



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

<b>Scrutiny meeting</b>	Environment Scrutiny, 15 November 2023
<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Chloe Turner
<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="#">Adoption of the Interim Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Strategy</a> (Between 24 Oct and 30 Nov 2023 by Cabinet Member – Environment and Planning)</li><li>▪ <a href="#">Surfacing Works for Gloucestershire County Council 2022 to 2024(26) – Consideration of Contract Extension</a> (Between 3 Oct and 30 Nov 2023 by Assistant Director of Highways and Infrastructure)</li><li>▪ <a href="#">Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) Annual report</a> (Between 6 Nov and 30 Dec 2023 by Cabinet Member – Environment and Planning)</li><li>▪ <a href="#">Civil Parking and Miscellaneous Council Debt Enforcement Services Contract</a> (22 Nov 2023 by Cabinet)</li><li>▪ <a href="#">Transfer of Local Enterprise Partnership Functions</a> (22 Nov 2023 by Cabinet)</li></ul>
<b>Background Documents</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices</b>	N/A
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## **1.0 Highways**

### **M5 J10**

- Development Consent Order submitted for the scheme on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
- Galliford Try have completed the knowledge transfer with Atkins. Works on value engineering now started.
- Land agents continue to progress land acquisition/negotiations in partnership with GCC Property.
- Arle Court Transport Hub – Kier Construction have made excellent progress and are above ground with erection of steel frame all but complete. Stage 2 construction completion slated for Summer 2024, full completion late Autumn 2024.
- A38/A4019 Coombe Hill – planning permission has been granted. Land acquisition and negotiations continue.

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

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

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

- Works on phase 1 between the Prince of Wales Stadium and Racecourse Roundabout have now been tendered and works are expected to commence Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The second phase of works between Racecourse Roundabout and Bishops Cleeve is expected to commence in Summer 2024.
- A “Meet the Contractor” event was held in Oct 2023 which gave the public and stakeholders an opportunity to meet Wills Bros and the project team and to get an understanding of how the works will be delivered and how it will be phased.

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

- Proposed 30mph speed limit on Horsetrough Roundabout has been successfully consulted upon with local member and police support. The works to deliver the revised speed limit and minor signing and lining alterations at Downton Road Junction are nearing completion.

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

- Works between the M5 and Brickhampton Golf Course are progressing well and are on target to be delivered by the end of the 2023 calendar year. Works between Brickhampton Golf Course and Elmbridge Court also remain on target to be completed by Spring 2024.
- The next phase of works between Elmbridge Court and Oxstalls Lane is currently out to tender and works are expected to commence in early 2024.
- Consultation has been completed for the Gloucester Cycle Spine and the design is nearing completion ahead of the first phase of works starting in early 2024.

### **Structures/Geotechnical Schemes**

- Walk Bridge – working with Stroud District Council.
- Charlton Hill – Work is now complete.
- Half Penny Bridge in Lechlade – Planned to re-open Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

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

- Tewkesbury Borough Council have formally withdrawn from the HIF programme.

- A new project team have been established at TBC to lead the Garden Town Team; it's likely that they will re-engage GCC to request further assistance.

### 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 find and fix gangs.
- Professional services (Atkins) – Fifth year of contract underway.
- Structural maintenance (Tarmac) – Second year of four-year contract - delivery of capital resurfacing programme on track. Contract extension awarded for next 2 years.
- Street lighting (M Group) – Preparation underway to reprocur 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 31 October 2023

Total number of 'unresolved' applications:	212 (2 down from 6 Oct 23)
No. of new 'min.14(1) compliant' applications received in 2023 to date	12 (21 in 2021, 35 in 2022)
Number of applications 'resolved' in 2023 to date	10 (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)

Between 2018-2022, 7.6 applications a year were resolved.

