



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday 22 January 2020, 2.00 p.m.

Council Chamber, Trinity Road, Cirencester

NOTES

(i) Questions Arising on the Agenda

If any Member has any questions regarding any substantive item contained within the Agenda, he/she is requested to give advance notice of such question to the Officer originating the report or to an Officer of the Democratic Services Section so that a full response can be made available either prior to, or at, the Meeting. If no such advance notification is given, a full response to any question cannot be guaranteed at the Meeting.

(ii) Mobile Phones/Pagers

All mobile phones/pagers should be **SWITCHED OFF OR SET TO SILENT MODE BEFORE** the start of the Meeting.

(iii) Recording of Proceedings

The public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings may be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know before the start of the Meeting.

Recording/filming should not be disruptive or distracting to the good order and conduct of the Meeting. To assist with this, an area of the Meeting venue will be designated from which proceedings can be recorded/filmed, and 'roaming' around the venue while recording is not permitted. The Chair will exclude anyone whose behaviour is disruptive.

Recording/filming should only be of Members and Council Officers, and not any members of the public (unless they are formally addressing the Meeting or unless specific permission has been given by those individuals).

For further information, please read the Notices displayed inside and outside the Meeting venue and/or speak with the Committee Administrator.

(iv) Committee Administrator

If any Member has any general questions about the Meeting or the associated agenda papers, or is unable to attend, he/she is asked to contact Democratic Services on 01285 623005.

Distribution:

All Members of the Council

Nigel Adams
Head of Paid Service

14 January 2020

COUNCIL: 22 JANUARY 2020

AGENDA

(1) **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

(2) **Declarations of Interest**

(a) To receive any declarations of interest from Members under:-

(i) the Code of Conduct for Members; and/or

(ii) Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (any Councillor who has Council Tax payments remaining unpaid for at least two months must declare an interest and not participate in any matter affecting the level of Council tax or arrangements for administering the Council Tax).

(b) To receive any declarations of interest from Officers under the Code of Conduct for Officers.

(3) **Minutes** - To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 27 November/5 December 2019.

(4) **Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Head of Paid Service**

(5) **Public Questions**

Council Procedure Rule 10 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by members of the public on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

(6) **Member Questions**

Council Procedure Rule 11 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by Members on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

The following questions have been submitted:-

(i) **Question from Councillor Sue Jepson to Councillor Nigel Robbins, Chair of the Council**

'I understand that all members were invited to a gathering on Tuesday 17th December, together with our officers, to bid a friendly farewell to Mr David Neudegg - for ten years or more this Council's Chief Executive. Given Mr Neudegg's widely recognised track record of delivering ground-breaking change at this council - and also our partner councils - could the Chairman please explain why he was unable to attend or, indeed, to send a deputy?

(ii) Question from Councillor Mark Annett to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

'I understand that all members were invited to a gathering on Tuesday 17th December, together with our officers, to bid a friendly farewell to Mr David Neudegg, for ten years or more this council's Chief Executive. Given Mr Neudegg's widely recognised track record of delivering ground-breaking change at this council – and at our partner councils – could the Leader of the Council please explain why he was unable to attend? Perhaps he could also comment as to why no member of his Cabinet or indeed no member of the whole Cotswold Liberal Democrat group were able to attend either?'

(iii) Question from Councillor Stephen Hirst to Councillor Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

'There was a survey in the local press recently regarding the provision of affordable social housing in the County. All six District Councils were asked to express their plans to increase the supply of affordable social housing to meet demand; five councils provided reasoned positive statements. Cotswold District Council on the other hand provided what could only be described as a political rant against the previous Cotswold administration.

This would indicate that the current administration have no reasoned plans to provide new affordable homes, after all they keep repeating that we have a housing crisis in the Cotswolds. How do they intend to resolve this?'

(iv) Question from Councillor Stephen Hirst to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

'Is it not time that this current administration provide a detailed, costed and comprehensive Corporate Plan to provide major benefits for the residents of the Cotswolds following more than ten years of progressive benefit achievement for all residents?'

(v) Question from Councillor Julian Beale to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

'May we please be informed if and when Mr Jan Britton will make a formal presentation to Councillors of his progress plans and aspirations for Publica?'

(vi) Question from Councillor Ray Theodoulou to Councillor Mike Evely, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

'Last year CDC provided in the budget a sum of £500,000 to facilitate broadband services in hard to reach areas of the District.

Can the Deputy Leader confirm that the provision is unused and remains in the accounts; also will the Deputy Leader advise Council what plans he has to use this reserve for the purpose?'

(vii) Question from Councillor Ray Theodoulou to Councillor Mike Evely, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

'The provisional budget proposes a significant level of borrowing for CDC which has for many years been debt free. Will the Deputy Leader confirm how the debt trajectory will rise in the life of this Council and list the projects each with its associated borrowings included in this forecast.

