

# Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 18 November 2020 1.30 pm

## 1. Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) Update

Cllr Patrick Molyneux provided an update on the content of the GEGJC meeting held on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The documents referred to in the meeting can be found at:

<http://www.WinchcombeWard.com/jcnov2020>

(If the above link does not work as expected, please either copy and paste it or type it directly into your browser)

The main items were as follows:

- Peter Carr delivered an update on Gloucestershire's skills response to the pandemic. He also referenced the "skills portal" which provides job seekers with a list of local and national contacts and training opportunities.  
The skills portal can be accessed via the following link:  
<http://www.skillsportalglos.com>



- Cllr Kevin Cromwell provided a brief overview of this committee's work - including a reference to meetings that had been held locally.
- Members of the Reef Group property development firm delivered an update on the Kings Quarter Regeneration project in Gloucester.



- Mike Dawson provided a document that delivered a snapshot of the current status of strategic and local plans in the County. This included reference to M5 Junctions 9 and 10, the A417, the Golden Valley development and Tewkesbury's Garden Town etc.
- Colin Chick provided an update on activities and proposals relating to Gloucestershire's economic recovery collaboration process, including an update on Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Economic Recovery planning.
- Dev Chakraborty provided a GFirst LEP update. He explained that the LEP were conducting a survey to determine where business employees were working prior to and during the pandemic and where they planned to be located following Covid-19 being controlled.
- Andrew Cummings provided an update on the Business Rate Pool. The expected position for the Business Rate Pool for this year is £3.8 million. He also successfully requested £500.000 funding for the LEP for the next 2 years.

## 2. Modern Methods of Housing Construction (MMC)

Michael Craggs from Bromford Housing Association delivered the following presentation:

<https://WinchcombeWard.com/mmc.pdf>

(If the above link does not work as expected, please either copy and paste it or type it directly into your browser)

The presentation explained that in future years, Gloucestershire will face significant housing growth to meet the demand for new homes. Delivery of this housing will provide important challenges. Therefore, modern methods of construction are likely to be an important way that homes are built in the future.

### Staverton - Timber Volumetric

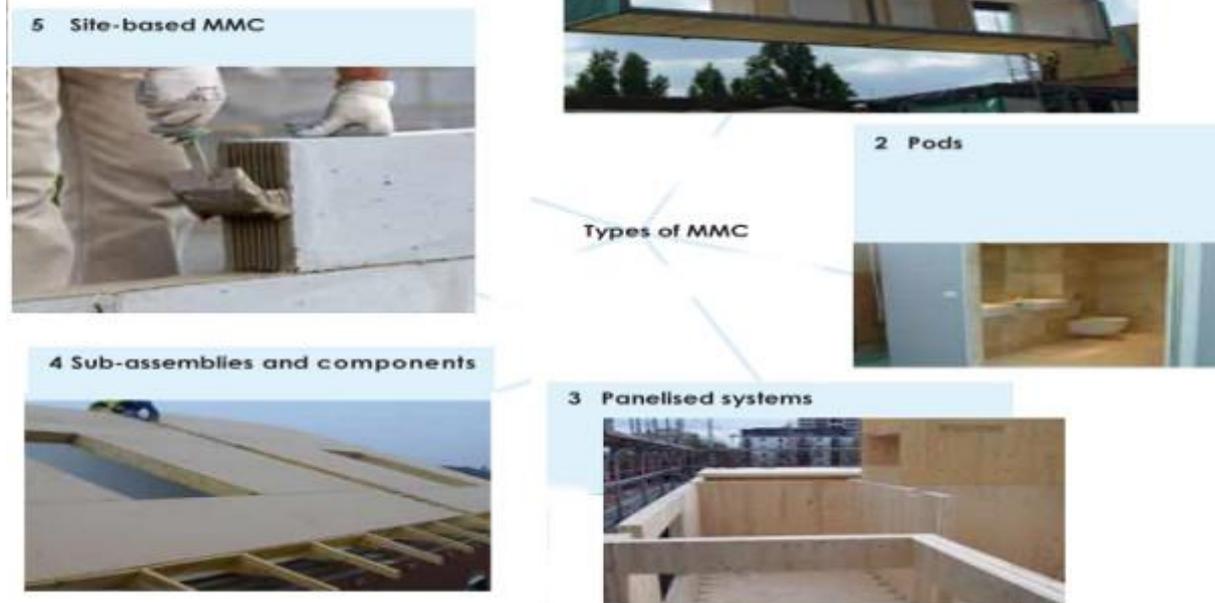


The presentation looked at modern methods of construction from the perspective of registered housing providers and the affordable housing sector. It was explained that MMC is not intended to replace traditional construction methods but to be used alongside them.



There are currently about 140 suppliers of MMC.

# Types of MMC



Although there are 7 different types of MMC the presentation explained the 5 main ones. Examples of MMC can be found throughout Tewkesbury Borough. For example, the Volumetric method was used for several houses in Staverton. This is where three-dimensional units are fully fitted out “Off Site”.

MMC is faster than traditional methods – typically only 7 days from delivery onto a site. However, MMC only becomes less expensive than a traditional build when factory produced at scale – at least 250 units per year. L&G produce over 3,000 units per year.

MMC homes can come with at least a 60 year Build Offsite Property Assurance Scheme (BOPAS) warranty as well as a National House Building Council (NHBC) warranty.

61,000 new homes are currently planned to be built in Gloucestershire up to 2031. It is therefore important for this committee to find out what plans the private sector has to use MMC in their new developments.

It was agreed that representatives from some private building developers should be invited to a meeting in the near future so their plans could be scrutinised and a summary report produced for the GEGJC’s information.

### 3. GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Update

David Owen, CEO, GFirst LEP, provided an update on Gloucestershire's Economy.

[www.WinchcombeWard.com/lepnov2020](http://www.WinchcombeWard.com/lepnov2020)

(If the above link does not work as expected, please either copy and paste it or type it directly into your browser)

- Total **GVA\*** for Gloucestershire is estimated to be £16.5 Billion
- The Claimant Count for Gloucestershire has dropped from 5.0% in August to 4.9% in September.
- The number young people (18-24) claiming benefits in Gloucestershire is currently 3,725 which is 19.6% of the total of working age claimants (16-64) in Gloucestershire.
- Job posting numbers continue to improve with the number of postings for September 2020 at around 18,705 which is 19.9% lower when compared to September 2019. Both the Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury have seen an increase in the number of job posts when compared to the same month last year.
- The total number of workers furloughed in Gloucestershire at the 31st August was 30,700.
- The second phase of the Self Employment Income Scheme grant has seen a total of 21,300 claims made in Gloucestershire up to 30th September, with a take up rate of 62% of those potentially eligible and totalling £55.9 million.
- The total value in loans offered to businesses in Gloucestershire, as part of the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) and Bounce Back Loan Scheme, now stands at £483 million.

\* **GVA** (Gross Value Added) is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector, which can be used to measure the value of the economy.

**Cllr John Murphy**