### Number of all 'undetermined' applications:

	Undetermined	Undet-Archived	Undet-Non14(2)
No.	54	47	73

*("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:

	Apps at publication/ confirmation stage	Apps with unresolved objections	
		Submitted to SoS	Awaiting submission
No.	3	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. Now resolved.</p> <p>1 App on 6 June - decision to make an Order for RB (ex rail line near Tetbury Goods Shed). Order being Made.</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> <p>2 Apps on 20 Sep - both decisions to not to make an order, on the grounds that public motor vehicle rights have not been retained under NERC2006.</p> <p>2 Apps on 3 Oct - decision to make Orders</p>
Next CROW Ctte/IOP	<p>(subject to change if late rebutting evidence is submitted)</p> <p>Nov 2023 - Officer Delegated to determine 2-3 applications.</p> <p>December 2023 - CROW Committee to determine 1 application.</p>

#### Update on the “2026/2031 cut-off”.

- The government announced w/c 16 October 2023 that the “cut-off date” provisions would be commenced without further delay. A Statutory Instrument was subsequently made 24 October 2023 to commence S53-56 CROWA2000 on 25 October, and a further SI was made 25 October 2023 to delay the ‘2026 cut-off’ to 1 January 2031, coming into force on 17 November 2023. Unfortunately, the Guidelines around the exceptions to the cut-off are yet to be published.

#### **Streetworks Performance**

- City Fibre have engaged a contractor to complete the outstanding defects across Gloucester and Cheltenham this affects other Southwest Councils. Some work on completion of PN’s (their network) will also be done so these areas can be lit (have the service). We are waiting to see a plan of how this work will be rolled out.
- Streetworks will be affected by regulatory changes in the coming months. A consultation from central Government is expected any day to make these potential changes clear. For example, it is expected that the ability to charge utility companies for overrunning works at weekends will be debated and the potential to change the way Lane Rental “income” can be used by authorities will be under review. Update: Consultation delayed until the middle of November.

## **Highways Development Management**

- In response to the Planning Inspectorate recommending Stroud DC withdraw their plan, Stroud DC have requested a 6-month period to resolve the issues and submitted an action plan to the Inspectorate. The Highways Development Management team have been working with Stroud DC to resolve some of the issues, in particular the funding and delivery of the M5 Junction 12 improvement and the proposed footbridge over the M5 linking to Cam Rail Station.
- The Highways Development Management Team have begun engagement on transport issues with the Joint Strategic and Local Plan team concerning the spatial strategy for housing growth in Tewkesbury, Cheltenham and Gloucester.

## **Public and School Transport**

- The Enhanced Partnership was made on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and published on the GCC website. The DfT were advised and sent a weblink as per their requirements.
- Construction of the Arle Court Transport Hub is progressing well and remains on target for completion next year. The business case for operation of the hub has been submitted for discussion at BCAG.
- The ITU contract compliance staff have continued their regular checks and recently uncovered an operator who had used a fraudulently changed Operators License to gain Mainstream home to school contracts recently. The Operator has been removed from the DPS and his actions reported to our audit team and the Office of the Traffic Commissioner.
- BSIP+ work continues following cabinet approval. Discussions with numerous operators are underway to get final prices with a desired introduction of the first tranche of improvements in early January. The initial aim to make some changes before then end of the year was not pursued following requests for more time to prepare from bus operators.

## **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**

- 191 bids were 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.
- Having delivered many schemes the Community Speed Watch team and Gloucestershire Constabulary are now assisting Parish Council and local Communities with implementation of the more complex bids.
- To support parishes and other groups the Community Speedwatch Team has taken on additional responsibility for the planning and installation of posts for Community Speed Watch cameras (70 bids) and for VAS signs (68 bids).
- Data from the first AutoSpeedWatch camera sites has demonstrated very positive early results. For example, in the 6 months to June 2023 compliance with the speed limit on the three roads in the Quenington Community SpeedWatch Scheme improved - in one case compliance increased from 5% to 43%. Through the Road Safety Partnership the council and police are funding the Older Drivers Forum to provide one to one driver assessments and advice.