Will he also provide an estimated annual cost of servicing this debt as to interest and capital repayment as well as detail how this debt will be sourced?

Will he also confirm that before incurring any borrowing the Administration will dispose of investment assets held for yield only as opposed to strategic holdings?’

(viii) Question from Councillor Sue Jepson to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

‘Could the Leader of the Council please explain the delay in bestowing Honorary Alderman status on those former members of this Council who either stood-down or were not re-elected at the May 2019 District elections, and who had amassed the necessary length of service and points under the rules of our extant Constitution.

It is now more than eight months since those elections. Today’s meeting is the sixth meeting of full council (including Special Meetings) to have taken place since those elections and the matter is once again not on the agenda.

In the continued absence of the necessary Officer Report, please could the Leader publish as part of his answer to my question both the extant “point-scoring” rules under which those members would have served this council, together with the “points” amassed by each councillor who either stood down or were not re-elected in May 2019?’

(ix) Question from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

‘How often is the housing list reviewed to check on whether individuals’ and families’ requirements have changed or to find out if they have been found homes by some other agency or means?’

(x) Question from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

‘Parish and Town Councils conduct housing needs surveys when doing their Neighbourhood or Local Plans - are these cross-referenced with the housing lists to clarify where and what types of homes are required?’

(xi) Question from Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

‘In the ‘Budget Consultation Pack’ you quote that Government funding has decreased from £5.9 million in 2009/10 to £2.5million in 2019/20. Please could you tell me how much of this drop in funding has been managed through the various joint working initiatives which finally led to setting up Publica?’

(xii) Question from Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

‘The Cabinet report on the Medium -Term Financial Strategy and Budget highlights a number of areas where funds either have been committed (£47 thousand on increased Members Allowances, FTE for a Climate Change Manager etc.), or are planned expenditure such as:-

- Strategic financial support enhancement £50k

- Commercialisation strategy development £350k
- Property options £50k
- Development of a strategy for Health, Wellbeing and Leisure £50k

Please could you explain how these latter monies are to be spent and the expected outcome and the total cost of the initiatives (including office refurbishment and the cost of officers.'

(xiii) Question from Councillor Stephen Andrews to Councillor Rachel Coxcoon, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy

'In July 2019 the Council declared a state of Climate Emergency and committed to carbon and energy targets.

In September 2019 the Council approved that funding of £70,000 be provided to Publica for the recruitment of a Strategic Climate Change Manager in this Financial Year. It is understood that this appointment has now been made. Can Cllr Coxcoon please provide detail of the the priorities that the Strategic Climate Change Manager will be working to, in particular the top three priorities they will be given, together with the key milestones for the delivery of tangible and measurable outcomes for each of those three priorities in order that it can subsequently be shown that this post is delivering, on time, the work expected of them by this Council in line with the urgency this Council has given to this subject.'

(xiv) Question from Councillor Stephen Andrews to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

'Although the prime focus of this question is in the context of the declaration by this Council of a Climate Change Emergency in July 2019, it also cuts across areas that are the responsibility of others in the Cabinet.

The Planning Committee have on a number of occasions commented upon their inability to be more proactive in addressing Climate Change issues when considering Planning Applications.

The Government is currently consulting on the "The Future Homes Standard" that should be applied to all new build housing. The consultation specifically covers proposed changes to Part L (conservation of fuel and power) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations for new dwellings. This consultation has been open since October 2019 and is due to finish on the 7th February 2020.

Can Cllr Joe Harris confirm that this Council is preparing a response based upon its experience as a Local Planning Authority and its planned efforts to address Climate Change? Can he also reassure Councillors, particularly those who are members of the Planning Committee, that they will have the opportunity to comment on that response before it is submitted?'

(xv) Question from Councillor Richard Norris to Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Public Safety

'The Communities of Tetbury and Fairford welcomed the decision taken by the Cabinet on the 4th November 2019 to:

- prioritise potential solutions for Tetbury and Fairford, and invite engagement with interested parties in those towns to help with our research and to frame the future; whilst,

- in the meantime, and without prejudicing the strategy work, reaffirm that the Council would be prepared to consider funding well-planned and costed solutions in future that demonstrate real community benefit.

This was set against the work that was continuing at that time relating to the production of a District-wide leisure strategy, looking at provision holistically, based on current and future needs.

During the debate at that Cabinet meeting, Cllr Mark Harris noted that it was reasonable for the communities of Tetbury and Fairford to know when this District-wide leisure strategy might be available in order that they could frame their own work. In response, Cllr Forde reassured Cabinet that she anticipated its completion at Easter.

