

# Public Document Pack



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Wednesday, 5 May 2021

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## CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held in the Council Chamber, at the Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester on **Thursday, 13 May 2021 at 6.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver  
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Cabinet

(Councillors Rachel Coxcoon, Tony Dale, Andrew Doherty, Mike Evemy, Jenny Forde, Joe Harris, Lisa Spivey and Clive Webster)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to 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 prior to the date of the meeting.

# AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**  
To receive any declarations of interest from Members and Officers, relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)**  
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 April 2021.
4. **Leader's Announcements (if any)**
5. **Public Questions**  
To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions from each member of the public should be no longer than two minutes each and relate issues under the Committee's remit.
6. **Member Questions**  
To deal with written questions by Members, relating to issues under the Committee's remit, with the maximum length of oral supplementary questions at Committee being no longer than one minute. Responses to any supplementary questions will be dealt with in writing if they cannot be dealt with at the meeting.
7. **Ubico Business Plan 2021-2022 (Pages 9 - 30)**
8. **Spacehive: Pledge Decision Process and Scheme Criteria (Pages 31 - 40)**
9. **Partial Update of the adopted Local Plan - Project Update (Pages 41 - 136)**
10. **Re-opening of the High Streets Safely Fund - Welcome Back Fund (Pages 137 - 142)**
11. **Funding & Contract Changes to support BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Pages 143 - 148)**
12. **Funding for Improvement Works to Rissington Road Car Park, Bourton-on-the-Water (Pages 149 - 154)**

(END)

Cabinet  
12 April 2021



COTSWOLD  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

In accordance with relevant legislation, these minutes are a record of decisions taken. They are not intended to be a verbatim account of the meeting. A full recording of the meeting can be accessed at the Facebook link at [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk).

## Minutes of a meeting of Cabinet held remotely on 12 April 2021

Councillors present:

Joe Harris - Chair

Tony Dale  
Andrew Doherty

Jenny Forde  
Mike Evemy  
Lisa Spivey

Clive Webster

Officers present:

Chief Executive  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Legal Services Manager  
Managing Director, Publica  
Group Finance Director, Publica  
Business Manager - Corporate  
Responsibility  
Business Manager Operation Services,  
Revenue and Housing Support

Group Manager - Commissioning  
Business Manager - Localities  
Shared Tourism Services Manager, Tourism  
Services  
Forward Planning Manager  
Cabinet Support Officer  
Democratic Services

Observers: Councillors Stephen Andrews, Tony Berry, Patrick Coleman, Nikki Ind.

CAB.126 Apologies were received from Councillor Coxcoon.

### CAB.127 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Officers.

### CAB.128 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet of 1 March 2021 be approved as a correct record:

**Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstention 0, absent 1.**

## **CAB.129 Leader's Announcements**

The Leader paid tribute to HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, who passed away on Friday 9 April, aged 99. The Leader commented that HRH had contributed greatly to the monarch and the country as a whole.

He added that he had been fortunate to meet HRH at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in 2015 when he had shown a great interest in and knowledge of Cirencester.

Councillor Dale echoed the comments of the Leader and explained he had also been fortunate enough to once meet HRH in person.

## **CAB.130 Public Questions**

No questions had been received from members of the public.

## **CAB.131 Member Questions**

No questions had been received from Members.

## **CAB.132 Proposals for transferring current contract cleaning to Publica management and extending office-opening hours**

The Cabinet received a report detailing a proposal for more flexible facilities management arrangements for the office-cleaning, opening and use of the offices at Trinity Road.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and highlighted various aspects.

The Cabinet expressed their support for the recommendations, particularly regarding the importance of ensuring Publica was seen to be paying the real living wage to employees and the flexible benefits there would be to both Members and Officers of extending the opening hours of the offices.

The Cabinet requested if the Deputy Chief Executive could review the arrangements for lock-up arrangements for the offices going forward and extended their thanks to the cleaning staff for their work over the last year in ensuring the offices were safe to be used.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- a) the Cabinet request Publica undertake the cleaning service (with pay based on the Living Wage Foundation minimum living wage) at an estimated annual cost of £70,466 and one off Costs of £3,200, and that the Council;
- b) extend opening hours for officer and Member use between 7pm - 9pm weekdays and 9am - 1pm on Saturdays.

**Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstention 0, absent 1.**

### **CAB.133 Review of Tourism Service and Visitor Economy**

The Cabinet was requested to review the work and impact of the tourism activity carried out by the Council including the Cotswold's Tourism Destination Management Organisation and The Visitor Information Centres and the role they played in supporting the local Visitor Economy.

The Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills introduced the report and highlighted various aspects.

The Leader extended his thanks to the Cabinet Member and Officers for their work in relation to the review and commented upon the importance of ensuring tourism within the District was sustainable going forward.

#### **RESOLVED that Cabinet:**

- a) Establish with partners a joint Advisory Board to provide stronger governance over the activities of the Cotswold Destination Management Organisation;**
- b) Ask the officers supporting the Advisory Board to:**
  - i. Refresh the Destination Management plan and response to different visitor destinations, including Cotswold Water Park;**
  - ii. develop a range of key performance indicators to monitor impact;**
  - iii. prepare a prioritised action plan for a programme of work, including work to support the Green Economy, Sustainable Tourism, businesses transition to digital services and funding for visitor information services;**
  - iv. prepare a Communication Strategy;**
  - v. review the DMO business member levels and funding structure.**

**Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstention 0, absent 1.**

### **CAB.134 Publica Business Plan 2021-22**

The Cabinet was requested to consider the Business Plan 2020-22, first approved in June 2020, to note progress and to recommend that the Leader approve the Plan.

The Managing Director of Publica was invited to address the Cabinet and explained that 2021 was the second year of the two-year Plan. He added that a review had been carried out which had confirmed the longer-term aims of the Plan remained unchanged, despite the effect of Covid-19, but that whilst good progress had been made, this had been limited due to the effect of the pandemic.

The Leader thanked Mr. Britton for his work but commented that he considered the cultural change of the organisation was taking place too slowly, but that the refresh of the Publica Board, including a new Chair, would, he hoped, enable change to happen more quickly going forward.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend that the Leader (as Shareholder) approve the Publica Business Plan 2020-22.**

**Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstention 0, absent 1.**

**CAB.135 Equality and Diversity Policy**

The Cabinet received a report detailing the Council's legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and how the Council could comply as it continued to work in partnership.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing introduced the report and in doing so, extended her thanks to Officers for their work on the Policy. She added that it was important that as a public service provider, the Council represented all residents and groups of the District fairly and equally.

The Deputy Leader commented that the Policy was related to a Motion presented by himself and the Cabinet Member to Council at its meeting in July 2019, which covered a culture change the administration wished to undertake to the Council to ensure it was an inclusive organisation which set standards for others to follow.

In response to a question, the Managing Director of Publica confirmed that Publica's Equality Policy sat back to back with the policies of the four partner councils and that there was a large amount of agreement across the partnership.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the Policy.**

**Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstention 0, absent 1.**

**CAB.136 Contribution towards a Business Case for the restoration of the former rail connection between Kemble and Cirencester**

The Cabinet was requested to consider a report which sought a contribution by the Council towards the feasibility study of the proposals.

In the absence of the Cabinet Member from the meeting, the Cabinet Member for the Planning Department, Town and Parish Councils introduced the report.

The Forward Planning Manager was invited to address the Cabinet and advised that the Cirencester Community Rail Group had undertaken a high-level feasibility study and that Officers from the Council had been invited to be Board Members of the Group.

The Chief Executive reported that he had been speaking with Councillors regarding the project and that he considered it was one that had 'incredible merit'. He added that he would be ensuring the Council was holistic in providing solutions to any issues and that the project was likely to change and adapt as time moved on.

Councillor Berry, as the Ward Member for Kemble, was then invited to address the Council. He reported that the original feasibility study was £180,000 and that it had been decided to split this amount into two phases. He added that there was much excitement for the project and it was hoped that by leading the project as a 'pioneer', the project would receive significant funding from the Government for a project which was expected to have a lifespan of between 100 and 120 years.

The Cabinet expressed their support for the recommendations and commented that it was a vital element of infrastructure that was missing from Cirencester. Members also commented that the project would need substantial amounts of research and investment, but would complement other Council work such as the Green Economic Growth Strategy.

The Leader wished to place on record his thanks to Councillors Berry and Mark Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Gunner for their work on the project to date.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet agree to contribute £10,000 towards the cost of the Strategic Outline Business Case and a Secondary Phase Feasibility Study.**

**Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstention 0, absent 1.**

**CAB.137 Bourton-on-the-Water Tourism Charge Consultation**

The Cabinet received a report detailing the results of the Bourton-on-the-Water tourism charge consultation and to seek approval on how the proceeds of the tourism charge could be utilised.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report and advised it represented a follow-up to the Cabinet decision of December 2020, which had been implemented on 9 March 2021. He added that the Council had consulted with residents early in 2021, to which 265 responses had been received and that the main concerns related to the installation of bollards; additional enforcement and increased waste bin provision.

The Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills extended his thanks to all residents who worked with visitors to the village, but commented that he considered the proposals of the report were defensive rather than proactively encouraging steps to prevent issues in the future.

Other Cabinet Members highlighted that this represented an ideal opportunity to pilot a model, which, if successful, could be extended and adapted to other tourism areas experiencing issues within the District and commented upon the high-level of responses received to the consultation.

The Deputy Leader responded that previous thought had been given to signage on the A429 highlighting parking space availability, but that in future the plan was to mitigate the problems and that he had been working closely with Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council. He added that he was aware of other locations within the District that could benefit from assistance in the future and that it was hoped the Council would provide support to them.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet approve:**

- a) **An increase in litter bins as set out in 3.2 of the report;**
- b) **an increase in officer presence through the Civic Pride project during peak visitor season;**
- c) **the installation of bollards opposite Rissington Road car park;**
- d) **an annual consultation with local residents and the Parish Council to inform decisions on other improvements for consideration**
- e) **that delegation be given to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, and Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council to approve the spending of any balance of the £25,000 budget to help support Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council initiatives.**

**Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstention 0, absent 1.**

**CAB.138 Schedule of Decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and/or individual Cabinet Members**

Cabinet noted the decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the previous Meeting of the Cabinet, which were set out in full in the agenda.

**CAB.139 Issues arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit Committee**


There were no issues arising.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.35pm.

Chair

(END)



 <b>COTSWOLD</b> DISTRICT COUNCIL	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET – 13 MAY 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 7</b>
Subject	<b>UBICO BUSINESS PLAN 2021-22</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris      Leader of the Council Tel: (01285) 263000 Email: <a href="mailto:joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk">joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Robert Weaver      Chief Executive Tel: (01285) 263000 Email: <a href="mailto:Robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk">Robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Report author	Scott Williams – Business Manager Contracts Email: <a href="mailto:scott.williams@publicagroup.uk">scott.williams@publicagroup.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To consider the Ubico Business Plan 2021-22, to note progress and recommend the Leader, approves the Plan.
Annexes	Annex A - Ubico Business Plan 2021-22
Recommendation/s	That Cabinet recommends that the Leader (as Shareholder representative) approves the Ubico Business Plan 2021-22, subject to any comments it wishes to make.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to the challenges presented by the Climate Change Emergency</li> <li>• Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standard</li> </ul>
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The following people have all been consulted on this report and the detail contained within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Joe Harris</li> <li>• Councilor Mike Every</li> <li>• Councillor Andrew Doherty</li> <li>• Senior Council and Publica Officers.</li> </ul>

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- I.1. Cotswold District Council (CDC), is a shareholder in Ubico Limited, a Teckal company designed to deliver environmental services, offering better value for money than commercial contracts.
- I.2. The Teckal model enables Councils to commission services without the costs associated with an EU procurement process. Ubico delivers environmental services on behalf of the Council at a cost price. Ubico holds no assets, the depot it operates from, the vehicles it uses to perform the services and the waste and recycling containers which are provided to residents are all owned by the authority. This ensures that the shareholders have full control over high value expenditure.
- I.3. As part of the establishment of Ubico, a number of items were identified as reserved matters for Council approval to ensure that shareholder Councils retained an element of control over their company.
- I.4. To assist the Leader in reaching his decision the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation on the Draft Business Plan in early 2021 and were invited to suggest appropriate amendments before it was adopted.
- I.5. Cabinet is also invited to review the business plan and suggest any amendments.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1. The Business Plan provides the vehicle to carry forward and address the issues identified by partners. The 5 year vision developed by the Ubico Board of Directors in 2020 identifies the following priorities:

- Leveraging synergies and economies of scale
- Harnessing opportunities to deliver value back to our partners
- Using technology to drive operational efficiency
- Understanding our communities' needs
- Inspiring our workforce to be committed to providing value for money and carbon neutral services

- 2.2 Ubico's 2021/22 business plan and 5-year vision is built around four key pillars:

### People

We will have a well-trained, supported and engaged workforce who live our values and are proud to work for Ubico.

### Operations

We will deliver high quality services, which remain safe and compliant, seeking continuous improvement in productivity, value and service excellence. We will harness innovation where appropriate and will explore synergies and opportunities for partnership and cross boundary working.

### Climate

We will minimise our environmental impact and support our shareholders to meet their carbon neutral targets, integrating carbon reduction opportunities wherever reasonably possible in both our fleet and non-fleet activities.

### Business Development

We will build business development capability, which enhances our partnerships and allows for effective identification, analysis and presentation to shareholders of potential new business opportunities. We will explore opportunities that aren't simply about profit, including those that would deliver greater value, help our communities or improve services.

- 2.3 Working in partnership, the Council, Ubico and Publica implemented a waste and recycling service redesign in March 2020, which has increased the opportunity for residents to recycle.
- 2.4 In support of Ubico and its vision, the Council has recently procured and implemented an environmental services back office system with In-Cab technology, which will provide both service related and financial benefits for both partners.
- 2.4 In support of the Councils service related and financial priorities, Publica is working in partnership with Ubico to develop an Environmental Services Innovation Program (ESIP) which will bring forward opportunities to deliver better services to residents, reduce the effect services have on the climate and environment and capture efficiency and financial savings for all partners.

## **3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1. The benefits of adopting the Business Plan are to enable a sustained focus on the Council's priorities and the longer horizon fits better with the nature of the Plan and the Council Priorities.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with the Ubico Business Plan, although the company has committed to supporting the Council deliver against its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings, which shall be delivered as part of the emerging Environmental Services Innovation Program (ESIP).

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This Business Plan has to be adopted in accordance with The Members' Agreement for Ubico Limited.

## **6. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1. There are no specific risks in adopting the Ubico business plan. The Council is a shareholder in the company and is committing to a 5 year contract extension (with a break clause at 2 years) which reaffirms its commitment to Ubico.
- 6.2. If the Council does not approve the plan there is a risk that the company will not be able to support some of the activities necessary to deliver the savings set out in the Council's MTFS or its corporate priorities.

**7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 7.1. The Cabinet is free to make comments in relation to the Plan, but proposed amendments will need to be agreed by the other partner councils.

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1. None



# **Company 5 Year Vision and 2021/22 Business Plan**

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# 1 Business Overview

## 1.1 Introduction

Ubico is a successful and well-respected local authority owned company operating across Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire. Our success is underpinned by a commitment to delivering safe and high quality services that meet the needs of our Local Authority shareholders and the residents they serve.

2020 has brought us a considerably different challenge to anything we have ever faced before; a global pandemic, with us continuing to deliver essential front line services throughout. In 2021/22 we will still be working in the presence of the virus and much ongoing work will still be needed to meet the challenges that that brings.

Against an already challenging backdrop of stretched public finances, the impact of the pandemic has also brought additional financial challenges for our local authority shareholders. In 2021/22 we will continue to support our partners in meeting these challenges by exploring synergies and opportunities for collaboration across our operating area which should deliver efficiencies.

Our contracts with our existing shareholder authorities will be renewed or extended in 2021/22 and, should we be successful in our tender for delivering services for Gloucester City from 2022, a large element of the work that we undertake will be around the integration of our eighth shareholder and preparing for mobilising their services. The addition of Gloucester City will deliver many benefits and opportunities for all of our shareholding authorities.

We will continue to invest in and support our people, who are the key to Ubico's success, and will seek to modernise our working practices and improve our use of technology to support them in delivering efficient, effective services. Health and Safety remains our number one priority, and we will seek to continuously improve our performance, gaining re-accreditation to ISO 45001 for our Health and Safety Management System and increasingly seeking to benchmark our performance against the market. We will continue to drive positive engagement with our staff in the area of health and safety to improve our health and safety culture and will continue our focus on wellbeing and mental health.

## 1.2 Our Shareholders

Ubico is a wholly-owned local authority company with seven shareholders, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.










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### 1.3 Our services

We deliver front line environmental services including waste and recycling collections, street cleaning and grounds maintenance. The full list of the services we provide on behalf of each of our shareholding local authorities is shown in the table below.

							
Fleet Management and Maintenance							
MOT and Taxi Testing							
Street Cleaning							
Recycling Centre Management							
Recycling Collections							
Refuse Collections							
Cemetery Maintenance							
Garden Waste Collections							
Public Toilet Cleaning							
Building Cleaning							
Pest Control							
Bring Bank Operations							
Winter Maintenance (gritting)							
Caretaking Services							
Car Park Cleaning							
Trade Waste / Recycling Collections							
Grounds Maintenance							
Bulky Waste Collections							
Clinical Waste Collections							
Land Drainage Ditch maintenance							
Street name plates and road signs							
Recycling Bulking and Transfer							



## 1.4 Looking Back: 20/21 Review

### 2020: Our COVID Response

COVID safety measures were introduced across the business



- Hand sanitisers installed
- Rigorous vehicle cab cleaning regimes followed
- Enhanced PPE provided to all staff
- Perspex screens installed at all our sites
- Offices reorganised to enable social distancing and one way systems introduced
- Staff bubbles created and maintained and staff working from home where possible



Frontline services were largely maintained as usual



We collected up to 35% more recycling and 7% more refuse compared to 2019



Business Continuity Plans regularly reviewed and updated in partnership with commissioners



Dedicated COVID response task forces established for all areas of the business



686 employees and all our union representatives kept informed through regular communications



We maintained our compliance audits virtually and undertook 11 health, safety and environment audits and 22 fleet audits

## 2020: Our Achievements

### Health, Safety, and Environmental Management

We achieved reaccreditation to:

- ISO14001 for our Environmental Management System
- ISO45001 for our Health and Safety Management System
- The Contractors Health and Safety Scheme (CHAS)
- The Alcumus Group Safe Contractor Scheme (formerly EXOR)



### Our Performance

Compared to 2019, in 2020:

Accidents accounting in lost time were reduced by



Property accidents reduced by



Overtime hours worked reduced by



Service complaints reduced by



Non conformities in internal compliance audits reduced by



### Our People

We improved our support for our staff in the area of mental health and wellbeing through:

- Production of our first Wellbeing and Mental Health Policy and key objectives
- Greater promotion and easier access to our Employee Assistance Programme
- Increasing general staff communications and awareness of mental health and wellbeing



In 2020 we set up the Ubico Training Centre



We are exploring expanding our apprenticeship opportunities to reach more individuals and incorporate more roles.

## Operations

In March 2020 we launched a new waste and recycling service in the Cotswolds



## Carbon Reduction

- We engaged with industry experts to ensure our vehicles are specified to achieve the best possible environmental performance, in line with available budgets.
- We undertook a driver performance pilot with 5 drivers which saw a 10% improvement in MPG in just 8 weeks, saving 0.9t of carbon dioxide and over £300 in fuel costs.
- We purchased a hybrid van in the Cotswolds and an electric car was brought on fleet with an electric sweeper due later in 2021 in West Oxfordshire.
- We undertook demonstrations of electric refuse vehicles and electric sweepers
- We are currently undertaking a joint procurement project with 3 of our partners for 9 electric vans
- Our new tyre policy and supply contract saved the equivalent of over 30 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in it's first 8 months



## Productivity

We undertook a trial of a shared, cloud-based workspace to incorporate and link online forms and dashboards



An 'In-cab' technology project is underway in the Cotswolds for implementation in Spring 2021, to help connect our workforce



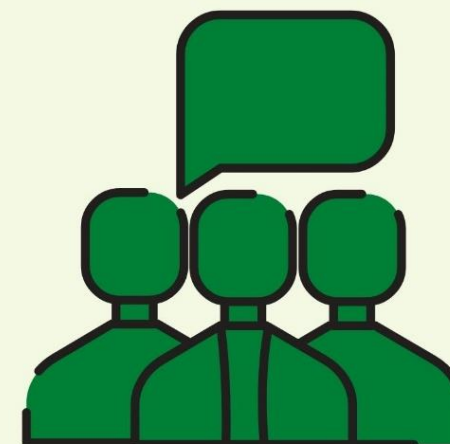
We launched a Fleet Management System in our Cheltenham workshop



We introduced new working patterns in our vehicle workshops, improving resilience and reducing vehicle downtime

## Company Governance and Shareholder Engagement

- 3 Independent Non Executive Directors joined Ubico's Board in February 2020
- 2 Board sub-committees created in the areas of governance and nominations and risk and audit
- Shareholder engagement policy developed
- Annual appraisals introduced for Board members
- Annual Report produced to support Annual Statement of Accounts
- New Five Year Vision proposed to Shareholders



## 1.5 Looking Forward: Our five-year vision

In 2020, Ubico's Board of Directors developed a Five Year Vision for Ubico:

*Recognised by our customers and employees as a quality provider of sustainable services for our local communities, delivering best value and reliability*

**Through:**

- *Leveraging synergies and economies of scale*
- *Harnessing opportunities to deliver value back to our partners*
- *Using technology to drive operational efficiency*
- *Understanding our communities' needs*
- *Inspiring our workforce to be committed to providing value for money and carbon neutral services*

2021/22 is year one of this five year vision and this document articulates the year one activities. Ongoing development of the strategy to support years two through five will continue throughout the year, including, where necessary, the presentation to our Shareholder councils of business cases for investment requirements and opportunities.

### 1.5.1 Strategic Pillars of our vision

Ubico's 2021/22 business plan and our 5-year vision is built around four key pillars:

People	Operations	Climate	Business Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•We will have a well-trained, supported and engaged workforce who live our values and are proud to work for Ubico.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•We will deliver high quality services which remain safe and compliant, seeking continuous improvement in productivity, value and service excellence. We will harness innovation where appropriate and will explore synergies and opportunities for partnership and cross boundary working.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•We will minimise our environmental impact and support our shareholders to meet their carbon neutral targets, integrating carbon reduction opportunities wherever reasonably possible in both our fleet and non-fleet activities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•We will build business development capability which enhances our partnerships and allows for effective identification, analysis and presentation to shareholders of potential new business opportunities. We will explore opportunities that aren't simply about profit, including those that would deliver greater value, help our communities or improve services.</li></ul>

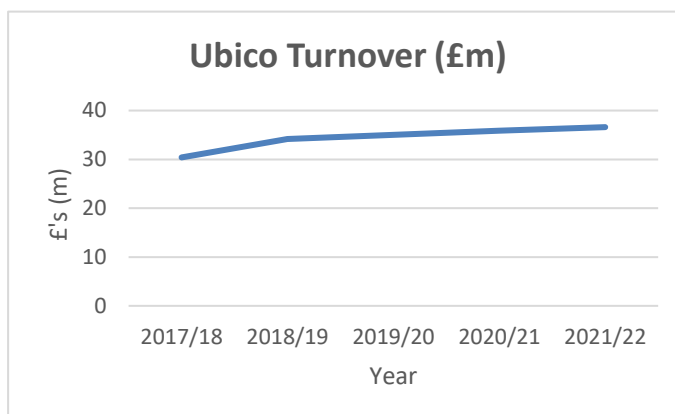


## 1.5.2 Turnover and Performance 2021-2026

### Historic and Projected Turnover

The increase seen between 2017/18 and 2018/19 is the result of both the full year operation of West Oxfordshire Waste and Recycling (this service had transferred to Ubico from the private sector in Autumn 2017) and normal inflationary factors (for example pay awards, fuel prices).

In March 2020, a redesigned kerbside collection scheme was launched in Cotswolds and the increased partnership sum is reflected in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 figures. For all other contracts, increases are largely inflationary factors including a necessary increase in training budget and more accurate asset recharges.