### **Thinktravel**

- Love to Ride/Gloucestershire will build on the successes from Cycle September to encourage more Gloucestershire residents to participate in Winter Wheelers leading up to Christmas.  
Active Business grants have been extended into the New Year to promote active travel initiatives in Spring 2024. Thinktravel have also received £40K from ATE to extend delivery of Active Travel programmes along the Cycle Spine and to support further behaviour change platforms like Love To Ride.

### **Electric Vehicle Charging**

- The installation of the first phase of the on-street EV charge points has started and the first 4 EV chargepoint locations will be live in early November.
- The 33 first phase locations will complete by the financial year end

### **Parking**

- Gloucester Kingsholm Parking Permit Scheme launched in July is now fully operational with enforcement taking place. The scheme has settled down with very few emails since mainly seeking clarification or very minor sign / line issues.
- Cheltenham All Saints Parking Permit Scheme has generated significant correspondence and public opinion during the construction phase. A concerted effort has been made to address outstanding lines and signs and snagging issues. Parking permits will be given a time credit to reflect the late start of enforcement so that permit holders do not lose out. 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/cheltenham-parking-zone-15-faqs-highways)

### **TROs**

- All TROs are continuing to progress although there are still a small number of more complex historic schemes to move forward.
- 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.

## **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**

#### **GCC Digital Household Grant - Update**

- The GCC Digital Household Grant (DHG) is operating in two phases; phase 1 is targeting those properties that were transferred out of the Gigaclear Lot 2/3c contract (in the north Forest of Dean) and phase 2 will open the scheme to any qualifying household across the county with an existing connection below 30mpbs.
- Phase 1 launched in mid-September and letters promoting the DHG were sent to the 980 qualifying properties. To date, 181 applications have been received which represents an 18% take-up within the initial six-week period. These applications are currently being processed. To date 96 properties and these are going through the installation process and six applications have been either rejected or a solution is not available (two properties were found to have an existing connection greater than 30mbps, three properties surveyed showed 4G wouldn't result in an improvement to the existing connection and one where the survey could not identify a viable signal). The average existing download speed

for applicant properties is 4.4mbps, compared to an average 4G download survey speed of 60.7mbps.

### **Economic Strategy**

- GCC and GFirst LEP have been working closely together on the development of a new strategy for the economy which is due for completion by the end of the 2023 ahead of seeking adoption early 2024.
- The recently completed engagement process has been very successful in helping to refine the key themes the Economic Strategy should focus on. Within the Stage 2 Public Engagement Document officers tried to create a narrative around two distinct areas 'Place and People'. This approach was not supported and will be removed from the final strategy. In addition, it is recognised that the commitments to achieving Carbon Net Zero targets must have a greater prominence throughout each of the strategy themes. As more clarity over the integration of the LEP into the County Council emerges, this will also be reflected in in the final strategy.
- It is proposed that the strategy is focussed on four key propositions intended to support the long-term vision for the county which focusses on creating improved employment opportunities within the context of achieving the county's climate change commitments. These include:
  - **Sustainable Growth** which supports a strategic approach to planning and delivery of new housing and employment sites to ensure that new growth proposals are sufficient enough in scale to support carbon net-zero targets while ensuring that all supporting infrastructure is financially viable, so it is delivered in the right place and at the right time.
  - **Inward Investment** which builds on supporting Gloucestershire's reputation as a welcoming and supportive environment for businesses from the UK and abroad to invest, fostering innovation, creating jobs and promoting prosperity across the county.
  - **Skills and Employment** which seeks to ensure that every resident has the opportunity to grow their skills and make the most of job opportunities in a diverse and flourishing economy.
  - **Business Support** which provides an offer to enable businesses of all sizes and types to innovate, create jobs, and positively contribute to the transition to a low carbon economy.

