

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee (GEGSC)

Thursday 31st March 2022

1. Introduction

Following an update on the previously held Joint GEGSC, the majority of this meeting concentrated on the following two presentations and associated questioning.

- **The Economic Impacts of Climate Change**
- **Youth Unemployment**

2. Joint GEGSC update

Clr Tony Dale provided a verbal update on the GEGSC meeting held on the 16th March 2022.

The following link enables you to view the agenda and supporting documents for that meeting:

[Bit.ly/gegjc1](https://bit.ly/gegjc1)

(If this link does not *appear* to work, please copy it, and paste it into your browser)

In summary, This meeting considered the following areas:

- An Update on Broadband within Gloucestershire: There is currently 96.5% coverage in the county. There remains a commitment to get to 100% coverage, but that remaining 3.5% coverage is recognised as being a struggle to achieve.
- An update presentation on the Cyber Project was provided (to follow from GCC): This project has now been acknowledged and mentioned favourably in government circles.
- Statement of Common Ground: No further progress was reported.
- Economic Dashboard
 - o [Bit.ly/econdash1](https://bit.ly/econdash1)
(If this link does not *appear* to work, please copy it, and paste it into your browser)
- Gfirst LEP Update
- Business Rate Pool Update including two significant requests that were considered in relation to the Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF):
 - o £150K for a “Made in Gloucestershire” bid– approved
 - o £850K for a Gloucestershire mass transit scheme – supported in principle but refused on this occasion due to the report’s late submission and suitably agreed source of funding.

3. The Economic Impacts of Climate Change

A background report was presented that set out:

- Gloucestershire’s current position concerning work across the green economy
- Data that highlighted the growth in green jobs

This was followed by a presentation from the 2030 Strategy Manager at Stroud District Council, the Countywide Climate Change Coordinator, an Ecotricity representative and the Co-chairs of the Energy Sector Business Group for Gfirst LEP. This presentation can be found via the following link:

[Bit.ly/cceimpact](https://bit.ly/cceimpact)

(If this link does not *appear* to work, please copy it, and paste it into your browser)

The discussion that followed focused on two core questions:

- What does Green Economy mean in Gloucestershire?
- What is our strategic approach to shaping it?

4. Youth Unemployment

GFirst LEP and GCC provided a joint presentation on this problem.

A background paper was provided that explored the green economy. It focused on green jobs and skills as well as attempting to understand where the potential for growth may be in the medium and long-term.

[Bit.ly/yunemp](https://bit.ly/yunemp) (pages 23-40)

(If this link does not *appear* to work, please copy it, and paste it into your browser)

Importantly, the committee was made aware that funding streams are beginning to run out.

It was also noted that although a great deal of excellent work has been done in relation to NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training), they are not necessarily the cohort that will be the highest priority in the future.

5. Executive Director's Report

The following report from Colin Chick (Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure) was included for noting and was taken as read:

[Bit.ly/yunemp](https://bit.ly/yunemp) (pages 43-58)

(If this link does not *appear* to work, please copy it, and paste it into your browser)