



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

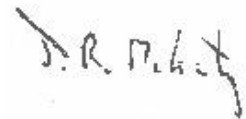
Meeting: Monday, 30th April 2018 at 6.30 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

Membership:	Cllrs. Coole (Chair), Ryall (Vice-Chair), Finnegan (Spokesperson), Pearsall, Hilton, Lewis, Wilson, Dee, Hampson, Hawthorne, Melvin, Smith, Patel, Pullen and Taylor
Contact:	Democratic and Electoral Services 01452 396126 democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non-pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes.
3.	DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPPING To declare if any issues to be covered in the Agenda are under party whip.
4.	MINUTES (Pages 5 - 12) To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 th March 2018.
5.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) To receive any questions from members of the public provided that a question does not relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings, or• Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council Officers
6.	PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES) To receive any petitions and deputations provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or• Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings

7.	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN (Pages 13 - 32) To receive the latest version of the Committee's work programme and the Council's Forward Plan.
8.	EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION & HOUSING SERVICE TRANSFORMATION AND OPTIONS FOR THE DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING To receive a presentation on plans for Emergency Accommodation & Housing Service Transformation and Options for the Delivery of Affordable Housing.
9.	EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL INVESTMENT FUND (Pages 33 - 36) To consider an overview of the European Structural Investment Fund.
10.	TASK AND FINISH: HIGH STRENGTH ALCOHOL (Pages 37 - 56) To consider the report of the Task and Finish group in relation to high strength alcohol sales.
11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 4 th June 2018 at 6.30pm in the Civic Suite, North Warehouse.



Jon McGinty
Managing Director

Date of Publication: Friday, 20 April 2018

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Prescribed description</u>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area. For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and (b) either – i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with

whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, “securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

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Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the Public and Press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

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If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING : Monday, 26th March 2018

PRESENT : Cllrs. Coole (Chair), Ryall (Vice-Chair), Finnegan (Spokesperson), Pearsall, Hilton, Wilson, Dee, Melvin, Smith, Patel, Pullen, Taylor, Hansdot and Tracey

Others in Attendance

Councillor James, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy,
Councillor D. Norman MBE, Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources,
Councillor Noakes, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure,
Managing Director,
Head of Policy and Resources,
Head of Cultural and Trading Services,
City Growth and Delivery Manager,
Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Lewis, Hampson and Hawthorne

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

40.1 There were no declarations of interest.

41. DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPPING

41.1 There were no declarations of party whipping.

42. MINUTES

42.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

43. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

43.1 There were no public questions.

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44. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

44.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

45. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

45.1 The Committee considered the Work Programme and the Council Forward Plan. The Chair brought to the Committee's attention that Emergency Accommodation and Housing Service Transformation would be considered at the next meeting as well as proposals surrounding the European Structural Investment Fund.

45.2 Councillor Hilton stated that, following the recent Council meeting, he would like to see the withdrawal of deep cleans from some wards to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. The Chair agreed that Group Leads would liaise with Members as to how scrutiny of this item could be best achieved. Councillor Taylor shared his view that it would be useful to consider the next stage of the regeneration of the Fleece Hotel site.

45.3 RESOLVED that:-

- (1) The withdrawal of some deep cleans be entered onto the work programme;
- (2) The regeneration of the Fleece Hotel site be entered onto the work programme;
- (3) That the Overview and Scrutiny **NOTE** the work programme and Council Forward Plan.

46. ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY

46.1 Councillor James (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy) provided an overview of the proposed Economic Growth Strategy. He brought to the Committee's attention that the presentation represented the early stages of developing the strategy. He advised that the presentation to be considered by the Committee is what was considered by the Cabinet but that it had not been amended. Councillor James further stated that it was important that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have input in this area. He stressed that, in terms of economic development, the Council was not working alone. By way of example, he noted the work undertaken with the Local Enterprise Partnership, the County Council and businesses in the City.

46.2 The City Growth and Delivery Manager stated that his presentation was a combination of initial thoughts and ideas and would evolve. He advised that the strategy was centred on what the Council would contribute to growth in the City. He further advised that economic development was a very small team within the Council and that he wanted a strategy that was both ambitious and dynamic.

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- 46.3 With regard to the state of the economy, the City Growth and Delivery Manager advised that Gloucester had a high employment rate accompanied by a good wage level whilst he noted a high rate of population growth. He also noted that there were some areas of real deprivation. He identified as a challenge whether there was sufficient infrastructure to continue and drive growth. He also queried how it might be possible to challenge negative perceptions of Gloucester. He noted that there was an opportunity for growth with the expansion of the University and the building of more student accommodation in the City.
- 46.4 With regard to priorities, the City Growth and Delivery Manager stated that the Council pursue a strategy to ensure that local jobs were key to the King's Quarter deal and that the knowledge economy would require targeting. He also noted that it was necessary to improve communication infrastructure in the City.
- 46.5 In terms of measuring success, he stated that a number of matters were difficult to measure numerically but that the impact of the strategy would be seen in the growth of businesses and increased consumer spending.
- 46.6 Councillor Pullen noted that the City Growth and Delivery Manager had raised the matter of deprivation in parts of the City. Councillor Pullen highlighted that such deprivation occurred across the City and was not limited to areas such as Matson and Podsmead. He further highlighted the young population of Gloucester and that it would be useful to have a greater emphasis on young people not in education, training or employment.
- 46.7 Councillor Wilson shared his view that the outline of the strategy was short with regard to time. He stated that he wanted an ambitious growth programme but queried what drove the timeline. The City Growth and Delivery Manager advised that in two years' time, the UK's withdrawal from the European Union would be clearer and that he was keen to put together a programme of work to implement growth strategies. Councillor James further advised that once a full report on this strategy had been produced, Cabinet would be able to give details of a longer term growth strategy.
- 46.8 Councillor Hilton stated that Gloucester needed to have a mixed economy with more in the manufacturing sector. He shared his view that the presentation highlighted uncertainty of leaving the European Union but did not address what could be done to improve growth. He stated that he was pleased with the Council's continued support for Gloucestershire Airport and that this needed to be considered in light of Gloucestershire 2050 proposals.
- 46.9 The City Growth and Delivery Manager agreed that the UK's withdrawal from the European Union required specific attention particular questions of labour and access to markets. He stated that the greatest issue for business was uncertainty around these matters.
- 46.10 In response to a query from Councillor Tracey on the timeframe for when the strategy would be in operation, the City Growth and Delivery Manager

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advised that it had been initially proposed as a three year plan and that it would not be prudent to speculate beyond this.

