



LEP Business Group Update – 31 May 2016

Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing

- The last meeting took place at the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College facilities at Gloucestershire Science and Technology Park, Berkeley, with a tour and a detailed explanation of the project and its development.
- We had a presentation delivered by Hartpury College with regards to the STEM funding they were recently awarded. The presentation focused on: How the STEM Funding has been spent and on what; the main projected outputs; the initiatives and engagement plans in place with local schools and how this will be measured effectively; as well as discussing opportunities for more enhanced business engagement in order to help broaden participation in inspiring students.
- During the meeting it was discussed that Festomane were keen to hold a Careers Teacher focused event during July and use the facilities at the Growth Hub. Plans are already in place to work with Festomane, GFutures and GFirst to ensure that the event takes shape, that inspiring speakers are selected and that there is support from organisations within the sector and that the event can be marketed effectively to attract as large an audience as possible.
- *The next meeting will take place on Monday 20th June.*

Banking & Finance

- Another **free** Banking and Finance Clinic was held on 18th and 19th May at [Gloucestershire Business Show](#), Cheltenham Racecourse. The panel included leading industry experts from Banking, Grant Specialists, Crowdfunding, Venture Capital, Business Angels and the Growth Hub.
- The feedback from the business attending was overwhelmingly positive. Comments included: *“it was absolutely invaluable to have such a wide range of financial providers in one room working towards and providing me with a solution to my needs”* and *“I would recommend any business seeking funding to take advantage of these clinics.*
- The next **free** Banking and Finance Clinic will be held at the **Growth Hub on Wednesday 15th June**. In a 30 minute, one-to-one session, the panel will be able to offer advice on a variety of funding issues to help businesses grow. Further information including an application form for a **free** session can be found [HERE](#)
- *The next Banking and Finance meeting is at the Growth Hub on 28th June.*

Business and Professional Services

- The last meeting was split with the first section was spent discussing the future planning of the Growth Hub Network with Sarah Danson (GFirst LEP Senior Growth Hub Project Manager) who also clarified some aspects with the Group that were raised during the last meeting.



- The second part of the meeting focused on delivering feedback to the promoter of the Cirencester Enterprise Quarter Project and his team. The Business Group members had reviewed the revised Business Case and gave feedback and critiqued the content ensuring that the Business Case gave clarity and provided the evidence and justifications to support the claims.
- This is the second time that the Group had reviewed the project and the collective feedback was that the revisions were an immense improvement on the original.
- *The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th July.*

Construction and Infrastructure

- At the meeting on 25th May the group considered how they could incorporate best practice from the standards proposed by Constructing Excellence, which is charged with driving the change agenda in construction. They also bade a fond farewell and sincere thanks to Peter Foyle who, following recent retirement, had decided to stand down from the group.
- The group have been working hard with the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) authorities to arrive at an agreed quota of employment land commensurate with the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). A total figure of 192ha has now been agreed – treble the 64ha originally proposed. Negotiations on where this land should be allocated have nearly concluded.
- Whilst an allocation at J10 sought by the SEP is now unlikely, it is likely there will be a large allocation at West Cheltenham, near GCHQ, to accommodate any expansion they require as well as a facility for a Cyber Innovation Centre.
- The Group are also heavily involved in all aspects of the Growth Zone theme of the SEP regarding opportunities for economic growth along the M5 corridor from J9 at Tewkesbury to J13 at Stroud/Stonehouse. Brief highlights of these are:
 - J9: Ashchurch MOD & the Outlet Village/Garden Centre. Tewkesbury Borough Council planning committee resolved to pass a ‘minded to grant’ decision on the latter on 15 March.
 - J10: Need to define any employment land provision to support a 4 way junction.
 - J11: Possible Expansion of GCHQ and supply chain Cyber Innovation Centre as above.
 - J12: Impact of Incinerator.
 - J13: New Eco Park and Football Stadium.
- *The next meeting is at Roberts Limbrick on 22nd June.*

Creative Industries

- The meeting welcomed three new members to the group to further increase representation from across the creative sector. The new members are Donna Renney (The Interim Gloucester Culture Board); Peter Holmes (GCC); Jane Jenkins (Gloucestershire College).
- The May meeting discussed the Gloucester cultural strategy and considered opportunities for future collaboration to connect the Gloucester strategy to activities and opportunities across the county to raise the profile of the creative industries in Gloucestershire.
- The meeting also worked on putting the final touches to a survey which will help map the creative industries in the county and provide a unique snapshot of the challenges facing the sector.
- *Next meeting TBC*

