

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

August 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:**

- [The Introduction of Moving Traffic Enforcement](#) - 21 Sep 2022 by Cabinet
- [Parking ICT Contracts](#) - 21 Sep 2022 by Cabinet
- [Proposed relocation of Gloucester Library to the former Debenhams Building and entering into a lease](#) - 21 Sep 2022 by Cabinet
- [M5 Junction 9 and A46 \(Ashchurch\) Transport Scheme](#) - Between 23 Aug 2022 and 30 Sep 2022 by Cabinet Member - Environment and Planning

### **Pending items for publication**

- Tender and Award of Transport Contracts under the Dynamic Purchasing System for Transport – Colin Chick / Jason Humm / Tom Main
- Public Transport – Network Review – Colin Chick / David Taylor
- Road Safety Policy – Colin Chick / Gill Pinder
- Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan annual report – Colin Chick / Pete Wiggins

## **2.0 Highways**

### **M5 J10**

- Preferred Route Announcement took place on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 along with associated communications and publication via GCC website.
- Land agents progressing land acquisition/negotiations in partnership with GCC Property.
- Successful bids for £35k and £125k 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.
- Claims to date total just under £22m.
- 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. Further targeted consultation to address the changes arising from the statutory consultation is underway.
- Work continues on the draft DCO documents, along with engagement with stakeholders on the Statements of Common Ground.
- Arle Court Transport Hub – Civils element– Planning granted and contract awarded to Knights Brown. Works commenced on site on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and there is ongoing engagement with local stakeholders. A positive planning decision has now been received and the construction contract can now be awarded for the Multi Storey Car Park.
- A38/A4019 Coombe Hill - consultation complete, package of works have concluded and design finalised, with planning application submitted at the end of June, with determination anticipated in September.
- A4019/Link Road - Work continues on finalising the design.

### **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 highway works started 4th July with works expected to last for 12 months. A contractor share event was undertaken on the 15<sup>th</sup> June alongside wider scheme communications.
- Works now underway and progressing well.

### **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, anticipated completion end Summer.

### **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 and Network Rail to co-ordinate activities in the area, along with joint comms.
- Tintern Bridge – Contractor appointed and work 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. Public share event held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
- Walk Bridge – tendering Design and Build contract for Stroud District Council. Project specification delivered for design and build procurement.
- Charlton Hill – Complex geotechnical solution designed, and contract preparation underway.

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

### **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. Recruitment across the sector remains difficult - commercial discussions underway to address retention/ recruitment challenges in construction sector. Direct and supply chain costs are coming under increasing pressure with the current inflation challenges.
- 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 is 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 is in progress. 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 take 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 (between the 2 Officers, plus support from 1 Technician).

Number of all 'undetermined' applications, as at 22 August 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 22 August 2022:

	Apps at publication/ confirmation stage	Apps with unresolved objections	
		Submitted to SoS	Awaiting submission
No.	0	1 - on 30/6/222	35

Recent CROWC determinations:

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

#### **DfT 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. Construction of the adjacent section from Pheasant Lane to Arle Court is forecast to be completed in November.

#### **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 and the impact of the Russia's war in Ukraine on fuel prices. The council continues to make additional payments to support bus operators and local communities through the Concessionary Travel Scheme and it has recently paid inflationary uplifts on its public transport and education transport contracts. In August the DfT announced further support to local transport authorities for the period from 4<sup>th</sup> October (when existing support was due to end) until the end of this financial year.

- Officers are liaising with Stagecoach regarding ongoing service reliability issues linked to difficulties with driver recruitment and retention. Disruption has mainly focused on services operating in the Stroud and Cheltenham areas.

