



**REPORT TITLE: Executive Director's Report, Economy, Environment & Infrastructure**

<b>Scrutiny meeting</b>	Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee – 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2023
<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Matt Baggage
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	N/A – To be taken as read
<b>Item Type</b>	Information
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide information regarding progress and proposals for each of the areas within EE&I.
<b>Recommendations/ Action sought</b>	N/A
<b>Forthcoming Decisions</b>	<b>Relevant forthcoming decisions, by date due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <a href="#">Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP+) funding and update on Dynamic Purchasing System for Transport</a> <b>Decision due:</b> 20 Sept 2023 by Cabinet</li><li>▪ <a href="#">Surfacing Works for Gloucestershire County Council 2022 to 2024(26) – Consideration of Contract Extension</a> <b>Decision due:</b> Between 3 Oct 2023 and 30 Nov 2023 by Assistant Director of Highways and Infrastructure</li></ul>
<b>Background Documents</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices</b>	N/A
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## **1.0 Highways**

### **M5 J10**

- Land agents progressing land acquisition/negotiations in partnership with GCC Property.
- GCC have received a positive decision on our extension request from HMT which enables the scheme to move to DCO submission in October.
- Galliford Try have been awarded the Early Contract Involvement contract for Stage 1 of the M5J10 works. This contract provides the project with support through the DCO process to develop the detailed design and appoint supply chain ahead of determination of the DCO.
- J10 & A4019/link road main works – Work continues on the draft DCO documents, as well as detailed design, land acquisition and local engagement.
- Arle Court Transport Hub – Kier Construction have begun a 14-month construction programme at Arle Court. Work is progressing well with the steelwork now being erected for the car park.
- A38/A4019 Coombe Hill – planning permission has been granted. Land acquisition and negotiations continue.

### **West Cheltenham Walking & Cycling Infrastructure**

- Some small-scale cycle and pedestrian improvements now being constructed south of the A40 corridor on Benhall Avenue, Campden Road and Miserden Road.

### **Gloucester SW Bypass / Llanthony Road**

- Works are now complete and an opening ceremony was held in August 2023.

### **A435 Cheltenham to Bishops Cleeve Cycleway**

- Design progressing well. The recent news about the successful ATF3 Change Control bid will enable works to continue.
- Public consultation events were undertaken in May 2023 as part of wider consultation exercise to seek input on the emerging scheme proposals
- Works are due to commence between Racecourse Roundabout and the Prince of Wales Stadium in late 2023/24

### **A419 Junction Improvements (Stonehouse)**

- Proposed 30mph speed limit on Horsetrough Roundabout has been successfully consulted upon with local member and police support. Alongside this will be minor amendments to Downton Road junction traffic merge to be completed later this year.

### **B4063 Cheltenham to Gloucester Cycle Scheme**

- Works between the M5 and Elmbridge Court Roundabout are now underway and expected to run until Spring 2024. The ATF4 funding announcement will allow the Elmbridge to Estcourt Road section to be tendered with works expected to start in Autumn 2023. Consultation recently completed on the Elmbridge Court to Estcourt Road section of the route with proposals generally well received – modelling has been undertaken to understand impact on signal-controlled junctions.
- Design for Estcourt Road roundabout being developed.

### **Structures/Geotechnical Schemes**

- Walk Bridge – working with Stroud District Council. Aiming for construction 2024 with ecology surveys and mitigation in 2023.
- Charlton Hill – Work started on site March 2023 and currently progressing well. Programmed to be off site by Autumn 2023 to co-ordinate with A417 Missing Link works.
- Half Penny Bridge in Lechlade – RTC damage requiring closure of bridge until full assessment and any necessary repairs carried out. Works scheduled to start on repairs in August 2023.

### **Ashchurch Bridge over Rail (Delivery for Tewkesbury Borough Council)**

- Following the JR decision, Homes England (HE) have asked TBC to formally withdraw from the HIF programme as now unable to deliver the scheme by March 2024.
- TBC senior management have agreed to formally withdraw the planning application, though a number of developers (Bellway, Bromford, Overbury etc) are still keen for the Council to deliver the scheme, but with HIF withdrawn, they now need to work to find an alternative infrastructure investment funding stream.

