



**REPORT TITLE:** Continuation of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee until 30 September 2023

<b>Dates between which decision will be taken</b>	Earliest date: 17 March 2023 Latest date: 30 March 2023
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Philip Robinson, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Bus Transport
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To consider extending the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) dated 4 September 2014 made between the Gloucestershire local authorities to enable the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (the Joint Committee) to operate until 30 September 2023
<b>Recommendations</b>	To agree:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. to the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee continuing to operate from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 until 30 September 2023 and</li><li>2. completion of the appropriate legal documentation to allow the Inter Authority Agreement dated 4 September 2014, made between the Gloucestershire local authorities, to be extended until 30 September 2023</li></ol>
<b>Reasons for recommendations</b>	To enable the Joint Committee to continue to operate until 30 September 2023.
<b>Resource Implications</b>	The IAA provides for the administration costs of the Joint Committee (capped at £5,000 per annum) to be paid from the Strategic Economic Growth Development Fund.  Direct cost to this Council is limited to members' expenses to attend meetings together with providing the Officer time involved with supporting the Joint Committee and the Senior Officer Group.

<b>Background Documents</b>	<p>Cabinet Member for Economy, Education and Skills decision dated 26 August 2020 to extend the IAA from 4 September 2020 to 4 March 2022:</p> <p>Available from: <a href="#">Decision Statement - Continuation of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee - September.pdf</a></p> <p>Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee report dated 26 January 2022:</p> <p>Available from: <a href="#">AGENDA NO: (gloucestershire.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Cabinet Member for Economy, Education and Skills decision dated 23 February 2022 to extend the IAA from 4 March 2022 to 31 March 2023</p> <p>Available from: <a href="#">Decision - Continuation of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee until 31 March 2023</a></p> <p>Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee report dated 9 February 2023:</p> <p><a href="#">GEGJC Future Governance Update V2.pdf (gloucestershire.gov.uk)</a></p>
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<p>Section 101(5) and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and pursuant to the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012</p>
<b>Divisional Councillor(s)</b>	<p>All Councillors</p>
<b>Officer</b>	<p><b>Any representations should be sent to:</b></p> <p>Name: Gillian Parkinson, Assistant Director of Legal Services  Tel. no: 01452 328729  Email: <a href="mailto:gillian.parkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk">gillian.parkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>By 5pm on 16 March 2023</b></p>
<b>Timeline</b>	<p>31 March 2023 – Completion of the legal formalities enabling the continuation of the Joint Committee through extension of the IAA.</p>

## Background

1. On 4 September 2014, Gloucestershire County Council entered into an Inter Authority Agreement to establish the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee with the other six Gloucestershire District Authorities. The original term of the agreement ran for six years. Following the conclusion of the initial term in September 2020 Gloucestershire local authorities have been considering the future governance arrangements for joint working in light of a proposal to submit a bid for a County Deal as part of the government's levelling up funding.
2. As part of the development of the County Deal proposals, all Gloucestershire Local Authorities are developing the principles for establishing a Gloucestershire City Region Board to replace the Joint Committee. The governance arrangements for the Board propose:
  - The full members of the Board being elected representatives from each of the seven Gloucestershire Local Authorities. Each member will have an equal vote at the Board. This will allow decision making over items such as Strategic Economic Growth Development Fund (SEDF) to continue.
  - The Board will be chaired by an executive member of Gloucestershire County Council (GCC).
  - Meetings will remain in public inviting external attendees to present and engage in discussion about the economy and growth in Gloucestershire.
  - The future development of the Board will involve clarity about the future role of the Gloucestershire Local Economic Partnership and will be an important part in determining any necessary future governance.
3. As a result of the on-going work towards finalising the proposed future governance structure, the Gloucestershire local authorities extended the Inter Authority Agreement on two occasions to allow the Joint Committee to continue operating. Firstly, for an 18-month period until 4 March 2022 and, secondly, until 31 March 2023. The Gloucestershire local authorities will now be working towards developing the final governance arrangements to establish the Board over the next six months. Therefore, it is recommended that the Inter Authority Agreement be extended for a third time for a period of 6 months until 30 September 2023 to allow
  - Gloucestershire local authorities to continue working collaboratively together on Gloucestershire's economic development through the Joint Committee until the GCRB is established and continue to manage the SEDF and
  - The Board to be established.

## Options

4. Do nothing and let the Joint Committee end on 31 March 2023 – this will mean there is no formal partnership decision making body on economic issues and specifically no joint administering body for the SEDF. Unless alternative governance arrangements were established for the SEDF, the funds would need to be handed back to the business rates pool authorities.

5. Extend the life of the Joint Committee for six months until 30 September 2023. This is the preferred option and will not require significant work to amend the IAA. It will simply require a resolution from each local authority before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to continue GEGJC for the further six-month period.

### **Risks**

6. There are no risks to the authority in extending the IAA until 30 September 2023.

### **Financial implications**

7. The IAA between the Gloucestershire local authorities provides for the Joint Committee's administration costs (capped at £5,000 per annum) to be paid from the Strategic Economic Development Fund. Direct cost to this Council is limited to members' expenses to attend meetings together with providing the Officer time involved with supporting the Joint Committee and the Senior Officer Group.

### **Climate change implications**

8. This decision does not have any specific climate change implications.

### **Equality implications**

9. Has an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) been completed? No
10. The proposed continuation of the Joint Committee until 30 September 2023, through the extension of the IAA, will not have any significant equality implications for anyone with the 'protected characteristics'

### **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) implications**

11. There are no DPIA implications relating to the proposed decision.

### **Social value implications**

12. There are no social value implications.

### **Consultation feedback**

13. The Joint Committee considered the proposal to extend the IAA to enable the Joint Committee to continue operating until 30 September 2023 at its meeting on 9 February 2023 and raised no objections to it continuing pending the formation of the Board.

### **Officer recommendations**

14. Officer recommendation is to proceed to extend the IAA to enable the Joint Committee to continue until 30 September 2023.

**Performance management/follow-up**

15. Each of the Gloucestershire Authorities will be required to complete the legal formalities by each partner authority to extend the IAA until 30 September 2023, to enable the Joint Committee to operate during this period.