

The Gloucestershire City Region Board

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

This Board is a high level multi-agency strategic growth partnership for central Gloucestershire.

2. Context

The Board is established by Leadership Gloucestershire as set out in the Gloucestershire Vision 2050 Concordat 2018. Leadership Gloucestershire will act as the sponsoring body for the board.

The Board will report progress periodically to Leadership Gloucestershire as required to ensure consistency with the delivery of other Vision 2050 actions.

These terms of reference require approval by member organisations as part of the wider Vision 2050 adoption. Future actions and priorities of the Board may also require adoption by member organisations.

The terms of reference will be subject to future review and amendment as required.

3. The Area Covered

The 'Central Gloucestershire City Region'/Growth Area is defined as the functional 'region' consisting of the administrative areas of Gloucester City, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Boroughs.

This is a successful area with significant growth ambitions and although the communities and places within the area range from rural to urban there is significant interdependence. This calls for a city region type/ambitious (of) approach when considering future growth in order to secure the full engagement of government and other partners.

4. Membership

Member organisations are:

- Cheltenham Borough Council
- Gloucester City Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Tewkesbury Borough Council
- GFirst LEP
- Gloucestershire University
- Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
- BEIS – Cities and Local Growth
- Homes England
- Highways England
- Department for Transport

5. Aims

The Board will:

1. Develop a long term, strategic and dynamic vision for the future of Central Gloucestershire which supports the eight Ambitions of Gloucestershire Vision 2050.
2. Champion that shared vision with a single voice inside and outside Gloucestershire.
3. Lobby and bid for funding and support via government growth programmes to support the delivery of the Board's ambitions.
4. Promote the success of the region of central Gloucestershire to attract and inward investment.
5. Work closely with all sections of the Central Gloucestershire communities, businesses and agencies to engage them in the generation and delivery of the vision.
6. Build upon the inter-related strengths of the communities of Central Gloucestershire to fulfil the ambitions of each place and maintain their identities.
7. Work with partners to ensure the Central Gloucestershire vision can guide future strategic spatial and infrastructure plans.
8. Integrate the Central Gloucestershire Vision with all relevant place making strategies for the region.
9. Ensure the development of a Central Gloucestershire Vision complements other visioning and strategic planning development in the County.
10. Through the Central Gloucestershire Region/Area Vision - aim to create a special region of the county which has uniquely attractive offers as a place to live and a vibrant economy firmly based on modern industry built on the strengths of our communities.

6. The Vision and Associated Tasks

The main task of the City Region Board will be to develop the vision for the future of the region to 2050 and beyond. The Vision will be incorporated into a high level Masterplan. The Masterplan is not a spatial planning document, but it will set out the broad ambitious growth aims and priorities which can be used to guide the development of future spatial and strategic plans.

The Vision will:

- Incorporate and integrate economic, housing, infrastructure, education, health, cultural and environmental aims.
- Place emphasis on maximising the growth in cyber and digital businesses

and recognise the continued importance and significance of a mixed economy, building upon traditional Gloucestershire strengths such as advanced and aircraft engineering.

- Include and support current key strategic growth and infrastructure projects.

The Board will develop a work programme initially aimed at delivering the Vision and Masterplan. The initial Annual Work Programme will be completed by April 2020. Post April 2020 the Board will produce an Annual Work Programme which will incorporate the actions planned to deliver the aims of the Board.

The Board will seek agreement from partners and other sources to secure the funding required to support the work programme from April 2020 onwards. Funding may be sourced from one or more partners or other sources by agreement. The Board will establish appropriate arrangements through one or more of its member organisations for managing funds and if necessary staff support as required. Once the Vision and Master plan is in place the Board will work to secure its delivery and inclusion in spatial and other strategic plans and keep progress under review.

The Board will actively promote the Vision and Masterplan and work to secure support and funding as required to deliver the aims set out. This work will be included in the Annual Work programme.