### **Highways Contracts/Delivery**

- Term maintenance (Ringway) – Fifth year of the contract underway. Cyclical maintenance and defect repair performance remains on target. Maintenance resources continue to be supplemented with additional find and fix gangs, spray injection patching machines and patching gangs which are targeting other areas of poor road condition in a preventative programme for summer 2023.
- Professional services (Atkins) – Fifth year of contract underway.
- Structural maintenance (Tarmac) – Second year of four-year contract - delivery of capital resurfacing programme on track.
- Street lighting (M Group) – Performance on key indicators remains satisfactory. Cabinet decision approved to reprocure street lighting contract for start in August 2024.
- Depots/property – ongoing programme of minor improvement works across depots.

### **A417 Missing Link**

- GCC now in a position of discharging our statutory highway authority duties including adherence to the DCO requirements.

## **2.0 Traffic and Transport**

### **Recent DMMO Statistics - to 22 August 2023**

Total number of 'unresolved' applications:	214 (up from 213)
No. of new 'min.14(1) compliant' applications received in 2023 to date	11 (up from 6) (21 in 2021, 35 in 2022)
Number of applications 'resolved' in 2023 to date	7 (up from 3) (11 in 2021, 5 in 2022)

Number of routes added to DM&S by 'other means' in 2023 to date	2 (3 in 2021, 4 in 2022)
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Currently resolving, on average over the past 5 years, 7.6 applications a year (between the 2 Officers, plus support from 1 Technician).

Number of all 'undetermined' applications:

	Undetermined	Undet-Archived	Undet-Non14(2)
No.	56	49	72

*("Archived" applications are whereby the intended effect of the application is likely to be 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:

No.	Apps at publication/ confirmation stage	Apps with unresolved objections	
		Submitted to SoS	Awaiting submission
	2	1 - on 30/6/2022 1 - on 08/03/2023	33

Recent CROW Ctte / Internal Officer Panel determinations:

Previous CROW Ctte / IOP	<p>1 App on 8 Feb 2023 - decision not to make an order, on the grounds that public motor vehicle rights have not been retained under NERC2006. Now resolved.</p> <p>1 App on 8 Feb 2023 - as application was superseded by S119 Diversion Order, DMMO resolved not to make additional Order. Now resolved.</p> <p>1 App on 28 Mar 2023 - decision to Make an Order. Confirmation Order now in objection period.</p> <p>1 App on 6 June - decision to make an Order for RB (ex rail line near Tetbury Goods Shed)</p> <p>1 App on 18 July - application was superseded by S26 Creation Order, DMMO resolved not to make additional Order. Now resolved.</p> <p>2 Apps on 19 July - both decisions to not to make an order, on the grounds that public motor vehicle rights have not been retained under NERC2006. Now resolved.</p> <p>1 App on 24 July - application was superseded by S26 Creation Order, DMMO resolved not to make additional Order. Now resolved.</p>
Next CROW Ctte/IOP	<p>(subject to change if late rebutting evidence is submitted)</p> <p>Autumn 2023 - Officer Delegated to determine 2-4 applications.</p> <p>October 2023 - CROW Committee to determine 1 application.</p> <p>December 2023 - CROW Committee to determine 1 application.</p>

### **Streetworks Performance**

- The following utilities are on informal improvement plans, City Fibre, National Grid, Severn Trent and Gigaclear. Senior organisation level engagement from City Fibre and Kier and a long-term strategy for the further rollout in Gloucester and Cheltenham is being worked on now by them. Twice weekly meetings are taking place to ensure the timeline is met and further issues are reported to the correct people to get a resolution.

### **Highways Development Management**

- The team had been heavily involved in challenging some of the Stroud Local Plan proposals through the examination in public, which adjourned for the Summer. The Inspectors have written to SDC suggesting the Plan be withdrawn due to concerns about the proposed Sharpness new town, the deliverability of the M5 improvements at Junction 12, 14 and the proposed Wisloe footbridge. SDC have responded to the Inspectors requesting a 6 month pause in the examination to address these concerns.
- Work with Birmingham University to develop a tool to de-carbonise GCC's road construction specification has been completed. This tool will enable road building proposals to be amended to minimise the operational and embodied carbon arising from their construction. It is expected that significant carbon savings will be achievable by moving away from traditional gullies and piped drainage systems to "over the edge" sustainable urban drainage systems incorporating green infrastructure.

