

A Sustainable, Resilient Economy

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Priority Outcome: A Sustainable and Resilient Economy – A more resilient economy adapted to the impacts of climate change and natural and manmade disasters, which realises fully the economic potential of the County's environment and protects it for future generations.

Why is this a priority?

All economies need to adapt to climate change and protect themselves from natural events, such as flooding, major accidents and malicious attacks and the risks associated with global markets and financial changes; those that do so effectively will gain economic advantage and are likely to have developed a more diverse base as a foundation. At the same time the economic potential of the County's environment needs to be realised whilst conserving and enhancing it for future generations as a foundation for a sustainable economy.

Where do we want to be in three years time? By March 2013 Gloucestershire needs to have:

- Developed and implemented solutions to strengthen the critical infrastructure of Gloucestershire.
- Improved yields and reduced losses in land based businesses (farming and forestry).
- Increased the understanding in businesses and organisations of how to improve their resilience to the likely impacts of climate change and maintain business continuity.
- Maintained the diversity of the County's economy by strengthening the sustainability and resilience of key sectors
- Prepared a forward strategy post RDPE support (environmental stewardship, rural diversification and community enterprise)

What we will do this year

Improvement Activity	Planned Benefits	Key Resources	Dates	Lead	Partners
Strategic Infrastructure Planning – Ensure that the needs of businesses are fully recognised in the process.	By 2011 to have a plan to increase the robustness of the County's energy security and critical infrastructure that improves the resilience of the economy. The recommendations of the Pitt Review on flooding, that apply locally, are implemented.	£80k Area Based Grant SIDP/LDFs	Review April 2011	GCC – Nigel Riglar Iain Bryson/ Mark Parker	Utility providers, Emergency Services EA, DCs
Business Continuity Planning – Actively promote the value of planning for the future and ensure the Partnership is in itself well prepared	A greater proportion of the County's businesses have in place plans to continue trading in the event of a disaster as measured by the County's Economic Assessment	Business Link Staff time	Review April 2011	BL – Solutions for Business delivery	CoC, FSB, GCC, LRF Town Centre Management staff

<p>Environmental Goods and Services – Actively encourage the growth of the sector to increase the diversity of the economy and strengthen the advanced engineering sector</p>	<p>Greater diversity of the economy and a stronger presence in a growth sector</p>	<p>GFirst – staff time</p>	<p>Review April 2011</p>	<p>GFirst</p>	<p>Districts, BL</p>
<p>Vision Culture (Food Vision) – to support the establishment of a Community Interest Company in order to deliver the following: <i>Food Security</i> – Facilitate discussion and formulate a strategy and undertake a scoping study of the potential within the GCC rural estate <i>Develop Sector Profile</i> of Food and Drink Sector</p>	<p>Developed a clear strategy and action plan for future work Improved understanding of the threats of food security on the County Increased understanding of the sources of food into the County Increased understanding of how self reliant the County is Increased understanding of the nature of current production on GCC farms Improved understanding of needs and opportunities within Food sector</p>	<p>Vision Culture (Food Vision)staff resource £45k</p>	<p>Review April 2011</p>	<p>Vision Culture – Adrian Jevans</p>	<p>NFU, RAC, Hartpury, GCC, CCRi</p>
<p>Deliver the RDPE Programme – Promote proactively the opportunities for improving viability and resilience of land based businesses in Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>An increase from 7 to 14 in the number of Gloucestershire land-based businesses that have had RDPE grants approved. Reduction in numbers and value of livestock compulsory slaughtered (1888 in 2007, 2492 in 2008 and 2183 in 2009). Take up of commissioned themes by the County’s businesses at least equal in proportion of number of Agriculture holdings to the rest of the Region. Increased number of land managers who have the skills to manage their environmental assets successfully and profitably whilst reducing the environmental risks Active delivery of relevant elements of SW Sustainable Farming & Food Plan</p>	<p>GFirst – staff time £84k Vision Culture staff time RDPE Investment fund</p>	<p>On going until March 2011</p>	<p>GFirst – James Lloyd</p>	<p>NFU, CLA, REPAG, RAC, Hartpury, BL, SWREG, NE, FC, Vision Culture</p>
<p>Maintain the Quality of the Built Environment – Raise awareness and promote the opportunities in the construction sector for gaining the conservation skills needed to maintain the built environment</p>	<p>National Heritage Academy ‘Prospectus’ published. Training providers improve the availability of traditional and conservation skills and courses are fully subscribed. Construction sector recognises the need to have within its workforce individuals with conservation skills</p>	<p>NHA staff time</p>	<p>To be published in September 2010</p>	<p>NHA (SW) – Jane Davis</p>	<p>FE Colleges Construction sector – Constructing Excellence – Princes Trust</p>

How will we know what difference we have made?

Indicator	Baseline	Targets 2010/11	Lead	Links
Number of the 4000 businesses and organisations employing more than 10 people that claim to have an up to date Disaster Recovery Plan	Establish baseline in year 1	TBC	BL	
Number of employees in environmental goods and services	Establish a baseline in year 1	TBC	GFirst	
Rural businesses receiving RDPE grants	7 in 2009/10	14 in 2010/11	GFirst	

Resources:

Gloucestershire First staff time to monitor and implement various projects/initiatives is underpinned by an annual operational budget from GCC totalling £1.4m. Other significant sources of funding supporting activity featured in this card include:

RDPE – £84k to facilitate the County's access to RDPE funds

Area Based Grant – £ 80k to support the strategic planning process

GCC Food Vision Commission – £45k

Note: funding streams may span more than one financial year

Key risks:

The Partnership's full risk register can be viewed at www.glosfirst.co.uk however headline issues, relating to the delivery of the range of Improvement Activity within this card, are considered to be as follows:

Not able to deliver the projects on time – all projects have been asked to develop a project initiation document, detailing activity, timings and staffing implications to contribute to efficient programme management

Unable to secure sufficient resource to deliver Partnership priorities – proposed activity moved to Partnership Gap Analysis and external funding strategy reviewed by Gloucestershire First Senior Management Team and Economic Strategy Advisory Panel

Related Documents and References

Local: Gloucestershire County Council – Summer 2007 Flooding Emergency Report; Gloucestershire Local Resilience Forum; Gloucestershire Food Vision; Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Partnership

Regional/National: The Pitt Review – Lessons learned from the 2007 Floods; DEFRA Flood and Water Management Act 2010; SWRDA Rural Development Programme for England; Business Link Solutions for Business portfolio National Food Strategy, National Heritage Skills (Heritage Training Academy South West), South West Farming and Food Plan (South West Chamber of Rural Enterprise)