

Meeting Minutes

Meeting title	GFirst LEP Board Meeting
Date/time/venue	24/07/2015 @ 08:30 in Teaching Room, Oxstalls Campus
Attendees	<i>Members:</i> Diane Savory (DS) (<i>Chair</i>), Roman Cooper (RC), Mark Hawthorne (MH), Stephen Jordan (SJ), Stephen Marston (SM) Mike Warner (MW), Adam Starkey & (AS) Rob Loveday (RL) Neill Ricketts (NR) <i>In attendance:</i> Lynn Stacey (Minutes), Peter Carr (PC) & Peter Bungard (PB)
Apologies	David Owen (DO), Claire Mould, Matthew Burgess & Nigel Riglar

No.	Item	Action	By
1.	<p><u>Welcome & Introduction</u> DS welcomed all Board Members in attending this extraordinary meeting to discuss Devolution for Gloucestershire. Special mention was given for Peter Bungard - Chief Executive of GCC who would be providing key input into the meeting.</p>		
2.	<p><u>Purpose of the meeting</u> The aim of this meeting was for all Board Members to have a clear understanding of the proposals for Devolution in Gloucestershire. A statement of intent (SOI) was required to be finalised as a matter of urgency so that it could be submitted to Gov't.</p>		
3.	<p><u>Purpose and timing of the statement of intent</u> PB and MH gave an overview on where we were so far, including the draft SOI. PB stated it had been difficult to produce as no real guidelines had been provided.</p> <p>The plan is split into Economic Growth and Public Sector Reform. The Gov't is keen to elect a Mayor, but the consensus locally was for a Combined Authority.</p> <p>The intention is to ensure that money gets directed into the appropriate areas and that the responsibility rested with Gloucestershire not Whitehall.</p> <p>DS thanked both PB and MH for their very useful update.</p>		
4.	<p><u>Strengthening the wording of the statement of intent</u> It was discussed and agreed the key topics were not clear in the SOI. It was also highlighted that the latest draft did not include LEP input proposed by DO before he went on leave. It was stated that LEP and the local authorities, Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire, had a major role to play in this SOI.</p> <p>DO's proposed inputs/amends to the SOI, which included the Growth Deal and the SEP wider asks.</p>		
5.	<p><u>Timelines and further discussions/consultations with GFirst LEP Board</u> It was agreed that a separate meeting would take place immediately afterwards (this was attended by PC, SM, NR, RL & AS) to agree the final text for the economy section. This would then be shared with the Board Members for consideration and submission.</p> <p>Completed 24.7.15</p>		

	Once this has been finalised we will work with the appropriate civil servants to discuss this proposal in more detail.		
6.	<p><u>Further information about how to develop the Gloucestershire devolution deal effectively</u></p> <p>There was uncertainty on how this would evolve, but it is expected that the Gov't will want something uncomplicated and strategic. This will also have to include the necessary interface with the Combined Authority and the LEP.</p> <p>MH stated the Job Centre Plus, Further education and Skills Funding would be examples of areas, which could lead to specific benefits if they were managed locally.</p>		
7.	<p><u>Governance structures: LEP and LEP Board involvement in these and explanation of combined</u></p> <p>A general discussion took place on Governance structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Housing – need for further investment. ➤ Planning – LEP explained businesses frustrations with the inconsistencies of planning processes between districts and the length of the process. LEP to discuss further with GEGJC/Combined Authority. ➤ SJ confirmed the Chelt Local Planning Cttee processes are being reviewed and best practices could be rolled out to all districts. ➤ It was highlighted the need to utilise MP's more to assist with our business needs. An example of this was where the Prime Minister has just recently visited Gloucestershire with regards to tourism but, LEP was unaware. ➤ It was reported that the Joint Strategy Cttee would cease to assist if a Combined Authority was set up. ➤ Growth Deal Due Diligence process was an example where bureaucracy paid a big part and could be further standardized. ➤ LEP Board Members asked for further clarification of the LEP role and status alongside a Combined Authority. They emphasized the need for the LEP and local businesses to continue to have a strong voice alongside the public sector in Gloucestershire. 		
8.	<p><u>Communications with Board members unable to attend</u></p> <p>PC will provide an update for those Board Members who were not present.</p>	ASAP	PC
9.	<p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>Further meetings to be arranged as and when necessary.</p>		

Date of Next Meetings:

- Tuesday 25th August 2015 @ 08:30
- Tuesday 6th October 2015 @ 10:30 (apologies given from: SM, MB, Nigel R & MH)
- Tuesday 15th December 2015 @ 08:30 (SJ & Nigel R to leave at 10:00)