- 46.11 Councillor Tracey shared her view that not enough was being done to address issues young people face in the City. She noted that a number of youth clubs were no longer in operation but noted that young people were engaged in a new technological age. The Chair noted that the Vision 2050 project identified that many young people leave the county and queried how such a demographic could remain. He stated that it was necessary to consult with young people so as to ascertain what would have them remain in the locality.
- 46.12 The City Growth and Delivery Manager stated that young people were very important to the City. He further stated that jobs, culture and perceptions of the City were important for all across society. He advised that it would be preferable to listen to their concerns rather than stating what they should be doing. Councillor James agreed that it was important to get youth input, particularly with regard to the design of King's Square.
- 46.13 The Vice-Chair noted that driving economic growth would require working with other organisations and that Gloucester needed to lead on growth in the region. To this end, she asked how prepared the Council was to fulfil such a role. The City Growth and Delivery Manager stated that the Council was best positioned due to the democratic mandate it holds. He stated that the Council will work with a number of organisations who may have had particular interests which was not the case for the Council. Councillor James stated that the City Council was seen as a reliable and good partner and that such relationships were important.
- 46.14 Councillor Dee stated that it was pleasing that much time had been spent planning for the future of the City and that it would be positive if Gloucester were able to drive growth in the region.
- 46.16 Councillor Melvin stated that the Council needed to be mindful of not allowing businesses to land bank and should encourage the opening of small manufacturing businesses. The City Growth and Delivery Manager noted that low-skilled jobs were vital to the economy and, in relation to Gloucester driving growth stated that it was important to work with all areas.
- 46.17 The Chair thanked Councillor James and the City Growth and Delivery Manager for their presentation and time.

47. REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PEER CHALLENGE

- 47.1 The Leader of the Council, Councillor James outlined the findings of the Local Government Association Peer Challenge as well as the action plan which had been drawn up. He stated that there had been positive progress since the last Peer Challenge which took place in 2013. By way of example, Councillor James highlighted the changes in the Council's financial position as well as member/Officer relations.

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- 47.2 With regard to areas to be considered, Councillor James stated the action plan was a matter of building on progress rather than criticism.
- 47.3 Councillor Hilton suggested continued working with Vision 2050 and queried how the Council was going to follow it up. He further shared his view that it required wide-ranging conversations for something that would benefit the City long term. Councillor James advised that there would be a debate at Council on this matter. As Gloucester was the capital of the county, the City should be putting its views forward.
- 47.4 The Chair queried whether the matter of Vision 2050 should be considered by Council or the Overview and Scrutiny Committee given the latter's non-political nature. In response, Councillor James stated that it being considered by Council would give the subject the importance it requires.
- 47.5 The Managing Director stated that the Peer Review team had made clear that the Council's achievements had shown that Gloucester was operating within a sphere which was at a higher level.
- 47.6 Councillor Pullen noted that it was a good report and that it was evident that there had been a vast array of improvements. With regard to the action plan, he expressed surprise that organisational change was being considered after the Together Gloucester re-organisation. He queried the need to bring in consultants and whether there was capacity within the Council. He also asked for examples of what their work had entailed.
- 47.7 The Managing Director advised that a further part of Together Gloucester was examining at processes and services. He further advised that Ignite was training Council staff in business process re-engineering and that this could not be achieved prior to the staff restructure. Additionally, the Managing Director stated that the Ignite team were halfway through their intended presence and they were training Council staff. He further stated that the process of identifying efficiencies would continue.
- 47.8 Councillor Wilson stated that the recommendation on a housing strategy covering Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury was a good one but queried why, as it stood, it was exploratory rather than a serious commitment. The Managing Director advised that this was because it could not be guaranteed that partners will engage in the process.
- 47.9 In response to a comment from Councillor Dee on working with other authorities around housing strategy, Councillor James advised that after the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy, other areas would be brought into the strategy.
- 47.10 The Chair stated that Members were noticeable by their absence from the Peer Challenge report. He reported that he had attended a meeting about scrutiny with the Peer Challenge but this did not feature in the report. Councillor James stated that he did not attend this meeting but that it was not raised as a negative point and Member-Officer relations had improved.

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48. FINANCIAL MONITORING QUARTER 3 REPORT

- 48.1 The Cabinet Member for Performance, Councillor D. Norman, outlined the report and brought to the Committee's attention that the report was based on a summary of a best estimate. He stated that he was confident matters would move forward. He continued by advising that it was correct to highlight savings that had been made.
- 48.2 Councillor Norman advised that the forecast for the year end was for a reduction to the General Fund balance of £38k and that this could be greater. He expressed his hope that finance officers' counsel would be appreciated.
- 48.3 In response to a query from Councillor Norman as to whether there had been any serious intervening events, the Head of Policy and Resources advised that he expected the position to have improved and could be better than break even.
- 48.4 Councillor Hilton noted that three portfolios had overspent (regeneration, culture and planning) and further noted the Together Gloucester's savings target of £1m. He queried whether this suggested that there was further money available.
- 48.5 Councillor Hilton further highlighted that the income forecast for Eastgate Market had decreased despite high hopes being voiced prior to Christmas (although he did note that such matters could often be seasonal). He also queried how this lower income would be dealt with.
- 48.6 Councillor Norman stated his belief that the number of traders had remained steady and that the position had been strengthened overall. He also stated that the options for the Council moving its operation should be considered. The Head of Policy and Resources advised that short term borrowing had been undertaken which had resulted in savings on interest.
- 48.7 Councillor Hilton queried if it was the case that the budget was unsound and the generation of additional income had saved it. Councillor Smith noted the risk that had been identified regarding revised forecasts not being achieved and queried whether this had been achieved. The Head of Policy and Resources advised that planning had expected greater income and was happy to update Members on the figures. In response to a query from Councillor Pullen regarding whether increased planning fees would affect income, the Head of Policy and Resources advised that these funds must be used for the planning department.
- 48.8 The Chair thanked Councillor Norman and the Head of Policy and Resources for their presentation of the report and for answering queries. The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Noakes, to answer queries Members had about her portfolio.

