

ECONOMIC STRATEGY ADVISORY PANEL

Held at 8.30 am Friday 20 June 2008
at Chargrove Business Centre, Shurdington

MINUTES

Present:

Colin	Dennis	(CD)	Campden & Chorleywood FRA
John	Courts	(JC)	Gloucestershire First
Barry	Davies	(BD)	University of Gloucestershire
Geoff	Day	(GD)	Day & Co
Jane	Griffiths	(JG)	Sustainability Round Table
Catherine	Farrell	(CFa)	Gloucestershire County Council
John	Hazelwood	(JH)	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Peter	Holden	(PH)	SWRDA
Adrian	Jevans	(AJ)	Gloucestershire Food Vision
Stan	Jones	(SJ)	Gloucestershire First
Karen	McDonald	(KM)	GLMIU
Terry	Morgan	(TM)	Federation of Small Businesses
David	Owen	(DO)	University of Gloucestershire
Terry	Smith	(TS)	Gloucestershire County Council
Sue	Stoner	(SS)	Gloucestershire County Council
David	Tate	(DT)	Silverwood UK Ltd
Ruth	Swain	(RS)	Gloucestershire First

Apologies:

Dave	Evans	(DE)	INVISTA
Chris	Foley	(CFo)	SWRDA
Robin	Grist	(RG)	Gloucestershire Rural Strategy Panel
Colin	Hygate	(CH)	Green Fuels
Barry	King	(BK)	Gloucestershire County Council
Helen	McComb	(HM)	Co-operative Futures
John	McLaughlin	(JM)	Gloucestershire County Council
Simon	Pickering	(SP)	Gloucestershire Round Table for Sustainable Development
Angela	Presdee	(AP)	Gloucestershire County Council
Nina	Shields	(NS)	
Peter	Wiggins	(PW)	Gloucestershire County Council

1. HOUSEKEEPING

Actions

Colin Dennis welcomed Members and Terry Smith representing Barry King.

- Apologies are as recorded.
- Minutes of meeting held on 6 March were approved.
- Matters arising:
 - DO to circulate the HE study prepared by Mary Mahoney will be presented to the University shortly and we will seek a copy for discussion. **DO/JC**
- Terms of Reference:
 - JC to arrange a meeting. **JC**
- SWOT Analysis.
 - comments have been received/meeting to be arranged. **JC**

- UKTI Support for Exporting.
 - JC to deal when he returns full time. **JC**
- Membership
 - Nina Shields has resigned from the group/letter of thanks will be sent. **JC**

2. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

- **European Issues** **SS**
 - EU Programmes being delivered by RDA.
 - Rural Development Programme for England (RDP-E).
 - 3 bids in - results end July
 - James Lloyd appointed Gloucestershire Co-ordinator.
- **Competitiveness**
 - Three principle priority axes – innovation and knowledge, enterprise and growth and urban enterprise.
 - TM – some small businesses are reluctant to grow due to employment issues. To be discussed with UKTI rep.
 - Regional group co-ordinating Transnational Co-operation.
 - SS to circulate Business Section from the latest Update provided by the Brussels Office. SS to ask Sarah Harris from GWE Business West to attend the next meeting. **SS**
 - GD enquired about Grant Aid procedure. PH/SS to meet and update at next meeting. **PH/SS**
- **European Strategy**
 - Ratification at Gloucestershire First meeting on 24 July.
 - Setting up of Reference Group: discussions on TORS and membership.
- **Various EU Projects in the pipeline**
 - Gloucester City – Fourgates Centre, Houda, Netherlands
 - E-government – Shannon, Ireland
 - Healthy Schools – NW Eurocities
 - Life Chances – supported employment for disabled groups, Germany, Italy and Turkey. Recent visit to the Leonardo da Vinci Life Long Learning Programme in Turkey.
- **European Events**
 - 21-22 August - visit by Swedish politicians
 - 24-28 September – visit of Swedish Rural Team
 - February 2009 – EU Question Time debate
 - April 2009 – MEP Briefing.

3 REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- **Gloucestershire Economic Strategy 2007-2015** **CFa**

Waiting for comments back from partners. Looking into recent credit crunch re housing and effect on the community. Delivery Plan needs to incorporate LAAs – due out next week.

4 BRIEFINGS

• SWRDA

- Briefing to be sent to partners prioritising regional matters. Further discussions at next meeting. **PH/JC**
- SJ asked panel for empowerment in discussions with Ian Knight – build on track record/reputation. What are the ground rules for the future and how can we contribute and benefit. **SJ**
- Suggested asking Ian Knight to next meeting and a road show at the end of the year. **SJ**
- Contribution of £1.6m to City Employment Plan (CEP) to help more people in county back to work with a target of 1 in 10.
- Discussions on an ICT project with high bandwidth capacity. **PH/CFa**
- Discussions on an Incubation project. **PH/DO**

• GOSW

Defer to next meeting.

5 BRIEF UPDATES

• Small Business Sector **TM**

- Small Business Focus Group meeting held on 19 June. Business Crime identified as an issue of importance to small businesses. Local campaign to Encourage businesses to report crime. Ivor Twydell has been appointed as Acting Chief Constable, Corporate Services.
- The introduction of the new 14-19 Diplomas provides new opportunities for small businesses to re-engage with small businesses in their local area.
- Engage with business community to take up NVQ Level II qualifications.

• Creative Industries

- University/Gloucestershire Media Group initiatives.
- Suggestion for an ambassador at national and regional level to provide support.

• Local Government White Paper

Sub national review of economic development, regional assemblies dissolved. 20 June closing date for SNR. Gloucestershire First – general response on economic development. RDA to work with upper tier local authorities for key strategies.

• Rural and Urban Economic Strategies

Both strategies in provisional form.

• Land and Premises **AP**

- Working with Strategic Planning Unit at Shire Hall on recommendations on the RSS Modifications.
- Incubation Research Brief completed, available on the publications page of the website. David Owen to lead on identifying resources to take project forward to next phase. **DO**

• Transport

- Atkins commissioned to do a transport study focused on shape of Gloucester/Cheltenham in the future.
- GHURC - Gloucester Quays development – spring 2009.
- Consultant commissioned to improve linkages in docks and city centre.

- **Cross Border Working between SWRDA and AWM** **CD**

- Campden & Chorleywood Food Incubator postponed.

- **Gloucestershire Food Vision** **AJ**

- Health Improvement Facilitator appointed funded by the PCT.
- Exploring the opportunities around funding streams of RDPE, Local Food Fund and Esmee Fairburn.
- Taking a stronger leadership role in obesity and developing Healthy Workplace projects.

6. New Issues

- No new issues were raised.

7. A.O.B.

- TM asked about the Engineering Cove. Gloucestershire First has undertaken to extend 20 ISP visits to see what specific information companies can provide relating to their future skills needs. Report to be sent out. **JC**

8. Items Pending

- Picked up under Housekeeping

9. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 19 September at Chargrove Business Centre commencing at 8.30 am