

Cheltenham Development Task Force Board Meeting

48/14 (i)

Friday 11th April 2014 - 2.00pm – 4:00 pm
Pittville Room, Municipal offices, Cheltenham

Open Minutes of meeting

Present: Graham Garbutt (Independent Chair)
Stephen Clarke
Cllr Will Windsor-Clive
Bernice Thomson
Robert Duncan
Michael Ratcliffe
Cllr Steve Jordan
Andrew North
Simon Excell (sub for Nigel Riglar)
David Oldham
Dorian Wragg
Diane Savory
Ross Simmonds (sub for Andrew Willetts)

Other: Jeremy Williamson
Richard Cornell
David Roberts

No.	Item	Action
26/14	Apologies: Sarah Pullen, Jeff Brinley, Howard Barber, Chris Riley, Wilf Tomaney, Mark Sheldon, Amanda Lawson-Smith, Tracey Crews, Andrew Hieron, Cllr Rob Garnham, Cllr Andrew McKinlay & Cllr Vernon Smith.	
27/14	Declarations of Interest – SE confirmed the same declarations of interest for himself and Cllr W-C as recorded at the last Board meeting (17/01/14) - as they were sponsors for projects under item 38/14 GLTB. The Chair confirmed an interest being involved with the Down Hatherley & Twigworth Development Plan, as part of the JCS.	
28/14	Minutes of previous meeting / Matters Arising Both the minutes of the last meeting (17/01/14) plus those from the single item meeting (07/03/14) were approved as an accurate record conditional to the following changes: From minutes of 17/01/14 Page 2 (item 14/14): it was £3.3M that remained, not £3M as stated. Page 2 (item 68/13): a substitute for AW was required, not AN as stated. Page 2 (item 06/14): the deadline was 19th December , not 19 th November as stated. Page 4 (3rd para): expansion to GCHQ by way of an underground tunnel should then read, " to adjacent land available rather than putting up another building on the A40".	

	<p>From minutes of 07/03/14 Page 1: AN gave apologies, not mentioned. Pages 2 & 3: reference is made to the Highways Agency, not Authority as stated. Page 4 (item 17/14): the Chair believed it was important to keep a history of 'lessons learnt' and keep a regular record of issues to be addressed and agreed by the group.</p>	<p>2:10pm DW arrived</p>
29/14	<p>Action Matrix and Matters Arising Items were either actioned, on the agenda or updated as follows:</p> <p>29/14 St Mary's – Minster statement of significant and need JW had prepared a draft statement, focusing on grounds as one must exist for the recent works to the Minster. To be shared with BT and RS for comment</p> <p>24/14 A417 / J10 JW had submitted letters to David Owen (Chief Executive of GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership), who had confirmed receipt.</p>	<p>JW</p>
30/14	<p>Confirmation of confidentiality of items – agreed.</p>	
	<p>Matters for Information</p>	
31/14	<p>Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Economic Plan DS confirmed that the SEP had been submitted on 31st March. The Government was now considering the 39 LEP submissions and associated Strategic Economic Plans. Key Gloucestershire LEP items are The Growth Hub, J10, A417, and issues relating to the JCS, which itself forms part of the document. A meeting was anticipated with Greg Clark MP, Minister of State to review the Growing Gloucestershire submissions. It was agreed that it was a positive document for Gloucestershire. <p>Cllr SJ highlighted that the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee will have delegated authority via Leader of District Councils. DS stressed that this was the first time all the districts were coming forward as one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) DS confirmed that the GIIF was still open for applications and that 3 bids were currently being considered. JW flagged that a positive application to the GIIF had allowed the Honeybourne Gates scheme to proceed. 	
32/14	<p>Wider Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JCS Cllr SJ was pleased to announce that Tewkesbury BC, Gloucester City Council & Cheltenham BC had all now agreed independently to move to the next stage of the process. The soundness of the Plan would be tested by an independent inspector. 	

	<p>The Chair conveyed personal congratulations to the three authorities who he believed had done well to reach agreement. RD queried the national housing projection of 16% being lowered, but it was thought unlikely before 29th May when the population figures would be published and when the DLG would issue the householder population figures. It was felt the current figure would remain unless significant change had taken place.</p> <p>Cllr SJ explained how the JCS looked at a range of issues, including housing projections of upto 38,000; giving economic projections for 28,000 jobs by 2030/31. The JCS therefore doesn't conclude that all employment land will be needed. The land being treated as Green Belt could be used within 5 years if needed, but Juntion 10 could take upto 6 years so it was acknowledged that a 6 year review would be fine. JW flagged up Mike Curran's email that had been circulated as background info.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J10 <p>SE explained that although he had not attended the Breakfast meeting at the Old Spot on 18th March 2014 excellent feedback had been received. Consultants, Atkins would be finalising their report during the following week, but the JCS would help determine what happens at J10, although there would be less of a business case if the process concludes the adjoining land is not required for business expansion. SE hoped to report further at the next meeting.</p> <p>A package of evidence was being prepared to justify a four-way junction at J10. JW stressed that it had taken 25 years to build out the employment land at J9, and that developer Hitchins had put in the core infrastructure. Cllr SJ explained how the SEP could generate more housing demand. It was not a fact however that safeguarded land has to be used for housing and could be for mixed use. RD noted that Cheltenham hasn't got space for industries and employers, a pre-requisite for J10 to be built out.</p> <p>The Chair questioned the next stage of the process which Cllr SJ confirmed entailed conversations between the SEP and Government though DS pointed out that the SEP was about economic growth, not housing. AN thought that having gone through the JCS in the longer term these issues should be picked up on as a Gloucestershire wide process as one market area.</p>	
<p>33/14</p>	<p>Task Force Membership</p> <p>JW noted that at the last meeting gender balance had been raised. JW had attended O/S Committee on 17th January 2014 where Task Force representation was raised. He advised that the Task Force was not designed to be a "representation" but advisory group. Councillors had advised that they would give their proposals for the Task Force but none had been received. JW had taken the opportunity to address various concerns through this item including potential skill deficits.</p>	

	<p>Cllr SJ confirmed that in terms of membership he did not have any issues with the current direction of travel and did not feel radical review was required.</p> <p>BT felt it was about bringing skills together, confirming she reports to the voluntary sector groups and likewise feeds back their views to ensure a two way process. She felt that bringing in Stakeholders could present problems, but if it necessary she suggested setting up separate Stakeholder Groups to discuss specific issues.</p> <p>Cllr SJ felt that if a spectrum of different views had been evidenced then perhaps there was need to check if on day to day basis people wanted to know more. The Chair agreed that it was a good idea to check if that was the case, but felt it was sufficient trying to find suitable people to become members of the Board when vacancies occurred.</p>	
	Confidential items	

The public part of the meeting concluded at this point