Can Cllr Forde reassure the communities of Tetbury and Fairford that this remains the case and that they can expect to be contacted imminently to assist with the research being undertaken in advance of the completion of the Leisure Strategy this coming Easter?’

- (xvi) Question from Councillor Richard Norris to Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Public Safety

‘There is a budgetary provision of £1.2m to increase capacity at Cirencester leisure centre, increase revenue generation and/or make provision for activities that are not currently being provided. Alternative options such as ten pin bowling have also been presented.

A recent report provided to Overview and Scrutiny advises that no decision has been made regarding these options. There is an aspiration to commission consultants to complete a leisure facility strategy for the Cotswold District which will require approval from Cabinet. Does this form part of the Health and Well Being Strategy and when will this happen?’

- (7) Petitions (if any)

Items for Decision

- (8) Additional Funds for the Construction Phase of the Rugby Club Car Park, Cirencester
- (9) Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020/21
- (10) Schedule of Meetings 2020/21 and Meeting Arrangements

Other Matters

- (11) Schedule of Decisions taken at Cabinet - 2 December 2019 and 6 January 2020
- (12) Schedule of Decisions taken at Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 3 December 2019

(13) **Notice of Motions**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Motions have been received:-

(i) **Motion 14 of 2019/20 re: Mental Health**

Proposed by Councillor Jenny Forde, Seconded by Councillor Rachel Coxcoon:

This Council notes:

- *1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.*
- *The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.*
- *Mental ill health costs some £105 billion each year in England alone.*
- *People with a severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.*

This Council believes:

- *As a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community and tackling some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health.*
- *Mental health should be a priority across all the local authority's areas of responsibility, including housing, community safety and planning.*
- *All Councillors, whether Members of the Executive or Scrutiny and in our community and casework roles, can play a positive role in championing mental health on an individual and strategic basis.*

This Council resolves:

- *To sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge run by Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, AMHP, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds.*
- *We commit to appoint an elected Member as 'mental health champion' across the Council.*
- *We will seek to identify a member of staff within the Council to act as 'lead officer' for mental health.*

The Council will also:

- *Support positive mental health in our community, including in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces.*
- *Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community.*
- *Work with local partners to offer effective support for people with mental health needs.*
- *Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community.*
- *Proactively listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health.*

(ii) **Motion 15 of 2019/20 re: General Election - December 2019**

Proposed by Councillor Sue Jepson, Seconded by Councillor Mark Annett:

Council congratulates Mr Boris Johnson on the very significant General Election Result and warmly welcomes the fact that Gloucestershire is represented once gain by a full slate of six Conservative Members of Parliament.

Accordingly, the Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister expressing our collective congratulations and willingness to work closely with his parliamentary colleagues to the benefit of all the residents of the Cotswold District.

(iii) Motion 16 of 2019/20 re: Electoral Wards

Proposed by Councillor Stephen Andrews, Seconded by Councillor Tony Berry:

This Council notes that whilst a boundary review for the Wards of Cotswold District Council was completed in 2014 much has changed across the District that was not taken into account at that time. This has included developments in areas of the Cotswold that have added significantly to the number of electors in some Wards and the decline in the number of Electors in some Wards for other reasons.

The table below provides a breakdown by Ward of elector representation. It is based on the 1st August 2019 electoral register.

<i>Srl</i>	<i>Ward</i>	<i>Number of Electors</i>	<i>Number of Councillors</i>	<i>Elector Representation</i>
1	Abbey	1921	1	1921
2	Blockley	2130	1	2130
3	Bourton Vale	2204	1	2204
4	Bourton Village	2452	1	2452
5	Campden & Vale	4872	2	2436
6	Chedworth & Churn Valley	1990	1	1990
7	Chesterton	1884	1	1884
8	Coln Valley	2009	1	2009
9	Ermin	2064	1	2064
10	Fairford North	2007	1	2007
11	Fosseridge	2134	1	2134
12	Four Acres	1573	1	1573
13	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	2091	1	2091
14	Kemble	2155	1	2155
15	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	4851	2	2426
16	Moreton East	2327	1	2327
17	Moreton West	1961	1	1961
18	New Mills	1882	1	1882
19	Northleach	2201	1	2201
20	Sandywell	2147	1	2147
21	Siddington & Cerney Rural	2102	1	2102
22	South Cerney Village	2106	1	2106
23	St Michael's	1865	1	1865
24	Stow	2099	1	2099
25	Stratton	2083	1	2083
26	Tetbury East & Rural	1901	1	1901
27	Tetbury Town	1790	1	1790
28	Tetbury with Upton	1721	1	1721
29	The Ampneys & Hampton	2207	1	2207
30	The Beeches	2238	1	2238

31	<i>The Rissingtons</i>	1997	1	1997
32	<i>Watermoor</i>	2077	1	2077
	<i>Totals:</i>	71041	34	

The current allocation of electors to Wards shows a discrepancy between one Ward in Cirencester (Four Acres) which has only 1573 electors whilst others have in excess of 2400 electors per Councillor with the District having an average of 2089 electors per Councillor. This represents a significant electoral inequality within the District where the smallest ward is some 33% smaller than the average number of electors per Ward Councillor.