### Performance Scorecard

Pillar	Measure	2021	2026
People	Vacancy fill rate (advertisement closed to acceptance)	<1 month	<1 month
	Annual training budget utilisation	80% of annual training budget	100% of annual training budget
	Conformance to mandatory training to schedule	>90%	>95%
	Staff turnover	<14% attrition	<12% attrition
Operations	Service KPIs - Missed Bins (per 100,000 collections)	<0.05 %	<0.05 %
	Service complaints & compliments	Maintain & improve	Maintain & improve
	Fleet Compliance	Fleet Audit Scores >90%	Fleet Audit Scores >95%
	RIDDOR Occurrence	<12 per year	<9 per year
	Deliver to set budget	Within 5% set budget	Within 3% set budget
Climate	Reduced carbon emissions	Benchmark in 2021/22	
Business Development	% Service coverage of core services to existing shareholders		For Discussion
	Savings or returns on investment proposals	>5%	>5%

## 2 Business Plan 2021/22

### 2.1 People

#### 2.1.1 Objective

*We will have a well-trained, supported and engaged workforce who live our values and are proud to work for Ubico.*

#### 2.1.2 Key Activities in 2021/22

##### **Agile Leadership Teams**

- Embed a staffing structure that can adapt to growth and has capacity to deliver projects and transformational change
- Ensure that the management team have the skills to drive continuous improvement, safety, innovation and efficiency
- Offer opportunities to support internal staff progression
- Leverage diversity and inclusion which will bring diversity of thought and perspective to improve organisational excellence

##### **Supported, Engaged Staff**

- Continuous improvement in Health and safety culture through ongoing staff engagement and consultation
- Continue to deliver focused staff engagements around wellbeing and mental health, and provide appropriate training for line managers in this area, ensuring support mechanisms continue to be easily accessible for all staff
- Embed performance management process across the company
- Consider long term, post-Covid flexible working options, considering both office-based and front line operational staff
- Build on induction / early engagement program for new staff
- Continue to reduce our reliance on agency staffing where possible
- Enhance staff communication, engagement and commitment

##### **Excellence in Training and Development**

- Embed and develop the Ubico Training Academy to deliver effective and appropriate staff training
- Increase the number and variety of apprenticeships offered
- Continue to explore options for a formal learning management system

#### 2.1.3 Key Risks

Our key 'People' risks are outlined below. These are risks which, if borne out, could impact cost and/or service deliverability.

- Ongoing impact of Covid-19 on our staff; their availability, wellbeing, personal circumstances and morale

- Brexit may bring changes to the employment market, affect legislation and necessitate unforeseen changes to be made
- National driver shortages, ageing driver profile and our reliance on agency staffing
- Succession planning particularly in Grounds Maintenance
- Increases in instances of stress and anxiety (not related to workplace, also general Covid-19 impact on mental health)
- Operations managers and HR services under pressure to operate effectively whilst trying to navigate through staffing issues and handle additional challenges presented by Covid-19.
- Possibility of competitors and market conditions taking key staff either by enhanced pay or employee satisfaction levels

### 2.1.4 Risk Mitigation

These risks will be mitigated through the delivery of our People Strategy, with a focus on ensuring staff wellbeing and satisfaction. We are committed to maintaining strong relationships with our recognised Trade Unions and working in partnership to address any issue which arise.

## 2.2 Operational Excellence

### 2.2.1 Objective

*We will deliver high quality services which remain safe and compliant, seeking continuous improvement in productivity, value and service excellence. We will harness innovation where appropriate and will explore synergies and opportunities for partnership and cross boundary working.*

### 2.2.2 Key Activities in 2021/22

#### **Excellence in service standards**

- Seek continuous improvement and maintain high standards of service delivery, evidenced in our performance indicators
- Communicate and celebrate our successes, both internally and externally and in partnership with our shareholder councils
- Seek to understand customer feedback and identify areas for improvement

#### **Safe and Compliant**

- Maintain high standards of safety and compliance, demonstrated through reduced personal and vehicle accidents, consistent and satisfactory compliance audit scores and outcomes of risk based audits, and satisfactory internal audit outcomes
- Explore opportunities to benchmark our performance in Health and Safety against similar organisations
- Retain our ISO45001 certification to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement in Health and Safety

- Improve our H&S reporting systems and processes in order to maximise efficiency, reduce our reliance on manual data entry and evaluation and automate the production of reports where possible
- Ensure the requirements are met for both our Operator's Licence (for operating our fleet) and our environmental permits (for operating our licensed waste and recycling sites)

### **Technology**

- Explore options for digitisation and modernisation, to enhance productivity, efficiency and customer service levels
- Embed the Fleet Management System introduced in 2020 to ensure our fleet maintenance provision is efficient, and expand its use across all our workshops

### **Embrace Opportunity**

- Explore opportunities for cross-boundary working and increased integration and collaboration across our operating area that could deliver efficiencies
- Continue to work in partnership with our Shareholders to develop a strategic approach to depot and facilities provision and management
- Develop proposals for vehicle asset ownership to maximise efficiency

### **Digitisation and modernisation**

- Develop an IT strategy to inform our technology journey
- Increase our use of technology to support efficient, effective services, adopting digital solutions to streamline processes, enhance collaboration and drive efficiency
- Choose technology that offers best value, is scalable, and straightforward to use whilst delivering performance improvements
- Upskill staff where necessary so that they are able to leverage the benefits of any such new software

### **Finance**

- Continue to explore options to help partners meet budget pressures
- Maintain clear, timely and appropriate financial reporting for ourselves and our shareholder partners
- To look further ahead in our financial planning for the benefit of both the company and our partners

### **Marketing**

- Promote our strong reputation, including producing a communications strategy
- Leverage partnerships to support our communications and promotion

## **2.2.3 Key risks**

Our key operational risks are outlined below. These are risks which, if borne out, could impact our ability to continue to effectively deliver services and could impact costs

- The health, safety and compliance of our operation
- Covid-19, including



- The risk, despite all mitigating measures in place, of a more infectious strain(s) and its resulting increased transmission rate causing absence rates to increase to such a point that only essential services can be delivered
  - The reputational risk to Ubico and our shareholders when service performance is impacted
  - Cost of provision of mitigating resources such as PPE, cleansing equipment, additional vehicles
  - Increased pressure on resources due to higher arisings of waste and recycling, and exceptionally high use of our parks and open spaces
  - Limited ability to draw on agency staff, or utilise our own staff usually available to flex across working teams, due to the need to maintain the integrity of team 'bubbles'
  - Diversion of resources, across the company, to responding to Covid-related demands and reducing capacity to deliver business plan objectives
- Maintaining our fleet while minimising service disruption
  - Inflationary cost pressures, in particular insurance and uncertainty around diesel prices post-pandemic
  - Property growth out strips resources across the region
  - Poor recycling presentation slowing down operations

## 2.2.4 Risk Mitigation

These risks will be mitigated through our robust management systems, including regular reporting and early engagement around any emerging risks with the relevant Shareholders in order to develop an agreed partnership approach to their mitigation. For Health and Safety risks, these are mitigated through our commitment to the 'Plan, Do, Check, Act' process for managing Health and Safety as outlined in our Corporate Health and Safety Policy. One of our company Values, 'Be Safe' is universally recognised by our staff as being the most important behaviour that we must expect everyone to recognise and adopt. Working in line with this value helps to reinforce a positive organisational culture that places continuous improvement in health and safety at its core.

## 2.2.5 Key procurement activity

- Complete key procurement activity carried forward from 20/21 due to the impact of Covid-19 (extensions formally secured to cover the carry forward where required):
  - Agency Staff Contract
  - Occupational Health and Job Screening
  - PPE Footwear and gloves
  - Vehicle parts
  - Vehicle Procurement Framework / Refuse Vehicles Framework
  - Weed control operations
  - Cleaning products, grounds maintenance and street cleaning chemicals
  - Site Fire and Security Contracts
- Complete key procurement activity due in 2021/22

- In-cab / connected workforce technology system
- Liquid Fuels
- Perm Recruitment Services
- Waste Tipping
- Public toilet locking/unlocking (FoD)
- Hooklift vehicle provision (HRC's) (work to commence 21/22 for contract commencement in July 2022)
- Workshop equipment service and repair
- Interceptor / drainage tank emptying

Our current agreements for support services for HR and payroll, ICT, legal, finance, internal audit and procurement expire at the end of March 2022. Work will be undertaken in 21/22 to assess the available options for future delivery of these services, with a view to ensuring that appropriate agreements are in place from April 2022, and giving particular consideration of how best these are resourced to support delivery of our longer-term strategy for delivering our five year vision.

We will also complete the necessary legal work to confirm the contract extensions/renewals sought by each of our individual shareholders with effect from August 2021 for Gloucestershire County Council, and April 2022 for all other shareholders.

## 2.3 Climate

### 2.3.1 Objective

*We will minimise our environmental impact and support our shareholders to meet their carbon neutral targets, integrating carbon reduction opportunities wherever reasonably possible in both our fleet and non-fleet activities.*

#### **Carbon Reduction Strategy**

- Develop a Carbon Reduction Strategy for Ubico which supports the ambitions of our Shareholder councils and identifies carbon reduction objectives and targets which are practicable and measurable

#### **Compliance and Performance**

- Demonstrate our continued commitment to protecting our environment by retaining our ISO14001 accreditation for our Environmental Management System
- Maintain excellent standards at our permitted sites to both manage and minimise their environmental impact
- Support our professional drivers to deliver excellence in driving standards in order to improve fuel efficiency to both reduce carbon emissions and deliver cost savings for tax payers

#### **Partnership working**

- Work with partners to identify and further explore fleet options which deliver carbon reduction

- Engage with our partner councils to identify opportunities for joint climate/carbon reduction projects (non-fleet)
- Explore opportunities for cross-boundary working and integration which would contribute to a reduction in our carbon emissions

### 2.3.2 Key risks

Our key climate risks are outlined below. These are risks which, if borne out, could impact our ability to deliver carbon reduction goals, or increase costs associated with doing so.

- Geographic challenges of operational area may prevent the early introduction of electric fleet
- Current asset infrastructure cannot support a fully electric fleet
- Kerbside sort services create up to three times more carbon than co-mingled collections
- Older vehicles not specified with technology to deliver on some objectives
- Competing priorities divert resources and attention away from carbon reduction focus

### 2.3.3 Risk Mitigation

These risks will be mitigated through careful consideration of the appropriateness of any alternative fuel vehicle, and the impact on required infrastructure ahead of their purchase. All projects, including those reviewing service design, will include carbon reduction considerations and implications.

## 2.4 Business Development and Financing

### 2.4.1 Objective

*We will build business development capability which enhances our partnerships and allows for effective identification, analysis and presentation to shareholders of potential new business opportunities. We will explore opportunities that aren't simply about profit, including those that would deliver greater value, help our communities or improve services.*

#### **Increased Shareholding**

- If successful in our tender, integrate Gloucester City as our eighth shareholder and prepare for mobilising to delivery their services from April 2022
- Undertake a project to understand and evaluate near-geography opportunities for future expanded shareholding

#### **Increased operational services for Shareholders**

- Embed the delivery of services in Stratford Park, Stroud, which commenced in December 2020
- Explore further opportunities to increase the portfolio of work we deliver to existing partners, both those that we currently deliver and those that may be synergistic

## Commercial

- Build business case(s) for expanding our vehicle maintenance offering from our fleet workshops to increase income from external sources
- Restart the trade waste pilot delayed by Covid with Cheltenham Borough Council to identify return on investment (ROI) for consideration of future rollout across the wider shareholder base
- Evaluate market opportunities that would sit within our 20% teckal 'headroom' to deliver returns, clearly articulating and assessing risks and benefits
- Continue to develop relationships with our partners through timely and effective communication
- Explore funding mechanisms, asset ownership and investment appetite to support investment in capability or access to funds

### 2.4.2 Key risks

Our key business development risks are outlined below. These are risks which could impact our ability to seek or realise opportunities for development.

- Commercial activity is restricted by available resource and their capacity.
- Greater commercial returns will require shareholder investment
- Commercial activity negatively impacts core service to shareholders
- Risk appetite of shareholders and commissioners

### 2.4.3 Risk Mitigation

These risks will be mitigated through having an agreed resourcing approach to the development of any proposals brought forward, as well as ensuring that capacity and core business considerations are made before any commercial activity is proposed. For any proposal to be taken forward, a detailed business plan will be presented to and approved by Board and Shareholders prior to project commencement.

## 3 CSR and Governance

### 3.1 Corporate and social responsibility

Ubico Ltd is committed to adopting best practice in this area and continues to ensure that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is embedded into our policies, plans and business practices to the benefit of staff, the wider community and the environment. CSR is at the heart of our vision and corporate values.

The Board of Directors, managers and employees at all levels will have regard to the social and environmental impacts of the company's business. In 2021/22, we will:

- continue to use procurement opportunities to gain social, economic and environmental benefits for the communities we serve;
- locally source goods and services wherever economical and practical;
- provide local employment opportunities with good employment standards and practices;
- provide apprenticeship opportunities;
- provide opportunities for learning and development and support disadvantaged groups;
- support community initiatives and events;
- explore the potential to work in partnership with the voluntary and community sector; and
- encourage voluntary participation in national and local initiatives.

We recognise that our business operations have an impact on the environment through emissions to land, air and water, the consumption of resources and the generation of waste. We are committed to minimising any adverse impacts on the environment and preventing pollution associated with our activities through continual improvement to our operational methods and working practices. We will comply with environmental regulations and other external requirements in order to minimise our environmental impact. We hold and seek to retain ISO 14001 certification for our environmental management system.

### 3.2 Governance

Good corporate governance and the continued professional development of the Board of Directors and the Senior Management Team is a key objective. To safeguard the future of the company we must ensure appropriate competency standards and qualifying criteria are applied to all Directors and follow the spirit of the UK Corporate Governance Code. At all times the company will remain open, transparent and accountable. The Board and its members will operate as a cohesive team, with its priority at all times to further the aims, goals and values of the company, whilst always having risk and risk management at the forefront of discussions.

We regularly review our policies, procedures and governance arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose, represent good practice and meet all relevant legislative and regulatory requirements. The Executive Directors and Legal Advisor will continue to meet regularly to

monitor and review to ensure that our governance arrangements are fit for purpose for a company of Ubico's size.

Further to a Board Effectiveness Review carried out in 2018, Ubico has implemented considerable internal changes since 2018, improving the reporting of risks and audit reports to the Board, increasing the frequency of Board meetings and re-designing management information and financial information to commissioners and shareholders.


Consultation with Shareholders resulted in the design of a new board structure to fill skills gaps identified in the Effectiveness Review, with the redesigned board comprising three Executive Directors, three Non-Executive Directors from local authority shareholders, and three independently appointed Non-Executive Directors including an independent Chair of the board.

The new Board structure came into effect in February 2020, with an immediate focus on delivering further on the improvements suggested in the Board Effectiveness Review. During 2020 the board has formed two new sub-committees; a Risk and Audit Committee and a Governance and Nominations Committee. These committees provide support to the Board in key governance areas, for example, better understanding of business risk, and ensuring the processes to mitigate risk are effective and there is compliance.

The board has also adopted a new process for annual performance reviews for all Non-Executive Directors, and has produced and adopted a Shareholder Engagement Policy in order to help ensure that the correct processes and procedures are in place to reflect robust governance and engagement.

An internal audit plan is completed annually with Audit Risk Assurance (ARA) continuing to deliver Ubico's audit services throughout 2021/22. A full annual audit plan is agreed by the Board and all audit findings are sent to Directors to review and scrutinise.

External audit of the company's accounts is determined by Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

 <b>COTSWOLD</b> DISTRICT COUNCIL	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET - 13 MAY 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 8</b>
Subject	<b>SPACEHIVE: PLEDGE DECISION PROCESS AND SCHEME CRITERIA</b>
Wards affected	<b>ALL</b>
Accountable member	Cllr Mike Every, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance Tel: 01285 623000 Email: <a href="mailto:mike.every@cotswold.gov.uk">mike.every@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Jacqueline Wright, Community Wellbeing Manager Email: <a href="mailto:jacqueline.wright@publicagroup.uk">jacqueline.wright@publicagroup.uk</a>  Joseph Walker, Community Partnership Officer Tel: 01285 623146 Email: <a href="mailto:joseph.walker@publicagroup.uk">joseph.walker@publicagroup.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To agree the decision process and criteria to operate Crowdfund Cotswold, the Council's civic crowdfunding platform.
Annexes	Annex A - Criteria
Recommendation/s	<i>a) That Cabinet approves that decisions on Council pledges are taken under a delegation to the Chief Executive or Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.</i>  <i>b) That, subject to any amendments made at the meeting, the Cabinet Member agrees the criteria for such pledges.</i>
Corporate priorities	Responding to the challenges presented by the climate crisis.  Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing supporting businesses to grow in a green, sustainable manner.
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	Senior Management Team

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** In October 2020, Cabinet agreed to commission Spacehive Ltd to create Cotswold 'movement' on its civic crowdfunding platform. This movement will enable local people to promote ideas for civic projects and to raise money from local supporters, including the Council.

## **2. COTSWOLD COMMUNITY FUND**

- 2.1.** The Council will anchor Crowdfund Cotswold by delivering spending against its community focused grant budgets as pledges to support proposals promoted via the platform. The Council is therefore providing a funding pot that is called 'Cotswold Community Fund'. Projects that are seeking the Council's support need to pitch directly to the Council's funding via Crowdfund Cotswold. This process makes sure that the Council's funding is differentiated from the Spacehive platform through which it is allocated. In addition to the council's 'Cotswold Community Fund', the platform enables projects to raise funds from the community, businesses etc. as well as to pitch to other funding pots which may be available through the platform. For the first funding round for example, there is another pot available through Gloucestershire County Council named as 'Community Resilience Fund'.

## **3. PROCESS TO AGREE INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES**

- 3.1.** The process for projects to follow to be accepted onto the platform, and seek pledges is set across Spacehive. The criteria which the Council sets to determine which ideas it will pledge against are locally agreed, as is the process by which the pledge is agreed.
- 3.2.** The Council's pledge decisions need to be made approximately six weeks after each project idea submission deadline; this allows for the third party verification process carried out by Locality, and gives every project at least 4 more weeks to raise support from local people. The Council's decision can then be made on fit with our criteria and against evidence of local support. Importantly, at this point in the process a Council pledge will generally take a project well over half its funding target, providing significant impetus to project promoters to raise further pledges.
- 3.3.** As the Council's pledges are made in the context of a live funding campaign, it is important that the decisions are made on time, and communicated as soon as possible to maximise this impetus. The timing of these decisions is known in advance, so a meeting can easily be scheduled. Project ideas will be known well in advance, so can be assessed against criteria readily, but the level of support attracted on the platform will be a live consideration, which will need to be presented at the point of decision.
- 3.4.** In light of these considerations, there are two options for the decision making:



**3.4.1. Cabinet Member decision-making.**

**3.4.2.** In recent years grant decisions have been made by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for grants, through a Cabinet member decision making meeting. Clear advantages of this process are that it is transparent, and politically accountable. However, in terms of how it would interact with the Spacehive process the Council has committed to it is relatively slow, with decisions taking approximately three weeks, for the report circulation, time for the meeting and drafting of minutes, and then circulation to Overview and Scrutiny. This is a specific weakness in relation to the Spacehive platform, where the pledge making process needs to be more dynamic, to add impetus to the in the context of a time-limited funding campaigns project creators will be running. Spacehive advise that a partner council has such a process (albeit with a longer call-in period) which they feel detracts from the effectiveness of that movement.

**3.4.3.** To an extent this weakness can be mitigated. The date when decisions will be needed should be a known quantity, so can be scheduled in at the most opportune time. With notice, the processing times for cover reports and decision notices can be kept to the constitutional minimum.

**3.4.4. Officer delegation, in consultation with relevant Cabinet members**

Vesting the decision in the Council's retained officers could provide a solid alternative option. An officer delegation would enable decisions which can be immediately actioned, and thus best complements the Spacehive process. While there is flexibility over which and how many Cabinet members may be involved, officers suggest the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

**3.4.5.** This would have the advantage of being swift, a 'vote of confidence' in Crowdfund Cotswold, which could build its credibility with applicants. It would remain objective, and transparent.

**3.4.6.** It should be noted that while Crowdfund Cotswold will operate to clear criteria, the variety of possible projects, and the judgements necessary to determine an appropriate grant rate does mean the decision will involve a degree of discretion, rather than being mechanistic. By having the officer decision in consultation with the relevant Cabinet members, member involvement in the decision-making process is ensured. Firm criteria will guide the officer and the members alike to making consistent and transparent decisions.

**3.4.7.** While decisions made through this process would not be subject to the usual Overview and Scrutiny call-in window, to enable immediate effect, the projects under consideration will be publicly viewable on Crowdfund Cotswold, with real time information on their supporters and funding. Moreover, the twice yearly round structure, and the project outcome reporting will provide solid monitoring information.

**3.4.8.** Officers consider an officer delegation as the approach which best balances out good governance and timely decision making.

#### **4. CRITERIA**

- 4.1.** Draft criteria for the Cotswold Pledge pot have been developed. These are informed by the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities, by recent grant practice within the Council and in discussion with Spacehive. One of the attractions of Spacehive is that project ideas are vetted by local people - projects which are not seen as locally relevant will not meet their funding targets and will not happen. In light of that control, it is important that the Council's criteria do not stifle innovation, but provide sufficient guidance to help achieve our priorities and ensure proper use of public funds. The draft criteria are attached at Annex A1.

#### **5. PLEDGE PROCESS**

- 5.1.** The Spacehive Platform, on which Crowdfund Cotswold sits, is set up to automatically raise payment of pledges when the project target is reached from all partners - as part of the 'all or nothing' principle to which the scheme operates. This can be achieved in two different ways.
- 1) Direct: Partner pledges to projects using Paypal (linked to a corporate debit or credit card) or GoCardless (via a corporate bank account). This means that the partner sets up a pre-approved payment or a one-off direct debit which is only taken if the project hits its target. Pledging via this process is like any other backer / member of the public.
- 2) Pledge Pot: The partner transfers a sum of money to Spacehive to distribute as pledges on their behalf. When they want to pledge, the partner sends an email to Spacehive confirming how much and to which project (and from which fund if they have more than one). Spacehive then pledges to the project using GoCardless and/or PayPal on the partner's behalf. The pledge appears on the project page from the partner's Spacehive account with their name and logo. Often partners will only transfer a portion of the total fund size available for the programme, with the pot being topped up as needed (often at the start of each year). The pot is refundable at any time. If using the Pledge Pot method, partner funds are held in a separate Client bank account to the day-to-day operations of the Company. In the event of a change of status to Spacehive Limited, these client funds are secured and any unallocated funds would be returned as appropriate.
- 5.2** The second option would appear the best fit with the Council's usual financial procedures, but will require careful management to ensure that minimal Council funds are held outside of the Council's own finance systems.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1.** The budget for this scheme is already allocated, comprising of the community grants capital budget - £50,000 per annum and the community grant revenue budget of £85,000 per annum. The revenue budget will need to cover the cost of securing the Spacehive platform. The options for determined pledges will reflect existing financial sign off responsibilities, and the draft criteria are intended to ensure appropriate use of public money.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1. None**

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1.** The assessment process ensures that pledges will only be made to eligible applicants. While this process prevents pledges being given to support ineligible activities, it cannot mitigate wholly against dissatisfaction where projects are unsuccessful in reaching their targets.
- 8.2.** While the Council's grant fund is within the Council's control, projects will also need to attract sufficient funding to reach their campaign targets from other supporters by their campaign deadlines. While this is a feature of crowdfunding, it may impact on take-up - projects the Council is willing to support may not attract sufficient support from other quarters, in which instance they will not draw down the Council's grant. This risk should be partially mitigated by the criteria - enabling a broad range of projects that can inspire local support. It will also need to be mitigated by ongoing work to attract potential supporters to visit the platform. This work will start in earnest with the launch.
- 8.3.** Should there be lower than anticipated take-up, a feature of the process is that grant sums will only be committed where full targets are met. This grant is not allocated in advance to projects that subsequently do not meet funding targets. Any underspend is thus an uncommitted resource that can be carried forward to future funding rounds.
- 8.4.** Where pledges are drawn down, but change of circumstances prevent activity taking place, Spacehive have procedures in place to seek the return of pledges. The Council would maintain its discretion not to recover all or part of the grant where alternative or more limited activity could still take place.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 9.1.** The scheme will be designed to be open to geographical communities and communities of interest. This should enable applications from a wider cohort of applicants than a scheme restricted to local administrative boundaries. This approach to how the Council expects match funding to be identified will open Council funding up to new and 'non-establishment' groups. Project promoters are expected to demonstrate in their applications how they will engage with the community.

## **10. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1.** This scheme is set up to enable a range of activities in localities around the district, helping to sustain community activity where people live. There is the potential for projects focused on climate change mitigation.

## **11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 11.1.** None - the Council has already committed to this process, and this report covers the process and criteria to enable it to operate effectively.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1.** None.

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**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

### **Crowdfund Cotswold. Scheme outline and criteria**

Crowdfund Cotswold is a movement on Spacehive, set up to support community projects in the Cotswold District. The online platform presents an opportunity for projects to raise funding from a wide range of support, including local people, local groups, charities and businesses. To attract projects to the movement, Cotswold District Council will use it to distribute its community grant budget. This fund will be called the Cotswold District Council Community Fund.

Cotswold District Council is allocating £110,000 to its Cotswold Community Fund. The fund will provide pledges to projects of up to £10,000. Typically projects can expect a pledge of up to 40%, but the Council will consider applying a premium to projects which are seeking to address climate change, the ecological emergency, or provide direct support to vulnerable groups.