7. Governance Arrangements

Member organisations will have one representative each plus one officer in support. For local authorities this will normally be the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council. Substitutions are permitted if required.

The Board may invite partner organisations or relevant individuals to attend meetings and may appoint independent board members who have relevant expertise or interest. All invitees and or appointments are wholly at the board's discretion and will be reviewed at least annually.

The Board may elect to invite additional organisations to become member organisations on a fixed period or permanent basis.

The Board will elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually. The Board may elect to appoint a suitable person as an independent Chair.

The Board will seek to operate by general consensus and cannot make any decision which is binding upon any member organisation. All partnership agreements including those relating to staffing and finances will require the formal agreement of the member organisations affected.

The Board recognises that there are many key stakeholders who will need to be fully engaged in its work. The Board will establish methods to secure the full engagement of these stakeholders who include:

- Young people and schools
- Businesses
- Developers

- Parish Councils
- Community Organisations
- Other Gloucestershire Districts and Vision 2050 Boards

The Board will establish sub-groups/task groups as required.

Exclusions:

- The Board will not take responsibility for strategic spatial planning, development management decision making or local transport planning which will remain the responsibility of the local planning and transport authorities.
- The Board will not replace the Joint Core Strategy governance arrangements which will remain as established.
- The Board will operate as a partnership and will not be an independent legal entity and will not have devolved decision making powers.
- Administration, fund holding and staff provision cannot be held by the Board and will be allocated to one or more partner bodies and jointly funded.

The Rural Ambitions Board

Terms of Reference

1.0 Purpose

This Board is a high level multi-agency strategic partnership, with an emphasis on promoting a collective rural vision for the county.

2.0 Context

The Board is established by Leadership Gloucestershire as set out in the Gloucestershire Vision 2050 Concordat 2018. Leadership Gloucestershire will act as the sponsoring body for the Board.

The Board will report progress periodically to Leadership Gloucestershire as required, to ensure consistency with the delivery of other Vision 2050 actions.

These terms of reference require approval by member organisations as part of the wider Vision 2050 adoption. Future actions and priorities of the Board may also require adoption by member organisations.

The terms of reference will be subject to future review and amendment as required.

3.0 Area Covered

The rural ambitions board will focus upon the more rural geographical area of the Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury. For practical reasons this will include the four councils with administrative responsibility for these areas.

4.0 Membership

Member organisations are:

- Cotswold District Council
- Forest of Dean District Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Stroud District Council
- Tewkesbury Borough Council
- Cotswold Water Park Trust
- Royal Agricultural University (RAU)
- GFirst LEP
- Hartpury College
- Local Nature Partnership
- Health & Wellbeing Board
- Cleeve Common Conservators
- Cotswold Conservation Board

5.0 Aims

The Board will:-

1. Define an ambitious countywide 'alternative vision' for rural communities, challenging the status-quo and seeking to define what 'good rural economic growth' looks like. Through the vision enhance the marketing, promotion and celebration of the Cotswolds, Forest of Dean and Severn Vale.
2. Create a positive vision of a vibrant rural economy, which allows market towns to flourish, maintain stable communities and businesses to maximise their contribution to Gloucestershire.
3. Develop a sector-based countywide rural ambitions delivery strategy to support the growth of this sector, economy and supply chain.
4. Support the Central Gloucestershire Regional Board in the delivery of its aims and objectives as they relate to the rural economy in bringing forward sufficient new homes to create vibrant communities.
5. Identify and enhance the potential of Agritech and associated rural businesses to maximise business contributions to the rural economy.
6. Identify strengths and recognise weaknesses within rural communities and develop ways to maximise inclusive growth and prosperity.
7. Collaborate with local authorities and stakeholders to advise on rural issues within the county.
8. Drive the digital infrastructure agenda to transform rural economies and communities.
9. Ensure close alignment is maintained through the relevant land based educational establishments, to help raise awareness in the rural community of project strategies, embracing new evolving technology and innovations matched to the skills agenda.
10. Consider and make recommendations about appropriate governance structures and bodies relating to proposed changes to existing and potential Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

6.0 Vision and associated tasks

The main task of the Rural Ambitions Board will be to develop a contemporary rural vision for Gloucestershire to 2050 and beyond, under the strategic direction of the 2050 programme.