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- 48.9 Councillor Noakes introduced the Culture and Leisure aspect of financial monitoring and stated that there had been an overspend. She stated that a key area which contributed to the overspend was staffing and that some of these staffing costs did not fall into her portfolio. By way of example, she stated that some of the work of the Head of Cultural and Trading Services was in different areas such as markets and Shopmobility.
- 48.10 Councillor Noakes advised the Committee that approximately 40% of staffing sat in no portfolio. She further advised that there was a 3% vacancy rate and that there were some transition costs. She stated that some of these costs would continue but that most was for the present year only (such as extra staffing costs).
- 48.11 She further outlined that additional costs had been incurred for works undertaken at the Life Museum. Councillor Noakes informed the Committee that cinema prices had decreased and that these would be reviewed but that there had been a 25% increase in attendance.
- 48.12 With regard to food and drink provision, Councillor Noakes advised that some staffing issues had been resolved. She stated that there were ambitious targets for income and that the food and drink manager had the ability to focus and deliver.
- 48.13 Councillor Wilson stated that it appeared there were costs that should have been attributed to other portfolios and shared his view that it would be preferable to adjust this. The Chair stated that it was important to have accuracy in reporting. The Head of Policy and Resources advised that the budget was based on the structure of the Council and that he would look at how this could be improved. He also clarified for Councillor Hansdot that holiday pay was being paid but that there had been a delay which was rectified.
- 48.14 In response to a query from Councillor Melvin about staffing levels at the Guildhall, Councillor Noakes advised that members of the Visitor Experience team worked across different venues. The Head of Trading and Cultural Services stated that this was not a case of job-sharing but flexible staff. The Head of Policy and Resources noted that the Together Gloucester transformation process delivered this multi-skilled team.
- 48.15 Councillor Melvin queried why someone who had been prepared to take on operating the café had not been followed up. She also queried why zero-hour staff were more expensive and shared her view that a different classification of staff would overlap in other areas. Councillor Noakes advised that this was not the case as they were employed in a 'backfill' capacity.
- 48.16 Councillor Smith queried why income targets were structured in the way they were if they continued to not be met. The Head of Policy and Resources advised that this was in order to enable the whole service to improve the portfolio. He stated that with the new structure, there was flexibility so the finance team would not be reporting something similar next year. Councillor

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Noakes stated that food and drink sales were an area where more income could be generated. The Head of Policy and Resources believed the food and drink service to improve by the end of the year.

48.17 Councillor Hilton noted the portfolio having overspent £38k and highlighted the closure of the museum café by way of example. The Head of Cultural and Trading Services stated that the food and drink manager had been filling in other roles rather than development work but that this was to change.

48.18 Councillor Wilson stated his belief that the Council did not employ staff on a zero-hour basis. The Head of Policy and Resources confirmed that they were paid at the living wage on zero-hour contracts.

48.19 The Chair thanked Councillor Noakes and the Head of Cultural and Trading Services for their time and answering Members' queries.

49. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

30th April 2018 at 6.30pm in the Civic Suite, North Warehouse.

Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 8.25 pm hours

Chair

Gloucester City Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Updated 20th April 2018

Item	Format	Lead Member (if applicable)/Lead Officer	Comments
30 April 2018			
Emergency Accommodation & Housing Service Transformation/ Options for the Delivery of Affordable Housing	Presentation	Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Requested by Committee
European Structural Investment Fund	Overview	Cabinet Member for Environment	Requested by Committee
Task and Finish: High Strength Alcohol	Written Report	Councillor Haigh	Requested by Committee
4 June 2018			
Regeneration of the Former Fleece Hotel Site	Written Report	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy/Head of Place	Requested by Committee
Progress on the City Plan and Joint Core Strategy	Written Report	Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing	Requested by Committee
NO DATE YET SET			
Review of Green Travel Plan	Written report	Cabinet Member for Environment	Requested by Committee for September 2018
Review of the Implementation of Universal Credit	Written Report	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Requested by Committee for January 2019
GCC Annual Performance Monitoring	Written Report	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Part of Committee's Rolling programme of work

NOTE: The work programme is agreed by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Spokesperson of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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FORWARD PLAN

FROM MAY TO APRIL 2019

This Forward Plan contains details of all the matters which the Leader believes will be the subject of a Key Decision by the Cabinet or an individual Cabinet Member in the period covered by the Plan (the subsequent 12 months). A Key Decision is one that is:

- a decision in relation to a Cabinet function which results in the Local Authority incurring expenditure or making of a saving which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- a decision that is likely to have a significant impact on two or more wards within the Local Authority; or
- a decision in relation to expenditure in excess of £100,000 or significant savings; or
- a decision in relation to any contract valued in excess of £500,000

A decision maker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Cabinet Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Cabinet Members

Portfolio	Name	Contact Details
Leader and Regeneration & Economy (LRE)	Councillor Paul James	6 Mainard Square, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0EU Tel: 396151 paul.james@gloucester.gov.uk
Deputy Leader and Communities & Neighbourhoods (C&N)	Councillor Jennie Watkins	14 Topcliffe Street, Kingsway, Gloucester, GL2 2ES Tel: 07912450049 jennie.watkins@gloucester.gov.uk
Culture & Leisure (C&L)	Councillor Lise Noakes	14 Middle Croft, Abbeymead, Gloucester GL4 4RL Tel: 01452 610702 lise.noakes@gloucester.gov.uk
Performance & Resources (P&R)	Councillor David Norman MBE	50 Coltishall Close, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 4RQ Tel: 07970593780 david.norman@gloucester.gov.uk
Housing & Planning (H&P)	Councillor Colin Organ	337 Stroud Road, Gloucester GL4 0BA Tel: 07767350003 colin.organ@gloucester.gov.uk
Environment (E)	Councillor Richard Cook	101 Woodvale, Kingsway, Gloucester GL2 2BU Tel: 07889534944 richard.cook@gloucester.gov.uk

The Forward Plan also includes Budget and Policy Framework items; these proposals are subject to a period of consultation and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to respond in relation to the consultation process.

A Budgetary and Policy Framework item is an item to be approved by the full City Council and, following consultation, will form the budgetary and policy framework within which the Cabinet will make decisions.

