire EfW have been fixed until Oct 23 (the end of the existing contract term with our current off-taker, EDF). The aim is to commence the new agreement by Sept 22, so that the council can forward sell electricity when considered best value to do so.
- Next day appointments are available at each of the five HRC sites. Improvements to the website appointments booking platform are being made to allow same day booking (the soonest appointments that can currently be made are next day). We hope to have this work completed for a July launch
- A response has been drafted to a DEFRA consultation on preventing charges for DIY waste at HWRCs and a call for evidence on the use of booking systems at HWRCs. The GCC response opposes the government proposals on the prevention of charging and makes a case for the retention of booking systems. The draft response will be considered by SEEIMB on 29th June
- A response has been submitted to a BEIS consultation on the UK Emissions Trading Scheme, which proposes that Energy from Waste facilities be included in the scheme from the mid-2020s. The GCC response accepts the need for further decarbonisation of the waste management industry, but argues that other proposed policy measures such as Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging waste should be implemented first, as these policies may have a positive effect and reduce the need for expensive, end of pipe "retro-fit" solutions such as carbon capture or heat-recovery
- Following on from the "Know your Plastics" campaign launched in May, July will see further focus on reducing plastic by promoting the international "Plastic Free July" campaign. This will be delivered in partnership with the district councils, the campaign will aim to reduce confusion on what plastics can and cannot be recycled
- Grundon has submitted a planning application to cover the period of this contract extension exercised by GCC for residual waste transfer from Bishops Cleeve to Javelin Park. The application has been validated by the WPA.
- The waste management theme was considered at the most recent Climate Leadership Gloucestershire meeting, where a presentation was provided by members of the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership and the Waste Planning Authority.

Sustainability/Climate Change

- A bid has been submitted to the Local Authorities Treescape Fund (LATF), which is managed by the Forestry Commission and is part of Government's Nature for Climate Fund. The GCC bid focusses on highways trees, urban tree planting, planting on a GCC owned stretch of former railway line, together with planting projects at partner sites in Bream (Bream Rugby Club), Daglingworth (Duchy of Cornwall), Hartpury College and at two National Trust owned sites.
- Preparations for the next tree planting season (Oct to Mar) are underway, with around 40,000 planting opportunities currently identified.
- Our proposed 3-year investment programme to decarbonise the heating of council buildings and Travellers sites' communal utility blocks, using the council's £1m Salix energy efficiency loan fund has been submitted to Salix funding for approval. 11 council buildings where gas heating systems are at end of life will benefit from the installation of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) powered using rooftop solar photovoltaics (PV). 53 communal utility blocks across four Traveller Sites will have ASHPs powered using grid electricity.
- The team continues to work with Transport Planning colleagues on a Transport Decarbonisation Forum event to be held at Kingsholm on 19th July. Cllr David Gray will host the event that will see over 100 delegates come together to discuss approaches to decarbonising transport within Gloucestershire.

Travellers Service

- A bid has been submitted to the Government's Travellers Site Fund for improvements to the facilities at the Council's Travellers' sites. If successful, the bid would fund the building of brick utility blocks on the Willows Site, Gloucester (replacing old prefab metal utility containers that are at end of life), and a new building to house a community hub that agencies such as the council, police and NHS can use at the site.
- The Principal Gypsy & Travellers Lead and Head of Environment and Waste recently met with Cllr Nick Housden, who has assumed cabinet member responsibility for the Travellers Service. Officers provided and introductory briefing.

7.0 Employment and Skills

Adult Education Service

- New 4-year subcontract framework documents now completed and new framework is currently being designed by the Subcontract lead – timeline is on track for the new academic year.
- RoAPT application was submitted in April, decision not due until July 2022, it is currently under review but no issues have been raised yet.
- New Health and Social Care IQA/Assessor/Tutor (Fixed Term Contract) has started enabling us to deliver Health and Social Care accredited qualifications next academic year, currently in the process of developing curriculum, gaining awarding body accreditation, and speaking to local employers to ascertain the needs for specific areas of training. New catalogue of Health and Social care CPD and online courses are now available to add value to our offer and to increase our full cost recovery income.