### **Public and School Transport**

- The temporary reprieve to service 84/85 has been extended until spring 2024 using the current supplier, The Big Lemon. South Gloucestershire CC are funding the majority of the cost with a small contribution by GCC for the section within Gloucestershire.
- Construction of the Arle Court Transport Hub continues at pace with the cores for the stairs and lifts now in place ready for the construction of the rest of the multi-level car park. The site remains open during construction however remedial works are required and planned for the existing bus stops due to damage caused by the pin loading from the buses.

### **Corporate Fleet Unit**

- Two significant procurements have passed key milestones. The Fleet Management System, a single ICT system to replace two legacy systems used by GFRS and ITU, has been awarded. The other major procurement is for ten fire appliances for GFRS. Both contract award decisions were made in May.
- Following the approval of capital funds in the 23/24 budget work is underway to implement a multi-year programme of electric vehicle charging infrastructure on council premises such as fire stations, highways depots and libraries. This includes chargers at the GIS site in Hempstead to support the recent Cabinet decision to replace the GIS fleet of diesel vans. Initially 10 electric vans will be ordered. The first 5 sites established for installations of EVCPs at GIS Hempstead, Newent Fire Station, Dursley Fire Station, Stroud Fire Station and the Magistrates carpark, ST Georges Rd are now close to being signed off, subject

to some final checks. Further contractor delays have led to the EVCP's not being installed although progress is expected imminently.

- Considerable work is underway replacing over 60 vehicles used by GFRS and other council service areas including GIS. This includes specialist fire and community safety vehicles, pickups, vans and cars. A common theme is the focus on reducing fleet carbon emissions by switching to battery electric power and using new technologies such as solar photovoltaics fitted to the roof to reduce fuel consumption and extend battery life. This is being done hand in hand with the EV charge point programme outlined earlier. In the past month the team has also started to explore greener options for replacing cars used by the council's parking contractor. This will explore how the current fleet of petrol hybrid cars could be replaced by a fleet of battery electric cars when leases expire in 2024.
- A new Aerial ladder platform for GFRS is in the final stages of procurement.
- Car Club / Hire cars through Enterprise has a new access portal for bookings, this is being adopted in the CFU to replace the B2B version currently used. This new access portal will allow all Car Club bookings and Hire vehicles to be completed through one system.

## **Road Safety Partnership, ThinkTravel, Electric Vehicles and Parking**

### **Road Safety Partnership**

- In November Cabinet agreed a new Road Safety policy and strategy which set out our ambition to reduce road casualties to zero by 2050 'Vision Zero' and aims to halve the number of people killed and seriously injured on Gloucestershire's roads between 2022 and 2032. In December the council, OPCC and Police formally launched the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership at a meeting chaired by the Cabinet Member for road safety policy and attended by key stakeholders from across the county.
- To date 191 bids have been received from communities for local road safety measures under the £600,000 Community Speedwatch Fund. These cover measures such as speed surveys, vehicle activated speed signs, Speedwatch cameras, bin stickers and a visit from a road safety officer. In phase 1 we received 119 bids and in phase 2, which closed on 31st January, we received a further 72 bids.

### **Thinktravel**

- Thinktravel have now finished the **Gloucestershire E-Scooter procurement** awarding the new e-scooter contract to VOI Technology whose contract commencement began on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 with launch and safety events planned over the next 3 months.
- Thinktravel are leading on the community cycling activities for the Tour of Britain and offering an enhanced cycling training package to schools/businesses for the Autumn term as well as a 'trial' e-bike workplace scheme (funded by the DfT's Capability Fund (2) working in collaboration with the NHS, University and other key employers alongside the emerging e-bike residential hire scheme. For adults, the team are promoting Cycle September widely across the business community and the now established Gloucestershire Active Business Network aiming to increase participation by 30%. Small Active Business grants have also been awarded to deliver business led sustainable travel events for [Travel wise week](#) & [car free day](#).

## **Electric Vehicle Charging Steve Lowe**

- Following grant confirmation from the Department for Transport and engagement with councillors and residents, an order has now been placed for the provision of the first phase EV chargepoint locations.