### **Mission:**

#### **Supporting great ideas to make a greener, connected, healthier Cotswolds**

Cotswold citizens know best what is needed in their neighbourhoods, what works, what's truly sustainable and they have the skills, creativity and talent/drive to shape their local area and the future they want. By working together with businesses and local communities we can make ideas a reality through crowdfunding. This will make a real difference and turn our beautiful District into an even better place to grow up, live, work, visit and grow old. Maybe even, the best!

### **What we will support**

A budget to support Community Activity that makes our District special, this fund is set up to support community groups that:

- Improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of your local community
- Propose solutions to directly address climate change
- Enhance lives through events and activities
- Support young people's ideas and ambitions

- Help to tackle the barriers and challenges many of us experience in life, such as poverty, ill health, distance from services, social isolation/loneliness
- Promote food equity- projects that support building a fair food system for everyone
- Protect and enhance our natural and built environment
- Invest in and maintain the facilities we rely on for these activities to take place.

#### **Exclusions:**

We will not fund:

- Commercial activity – activity delivered for private profit.
- Commercial organisations and exempt\* charities
- Activity that is more properly the responsibility of other statutory organisations (e.g. social care; bus subsidies).
- Party political promotion or activities.
- Activities related to religious worship. Faith groups may apply for non-religious activities but will need to demonstrate that the activity does not promote a religious view in any way and is inclusive.

#### **Outcomes**

- Community led change
- Improved health and food equity
- Well connected and resilient communities
- Improved mental and physical well being across all age groups and backgrounds
- Improved essential local infrastructure that facilitates rural living
- Improved environmental outcomes, such as carbon reduction, improved biodiversity or green infrastructure

#### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligibility will principally be determined by the aims of the project. The following are able to apply:

Public bodies, such as Parish Councils and schools – where they are delivering or hosting community projects - mainstream expenses such as salaries or replacement street furniture will not be supported

Registered charities and excepted charities\*\*

Charitable Incorporated Organisations and Community Interest Companies

Social Enterprises

Unincorporated community groups

Individuals leading community projects - but not individuals for individual endeavour or benefit. Under 18s can create projects, but the project will need a project delivery manager, who takes responsibility for delivering the project. The project delivery manager must be at least 18 years old.

### **Phased projects, annual events and repeat applications.**

Our funding is designed to support projects, not ongoing costs. Projects may be broken down into different phases, where each individual phase can be delivered independently of the other. Annually occurring activities, such as annual events, are eligible, where each year is dependent upon securing funding.

Where a project is broken down into phases, pledges from this fund will not usually exceed £10,000 in a single year, nor £15,000 over three years. For events, applications for activity in consecutive years will be considered, but project creators should seek to increase their pool of supporters, and investigate alternative means of sustaining activity. Projects contributing significantly to the Council's priorities or demonstrating innovation will be looked upon favourably.

Grant to an individual organisation is not capped at the project maximum – creators are welcome to propose multiple projects, although such projects should be clearly discreet activities (PLEASE NOTE: Spacehive do not recommend project creators propose more than one project per funding round, to focus backers towards one funding goal). Where projects are part of a larger scheme, the Council reserves the right to view such activity in the round, and pledge accordingly.

### **Decision-making**

All projects seeking support will be expected to complete a set of questions to determine the eligibility of their projects. Cotswold District Council will consider these responses, and the organisations eligibility on the points raised above to determine if activity is eligible. Projects will also need to demonstrate that they have local support for the activity proposed. Typically this will be through pledges offered on the Spacehive website, but projects are also able to upload 'off' line and pre-existing funding offers to evidence the support already offered. Projects will need to evidence both eligibility and local support to be offered a pledge by Cotswold District Council. The District Council has committed the following principles in all its work:

- rebuilding trust and confidence in the Council by promoting a culture of openness and transparency
- providing value for money for our residents and businesses by using our resources wisely and investing in the District's fabric and future
- listening to the needs of our community, and acting on what we hear.

The Council retains its discretion to choose not to pledge against a project, or to pledge a higher or lower sum.

*\* Exempt charities - primarily larger education establishments or larger museums.*

*\*\* Excepted Charities. Charities which do not need to be registered - include schools, churches, scout and guide groups.*

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 <b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET – 13 MAY 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 9</b>
Subject	<b>PARTIAL UPDATE OF THE ADOPTED LOCAL PLAN – PROJECT UPDATE</b>
Wards affected	<b>ALL</b>
Accountable member	<p>Cllr Rachel Coxcoon Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy</p> <p>Email: Rachel.coxcoon@cotswold.gov.uk</p>
Accountable officer	<p>James Brain, Forward Planning Manager</p> <p>Tel: 01285 623549 Email: james.brain@publicagroup.uk</p>
Summary/Purpose	To provide an update on the project to partially update the Cotswold District Local Plan. The Report also includes an updated Local Development Scheme (timetable of work), a request to drawdown funding and a request to approve a draft Green Infrastructure Strategy for public consultation.
Annexes	<p>ANNEX A – Cotswold District Council Local Development Scheme (2021 to 2024)</p> <p>ANNEX B – Draft Cotswold District Green Infrastructure Strategy 2021</p>
Recommendation/s	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Approve Local Development Scheme 2021 to 2024 (ANNEX A);</li> <li>(b) Approves drawdown of £21,000 from reserves to programmes of work identified in para 4.3; and</li> <li>(c) Approve the Draft Cotswold District Green Infrastructure Strategy for a six week public consultation (ANNEX B).</li> </ul>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presenting a Local Plan which is green to the core;</li> <li>• Responding to the challenges presented by the climate change and ecological emergencies;</li> <li>• delivering good quality social rented homes;</li> </ul>
Key Decision	<b>YES</b>
Exempt	<b>NO</b>

<p>Consultees/ Consultation</p>	<p>Local Plan partial update project: Members of the Local Plan Programme Board.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Strategy: The Draft Strategy has been reviewed by Dr Gemma Jerome, Director of Building with Nature. Officers ran a six week key stakeholder technical consultation in August and September 2020. A draft of the Strategy was emailed to the main environmental organisations and Officers within Publica. Each of the 17 main principal settlements (as defined by the Council's Local Plan) Town and Parish Councils in the District were consulted during the preparation of the Strategy. Comments informed and influenced the Strategy.</p>
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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** At a meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 3 June 2020, Cotswold District Council Members agreed to undertake a partial update of the Local Plan. The update focuses only on issues that need modification within the plan period (to 2031) and does not invite consultation and examination on matters beyond the plan period.
- 1.2.** Subsequent to the meeting of Council, on Thursday 6 August 2020, the Government published two planning consultations, one of which being the Planning for the Future White Paper, which together proposed wide-reaching changes to the planning system. This included a proposed increase to the housing need of Cotswold District from 490 to 1,209 dwellings per annum.
- 1.3.** On 2 November 2020, Cabinet agree to pause the formal / regulatory plan making process until there was clarity on the White Paper and transitional arrangements from the old system to the new, and consequent changes to the NPPF and NPPG.
- 1.4.** On 20 February 2021, the Government confirmed that a revised housing need calculation would be used instead of the one consulted upon, which would mean Cotswold District's future housing need would continue to be 490 dwellings per annum.

## **2. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

- 2.1.** A key factor influencing the project pause in November 2020 was the prospect of having to accommodate significantly higher levels of housing growth in the District. The Government has now made clear the District's housing need for the next ten years and it has returned to a level consistent with historic figures. In simple terms the Government reengineered the method to direct more growth towards cities and urban conurbations. As a result the Council is well placed to continue with its programme of work partially to update the Local Plan.
- 2.2.** A Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets a timetable for preparing development plan documents. The Cotswold District LDS (ANNEX A) sets out a timetable for the partial update of the Cotswold District Local Plan project together with a timetable for the Cirencester Town Centre Masterplan and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 2.3.** Subject to the approval of Members, the LDS will be published on the Council's website and also made available at the Council's main offices and various 'deposit' locations across the District.

## **3. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (GI) STRATEGY**

- 3.1.** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines green infrastructure as:  
"A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities".
- 3.2.** The GI Strategy forms part of the Local Plan evidence base and other Council strategies. It responds to the Council's Climate and Ecological emergencies and corporate priorities to improve health and wellbeing. It will also assist the Council to prepare and respond to the actions that will be necessary when the Environment Bill is enacted.
- 3.3.** The purpose of the GI strategy is to assist in the creation of sustainable places to live, which are resilient to climate change and the challenges it brings. Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife

assets form the three strands of GI. These assets or lack of, inform the GI priorities and possible actions.

**3.4.** The GI Strategy (Annex B) replaces the extant GI Strategy published in 2017. The updated version responds to several significant changes that have occurred nationally and locally since 2017. For example:

- Green Infrastructure has become more widely recognised for its cross cutting benefits for enhancing the environment and improving people's wellbeing;
- It reflects recent Government advice and policy and advancements made at a national and county level; and
- It responds to the Council's Corporate Strategy priorities.

**3.5.** The Covid 19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of nature and access to local green spaces for peoples' health and wellbeing. The national lockdown demonstrated the fragile balance between increased demand for access to the countryside and what was available on the doorstep. A number of studies conducted in 2020 by national organisations, including Natural England and the National Trust, confirms this.

**3.6.** The GI Strategy finds that the existing amount of accessible open spaces in the District is less than adequate, despite the fact that the Cotswold District is one of the largest rural districts in England. The strategy provides guidance, actions and priorities to address this imbalance.

**3.7.** A key part of the GI Strategy is the maps, which accompany it. The maps provide a visual guide to the Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife assets in the District with focus on the District's 17 principal settlements (as defined by the policy DSI of the Local Plan). There are approximately 60 maps, which make a strictly paper version difficult to navigate. Therefore, an interactive electronic version of the Strategy is being prepared. The style borrows heavily from other interactive planning documents such as the Local Plan<sup>1</sup> and the Cirencester Town Centre Health Check<sup>2</sup>.

**3.8.** The audience for this Strategy includes a wide range of stakeholders from developers to Town and Parish Councils, land owners/managers, environmental organisations and the general public/community groups.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1.** The financial implications associated with preparing and updating a Local Plan were set out at the Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020. To recap, the costs can be considered against several discrete parts, principally updating the evidence base; policy writing; undertaking consultations (formal regulations and informal); preparation of the publication/submission plan; examination; adoption and legal challenge.

**4.2.** Expected costings for the Local Plan update have been considered as part of the Council's future budget setting process and details were provided in November Cabinet paper.

**4.3.** Subject to the approval of the LDS, approval is also sought to commission and initiate the following studies:

- Sustainability Appraisal (£35,000);

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/k2kjqvq3b/cotswold-district-local-plan-2011-2031-adopted-3-august-2018-web-version.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cotswold.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=7f7ebd7bdf8f401faf96fd0beec09cd8>

- Habitats Regulation Assessment – including a North Meadow and Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation (SAC)<sup>3</sup> Mitigation Strategy (£11,000);
- Carbon Audit / Climate Change Risk Assessment (£35,000); and
- Playing Pitch Strategy (£15,000).

**4.4.** In November 2020, Cabinet approved a drawdown of funding to prepare a Growth Zone Study / Urban Capacity / Strategic land search (£75,000). Now the Government has confirmed that the District's housing need is 490 dwellings per annum rather than 1,209 per annum, the need to identify strategic options for growth is not required at this stage. The previously allocated £75,000 of funding will be used to partially fund the studies set out at para 4.3 and therefore a funding allocation of £21,000 is being proposed.

#### **Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment**

**4.5.** A sustainability appraisal is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of Local Plans. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.

**4.6.** The Habitats Regulations require the Council to carry out an assessment to test if a plan or project proposal could significantly harm the designated features of a European site. On the advice of Natural England the Council is working with Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council to commission and initiate a mitigation strategy at North Meadow and Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation. This strategy will support plan making activities across the three authorities as well support planning applications requiring a Habitat Regulation Assessment: Appropriate Assessment.

#### **Carbon Audit / Climate Change Risk Assessment**

**4.7.** The Government guides Local Planning Authorities to use the sustainability appraisal process to help shape appropriate responses to the statutory duty on climate change. It also highlights the benefits of carrying out a climate change risk assessment to support the Local Plan and sustainability process<sup>4</sup>. The Council has received technical advice indicating that a carbon audit is likely to be required to assist the Sustainability Appraisal process and to support the Council's ambition to embed climate change policies into the Local Plan.

#### **Playing Pitch Strategy**

**4.8.** Officers have recently engaged with Sport England to discuss the Local Plan update process. Sport England has confirmed that an update to the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is required and indicates there are two options:

1. Short Term Gap. This just updates the action plan contained within the Strategy (approx. £1,000); or
2. The Preferred Option. Update the PPS (approx. £15,000)

**4.9.** Sport England recommends selecting option 2.

**4.10.** Officers conclude that option 1 covers the basics and would be sufficient to support the Local Plan update at examination. However, the action plan would be based on increasingly

<sup>3</sup> <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0016372>

<sup>4</sup> NPPG Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 6-006-20140306

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change#how-can-the-challenges-of-climate-change-be-addressed-through-the-local-plan>

dated information. Generally speaking PPS have a shelf life of 3 years and the Council's PPS has reached its third anniversary at 2021.

- 4.11. Option 2, whilst more expensive, would provide an up to date position on need and it also provides an opportunity to align PPSs across West Oxfordshire and Forest of Dean. Increasing alignment of plan making activities and studies within Publica provides the opportunity to provide long term efficiencies in terms of officer resource, procurement and finance. The update would also support wider health and wellbeing ambitions contained within Corporate Plan and would complement the Council's recently published Leisure Action Plan. Furthermore and when considering opportunities for external and partnership investment, an up to date PPS would be a requirement of any investment from organisations such as the Football Foundation.

## **5. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. The most significant implication is the ongoing effects of Covid-19. The delivery of projects will be delayed if members of the Forward Planning team are redeployed to assist wider Council Covid-19 activities. The Local Development Scheme includes a risk assessment that identifies risks to human resources and measures that could be employed to and/or are being employed to mitigate risks.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. The preparation of a Local Development Scheme is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 6.2. The GI Strategy does not raise any legal implications. It forms part of the Council's Local Plan evidence base and together with other evidence will help to ensure revised policies accord with the National Planning Policy Framework's tests of soundness.

## **7. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1. The Local Development Scheme includes a risk assessment which contains commentary on measures that have been or can be taken to mitigate identified risks.
- 7.2. Rebooting the Local Plan update does not identify significant risks at this stage. However, evidence and / or changes to national policy may indicate that a full Local Plan update is required during the preparation of an updated local plan. The Local Plan Programme Board and Cabinet will be kept apprised of any such issues.

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT (IF REQUIRED)**

- 8.1. The updated Local Plan will be supported by an Equalities Impact Assessment.

## **9. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)**

- 9.1. The Council has declared a climate emergency which commits the Council to prepare an action plan to show how it will support the District to become carbon neutral. The Council has also committed to make the Local Plan green to its core. An update to the Local Plan and an updated will directly support local communities and businesses to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

## **10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 10.1. Do not adopt the Local Development Scheme, refuse the request for drawdown of funding and refuse to approve the Green Infrastructure Strategy for consultation. This approach would directly affect the Council's ability to deliver an updated Local Plan and would be inconsistent with the Council's Corporate Plan/Strategy and emergency declarations.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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# Cotswold District Council Local Development Scheme 2021 to 2024

May 2021

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the Cotswold District Council Local Development Scheme (LDS). It explains what planning policy documents the Council already has in place and what will be prepared during the three-year period May 2021 – April 2024.

## 2. Cotswold District Local Plan (2011 to 2031) – Partial Update

- 2.1 The extant Cotswold District Local Plan 2011 to 2031 was formally adopted on 3 August 2018. The plan carries full weight in the determination of planning applications, providing an overall framework for growth in the period up to 2031.
- 2.2 National policy requires local plans to be kept up to date and a review of the Local Plan has to be carried out within 5 years of adoption. Cotswold District Council carried out a review of the local plan in 2020 and it concluded that partial update is required to take account of new corporate objectives and other material considerations such as the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.3 The following dates are expected to apply:
- Informal engagement (Regulation 18<sup>2</sup>) – Quarter 4 of 2021
  - Publication of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Reg 19) – Quarter 4 of 2022
  - Submission of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Reg 22) – Quarter 1 of 2023
  - Examination – Quarter 2 of 2023
  - Adoption – Quarter 3 of 2023

## 3. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 3.1 The community infrastructure levy (CIL) is a charge that can be applied to new developments in order to help pay for supporting infrastructure. Most new development which creates net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or creates a new dwelling, is potentially liable for the levy.
- 3.2 The levy only applies in areas where a local authority has consulted on, and approved, a charging schedule which sets out its levy rates and has published the schedule on its website.
- 3.3 The Council adopted its CIL charging schedule in June 2019.
- 3.4 The effect of partial updating the Council's adopted local plan may require the council to consider updating its CIL charging schedule as a result of new and or updated policies and viability evidence. Should an update be required this will be added to the Local Development Scheme by way of a supplementary update.
- 3.5 The government's national planning practice policy guidance sets out how a charging schedule should be prepared. It explains a charging schedule is prepared and adopted as follows:
- a) the charging authority prepares its evidence base in order to prepare its draft levy rates, and collaborates with neighbouring/overlapping authorities (and other stakeholders);
  - b) the charging authority prepares and publishes a draft charging schedule for consultation;
  - c) representations are sought on the published draft;
  - d) the charging authority must take into account any representations made to it before submitting a draft charging schedule for examination;
  - e) an independent person (the "examiner") examines the charging schedule in public;
  - f) the examiner's recommendations are published
  - g) the charging authority has regard to the examiner's recommendations and reasons for them;
  - h) the charging authority approves the charging schedule.
- 3.6 The 2019 Regulations removed the requirement to consult on a preliminary draft charging schedule. However, charging authorities can consult more than once where they consider it to be appropriate.

## 4. Supplementary Planning Documents

- 4.1 Supplementary Planning Documents do not form part of the statutory development plan but are important material considerations in the determination of planning applications. Their main purpose is to elaborate on specific local plan policies and explain in more detail how those policies will operate.
- 4.2 Over the next three years the following Supplementary Planning Document will be prepared.
- Cirencester Town Centre Masterplan; and
  - Developer Contributions
- 4.3 A requirement to deliver a Cirencester Town Centre Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document is set out in the adopted Local Plan 2031. The purpose of the proposed document will be to provide detail to the Cirencester town centre strategy contained within the local plan (which itself will be updated through the partial update of the local plan) to assist land owners and developers to bring sites forward in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner.

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<sup>1</sup> COUNCIL 3 June 2020 – Agenda Item 10 <https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?Committeed=1154&MeetingId=1310&DF=03%2f06%2f2020&Ver=2>

<sup>2</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

- 4.5 The Developer Contributions SPD is intended to provide additional clarity on the use of Section 106 and CIL. The project will also need to align with the proposed Gloucestershire Local Developer Guide, which is expected to be a joint project with all Gloucestershire local planning authorities.
- 4.6 Further information on the anticipated purpose, scope and timing of these documents is set out at Appendix 1.

## 5. Neighbourhood Planning

- 5.1 Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.
- 5.2 There are currently five adopted Neighbourhood Plans in Cotswold District:
- Lechlade on Thames (adopted October 2016)
  - Northleach with Eastington (adopted March 2016)
  - Tetbury and Tetbury Upton (adopted December 2017)
- 5.3 There are 15 other Neighbourhood Plans currently in progress (some of which are awaiting referendum as a result of Covid19 restrictions):
- Ampney Cruis Neighbourhood Plan
  - Andoversford Neighbourhood Plan
  - Blockley Neighbourhood Plan
  - Chedworth Neighbourhood Plan
  - Chipping Campden Neighbourhood Plan
  - Cirencester Neighbourhood Plan
  - Down Ampney Neighbourhood Plan
  - Ebrington Neighbourhood Plan
  - Fairford Neighbourhood Plan
  - Kemble and Ewen Neighbourhood Plan
  - Moreton-in-Marsh Neighbourhood Plan
  - Somerford Keynes Neighbourhood Plan
  - South Cerney Neighbourhood Plan
  - Stow-on-the-Wold and Swells Neighbourhood Plan
  - Upper Rissington Neighbourhood Plan
- 5.4 Because the progress and timing of neighbourhood plans are beyond the control of the District Council, the LDS does not include any information on their anticipated timetables. Further information can however be obtained from the District Council's website<sup>3</sup>.

## 6. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

- 6.1 A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) explains how local communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in the preparation of the Local Plan and other related documents. It also provides information about how local communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in relation to the determination of planning applications.
- 6.2 Local planning authorities are required to review their Statements of Community Involvement every five years. The Council's current SCI was adopted in November 2020<sup>4</sup> and will therefore need to be refreshed no later than October 2025 or sooner if required.

## 7. LDF Monitoring Report

- 7.1 In accordance with national planning regulations the Council is required to produce a monitoring report addressing various matters including plan progress and implementation, neighbourhood planning, CIL (where applicable) and the duty to co-operate.
- 7.2 The Council prepares various monitoring reports, these include:
- a) Authority Monitoring Report;
  - b) Housing Land Supply Report (this calculates the Council's 5 year land supply);
  - c) Residential Land Monitoring Statistics;
  - d) Economic Land Monitoring Statistics;
  - e) Brownfield Land Register;
  - f) Infrastructure Funding Statement.
- 7.3 Where possible, the Council updates and publishes the above reports on an annual basis. All documents are saved on Council's Local Plan evidence webpage<sup>5</sup> apart from the Infrastructure Funding Statement which can be found on the Council's CIL webpage<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/8d88d41e4a43c5c/9101-statement-of-community-involvement.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/bztce2k3/cotswold-district-annual-monitoring-report-may-2020.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-infrastructure-levy/infrastructure-spending-and-funding/>

## 8. Risk Assessment

8.1 There are a number of risk that could affect the timetable set out in the LDS. These are indicated in the table below, along with contingencies where possible.

Potential Risk	Impact / Contingency
Staff Resources	<p>It is envisaged that the staffing requirements for the preparation of the Local Plan partial update will be met primarily from the Forward Planning Team with input, as required, from other teams within the Council. Subject to availability, Development Management staff and the Climate Action Manager will be required to assist with updating specific policies in the extant Local Plan.</p> <p>Short term contracts will be considered where appropriate, together with secondments with neighbouring authorities. Every effort will be made to rationalise workloads wherever possible and to make use of staff in other sections where their skills are appropriate to the task, notably development control, housing strategy and sustainable communities. Specific studies will be undertaken by external specialist consultants where necessary.</p>
Availability of PINS for Examination	The timetable for the preparation and adoption of Local Plans depends on the capacity of the Planning Inspectorate to undertake Examinations at the appropriate time. Every effort will be made to seek early confirmation that the proposed timings are acceptable.
Changing national policy, guidance and evidence	The review has highlighted key issues on which to focus evidence gathering. However, changes to national planning policy and guidance and updated evidence can generate new issues or produce additional, unforeseen requirements and these could potentially impact on deadlines or even affect the premise of the entire project. The Government's proposals contained within the Planning for the Future White Paper is a prime example. The Council will keep abreast of latest national guidance and best practice; revise the Local Plan timetable if necessary; and ensure adequate budgetary provision for consultancy support if required.
Failure of the Local Plan to meet tests of soundness and legal compliance	Officers will attend relevant training or seminars on best practice, as well as maintaining a dialogue with the Planning Inspectorate and neighbouring authorities. Consultants appointed to undertake specific studies will be required to ensure their work meets the tests of soundness. All evidence will be robust and officers will make use of the soundness and legal self-assessment toolkit. The Local Plan process will follow the regulations and outlined procedures.
Funding for evidence	Inadequate funding to support evidence gathering could be significantly delay the delivery of the local plan partial update project. The risk has been mitigated by the establishment of the Programme Board and reporting structures to ensure requirements are identified early and worked into the budget plan.
Cooperation of other external bodies	The new planning system involves complex arrangements for cooperation, consultation, engagement and evidence gathering. Failure on the part of the other bodies to respond in time or to provide adequate responses which require subsequent clarification could cause significant delay to work programmes. Officers will maintain an ongoing dialogue with partners to ensure the duty to cooperate is met. Any particular delays will be reviewed in the timetable. For joint working on evidence, clear working arrangements with other bodies will be required with strong programme management.
New data becoming available	Evidence will need to be as up to date as reasonably as possible. This could impact on progress if the timing of data is unfortunate. Evidence will need to be amended accordingly, taking a proportionate approach. Only major shifts in official government projections should justify changes to the strategy, though some tweaks to policy direction may be necessary.
Large numbers of representations received	Representations that are not submitted through the on-line system (e.g. by email or letter) have to be manually entered, which is a time consuming task. It may be necessary to bring in other staff, or temporary assistance. This will require sufficient workstations with internet access to facilitate the exercise.
Neighbourhood Plans and other corporate projects	There are currently fifteen neighbourhood plans that are in the process of being drafted, this compares to 4 plans currently being drafted in West Oxfordshire. The prevalence of neighbourhood plans has incrementally increased in recent years and is likely that some of those already adopted will seek a partial update to accord with the updated local plan. The Council has a legal duty to support the delivery of Neighbourhood Plans and this will increasingly impact resources. Early and continued engagement with Town and Parish Council's will be vital especially in terms of establishing anticipated project timetables. The Council is also preparing a guide to make clearer the level of support Town and Parish Councils can expect from the Council. It may be necessary to bring in other staff, or temporary assistance, at certain times. A good example would be securing support to deliver a Habitats Appropriate Assessment.
Pandemic (Covid 19)	This project plan has been prepared during a global pandemic and it is not certain how long enforced lockdowns will last or if future lockdowns will be required during the term of this LDS. The Forward Planning team are working remotely and Council's infrastructure has supported a seamless transition to remote working. There will be times, due in part to the creative nature of the work, where officers do need to meet in person. Future enforced lockdowns may affect the ability of the team to debate complex issues and progress solutions, which are often more difficult to convey remotely.