For each decision included on the Plan the following information is provided:

- (a) the matter in respect of which a decision is to be made;
 - (b) where the decision maker is an individual, his/her name and title if any and, where the decision maker is a body, its name and details of membership;
 - (c) the date on which, or the period within which, the decision is to be made;
 - (d) if applicable, notice of any intention to make a decision in private and the reasons for doing so;
 - (e) a list of the documents submitted to the decision maker for consideration in relation to the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made;
 - (f) the procedure for requesting details of those documents (if any) as they become available
- (the documents referred to in (e) and (f) above and listed in the Forward Plan are available on request from the Council's main offices at Herbert Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EQ. Contact the relevant Lead Officer for more information).

The Forward Plan is updated and published on Council's website at least once a month.

KEY	= Key Decision	CM KEY	= Individual Cabinet Member Key Decisions
NON	= Non-Key Decision	CM NON	= Individual Cabinet Member Non-Key Decision
BPF	= Budget and Policy Framework		

CONTACT:

For further detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the Cabinet/Individual Cabinet Member please contact the named contact officer for the item concerned. To make your views known on any of the items please also contact the Officer shown or the portfolio holder.

Copies of agendas and reports for meetings are available on the web site in advance of meetings.

For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please contact:

Democratic and Electoral Services on 01452 396126 or send an email to democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)		PLANNED DATES	DECISION MAKER & PORTFOLIO	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
MAY 2018						
NON	Economic Growth Strategy <u>Summary of decision:</u> To conduct a review of the current Economic Development Strategy and update Members on plans to ensure a positive impact of regeneration and economic growth for disadvantaged communities within the City. <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	9/05/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Ian Edwards, Head of Place ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.uk

KEY	Joint Waste Partnership <u>Summary of decision:</u> To seek approval for membership of the Joint Waste Partnership <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	9/05/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Environment			Meyrick Brentnall, City Improvement and Environment Manager Tel: 01452 396829 meyrick.brentnall@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Social Enterprise Grounds Maintenance Pilot <u>Summary of decision:</u> To advise Members on the Social Enterprise Grounds Maintenance Pilot Project <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	9/05/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods			Lloyd Griffiths, Head of Communities lloyd.griffiths@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for Houses in Multiple Occupation <u>Summary of decision:</u> to advise members of the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for houses in multiple occupation <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	9/05/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning			Helen Chard, Housing Manager Tel: 01452 396534 helen.chard@gloucester.gov.uk

NON	<p>Emergency Accommodation & Housing Service Transformation Appraisal</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> to advise members of the appraisal of the Emergency Accommodation and Housing Service Transformation</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>	9/05/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning			<p>Helen Chard, Housing Manager Tel: 01452 396534 helen.chard@gloucester.gov.uk</p>
NON	<p>Options for the Delivery of Affordable Housing</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> To review options for the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>	9/05/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning			<p>Ian Edwards, Head of Place ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.uk</p>

KEY	Gloucester Markets <u>Summary of decision:</u> To consider options for the future of the Markets Service in Gloucester <i>Wards affected: Westgate</i>	9/05/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director jonathan.lund@gloucester.gov.uk
JUNE 2018						
NON	2017-18 Financial Outturn Report <u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Cabinet on the Financial Outturn Report 2017-18. <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Treasury Management Six Monthly Update 2017/18 <u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Cabinet on treasury management activities. <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

NON	Strategic Risk Register <u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Members on the Council's Strategic Risk Register <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Stephanie Payne, Group Manager, Audit, Risk and Assurance Tel: 01452 396432 stephanie.payne@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Regeneration of the Former Fleece Hotel Site <u>Summary of decision:</u> To consider the proposals received and identify a preferred partner. <i>Wards affected: Westgate</i>	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Ian Edwards, Head of Place ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Gloucester Culture Trust Annual Report <u>Summary of decision:</u> To provide Members with an update on the work undertaken by the Gloucester Culture Trust <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director jonathan.lund@gloucester.gov.uk

NON	Response to the Recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on High Strength Alcohol <u>Summary of decision:</u> To consider the recommendation of the High Strength Task & Finish Group <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods			Simon Byrne, Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader Tel: 01452 396127 simon.byrne@gloucester.gov.uk
JULY 2018						
NON	City Centre Investment Fund Allocations and Update <u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Members on the progress towards the delivery of the City Centre Investment Fund <i>Wards affected: Westgate</i>	11/07/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Ian Edwards, Head of Place Tel: 01452 396034 ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.uk

NON	Social Impact Bond- Mid Term Update <u>Summary of decision:</u> To receive an mid- term update on the Gloucestershire Social Impact Bond/. <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	11/07/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning			Helen Chard, Housing Manager Tel: 01452 396534 helen.chard@gloucester.gov.uk
CM NON	Gloucestershire 2050 Vision Consultation <u>Summary of decision:</u> To consider submitting a response to the Gloucestershire 2050 consultation <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	12/07/18 13/07/18	Council Leader of the Council			Jon McGinty, Managing Director jon.mcginty@gloucester.gov.uk

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AUGUST 2018- No meetings

SEPTEMBER 2018

NON	Financial Monitoring Quarter 1 Report <u>Summary of decision:</u> To receive an update on financial monitoring information for the first quarter 2018/19 <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	3/09/18 12/09/18	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
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OCTOBER 2018

NON	Energy Costs and Reduction Projects Annual Report <u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Cabinet on the City Council Energy Costs and Reduction Projects <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	10/10/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Environment			Ian Edwards, Head of Place ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.uk
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NON	<p>Armed Forces Community Covenant Update</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Cabinet on the work done by Gloucester City Council to support current and ex-service personnel as part of the Gloucestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant.</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>	10/10/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods			Lloyd Griffiths, Head of Communities lloyd.griffiths@gloucester.gov.uk
NOVEMBER 2018						
NON	<p>Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) - Review of Procedural Guide</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> To request that Members review and update the Council's procedural guidance on RIPA.</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>	7/11/18	Council Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

DECEMBER 2018

NON	Strategic Risk Register <u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Members on the Council's Strategic Risk Register <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	5/12/18	Audit and Governance Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Stephanie Payne, Group Manager, Audit, Risk and Assurance Tel: 01452 396432 stephanie.payne@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Draft Budget Proposals (including Money Plan and Capital Programme) <u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Cabinet on the draft budget proposals <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	5/12/18	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Treasury Management Six Monthly Update 2017/18 <u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Cabinet on treasury management activities. <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	5/12/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

