

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH JOINT COMMITTEE

Title:	Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground - Update
Reporting to:	Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee
Date:	7 th September
Chairman:	Cllr Tony Dale
Presenting Officer:	Tracey Birkinshaw – Director of Communities & Economic Development, Cheltenham Borough Council
Purpose of report:	To update committee on the approvals of the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground and seek views on the way forward of resourcing the supporting action plan.
Background documents:	20 th January 2021 Growth Committee – Agenda item: Strategic Planning – Statement of Common Ground https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=725&MId=10195&Ver=4 16 th March 2022 – Agenda Item: Statement of Common Ground https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=725&MId=10736&Ver=4
Summary:	This report updates on the progress of the approval of the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground and sets out options for the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee to consider enabling the resourcing and preparation of the supporting Action Plan.
Anticipated Outcomes:	Decision on method of resourcing Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground – Action Plan

Background

1. At a meeting of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Committee on 20th January 2021, this committee endorsed the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground (GSoCG) for the purposes of the seven local authorities and GFirst LEP to approve. In March 2022, a further verbal update was given.
2. Since the endorsement of the GSoCG there has been ongoing engagement at Leader and senior officer level and at the time of writing, 6 of the 7 local authorities, alongside GFirst LEP, have now formally approved the document through their relevant decision making process. Tewkesbury Borough Council will be looking to approve in due course.

3. The purpose of this report is to consider the options for delivering the supporting action plan of the GSoCG and the resources needed to take the next phase forward.

Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground – Action Plan

4. Once the GSoCG has been approved by all signatory bodies, the intention, as agreed by this Committee, is that an action plan will be developed. An action plan will act as:
 - a delivery tool, identifying the actions to be taken,
 - those responsible for taking that action, and
 - a timeframe and budget to address the actions.
5. The action plan will also enable clear linkages to be made to other key outcomes, for example those of the Gloucestershire Climate Change Board. Key themes are now in place driven by the local authorities and partners with the focus on embedding climate change outcomes across Gloucestershire. Planning is one of these key themes.
6. As reported in March 2022, following the close of the consultancy contract, which was leading on the preparation of the GSoCG, Cheltenham Borough Council stepped in on behalf of the GEGJC Senior Officer Group to provide the leadership and final draft of the document appropriate for approvals. This verbal update in March included reflections on the resourcing of future actions and that Cheltenham Borough Council did not have the ongoing capacity in light of other competing local priorities.

Options and actions

7. The committee is asked to consider the following:
 - I. GEGJC Senior Officer Group is tasked to apply for SEDF Funding to enable the commissioning of resource to deliver Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground – Action Plan
 - II. Subject to any SEDF bid being approved, the GEGJC Senior Officer Group is tasked to agree and recommend a lead a partner to the GEGJC for approval who will support the commissioning of work to produce a draft action plan to support the SoCG.

Next Steps

8. GEGJC Senior Officer Group to action the decision on options arising from this report.
9. Progress on collaborative and any relevant joint working will be reflected in future iterations of the GSoCG, which should be kept up to date.
10. This report and the arising minutes passed to Scrutiny Committee on 22nd September 2022.