

ECONOMIC STRATEGY ADVISORY PANEL

Held at 8.30 am Monday 16 February 2009
at Chargrove Business Centre, Shurdington

MINUTES

Present:

Geoff	Day	(GD)	Day & Co
Robin	Grist	(RGr)	Gloucestershire Rural Strategy Panel
Catherine	Farrell	(CFa)	Gloucestershire County Council
John	Hazelwood	(JH)	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Stan	Jones	(SJ)	Gloucestershire First
John	McLaughlin	(JM)	Gloucestershire County Council
David	Owen	(DO)	Gloucestershire First
Sue	Stoner	(SS)	Gloucestershire County Council
David	Tate	(DT)	Silverwood UK Ltd
Barry	Davies	(BD)	University of Gloucestershire
Richard	Gillingham	(RGi)	Gloucestershire County Council
Terry	Morgan	(TM)	Federation of Small Businesses
John	Courts	(JC)	Gloucestershire First
Eva	Harvie	(EH)	Gloucestershire First

Apologies:

Colin	Dennis	(CD)	Campden BRI
Chris	Foley	(CFo)	SWRDA
Barry	King	(BK)	Gloucestershire County Council
Jane	Griffiths	(JG)	Sustainability Round Table
Angela	Presdee	(AP)	Gloucestershire County Council
Peter	Wiggins	(PW)	Gloucestershire County Council
Jo	White	(JW)	Co-operative Futures
Adrian	Jevans	(AJ)	Gloucestershire Food Vision
Terry	Smith	(TS)	Gloucestershire County Council
Dave	Evans	(DE)	INVISTA
Colin	Hygate	(CH)	Green Fuels
Karen	McDonald	(KM)	GLMIU

1. HOUSEKEEPING

Actions

In the absence of Colin Dennis, Geoff Day agreed to Chair the meeting. Richard Gillingham (GCC Transport Planning) was welcomed to the meeting; he is representing Barry King.

- Apologies are as recorded.
- Minutes of meeting held on 19 September 2008 were approved.
- Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda:
 - SJ handed over to DO on the 2nd February the role as Chief Executive of Gloucestershire First, SJ is to stay on until 31st March 2009 to provide an effective handover. SJ wished DO personal success, he has great confidence in the new management and thanked everyone for their support over the years he has been Managing Director of Gloucestershire First.

- DO thanked SJ for his support over the past two weeks and for his work with Gloucestershire First over 12 years – BD will continue as the representative from the University on this Panel.
- RGi updated the Panel on the bid submitted to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for the inclusion of the scheme to re-double the Stroud Valley Line rail track between Kemble and Swindon. Unfortunately, when the ORR published its final determination of the Network Rail business plan last October, it did not include the Kemble to Swindon scheme. Since then Network Rail (NR) has been in discussion with the Department for Transport (DfT), regional agencies (GOSW, SWRA, SWRDA), the County Council and rail operators concerning ways to progress this scheme. This revolved around the funding for a feasibility study (GRIP4) costing some £2.5m (£900k from Government and remainder to be found from regional funding allocation).

RGi to email a briefing paper to JC for circulation round Panel.

RGi/JC

2. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

- **Gloucestershire Economic Strategy (Glos ES) and Delivery Plan (consider draft integrated strategy)**

- SJ gave some background to the Glos ES – the first Glos ES was published in 1997 and has been very important in the process of establishing the economic strategic view for the county. It is the declared intention of Gloucestershire First to bring all the strategies together as a single integrated strategy; Robin has been involved in this process. At this stage ESAP, REAP and UEAP views are being sought as to the effectiveness of the overall approach of the integrated strategy.
- RGr invited comments from the Panel. He explained the timetable, which would mean it was effective from April 2010. The Delivery Plan for 2009/10 would be based on existing strategies.
- TM queried as to who would be held responsible for delivery of key targets indicated in the strategy and highlighted this as a weak area. RGr explained the intention to submit the Integrated Strategy for ratification by partners in the autumn, when work on the 2010/11 Delivery Plan would need to start. GD stressed that responsibility for delivery has been a weakness of former ESAP Meetings along with a lack of performance monitoring.
- BD endorsed thrust of strategy but also stressed the need to clarify assigning responsibility for delivery and gaining public sector involvement for measurable objectives.

- **Draft Integrated Strategy was endorsed by Panel.**

A final draft of the integrated strategy will be presented to next Panel for their approval – Gloucestershire First agreement is being sought in principle at their Partnership meeting on 19th February.

