

Cheltenham Development Task Force Board Meeting

Item 46/19

Friday 12th April 2019 2.00pm – 5:00pm
Pittville Room, Municipal offices, Cheltenham

Open Minutes of meeting

Present: Graham Garbutt (Independent Chair)
Bernice Thomson
Dorian Wragg
Michael Ratcliffe
Rohan Torkildsen
Cllr Andrew McKinlay
Cllr Paul Baker
Stephen Clarke
Rob Duncan

Other: Jeremy Williamson
Cllr Steve Jordan
Tracey Crews
Simon Excell
Chris Riley
Phil Williams

Noted that presentations preceded main agenda to allow visitors to leave

No.	Item	Action
23/19	Apologies: Members – Cllr Nigel Moor, Cllr Vernon Smith, Jeff Brinley, Tim Atkins, Joyce Clifford, Rosalind Andrews & Diane Savory Other - Howard Barber, Paul Jones, Fraser Reid & Mark Parker	
24/19	Declarations of Interest DW in relation to LCP (item 38/19).	
25/19	Open Minutes of previous meeting 18/01/19 Approved as accurate. The chair queried the LEP Infrastructure Group engagement in local plan – JW noted that dialogue on-going. Chair reiterated need for transparency particularly in declaration and recording of interests at the Group and at the main board.	
26/19	Open minutes Action Matrix & Matters Arising 04/19 Matters arising – St Georges Square redundant toilet block – now being considered for alternative use as ‘changing places’ toilet now locating in Regent Arcade. 06/19 Local Plan – TC provided an update on employment land issues considered by inspector in February under item 28/19. 07/19 Cheltenham Transport Plan phase 4 – Chair had written to leader in support of trial continuation. 08/19 Cheltenham Spa Station – on agenda.	

	09/19 Future High Streets Fund – bid submitted on 22/03/19 utilising outputs from WorkShop project.	
27/19	Confirmation of confidentiality of items Agreed as proposed	
	Matters for information	
28/19	<p>Wider matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheltenham BID update CllrSJ reported that during the 3 week ‘Light up Cheltenham’ campaign 10,000 people used the big wheel. CBC footfall camera data generally unreliable due to extensive construction works but national firm Springboard had statistics from a set point on the High Street. This data set showed footfall in Cheltenham declining in line with national trends prior to JLP opening. The February data coinciding with ‘Light Up Cheltenham’ saw a remarkable 15% increase on the same time last year. Joint Core Strategy & Cheltenham Local Plan TC reminded members that JCS consultation on issues & options ended in the New Year. A consensus view had emerged identifying the need for policy to be determined until 2041. Existing teams trying to resolve policy issues, but dedicated resource from Homes England funding being brought in. Ambitious programme – preferred options programmed for end of year. Number of consultancies engaged with inspection in 2020. TC to keep TF apprised of progress. <p>RT highlighted proposed Ashchurch new gardentown development and need for landscape and historic environment assessment. This also reflected district sign up to GWT Building with Nature principles.</p> <p>TC reported master-planning with strategic allocations was underway, and Leaders Board talking about corridors for both wild-life and people.</p> <p>Cheltenham Plan – TC noted team working through examination modifications; main focus is school at Leckhampton which is on GCC land outside the allocation, and local green space; a disconnect between JCS and Local Plan Inspectors. Large tracts of land identified but JCS not supported by Local Plan Inspector so Planning Liaison Member Group looking at how best to address. TC responding to Inspector on 26th April 2019.</p> <p>Employment issue – A separate High Court challenge to the Grovefield Way Inspector’s decision raised concerns over whether the applicant seriously desired office consent or a retail park. TC to pursue with MHCLG as CBC jointly named with Inspector. Concern flagged that an individual used argument for employment land with LEP C&I group but meanwhile is pursuing an alternative retail rather than employment strategy. CllrSJ identified this as a fundamental issue.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J10 HIF bid and GF3 delivery SE confirmed HIF bid submitted 21st March. Four elements included four-ways J10, new link road from J10 to proposed cyber business park, improvements to Coombe Hill traffic lights and improvements at Arle Court park & ride. GCC team met the deadline but SE disappointed Government won't start analysing until June. Will update at meeting after next. 	SE
	<p>GF3 delivery – £22m of £40m allocated was aimed at bringing forward employment & housing with West Cheltenham project. Four phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arle Court roundabout improvements • J11 improvements (between Cheltenham and Gloucester with potentially new lane and upgraded slip roads) • improvements to Arle Court park & ride (decking & expansion of footprint) • dedicated cycle lane to railway station <p>Business cases for LEP funding approval being drafted. SE agreed for team to present to Task Force once designs finalised.</p> <p>Chair drew attention to a recent Highways England report criticising some of its own 'pinch point' interventions with overall negative impacts and whether this would be the same for these proposed works? Potentially a key point in county transport strategy. CR stressed distinction on Highways England network where traffic volumes often so high with specific measures aiming to unlock pinch point problems; sometimes resulting in pressures on local networks.</p> <p>Action: Chair to forward article to CR for information and raise in context of 2050 work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G2050 – picked up under item 30/19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transport Plan review – opportunity to respond JW circulated briefing note on LTP update and commentary that TC and he had put back on document. The LTP team welcomed direct feedback from Task Force – agreed as 18/04/19 at 4.00pm. <p>Chair keen that the Task Force build on (in his view) the excellent CBC feedback so far in order to inform the next round of discussions. A formal consultation process to start later this year and GCC LTP team to be invited to give a presentation to Task Force.</p> <p>TC noted work on Connecting Cheltenham by Systra. Workshops for stakeholders & members (including GCC LTP team) had looked at strategy and would be used as part of LTP consultation feedback. The issue of Park & Ride was raised; PW noted GCC were already using multi-agency mapping facilities to help understand population needs, viability and subsidised routes.</p>	<p>SE</p> <p>GG</p> <p>3:30pm SE left</p> <p>SE</p>
	Matters for consideration	