NON	<p>Financial Monitoring Quarter 2 Report</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> To receive an update on financial monitoring information for the third quarter 2018/19</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>	<p>3/12/18</p> <p>5/12/18</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources</p>			<p>Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk</p>
BPF	<p>Local Council Tax Support Scheme</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> To advise members of the requirement to review the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS)</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>	<p>5/12/18</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources</p>			<p>Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk</p>
JANUARY 2019						
KEY	<p>Festivals and Events Programme</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> To seek approval for the 2019-20 Festival and Events Programme.</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>	<p>9/01/19</p>	<p>Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure</p>			<p>Jill Riggs, Head of Cultural and Trading Services jill.riggs@gloucester.gov.uk</p>

NON	<p>Green Travel Plan Progress Report 2018 and Update</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> Annual update on initiatives in the Green Travel Plan</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>	9/01/19	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Environment			Lloyd Griffiths, Head of Communities lloyd.griffiths@gloucester.gov.uk
FEBRUARY 2019						
<p>BPF</p> <p>Page 28</p>	<p>Final Budget Proposals (including Money Plan and Capital Programme)</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> To seek approval for the final Budget Proposals for 2019/20, including the Money Plan and Capital programme.</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>	<p>6/02/19</p> <p>28/02/19</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Council Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources</p>			<p>Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources</p> <p>Tel: 01452 396242</p> <p>jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk</p>

NON	Growing Gloucester's Visitor Economy <u>Summary of decision:</u> To provide Cabinet with an update on the annual review of the Visitor Economy Strategy. <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	5/12/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			Jill Riggs, Head of Cultural and Trading Services jill.riggs@gloucester.gov.uk
MARCH 2019						
NON	Financial Monitoring Quarter 3 Report <u>Summary of decision:</u> To receive an update on financial monitoring information for the third quarter 2018/19 <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	6/03/19	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Risk Based Verification Policy Review <u>Summary of decision:</u> To seek approval to continue with risk based verification policy. <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	6/03/19	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

NON	Cultural Strategy Update <u>Summary of decision:</u> To provide Cabinet with a 6 monthly update in relation to the Cultural Strategy Action Plan <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	6/03/19	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			Jill Riggs, Head of Cultural and Trading Services jill.riggs@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Annual Report on the Grant Funding provided to the Voluntary Community Sector <u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Members on the impact of grant funding on the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and value for money that has been achieved. <i>Wards affected: All Wards</i>	6/03/19	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods			Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director anne.brinkhoff@gloucester.gov.uk

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APRIL 2019

ITEMS DEFERRED- Dates to be confirmed

KEY	<p>Disposal of HKP Warehouses</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> To seek approval to dispose of the HKP Warehouses for alternate use.</p> <p><i>Wards affected: Westgate</i></p>		Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director jonathan.lund@gloucester.gov.uk
Page 31	<p>Energy Saving Projects</p> <p><u>Summary of decision:</u> To update Cabinet on the City Council Energy Costs and Reduction Projects.</p> <p><i>Wards affected: All Wards</i></p>		Cabinet Cabinet Member for Environment			Mark Foyn, Property Commissioning Manager mark.foyn@gloucester.gov.uk

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Members Briefing Note – ESIF (European Structural Investment Fund)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 30th April 2018

Background

Gloucester City Council has been working on a joint European bid (ESIF – European Structural Investment Fund) with a number of partners including Tewkesbury Borough Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, University of Gloucester, Environment Agency (EA) and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT).

Gloucester City Council will be project lead on the “Urban Greening Project” and responsible for ensuring that the project delivers the proposed 250 hectares of habitat creation and /or habitat improvements.

The total spend for the scheme is around £1.3m which is approximately 50% match funded by partners. The majority of spend will be in Gloucester City at a number of sites including;

Plock Court	Combrook Close Balancing Pond	Sections along the Sud brook
Armscroft Park	Clock Tower Park and Balancing Pond	Manor Farm Park, Kingsway
Estcourt Road Gardens	Barnwood Park Balancing Pond	Baneberry Road POS
Haycroft Drive	Milton Avenue	Sections along the Horsbere brook including the Horsbere Brook Meadow, Sandyleaze Park, POS off Evergreen Walk and POS off Ferndale Close
Matson Rest Garden	Matson Park	
King George V Playing Field	Appleton Way Balancing Pond	

Other sites identified are along sections of verges, footpaths and POS to link sites together improving movement and access for wildlife.

The regeneration of Matson and Podsmead will have little effect on what is proposed however we will ensure that we work with communities in those areas, organisations and officers involved with the regeneration.

Why are we carrying out the works?

To deliver a number of positive environmental outcomes including:

- Habitat creation
- Increased Biodiversity
- Reduced Flood Risk
- Improvements to water quality

- Increasing target species
- Engaging our communities with the outdoors
- Improving urban air quality
- To provide an improved, interconnected network of habitats
- Enhancing sites as valuable public green space with enhanced biodiversity
- Increased level of amenity
- Improving health and well-being
- Significant reputational gains to be had by The City Council and GWT and scope to deliver local Green Infrastructure exemplars that could be used around the country
- Continuing to build upon our success as a Bee Guardian City – Gloucester City was the first bee guardian city in the UK in 2011

A walkover survey was carried out by an Ecologist from GWT and the Flood Risk Management Officer (from Gloucester City Council) of the sites above to identify existing species and potential improvements that would create a more diverse habitat and bring about an increase in biodiversity.

What will the works consist of?

The proposed works will consist of a combination of the following:

- Changes to maintenance regimes
- Wildlife Meadow Creation
- Creation of wildlife corridors
- Woodland Planting
- Native hedgerow species planting
- Orchard creation
- River Restoration including; renaturalising sections of watercourse - incorporating bend and meanders, removal of concrete sections of channel banks and bed, marginal planting, berms etc
- Construction of SuDS features – swales, reed beds, ponds and scrapes

When will the works be carried out?

It is hoped that final approval from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (formally DCLG) who are administering the grant will be the end of May and that scheme will have to be completed within 3 years of the start date.

It is confirmed that the referendum result will not impact this scheme as funding has already been allocated.

We plan to consult with communities in areas where works are planned some of which will be carried out by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Other related works

GWT are looking to submit a bid for funding to Wild up Gloucestershire with Gloucester City being chosen as the pilot city. This work will focus on more inner city areas creating further connectivity where people and wildlife can thrive, inspire more people and communities to take action for nature and lead on natural solutions.

We will be working closely with GWT to identify areas where potential works could be carried to complement our proposed ESIF scheme.