## Appendix 1 – Document Profiles

Cotswold District Local Plan 2011 to 2031 (Partial Update)	
Status	Development Plan Document (DPD)
Overview	The Local Plan sets out the overall framework for future development growth in Cotswold District to 2031. A partial update will update components of the adopted local plan to take account of the Council's corporate plan, emergency declarations and other material considerations (for example the National Planning Policy Framework).
Geographical coverage	District-wide
Timetable	<p>Informal engagement (Regulation 18) – <b>Q4 2021</b></p> <p>Publication of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Reg 19) – <b>Q4 2022</b></p> <p>Submission of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Reg 22) – <b>Q1 2023</b></p> <p>Examination – <b>Q2 2023</b></p> <p>Adoption – <b>Q3 2023</b></p>
Conformity	Prepared in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).
Management arrangements	Document production to be led by the Council's Forward Planning (planning policy) team under the direction of the Forward Planning Manager.
Resource requirements	Internal resources comprise the Council's Forward Planning Team with input from other teams and services as appropriate. External resources will be drawn upon in terms of the production of supporting technical evidence.
Community engagement	Engagement to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Cirencester Town Centre Masterplan	
Status	Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Overview	Intended to supplement the Local Plan 2031 providing additional detail on the Cirencester Town and Cirencester Central Area policies. The SPD will update and review the exiting SPD. It will seek to develop Cirencester Town Centre in a holistic manner, balancing the need to manage traffic, and improve the appearance of the public realm with other competing, environmental, social and economic objectives.
Geographical coverage	Cirencester Central Area (town centre area)
Timetable	<p>Feasibility Assessments – 2021/22</p> <p>Informal consultation – <b>Q2 2022</b></p> <p>Further consultation – <b>Q1 2023</b></p> <p>Adoption – <b>Q3 2023</b></p>
Conformity	Prepared in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and the Cotswold District Local Plan (2011 to 2031)
Management arrangements	Document production to be led by the Council's Forward Planning (planning policy) team under the direction of the Forward Planning Manager.
Resource requirements	Internal resources comprise the Council's Forward Planning Team with input from other teams and services as appropriate. External resources will be drawn upon in terms of the production of supporting technical evidence.
Community engagement	Engagement on the preparation of the document to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Developer Contributions	
Status	Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Overview	Intended to provide further guidance on the Council's approach towards the use of and inter-relationship between planning obligations, planning conditions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
Geographical coverage	District-Wide
Timetable	<p>Informal consultation – <b>Q4 2022</b></p> <p>Further consultation – <b>Q1 2023</b></p> <p>Adoption – <b>Q2 2023</b></p>
Conformity	Prepared in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and the Cotswold District Local Plan (2011 to 2031)
Management arrangements	Document production to be led by the Council's Forward Planning (planning policy) team under the direction of the Forward Planning Manager.
Resource requirements	Internal resources comprise the Council's Forward Planning Team with input from other teams and services as appropriate. External resources will be drawn upon in terms of the production of supporting technical evidence.
Community engagement	Engagement on the preparation of the document to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

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# Cotswold District Green Infrastructure Strategy

(including open space and play)  
Draft for Consultation March 21)



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Please note that the strategic approach to sport in the Cotswold District is covered by the Cotswold District Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan and Strategic Assessment Report 2017.

## Foreword:

Foreword from Rachel Coxcoon - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning and Cllr Clive Webster Cabinet Member for Development Management, Landscape and Heritage.

One of the findings of the strategy is quite sobering. It is assumed that as a District access to the countryside and safe places to cycle is a given, and there is lots of it for us to enjoy. This strategy highlights that this is not the case. However, the strategy does illustrate that there are many opportunities open to the development industry, land owners and partners both in the public, private and voluntary sectors to make a difference if we focus our minds and work together.

The Pandemic and the Lockdown has had a profound impact on the lives of everyone. The world we took for granted, and was familiar to us all, changed in a matter of days.

For many of us our gardens and the green spaces around us provided a calm and tranquil environment we could feel safe in and, for a while, escape the overwhelming new reality.

As we adjust to this new world the importance of the environment and how we look after it is at the forefront of our minds. Recently the Council declared an Climate Change Emergency and last year an Ecological Emergency.

The Council's Corporate strategy embeds both of these strategies at its heart, with a commitment to making the next version of the Local Plan Green to the Core.

Parks, Open Spaces, access to the countryside and the appreciation of nature have emerged as increasingly important in this new way of life. There has been a vast number of surveys, across the country that support this view. The National Trust (NT) Summer Solstice Poll9 found that nearly 70% of adults in the UK said that spending time noticing nature around them has made them feel happy during lockdown and that since lockdown interest in nature has risen by 33%, particularly in the 25-34 year old age group. However, there is still an urgent need to address the inequalities regarding access to the countryside for all.

However, it is not just access to open spaces that have captured peoples' imagination during the lockdown. Applications for council-run allotments in England have soared during the coronavirus pandemic. In August, this year, the National Allotment Society (NAS) reported that 40% of English councils responded to a survey to say that they had experienced a "significant uplift" in applications to join waiting lists during April. This has also been reported by many of our own Town and Parish Councils.

This Green Infrastructure Strategy has been written to support the Ecological Emergency and the update to the Local Plan. Key to the backbone of this strategy is the Building with Nature Benchmark and the improvements that can be made to our Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to this strategy. This includes the Town and Parish Councils in the District, The Cotswold AONB Board, The Cotswold Water Park Board, The Woodland Trust and Dr Gemma Jerome Director of Building with Nature.

## Introduction

### Why has the Green Infrastructure Strategy been prepared?

To direct the design and delivery of green infrastructure in Cotswold District to maximise its environmental, community and economic benefits. It is a guide for delivering high quality Green Infrastructure through new developments, community partnership and land management. It identifies a number of Green Infrastructure issues at a District and at a more local scale. A range of evidence has been used to inform the Strategy and is included in the Strategy appendices. It forms part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan and other new plans and strategies, as well as providing further detail to reinforce the current Local Plan 2011-2031 and any further updates. Please note that the strategic approach to sport in the Cotswold District is covered by the Cotswold District Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan and Strategic Assessment Report 2017.

### Who is the Strategy for?

- Developers and their agents,
- Statutory decision makers and consultees,
- Town and parish councils,
- land owners/managers,
- The general public/community groups.

# 1: Overview and Introduction to Green Infrastructure

## 1.1 What is Green Infrastructure?

### **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines green infrastructure as:**

"A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities".

### **Natural England has provided a more comprehensive definition:**

"...green infrastructure incorporates a range of green spaces and features, which delivers multi-functional benefits. Areas of green infrastructure and green infrastructure assets can be important for their own intrinsic value, such as biodiversity, but can also have a key connectivity function".

### **The Town and Country Planning Association definition helps to add more detail:**

"Green infrastructure describes the networks of parks, green spaces, green roofs, green walls, verges, street trees, rivers and waterways that are vital to our cities, towns and villages.

High quality green infrastructure provides a wide range of valuable benefits, including: improvements to people's physical and mental health; opportunities for people to meet friends and neighbours; opportunities for children to learn through play; mitigation of the effects of climate change; reduction in flooding; reduction in air pollution; increased biodiversity; increased economic activity; places for active transport e.g. walking and cycling".

This Strategy assumes all references to green infrastructure include both green and blue, i.e. water-related features and infrastructure.

Examples of green (and blue) infrastructure in Gloucestershire include rivers; cemeteries; canals; sports pitches; orchards; green roofs; parks; open fields and woodland.

Green infrastructure can be considered at a range of scales, from international, such as the Severn Estuary to the local, such as a pond or a hedgerow around a garden or field.

## 1.2. The Benefits of Green Infrastructure

The key environmental and social benefits have been highlighted as –

- Ensuring a more attractive place for people to live, work and visit, which in turn creates a greater sense of civic pride.
- Giving opportunities for outdoor relaxation, play and access to nature.
- Improving health and well-being – lowering stress levels and providing opportunities for exercise.
- Helping climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as carbon sequestration, for example by flood alleviation and cooling urban heat islands and planting trees and broader hedgerows.
- Improving air and water quality and managing surface water runoff to minimise flood risk.
- Giving space for habitats and providing wildlife corridors and linkages.
- Providing sustainable transport routes – for cycling and walking.
- Enabling local food production - in allotments, gardens and through agriculture.

The key economic benefits as –

- Attracting inward investment - a more attractive area to business investors and potential residents.
- Attracting increased visitor spend - a more attractive area for tourists and visitors.
- Generating employment - attracting new businesses and residents to the area, increasing office occupancy rates and increasing the number of jobs in the area.
- Saving environmental costs - improving air quality, reducing the urban heat island effect, filtering diffuse pollution, helping to manage flood risk and storing water during droughts.
- Providing health benefits - impacts on health through improved air quality and surroundings which encourage activity or active lifestyles and improve mental health and well-being.
- Promoting food production - enabling increased productivity.

The key point is that green infrastructure provides a wide range of benefits simultaneously and from the same area of land.

These benefits have been taken from the [Strategic Framework for GI in Gloucestershire](#) <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Green Infrastructure Framework | Gloucestershire LNP](#)



## 1.3 The Aims of the Cotswold Green Infrastructure Strategy

### The Key Aims of the Strategy are to:

- Protect and enhance the GI framework of the District for the benefit of everyone, wildlife and the wider environment.
- Ensure that new and enhanced GI relates to the local character of the area and meets local needs.
- Set out and drive the GI priorities for the District and in particular for Cotswold District Council and its key partners.
- Illustrate Cotswold District Council's commitment to the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership GI pledge and vision for GI in the County.
- Ensure that climate change adaptation and mitigation is central to all GI policies, projects and initiatives.
- Reinforce the measures in the Cotswold District Ecological Emergency Action Plan.
- Ensure that new development delivers high quality, timely, well-managed and beneficial GI e.g. through the use of the Building with Nature Benchmark and where possible, formal Accreditation through the Building with Nature Assessment and Audit process.
- Extend and improve access to Green Infrastructure to better include groups that don't currently benefit from it directly.
- Provide a baseline to evaluate the key GI elements in the District.
- Provide detailed data, mapping and analysis of GI across the District and beyond including key shared GI with neighbouring local authorities but, particularly within the 17 principal settlements.
- To augment the information, policies and guidance provided within the Cotswold District Local Plan, including the Cotswold Design Code (2018).
- Bring open space and play provision issues ([particularly from the 2017 strategy part 1<sup>2</sup>, 2<sup>3</sup> & 3<sup>4</sup>](#)) under the overall GI banner.

In preparing the Strategy, a range of evidence, including maps and data, including space standards has been taken into account to develop a set of GI priorities for the District and from those an implementation plan for Cotswold District Council has been produced. To deliver on the aims and priorities of the Strategy many other partners, stakeholders and individuals will also have to play their part. The Council will support action by others both practically and by providing a leadership role.

There are many GI projects and initiatives underway both locally and nationally, for example the updating of the GI components of the National Planning Practice Guidance, the Environmental Land Management Scheme, the development of the county's Nature Recovery Network, biodiversity net gain, the re-notification of the Cotswold Water Park Sites of Scientific Interest, Rural SuDs schemes, and many community specific projects. **Refer to Section 4.1 Community and Partnership Activities and Projects.** This Strategy cannot incorporate or predict the outcomes of this ongoing and other

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/tnegerid/5406-green-infrastructure-open-space-and-play-space-strategy-part-1-aug-2017.pdf>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/zsplnte2/5406-green-infrastructure-open-space-and-play-space-strategy-part-2-aug-2017.pdf>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/mxhjugpq/5406-green-infrastructure-open-space-and-play-space-strategy-part-3-aug-2017.pdf>

future work; however those initiatives and projects will help to deliver the Strategy priorities. It is important that the Strategy is regularly reviewed and updated.

**The Strategy will be of use to a range of organisations and individuals including;**

- Voluntary sector and community groups, e.g putting together environmental projects and grant bids.
- Developers and their agents, e.g designing new developments in the District.
- The Council, e.g determining planning applications; developing its next Local Plan and new strategic initiatives.
- Parish and Town Councils, e.g preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- Residents and visitors, e.g looking for more information about the local environment.
- Farmers, landowners and land managers, e.g. drawing up and delivering agri-environment and Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs)

## 1.4. The Gloucestershire context for the Cotswold GI Strategy

### Useful Cotswold District Green Infrastructure Facts, Figures and Issues

Wellbeing and Access
There are 89,860 people living in the Cotswold District, of which, 13% of households do not have a car compared with 26% across England. (Extract taken from the OCSI, generated 19/10/20)
According to the OS 2017 data the total amount of green space provided by Parks and Gardens is 0.4 % compared with the England average of 0.8 %. (Extract taken from the OCSI, generated 19/10/20)
80% of the District is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is a greater coverage by a national landscape designation than any other District in England. However, the AONB is more than a landscape designation. See page 12.
Dark Skies are a key characteristic of the District and an important GI factor. Mapping produced by the CPRE in 2016 shows the Cotswolds still has good areas of dark skies, but previous mapping shows that more than 40% has been lost since 1993.
The District falls within 3 National Character Areas (a landscape classification system led by Natural England) -106: Severn and Avon Vales; 107: Cotswolds; 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales.
There are 969.35 miles of Public Rights of Way, which includes the Cotswold Way National Trail, Monarch Way, Diamond Way, the Millennium Way and the Thames Path National Trail.
There are three Sustrans routes (Cycle Routes) – 45, 48, and 57 covering 67.76 miles Total length on road 63.11 miles Total length off road 4.65 miles
The Cotswold AONB Voluntary wardens have created 85 self-guided walks. They cover a range of options for people from short easy routes suitable for wheelchairs such as the ‘walks on wheels’ series, easy access routes of up to 6 miles without stiles and a new longer route for all terrain mobility scooters. Many start from the Principal Settlements
Imported plant pathogens will have a huge effect on the physical look of the District’s landscape, for example, Ash Dieback.
81% of the District is farmland worked by approximately 750 active farms. (DEFRA 2019)
The District generally has good air quality. There are only two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) at Thames Street in Lechlade and the Air Balloon Junction at Birdlip. The Cotswold Climate Change Emergency Strategy identifies road traffic as the biggest contributor to pollution in the District at just over 45%.
The North and South Cotswold GP localities have the oldest populations in Gloucestershire. A high proportion of patients suffer from long-term health problems, particularly conditions linked to age. It is estimated that Cotswold has around 1,500 people aged 65 and over with dementia. This forecast is to rise to 2,500 by 2030. Comparatively high rates of diabetes are also experienced in the District. (Understanding Cotswold JSNA 2015)
Approximately 9% of households live in ‘Fuel Poverty’, compared to the national average of 11.1%. (Department for Energy and Climate Change 2016)
The averages for the highest prevalent diseases in the Cotswold District compared to the England average are Asthma - CDC 6.7 v England 5.9. High Blood Pressure - CDC 15.3 v England 14. Not above the England average, but still high is Depression - CDC 8.3 v England 9.9. Obesity - CDC 8.2 v England 9.8. (Extract taken from the OCSI, generated 19/10/20)

**The known benefits of Green Space at a National Level**

£2.1 billion per year could be saved in health costs if everyone in England had good access to greenspace, due to increased physical activity in those spaces.

in Birmingham, the annual net benefit to society of their parks and greenspace is nearly £600 million, which includes £192 million in health benefits

In Sheffield, for every £1 spent on maintaining parks, there is a benefit of £34 in health costs saved, with local residents being the primary beneficiaries

(Taken from Improving Access to Greenspace: 2020 Review. Public England)



Water
The majority of the district is a surface water and Nitrate Vulnerable Zone(NVZ) as well as a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone
There are 51 river bodies and one reservoir
The River Thames, the Thames and Severn Canal and the Cotswold Water Park are in or pass through the district.
Surface water quality is generally good in the District; however the <a href="#">Water Cycle Study</a> states there are failures of Water Framework Directive standards. There are some very high concentrations of phosphate, affecting the potential for watercourses to achieve good ecological status. The Cirencester WwTW may require further upgrade to prevent a WFD deterioration for Ammonia.
Cotswold is part of 'SWOX' the Swindon-Oxford Water Resource Zone (WRZ) which is the second largest WRZ in Thames area after London. The Thames area and SE is classed as 'seriously water stressed' and one of the driest regions .
There are 170 lakes, set over 42 square miles formed as a result of mineral extraction in the Cotswold Water Park.
The watercourses in the District are part of two main catchments – the Thames and the Severn
20% of surface waters within the Severn river basin have good ecological status or potential and 79% of ground waters have good quantitative status. Only 8% of surface waters within the Thames river basin have good ecological status or potential and 53% of ground waters have good quantitative status.
The District was severely affected by the 2007 floods, as well as the recent flooding incident in December 20/ January 21.

Wildlife
37 Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
Over 260 locally designated Local Wildlife Sites;
The Cotswold grasslands are home to a large number of rare and declining plants including many species of orchid and other flowers including Pasque Flower and Cotswold Pennycress. Cotswold grassland also supports nationally rare butterflies such as the Chalkhill Blue and the Duke of Burgundy.
Wildflower grassland was created by human activity and has developed since early farmers cleared forested areas to make grazing land for their livestock. In the 1930s 40% of the Cotswolds was covered in Jurassic limestone grassland, today that has fallen to less than 1.5%
Natural England has recently reviewed the boundaries of the Sites of Scientific Interest in the Cotswold Water Park to better reflect important bird populations.
20,000 birds over winter in the Cotswold Water Park including the Goldeneye and the Smew.
8 Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust reserves in the District.
The key habitat types for the District are – ancient woodland, unimproved limestone grassland, unimproved and good semi-improved neutral grassland, traditional orchards, wetlands, rivers, streams and standing open water.
There are a range of European protected species found within the District including - bat species, great crested newts, dormouse, otter and white clawed or freshwater crayfish.
There are a number of imported plant pathogens that are likely to affect the biodiversity of the District for example, Ash Dieback.
Approximately 50 % of SSSIs are in an unfavourable condition for a range of reasons including water quality and poor management. In addition, to the quality status of the sites, the monitoring of them remains an issue.



Cotswold District has a diverse range of habitats, species, important sites and features for biodiversity. The District has a small proportion of the internationally significant Cotswold Beechwoods Special Area for Conservation (SAC) within its boundary and Rodborough Common SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC are within 3 KM of its boundary. The Local Plan highlights issues regarding the recreational disturbance at Beechwoods SACs and work is currently in progress to understand the potential recreational pressures and what can be done to mitigate it.

**The District supports a number of nationally and locally designated sites**

Designation	Number of Sites	Total area of sites	Percentage of the District
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - includes a percentage Cotswold Beechwood & Cotswold Water Park	37	468Ha	0.4%
Local Wildlife Sites	Over 260	5,027.2Ha	4.31%
Strategic Nature Reserves	67	15,230.2Ha	13%
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves	8	139.41Ha	0.12%
Local Nature Reserves	2	13.41Ha	0.0115%
Ancient Woodlands.	146	3,566 Ha	3 %

**Percentage of land within the District covered by priority habitats and wildlife sites**

Designation/ Land type	Percentage of land cover in the District
Priority Habitat	11 %

In 2016 the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership endorsed a strategic framework for GI in Gloucestershire. The approach in this framework formed part of the evidence base for the current Cotswold District Local Plan.

## **THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

### **Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership**

#### **VISION**

That Gloucestershire's green infrastructure is enhanced, extended, promoted and managed to maximise its contribution to our high quality natural and historic environment, our health and well-being, our economy, our resilience to climate change and to a better quality of life for all.

And that sustainable economic growth in the county is strengthened by giving green infrastructure the same consideration as other key county-wide infrastructure issues.

The framework included a map to show the location of the strategic GI in the county and how it links to GI across the county boundaries. The key GI features of relevance to the District are the wider Cotswold Water Park area (Upper Thames Vales), the Cotswold Scarp and the main rivers that run NW/SE across the District.

The Local Nature Partnership Discussions are reviewing the framework and accompanying map to complement the GI work that is going on at the District level and to reflect new county level GI-related initiatives. Some of these new initiatives have been incorporated into the Cotswold District GI Strategy, however others are still in the development phase.

## **Other key strategic Gloucestershire Initiatives**

### **The Cotswold Area of Outstanding Beauty**

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Beauty signed up to the Colchester Declaration. Under the declaration all AONBs will prepare a Nature Recovery Plan. For the [Cotswolds AONB](#)<sup>5</sup> this is being developed with the Cotswolds Ecological Network Forum. It will look at nature recovery from a whole Cotswolds landscape scale perspective and will help inform the Nature Recovery Strategies.

### **Access and Well-Being**

[The Local Transport Plan \(LTP\) 2015-2031](#)<sup>6</sup> is a living document setting out the transport strategy for Gloucestershire.

[The Draft Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(2019 - 2030\)](#)<sup>7</sup> has a number of priorities that can be addressed, at least in part, by high quality GI provision. "Evidence suggests that as little as 10% of someone's health and wellbeing is linked to health care – it's our environment, jobs, food, transport, houses, education, and our friends, families and local communities that affect our health and wellbeing most." The Draft Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2019 - 2030)

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2091568/gcc\\_2596-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-summary-version\\_dev2.pdf](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2091568/gcc_2596-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-summary-version_dev2.pdf)





[The Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health strategy](https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s52324/Gloucestershire%20Air%20Quality%20and%20Health%20Strategy%20v.%204.pdf)<sup>8</sup> describes the strategic approach in Gloucestershire to improving air quality and mitigating its impact on health as it relates to nitrogen oxides and particular matter. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership have been working to steer the strategy to incorporate wider considerations of green infrastructure and active travel to reduce harmful emissions, along with endorsing the Building with Nature standards.

### **Water**

A range of projects, particularly looking at upstream rural sustainable drainage approaches are underway and given that water catchments are not confined to local authority boundaries a wider scale view is crucial.

### **Wildlife**

The Gloucestershire First Local Economic Partnership [Gfirst LEP](https://www.gfirstlep.com/)<sup>9</sup> along with Local Authorities in Gloucestershire, including Cotswold District Council commissioned the [Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership \(GLNP\)](https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/)<sup>10</sup> to develop a number of maps. The partnership have developed a Nature Recovery Network and Ecosystem Services map for the County.

Led by [Ecosulis](https://www.ecosulis.com/) and working closely with [Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust](https://www.gloucestershiREWildlifeTrust.co.uk/)<sup>11</sup> and [Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records](https://www.gcer.co.uk/)<sup>12</sup>, the Project has mapped the baseline distribution of existing ecosystem services in the County. The work will help guide land-use and planning decisions, identify opportunities for investment in the enhancement of natural capital in the County and provide a tool for delivering positive, integrated benefits for people, wildlife and the economy, including net gain. [The website is a work in progress](https://www.naturalcapital.gcerdata.com/)<sup>13</sup>. When visiting the site, refresh the site regularly to see the latest available map tools and layers.

This work will also help to deliver on the Lawton principles of [Lawton principles of Bigger, Better, More and Joined Up](https://www.biggerbettermoreandjoinedup.gov.uk/)<sup>14</sup> Bigger, Better, More and Joined Up and the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan's (2018) commitment to *"develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that we have lost from our countryside."*

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<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s52324/Gloucestershire%20Air%20Quality%20and%20Health%20Strategy%20v.%204.pdf>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.gfirstlep.com/>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.gloucestershiREWildlifeTrust.co.uk/>

<sup>12</sup><https://gcer.co.uk/>

<sup>13</sup><https://naturalcapital.gcerdata.com/>

<sup>14</sup><https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402170324/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>



There are a number of new projects, initiatives and strategies happening, at both a National and local level, for example, the [Gloucestershire Tree Strategy](#)<sup>15</sup>. Therefore, updates to the strategy will be required overtime to ensure it remains a living document.

[The emerging Environment Bill](#)<sup>16</sup> also introduces provisions requiring the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs), based upon this mapping. These tools will support better spatial planning for nature recovery, by setting out priorities and opportunities for protecting and investing in nature within a local area. They will also support strategic planning for housing and infrastructure and help direct net gain investment so that it has the greatest benefit for local wildlife and people.

The [Nature Recovery Network](#) mapping also forms the first stage in developing natural capital mapping for the area.

This Nature Recovery Network mapping and analysis will, in time, replace the current Gloucestershire Nature Map; however this is the best strategic ecological approach available at present. The Gloucestershire Nature map (hosted by the LNP) is a strategic approach to showing the best places to maintain and extend terrestrial habitats at a county scale. The Nature Map identifies the Lowland Calcareous (Limestone) Grassland, lowland Meadows, Floodplain grazing marsh, Woodland Mosaic and rivers as strategic areas for the Cotswolds.