The Rural Ambitions Board will seek to deliver this mandate, as it relates to rural communities and the rural economy, promoting sustainable rural development, whilst enhancing access and enjoyment of the countryside. The vision will be structured around a balance of sustainable development and growth and enhancement of the rural environment.

The Board will develop a work programme initially aimed at delivering the Vision and a work plan. The initial annual work programme will be completed by May 2020.

The Board will seek agreement from partners and other sources to secure the funding required to support the work programme from April 2020 onwards. Funding may be sourced from one or more partners or other sources by agreement. The Board will establish appropriate arrangements through one or more of its member organisations for managing funds and if necessary, staff support, as required.

The Board will actively promote the rural vision and work to secure support and funding as required to deliver the aims set out. This work will be included in the annual work programme

7.0 Governance Arrangements

Member organisations will have one representative each plus one officer in support. For local authorities this will normally be the Leader of the Council or Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive or Strategic Director (or equivalent). Substitutions are permitted if required.

The Board may invite partner organisations or relevant individuals to attend meetings and may appoint independent board members who have relevant expertise or interest. All invitees and or appointments are wholly at the board's discretion and will be reviewed at least annually.

The Board may elect to invite additional organisations to become member organisations on a fixed period or permanent basis.

The Board will elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually. The Board may elect to appoint a suitable person as an independent Chair.

The Board will seek to operate by general consensus and cannot make any decision which is binding upon any member organisation. All partnership agreements including those relating to staffing and finances will require the formal agreement of the member organisations affected.

The Board recognises that there are many key stakeholders who will need to be fully engaged in its work. The Board will establish methods to secure the full engagement of these stakeholders which will include:-

- Young people and schools
- Businesses including the agricultural sector
- Developers
- Parish Councils
- Community Organisations
- Other Gloucestershire Districts and Vision 2050 Boards

The Board will establish sub-groups/task groups as required.

Exclusions:

- The Board will not take responsibility for any strategic spatial planning, development management decision making or local transport planning, which will remain the responsibility of the local planning and transport authorities.
- The Board will not duplicate the aims and objectives of existing groups, organisations or Trusts responsible for delivering rural enhancement.
- The Board will operate as a partnership and will not be an independent legal entity and will not have devolved decision-making powers.
- Administration, fund holding and staff provision cannot be held by the Board and will be allocated to one or more partner bodies and jointly funded.

The Severn Vale Board

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

This Board is a high level multi-agency strategic partnership focussing on infrastructure and connectivity for Gloucestershire.

2. The Area Covered

The Severn Vale Board area extends from the southern fringe of Gloucester incorporating the administrative areas of Stroud and Forest of Dean District Councils on the east and west sides of the River Severn.

This area is key to connecting Gloucestershire with Bristol and Cardiff and other centres along the M4 and M5 motorways and rail network

3. Context

The Board is established by Leadership Gloucestershire as set out in the Gloucestershire Vision 2050 Concordat 2018. In its formation it has also had regard to the later emergence of the Gt Western Powerhouse and the climate emergency declarations of the local authorities in Gloucestershire. Leadership Gloucestershire will act as the sponsoring body for the board.

The Board will report progress periodically to Leadership Gloucestershire as required to ensure consistency with the delivery of other Vision 2050 actions.

These terms of reference require approval by member organisations as part of the wider Vision 2050 adoption. Future actions and priorities of the Board may also require adoption by member organisations.

The terms of reference will be subject to future review and amendment as required.