Energy

- Recently the Group helped to prepare a business perspective on attitudes to energy efficiency in businesses, with an emphasis on climate change. This was in response to a request for LEP attendance at a Gloucestershire County Council scrutiny meeting. The report has now been published and the group considered recommendations made within the report, particularly those addressed to the LEP.
- The group were broadly in support of the recommendations, whilst acknowledging that the LEP has anticipated and responded to key points through European funding opportunities.
- The group approved the sector business plan and intends to review this regularly to ensure the actions remain valid. Included within the agreed actions is to work on an energy strategy for Gloucestershire. This is now underway with one of the sector members being required to do this for a European project. The group will consider this report and identify appropriate aspects to propose as a county approach to energy.
- *The next meeting is on 3rd June*

Land Based

- The most recent meeting took place at the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College facilities at Gloucestershire Science and Technology Park, Berkeley on Monday 16th May which also consisted of a tour and a detailed explanation of the project and its development.
- Robin Tjolle from Cotswold Tourism gave a very interesting and detailed presentation on the activities and marketing strategies and campaigns that are undertaken and the aspirations of attracting greater tourism to the County as well as upselling to encourage greater spend on visits to the area and focusing on highlighting all areas of the County.
- The group members are very keen to ensure that a Land Based Event or Focus Group takes place and this may take place on the same day as the LEP's Annual Event. A meeting has been scheduled to discuss this in more detail with David Owen with representatives from the Business Group.
- *Next meeting TBC*

Retail

- The Retail Laboratory (£400k from the Growth Deal) continues to be an ongoing project for the group to feed into – the location has been secured, and we are now looking for a commercial sponsor.
- The Digital Retail Pilot is moving forward under the banner of the Great Gloucestershire High Street campaign – a B2B and consumer campaign will be launched shortly. The retail business group again feed into this – Polly Barnfield, Maybe* has been invited to sit on the group and provide regular updates
- The group is starting to address 'retail as a serious' career and is currently an area of discussion.
- Cheltenham have recently been successful in securing the BID, the group will continue to receive updates on its progress and offer help and support. They will also support any other potential BID areas in Gloucestershire.
- The next meeting is on 29th June

Technology

- The group welcomed Ian McLarty of Cirencester College as a new member of the group. The meeting heard about the employability programme offered to students at Cirencester and the importance of business involvement in the programme. The programme complements one of the aims of the business group of supporting activities that enable young people to make informed choices about careers in the technology sector. The group are keen to support the programme and to seek to encourage Gloucestershire businesses to participate in such activities. The group asked that GFirst promote this as a pledge opportunity for businesses as part of the GFirst Ambassador programme.
- Three schools have confirmed their interest in taking part in the group's technology to schools careers information project and we will be looking to confirm dates with the schools after the half term. The group welcomes participation from other business group businesses in this project.
- The group members have established a close working relationship with Gloucestershire police cyber security team and are keen to disseminate the message that businesses need to seize the initiative on cyber security. The group have asked for a representative of the police team to present to the LEP Business Advisory Group to ask for LEP support in spreading the message on cyber security risks for business.
- *The next meeting is on 7th June*

Transport & Logistics

- The Group last met on 13th April to oversee progress of the £44.5m in the SEP allocated to 14 Road Schemes. All are currently on target. Consideration is being given to the governance following the move of 5 schemes from the Gloucestershire Local Transport Board (GLTB) to the LEP from 1st April.
- Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) has commissioned the external company CH2M to undertake a review of J9 west on the A438 to Tewkesbury and J9 East on the A46 to Teddington. Meanwhile an A46 Working Group is looking at a long term solution from M69 junction in the North to M5 J9 junction in the south involving Worcestershire LEP, Coventry and Warwickshire LEP and various local authorities.
- Work in conjunction with other stakeholders on a solution to a 4 way junction at J10 is on hold pending availability of the "Saturn" traffic model. It is hoped this will be ready by mid-summer. Meanwhile the LEP propose to make a bid for £1m to the recently announced DfT "Large Local Major Schemes" fund for development funding for J10 by 5th July. Considerable support is on the application is being provided by GCC.
- A meeting of the Highways England (HE) Project Board took place on 29th April to start the funding process for the A417 Missing Link. GCC have allocated £4.5m towards feasibility costs There seems momentum to ensure that the scheme would be contained within funding in Highways England Road Investment Strategy [RIS] 2 (2020 to 2025).
- The LEP made has made a bid for (£4.5m + £2m) £6.5m under the HE Growth & Housing Fund for road schemes at Elmbridge and the Gloucester South West Bypass. We hope to hear if we have made it through the first sift in early June.
- *The next meeting is at the Growth Hub on 9th June.*