Gloucestershire Local Nature Improvement Areas

DEFRA define Nature Improvement Areas as:

“large (in the region of 10,000-50,000 hectares), discrete areas that, by taking a landscape-scale approach, will deliver a step change in nature conservation, where a local partnership has a shared vision for their natural environment. “

[The Local Nature Partnership have designated three “locally-designated” NIA<sup>17</sup>s](#) within and/or adjacent to Cotswold District; [Appendix A.pdf](#)

- The Cotswold Scarp.
- The Cotswold Valleys.
- Cotswold Water Park.

### **The Cotswold District**

In addition to the [Climate Change Emergency](#) declared in 2019 and [The Ecological Emergency](#) in 2020 there are a number of documents, which will also contribute towards the Lawton principles of ‘Bigger, Better and More Joined up’. (Lawton J, 2010, Making Space for Nature: A review of England’s Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, DEFRA)

The Cotswold District Leisure Strategy is expected to be published in Spring 2021. In the strategy access to the countryside and the outdoors forms a key part.

The Cotswold District Renewable Energy Strategy and the Sustainable Transport Strategy, when adopted, will also have a fundamental role to play in securing Green Infrastructure in the District.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/glos-tree-strategy>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/nature-improvement-areas>





## 1.5 The Key Standards used to shape the Cotswold Green Infrastructure Strategy

### Building with Nature (BwN)

[Building with Nature](https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/)<sup>18</sup> is a national GI benchmark that supports the delivery of high quality GI at all stages in the development process including policy, design, planning, implementation, construction and long-term management. It was originally developed by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the University of West of England with support from a wide partnership including Cotswold District Council. The benchmark is now, used across the country.

The Cotswold District GI Strategy has been developed using the Core Standards and benefit-driven themes set out in BwN, to ensure that the Strategy is comprehensive and reflects best practice. Some of the BwN Standards have been applied to GI provision in the District. As well as informing the Strategy, they provide the criteria for those using the Strategy.

Although developers can pay for formal accreditation of their proposals the benchmark is also available on a free to use basis, with formal accreditation requiring the services of a trained Assessor. If a development proposal can demonstrate that it meets the BwN benchmark, it is highly likely that it will meet the requirements of the relevant national and local plan policy.



There are five core BwN standards; they distinguish a green infrastructure approach from a more conventional approach to the design and delivery of open and green space. The 5 core standards encompass the following principles:

- 1. Green Infrastructure forms a multifunctional network, operating at a landscape scale.**  
Ensures that individual features form and contribute to a multifunctional network of green infrastructure operating at a landscape scale.
- 2. High quality Green Infrastructure reflects and enhances the character of the local environment.**  
Ensures that green infrastructure reflects the character of the local environment and positively contributes to local identity, landscape character and vernacular, and a sense of place.
- 3. The type, quality and function of Green Infrastructure responds to the local policy context.**  
Ensures green infrastructure effectively meets local priorities and needs as articulated in local policy or through consultation with local stakeholders.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/about>



**4. Green Infrastructure is resilient to climate change and enhances environmental quality.**

Ensures that green infrastructure is resilient to climate change, and opportunities for shade provision, carbon storage, improved soil and air quality, and reduced noise and light pollution are maximised.

**5. Provision is made for long-term management and maintenance of Green Infrastructure.**

Ensures that adequate provision is made for how long green infrastructure will be managed and maintained including the responsibility for these activities and their funding.

In addition to the five core Standards there are the three themed Building with Nature standards for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.

<b>Wellbeing</b>	Standards aim to secure the delivery of health and wellbeing outcomes through the delivery of green infrastructure features. (Wellbeing includes access)
<b>Water</b>	Standards aim to provide green infrastructure to effectively manage water quantity and quality, increase flood resilience, and maximise opportunities for amenity.
<b>Wildlife</b>	Standards aim to ensure that green infrastructure allows nature to flourish, both within the boundary of development, and at a landscape scale.

The policies in the Cotswold Local Plan, including INF7 (Green Infrastructure) and EN2 (Design of the built and natural environment) and the Cotswold Design Code are compatible with the Building with Nature Standards. The Local Plan is currently undergoing a partial review. The review will ensure these policies will align as much as possible with the National Standards.

## **1.6 Other Green Infrastructure Standards**

There are a range of other GI-related standards that have been developed locally, nationally and internationally. The current Local Plan (D.66 a) makes clear that:

“The amount, type and design of GI should be informed by the appropriate national and local standards, guidance and best practice, including the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards from Natural England and the national allotment provision recommendations from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners”

A number of these standards have been used in analysing the data and mapping within this Strategy. The information in this section will provide the relevant detail to help developers deliver GI that meets all the required standards.

### **Public Health England and Access to Green Space**

In 2020, Public Health produced new guidance for accessing greenspaces called [Improving access to Greenspace a new review for 2020](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf)<sup>19</sup>. In the guidance, the importance of the Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) still applies.

<sup>19</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904439/Improving\\_access\\_to\\_greenspace\\_2020\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf)

The guidance states “ Several organisations have produced access standards, for example, Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt), Fields in Trust’s Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, The Woodland Trust’s Woodland Access Standards and the London Plan (174-177). These all present a cumulative opportunity approach to access. Fields in Trust further includes standards for quality. ANGSt is the most comprehensive, not only setting standards for access, quantity and quality, but for services as well.”

### **Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)**

Publically accessible natural open spaces play a fundamental role in the effective delivery of the wellbeing benefits of GI, for example, there is robust evidence that access to natural greenspace is beneficial for mental and physical health. In order to encourage the provision of more natural green spaces, Natural England developed the [Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards \(ANGSt\)](#)<sup>20</sup> The National Planning Policy Guidance ( Reference ID: 8-007-20190721) makes reference to the ANGSt being applied when assessing green infrastructure provision. The amount of Accessible Natural Green Space available in the District, has been established using the ANGSt.

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should be within easy reach of accessible natural greenspace:

<b>ANGSt standards</b>	
<b>Size of Site</b>	<b>Distance from Home</b>
of at least 2 hectares in size	no more than 300 metres (5 minute walk) from home;
at least one accessible 20 hectare site	within two kilometre of home;
one accessible 100 hectare site	within five kilometres of home; and
one accessible 500 hectare site	within ten kilometres of home
A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.	

This standard has been applied to open space provision in the District and the data shows that there is a shortfall in the provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace at all levels.

### **Other Standards are available and include:**

- The Play Standards,
- Fields in Trust Standard and Guidance – outdoor sport, play and informal open space,
- Play England Design for Play Guidance,
- Allotments Standards - The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners,
- Woodland Access Standard.

The 2017 Strategy took into consideration and advised, for best practice the use of The Play Standards and the Fields in Trust Standard and Guidance for outdoor sport, play and informal open space. Building on these standards this Strategy supports the concept of natural play endorsed by Play England Design for Play ‘A Guide for Creating a Successful Play Spaces’.

In recent years there has been a move to open up the idea of play to more than the traditional idea of outside play for children. From pieces of specific equipment and locations to viewing play and associated learning as an activity for all areas not just the playground. The results from the 2017

<sup>20</sup>[https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605111422/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east\\_of\\_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605111422/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx)



Strategy demonstrated that play and opportunities for play were not wholly seen as traditional play areas/grounds [Appendix B](#)<sup>21</sup>

## The Play Standards

The Play Fields in Trust has offered guidance for practitioners on open space provision and design known as the Six Acre Standard (6AS) most recently updated to Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play (PDOSP) in 2008. While there is a need for review, given the changes in political, planning and social landscapes since 2008, the benchmark standards within PDOSP still remain a useful guidance tool.

The PDOSP seeks the protection, provision and improvements of outdoor spaces for sport and play and good planning and design is central to the philosophy and objectives. Using this current guidance will help to ensure that the provision of play is a sufficient size to enable effective use; is located in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and encourage its continued use.

Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play (PDOSP) 2008	Play Standards	New and existing Play areas LAPs – Local Areas for Play (very young children) LEAP – Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) (for children who can go out and play independently) NEAPS - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (aimed at older children)
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The 2017 GI, Open Space and Play Space Strategy identified that there were 40 play areas in the 17 principal settlements. Each of the play areas were assessed as a result of site visits in 2016. The quality standards used included assessing the mix of play experiences, litter bin provision, benches and seats, safety of site, parking, dog free area, the location, lighting and disabled access. (SEE [Appendix C. 17 Play Area Standards 1.docx](#)).

## Fields in Trust Standard and Guidance – outdoor sport, play and informal open space

The guidance is based on a broad recommendation that 6 acres (2.4 hectares) of accessible green space per 1,000 head of population enables residents of all ages to participate in sport and play.

## Play England Design for Play Guidance

[Play England Design for Play - A guide to creating successful play spaces](#)<sup>22</sup>

Design for Play includes 10 design principles which are at the core of a fresh, design-led approach to commissioning, and which are encapsulated in one 'golden rule':

'A successful play space is a place in its own right, specially designed for its location. Designers should take a holistic perspective on designing for play. Play opportunities should be embedded in the site as a whole.'

## Allotments Standards - The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners

[The National Allotment Society](#)<sup>23</sup> states that 'An allotment is an area of land, leased either from a private or local authority landlord, for the use of growing fruit and vegetables. In some cases this land will also be used for the growing of ornamental plants, and the keeping of hens, rabbits and

<sup>21</sup> <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17Qs1leL3xsKXZpm0olvMrgNuiygQts-0>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.playengland.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/design-for-play-introduction.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/>

bees. An allotment is traditionally measured in rods (perches or poles), an old measurement dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. 10 poles is the accepted size of an allotment, the equivalent of 250 square metres or about the size of a doubles tennis court. There should be 15 allotment plots per 1000 households' (SEE APPENDIX D [Allotment Standard.docx](#))

The update to the 2017 Strategy has drawn on the original data regarding allotments. This data has been used to confirm the importance of allotments in the GI Strategy. In particular, they deliver key elements of the Strategy, for example, Wellbeing and Wildlife.

(APPENDIX C [Allotment Standard.docx](#)) The results of the findings highlight the inequality of allotment provision in the District. Some principal settlements have a deficit and some more than the suggested standard requirement. The Standard is viewed as a minimum not as a maximum.

### **The Woodland Access Standard – Forestry Commission**

According to the <sup>24</sup>[Woodland Access Standard](#) (endorsed by the Forestry Commission), no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size. There should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km of people's homes. This is intended to be an aspirational benchmark and some flexibility and local assessment is needed in its interpretation. Currently only 18.2% of the population of Britain lives within 500m of accessible woodland, in the Cotswolds this is 6.3 %. This standard has not been used in assessing GI provision within the District as it is, to some degree, covered by the ANGSt standard.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/43913/woodland-indicators-by-parliamentary-constituency.pdf>



## 2. Green Infrastructure Issues and Potential for the Cotswold District

These issues come from evidence prepared as part of this Strategy and from other data and evidence sources. Also refer to evidence in Section 5

### 2.1 The Strategic GI Issues for Cotswold District

#### Access and Wellbeing led Issues

- To ensure that high quality GI, is created and maintained, for the benefit of all, as part of new developments.
- To address the lack of accessible natural green space, including allotments and appropriately sized gardens, in order to meet specific local needs.
- To create new strategic GI cycle and pedestrian links, linking up existing settlements and other important destinations.
- To improve access to and create new public footpaths in and around the principal settlements.
- To increase play provision, including informal play opportunities, within new developments and elsewhere.

#### Water Led Issues

- To improve the water quality of water courses.
- To deliver Hydro-energy projects (particularly those that may also provide fluvial flood resilience).
- To ensure that SUDS are incorporated within new developments.
- To improve the management of watercourses, including their banks.
- To deliver upstream new SUDS.
- To consider water and its value as a natural and valuable resource at a catchment based level.

#### Wildlife Led Issues

- To reverse habitat and species loss and fragmentation and build resilience to climate change and disease.
- To address recreational pressures on the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
- To develop a strategic approach to biodiversity conservation in the Cotswold Water Park.
- To implement biodiversity net gain in a way that maximises the outcomes for biodiversity and GI more widely.
- To ensure that habitats created and enhanced reflect locally important habitat networks.

#### Planning Led Issues

- To ensure that the natural environment, natural capital and GI is fully considered in all investment decisions relevant strategies and policies, including community planning, the review of the local plan and strategic level projects and their implementation.
- To maximise the contribution that GI can make to the climate change agenda – both mitigation and adaptation.
- To continue to develop the evidence base to support effective GI provision.
- To develop a stewardship model for the management of GI in new developments.



## 2.2 Possible solutions to address GI issues

The actions required to deliver these possibilities for GI in the District are being, and will be, carried out by a range of partners and stakeholders at the national, county, district and local level. The possible solutions and research, in turn form the basis of a potential plan for the Cotswold District Council. Many of the possible solutions will deliver more than one potential element of GI in the District.

### GI Potential in the Cotswold District

Wellbeing and Access
Investigate the potential for the creation of new (and particularly medium to large scale) country or natural parks within the District
Work with partners, for example the Highways Authority (through the emerging county cycle strategy) to investigate the potential for the creation of new and enhancement of existing GI led strategic cycle and pedestrian routes in the District, with an emphasis on – linking up existing settlements (within and outside the District) and other important destinations, prioritising – Cirencester to Kemble (included in Local Plan) Kemble to Tetbury (included in Local Plan) Cirencester to South Cerney, the Cotswold Water Park and out to Swindon Fairford to Lechlade (included in Local Plan) The settlements along the Fosseway  Ensuring that as many of these routes as possible are off-road or traffic free Re-using disused railway lines and canals. Providing routes that are accessible for all users, including families and disabled people and horse riders. Designs that also increase wildlife habitat connectivity Those routes that can be delivered through new developments
Encourage the creation and promotion of circular, signed and accessible for all, circular walks around each of the 17 principal settlements for the benefit of local residents, workers and visitors.
Encourage the provision of new allotments in all of the settlements.
To encourage landowners to provide opportunities for GI and natural capital as part of the Green Recovery.
Provide better guidance on and encourage the provision of play opportunities in new developments and elsewhere, with a particular emphasis on natural play and play provision that is integrated across the whole development.
Where appropriate, review the management of the Council's own land holding to maximise its contribution to the GI network and to climate change adaptation and mitigation
Water
Work in partnership with landowners and other key stakeholders to improve the water quality of water courses and to deliver Hydro- energy projects (particularly those that may also provide fluvial flood resilience)
Ensure that SUDS are considered from the first point of developer engagement with the Council; emphasising not only their water management role but also their potential to deliver biodiversity and amenity benefits.
Work with riparian owners and other partners to improve watercourse management.

<b>Wildlife</b>
Support and work with key partners to minimise recreational pressures on the Cotswold Beechwoods SACs and North Meadow/Clattinger Farm SAC.
Work with partners to produce and implement a biodiversity strategy for the Cotswold Water Park.
Work with partners to prepare nature recovery network mapping and an Nature Recovery Strategy for Gloucestershire, that is fully reflected in District level policy and strategy.
Ensure that habitat gain achieved through any District-licensing projects also delivers on wider GI objectives.
Investigate how Biodiversity Net Gain can best deliver wider GI objectives and whether there is a case for delivering Net Gain at a higher level than mandated nationally.
<b>Planning</b>
Ensure that the current GI policies and design code principles are met and delivered in new developments
Ensure there are mechanisms in place for the management of new or enhanced GI from the first stages of design to ensure high quality management, community involvement and that the mechanism for stewardship will deliver on aspirations.
Review the success of the current local plan policies and GI principles; amending them where necessary as part of the local plan review.
Ensure that the review of the local plan, including new allocations and revised policies (including any revised Cotswold Design Code) fully considers better alignment with the Building with Nature benchmark and any emerging Natural England GI standards; the Gloucestershire Nature Recovery network, other new legislation, policy and guidance and that they form part of an overall natural capital approach.
Consider how GI issues can be highlighted within the site allocation process, for example by including the GI on and offsite requirements for each proposed development site and within the relevant policies.
Encourage the provision of new accessible open spaces through the local plan review – considering whether a “call for sites” for such areas or open space / natural park site allocation would be appropriate.
Consider how any new cycle or pedestrian routes could be included in the review of the local plan and how funding from development, for example via CIL, might be achieved.
Highlight the importance of the consideration of the natural environment, natural capital and GI within Neighbourhood Development Plans; for example by providing – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GI mapping</li> <li>● Analysis of GI mapping – looking for opportunities to enhance and connect GI. an evidence paper and policy template for NDPs on GI and the natural environment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review the current evidence base for the designation of Special Landscape Areas and update where necessary.</li> </ul>
Investigate the carbon sequestration potential of GI, comparing different land uses and habitats.
Work with Highways England and other partners to maximise the opportunities for the A417 (Missing Link) project and any related projects to deliver GI benefits.

Work with the LNP and Duty to Cooperate and other partners to review the Strategic Framework for GI in Gloucestershire.

## Planning

Ensure that the Chesterton Strategic Development delivers on its aspirations to provide high quality GI (that meets the BwN benchmark).

Encourage the ecologically appropriate planting of more trees and woodland and rewilding projects to address climate change. Ensuring that this occurs in the design and creation of areas where multi-benefits are maximised.

Review and Monitoring Actions.

Monitor the success of the GI strategy; review new GI-related initiatives and review the GI strategy, as necessary.

## 2.3 Delivering Potential GI in the 17 Principal Settlements

In addition to actions at a District level, consideration has been given to GI actions that could be delivered at a settlement level, focusing on those larger principal settlements where development is most likely to come forward. These were derived from the existing Local Plan or came forward as part of the 2018/19 community consultation. These actions are detailed within this section.

Other settlements in the District are likely to have similar actions and/or priorities. Preparing further GI mapping and undertaking additional community consultation with those settlements will help to identify these. A useful way to achieve this would be via the NDP process.

### Proposed GI for the 17 Principal Settlements

#### South Cotswold Principal Settlements

Cirencester			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	Provision of additional play space and facilities for children and young people;  Improvement of the functionality, amenity, safety, biodiversity, environment and attractiveness of city bank;  Improving pedestrian /cycle linkages between Chesterton, the Amphitheatre and the town centre.  Cycling infrastructure in Cirencester, including improvements to Tetbury Road and London Road corridors.		
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Improve non-car access to open spaces.	Enhance the Daglingworth stream	Improve school and hospital grounds for wildlife

Down Ampney			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	<p>Improvements to footpaths in and around the village, including a pedestrian crossing in the village centre</p> <p>Improvements in links to The Folley and Down Ampney Pitts, and existing pocket parks;</p> <p>Contributions to, a new natural open space or pocket park.</p>		
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	<p>Improve enhance new routes to amenity areas and consider activities to increase their use</p>	<p>Improve the Ampney Brook</p>	<p><b>Survey and improve habitat for swallows, house martins and swifts.</b></p>

Fairford			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	<p>The route for the multi-use path from Fairford to Lechlade along the former railway to be safeguarded;</p> <p>The provision of land for allotments.</p>	<p>Improvements to the provision of footpath and cycle links between Fairford and the riverside, the Cotswold Water Park and canal route;</p>	
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	<p>Improve access to GI to the south of the town and around Fairford Park</p>	<p>Enhance the river bank for wildlife</p>	<p>Improve habitat for hedgehogs</p>

Kemble			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	Improvement of bus and cycle links between the village and Kemble Enterprise Park Provision of a safe footpath between Ewen and Kemble.		
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Enhance existing walking routes, including Thames Path	Create more small ponds	Improve local green space and recreation ground for wildlife

Lechlade			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	The route for the multi –use path from Fairford to Lechlade along with the line of the former railway will be safeguarded; and Installation of a new footbridge over the River Thames ; Improvements to the public realm at the entrances to Lechlade and the town centre; The regeneration of the riverside area as a prominent gateway to the town for tourist, leisure and retail related uses, taking into account the potential flood risk.		
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Improve non-car routes to Coln Country park	Create new habitats for water voles, otters and newts	Improve local green space for key species



South Cerney			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	A new and improved cycle path from Cirencester, the Cotswold Water Park and the Duke of Gloucester Barracks.		
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Improve links to playing fields	Investigate reinstating tributaries	Enhance biodiversity at the golf club

Tetbury			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>			
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Extend the railway path towards Cirencester	Improve riparian habitats along railway and Avon	Improve school and hospital grounds for wildlife

## Mid Cotswold Principal Settlements

Andoversford			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	NA	NA	NA
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Link up school and new housing area. Create new allotments	Re-use water run-off from Parish buildings	Improve bankside quality for wildlife

Bourton on the Water			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	NA	NA	NA
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Improve non-car access to Greystones nature reserve	Improve river corridors for wildlife	Increase resilience of species by creating new areas for wildlife

Northleach			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	Improvements to the market Place	NA	NA
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Enhance green ring around town for non-car access	Improve riparian habitat along river	Improve wildlife value of Fortey woodland

Stow on the Wold			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	NA	NA	NA
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Increase GI in new developments, particularly visual and auditory access	Make the riverside walk along the Dickler more accessible	Enhance King George V playing fields for wildlife

Upper Rissington			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	New natural open space or pocket park and; allotment provision.	NA	
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Create green routes. Build a multi-use games area	Manage water courses and ponds to increase water quality	Enhance Godfrey's Grounds and Ansell's Pasture for wildlife

## North Cotswold Principal Settlements

Blockley			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	Provision of allotments; Improvement of footpath and cycle links;		
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Audit seating and benches	Enhance mill ponds for wildlife	Improve habitat quality and connectivity along the Brook

Chipping Campden			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	A new open space or pocket park in the north and the east of village.	NA	NA
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Create circular routes linking to Cotswold Way and open spaces	Improve the River Cam for key wildlife species	Provide for key species in new developments

Mickleton			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	NA	NA	NA
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Improve provision of accessible GI	Re-use water run-off from Parish buildings	Hedgerow restoration

Moreton in Marsh			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	NA	Flood alleviation bund and channel to the north-west	NA
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Consider creation of new country park	Enhance water courses in public open spaces	Improve cemeteries and churchyards for wildlife

Willersey			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>GI in the Adopted Local Plan</b>	NA	NA	NA
<b>Locally prepared GI ideas</b>	Improve park for amenity and wildlife	Manage water run-off from High Street with swales etc	Improve roadside verges for wildlife, especially pollinators

## 3. Delivering Green Infrastructure through New Developments

### 3.1

The creation and enhancement of GI are key components of delivering high quality new developments and creating excellent places for people to live, work and play. This Strategy should help to ensure that this happens.

### 3.2 Policy Background

3.2.1. The potential of GI to help create great places is recognised in local, national and international policy and guidance. For example, the [NPPF](#)<sup>25</sup> covers GI in a number of different sections, including design and the natural environment, highlighting the multi-functional nature of GI. There is a specific section on GI in the national [Planning Practice Guidance](#)<sup>26</sup> and GI is referenced in the [new national design guide](#).<sup>27</sup>

There is a range of international and national legislation, policy and guidance that relates to specific GI benefits or issues, for example The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Water Framework Directive.

National and international policy, legislation and guidance on the natural environment, including GI is evolving very quickly, for example the emerging Environment Bill will affect the legislative framework for GI. For that reason a list of the relevant documents is not included in this Strategy. [The Town and Country Planning Association \(TCPA\)](#)<sup>28</sup> holds the UK's biggest GI knowledge base, this knowledge base is constantly being updated.

#### 3.2.2 Local Policy - Cotswold District Local Plan 2011 -2031

The Local Plan has a range of policies that relate to GI, however the two main policies are EN2 and INF7, which should be considered in conjunction with the Cotswold Design Code (appendix D). The implementation of the policies within the Local Plan and the Design Code GI principles will help to ensure that local GI requirements are met and that high quality developments are delivered.

GI Policies in the Local Plan	
Policy INF1	Infrastructure Delivery
Policy INF7	Green Infrastructure (to be read in conjunction with appendix D - The Cotswold Design Code)
Policy EN1	Built, Natural & Historic Environment
Policy EN2	Design of the Built and Natural Environment (to be read in conjunction with appendix D - The Cotswold Design Code)
Policy EN5	Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Policy EN6	Special Landscape Areas
Policy EN 7	Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands
Policy EN8	Biodiversity & Geodiversity: Features, Habitats & Species
Policy EN9	Biodiversity & Geodiversity Designated Sites
Policy EN14	Managing Flood Risk

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/News/uks-biggest-green-infrastructure-knowledge-base-launched>

Policy EN15	Pollution & Contaminated Land
Policy INF1	Infrastructure Delivery
Policy INF2	Social & Community Infrastructure Policy
Policy INF3	Sustainable Transport
Policy INF4	Highway Safety
Policy INF8	Water Management Infrastructure Policy
Policy S2	The Strategic Site
Policy SP3	Thames and Severn Canal
Policy SP4	The River Thames
Policy SP5	Cotswold Water Park: Post-mineral extraction after use

## **Policy EN2**

### **Design Of The Built And Natural Environment**

Development will be permitted which accords with the Cotswold Design Code (Appendix D).  
Proposals should be of design quality that respects the character and distinctive appearance of the locality.