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Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date:	30 April 2018
Subject:	Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Sales of High Strength Alcohol and its contribution to negative outcomes and interactions within the community		
Report Of:	Councillor Kate Haigh, Chair of the Task and Finish Group		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Head of Communities Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader Email: Lloyd.griffiths@gloucester.gov.uk Tel:01452 396355		
Appendices:	1. Report of the Task and Finish Group		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group which was formed to review sales of high strength alcohol in the City.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** is asked to **ENDORSE** the report.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The report at Appendix 1 sets out the final recommendations of the Task and Finish Group which was established following ratification by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 July 2016. The report details the purpose and process of the review, the Task and Finish Group's findings, and its recommendations. The report will be presented to the first available meeting of Cabinet in the new municipal year.

**Councillor Kate Haigh
Chair of Task and Finish Group**

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TASK AND FINISH GROUP

**ON SALES OF HIGH STRENGTH ALCOHOL
AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO NEGATIVE
OUTCOMES AND INTERACTIONS WITHIN THE
COMMUNITY**

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

April 2018

Published by Democratic Services

www.gloucester.gov.uk

CONTENTS

Section 1	Introduction
Section 2	Scoping of study
Section 3	Summary of current position
Section 4	Findings
Section 5	Conclusions
Section 6	Recommendations
Section 7	Acknowledgements

Section 1 – Introduction

Background

On the 11th July 2016, Gloucester City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a Task and Finish Group study to identify actions to reduce the sale of high strength alcohol and the impact on the community.

The Task and Finish Group was formed in November 2016. The report details the purpose and process of the review, the Task and Finish Group's findings, and its recommendations.

Membership

The following cross-party Members took part in the study:-



Councillor Kate Haigh
(Chair)



Councillor Hannah Norman



Councillor Declan Wilson

The Group was supported by Licensing Team, the Community Wellbeing Team, the LVA and Democratic and Electoral Services.

Section 1 – Introduction (continued)

Terms of Reference (as defined in the scoping document shown in Section 2 of this report)

The agreed **ambition** for the review was:-

‘To reduce harm in the community caused by alcohol abuse’

The **anticipated outcomes** for the review were set as:-

- Preventative rather than punitive measures;
- Reduce alcohol based harms and anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol abuse;
- Put tools in place for Officers of the Council to be able to address these issues;
- Work with Licensees to address concerns.

Length of Study

When the terms of reference were drawn up, it was anticipated that the review would take around four months. However, it became clear that, given the need to produce research from a number of sources (including primary data and secondary literature) this work would take considerably more time than originally anticipated.



To allow for this factor, the study was more protracted with meetings of the Task and Finish Group being programmed around the work of a fluid set of Officers.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was briefed on the Group's progress when Councillor Haigh, Chair of the Task and Finish Group, attended their meeting on 29 January 2018 in order to give Members a verbal interim report in anticipation of the work's imminent conclusion.

Section 2 – Scoping of Study (the Terms of Reference)

SCRUTINY REVIEW – ONE PAGE STRATEGY		
Broad topic area	Promoting Responsible Drinking Councillors Haigh, Wilson, Norman (substituted for Councillor Melvin)	
Specific topic area	Sales of High Strength Alcohol and their contribution to negative outcomes and interactions within the community.	
Ambitions for the review	To reduce harm in community caused by alcohol abuse.	
How do we perform at the moment?	There is a DPPO in place at the moment in the City Centre but this is in relation to consumption rather than the purchase of alcohol. Whilst there was a “Reducing the Strength” programme as part of the Council’s Licensing Policy Statement for 2016/2021, this is not currently ongoing. All Licenses are requested to run a Challenge 25 scheme and suggested a Challenge 30 scheme.	
Who should we consult?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LVA • Off Licences • City Safe – Rich Burge • Street Pastors • Press • Street • Drinker Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police – PC Mark Mansfield • City Centre Partnership • Drinkers especially street drinker and young people • Public Consultation
Background information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and Attractive Streets Policy • Council’s Licensing Policy Statement for 2016/21 • Gloucester City Council O&S Workshop on High Strength Alcohol 22/3/16 • LGA “Reducing the Strength Policy” • Club Soda “Nudging Pubs” Report 	
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Services • Lisa Jones, Food Licensing and Markets Manager • Other Officers as required 	
How long will it take?	Approximately 4 Months – Aim to have finished for February 27 2017 Overview and Scrutiny meeting. Final report and recommendations therefore required on Friday 17 February 2017.	

Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventative rather than punitive measures will be favoured. • Reduce alcohol based harms and anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol abuse. • Put tools in place for Officers of the Council to be able to address these issues • Work with Licensees to address concerns
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Section 3 - Summary of Current Position

Introduction

The consumption of alcohol is one of the most commonly experienced activities on the British cultural landscape. The vast majority of people who drink alcohol enjoy doing so and do so in a safe and controlled manner without the risk of causing immediate harm to either themselves or others. Gloucester is no different in this respect and neither is it different in the way in which the alcohol industry provides a large contribution to the local economy through bars, pubs, restaurants and shops.



Whilst most enjoy alcohol in a safe way, it is evident that some drinking habits harm, not only the health of the individual but the health and wellbeing of the community at large. According to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, in excess of 1.5 million people are alcohol-dependent. Long term alcohol abuse, it is well known, can (among other matters) lead to heart disease, strokes and liver disease as well exacerbate existing mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and bi-polar disorder.

Of note is the proliferation, over the past few years, of the sale of 'super strength' (or, for the purposes of this study, high strength, alcohol). This has typically been defined (for example, by the Local Government Association and other Local Authorities) as lager/beer and cider products with an ABV of 6.5% or greater. There are a number of products on the market which far exceed this volume of alcohol – some of which can contain more than the daily drinking guidelines. In previous years, this has caused enough consternation for the Portman Group Independent Complaints Panel to ask licensees to not stock a particular 500ml product of 9% ABV as it, 'encouraged immoderate consumption'.

The group identified that the sale and consumption of such high strength products had significantly increased and a partial consequence of this was an increase in street drinking and associated anti-social behavior. Worthy of note also is the fact that a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) has been in place since September 2002. A DPPO is an Order which gives police officers a discretionary power to require a person to cease drinking alcohol and confiscate alcohol in public places where the order is in effect.

In 2014, twenty areas were selected by the Home Office to be Local Alcohol Action Areas with Gloucester selected as one with a particular focus on diversifying the night-time economy. It appears that the project nationally did not receive a great deal of attention and no outcomes of this have been identified.