To quote the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) "The most common reasons for undertaking an electoral review are where significant change in population, localised increases from major housing developments or the movement of people into, out of, or within the local authority have resulted in poor levels of electoral equality"¹.

A review can be conducted at the request of the local authority or may be triggered by particular circumstances - such as when a Ward is plus or minus 30% (or more) from the average number of electors per Ward Councillor for the authority.

This District has met that particular circumstance. The motion is therefore that:

- the Administration should now seek a review by the LGBCE in order to address this democratic deficit; and,*
- the review be completed in time for any changes to be in place for the District elections to be held in May 2023.'*

(iv) Motion 17 of 2019/20 re: Cirencester Very Light Railway

Proposed by Councillor Mark Harris and Seconded by Councillor Tony Berry:

For the past four years Cllr Harris and Cllr Berry have been working with local groups on developing a feasibility study to unlock Government funding for connecting a Very Light Railway from Kemble to Cirencester.

Those Groups include Cirencester Town Council, St James's Place, Cirencester Community Development Trust, a representative from Kemble Parish Council, and several interested individuals.

The first phase of the study will cost £53,000. CTC, St James's Place, the Development Trust, the Winstone Trust and a local businessman have all pledged monies towards that and we are seeking £13,000 to make up the short-fall.

On the 16th November the Prime Minister announced £500m of funding to reopen former Beeching lines - [\[https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/11/15/conservatives-reopen-railway-lines-closed-1960s-beeching-cuts/\]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/11/15/conservatives-reopen-railway-lines-closed-1960s-beeching-cuts/). In order to access that money, there needs to be a plan.

There are clearly environmental benefits over road use, not least the reduction in the amount of particulate matter that buses create from brake linings and rubber tyres on tarmac, known as the Oslo effect - [\[https://www.apprguk.co.uk/media/files/LR-UK-Transport-Select-Committee-March-2017-v26pdf\]](https://www.apprguk.co.uk/media/files/LR-UK-Transport-Select-Committee-March-2017-v26pdf).

¹ <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/how-reviews-work>

Council agrees to support the development of a feasibility study for a Very Light Railway from Kemble to Cirencester by funding the current shortfall of £13,000. This will help:

- *address the Climate Change Emergency*
- *reduce rural isolation*
- *support the local economy*
- *reduce particulate emissions.*

It will also provide a template for opening other lines in the Cotswolds such as Tetbury, Bourton and others.

(v) Motion 18 of 2019/20 re: Domestic Violence

Proposed by Councillor Forde, Seconded by Councillor Nick Maunder:

Council notes:

- *An estimated 1.9 million adults aged 16 to 59 experience domestic abuse each year.*
- *Between March 2018 and March 2019, there were 751 domestic abuse referrals to Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) for the Cotswold District and 7,017 referrals across Gloucestershire.*
- *In most rural areas, abuse can last 25 per cent longer due to isolation and rural victims are half as likely as urban victims to report their abuse.*

Council commends:

- *The work done by organisations such as GDASS and Gloucestershire Constabulary to raise awareness of, and tackle domestic abuse in all its forms.*
- *The recent '16 days of action' campaign that Cotswold District Council participated in.*
- *The work done by the Hollie Gazzard Trust & GDASS in Gloucestershire to raise awareness of domestic violence, to provide support to young people and deliver healthy relationship education.*

Council resolves to:

- *Develop an ongoing programme of events and awareness-raising across the Cotswolds and utilise the expertise of the Safer Communities Project Officer.*
- *Ensure all our frontline services have the skills, training and attitude to recognise signs of domestic abuse and act appropriately.*
- *To work through the Community Safety Partnership to raise awareness and improve access to support services, particularly in our rural communities.*
- *To continue to build, expand and support our DA Champion network across the Cotswold District to support communities to come together to make the Cotswolds safer.*
- *Work with our DA partners, specifically GDASS & the Hollie Gazzard Trust, to raise awareness of the charities work, aims and objectives within the Cotswold District.*

(14) **Sealing of Documents**

To resolve:

“that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to all contracts, conveyances and any other documents necessary for carrying into effect all resolutions passed by the Council.”

Note:

The Register of Sealing will be available at the Meeting for Members’ inspection.

(END)