## **Policy INF7 Green Infrastructure**

1. Development proposals must contribute, depending on their scale, use and location, to the protection and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure and/or the delivery of new Green Infrastructure.

2. New Green Infrastructure provision will be expected to link to the wider Green Infrastructure network of the District and beyond.

Green Infrastructure will be designed in accordance with principles set out in the Cotswold Design Code (Appendix D)

## **Cotswold Local Plan Appendix D – Cotswold Design Code**

(Sections D1 – D65 include issues that are also of relevance to the design of GI, for example the consideration of setting, inclusive design, boundary treatments etc.)

### **Effective Green Infrastructure and High Quality Landscape**

D.66 High quality well integrated and carefully designed green infrastructure (GI) and landscape provision is crucial to the long-term success of developments, ensuring that the maximum multi-functional benefits are achieved for those that live in, work at and visit new developments.

The spaces in between new buildings, the surrounding areas, and the connections between a new development and the existing townscape or landscape, are equally important to the design of the structures themselves.

The detail of the GI and landscape provided on a development site will be related to various factors including the nature of the site itself, and the type, size and impact of the development. Improved GI and high quality landscape is also of great benefit when introduced into existing built areas. Key principles include the following:

<b>The Cotswold Design Code</b>		
<b>a</b>	<b>National and local standards and best practice</b>	The amount, type and design of GI should be informed by the appropriate national and local standards, guidance and best practice, including the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard from Natural England and the national allotment provision recommendations from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.
<b>b</b>	<b>Local character</b>	The design of newly created elements of GI and landscape should be inspired by and enhance the character of the existing GI, landscape, biodiversity and built environment of the site and the wider area.
<b>c</b>	<b>Existing landscape features</b>	GI design and distribution should be informed by existing landscape, ecological and historical features. For example, stone walls, hedgerows, trees and ponds should be retained and successfully integrated into the GI network.
<b>d</b>	<b>Heritage assets</b>	A new development site may include or fall within the setting of historic buildings and structures, and archaeological sites. The GI network should be designed, used and managed in such a way as to protect and enhance the heritage assets and their settings, preserving key views and buffer areas.
<b>e</b>	<b>Interface with existing properties</b>	The interface between a new development and any existing adjacent properties should be designed to respect the amenity of existing residents and to ensure that the existing and new developments are well integrated.
<b>f</b>	<b>On-site GI network</b>	This should function as a network of interconnected green (and blue/aquatic) spaces, which fulfil various functions including: formal sport; recreation; pedestrian and cyclist routes; accessible natural green space; structural landscaping; SuDS; and wildlife habitat. Most of the elements of the GI should be multi-functional.
<b>g</b>	<b>Distribution of GI across the site</b>	The GI network should be designed to ensure that all residents, employees and visitors have convenient access to green spaces. This should be achieved through dispersal of meaningful and usable areas across the site. Elements of the GI should be of sufficient size to be functional and easily managed. The GI and landscape provision should be located so that it makes best use of and enhances important local views.
<b>h</b>	<b>GI and landscape provision on individual plots</b>	The landscape design of individual plots and the areas immediately surrounding them (e.g. roadside verges) should be of high quality and should reflect the landscape, ecological and built character of the area. Private spaces such as gardens should be of an appropriate size for the dwelling provided, and should be designed to ensure privacy and adequate daylight. Private spaces should be clearly recognisable as such, through the use of suitable boundary treatments.
<b>i</b>	<b>Inter-relationship with off-site GI</b>	The on-site GI should be designed to ensure that it links physically with off-site GI to maximise opportunities for ecological connections, footpath and cycle links, continuity of landscape features, etc.
<b>j</b>	<b>Off-site GI enhancements</b>	Where possible enhancements to off-site GI assets should be achieved, for example increasing public access to nearby land, and better management of wildlife sites in the locality.
<b>k</b>	<b>Sustainable drainage solutions</b>	The principle approach to the SuDS infrastructure should be to ensure that as much of it as possible is provided on the surface, mimicking the natural drainage of the site. This will reduce the burden on the existing sewerage system. The SuDS infrastructure should not only serve a drainage role, but also contribute to the visual amenity and the wider environmental performance of the development. Its management should be fully integrated with the management of other aspects of GI.
<b>l</b>	<b>Green features on buildings</b>	Green features (living roofs and walls, bird or bat boxes, etc.) should be incorporated, where appropriate, into new and existing buildings.
<b>m</b>	<b>Biodiversity enhancements</b>	Opportunities should be taken within all areas of GI (and the built environment) to enhance biodiversity through species choice, creation of new habitats, land management etc. There should be linkages with existing biodiversity assets and networks, and increasing access to nature for people.



<b>n</b>	<b>Species choice</b>	Within planting schemes, species choice should be guided by appropriateness to the local area (with an emphasis on native species); suitability for its function (for example winter screening); value for wildlife; and resilience to climate change.
<b>o</b>	<b>Street trees</b>	Wherever possible street trees should be planted to improve amenity and environmental performance. Street trees can also be used to help to define the character of different areas of a development and improve legibility.
<b>p</b>	<b>Road junctions</b>	The landscape design of new or significantly altered road junctions, particularly at visually prominent locations, should be of high quality, reflect the landscape character of the area, help to give a sense of place, and ensure greater legibility.
<b>q</b>	<b>Pedestrian and cycle routes</b>	The walking and cycling network, which will form part of the GI, should encourage “active travel”, in line with the highway user hierarchy principle. On-site routes should link to off-site non-vehicular routes, particularly those that lead to key destinations such as shops, schools and railway stations. These routes should be designed so that they are also available to the existing residents and businesses in the locality, and they should be implemented early in the delivery of the development.
<b>r</b>	<b>Healthy lifestyles</b>	GI should be designed to encourage healthy lifestyles for all, including: encouraging walking and cycling; provision of formal and informal sports facilities; providing volunteering opportunities; and food production.
<b>s</b>	<b>Provision for all sectors of the community</b>	The amount, distribution and type of GI across a site (and any off-site GI enhancements) should be based on an assessment of the needs of the new residents and other users of the site. Consideration should also be given to helping to meet any shortfall in existing provision.
<b>t</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	The majority of the GI should be accessible, both physically and socially, to all sectors of the community, providing safe, attractive, welcoming and engaging spaces for local people. It should meet the needs of all sectors of the community, including “hard to reach” groups and those who may require specific provision (for example seating to assist those with limited mobility).
<b>u</b>	<b>Timing of “construction” of GI</b>	Where appropriate, elements of the GI network should be “constructed” in advance of built development. Where this is not appropriate, the timing of their “construction” should be tied to the relevant phase of built development.
<b>v</b>	<b>Long-term Management</b>	The management and monitoring of GI should usually be controlled by a management plan. The plan should clearly set out who will be responsible for the management of the GI and landscape provision. Management plans should be implemented in full and regularly reviewed. Where appropriate the local community should be involved in the management of GI.

### 3.2.3 Neighbourhood Development Plans

There are a number of made and draft Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) in the District and some of these include policies with GI themes. More detail on [Neighbourhood planning](#) can be found on the CDC website.

Examples of GI related policies in made Neighbourhood Development Plans			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
<b>Tetbury Neighbourhood Plan</b>	Policy 4: Protection and enhancement of the rights of way network Policy 6: Open Spaces Policy 8: Local Green Spaces		Policy 9: Protection of mature and landmark trees.
<b>Lechlade Neighbourhood Plan</b>	Policy D1 Design Principles Conform to the (Local Plan) Cotswold Design Code or its successor document. Includes guidance on GI. Policy E3 Proposals for development or redevelopment of the marina will be supported provided that these would: b) provide links to the town and the adjoining public footpath network, including the Riverside pub and riverside park south of the river. Policy G2 Lechlade Cricket Ground		Policy G1 Local Green Spaces
<b>Northleach Neighbourhood Plan</b>	Policy NE3: Design of the built and natural environment iv. improving footpath links from the town to the countryside and within the town.	Policy NE1: Public Parking Prior to any development taking place a site-specific flood risk assessment will be required.	Policy NE6: Local Green Spaces – designating spaces

### 3.3 Designing Excellent Green Infrastructure in New Developments

#### Delivering the benefits of GI

Planning policies require new developments to fully consider GI issues but there are also benefits for developers in creating excellent GI which go beyond those policy requirements, including to :-

- Ensure that all the land within the development site is used optimally delivering a range of benefits from flood management and cycle routes to biodiversity mitigation and landscape enhancements.
- Resolve local community concerns about new development, for example by providing new public open spaces.
- Demonstrate a commitment to high quality.

**Table: How can High Quality GI Contribute to the 3 Benefit Based Themes?** (Taken from Building with Nature)

How can High Quality GI Contribute to the 3 Benefit-Based Themes?		
Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
Can be designed to promote health, wellbeing, community cohesion and active living	Can be used to minimise surface water runoff and manage flood risk as part of SuDS	Can be used to avoid, mitigate and compensate for negative impacts on existing biodiversity; and offer the opportunity to restore, create and enhance biodiversity in line with targets
Can be designed to be inclusive of the needs of vulnerable and excluded groups	Can be used to improve water quality	
Can be designed to be used and enjoyed all year round	Can be designed to create better places for people and wildlife to live	Offer the opportunity to ensure linkages between habitats
Can assist in supporting local priorities for reducing/and or preventing health inequalities	Can provide opportunities to improve water management at a catchment level	Can contribute to the target conservation status of key species
Can inspire innovative solutions to overcoming social and cultural boundaries to use and enjoy GI	Can provide a range of features to minimise pollution downstream	Can includes ecological features around and within the built environment
Can add positively to distinctiveness of place	Water management features can add value to the overall design of a place	Can play a role in restoring and sustaining wider ecological networks

### Designing GI

The Cotswold Design Code provides a framework of principles for designing high quality GI within new developments. Additional information on the Cotswold Design Code [advice on green infrastructure](#)<sup>29</sup>, particularly at the pre-application stage, has been prepared for (funded by the MHCLG Innovation Fund) site specific pre-application advice on GI can be obtained from [Cotswold District Council](#)<sup>30</sup>

A simple, additional way for developers to demonstrate that they are delivering high quality GI at both the design, implementation and long-term management stages is to make use of the BwN benchmark process (see section 1.5)

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/4sojaskr/green-infrastructure-planning-advice.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> [Cotswold District Council](#)



## Green Infrastructure Checklist for Developers

- Consider what the GI requirements for the site may be before purchase of a site to ensure that the land value fully reflects those requirements.
- Engage with CDC at an early stage to make sure GI is central to the design of the development, including using the Green Infrastructure Pre Application Advice Note.
- Consider how the GI will be managed from the first stages of design to ensure high quality management community involvement and that the mechanism for stewardship will deliver on aspirations.
- Use the full range of Local Plan policies to consider the broader elements of GI.
- Use the Design Code in the Local Plan and Building with Nature Benchmark to inform what GI is appropriate, in terms of location, type, quantum and quality (including reference to the standards set out in [section 1.5](#) of this GI Strategy).
- Engage, at an early stage, with local Town and Parish Councils to better understand community GI aspirations.
- Ensure that the GI related policies and projects in adopted and draft Neighbourhood Plans are fully considered.
- Use the mapping data and other evidence in this GI Strategy to better understand the local GI context. This will maximise the opportunities for the GI enhanced or created as part of new development to contribute to the overall GI network of the area and to deliver multiple benefits for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife at a local as well as at a district level.
- Have a full understanding of the context of the site and its role in the GI network of the area, for example by referring to the Nature Recovery Network mapping, when available and the [Landscape Character Assessments](#)<sup>31</sup>. In addition to the mapping and other information in this Strategy.
- Ensure that all the relevant assessments and studies have been undertaken, for example ecological appraisals; landscape visual impact assessments etc and that these have informed the design of the new development.
- Look for opportunities to deliver the District and local actions in the GI Strategy in [section 2 - Green Infrastructure Issues and Potential for the Cotswold District](#)
- Consider in full the range of soft and hard landscape interventions to ensure the maximum usability, quality and attractiveness of GI.
- Put long-term mechanisms in place to retain and manage new or enhanced GI.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/our-landscape/landscape-strategy-guidelines/>

## 4. Delivering Green Infrastructure through Community and Partnership working

### 4.1 Community and Partnership Activities and Projects

There are a wide range of GI-related activities, projects and initiatives happening in the District, from those at a landscape scale, such as the [WILD project](#)<sup>32</sup> to individual actions, for example; installing a single bat box in a garden. Information on many of these projects can be found on [Gloucestershire Nature Project Map](#).<sup>33</sup> This mapping illustrates the diverse nature of the organisations involved in GI, and the importance of partnership working to ensure that the right people are involved and that the most effective use is made of the resources available.

### Examples of Working in Partnership to Achieve Green Infrastructure Outcomes

Working In Partnership To Achieve Green Infrastructure Outcomes				
Organisation	Project	Well-being	Water	Wildlife
Cotswold District Council	Health & Wellbeing Partnership CDC leads on this quarterly meeting of voluntary and statutory organisations who work in the area of health and wellbeing to share information about their activities.	X		
Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Environment Agency	<b>Flood Defences</b> 28 Parishes in the Cotswold District have either had work completed or have work planned or both on flood defences since 2007; including 11 of the 17 key settlements.	X	X	X
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	<a href="#">The Wild Towns Project</a> will create, connect and enhance green spaces for wildlife in seven towns across Gloucestershire, including: Cirencester, Tetbury, Fairford and Moreton in Marsh	X	X	X
Cotswolds National Landscape	<a href="#">Glorious Cotswold Grasslands</a> <sup>34</sup> Project aims to create the largest network of wildflower rich Jurassic limestone grassland in the country – around 100 hectares in total, over three years.	X	X	X
Gloucestershire County Council Highways	<a href="#">Gloucestershire Rights of Way and Countryside Access Improvement plan 2011-2016</a>	x	x	x

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/erdf>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/gloucestershire-nature-project-map>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/looking-after/our-grasslands-projects/glorious-cotswolds-grasslands/>



<b>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group</b>	<a href="#">The Cotswold Water Park WILD Project</a> <sup>35</sup> Water with Integrated Local Delivery) is a three year project set within the Cotswold Water Park, it aims to improve water quality and biodiversity in order to meet the demands of EU legislation	X	X	X
<b>Gloucestershire Highways</b>	<a href="#">Biodiversity Guidance</a> <sup>36</sup> contains advice to help the County Council implement its statutory duty to conserve biodiversity (Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006) whilst carrying out its highways functions.	X	X	X

Although many of these projects focus on one of the benefit-based outcomes of Wellbeing, Water or Wildlife, as the table above shows, they usually have beneficial outcomes for all.

Most of the GI-related activities, projects and initiatives in the District are already delivering on many GI elements within this strategy and new ones will come forward that are also able to do that. The setting out of a clear list of issues and possibilities for the District may help projects to focus their activities and to justify what they are doing where this is necessary, for example within funding bids. The mapping and other evidence in the strategy should also assist in identifying where projects and partnerships can target their work to enhance the GI network of the District – and also improve delivery at a more local community level.

## 4.2 Community Planning

Local communities, including Parish and Town Councils are keen to shape their towns and villages and this can be achieved through project work – as can be seen in some of the projects under [section 3.2.3](#), where local communities are key to successful outcomes, or by community planning initiatives, such as Parish Plans, Community Design Statements or Neighbourhood Plans. There is robust evidence, in new plans, to show that community involvement in GI has many benefits, including addressing social exclusion and improved mental health outcomes. Using GI as a focus for community effort can also encourage a wider range of people to become involved and to harness the energies of those who might otherwise be considered to be “hard to reach”, for example young families are unlikely to engage in traditional community planning exercises but may be interested in wildlife projects.

Some local communities have already included GI in their NDPs. The GI Strategy provides robust evidence on which to base GI policies and projects in NDPs. This includes some detailed mapping of the GI assets (Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife) focused on the 17 principal settlements in the District. Similar mapping and data collation exercises would also be useful for other communities embarking on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. New plan stakeholder feedback has indicated that there is insufficient guidance on incorporating GI and other natural environment issues within NDPs, particularly within a local context.

This Strategy should help to provide that local context:

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.waterpark.org/wild-project/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/19592/ghbg-v31-dec2019.pdf>

- The maps and additional information the GI Strategy should also help local communities to :-
- Develop local community GI projects, (based on evidence of need).
- Support bids for external funding.
- Inform the Neighbourhood Planning process for example helping to identify breaks in connectivity for footpaths or wildlife that could be addressed through the NDP.
- Ensure that new developments can contribute to local GI by working directly with developers – showing them where the GI priorities lie or by providing detailed comments that refer to GI in responses to planning applications and other consultations .
- Inform NDP site allocations by providing clarity on sites that may not be suitable for development in GI terms or by highlighting opportunities to create new or improve existing GI within new site allocations (including providing detail on the type, location and quantum of GI that should be incorporated).

### Local Green Spaces

An important example of GI within community planning for green infrastructure is Local Green Spaces (LGS). The [NPPF](#)<sup>37</sup> makes provision for local communities to identify green areas of particular importance to those communities, where development will not be permitted except in very special circumstances. Local Green Spaces can be designated through a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Development Plans.

A limited number of LGS were designated in the [current Local Plan](#)<sup>38</sup> following community consultation; and additional ones have been designated in NDPs; however further sites are likely to be suitable for designation and these could come forward, either within emerging NDPs or in the review of the Local Plan.

The Council has developed a tool kit to assist in the selection and designation of [Local Green Spaces](#)<sup>39</sup>.

Using this toolkit ensures that any proposed designation is robust and will stand up to challenge and in addition it provides consistency across the District.

<sup>37</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf)

<sup>38</sup><https://cotswold.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=885eb94398bf4819b17bd66d64275e59>

<sup>39</sup><https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17Qs1leL3xsKXZpm0olvMrgNuiygQts-0>



## 5. The Evidence – what does the evidence tell us?

The GI issues and possibilities in the strategy are underpinned by a range of evidence including:

- 5.1 GI Mapping
- 5.2 Policies and information within the current District Local Plan and its existing evidence base
- 5.3 Desktop Research carried out in 2015/16
- 5.4 Emerging evidence that is being collated as part of the Local Plan Review
- 5.5 Engagement with principal settlements in 2018
- 5.6 Feedback from relevant stakeholders
- 5.7 International, national and county-level legislation, policy and guidance
- 5.8 Other data from international, national, county and local information sources
- 5.9 Access to Open Spaces

### 5.1 GI Mapping

The mapping for the Strategy took place during 2018 and 2019, with additional amends made in 2020. The maps, listed below, helped to establish a picture of existing work in the GI field at a County level. These maps are and include The Strategic Framework for GI in the County, The Gloucestershire Nature Map and Gloucestershire Nature Improvement Areas.

Focusing on the Cotswold District, the following maps established key elements of GI within it, or on the District's boundary. These maps include:

- All the elements of Green Infrastructure in the District as well as a 15KM from the boundary line to recognise that GI does not respect boundary lines and our neighbours GI,
- Linear Green Infrastructure, which includes existing Sustrans Routes , National Trail (Cotswold Way & Thames Path) Promoted Routes (Diamond Way, Macmillian Way & Monarch's Way) and rivers,
- Agricultural Land Classification in the District,
- Landscape Classifications Cotswold District,
- Nature Conservation Plans and Key Access Routes and areas of opportunity.

Finally, maps were set up for each of 17 principal settlements to mirror the Local Plan. For each of the 17 settlements a Wellbeing, Water, and Wildlife map was created to pull through the Building with Nature themes.

The following table shows the GI asset mapped for each of the Building with Nature themes.

Main GI assets mapped	
Wellbeing	Access Land, Allotments, Amenity Green Spaces, AONB, Cemeteries and Churchyards, Common Land (registered), Historic Parks and Gardens (registered), Local Green Space, National Trail, Permissive Footpaths, Playgrounds (including school playgrounds), Playing Fields (including school playing Fields), Promoted Routes, Public Rights of Way, Railway line Active, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Special Landscape Area, Sports Grounds, Sustran Route
Water	Bogs, Flood Zone 3b, Lakes, Main Rivers, Marshland, Thames and Severn Canal, Watercourses (this includes river tributaries) Cotswold Water Park



<b>Wildlife</b>	Ancient Woodland, Dismantled Railway, Key Wildlife Sites, National Forestry Inventory, Priority Habitat, Scientific Sites of Special Interest, Regionally Important Geological Sites
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The mapping work for the 17 principal settlements was undertaken in partnership with the parish and town councils and builds on earlier work conducted for the Open Spaces Strategy in 2015/16. The Parish and Town Councils added their suggestions and refinements to the maps (and suggested further GI ideas. [see section 2 & 6](#))

The detailed outcomes of this mapping and data work with the 17 principal settlements along with a brief analysis of the information collated as part of the 2017 work and other data are set out in [section 6](#).

### Open Space provision

Further analysis of the mapping, was conducted, with a particular emphasis on access to open spaces and provision of open spaces in the District. In addition, research into linear routes, for example, public rights of way (PROW) and cycle routes also took place. By using the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) as referred to in Section 1.6 as an overall guide.

The following information became apparent: –

<b>ANGSt standards</b>		
<b>Size of Site</b>	<b>Distance from Home</b>	<b>Does provision in the Cotswold District meet this standard?</b>
of at least 2 hectares in size	no more than 300 metres (5 minute walk) from home;	Desktop mapping has taken place, but input by a community, by community basis would be helpful.
at least one accessible 20 hectare site	within two kilometre of home;	No
one accessible 100 hectare site	within five kilometres of home; and	No
one accessible 500 hectare site	within ten kilometres of home	No
A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.		No

### Off-road Cycle and pedestrian routes

Within the District, access to services is a key issue, with a lack of regular public transport. In addition, there is a strong tourism sector, with an increasing emphasis on the walking and cycling offer. The county Health and Wellbeing Strategy also emphasises the need to increase activity levels and walking and cycling could make a cost-effective contribution to this, as well as helping to deliver against the climate change agenda with a modal shift from private cars to walking and cycling. The data, derived from the mapping evidence, shows that there are currently very few off-road cycle routes and that many of the public rights of way do not readily link up settlements and other key destinations (including those outside the District). There are a number of linear features, which have potential to deliver (in some cases long distance) linear off-road routes; this includes disused railway lines and canals.

There are also opportunities to create and better promote circular pedestrian routes from the 17 principal settlements as well as a circular route around the Cotswold Water Park. These measures would benefit not only tourism, but also local residents and those that work in the settlements.

## **5.2 Policies and information within the current District Local Plan and its existing evidence base**

Information on the relevant policies in the current local plan can be found in [section 3. The evidence base](#)<sup>40</sup> on which the current local plan was based is extensive and includes –

- Cotswold Water Park Topic Paper 2015.
- Special Landscape Areas Review 2017.
- Local Green Spaces Evidence Paper 2017.
- Water Cycle Study 2015.

## **5.3 Desktop Research carried out in 2015/16**

The desk top research and community engagement work carried out for the GI, Open Space and Play Space Strategy (2017) in 2015/16. This evidence can be found at <sup>41</sup>[Evidence base and monitoring Studies and documents which the local plan was developed from](#)

## **5.4 Emerging evidence that is being collated as part of the Local Plan Review**

The local plan review is at an early stage, but work on the forthcoming Sustainability Appraisal and the review of the effectiveness of current policies has already highlighted a number of key GI issues. For example the need to ensure that GI is considered within the larger natural capital agenda, the issues highlighted in the emerging Environment Bill, including biodiversity net gain and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Sustainable Appraisal also provides more contextual information on the District, for example on social deprivation, the economy.

## **5.5 Engagement with principal settlements in 2018**

As already highlighted in [section 2](#) local communities were not only asked to comment on and improve the local GI mapping they were also asked to highlight some GI ideas within their parishes. These have been summarised in [section 2](#).

## **5.6 Feedback from relevant stakeholders**

The Council is part of a number of partnerships and stakeholder groups, for example the Local Nature Partnership. Recently, feedback from those partnerships, have informed the development of this strategy. For example, the need to consider how the agricultural community can contribute to and benefit from the GI agenda. The increasing importance of natural capital data and the multiple benefits of creating circular walks from the market towns in the District to benefit tourism and leisure but that will also benefit those that live and work in the towns.

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<sup>40</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/evidence-base-and-monitoring/>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/evidence-base-and-monitoring/>



## 5.7 International, national and county-level legislation, policy and guidance

Details on the current legislative, policy and guidance background is provided in [sections 3 & 5](#)

## 5.8 Other data from international, national, county and local information sources

There is a wealth of GI related data available from the local, such as the work currently being undertaken to review recreational pressures on the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC to the national, such as [the State of Nature Report](#)<sup>42</sup> and the international, such as the 2019 IPCC report on Climate Change and Land [Special Report on Climate Change and Land — IPCC site](#)<sup>43</sup>

## 5.9 Access to Open Spaces

In this section, access to open spaces in the District is broken down to explain the conclusions drawn in [5.1](#). Again using the ANGST standard, for the following:

- Potential sites 20 - 100 ha in area (indicating principal settlements within 5KM)
- Potential sites over 100 ha (indicating principal settlements within 5 KM)
- Potential Accessible Natural Greenspaces over 500 ha. (indicating principal settlements within 10 KM)

The Access Tables show the distance from where people live. The distance to the nearest principal settlement was used as a proxy to measure this; as the majority of people in the District live within these settlements. Access issues are also examined in the settlement specific sections [see Section 2 and 6](#).