### **Network Management (Road Safety and Parking)**

- During the summer a cabinet member decision was taken to consult on a draft Road Safety Policy. The consultation will end in September after Environment Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to consider the draft proposals at its September meeting. In developing these proposals consideration has been given to the international Vision Zero aspiration by 2050 and interim target to halve the number of people killed and seriously injured on Gloucestershire's roads by 2032. Meanwhile parishes and other community groups have been actively applying for speedwatch cameras, speed surveys, 20 is plenty stickers and Road Safety Officer advice as part of phase one of the council's £550k Community Safety Fund.
- The Council's bid to the DfT's LEVI pilot scheme for rural EV charge points was unsuccessful. Information gathered for the bid will help the council to identify sites for future consideration and a review meeting is being arranged to learn lessons so that we can apply these in future rounds of the £450m national LEVI scheme. Our ULEV Programme Manager continues to work with the council's EV charge point contractor, Connected Kerb, to firm up locations for the first phase of EV charge points to be installed in urban and rural areas as part of the 22/23 workplan. To support our Fleet Replacement programme over 37 GCC sites, including fire stations, have been assessed for the phased installation of charge points that will be needed as we upgrade the council's fleet to electric and ULEV vehicles.
- Work is underway to upgrade all the council's on street pay and display machines (around 160) in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Cirencester to take contactless payment. Machines in Cheltenham have now been updated, as have all the Cirencester machines, and most machines in Gloucester will have been upgraded by the end of September. This change provides better customer access and will also address the problem of criminals stealing cash from pay & display machines. Last year GCC Parking officers helped police to catch one such gang.
- We are currently consulting the public on plans to review parking in the Kingsholm area of Gloucester and will be consulting in All Saints, Cheltenham, in August and September. These schemes aim to improve access for residents in areas affected by commuter parking. Following a parking study in Stroud a detailed design is being prepared for a resident parking scheme in some residential areas to the north and east of the town centre.
- The council has received an award from PATROL, a national parking adjudication service, for its 2020/21 Annual Parking Report in respect of its use of innovation and technology.
- Cabinet is due to consider a report in September recommending the adoption of Moving Traffic Offence powers which will enable it to improve safety at junctions and manage access to areas for public transport and cyclists. Cabinet will also be asked to approve plans to procure a new contract for its parking back-office ICT system, cashless payments and permits.
- The TRO team has been unable to fill four vacancies and appoint to one new post approved in the 2022/23 budget. These are hard to fill posts. An interim arrangement with an external TRO specialist company has been working well however this is not a financially sustainable solution, so officers are considering other options.

## **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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.
- Non statutory public consultation anticipated end September 2022.

### **Fastershire**

- **Fastershire Partnership Agreement** – Discussions with Herefordshire Council regarding the Fastershire Project are ongoing and will conclude in the autumn where it is anticipated that an updated Fastershire Partnership Agreement will be formally agreed by each authority.
- **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020. A detailed GCC officer response was sent, meeting the external deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020;
- The DCO planning application was submitted in June 2021 and the Planning Inspectorate's Public Examination concluded on 16<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022;
- Supporting letter sent to Monmouthshire CC in August 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 and Cotswold District Council;
- Bids currently being prepared to be sent to Stroud District Council to secure CIL funding in 2023/24;
- Stroud Local Plan – Consultation on Draft Local Plan – closed 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022. GCC officers submitted representations prior to the deadline on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Forest of Dean Local Plan – Issues and Options consultation ended on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. 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 is currently out on public consultation (as at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022). The deadline for responses is 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022. GCC officers are currently analysing the consultation document and will formally respond prior to the deadline.

## **5.0 Libraries & Registration**

### **Libraries**

- The Summer Reading Challenge has been running over the school summer holidays. Uptake has been excellent with 6063 starters (a 37% increase on last year) with another 3 weeks to go. This year’s challenge has a 65% uptake when compared to 2019. To date we’ve had 1461 completers which is a 24% increase on the previous year.
- Stonehouse library, which moved into the Town Council Offices in 2020, had its official launch on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The formal launch was delayed due to the impact of COVID and the fact the library was not open with a full range of services on its first anniversary. The event was well attended with the author, Katie Fforde in attendance to formally cut the ribbon.



## **Registration**

- No new update.

## **6.0 Waste Management**

- EDF is the incumbent provider. 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. Electricity prices continue to increase and are at a record high.
- The Energy from Waste facility at Javelin Park has been shut down for its annual maintenance outage. The plant was turned off on 15<sup>th</sup> August and is due to running again by 29<sup>th</sup> August. Waste deliveries by district councils are unaffected, with sufficient bunker capacity to accommodate the shut-down. Contingency plans are in place in the event of a significant delay in restarting the plant.
- Next day appointments are available at each of the five HRC sites. Improvements to the website appointments booking platform have been made to allow same day booking (the soonest appointments that can currently be made are next day). Previous issues with mobile and Wi-Fi coverage at some of the HRC sites have been resolved, meaning that this service improvement can be launched very soon.
- A public engagement campaign on the repair and reuse of textiles/clothing will be launched in September. The fashion industry is carbon intensive, and this campaign aims to keep clothes in use for longer and reduce textiles waste. This campaign will be delivered in partnership with the district councils.

## **Sustainability/Climate Change**

- Preparations for the next tree planting season (Oct to Mar) are underway, with planting opportunities currently identified.
- A proposal has been developed for consideration by SEEIMB in August to join a new "Trees for Streets" initiative. This gives residents the opportunity to sponsor the planting of a new tree in their street or local park, off-setting local authority costs and increasing the amount of tree planting in urban areas..
- A Sustainability Engagement plan has been developed setting out priorities and plans for communications on climate change and sustainability issues. This will be similar to the waste management engagement plan, setting out quarterly campaigns together with other smaller activities through the year. This will also include the launch of a staff Green Champions network to engage with colleagues and reduce the impact of the council's business activities.