### **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 2023/24. 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 / JLP / CIL**

- Review of the Cheltenham / Gloucester / Tewkesbury Strategic and 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 (part one) has now been delayed to later in 2023;
- 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 have been submitted;
- 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. The Local Plan Inspectors have written to Stroud District Council (4<sup>th</sup> August 2023).. Stroud District Council have responded (29<sup>th</sup> August 2023) requesting a 6 month 'pause' of the Examination, whilst additional work is completed. The Inspectors are currently considering this request and GCC officers have provided views at the request of the Inspectors.
- 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.

## **Libraries**

- Our first Library Choir for over 65's and those with dementia started in November. This is part of the libraries Arts Council Funded programme of activity.

## **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 for GCC to adopt the strategy is on the forward plan for October. This strategy is also being simultaneously adopted by our district partners.

- A number of repairs are being commissioned to the HRCs following a condition survey. A large capital bid submitted for a major refurbishment and renewal programme has been rejected, work to maintain the sites will continue with the available funding of £1million per site next year. Further capital investment will be required over the coming years as the centres are now ageing and in increasingly poor condition. 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.
- A contractor has been appointed for the refurbishment of Wingmoor Farm HRC and is currently mobilising its team. Works will include drainage and tipping wall repairs, fencing installation and general resurfacing works from November to February, with a site closure being planned after the New Year for several weeks.
- Three new HRC site offices are under construction by a County based supplier to replace aging infrastructure at Oak Quarry, Pyke Quarry and Wingmoor Farm HRCs. Installations will be over the autumn and winter.
- The annual two-week shutdown of the Energy from Waste facility at Javelin Park for maintenance and cleaning was successfully completed and within the planned timescales. There were no issues for waste deliveries to the site.
- The recent Repair campaign proved very popular with residents, with the 'pop up' repair shop generating a lot of interest. We are now preparing for the winter campaigns, focusing on plastics through to Christmas and food waste through to March. We will also be preparing our first draft 2024/25 waste engagement programme during the coming quarter.

### **Sustainability/Climate Change**

- Preparation is underway for 23/24 tree planting season, with project leads for 90,000 trees being explored with 50,000 trees reserved at nurseries for specific projects.  
A bid for further project funding from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund managed by Forestry Commission has been submitted.
- Good progress continues to be made on developing a plan for using the £900k remaining within the Salix loan fund. Staff are developing energy efficiency projects with Property colleagues and so far, have 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 was presented to the Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September and received well by members.

### **Travellers Service**

- A paper on the Travellers Service was presented to the Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September and was received well by members. This provided an overview of the service and set out key issues following a request from the committee for further info on the service.
- A business case is being developed for capital investment which is needed to build new utility blocks, for washing and cooking, on the council owned sites; along with investment in a community hub which would support delivery of other services by the traveller liaison team to site residents.

## **Employment and Skills**

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

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

- Still awaiting confirmation from Business West about HoES involvement in the governance of the LSIP and restarting of the Gloucestershire Skills Advisory Board or similar.

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

- Feedback received from project team that supports and reinforces initial proposals.

#### **Social Value**

- Social Value Officer appointed via TSS to work with EE&I, Procurement and other GCC colleagues to develop a Social Value Toolkit, set up Social Value Board, etc. under the line management of the HoES. Initial meetings and scoping taking place early November.
- Initial meeting of Social Value working group for Junction 10 took place with Arcadis, Galliford Try and Highways in October. Action plan to be developed at further meetings in November and December.

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

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

#### **Adult Education Service**

- Post-Ofsted action plan is now up and running with the HoS inviting in the FEC (Further Education Commission) for mentoring support to help develop some key documents that have taken longer than the service wished to develop. This includes the Self Assessment report highlighted in the Ofsted report as well as the overall service Quality Improvement plan. New Observation process has been successfully rolled out this term with all tutors receiving formal observations at least termly, more often for newer tutors or those requiring more mentoring or development.