It is clear from the data in the tables that although some of these open spaces are of a relevant size, they are not fully accessible to the public for reasons listed below.

- Access may be limited to public footpaths so people are unable to roam freely,
- The site might be outside the Cotswold District Boundary,
- There may be a charge for access, including a cost for parking,
- Access might be restricted as a result of irregular public transport,
- Access may be limited to certain days or times etc.
- Access is at the discretion of the landowner.

A description of why particular sites are discounted, can be found in [Section 6](#). Delivering GI in the Principal Settlements in the District.

Sites below 20ha have not been included on the District level mapping and the data tables, but are identified, on the wellbeing maps for the 17 principal settlements. Natural green spaces 2ha for each of the Principal Settlements are also mapped on the wellbeing maps and are listed in the tables that indicate how delivering GI in the Principal Settlements might be achieved. [See Section 6](#).

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<sup>42</sup> <https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/State-of-Nature-2019-UK-full-report.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>



Potential sites 20 - 100 ha in area (indicating principal settlements within 5KM)							
Site	Principal Settlements within 5KM	Size	Location – within District or within 15km buffer	Access Limitations e.g. entrance fee; footpath access only	Ownership	Cost of access	Does this site constitute accessible natural greenspace?
<b>Dovers Hill</b>	Blockley Chipping Campden Mickleton	75 ha	Within District	Footpaths	National Trust	Yes	No
<b>Greystones Nature Reserve</b>	Bourton on the Water	66 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Glos Wildlife Trust	None	No
<b>Clattinger Farm SAC</b>	Kemble South Cerney	60 ha	Within 15km buffer	Footpaths	Natural England	None	No
<b>North Meadow</b>	Down Ampney South Cerney	44 ha	Within 15km buffer	Footpaths	Natural England	None	No
<b>Lineover Wood</b>	Andoversford	50 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Woodland Trust	None	No
<b>Barber Wood</b>	None	39 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Woodland Trust	None	No
<b>Crickley Hill</b>	None	27 ha	Within 15km buffer	Footpaths	National Trust & Glos Wildlife Trust	None	No

Potential sites over 100 ha (indicating principal settlements within 5 KM)							
Site	Principal Settlements within 5KM	Size	Location – within District or within 15km buffer	Access Limitations e.g. entrance fee; footpath access only	Ownership	Cost of Access	Does this site constitute accessible natural greenspace?
<b>Westonbirt Arboretum</b>	Tetbury	242 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Forestry England	Yes	No
<b>Newark Park</b>	None	222 ha	Partially in District	Footpaths	National Trust	Yes	No
<b>Hidcote</b>	Chipping Camden Mickleton	125 ha	Within District	Footpaths	National Trust	Yes	No
<b>Batsford Estate</b>	Blockley Morton in Marsh	114 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Private	Yes	No

<b>Potential Accessible Natural Greenspaces Over 500 ha. (indicating principal settlements within 10 KM)</b>							
<b>Site</b>	<b>Principal Settlements within 10 KM</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Location – within District or within 15km buffer</b>	<b>Access Limitations e.g. entrance fee; footpath access only</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Cost of Access</b>	<b>Does this site constitute accessible natural greenspace?</b>
<b>Sherborne Park</b>	Northleach Bourton on the Water, Upper Rissington	1160 ha	Within District	Footpaths	National Trust	Yes	No
<b>Cirencester Park</b>	Cirencester, Kemble, South Cerney. Down Ampney	1055 ha	Within District	Access based on goodwill of owner. Some PROW limitations	Private	None	No
<b>Beechwood SAC</b>	None	590 ha	Partly within District	Open access. High level of recreational disturbance, further unlimited access should not be encouraged	Natural England	None	No

#### **Official Local Nature Reserves in the Cotswold District**

<b>Standard – A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population. CDC population 2011 Census – 82,881 – number of LNR = 2</b>				
<b>Where</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Cost access</b>	<b>Does this site constitute accessible natural greenspace?</b>
<b>Coke's Pit (Lake 34)</b>	10 ha	Cotswold Water Park is on a lease from Gloucestershire County Council.	Free	Yes
<b>Cirencester City Bank Local Nature Reserve</b>	3 ha	Cirencester Town Council	Free	Yes

### **Special Areas of Conservation – Cotswold Beechwoods SAC and North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC**

These two sites lie close or partially within the District. Therefore, they could be considered, to be publicly accessible natural greenspace; however, these are very vulnerable to recreational disturbance and without additional measures being put in place, increased access to these sites should not be encouraged. This is, recognised, in the Local Plan, policy INF7 Green Infrastructure. For this reason, the two SACs have not been included in the analysis of publicly accessible open space. Currently Cotswold District Council is working with other key stakeholders, such as Natural England and the partner local authorities, to investigate the recreational pressures, particularly on the Cotswolds Beechwoods and to develop mitigation packages for the sites, including how the role of future development.

### **The challenge of creating new country and natural parks**

The data analysis in the strategy, particularly the application of the ANGSt standards has indicated that the District's provision of country and natural parks at all scales is poor.

Providing new country and natural parks will be challenging, particularly as very little land in the District is in public ownership. These parks are likely to come forward either as part of development proposals or where a landowner can see sufficient benefit for them in opening up access. There are a number of landowners, particularly in the charitable sector, where increasing access to the countryside is at the core of their work, but other landowners, such as farmers, will also need to see significant economic benefits. These may arise from agri-environment schemes, payment of ecosystems services and other grants; delivery of biodiversity net gain; off-site provision of GI or open space that is required to meet development needs; increased diversification potential. There are pockets of land in the Cotswold District that are not suitable for either high productivity agriculture or development, and these may provide useful opportunities for creating new accessible open spaces.

The need for this type of provision has become even more evident as a result of the pandemic.

## 6. GI Potential in the Principal Settlements

### 6.1 South of the District - Cirencester

12 South of the District - Cirencester.

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Numerous parks and public open spaces, including the registered Cirencester Park	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Abbey Grounds lake and, The River Churn is the first tributary river of the River Thames	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The City Bank Local Nature Reserve. The ancient woodlands within Cirencester Park and the River Churn	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit north, north east, & west	Four sites – Abbey Grounds, Kingshill South, City Bank & Amphitheatre
20 ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	No Sites
100 ha site within 5KM	No	No Sites
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Cirencester Park is 1055 hectares and is the largest publically accessible open space in Cirencester. It should be noted that this site could be closed to the public at any point as it is only open due to the owner’s goodwill, the Bathurst Estate
Additional Information from Cirencester Town Council		
Other parks	Cirencester Abbey Grounds, Four Acres, Two Acres, The Amphitheatre, St Michael’s Field (Green Flag holder 17/18 & 18/19)	
Local Nature Reserve	City Bank Nursey awarded 2018	
Public Rights of Way	11,780 metres within 2km buffer of the town	
Wild Town Project	Cirencester is taking part in the Wild Towns Project	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were happy to accept these suggestions. However, the Town Council will have the opportunity, if they wish to update or alter the suggestions at the consultation stage of the GI strategy.		
Wellbeing	Improve and enhance new routes to amenity green space to encourage use and enjoyment for existing and new communities. Consider activities to enhance use and enjoyment of the amenity green spaces, e.g. forest school.	
Water	Improve school and hospital grounds for biodiversity value, especially urban species.	
Wildlife	Continue to work on improvements to the City Bank Local Nature Reserve and encourage wildlife enhancement along the neighbouring Daglingworth stream.	

## Down Ampney

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Numerous PROW and permissive paths, including a circular walk of the village. Amenity green space, Community Garden and Millennium Recreation Area	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Ampney Brook. Further mineral extraction may lead to the creation of new open water bodies in the future	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Stubs Copse and Estate Yard Copse; Down Ampney Pits KWS and other areas of priority habitat – mainly woodland. (The whole of Down Ampney falls within the Cotswold Water Park NIA	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit north, north east	1 site – land off Oak Road
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	North Meadow - outside of Cotswold District Boundary
100 ha site within 5KM	No	No Sites
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Cirencester Park - Private Park with access granted by the Bathurst Estate.
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		7388 metres within a 2KM buffer of Down Ampney
<b>Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife</b> The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Parish Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Parish Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Improve and enhance new routes to amenity green space to encourage use and enjoyment for existing and new communities. Consider activities to enhance use and of the amenity green spaces, e.g. forest school	
Water	Continue work on Ampney Brook as part of wider intervention quality of Upper Thames.	
Wildlife	Survey of House Martin, Swifts and Swallow nests to identify where to concentrate on enhancements. Encourage monitoring to adopt a management plan to secure flourishing populations.	



## Fairford

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The Thames and Severn Way, Walnut Tree Playing Field, Coln House Playing Field.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Coln, The Cotswold Water Park, Horcott Lakes	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Fairford falls within the CWP NIA. There are a number of standing open water Key Wildlife Sites, as well as other areas of priority habitat, including woodland and floodplain grazing marsh.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		17728 metres within 2km buffer of the town
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team, with additions made by the Town Council. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Parish Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Managing arc of land around the south of town to improve Green infrastructure access to special features e.g. non-designated heritage assets. Incorporate Fairford park and green gap between Fairford and Horcott. As well as the Coln House Playing Field.	
Water	Explore the enhancements of the river bank with the aim of creating and enhancing areas for target species. Including the river bank opposite the Coln House School playing field	
Wildlife	Encourage habitat for hedgehogs which have been recorded in the area. Interventions in new and existing built environment e.g. gaps in fencing and hedgehog boxes.	

## Kemble

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Kemble Community Garden, Special Landscape, Clayfurlong Playing Field.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Upper Thames	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Deciduous woodland, ancient and semi natural woodland, SSSI along the Kemble active railway line. Old Mill Farm lowland meadow.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Clattinger Farm SAC, North Meadow SAC, Cleveland Lakes. All outside Cotswold District Boundary.
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Cirencester Park - Private Park with access granted by the Bathurst Estate.
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		10,484 metres within 2km buffer of the village
<b>Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife</b> The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.		
Wellbeing	Using GI to increase attractiveness of routes for walking and cycling between Kemble and Cirencester (and the Water Park) Also incorporate Thames Path along the river.	
Water	Encourage creation of small ponds in gardens/community gardens to increase surface area which can contribute to water management and habitat for wildlife.	
Wildlife	Encourage creation of small ponds in gardens/community gardens to increase surface area which can contribute to water management and habitat for wildlife	

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The National Trail, Coln Country Park and Sports Grounds	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Thames and Marshland	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Previous mineral sites have over time become valuable for wildlife. A good example includes the lakes that form part of the Edward Richardson & Phyllis Amey Reserve at Lechlade.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit in central area	2 sites Riverside Park & Edward Richardson & Phyllis Amey Nature Reserve
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	14,386m metres within 2km buffer of the town	
Nature Reserve	Eric Richardson & Phyllis Amey Nature Reserve & designated Local Green Space.	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing Water and Wildlife		
Wellbeing	Increase accessible routes to Country Park Claydon Pike/Bowmoor.	
Water	Where applicable, encourage the creation of new habitats for water voles, otters and Great Crested Newts and build on the work carried out previously in the area.	
Wildlife	Improve local Green Space for Great Crested Newts and other species, including toads and grass snakes.	

## South Cerney

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Bow Wow Lane, Sailing Club, Upper Up Playing Fields, Sustrans Route 45, The Allotments at Upper Up, The Thames and Severn Way.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Lakes, <a href="#">CWP - Do you mean CWP?</a> The River Churn and Cerneywick Brook.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The Dismantled Railway, four SSSI's, The disused airfield, A Strategic Nature Reserve, The River Churn Corridor, a floodplain grazing marsh.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit to south and south east	1 - Upper Up Playing Field.
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Clattinger Farm SAC , North Meadow SAC. All outside Cotswold District Boundary.
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None - Clevedon Lake is outside Cotswold District Boundary
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Cirencester Park - Private Park with access granted by the Bathurst Estate.
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		17,667 metres within 2km buffer of the town
<b>Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife</b> The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Parish Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Parish Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.		
Wellbeing	Improve links to playing fields and consider how playing fields are managed to consider any enhancements which would make the park more enjoyable to use.	
Water	Investigate with the assistance of the appropriate bodies the reinstating of review tributaries in South Cerney.	
Wildlife	Improving biodiversity measures at the golf club.	

## Tetbury

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Thirteen open spaces including two school playing fields, Allotments, Amenity Green Spaces and Sports Grounds, 3 play areas located at Dolphins Recreation Ground, Webb Road and Suffolk Close.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Avon, Tetbury branch	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Priority habitat along the dismantled railway. Deciduous woodland. 11 public open spaces including St Saviours Churchyard and the Cutwell Valley.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No- deficit, north, east & south	1 – Recreation Ground
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Westonbirt Arboretum - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Minchinhampton Common - Outside Cotswold District Boundary
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		22,522m within 2km buffer of the town
<b>Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife</b> The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.		
Wellbeing	Consider extension of disused railway path from Tetbury towards Cirencester to encourage use as recreational path.	
Water	Improve riparian habitats along the railway path and improve the opportunity for biodiversity along the River Avon	
Wildlife	Improving school and hospital grounds for biodiversity value, especially urban species	

## 6.2 Middle of the District

### Andoversford

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The Playing Fields and Playground	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Coln, lakes in Sandywell Park	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The line of the dismantled railway line, three Key Wildlife Sites and four National Forest Inventory areas.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Lineover Wood - footpaths, but not open access
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		28,646m within 2km buffer of the village
		Limited amount of open space; the largest site is the Playing Field with a small amount of space available on the Temple Fields Estate. Both sites, collectively measure under 2ha.
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.		
Wellbeing	Linking access from school to new housing in centre of village – safe routes to school. Creation of new allotments in any new development.	
Water	Reduce surface runoff by creating opportunities to collect water; for example installing water butts on Parish buildings with the view to installing Rain Water Harvesting if/when funds allow.	
Wildlife	Work with landowners to improve bankside quality. Consider, indicator species e.g. otters and bats.	

## Bourton on the Water

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Greystones Farm Nature Reserve, Monarch’s Way, three allotments, three play areas an orchard.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Rivers Dickler, River Eye and River Windrush and numerous lakes.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Priority habitat, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, Salmonsbury meadow SSSI.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all od settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	Yes	Greystones Farm Nature Reserve - Free access if within walking distance. No parking on site, nearby public car parks serve the site.
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Sherborne Park - Cost for entry
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		34,559m within 2km buffer of the village
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were happy to accept these suggestions. However, the Town Council will have the opportunity, if they wish to update or alter the suggestions at the consultation stage of the GI strategy.		
Wellbeing	Improve access – green active travel routes to Greystones, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve.	
Water	Improve river corridor for biodiversity, for example not cutting bankside vegetation too short. Leaving the grass to grow longer provides cover for wildlife including water voles.	
Wildlife	Increase resilience of species. Alleviating recreational pressure on Greystones by creation/enhancement of new areas (e.g. Country Park) and optimising other sites in settlement for species protected at Greystones	

## Northleach

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Allotments, Amenity Green Space, The Monarch Way and The Diamond Way, Sustrans Route 48	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Leach,	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Local Wildlife Site, Priority habitat - good quality semi improved grassland	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No	2 – King George Field, Water meadow, but deficit all of settlement - see wellbeing map.
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Sherborne Park - Cost for entry
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		32,495 m within 2km buffer of the village
<b>Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife</b> The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Enhance green ring around the outside of the town – accessible routes for cycling/walking.	
Water	Enhanced through improving and restoring riparian habitat along the edge of the river. Particularly consider adjacent gardens and playing fields.	
Wildlife	Improve wildlife value of Forte woodland.	



## Stow on the Wold

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The allotments, cricket field and recreation ground, Gloucestershire and Monarch’s Way	
Main GI Water Assets:	Given its hilltop location, there are no significant water assets in Stow on the Wold although the River Dickler is near to the Parish boundary.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Priority habitat including areas of deciduous woodland	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No	2, QE2 Field & King Georges Field - there is a deficit in central area. See wellbeing map
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		9,056m within 2km buffer of the village
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
Wellbeing	Increase access to GI in all new development by considering non-physical access (i.e. auditory and visual access), which is particularly important for older people	
Water	Create an accessible link and improve riverside walk from Stow on the Wold to the River Dickler.	
Wildlife	Introduce enhancements at King George V playing field for wildlife value, e.g. wildflower meadow and hedgerow improvements.	

## Upper Rissington

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Cate Park – formal park, Firefly Walk and Folland Park	
Main GI Water Assets:	Cate Britton Pond and Hazelford Brooks.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Ansell’s Pasture, limestone grassland between Ansell’s copse and Smith Barry Circus / Crescent	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	Partially – deficit, south east area	5 – Folland Park, The Rec, Godfrey’s Ground & combined – Cate Britain Pond, Ansell’s Hill Copse, Peaks Coppice & Victoria Country Park
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Sherborne Park - cost for entry
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		13, 189m within 2km buffer of the village
<b>Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife</b> The GI enhancements, as listed below were given by the Town Council. However, the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or alter their suggestions at the consultation stage of the GI strategy.		
Wellbeing	Create green routes across the settlement to community facilities such as school and shops. Link the village to the network of rights of way in the area through targeted creation of new paths. These are needed because the original military planning of Upper Rissington as a secure site. Build a Multi-Use Games Area for young people. With such a young population (30 per cent under 18) new facilities for young people are a high priority.	
Water	Manage and operate Cate Britain Pond in order to maximise its benefit to wildlife in the heart of the village whilst attenuating storm flows and providing a source of recycled water. Protect head waters of Hazelford Brooks in order to improve the quality of the streams. Advocate for the most stringent standards for the effluent from Upper Rissington STW as it discharges into the headwaters of Hazelford Brook with very low levels of dilution.	
Wildlife	Protect and enhance the species rich limestone grassland in Godfrey’s Grounds and Ansell’s pasture. These areas already have a high diversity of plants including orchids but need proper management. Selectively plant new trees to replace existing protected trees reaching the end of their life. Protect areas of ancient woodland within the village to encourage wildlife. Advocate with the RAF to manage large areas of grassland on the Little Rissington Airfield to encourage a greater diversity of flora and fauna.	

## 6.3 North of the District

### Blockley

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	A central Amenity Green Space, Station Road Allotment and Sports Grounds, Diamond Way and Heart of England Way	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Blockley Brook runs down through the centre of the town	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	LGS 1, Local Green Space Blockley Mill (also known as the Water Board site).  Norcombe Wood, The Warren Wood.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Dovers Hill - Cost for parking
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Batsford Estate - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		28,881 within 2km buffer of the village
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Do an audit of benches in the village. Are thy located in the right places?	
Water	Enhance existing mill ponds to increase opportunities for wildlife	
Wildlife	Improving quality of habitat along the Brook to connect to habitat to the south of the settlement.	

## Chipping Campden

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Amenity Green Spaces, Playing Fields, Allotment, Ernest Wilson Gardens, Heart of England Way, Monarch’s Way and Cotswold Way.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Cam runs through and adjacent to the Town.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The Campden Wood, ancient woodland, traditional orchards,	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit east and north east of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Dovers Hill - Cost for parking
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Hidcote - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		26,730 within 2km buffer of the village
<b>Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife</b> The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing		
Wellbeing	Creation of circular walking/cycling (active travel) route around the settlement i.e. Station Road/Aston Road towards Hoo Lane. Linking up to the Cotswold Way and parks and open spaces.	
Water	Look into the possibilities for further improvements along the River Cam that will encourage new habitats for key species such as water voles.	
Wildlife	Provision of key species in any new development e.g. swift boxes.	

## Mickleton

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The Allotment, Play Ground and Sports Grounds, Heart of England Way, Sustrans route 442,	
Main GI Water Assets:	Norton Brook, Gran Brook	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Mickelton Woods and the line of the dismantled railway line, SSSI Campden Tunnel Gravel Pitt	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Dovers Hill - Cost for parking
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Hidcote - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		23,547 within 2km buffer of the village
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife		
Wellbeing	Lack of accessible public open space for use by people – improve provision of accessible GI for use and enjoyment	
Water	Reduce surface water runoff by creating opportunities to collect water from Parish owned buildings to be used for local planting schemes.	
Wildlife	Hedgerow restoration including in gardens and edge of fields and along Public Rights of Way to benefit range of species e.g. dormice, bats, birds etc.	

## Moreton in Marsh

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Two Parks, Allotments, Amenity Green Space and Sports Grounds and Playing Fields. Monarch’s Way, Diamond Way, Sustrans Route 48	
Main GI Water Assets:	River Evenlode, balancing ponds	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Blenheim Park and Queen Victoria Gardens, Good quality semi improved grassland	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No	2, Queen Victoria Gardens & Blenheim Open Space – deficit south & east of settlement
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Batsford Estate - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		15,274 within 2km buffer of the village
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Consider creation of new Country Park to serve the North Cotswolds, e.g. how can any new development coming forward to contribute to it.	
Water	Enhancing water courses in public open spaces for the benefit of Green Connectivity Network and enhance role of existing water features for water and surface water management	
Wildlife	Consider any improvements to churchyards & cemeteries to improve for wildlife.	

## Willersey

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Amenity Green Spaces, Playgrounds, Registered Common land and Allotments	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Duck Pond.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The Cotswold Scarp Nature Improvement area limestone grassland lowland beech and yew woodland as well as deciduous woodland areas.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way		15,274 within 2km buffer of the village
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were happy to accept these suggestions. However, the Town Council will have the opportunity, if they wish to update or alter the suggestions at the consultation stage of the GI strategy		
Wellbeing	Improve landscape of park for amenity and biodiversity value, e.g. use of hard and soft features.	
Water	Manage surface water runoff along the high street with the creation of swales, rain gardens and tree planting.	
Wildlife	Improve high street (roadside verges) for biodiversity – bees, butterflies and other pollinators by considering change of management and planting pollinator friendly plants. For example pockets/swathes of wildflowers and trees, (planting of trees links to Water measures)	

## Glossary

### A

**Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGst)** – are a set of national benchmarks for ensuring access to a variety of greenspaces near to where people live.

**Active travel** – a concept of travel that includes only those forms of transport that require active use of the human body as a transport machine. Examples include walking and cycling, as these burn off energy in contrast to sedentary forms of travel, such as driving or getting the bus. People who already walk or use a bicycle as a primary mode of transport may do so for environmental, health or practical reasons.

**Affordable Housing** – social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market.

**Air pollution** - Degradation of air quality with negative effects on human health or the natural or built environment due to the introduction, by natural processes or human activity, into the atmosphere of substances (gases, aerosols) which have a direct (primary pollutants) or indirect (secondary pollutants) harmful effect

**Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)** Since December 1997 each local authority in the UK has been carrying out a review and assessment of air quality in their area. This involves measuring air pollution and trying to predict how it will change in the next few years.

**Allocated** – land which has been identified in the development plan for a specific form of development.

**Amenity** – those qualities of life enjoyed by people that can be influenced by the surrounding environment, in which they visit, live or work. ‘Residential amenity’ includes for example, a reasonable degree of privacy, freedom from noise nuisance, air pollution etc. normally expected at home.

**Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW)** – ancient woodland is land that has had a continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD, and may be ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), which retains a native tree and shrub cover that has not been planted, although it may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally; or plantation on ancient woodland sites where the original tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting, often with conifers, and usually over the last century. The location of ancient woodlands over 2 ha in area is recorded in the National Inventory of Ancient Woodlands, which is maintained by Natural England.

**Ancillary** – use or development of a different subsidiary use, but which is related to and often found in association with primary use or development.

**Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** – a designated area of nationally important landscape value within which the conservation and enhancement of its natural beauty is the priority. The Cotswolds AONB is the largest in the country and covers 80 % of the District. It was designated by the Countryside Commission in 1966.

**Aquifer** – underground layers of water-bearing permeable rock or drift deposits from which groundwater can be extracted for human use may be extracted by means of wells or boreholes. Aquifer designations reflect the importance of aquifers in terms of groundwater as a resource (drinking water supply) but also their role in supporting surface water flows and wetland ecosystems.

**Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)** – a report on how the Council is performing in terms of the Local Plan. Includes monitoring implementation and performance of policies following changes brought in by the Local Planning Regulations 2012. It replaces the Annual Monitoring Report. Local planning authorities are no longer required to send an Annual Monitoring Report to the Secretary of State and instead monitoring should be a continuous process.



## B

**Biodiversity** - Biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (UN, 1992)

**Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)** The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan or (UK BAP) was the UK government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity, opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The UK was the first country to produce a national Biodiversity Action Plan. It was published in 1994 and created action plans for priority species and habitats in the UK that were most under threat so as to support their recovery

**Biofuel** - A fuel, generally in liquid form, produced from biomass. Biofuels currently include bioethanol from sugarcane or maize, biodiesel from canola or soybeans, and black liquor from the paper-manufacturing process. See also Biomass and Bioenergy.

