

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	10 October 2018
Subject:	Membership of Key Cities Group		
Report Of:	Leader of the Council		
Wards Affected:	all		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director		
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Appendices:	1. Key Cities Brochure		
	2. Terms of Reference – Key Cities		

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To note the scope and potential of the Key Cities Group and to seek approval for the City Council to join as a full member.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) Gloucester City Council become a member of the Key Cities Group

3.0 Background and Key Issues

What is the Key Cities Group?

- 3.1 The Key Cities Group was established in 2013, with Wakefield, Coventry, Derby, Preston and Sunderland councils as founding members. The Key Cities Group is currently chaired by Cllr Peter Box CBE, Leader of Wakefield Council. Membership currently consists of 20 cities across England and Wales. These are: Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bradford, Coventry, Derby, Doncaster, Hull, Kirklees, Newport, Norwich, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Salford, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Sunderland, Tees Valley Mayoral Combined Authority, Wakefield, and Wolverhampton.
- 3.2 The Key Cities constitute 5.8 million people. Together, the Key Cities deliver a GVA of £110 billion to the UK economy. Collectively, the Key Cities are of great importance to the potential of the UK economy, and present a significant opportunity for the UK's growth and productivity. The Key Cities have some of the fastest growing local economies in the UK and major strengths in both manufacturing and exports – one in twelve of all manufacturing jobs in the UK are located in the Key Cities. Out of the top ten places in the UK that export, 5 of these

are Key Cities. The Key Cities is supported by an All-Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster. It works with MPs across the political spectrum to help raise the profile and voice of Key Cities within Whitehall and Parliament and make the case for greater investment in its cities.

What is the Group's purpose?

- 3.3 The purpose of the Key Cities Group is to create a unified voice to ensure that member cities are more visible and consistently represented in policy-making at a regional, national and international level. This is in order to help create vibrant cities which can compete across Europe and the globe for business and growth. The Key Cities Group focuses on lobbying Government and increasing its dialogue and profile with relevant Ministers - based on a clear and consistent set of key asks and messages which are unique to the Group.
- 3.4 The Group works to:
- Provide a united voice for mid-sized cities
 - Make the case for greater investment in its cities, by raising the profile of the cities with Government, businesses and investors
 - Share expertise and promote collaboration between cities, sectors and industries, to share knowledge, ideas, and best practice and to seize post-Brexit opportunities
 - Develop and influence policy to strengthen resilience, and improve economic performance and social cohesion in its cities
- 3.5 Key Cities will also:
- Recognise the diversity of the group and ensure the strengths of individual cities are maximised
 - Working constructively alongside other relevant stakeholders and interest groups, including the Core Cities to enhance the prospects of all UK cities and to promote effective city leadership.

What does membership of the Core Cities Group involve?

- 3.6 Membership of the Key Cities comprises of the Leaders/Elected Mayors and Chief Executives.
- 3.7 Key Cities is not a statutory body but a network, governed by Terms of Reference (see Appendix). Key Cities is comprised of three main bodies:
- Key Cities Full Group, comprised of all member Leaders, Elected Mayors and Chief Executives
 - Key Cities Chief Executive Group
 - Key Cities Executive Group, comprised of an agreed number of member leaders, currently standing at 12
- 3.8 Members of the Key Cities Executive Group will become portfolio holder for a specific topic. In doing so, portfolio holders agree to lead on associated items at meetings, lead on the identification of external funding opportunities and associated projects, and will be supported in their role by their own staff and resources to progress collaborative opportunities/strategic projects.

3.9 The work programme for Key Cities meetings will be responsive to on-going and emerging issues. An annual report will be issued following the AGM each year.

3.8 Member authorities of Key Cities will pay an annual subscription which is currently at £10,000 plus VAT. Secretariat, contracting and financial management support is provided by Wakefield Council. Support for portfolio holders will be provided by their own local authority staff.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 None directly

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 Do nothing. This would prevent Gloucester to have direct influence on national policy in relation to a range of issues including industrial strategy, productivity and growth as part of a recognised and growing network of Key Cities.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 Cabinet recently approved the Council's economic vision for 2025 which states that Gloucester will be known nationally as one of the UKs leading smaller cities, with a distinctive economic identity, increasing levels of prosperity for all residents in the City and a hot bed for start ups, existing firms and inward investors. In order to achieve this it needs to overcome a number of national policy challenges including raising productivity, providing affordable housing, addressing regional inequality and creating a modern infrastructure. This is becoming even more important in the context of the current Gloucestershire Vision 2050 consultation and our support of greater connectivity between the two urban centres acting as a spur for sub-regional growth.

6.2 The Key Cities Network is an established and growing influencer and will provide a voice for Gloucester to influence national policy decisions which is currently lacking and could work in our disadvantage. It will also provide an opportunity for Gloucester to showcase its successes in a number of service areas and learn from others. Feedback from the LGA peer challenge team and, more recently, the State of the City workshop highlight that peers and partners invite us to be confident in promoting the City as a key player and influencer at regional and national level. Preliminary discussions by the Leader and Chief Executive with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Key Cities Group at the LGA Conference were positive and identified mutual benefits for both parties if Gloucester were to join the Key Cities Group.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

7.1 The next steps will be to formalise the City's membership of the Key Cities Group.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The costs of membership for Key Cities in 2018/19 will be met from current budgets.

8.2 For future years the cost of membership will be incorporated into the Councils Money Plan .

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 Membership of the Key Cities Group will be on- going unless terminated by giving 12 months' notice.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

10.1 Membership of the Key Cities Group will be an opportunity to promote the work of the City at national level and to influence government policy.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

11.1 Not applicable

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 None identified

Sustainability

12.2 None identified

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 Not applicable

Background Documents: None