## **Parking**

- Gloucester Kingsholm Parking Permit Scheme launched in July, whilst there were a few concerns and queries during construction. Having now been in place for over a month after the warning notice period, the scheme is fully operational, and there have been little to no further emails since. One area of outstanding lining works is still ongoing, as Estcourt Road, was excluded from the permit zone, but a TRO for yellow lines over the driveways and to protect access on the side roads was included. There are about 50m of yellows still to install.
- Cheltenham All Saints Parking Permit Scheme has generated significant correspondence and public opinion during the construction phase. A significant effort has been made to manage the comms, over the last, week, as the spread of mis-information via social media has created a false narrative, that residents and press were taking as a true reflection of the scheme. The new FAQs, available here are an attempt to answer all the queries and dismiss- some of the unclear understanding about how the scheme will operate: [Cheltenham Parking Zone 15 FAQs - Highways \(goucestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/roads-and-parking/cheltenham-parking-zone-15-faqs-highways)
- GCC's application for Moving Traffic Enforcement powers has been approved in late July, a programme of works is now ongoing to implement the camera installation, update the signage and manage the comms, before any enforcement will commence.

## **TROs**

- All TROs are continuing to progress although there are still a small number of contentious, historic schemes to move forward.
- A TRO webinar was held for elected members in June. This highlighted improvements made to the way the council provides this function, including how members are informed of progress.
- The TRO programme spreadsheet is now available for all County Councillors to view and is updated once a month.
- Further improvements to the internal TRO process and digitalisation of all existing TROs are being looked into.

## **3.0 Planning and Economic Development**

### **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;
- Strategic Outline Case (SOC) submitted to DfT on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
- GCC Cabinet report (re- future expenditure on M5 J9 / A46) was considered and approved on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- The project is currently being reviewed given the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 MP debate in the House of Commons.

## **Fastershire**

- Digital Household Grant - The first phase of the Digital Household Grant has been launched. Phase one includes those premises predominantly in the Newent Division that were removed from an existing Fastershire delivery contract. The aim is for this scheme to be extended countywide later this year. The grant will cover the supply and installation of a 4G Router and Antenna to households that do not have access to Superfast broadband services. This 4G solution should be considered as a temporary measure until properties are upgraded through central Government's Project Gigabit initiative.

## **Economic Strategy**

- GCC and GFirst LEP have been working closely together on the development of a new strategy for the economy. It builds from the 2019 Local Industrial Strategy, updating the evidence base with new census and business data to reflect a post-Covid landscape.
- To date, the economy team has worked with consultants at Shared Intelligence to identify priorities for the next 5-years and the longer-term to 2050. This has involved interviews and workshops with key stakeholders within the county council, the LEP and externally with partners. These discussions have resulted in the creation of a summary document which went out for public engagement at the end of July.
- This document includes a core set of propositions across themes of place and people.
- The public engagement runs until mid-September after which point, a series of workshops will take place to work closely with stakeholders across the public, private and voluntary sector.

## **A417 Missing Link**

- The Secretary of State for Transport approved the planning application for the scheme in November 2022, which will now proceed to construction later in 2023.

## **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 later in 2023. Government guidance is currently awaited.

## **Waste Local Plan (WLP)**

- A new WLP is currently being prepared. The target date for adoption is Summer / Autumn 2026.

## **Mass Rapid Transit**

- GCC's Cabinet approved the future (2023/24) expenditure on this project on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The relevant Business Cases will be produced 2023/24 onwards.

## **Local Plans / JSP / CIL**

- Review of the Cheltenham / Gloucester / Tewkesbury Local Plan (formerly known as the Joint Strategic Plan) now underway following an 'Issues and Options' consultation which ended in January 2019;
- The Reg.18 public consultation has now been delayed to later in 2023/24;



- Progress has been made with Cheltenham / Gloucester / Tewkesbury to review the JCS CIL – consultants are now undertaking this task in liaison with GCC officers and stakeholders;
- GCC education and library contributions are in the process of being reviewed by GCC;
- Correspondence sent to all six District Councils outlining the GCC position, with offer to work collaboratively in the future;
- GCC continues to not receive a penny of CIL from Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucester City Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cotswold District Council, although Cotswold District Council has recently asked for bids from GCC, which are currently being drafted;
- Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury are currently working up governance proposals to distribute the ‘strategic’ element of their CIL;
- Bids and Expressions of Interest have recently been submitted to Stroud District Council to secure CIL funding in 2024/25;
- Stroud Local Plan – The Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration. GCC officers and consultants are actively involved in the Public Examination, which started on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and is ongoing.
- Cotswold Local Plan – ‘Issues and Options’ consultation period ended on 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 – 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 was subject to public consultation (ending 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022). GCC officers formally responded prior to the deadline.