#### **Multiply**

- Q2 DfE report has just been submitted by Hos, all mid-year targets have been met and DfE are happy with performance to date for this programme.
- Year 3 investment plan is currently being developed and reviewed for submission in January 2024, it will not change much from the original investment plan but is a chance to review anything that we wish to develop for year 3. There is a focus on progression in this final year of the project.
- Ofsted Thematic Review, the DfE have decided to invite Ofsted to visit Multiply across the country to carry out a review of the themes being delivered and to see

what has worked and what has not. This will not be a full Ofsted visit but a 1 day visit on an agreed date, carrying out a deep dive for each provider visited on the day. There will be no formal judgements, no feedback on an individual basis and no provider will be named in their overall review of the Multiply programme.

- We have completed our first Employer based Multiply course with Ringway at the Cannop depot and have been informed by Ringway this week that the course has been nominated for a national award with Vinci, more details to follow once we have them, but this is a huge success for the programme to be nominated. More of these courses will run with Ringway across the county from March onwards (once staff have completed the winter gritting programme). (see linked in write up by Ringway - [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ringway-gloucestershire\\_multiply-numeracychampion-activity-7126171478873501696-Zu3P?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ringway-gloucestershire_multiply-numeracychampion-activity-7126171478873501696-Zu3P?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios) )
- Collaboration with National Numeracy has enabled us to recruit 24 Numeracy Champions across the county (4 more in the pipeline) – these are individuals that have completed the National Numeracy programme of learning to gain a CPD qualification to work with people to build their confidence using numbers in their daily lives. The Numeracy Champions work with individuals and organisations to promote Multiply, promote fun activities with maths and to boost overall confidence. This is part of a national initiative.
- National Numeracy challenge – we are working directly with this provider to promote the Numeracy Challenge – an online tool that lets people carry out a short quiz to test their maths knowledge and skills, so far we have had 370 people complete the survey and enrol on online numeracy improvement courses, 90 of which are eligible for the Multiply programme and have been contacted to see if they would like to join local face to face courses in their area.

## **Employment & Skills Hub**

### **Headline figures:**

- We have now had 1,288 referrals into the Employment and Skills Hub since October 2021

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

- There have been 317 referrals into the project to date with 71 participants moving into paid work, 34 into education or training outcomes and 53 into volunteering placements.
- We are starting to review the current delivery model for ESHO as we are now less than six months away from UKSPF year 3 when we hope all Districts will take on funding for this programme. We will send performance information to all Districts seeking a response as to whether it is their intention to fund the programme from April 2024.

### **Employer Engagement**

- Following the Launch of our 50/50 Challenge in partnership with GFirst LEP we now have 75 participants signed up to the programme with 40 employers pledging placements. We are currently in the process of recruiting temporary resource to support the matching of participants to opportunity.

- Our first Employment Routeway in partnership with Adult Education and The Food Dock is now full with 8 participants guaranteed an interview following their employability skills sessions and work placements.
- We have started conversations with Bromford Housing to offer employment and skills support to their 1000 customers through the Employment and Skills Hub. We already have a similar agreement in place with Guinness Homes.

### **National Picture**

- The LGA published a report on the role of LAs in addressing economic inactivity in which we get a mention for both the E&S Hub and the GEM Project [Make It Local: local government's vital role in addressing economic activity | Local Government Association](#)

### **Young People**

- Our programmes for young people are now gathering momentum now the new academic year has started with 52 young people with EHCPs establishing their places on our Supported Internship Programme and increased activity for our post 16 Team supporting schools to identify pathways for students leaving education this year.
- The Care Leaver team have achieved 6 outcomes for young care leavers in the last two months. We continue to work partners to provide holistic support however our Sculpting Your Future event was not well attended by young people so we will need to speak to our colleagues in GCC to understand why this was the case when we have so many potential Care Leavers needing support.
- The Careers Hub has completed their transition to the Hub and are settling well. They have recently launched their Careers Live broadcast which gives parents information about post 16 options.
- We have been asked by NDTI to host one of their Supported Internship Forums in the New Year to showcase our work in Gloucestershire. Our model is different to other models in that we work closely with our education colleagues and providers and provide a whole and sustainable pathway for young people with EHCPs into employment.

- **REPORT END** -