RGr

3 BRIEFINGS

• **Gloucestershire Economic Task Force:**

- At the last Partnership Meeting it was agreed that an Economic Task Force (Chas Fellows Chair) be created in an effort to minimise the impact of the economic recession. It had its first meeting on 10 February to ascertain where Gloucestershire sits regionally. It is the intention of Gloucestershire First that this group meet monthly for the foreseeable future. There is a SW Economic Task Force (SW ETF) for the region that had its first meeting at end January and also intends to meet monthly (David Owen Chair). Weblink for further information www.kerrymccarthymp.org/news.aspx?i_PageID=109613
- Setting up an email and telephone helpline for members of the public to get advice on the effects of the recession.
- RGr proposed that the ESAP clarify the role of this Panel to each of the Task Force Groups and keep them informed of any issues.
- RGr asked whether MPs and representatives from Banking institutions be invited along to Economic Task Force meetings. Robin highlighted that Agriculture and Farming have been badly affected by the economic recession. The (SW ETF) has representatives from the same organisations as the Gloucestershire Task Force but at delivery level. DO to arrange for circulation of attendance list from (SW ETF).
- **Actions:** ensure that the Glos Economic Task Force feed down to other Gloucestershire First Advisory Panels

DO

Task Force

• **Europe**

- SS issued a paper on the Competitiveness Operational Programme 2007 – 13 and explained that the SW RDA has responsibility for allocation of funds which could be as much as £125m. The programme is being managed by a small team under Nigel Howells, formally of the LSC, with Peter Holden leading on Axis 1 (Innovation and Knowledge) and Yve Tyrell leading on Axis 2. SS said she could arrange for them to speak to this group or the wider partnership.
- JM advised that the Government have changed the role of Business Link to business simplification and are advising that BL be used wherever possible as a “gateway”.
- DT requested an update on EU anti-dumping of nuts and bolts!! The SW Enterprise European Network is awaiting further information to pass to SS.
- A SWKBO State Aids Seminar is being held in Torquay on 4 March 2009 (further details can be downloaded from weblink below) www.southwestuk.eu/pages/key-events/funding-roadshows/state-aids-public-services//view.html
- Gregg Jones has left SWKBO and Maruxa Cardama has been appointed to Senior European Officer.

SS

4 BRIEF UPDATES

• **Gloucestershire Higher Education Study**

- DO informed that the University of Gloucestershire is going through a restructure and is preparing to launch Project Nexus - a new project that more closely aligns the University’s work with that required by the local economy. Contact Mike Hodder from the University for further information.

DO

- **Small Business Sector:**
 - Item postponed until a later date. [Postponed due to Stan Jones retirement etc. Meeting to be fixed with David Owen asap](#)
- **Engineering**
 - SS to look at how other organisations in Europe operate and report back to the Panel. **SS**
- **Land and Premises**
 - No report
- **Transport**
 - RGi updated the Panel on the Draft Local Transport Plan 3 to be submitted in 2010 and expected to be adopted in 2011 onwards, following a period of consultation. RGi to give an update on progress at next meeting. **RGi**
- **Gloucestershire Food Vision**
 - Adrian had provided an email update in January for members.
- **South West Regional Development Agency**
 - SW RDA's newsletter was circulated in December – January's edition is due.
- **Incubation Project**
 - The University of Gloucestershire are about to appoint consultants who are to put forward an investment case for Investors in People funding.

6. New Issues

- **Inward Investment**
 - Nothing to report.

7. A.O.B.

- TM queried about using Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) funding. The County receive a considerable amount each year and TM felt there should be greater visibility over how it is allocated. SJ explained that LABGI funding had ceased this year, and LAs are using up the underspend. LABGI funding has never been ringfenced and Gloucestershire First has benefited from this funding towards inward investment. The Government is consulting on what is to replace LABGI. SJ recommended getting a brief on what LABGI funding is available – JC to follow up. **JC**
- The European Junior Synchronised Swimming Championships are being held at GL1 leisure centre between 22nd and 26th April 2009 – this event is expected to attract athletes and supporters across the County.
- The National Indoor Premier Tennis League Finals are being held at The Gloucestershire Health & Racquets Club (Esporta) also between 22nd and 26th April attracting teams from across the country.
- RGr raised about putting the Motorways Service Station on agenda for next meeting and proposed that Mark Gale be invited along to a Panel meeting. DO will raise with Mark when he next meets with him. **DO**
- RGr informed the Panel that it was intended to use the Growing Gloucestershire Conference on the 25th June as part of the consultation on the draft Integrated Economic Strategy.

8. Date of Next Meeting

TBA

Closed 10.55 am