- Currently looking at developing sector-based skill courses to meet local employer needs with a view to run shorter courses with employers attached to them, working with the hub team to carry out interviews for local vacancies.
- Continuing to work with the Skills and Employment Hub to build working relationships, supporting programmes with specific employability and wellbeing training. We share a member of staff who will be attending all local job centres to promote the service and to signpost people to either AdEd or the hub for more support depending upon their needs. She will also be running a weekly drop-in job support workshop within AdEd where she will help people apply for work, identify their learning or skills needs and provide key career advice. This is aimed at linking the two services and signposting customers to the correct department to help them progress. We will be working with Adviza to carry out IAG sessions and update CV's.
- Continuing to support the hub with a variety of workshops and training, including Forwards Job Clubs, Moving Forwards and various other employability programmes.
- ESOL provision now the chosen provider for all Ukrainian's coming through the Homes for Ukraine scheme – increasing our provision significantly. Demand has been so high for ESOL that we have moved a member of the community team on the ESOL team to ensure we continue to meet the needs of the learners. Additional courses are now being added to the schedule in the Forest of Dean, Stroud, and Tewkesbury as well as online courses to for those requiring flexibility with their learning. 592 learners have so far been enrolled on ESOL courses since September with a further 5 courses due to start in June.

Skills and Employment Hub

- A total of 174 people have now accessed the Employment and Skills Hub
- We have now recruited a second Hub Job Broker which will help us extend our reach and work with a growing network of providers.
- We will be hosting an open day for school leavers and their parents on the 6th of July and have secured a number of employers, apprenticeship providers and partners to attend on the day.
- We are working with two local supported housing providers – Guinness Homes and Rooftops to offer residents with tailored employment and skills support in partnership with Adult Education and Libraries.

Employment Programmes

- Our Forwards programme for Disabilities continues to operate smoothly and we now have all staff in post
- We are nearly up to full cadre in the Hub with only two apprentice and one Broker post now to fill. We are taking advantage of DWP fixed term contracts ending and have some ex-DWP staff joining us in June.
- We have recruited a BME Research Officer who will be working with young people from BME communities to understand their experiences pre, during and post covid in education and employment to help us understand why there are higher levels of NEETs in this group and to help us make changes in the system to aid their progression
- Our ICS programme of work will now start with all three posts recruited. This will look at addressing health inequalities for those at risk of long-term unemployment and create opportunities for young people across the ICS business areas including work experience, supported internships, traineeships and apprenticeships.
- We also have some additional funding to provide ongoing in work support to Care Leavers and NEETs going into work to help them sustain their employment and an IAG

Adviser working with NEETs and Care Leavers and the Hub providing targeted careers advice.

The Gloucestershire GEM Project

- On the 30th September we will cease referrals into GEM. We now have confirmation that funding will be available to allow us to deliver a scaled down version of GEM from October 2022 to March 2024 when UKSP Funding will include employment and skills interventions for people who are economically inactive. We will work with Districts and our existing partnership to design the project (which will not be called GEM) with partnership engagement event planned for the 7th July.

Kickstart

- Now that Kickstart has finished in terms of referrals into the programme, we continue to work with employers to ensure those young people left are supported. There are currently 30 young people remaining in our "Gateway".
- We are completing an evaluation of the project and this will be shared soon.

LSE Funding

- We have submitted a bid to DWP for LSE funding to increase support for people within social care with learning disabilities and/or autism to find and retain work. We will know the outcome of this bid in July and if successful will commence delivery in November 2022 for 29 months.

GIS Healthcare

- The supported employment element of GIS transferred to us in September. We are currently looking at how the DWP grant can be utilised more effectively to help more disabled people into work including looking at external host employers.
- The Proof of Concept for the Employment Support Grant has now been launched by DWP however we still have scant information about this. Over the coming weeks we should know more about how we can use this to support people with more complex disabilities who's needs cannot be met through existing support into work.

- **REPORT END** -