Towards the end of the study, the merits of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) began to be examined. A public consultation exercise (which contained questions related to alcohol-related nuisance) was carried out between 8th January 2018 to 4th April 2018.

The identified aim of the study, therefore, was to reduce the consumption of high strength alcohol in the city in order to promote greater wellbeing of both the individual and the community.

It was agreed that the group would:-

- Investigate the prevalence of high strength alcohol in the City of Gloucester;
- Consult partner organisations on their experience of high strength alcohol consumption;
- Examine other Councils' work in reducing the consumption of high strength alcohol;
- Make realistic recommendations that could assist in the harm reduction – both to the individual and the City.

What might the work reveal?

- A high number of outlets offering high strength alcohol;
- What challenges the sale and consumption of high strength alcohol brings;
- A perception of an unsafe environment where high strength alcohol is consumed in public places;
- Examples of best practice across other authorities.

Section 4 – Findings

Introduction

This section summarises the discussions held at the Task and Finish Group meetings and the actions which were identified during these meetings.

Meeting 1 – 14 November 2016

The Group discussed the background to the study and agreed the scope of the project by completing a one page document which set out the ambitions for the review and the anticipated outcomes.

Outcomes from the meeting held on 14 November 2016

1. Members outlined concerns about the sale of high strength alcohol and its impact on the community.
2. The Group agreed that meetings would be held with relevant bodies and individuals (LVA/UoG Students' Union/Police etc).
3. Members identified, through both their ward work and discussions with other Members, a number of areas which saw a greater prevalence of high strength alcohol – both in terms of sale and visible consumption. These included the Rose Garden on London Road, Eastgate Street and Westgate Street.
4. The desired outcomes were agreed as follows:
 - Preventative rather than punitive measures would be favoured;
 - Reduce alcohol based harms and anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol abuse;
 - Put tools in place for Officers of the Council to be able to address these issues;
 - Work with Licensees to address concerns.
5. The Local Government Association's '*Reducing the Strength*' document would be circulated among the Group. (N.B: The *Reducing the Strength* document is not a



tool to promote such schemes; rather it is guidance in addressing the concerns of the alcohol industry and ensuring compliance with relevant legislation.)

Meeting 2 – Gloucester Local Victuallers Association (LVA): 30th March 2017

The Group attended a meeting of the Gloucester LVA to not only outline the purpose of the study but to also hear the concerns of local licensees.

Matters discussed

1. One licensee based in Westgate informed the Group that street drinkers had caused issues by frequently entering his premises to use the toilet facilities. Another premises kept a log of incidents and would frequently encounter issues with street drinkers 3-4 times a week. The Chair of the LVA stated that, in some parts of the City Centre, daytime saw more problems as the night time economy had the benefit of moving people - the LVA and door staff worked alongside each other in this endeavour. Some held the view that the issue was not small off license but national supermarkets.
2. In terms of particular groups who consume high strength alcohol, LVA members identified non-homogenous groupings of people who caused concern in the City Centre. This included individuals who congregate at King's Square, those without a local support base who remain mobile while drinking in the open and those who drink high strength alcohol in doorways in Eastgate Street. It was held by members of the LVA that homelessness was not a factor as the majority would return to homes in the late afternoon. The Chair stated that such problems were becoming a 'fact of life' and licensees were doing their best to continue operating in this environment.
3. Members of the LVA suggested a number of approaches which could alleviate the issues caused by the consumption of high strength alcohol in public. It was suggested by one member that a more visible police presence could improve this. Similarly, another member stated that enforcing the legislation related to street drinking (such as the DPPO) would require further police resources. A further member suggested a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and a Business Investment District to assist in changes perceptions of the City Centre.

Section 4 – Findings (continued)

Meeting 3 – 23rd October 2017

There was a considerable time gap between the Group meeting due to re-focussing the project and personnel changes.

Matters discussed

1. Gloucester City Council's Head of Communities outlined that Officers had identified three themes across the work of the Group:
 - A scheme for off licences to participate in reducing the sale of high strength alcohol;
 - Different approaches to licensing policy;
 - Raising awareness of the harm high strength alcohol can do and lowering alcohol intake.
2. In the period following the meeting with the LVA, every 'off' licensee was sent a letter and a series of questions to gather information on the sale and consumption of high strength alcohol and the challenges this presented. It was reported that, having written to 124 premises, there had been no responses. An Officer from the Community Wellbeing Team reported that Officers had attempted engagement in person and that this had been a challenge.
3. The Group explored whether there could be voluntary involvement in reducing the sale (and, by extension, consumption) of high strength alcohol or, if there was to be involvement on the part of the authorities, whether a review of licences could be considered. It was queried whether a voluntary alteration of a licence could be considered with regard to the ABV of particular products. It was agreed that advice would be sought from One Legal on the question of licensing.
4. A discussion took place in relation to identifying areas where there was an issue with the consumption of high strength alcohol and its consequent effect of street drinking. It was agreed that Officers, in tandem with partner organisations, would conduct research into the prevalence of the sale of high strength alcohol in the City.

It was noted that a public consultation regarding the possibility of introducing a PSPO was to begin in January 2018 and would run until April 2018. Whilst it was vital that the Group did not pre-judge the outcome of the consultation, it was felt

that it may be useful in the sense of giving a broad overview of whether there was a perception that alcohol use in the City Centre was an issue.

5. There had previously been discussion around 'on' sales and reducing alcohol intake. It was reported that there were certain venue companies which would not participate in any form of scheme to reduce alcohol intake. It was agreed that the LVA would be asked for details of which venues did take part in and what schemes were in use.

Meeting 4 – 20 December 2017

Matters discussed

1. The Group was updated on the field research that had been conducted. It showed that there was a very high prevalence of the sale of high strength alcohol in the City. It also revealed that areas with a high level of street drinking were accompanied by shops which sold a vast number of high strength products. It was agreed that a summary of these findings would be included in the Group's report.
2. One of the Democratic Services team had met with the University of Gloucestershire Students' Union Membership Services Manager and Welfare Officer along with the Chair of the Group. They did not believe that there was a high level of high strength alcohol consumption among students but did note that 'pre-drinking' was a common feature of the student experience. They also shared that street drinkers' drinking high strength alcohol did have an effect on the community and areas of Gloucester where students reside. The Welfare Officer described some parts of the City Centre as 'eerie' at night when returning home and raised questions regarding student safety (and perceptions of safety) when the student population increases in the near future.
3. A summary of the legal advice obtained by the licensing team was shared. The key aspect for consideration is the fact that it would be ultra vires for licensing to effectively ban the sale of high strength alcohol. There are measures that can be taken on an ad hoc basis and it was agreed that this would be included in the Group's report. It was noted that there was a premises where a license holder who had voluntarily agreed to not stock high strength products. It was found, however, that he was in breach of this and enforcement was initiated.

