

**STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

27 March 2014

**3**

7.00 pm – 9.02 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

**Minutes****Membership:**

Councillor Geoff Wheeler (Chair)	P	Councillor Paul Hemming	P
Councillor Doina Cornell (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Keith Pearson	P
Councillor Dorcas Binns	P	Councillor Simon Pickering	P
Councillor Paul Carter	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Molly Cato	P	Councillor Tom Williams	P
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell	A
Councillor June Cordwell	A		

P = Present                  A = Absent

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor David Drew

**Officers Present:**

Chief Executive	Democratic Services Assistant
Head of Asset Management (Joint)	Graduate Surveyor
Principal Estates Surveyor	

**Also Present:**

Tom Beasley, Director of Business Development at South Glos and Stroud College

**SRC.084****APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors June Cordwell and Rhiannon Wigzell.

**SRC.085****DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**SRC.086****MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**                  **To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2014.**

**SRC.087**                      **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

**SRC.088**                      **GLOUCESTERSHIRE                      RENEWABLE                      ENERGY,  
ENGINEERING AND NUCLEAR SKILLS ACADEMY,  
BERKELEY (KNOWN AS GREEN PROJECT)**

Tom Beasley, Director of Business Development at South Glos and Stroud College gave a presentation on the proposal to create a Renewable Energy, Engineering and Nuclear Skills Centre at the decommissioned Berkeley power station.

A summary of the issues raised are set out below:

- In response to a question on the number of students at the Campus the Committee were informed that initially there would be 300 increasing to 1000 over 3 years.
- There was a discussion on the interpretation of EU state aid and the positive support behind the project from the Government and Energy providers.
- The potential impact on infrastructure (eg Berkeley Bridge) due to the increase in capacity in the area and the measures put in place to address this.
- The potential to place wind turbines at the south part of the site to showcase renewable energy whilst generating an income for the Council.

**RESOLVED**                      **To note the presentation.**

**SRC.089**                      **GLOUCESTERSHIRE HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND CARE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor David Drew gave an oral report on the work undertaken by the Gloucestershire Health, Community Care Committee.

Members of the Committee were provided with a list of activities the Health, Community Care Committee had looked at over the last 10 months. Councillor Drew highlighted some of the main ones which included:

- A report on suicide and self harm had showed some concerning trends.
- Dursley Ambulance service and other SWAST related matters (response times in rural areas was a significant challenge).
- Monitoring impact of service change to A&E overnight at Cheltenham General Hospital.

A summary of the issues raised are set out below:

- One of the priorities for next year would be to address the issues of response times of the ambulance service in rural areas.
- Cross border issues with Wales on prescription charges was an ongoing problem.
- The problems of under capacity of the 2<sup>gether</sup> NHS Foundation Trust who provided mental and social health care services to the population of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and the surrounding region.

The Committee thanked Councillor Drew for his presentation and for the hard work of the Committee over the last year.

**RESOLVED**            **To note the update.**

**SRC.090**            **MANAGEMENT OF BRIMSCOMBE PORT, THRUPP**

The Graduate Surveyor presented a report which provided progress with regard to lettings and the management of Brimscombe Port. The Committee had the benefit of visual presentation showing geographic locations and photographs of sites.

A summary of the issues raised are set out below:

- Clarification was given to the Committee that excess noise at the Skate Park had been addressed with the tenants. The noise was from playing music and not from activities.
- It was confirmed that the majority of tenants were happy to continue their tenancy but there was a possibility that one tenant may move.
- Details of expenditure would be available in the next few months.

**RESOLVED**            **To note the progress made with general estate management and letting of units at Brimscombe Port, Thrupp.**

**SRC.091**            **LITTLECOMBE REGENERATION PROJECT, DURSLEY**

The Principal Estates Surveyor presented a report which provided progress since the Council bought Littlecombe in 2011 and considered current issues and plans for completing this major redevelopment scheme. The Committee had the benefit of visual presentation showing the geographical location and photographs of different parts of the site.

The Chair informed the Committee that the Director of Lister Petter Limited had made an application to the High Court for the firm to be put into administration and the endorsement would be heard on 28 March 2014. The Council was one of several creditors with Lister Petter. Arrangements would be made with the administrator so that the firm could be run down in an orderly fashion over a matter of weeks. Lister Shearing Limited occupied the other major premises on the site and had been offered help in moving to new premises in the district. St Modwen, the Council's development partner, plan to move onto the areas occupied by the Lister Petter and Lister Shearing factories during the summer to start clearance and remediation, prior to further development.

A summary of the issues raised are set out below:

- There were no details available at present on the likely debt to be incurred by the Council as a result of the application for administration by Lister Petter Limited. Information on that would be brought back to the Committee at a later date.

- It was noted that the Council's interim rental income would reduce when the two factories move off the site, an inevitable part of the development process. The central scheme aim was to regenerate land and in that sense was not a traditional commercial development. The open space and community land will be managed by residents and businesses at Littlecombe as part of a Community Interest Company.

**RESOLVED**            **To note the content of this report.**

**SRC.092**                    **ESTABLISHMENT OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH JOINT COMMITTEE**

The Chair of the Committee presented a report on the proposed new joint committee's terms of reference together with the Strategic Economic Plan for Gloucestershire.

A summary of the issues raised are set out below:

- The extent to the decision making powers of the joint committee was questioned. It was confirmed that each authority would have the power of veto of projects in its area.
- The Chair confirmed that where a substitute on the joint committee was necessary this would be undertaken by the Vice-Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee.
- There was a discussion around the viability and resilience of the Strategic Economic Plan.
- In terms of contingency plans should the Government funding not be forthcoming the Chair confirmed that a number of proposed schemes could continue but on a reduced scale.

**RESOLVED**            **1. To approve the terms of reference for the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve any further minor amendments which may be required to finalise the same.**

**2. To approve the Strategic Economic Plan for Gloucestershire and, in the event of any last minute amendments, to delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to deal with such matters.**

**SRC.093**                    **PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

This item was withdrawn.

**SRC.094**                    **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Leader of the Council referred to the Committee's work programme for 2013/14. In doing so the Chair suggested that informal meetings take place to discuss what is coming up on the agenda. Also in order to promote the work programme it would be placed further up the agenda.

**RESOLVED**            **To approve the Committee's Work Programme.**

**SRC.095**            **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.02 pm.

**Chair**