

Draft minutes to be approved at the next Task Force Board meeting on 8th April 2011

Cheltenham Development Task Force Board Meeting

Friday 21st January 2011 - 2.00pm – 4:15 pm
Pittville Room, Municipal offices, Cheltenham

Open Minutes of meeting

Present: Graham Garbutt (Independent Chair)
Stephen Clarke
Robert Duncan
Tim Cooper
David Oldham
Nigel Riglar
Antonia Noble
Andrew North
Sarah Irvine

Other: Steve Jordan – CBC Leader of Council
Amanda Lawson-Smith – GCC Principal Transport Planning Officer
Mark Sheldon – CBC Chief Finance Officer
Wilf Tomaney – CBC Urban Design Manager
Jeremy Williamson (Managing Director)

No.	Item	Action
	GG opened the meeting by welcoming all present and confirmed that Andrew Willetts (HSBC) would be attending as a new Task Force member replacing Richard Hardy. Members endorsed this.	
01/11	Apologies: Members - Diane Savory, Chas Fellows, Bernice Thomson, Chris Smith, Michael Ratcliffe, Tony Bray plus Attendee: Nick Croft Cllrs Rawson, Cooper and Noble would be arriving late.	All
02/11	Declarations of Interest – none declared.	All
03/11	Minutes of previous meeting (29.10.10) - were approved both for accuracy and content.	
04/11	Action Matrix and Matters Arising It was noted from the minutes previously circulated that almost all actions had either been completed or were on the agenda for further consideration. Re: item 57/10 (Public Realm Group) – WT confirmed that Cleansing Services had been sent a further copy of the enhanced materials policy for comment, as they had not received the initial copy sent.	
05/11	Confirmation of Confidentiality of Items Unanimously agreed.	GG
06/11	Resignation of Daniella Tilbury GG reported that Daniella had unfortunately resigned as all the dates planned for the coming year coincided with overseas commitments. It was agreed that advice would be sought from Helen Lovett who had previously provided search committee advice regarding potentially suitable replacements. Sarah Irvine suggested Sarah Daly (MD for Heath Avery) might be an appropriate replacement, based on her background experience with 10:10 Campaign and Gloucestershire First. It was left for GG/JW to explore and report back to the next meeting.	GG/JW

<p>07/11</p>	<p>Update on status of various partners – SWRDA, HCA and development of Local Enterprise Partnership proposals</p> <p>SWRDA In Tony Bray's absence from the meeting no report available from SWRDA.</p> <p>HCA JW provided an update on the HCA following a meeting with both David Warburton and Greg Morgan together with officers of CBH and CBC on 20th January. Whilst the HCA was the subject of a restructuring and significant staff reduction, there was a clear message that they would continue to lead the Government's commitment to housing and regeneration. Whilst capital will be cut 75% (from £6 billion to £2 billion) funds would still be available for schemes but levels of subsidy will fall back dramatically. A key focus for housing would be the new affordable rent product which sits at 80% rather than 50% of market rates. The other message was that the HCA role of regeneration was increasing in importance.</p> <p>An issue was that the HCA was being encouraged to work with LEP's where they exist and thus Gloucestershire will need to identify some other format for communication of its Countywide regeneration ambitions in the interim.</p> <p>LEP NR updated on the status of the LEP proposal for Gloucestershire, which he hoped would be submitted as a Gloucestershire only bid by late February, albeit with collaboration benefits eg. with Swindon for rail (Kemble) and road (Nettleton Bottom); Wiltshire for MoD/defence logistics. Official sign-off by CLG would then be technically possible in March 2011.</p> <p>NR suggested inviting David Owen to April's meeting to report on Glos First and its restructure, and LEP programme. This would enable the Board to discuss how it would fit into the proposed network and integrate with the County to reinforce debate at high level on regeneration and development issues.</p> <p>AN felt geographical configuration was of real importance in determining whether Gloucestershire's LEP would be able to focus on economic development in the County or if a degree of central control would be imposed to strategically lead around housing and regeneration issues. Preparation of an appropriate structure was needed to ensure a voice at the table. GG clarified that governance was an important factor.</p> <p>Additional item - Cllr SJ sought an opportunity to raise Task Force funding within this open part of the meeting. What had been proposed as a tripartite arrangement for three years with funding from the SWRDA subsequently being split with HCA and has only resulted in 2 years worth being paid, which runs out next financial year. Therefore, an alternative arrangement was being put in place as part of CBC budgetary cycle. MS reported that mechanisms were in place to keep the Board going once seed funding utilised. Any shortfall in coming year ahead has been addressed and a fund of nearly £1m to pump prime public realm works, has been identified. GG acknowledged the sterling work done on this and thanked Cllr SJ for CBC's continued support.</p>	
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	The public part of the meeting concluded at this point.	
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