29/19	<p>Cheltenham Transport Plan phase 4</p> <p>Scott Tompkins has left GCC and PW taking lead on behalf of GCC. He noted several adjustments in phase 4 agreed by partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarence St / Parade junction to allow all direction movement & Pittville St / Boots Corner just allowing taxis and buses, • design work being done on concerns about vehicles going through Rodney Road, • building element for new schemes now with Ringway. Issues around resource relating to new contract but looking to make up time next month. <p>Action: PW to update JW for stakeholder communications.</p>	PW/JW
	<p>Race week traffic was monitored - as anticipated up first day but normalised by Friday. Prohibition to be changed in line with above.</p> <p>PW discussing town centre issues with CllrNM. He attended Civic Society meeting on 8th April to hear views & would discuss solution for pedestrian right of way at Rodney Rd / Winchcombe St with CBC urban design team. Unsure message about Boots Corner trial being communicated well through the media. Misinformation given so need to communicate positives. CllrAMcK noted that he was struggling to answer queries when mitigation work timescales is being elongated. JW confirmed a communications meeting on 24th April would hopefully help address these & other issues raised. PW stressed some works would be done in April but not all.</p> <p>RB felt focus on St Margaret's Road was key if people were to feel listened to but Cllr AMcK highlighted that work not talk was needed. JW clarified CllrNM had stated funding would not be available until 2020 as a separate activity responding to West Cheltenham.</p> <p>JW played 'fly-through' of Boots Corner area prepared by HB. Members were supportive of imagery. BT felt the vision for Cheltenham needs communicating as part of Boots Corner; not in isolation. CllrPB was frustrated that there had been no effective communication about Boots Corner and wider impacts; communication consultants should be employed to deliver that message. CR cited previously produced public realm architect's drawings that would have helped sell the vision, but now got bogged down in technicalities. CllrSJ believed the 3D video and information from GCC would provide a complete communications package.</p> <p>Action: PW to provide timetable with explanation of CTP phase 4 slippage due to large scale contract change problems, plus proposed draft timetable for traffic light phasing along St Margaret's Road. JW to share 'fly-through' with CllrNM.</p>	<p>4pm DW, JB & TC left</p> <p>PW JW</p>
30/19	<p>GCC Strategic planning Co-ordination</p> <p>John Baker (GSPC) explained his county-wide role, the remit and objectives for which came from GEGJC. A presentation was given on the reasoning behind producing a Statement of Common Ground for Gloucestershire which would continue to evolve in relation to growth & infrastructure. Looking to develop a strategic cross-boundary spatial framework over next year or so – meeting housing needs and making more accessible, more equitable access to services and facilities.</p>	

	<p>How to deliver on opportunities around economic growth and embrace behavioural change and feasibility in economic terms and whether we can provide enhanced transport networks / infrastructure. The Chair questioned whether the current planning system & structure could cope with the challenge?</p> <p>JB felt there was a strong policy position but Planning Authorities were not in a position to implement. Thought statutory objective of plan making was to enable sustainable development so quite a step forward, but it needed to include low carbon use through movement. This project was about authorities working together on strategic issues long term. Integration of development and transport (especially rapid mass transit, cycling, etc.) was the way forward.</p> <p>There was greater need for flexibility to accommodate rapidly changing economic circumstances, and this is best achieved strategically. Also need for longer-term thinking around development. The relationship between housing, employment and economic growth, and which infrastructure is required to deliver it has always been a problem in the UK. Strong leadership was critical but no one structure would work for everything so need to aggregate what we need to deliver through strategic and local plans. CllrSJ reported Leadership Gloucestershire evolving piece of work that would be up for debate.</p> <p>The chair thanked JB and emphasised the importance of establishing sustainable transport routes and services as the focus for future housing and other development.</p>	
31/19	<p>Cheltenham Spa Station – progress update New car park and forecourt works on site and cycle path agreed to extend from Queen’s Road bridge to the Trimnasium Fitness Centre. Agreement in principle from Network Rail for link to Lansdown Road subject to CBC taking responsibility for long term maintenance. Discussions on-going. JW/Cllr SJ to update at next meeting</p>	JW/SJ
32/19	<p>Future High Streets Fund update Covered under 26/19</p>	
33/19	<p>Quarterly update Draft circulated for comment. Chair prompted review of text relating to CTP. Action: JW to amend. GCC to provide feedback on J10 HIF bid and GD3 items.</p>	JW/SE
34/19	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Industrial Strategy <p>JW flagged opportunity for Task Force, Chamber, BID, CBC to provide feedback. Meeting to be arranged probably after Easter. Item also to be added to future agenda.</p>	JW
	<p>Future meeting dates Friday 5th July 2019 Friday 18th October 2019 Friday 17th January 2020 Friday 24th April 2020 All 2:00pm at the Municipal Offices, Cheltenham</p>	All