## **Travellers Service**

- There have been several large illegal encampments across the county, including one on a GCC owned farm near Stonehouse. The team has worked with landowners (including AMPS) and the Police to move the travellers on. The new powers under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 to limit the harm caused by unauthorised encampments have been used effectively.

## **7.0 Employment and Skills**

### **Careers Support**

- Gloucestershire Careers Hub staffing has changed. The Hub works with approx. 50 secondary schools, colleges and alternative provision settings in Gloucestershire to

drive up careers support standards and provision. PC was managing this work from within GFirst LEP so a combination of his move to GCC and the recent resignation of Rob Jenkins as Careers Hub Manager leaves a management capacity issue. DfE and the Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) want Careers Hubs to transition to local authorities as part of the LEP transitions to LAs and PC intended working on this during the current academic year but this may need to be accelerated.

- It has just been announced that the National Careers Service (NCS) contract for Gloucestershire has been awarded to SeeTec Pluss. The previous provider was Adviza. This change will affect Adult Education, the E & S Hub and the Careers Hub - all of which have been working with SeeTec Pluss already, so a meeting has been arranged with SeeTec Pluss to clarify new arrangements and support for our customers.

### **Social Value**

- Now that the Social Value Board is up and running, PC has joined this and one workstream will involve working with other LAs and CAs in the SW that have experience of securing Social Value monies for E & S priorities. This should enable good practice to be shared, monies to be secured to support the sustainability of the E & S Hub, and for E & S priorities in the County (e.g. apprenticeships, traineeships, work placements, etc.)

### **Adult Education Service**

- RoAPT application was successful and we remain on the Apprenticeship register.
- New Health and Social Care CPD courses have been rolled out with a good initial response from local employers – generating a steady flow of referrals
- New Mental Health First Aid courses are now being delivered.
- Paediatric first aid courses now being delivered.
- Sector based work vocational courses are being rolled out in collaboration with the skills and employment hub team to support people into healthcare jobs roles, working directly with local care employers and the NHS.
- New weekly career café is being run at the AdEd building every Thursday to support people with job applications, job searching and career development. Guest speakers each week along with up-to-date employer vacancies and skills development opportunities.
- New streamlined learner paperwork has been rolled out with all staff ready for the September new learner cohorts. All paperwork is Ofsted and ESFA compliant and will streamline the learner journey and cut down on staff time completing paperwork.
- 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 continues to be in high demand within the Ukrainian community with our provision doubling in the past couple of months. Courses are being held throughout the county either remotely or face to face in community locations. We are working closely with the DWP to meet their customer needs with ESOL.
- The Community Learning team are working within the local hotels that are providing accommodation for refugees. The team are providing summer clubs for families and young people within these settings. These activities are based around what the residents wanted and asked for such as cooking foods that they miss from home to arts and crafts and wellbeing activities such as yoga and meditation. The take up has been slow to start with but more interest is building as they are seeing what we have on offer and how much fun it is.

## **Employment Programmes**

- 289 referrals into the Employment and Skills Hub to date.
- Our Forwards programme for Disabilities continues to operate smoothly and we now have all staff in post
- Our AIM supported internship programme has finished this year with 20 (59%) of the 34 young people completing the programme already securing paid employment
- We continue to struggle to recruit staff. We are looking at different ways of filling roles eg secondments from partner organisations
- Step Forwards support for Care Leavers will commence soon as we have successfully recruited to the post
- ICS work has now started, and we are talking to various ICS business areas to identify opportunities for customers.
- Works for Me NEET programme is underway with a cohort of 16-year-old children in care. A second potential cohort has been identified through working with the Virtual School and we will be assessing these over the next few weeks.
- The BME research project is now gathering pace and we are looking to coordinate surveys etc over the next few weeks after which a report will be produced which will help us to understand how we can support young people from BME communities through education and employment.
- We have started to work with the Guinness Project where they will advertise the Hub on their website and any interested residents will be referred straight through to the E&S Hub.

## **The Gloucestershire GEM Project**

- We have started work with partners to develop a post-GEM project which will run alongside GEM for 3 months from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2022 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. This is funded through GCC.

## **LSE Funding**

- We have been successful in our bid for Local Supported Employment Funding which will allow us to work with an additional 60 people with complex learning disabilities/and or autism over the next to years. We are currently working with Adult Social Care colleagues to develop the programme that will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

## **GIS Healthcare**

- 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.
- Lots of recruitment now going on to fill the traineeships and utilise the funding from DWP. We now have a robust system in place to ensure that all supported employees are receive their support in line with the DWP requirements and working with Adult Education to identify support to help with upcoming changes.

**- REPORT END -**