

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	4 March 2020
Subject:	Vision 2050 Boards Update
Report of:	Chief Executive
Corporate Lead:	Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Leader of the Council
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

This report updates Members in respect of the progress of the Gloucestershire Vision 2050 Boards established by Leadership Gloucestershire and confirms the Council's representation on the Boards.

Recommendation:

- 1. That the progress of the establishment of the Gloucestershire Vision 2050 Boards and the Council's membership of and participation in the City Region and Rural Ambitions Boards is noted.**
- 2. That the Council's representatives at the City Region Board are the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive and at the Rural Ambitions Board, the Leader and the Deputy Chief Executive. In the event of these nominated representatives being unable to attend they may make arrangements for an alternative representative to attend the meetings.**
- 3. That a seminar is held for all Members to explain the inter-relationships and impact of the new regional bodies connected with growth and infrastructure.**

Reasons for Recommendation:

To confirm the Council's engagement in the Leadership Gloucestershire Vision 2050 board structure.

Resource Implications:

None at this time. Funding arrangements to support the work of these Boards using the County Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF) will be considered by the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) on 18 March 2020.

Legal Implications:

None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management Implications:

Not participating in these partnership boards may result in the Council losing influence in work to consider the future development of the County and the Borough.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Further reports will be submitted as required.

Environmental Implications:

None at this time.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary update in respect of progress to establish the three area Boards proposed by Leadership Gloucestershire in response to the Gloucestershire Vision 2050 Concordat in October 2018. The report makes recommendations in respect of the Council's membership and engagement with two of the Boards.

1.2 The three Boards as originally proposed with their associated overarching aims are:

1.2.1 Gloucestershire City Region Board

To create a vision and guiding masterplan for the future development and economic success of the central area of the County.

1.2.2 Severn Vale Board

To consider infrastructure and connectivity in the south of the County, including the potential for a third Severn Crossing and responding to growth pressures arising south of Gloucestershire.

1.2.3 Rural Ambitions Board

To develop and work towards a vision for a vibrant rural economy which protects, enhances and builds upon the Gloucestershire rural assets and addresses issues such as rural transport, green space provision and connectivity.

1.3 In June/July 2019 Leadership Gloucestershire agreed the basis on which the three Boards would proceed together with the Terms of Reference for each Board. Copies of the three Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix 1 for information. All three Boards report back to Leadership Gloucestershire

1.4 It is important to note that the Boards are strategic partnerships only. They may commission actions and even coordinate funds allocated to the Board for specific purposes, but they have no decision-making power.

2.0 THE CURRENT POSITION

2.1 Each of the three Boards has held one meeting in the latter part of 2019. These meetings have focussed on administrative issues such as membership, Terms of Reference and next steps etc.

2.2 Tewkesbury Borough Council is not currently included in the membership of the Severn Vale Board as the business of this Board is growth in the south of Gloucestershire and exploration of a Severn Crossing between Stroud and the Forest of Dean Districts.

- 2.3** The City Region Board covers the areas of Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough Councils, i.e. the area of the Joint Core Strategy. It is important to note that the term 'City Region' is not about creating a new city or urban area. It is a government term which refers to an urban area and its surrounding rural hinterland which are linked and operate together for employment and business, infrastructure, green space and housing.
- 2.4** Currently the government is keen to support economic growth and success of City Regions and it is recognised that the use of the term will attract more attention and support from government departments and agencies to the advantage of the area and its communities.
- 2.5** The Rural Ambitions Board covers the rural districts of Gloucestershire but excludes the Borough of Cheltenham and the City of Gloucester. Its work will focus on issues and projects which are important to the rural communities of the County which require coordinated partnership actions
- 2.6** The Borough Council is included in the membership of both the City Region and Rural Ambitions Boards; given the potential importance of these Boards to the future development of the Borough and relationship of the Boards to Leadership Gloucestershire, the attendance at the Boards' meetings is proposed to be the Leader and the Chief Executive for the City Region Board and the Leader and the Deputy Chief Executive for the Rural Ambitions Board
- 2.7** At its meeting on 19 December 2019, Leadership Gloucestershire agreed to recommend to the GEGJC at its meeting on 18 March 2020 that £750,000 should be set aside within the SEDF as a funding allocation for the Vision 2050 Boards
- 2.8** The Chief and Deputy Chief Executive currently have lead roles in the development of these Boards. Both Boards are in their early phases and may be subject to change. Members will be kept informed of progress.

3.0 NEW RELATED STRATEGIC BODIES

- 3.1** There are a number of strategic projects currently under development or underway which will have impacts upon Gloucestershire and Tewkesbury Borough. These include creation of Sub-National Transport Bodies and associated major transport plans and the new Western Gateway Powerhouse. The work of the City Region Board will clearly be influenced by the actions of these regional bodies. It is proposed that officers should arrange a seminar to advise Members in respect of their function and inter-relationship.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1** None.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1** None.

6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- 6.1** The Council Plan, the Joint Core Strategy and Borough Plan.

7.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

7.1 The City Region Board is in line with government policy in respect of City Regions and therefore the work of the board is to seek government support and funding for the successful growth of the area.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

8.1 None at this stage.

9.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

9.1 The work of the Boards will need to take sustainability issues and climate change response policies into account.

10.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

10.1 None.

11.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

11.1 None.

Background Papers: Gloucestershire Vision 2050 Concordat - October 2018.

Contact Officer: Chief Executive Tel: 01684 272001
Email: chiefexecutive@tewkesbury.gov.uk

Appendices: City Region, Severn Vale and Rural Ambitions Boards - Terms of Reference.