4. Examples of voluntary schemes in other parts of the country were discussed – the two key areas being Suffolk and Portsmouth. It was found that considerable effort was made in partnership with other bodies to launch the schemes and they had seen significant success.



Publicity used in Suffolk

Section 5 – Conclusions

The Task and Finish Group reached the following conclusions:-

1. The consumption of high strength alcohol (beer/lagers/ciders over 6.5% ABV) is a significant health issue nationwide and affects Gloucester also. The sale of these products is widespread. Of 32 off licenses in the City Centre that were visited, each sold at least one high strength product with numerous offering many more. The suggestion that the issue was not small off licenses but national supermarkets is not borne out by the field research that was conducted. Supermarkets were least likely to stock a wide range of high strength products and, in all but one case, mostly stocked products in packs of at least four. Supermarkets did not stock white cider. In terms of smaller off-licenses, the number of high strength products ranged from three to fifteen and each off-licence sold white cider.

There is a wide range of products available ranging from single cans to three litre bottles of 'white' cider. The strength of products ranged from 6.5% to 10%. In the discussions of both the Group and outside bodies, a question was repeatedly raised about the fact that, if any given shop were to not stock such products, individuals could simply buy a bottle of spirits. What this does not account for is what is likely to make these products so attractive – their price. At the lowest end of the pricing scale was the equivalent of 66p per 500ml can.

2. During the course of the study, the Group re-scoped the project to include formulating applicable and enforceable recommendations to reduce negative impact of Street Drinking upon the City rather than simply reducing harm caused

by alcohol. This had the benefit of a sharper focus and clear aims. Councillor H. Norman also joined the Group as a replacement for Councillor Melvin.

3. There is limited capability to reduce the sale and consumption of high strength alcohol from a licensing perspective. The legal view is that the Council would be unable to put a blanket ban into its Statement of Licensing Policy as each application is considered on a case-by-case basis. Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee could add a condition at a hearing or following a review of a Premises Licence. A Responsible Authority could request that this is added as a condition during the consultation period when a new application is received. If there is evidence to review the premises licence at an off licence, a responsible authority i.e. the Police could make an application to review the licence and stipulate that they would like this condition added to the licence which would then help in the promotion of the four licensing objectives. It must be stressed, however, that this requires clear and compelling evidence that the licence holder in question is breaching licensing regulations.
4. As noted above, there was an example of a licensee voluntarily not stocking high strength alcohol but had breached this. In any such scheme, it is clear that enforcement has an important role to play.
5. The public consultation in relation to a proposed PSPO has concluded. Whilst the details of the responses have not yet been made public, a significant majority considered that alcohol related nuisance was either a big problem or a very big problem. Again, a significant majority agreed with the proposed term in the draft order with regard to alcohol related nuisance. It is evident, therefore, that there is a public perception that the consumption of alcohol in public is an issue.
6. Other Local Authorities have initiated 'Reduce the Strength' campaigns. One such example is Suffolk County Council which launched its campaign in Ipswich in September 2012 in partnership with Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk Constabulary and the East of England Co-operative Society. It was initiated following complaints from the public and businesses that street drinking had become a significant issue.

There were three approaches to the scheme. Off licences were asked to stop selling high-strength alcohol products of 6.5% ABV and above, the police took action where regular street drinking caused disturbances and the County Council put resources into outreach work to encourage drinkers into receiving treatment.

Responsible authorities also made use of the licensing process to 'nudge' retailers into taking part. Council Officers visited businesses upon licensing approval to request that they consider sign up to the scheme citing potential gains for license holders and the benefits to the local community.

This campaign was very successful in that 100 out of 138 off licenses subscribed to the scheme including national supermarkets. Further, the number of street drinkers fell from 70 to just over 20 and incidents in which the public contacted the police in relation to street drinking fell by almost 25%.

A similar scheme was also introduced in Portsmouth. Of 184 off licences, over 100 signed up to the scheme leading to a reduction of 39% in street drinking.

A challenge for both campaigns was the unwillingness of some license holders to be part of the scheme citing loss of earnings. In one case, a license holder was observed breaching licensing regulations by selling alcohol to intoxicated persons but agreed to the voluntary removal of high strength alcohol.

7. It is unlikely that licensees simply not stocking high strength products will have the effect of reducing consumption and associated health problems on its own. What is noticeable from the schemes in both Suffolk and Portsmouth is the fact that a very much joined-up approach with partners was the key to its success. Working with law enforcement and health agencies enabled an approach which was focussed on both anti-social behaviour and encouraging dependent drinkers to seek treatment. If a similar effort to reduce the sale and consumption of high strength alcohol

Section 6 – Recommendations

The Task and Finish Group’s ambitions for the study were:-

- *To reduce harm in community caused by alcohol abuse.*
- *To formulate applicable and enforceable recommendations to reduce negative impact of Street Drinking upon the City.*

The Task and Finish Group’s recommendations are:-

1. To ask the Gloucester City Council representative on the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee to share the Group’s report with the committee to inform the committee’s work planning activity;
2. To share this report with the Director of Public Health for Gloucestershire and the Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities;
3. To share this report with the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board to inform its discussions on the refresh of the Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
4. In partnership with the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, there could be a Voluntary Code of Practice initiative where off licences commit to not selling high strength alcohol products. As noted in this report, there is no current legislation in place for enforcement action to take place;
5. Where clusters of off licences are associated with clusters of ASB, particularly related to alcohol consumption, licensing enforcement team to work with those retailers to reduce the strength of the products available in that location and to consider not selling the lowest priced high strength products;
6. For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the approach taken by the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee at Gloucestershire County Council upon their noting of this report.

Section 7 – Acknowledgements

The Task and Finish Group would like to thank the following for their input to the study:-

- The Licensing Team;
- The City Centre Improvement Team;
- The Community Wellbeing Team;
- The Gloucester Victuallers Association;
- One Legal;
- Democratic Services.

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