4. Membership

Member organisations are:

- Stroud District Council
- Forest of Dean District Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Stroud Local Strategic Partnership
- Forest of Dean Economic Partnership and Bridges and Borders Sub Group
- GFirst LEP
- Transport representatives (as required including Network Rail, Highways England, Welsh Government, Transport for Wales)
- South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS)
- Gloucestershire College
- Monmouthshire County Council
- OPCC
- Health

5. Aims

The Board will:

1. Develop a long term, strategic vision for the future of the Severn Vale which supports the eight Ambitions of Gloucestershire Vision 2050 and recognises climate emergency.
2. Champion that shared vision inside and outside Gloucestershire.
3. Lobby and bid for funding and support via government growth and funding programmes to support the delivery of the Board's ambitions.
4. Identify and promote infrastructure and wider connectivity requirements to ensure that Gloucestershire is able to attract inward investment and support its growth ambitions.
5. Work closely with the Severn Vale communities, businesses and agencies to engage them in the generation and delivery of the vision.
6. Work with partners to ensure the Severn Vale vision can guide future strategic spatial and infrastructure plans.
7. Integrate the Severn Vale Vision to ensure it supports all relevant place making strategies for the wider area.
8. Ensure the development of a Severn Vale Vision complements other visioning and strategic planning development.

6. The Vision and Associated Tasks

The Severn Vale Board will promote this part of the county not just as a destination in its own right but also a new gateway to South Wales, the West of England, and the West Midlands. Key to achieving this is engagement with the emerging 'Great Western Powerhouse'.

Work will examine the critical infrastructure necessary to achieve the physical and digital connectivity required to support the County's growth ambitions and take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Great Western Powerhouse and new working relationships with neighbouring authorities.

There will be examination of the potential for a new crossing of the Severn River with specific emphasis on rail, cycle and footpath links, making links to the metro systems around Bristol and South Wales and providing resilience to the national rail network.

The Board will develop a work programme initially aimed at delivering the Vision. The initial Annual Work Programme will be completed by April 2020. Post April 2020 the Board will produce an Annual Work Programme which will incorporate the actions planned to deliver the aims of the Board.

The Board will seek agreement from partners and other sources to secure the funding required to support the work programme from April 2020 onwards. Funding may be sourced from one or more partners or other sources by agreement. The Board will establish appropriate arrangements through one or more of its member organisations for managing funds and if necessary staff support as required.

Once the Vision is in place the Board will work to secure its delivery and inclusion in spatial and other strategic plans and keep progress under review.

The Board will actively promote the Vision and work to secure support and funding as required to deliver the aims set out. This work will be included

in the Annual Work programme.

7. Governance Arrangements

Member organisations will have one representative each plus one officer in support. For local authorities this will normally be the Lead Member and a Senior Officer of the Council. Substitutions are permitted if required.

The Board may invite partner organisations or relevant individuals to attend meetings and may appoint independent board members who have relevant expertise or interest. All invitees and or appointments are wholly at the board's discretion and will be reviewed at least annually.

The Board may elect to invite additional organisations to become member organisations on a fixed period or permanent basis.

The Board will elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually. The Board may elect to appoint a suitable person as an independent Chair.

The Board will seek to operate by general consensus and cannot make any decision which is binding upon any member organisation. All partnership agreements including those relating to staffing and finances will require the formal agreement of the member organisations affected.

The Board recognises that there are many key stakeholders who will need to be fully engaged in its work. The Board will establish methods to secure the engagement of these stakeholders who include:

- Young people and schools
- Universities
- Businesses
- Developers
- Parish Councils
- Community Organisations
- Other Gloucestershire Districts and Vision 2050 Boards

The Board may establish sub-groups/task groups as required.

Exclusions:

- The Board will not take responsibility for strategic spatial planning, development management decision making or local transport planning which will remain the responsibility of the local planning and transport authorities.
- The Board will operate as a partnership and will not be an independent legal entity and will not have devolved decision making powers.
- Administration, fund holding and staff provision cannot be held by the Board and will be allocated to one or more partner bodies and jointly funded.