#### **4.0 Libraries & Registration**

##### **Libraries**

- The Library Challenge was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – and has been hugely successful. We are at over 7,000 joiners with 3 weeks still remaining of the challenge.

##### **Registration**

- No current updates.

#### **5.0 Waste Management**

- A new short-term (3 yr) Resources and Waste Strategy for the county was agreed by the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership on 25<sup>th</sup> April. A Lead Cabinet Member decision is being prepared at GCC to adopt the strategy.
- A number of repairs are being made to the HRCs following a condition survey. A capital bid has been submitted for a major refurbishment and renewal programme as the centres are now ageing and in increasingly poor condition. A capital bid has also been submitted for container replacement.

- Preparations are underway for the annual two-week shutdown of the Energy from Waste facility at Javelin Park for maintenance and cleaning. The shutdown is due to commence on 12<sup>th</sup> September and run until 26<sup>th</sup> September. Deliveries to the site will continue but contingency processing sites are in place in case of any overruns or unforeseen complications.
- A new public engagement campaign on Repair is being developed for a September launch. The campaign will include a pop-up shop in Gloucester for the repair and sale of second-hand goods, as well as workshops on bike repair (to coincide with Gloucestershire hosting the Tour of Britain cycle race).

### **Sustainability/Climate Change**

- Preparation is underway for the 23/24 tree planting season, with project leads for some 60,000 trees already explored. A bid for further project funding from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund managed by the Woodland Trust has been submitted. The outcome is awaited.
- Good progress continues to be made on developing a plan for using the £900k remaining within the Salix loan fund. He is developing energy efficiency projects with Property colleagues and so far, has designs for solar installations across a number of GCC properties totalling some £450-£600k. These will be approved with Salix finance and GCC finance colleagues before the installations are tendered. The Salix fund needs to be spent by Sept 25.
- A paper on Green Energy is being prepared for the Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> September.
- Our new Climate Change & Air Quality Officer starts on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Sophia Beglinger is joining us from Wiltshire Council where she is an Environmental Health Officer specialising in Air Quality.

### **Travellers Service**

- A paper on the Travellers Service is being prepared for the Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> September. This will provide an overview of the service and set out key issues following a request from the committee for further info on the service.

## **6.0 Employment and Skills**

### **Co-Ordination of E & S Priorities in Gloucestershire**

#### **Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)**

- The draft report has been approved by DfE and published. Business West has asked us to be part of the governance structure for the LSIP and discussions to date have focussed on the HoES restarting the Gloucestershire Skills Advisory Board and part of the agenda and ToR for this group to review and monitor progress on the LSIP development and implementation. The thinking is that this will enable LSIP governance to better link to GCC and the City Region Board and also secure some resource for this work from Business West in terms of servicing the meetings, venues, etc. This is to be confirmed by HoES and DoE&E and HoES to rewrite ToR for the group, agree revised membership and recruit members.

- The LSIP includes green skills and jobs and Net Zero implications for the work of Climate Leadership Gloucestershire, specifically the funding of a 'green skills co-ordinator' to be managed within GCC's Employment & Skills Hub and who can act as a focal point for this work across the County and drive forward internal GCC and external work on this (e.g. the Gloucestershire colleges' work funded via SEDF and SDF). LSIP implications for GCC's own delivery of services will be worked through with the LSIP team over the coming months. This will include service delivery for adult education, the employment and skills hub and the careers hub.

### **Employment & Skills Chapter of Economic Strategy**

- HoES, SLfIE and HoAE have provided feedback for use in the draft strategy and will be ready to act on any feedback/proposals coming through the public engagement phase.

### **Social Value**

- Since the adoption of the Social Value Policy by Cabinet in April 2022 Social Value is being embedded in tenders. To date £82,627,348 commitment made from 11 projects (these are those contracts already awarded and states the expected £ contribution over the full term of their contracts). The Gloucestershire TOMs has recently been finalised and aligns Social Value Framework with our Council policy. We expect an annual report to be published this autumn.

### **Specific Employment & Skills initiatives**

#### **'Green'/sustainable skills**

- Funding and a clear mandate needed from Climate Leadership Gloucestershire, to fund a 'green skills co-ordinator' to be managed within GCC's Employment & Skills Hub and who can act as a focal point for this work across the County and drive forward internal GCC and external work on this (e.g. the Gloucestershire colleges' work funded via SEDF and SDF). HoES will re-emphasise this to the GCC Economic Scrutiny Committee as work on this cannot reasonably be taken forward without this resource.

#### **Provision for NEETs and preventing young people becoming NEET**

- Very limited external funding for NEET prevention/provision remains a significant concern.

#### **Support for refugees and asylum seekers**

- HoES and staff from Adult Education and the E & S Hub are close to completing a proposal for expanded service delivery to support refugees and asylum seekers in the county. This will be submitted to Siobhan Farmer at the end of August.

#### **Adult Education Service**

- The DWP ESOL courses – in the final stages of delivering courses to 48 learners over a course of 16 hours a week for a 6-week period. Project has been very successful with learner attendance and success being high across the board. DWP very happy with the provision leading to better relationships with them within the job centres and more courses being requested and offered to their customers.

- 2023-2024 Subcontractor agreement tenders have been received and applications have been moderated with allocations being confirmed to all parties this past week. Subcontracting is £100k less than in previous years to allow for more internal delivery as the provision grows year on year.
- ESFA funding year 2022-2023 ended on 31<sup>st</sup> July with final reconciliation not due until October 2023 – on track for highest delivery recorded as a service. Learner enrolments have risen from circa 4100 across 2021-22 to circa 5800 across 2022-23 (final figures in November 2023).
- Collaboration work is taking place between AdEd staff and Hub staff to set up bespoke offers for their EmployMe offer.
- Sector based vocational courses are being developed to meet the increasing demand locally for such things as hospitality, warehousing, data/admin and some retail. Health and Social care level 2 apprenticeship offer will be rolled out in September with many local care providers requesting this qualification.
- First Aid courses have seen an increase in demand with many GCC departments now requesting this qualification.

### **Multiply**

- 6 Fixed term contract tutors up and running across the county running a huge variety of innovative numeracy routed courses. 10 delivery partners are supporting this programme helping reach the hardest to reach people within the county within specific learner groups that they have connections with or specialty provision such as care leavers and people in severe rent arrears.
- DWP offer includes staff working on a 1-1 basis with people to carry out Entitled To calculations and looking at numeracy courses that will support them to reach their next steps.
- Year 2 Q1 figures submitted with over 400 learners having taken part in the various initiatives running across the county with either Adult Education or their partners.
- Employer offer is being built with several large companies in talks with our team to deliver bespoke numeracy provision to their employees, this is across a variety of industries such as construction, health and social care and retail.

### **Employment & Skills Hub**

#### **Headline figures:**

- We have had 1001 referrals into the Employment and Skills Hub since October 2021. The 1000<sup>th</sup> referral was a young person not in education, training or employment (NEET) who participated in a course we ran in partnership with The Music Works.

#### **Employment and Skills Hub Outreach Project**

- There have been 212 referrals into the project to date with 110 participants achieving education, training or employment outcomes.
- We have completed six-month reviews with all partners and surveys with all partners analysis of which will be shared at GJEGC in September.

#### **Employer Engagement**

- We are reviewing our employer engagement strategy and approach to take into account feedback from local employers, ideas from the team, support needs of

local refugees, and the changes in support provided by GFirst LEP and the Growth Hub Network. Our second Employer Forum takes place in September.

### **Staffing**

- We are now experiencing some movement in our staff as we approach the end of 2023/24 with some of the fixed term contracts ending at the end of the operational year. We have lost 3 members of the team in the last month and having to move staff around to ensure critical elements of the service can be maintained.
- MTFS bid is being prepared to ensure that elements of the E&S Hub can continue beyond March 2024

### **Partnership and Events**

- We are currently working on several events over the next few months which will strengthen further our partnerships and promote the work of the Hub. These include:
  - Health Inequalities and Employment Summit – Employment has been included as an exemplar theme for the Integrated Care Partnership Strategy. The summit will be held in November and will bring together organisations to look at how we can work collaboratively to support people with challenges to entering or re-entering the labour market.
  - “Sculpt Your Future” is an event specifically focused on young people who are in the care system and will include a range of advice and support to help us create their employment pathway.
  - Workshop at the National BASE conference for supported employment – we will be hosting a workshop which will showcase how we have uniquely brought together health and education with employment provision to support people who are furthest from the labour market into work.
  - We are working with Adult Education and other colleagues to train and support volunteers ready for the Tour of Britain in September.

**- REPORT END -**