**Biomass** - Living or recently dead organic material. See also Bioenergy and Biofuel.

**Bluespace/ Blue infrastructure** Outdoor environments, either natural or built, that prominently feature water such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies.

**Building with Nature - (BWN)** Puts nature at the heart of development in a way that's good for people and for wildlife. Through the Building with Nature Standards, which provide planners and developers with evidence-based, how-to, guidance on delivering high-quality green infrastructure. Through supporting and championing best-practice, BWN aim to help great schemes get built, raise the bar for industry, and mainstream green infrastructure in placemaking.

### **Building with Nature Standards**

**Wellbeing Standards** aim to secure the delivery of health and wellbeing outcomes through the delivery of green infrastructure features. (Wellbeing includes access)

**Water Standards** aim to provide green infrastructure to effectively manage water quantity and quality, increase flood resilience, and maximise opportunities for amenity.

**Wildlife Standards** aim to ensure that green infrastructure allows nature to flourish, both within the boundary of development, and at a landscape scale.

## C

**Carbon sequestration** - The process of storing carbon in a carbon pool. See also Blue carbon, Carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS), Uptake and Sink.

**CIL** - The Community Infrastructure Levy is a levy that local authorities can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money should be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the council, local community and neighbourhoods want

**Climate** - Climate in a narrow sense is usually defined as the average weather, or more rigorously, as the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. The classical period for averaging these variables is 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization. The relevant quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation and wind. Climate in a wider sense is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system.

**Climate change** - Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. Note that the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its Article 1, defines climate change as: 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.' The UNFCCC thus makes a distinction between climate change attributable to human activities altering the atmospheric composition and climate variability attributable to natural causes.

**Cotswold District Council - (CDC)** The Local District Authority, which covers the Cotswold District

**D -**

**E**

**Ecosystem Services** - The components of nature that are directly and indirectly enjoyed, consumed, or used in order to maintain or enhance human well-being.

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** – A procedure to be followed for certain types of project to ensure that decisions are made in full knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment.

**Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS)**

There are 3 new schemes that will reward environmental land management:

- Sustainable Farming Incentive
- Local Nature Recovery
- Landscape Recovery

These schemes are intended to support the rural economy while achieving the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

Through these schemes, farmers and other land managers may enter into agreements to be paid for delivering the following:

- clean and plentiful water
- clean air
- thriving plants and wildlife
- protection from environmental hazards
- reduction of and adaptation to climate change
- beauty, heritage and engagement with the environment

**Environmental Net Gain** - Environmental Net Gain means improving all aspects of environmental quality through a scheme or project.

**Evidence Base** – is the information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the “soundness” of the policy approach, including physical, economic, and social characteristics of an area.

**F**

**Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)** – is an assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.

**Flood** - The overflowing of the normal confines of a stream or other body of water, or the accumulation of water over areas that are not normally submerged. Floods include river (fluvial) floods, flash floods, urban floods, pluvial floods, sewer floods, coastal floods, and glacial lake outburst floods.

**G**

**Geographical Information Systems (GIS)** – A computer software system to record, store, process, and analyse overlays of information linked to geographic areas.

**Global warming** - The estimated increase in global mean surface temperature (GMST) averaged over a 30-year period, or the 30-year period centered on a particular year or decade, expressed relative to pre-industrial levels unless otherwise specified. For 30-year periods that span past and future years, the current multi-decadal warming trend is assumed to continue. See also Climate change and Climate variability.

**Gloucestershire First or GFirst** – is the service that promotes Gloucestershire as a location for business, for visitors and for investors and are the driving force for the recently formed Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that promotes business in the Forest of Dean, Cotswold hills and major settlements of Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Stroud.

**Gloucestershire Nature Map** - represents the core of an ecological network for the future. The selected landscape-scale blocks of land called Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs), show where the characteristic habitats that typify the county can be expanded and linked to help wildlife survive in an uncertain future. The SNAs can be grouped together within priority landscapes. Main rivers

marked in blue on the schematic map as well as looking after existing and new strategic green infrastructure.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** – is a gas in an atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect.

**Greenspace** - Any area of vegetated land, urban or rural. This includes both public and private spaces such as parks, gardens, playing fields, children's play areas, woods and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries and allotments, green corridors, disused railway lines, rivers and canals, derelict, vacant and contaminated land which has the potential to be transformed.

**Green Infrastructure (GI)** – is a network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It needs to be planned and delivered at all spatial scales from national to neighbourhood levels. The greatest benefits will be gained when it is designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits (ecosystem services) for local communities. Green Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, river and canal corridors allotments and private gardens.

**Greenfield Land** – is land (or a defined site) usually farmland, that has not previously been developed.

**Green stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)** An approach to moving stormwater away from the built environment aiming to reduce surface water flooding, improve water quality and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the environment. GSI attempts to mimic nature and uses simple landscaping features such as green roofs, rain gardens and bioswales to slow, collect, infiltrate, and filter stormwater. Similar to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

**Ground Water Source Protection Zones** – is an integral part of land surface zoning within the Environment Agency's Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater. Groundwater provides a third of our drinking water in England and Wales, and it also maintains the flow in many of our rivers

## H

**Habitat Action Plan (HAP)** - is target programme of management measures aimed at maintaining/restoring a specific habitat.

**Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)** - a document to determine impacts of nearby Natura 2000 sites.

## I -

## J -

## K -

## L

**Landscape Character Assessment** – identifies areas with similar features or qualities, mapping and classifying them and describing their character. It is based on an understanding of landscape character and of the natural, historic and aesthetic factors that combine to create local distinctiveness.

**Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)** – A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, established for the purpose of creating or improving the conditions for economic growth in an area.

**Local Nature Partnership (LNP)** – A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, established for the purpose of protecting and improving the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it

**Local Nature Reserve** – is an area of botanical or wildlife interest where access and use by local people is encouraged through designation by the local authority.

**Local knowledge** refers to the understandings and skills developed by individuals and populations, specific to the places where they live. Local knowledge informs decision-making about fundamental aspects of life, from day-to-day activities to longer-term actions. This knowledge is a key element of

the social and cultural systems which influence observations of, and responses to climate change; it also informs governance decisions. This definition builds on UNESCO (2018).

**Local Plan** – The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current core strategies or other planning policies, which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents, form part of the Local Plan. The term includes old policies which have been saved under the 2004 Act.

**Local Planning Authority (LPA)** – is the local authority or council that is empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom.

**Local Transport Plan (LTP)** – is a five-year integrated transport strategy, prepared by local authorities in partnership with the community, seeking funding to help provide local transport projects. The plan sets out the resources predicted for delivery of the targets identified in the strategy.

**Local Wildlife Sites** - are areas of land that are especially important for their wildlife. They are some of our most valuable wildlife areas. Local Wildlife Sites are identified and selected locally using scientifically-determined criteria and surveys. They are corridors for wildlife, forming key components of ecological networks. The Wildlife Trusts have worked with local authorities, statutory agencies, landowners and other local partners to establish effective systems for identifying, managing and monitoring Local Wildlife Sites.

## M

**Mitigation Measures** – any works or actions required to be carried out by developers to reduce the impact of the development on the surrounding environment or to address particular environmental effects which would otherwise make that development unacceptable.

**Mitigation measures In climate policy** - mitigation measures are technologies, processes or practices that contribute to mitigation, for example, renewable energy (RE) technologies, waste minimization processes and public transport commuting practices. See also Mitigation option, and Policies (for climate change mitigation and adaptation).

**Modal Shift** – a change in the means of transport, for example from use of cars to public transport, particularly applied to all travellers within an area or those travelling to a specific type of facility or destination.

**Monitoring** – a regular collection and analysis of relevant information in order to assess the outcome and effectiveness of policies and proposals and to identify whether they need to be reviewed or altered.

## N

**Natural Capital** - The elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions

**Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)** - Provides a variety of mechanisms to calculate the total stocks and flows of natural assets, resources and services within a designated area or ecosystem, allowing environmental considerations to be taken into account in making policy and investment decisions. NCA produces formal accounts using methods and reports that are recognisable to those working within finance and management.

**Nature Map** – the Nature Map for Gloucestershire represents a strategic ecological network for the future. The selected landscape-scale blocks of land called Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs), show where the characteristic habitats that typify the county can be expanded and linked to help wildlife survive in an uncertain future. In simple terms it is an Adaptive Strategy for our wildlife.

**Nature Recovery Network.** This initiative provides us with the opportunity to draw together all past works in a revised spatial format, looking to identify not merely where our special wildlife and natural habitats currently are, but also the opportunities that exist for enhancing and creating

additional habitat networks and connectivity - whilst also helping to strategically inform development and growth opportunities locally, rather than simply hinder them.

**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** – this sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework within which local people and councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.

**Neighbourhood Plans (NP)** – A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

**NERC** - The Natural Environment Research Council commissions new research, infrastructure and training to advance environmental science.

**Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ)** - are areas designated as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. They include about 55% of land in England. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) reviews NVZs every 4 years to account for changes in nitrate concentrations.

**O -**

**P -**

**Priority Habitat** - are a range of semi-natural habitat types that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action.

**Place Making** – capitalises on a local community’s assets, inspiration, and potential, ultimately creating good public spaces that promote people’s health, happiness, and well being. Place making is both a process and a philosophy.

**Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)** – national guidance on planning practice, which compliments the NPPF.

**Pocket Parks** - are small green areas of public space, mostly seen in urban settings.

**Protected Species** – any species (of wildlife etc.) which, because of its rarity or threatened status is protected by statutory legislation.

**Public Realm** – any publicly owned streets, pathways, right of ways, parks, publicly accessible open spaces and any public and civic building and facilities.

**Public Rights of Way (PROW)** - Public rights of way are open to everyone at any time and give you the right to walk, ride a horse or cycle along certain routes. Some rights of way are open to vehicles.

**R**

**Ramsar Sites** – a term adopted following an international conference, held in 1971 in Ramsar in Iran, to identify wetland sites of international importance, especially as waterfowl habitat.

**Regionally Important Geological & Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)** – commonly referred to by their acronym RIGS are locally designated sites of local, national and regional importance for geodiversity (geology and geomorphology) in the United Kingdom. RIGS may be designated for their value to science, and to geological heritage in general, and may include cultural, educational, historical and aesthetic resources.

**Register of Historic Parks & Gardens** – a non-statutory list of parks and gardens of special historic interest maintained by English Heritage

**Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Energy** – Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels)

**Runoff** - The flow of water over the surface or through the subsurface, which typically originates from the part of liquid precipitation and/or snow/ice melt that does not evaporate or refreeze, and is not transpired.

**S**

**Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** are those which have been given greater protection. They have been designated because of a possible threat to the special habitats or species which they

contain and to provide increased protection to a variety of animals, plants and habitats of importance to biodiversity both on a national and international scale.

**Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)** – ancient structure, usually unoccupied, above or below the ground, which is preserved by order of the Secretary of State.

**Section 106 Agreements (s106)** – allow a Local Planning Authority to enter into a legally-binding agreement or planning obligation, with a land developer over a related issue (often to fund necessary improvements elsewhere).

**Semi-natural & Natural Green Space** – this type of open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grasslands (e.g. commons and meadows), wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity within settlements. The approach is to provide easily accessible, natural and semi-natural green space for communities which, as well as its intrinsic value for biodiversity, also provides a range of other ecosystem functions and benefits.

**Sequential Test (Flooding)** – a test carried out in accordance with the NPPF to demonstrate that certain land is appropriate to develop as has less flood risk, after alternative sites have been ruled out.

**Settlement Hierarchy** – a settlement hierarchy ranks settlements according to their size, function and their range of services and facilities. When coupled with an understanding of the possible capacity for growth, this enables decisions to be taken about the most appropriate planning strategy for each settlement.

**Sink** - A reservoir (natural or human, in soil, ocean, and plants) where a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored. UNFCCC Article 1.8 refers to a sink as any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** – a site or area designated as being of national importance because of its wildlife plants or flower species and/or unusual or typical geological features. SSSIs are identified by Natural England and have protected status.

**Social and Community Infrastructure** – local facilities and services for the community including buildings and open spaces.

**Special Area of Conservation (SAC)** – are sites of European nature conservation importance designated under the Habitats Regulations.

**Special Protection Area (SPA)** – are sites designated under the European Commission Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

**Species Action Plan (SAP)** – a framework for conservation of particular species and their habitats.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** – a generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European ‘SEA Directive’ (2001/42/EC) requires a formal ‘environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use which have a significant effect on the environment’.

**Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)** – provides information about flood risk throughout the area of the local planning authority (LPA), either individually or combined with neighbouring LPAs. The SFRA will consider the effects of climate change on river and coastal flooding, identify the risk from other sources of flooding, and consider appropriate policies for development in or adjacent to flood risk areas. Stroud District has published level 1 and level 2 SFRA’s.

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** – an appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development.

**Sustainable Development** – is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The NPPF states sustainable development is about positive growth-making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations.



**Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)** – efficient drainage system which seeks to minimise wastage of water including the use of appropriate ground cover to enable maximum penetration of clean water run-off into the ground and, where appropriate, recycling grey water within the development. Designed to minimise the impact of development on the natural water environment.

**Sustainable Transport** – are all forms of transport which minimise emissions of carbon dioxide and pollutants. It can refer to public transport, car sharing, walking and cycling as well as technology such as electric and hybrid cars and biodiesel.

**Sustainable Transport Modes** – Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

**Sustrans** - Custodians of the National Cycle Network, a UK-wide network of traffic-free paths for everyone, connecting cities, towns and countryside, loved by the communities they serve.

## T

**Tree Preservation Order (TPO)** – statutory protection for individual trees, groups, areas or woodlands. Any works to preserved trees require the consent of the local planning authority.

## U

**Urban Design** – understanding the relationship between different buildings; between buildings and the streets, squares, parks, waterways and other spaces which make up the public domain; the nature and quality of the public domain itself; the relationship of one part of a village, town or city with another part; and the pattern of movement and activity which is thereby established.

**Urban Fringe** – the boundary between built up areas and the open countryside.

## V

**Viability** – an objective financial viability test of the ability of a development project to meet its costs including the cost of planning obligations, whilst ensuring an appropriate site value for the landowner and a market risk adjusted return to the developer in delivering that project. Essentially it is the ability to attract investment and business.

## W

**Water Framework Directive** – is a European Directive that aims to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater.

**Well-being** - A state of existence that fulfils various human needs, including material living conditions and quality of life, as well as the ability to pursue one's goals, to thrive, and feel satisfied with one's life. Ecosystem well-being refers to the ability of ecosystems to maintain their diversity and quality.

**Wildlife Corridor** – Areas of habitat connecting wildlife populations.

**X -**

**Y -**

**Z -**

## **Appendices (to be updated following consultation)**

### **Draft Info includes:**

**Appendix A:** Landscape Map – locally designated Nature Improvement Areas

**Appendix B:** Results of 2017 consultation of the GI, Open Space and Play Space Strategy regarding play

**Appendix C:** Allotments in the 17 Principle Settlements

**Appendix D:** Play Area Assessments - Results of 2017 consultation of the GI, Open Space and Play Space Strategy regarding play



 <b>COTSWOLD</b> DISTRICT COUNCIL	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET – 13 MAY 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 10</b>
Subject	<b>REOPENING HIGH STREETS SAFELY FUND/WELCOME BACK FUND</b>
Wards affected	<b>ALL</b>
Accountable member	Cllr Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy & Skills Email: <a href="mailto:tony.dale@cotswold.gov.uk">tony.dale@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Paul James, Economic Development Lead Tel: 01285 623558 Email: <a href="mailto:paul.james@cotswold.gov.uk">paul.james@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To note the spend on Reopening High Streets Safely Fund projects to date and to agree a broad approach to the use of the Welcome Back Fund.
Annexes	None
Recommendation/s	<i>a) That the use of the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund to date is noted;</i> <i>b) That the proposed approach to the use of the Welcome Back Fund is endorsed and authority is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive to agree specific allocations in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills</i>
Corporate priorities	Enable a vibrant economy - Help our town centres recover from Covid-19 and in the face of changing shopping habits.
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Consultation has taken place with the Cotswold Economic Advisory Group, the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce and Town Councils.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The Government announced £50 million of funding in May 2020 to assist with the reopening of town centres and provide short-term support following the first lockdown. The funding was from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and this element of it was named the “Reopening High Streets Safely Fund” (RHSS). The Government announced a further tranche of £56 million in March 2021 under the banner of the “Welcome Back Fund”, but which is effectively an extension of the RHSS.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

**2.1** The funding was allocated to local authorities across the country and Cotswold District Council’s share of it was £81,144. The initial scheme was meant to run until the end of March 2021 but as a result of the further lockdowns it was extended until the end of June 2021.

- Use of the money had to be linked to an action plan to safely reopen town centres, as part of the Council’s overall response to Covid-19, and needed to fit in with four themes:
- Support to develop an action plan;
- Communications and public information activity;
- Business facing awareness;
- Temporary public realm changes.

**2.2** Expenditure also had to provide additionality, could not be capital spending and could not be used for grants to businesses. In common with other ERDF schemes, there are strict rules on state aid, procurement and branding. The Council has to submit a claim to recover expenditure, which is subject to audit.

**2.3** The Council’s RHSS grant action plan was approved in January 2021 and a funding agreement between the Council and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which enables the Council to submit a claim for expenditure, was issued in March 2021.

**2.4** The original RHSS funding for Cotswold is now largely committed, although a relatively small balance remains which can be used alongside the new funding, and has been deployed as follows:

- Temporary public realm changes, signage etc. in a number of the larger towns in the District;
- Business packs with signs, stickers etc showing safety messages;
- Footfall counters for Cirencester, Stow-on-the-Wold and Tetbury;
- Promotional campaigns with public safety messages;
- Cirencester town centre ambassadors in the run-up to Christmas;
- Webinars for the hospitality sector on reopening safely and successfully following the easing of restrictions;

- Business advisers (Heartflood) who were tasked with ensuring town centre businesses across the District were accessing the support they needed;
- Support for businesses to improve their digital presence, working with tech company Maybe\*.

**2.5** The Government announced a further tranche of £56 million in March 2021 under the banner of the “Welcome Back Fund” (WBF), but which is effectively an extension of the RHSS. £6 million was earmarked for coastal towns, with the remaining £50 million allocated in the same way as the RHSS i.e. CDC’s share is £81,144. This scheme will run until the end of March 2022.

**2.6** The rules for the WBF are looser than the RHSS. The detailed guidance has now been published along with an FAQ document and webinars are being held by the relevant team within the MHCLG to answer any further questions. The initial four areas of scope still apply (see para 2.1 above), but added to these are:

- To support and provide a safe public environment for a local area’s visitor economy;
- To allow local areas to develop plans for responding to the medium term impact of Covid-19, including trialling new ideas. This could include creating a “Virtual High Street” and research projects to futureproof local economies.

**2.7** Other examples of what could be covered are:

- Publicity campaigns for markets and events;
- Improving green spaces and seating areas;
- Beautification of areas to support the visitor economy.

**2.8** As with the RHSS, the expenditure for the WBF needs to be linked to our overall response to Covid and to our grant action plan. Rules around procurement, state aid and branding still apply. The process for claiming back expenditure remains the same.

**2.9** Councils are expected to consult town (and in some cases parish) councils as well as businesses and business groups. The town councils within the District have already been contacted about the Fund and several have come forward with ideas within their towns. The idea of a virtual high street seems to be popular with them and is certainly worth exploring further. The work being done by Heartflood (business advisers - see para 2.4 above) in supporting town centre businesses across the District will also be used to help identify priorities for the use of this fund.

**2.10** Initial thoughts on how the funding could be spent are:

- physical changes to town centres, whether these are cosmetic improvements or changes to aid social distancing;
- creating a virtual high street for the Cotswolds to enable traders without a dedicated e-commerce website to trade online and to promote events and provide information about each town centre;

- information/promotional campaigns, whether this is for public safety information or to promote markets and events;

All of these strands of work will be joined up with the efforts to assist the recovery of the visitor economy by working closely with Cotswolds Tourism.

- 2.11** The guidance from Government, in a recent webinar, was to concentrate on a small number of projects as the amount of money is relatively modest. The views of the Cotswold Economic Advisory Group have been sought and they are supportive of the proposed approach. Although it is difficult at this stage to put exact figures against each of the headings, it is anticipated that a virtual high street could cost around £30k. The information and promotional campaign, for which £10k seems a reasonable figure, can be funded from the balance of the RHSS fund, leaving just over £50k for physical improvements to town centres. Once Cabinet has given approval, Officers will progress these strands of work in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills and other key stakeholders.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1.** The proposed expenditure can be recovered from the European Regional Development Fund by submitting a claim via the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1.** Any funding will need to be in accordance with the guidance issued by the Government. As this is grant funding, it can be agreed by Cabinet subject to the Chief Finance Officer being content with this approach.

### **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1.** There is a risk that some or all of our expenditure may be deemed ineligible and therefore rejected by MHCLG. This risk is being mitigated by carefully following the guidance and ensuring rules around procurement, branding and state aid are adhered to and holding regular meetings with the RHSS Contract Manager.

### **6. EQUALITIES IMPACT (IF REQUIRED)**

- 6.1.** The projects undertaken through the RHSS and Welcome Back Fund aim to ensure the Council's town centres are safe and welcoming for all.

### **7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1.** Shopping locally is often the most environmentally-friendly option. By ensuring our town centres are vibrant and serve the needs of local communities we can reduce the need for travel to more distant centres.


**8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 8.1.** The District Council could choose not to spend its allocation of RHSS and WBF funding, but this would be a missed opportunity to help our town centres to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1.** None.

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 <b>COTSWOLD</b> DISTRICT COUNCIL	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET - 13 MAY 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 11</b>
Subject	<b>FUNDING &amp; CONTRACT CHANGES TO SUPPORT BEIS PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME</b>
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable Member	Accountable member Cllr Coxcoon - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning Email: <a href="mailto:rachel.coxcoon@cotswold.gov.uk">rachel.coxcoon@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Chris Crookall-Fallon, Head of Climate Action
Summary/Purpose	To seek contingency and revenue funding to support the installation of carbon reduction measures in the Council's buildings as part of the BEIS decarbonisation scheme and to seek delegated authority to award contracts for project management and works and to negotiate a contract variation with the Council's leisure provider, SLM, to ensure requirements of grant funding are met.
Annexes	None
Recommendation/s	<p>That Cabinet;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Notes the potential revenue implications for repair and maintenance of specialist technology installed through BEIS decarbonisation funding.</li> <li>b) Notes that the revenue implications of a) will be managed in 2021/22 through the Council's budget monitoring process and through application of Financial Rules if necessary,</li> <li>c) Notes that the revenue implication of a) with effect from 2022/23 onwards will be considered as part of the Council's update to its Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget setting process.</li> <li>d) Delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Finance Officer to appoint consultants, funded by the BEIS grant, to carry out all stages of delivery support including project management, procurement and on-site delivery, via a Procurement Framework.</li> <li>e) Delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to award contracts to contractors, suppliers and installers to complete</li> </ul>

	<p>the grant funded carbon reduction works, via a Procurement Framework.</p> <p>f) Delegates authority to negotiate a contract variation with SLM to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Finance Officer and the Cabinet Member for Finance.</p> <p>Recommends to Council that;</p> <p>g) The Council proceeds with the planned decarbonisation installation noting the financial risks surrounding withdrawal of funding should delivery fail to meet the grant funding completion deadline.</p> <p>h) Allocates a contingency sum of £120,000 (12.5% of works capital costs) to support delivery and avoid unnecessary delays if costs exceed initial estimates and grant funding provided. Any expenditure of this contingency to be agreed by the Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance.</p> <p>i) That £120,000 is reallocated in the Capital Programme from the £980,000 available for “Acquisition of a Strategic site at Moreton-in-the-Marsh” to the contingency for the decarbonisation scheme.</p> <p>j) Notes that a variation to the SLM leisure services contract is necessary to enable utility costs to be paid by the Council and agrees that management fees payable to the Council are adjusted accordingly,</p>
Corporate priorities	Respond to the climate crisis; Support health and wellbeing
Key Decision	YES
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	No public consultees, but analysis of the energy and carbon saving opportunity, and capex of the recommended measures, was estimated by an independent expert consultant.



## **I. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) is a £1bn (initial allocation) capital investment scheme operated through the Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The aim of the scheme is to invest (as grant) in the public sector estate to substantially reduce energy use and carbon emissions, reduce running costs, and contribute to the growth in capacity and skills for installation of carbon reduction measures across the economy.
- 1.2. On March 1st Cabinet noted that the Council's bid for funding had been successful and agreed to progress with the installation of carbon reduction measures in Cirencester and Bourton on the Water leisure centres together with the Moreton Area Centre.
- 1.3. The grant offer of £1.237m requires a number of criteria to be satisfied including;
- Completion of works by 30th September 2021
  - Financial benefits from any measures installed to be received by the Council.

## **2. Project delivery**

- 2.1. The timeline is extremely challenging particularly as contractors need to be procured and some specialist equipment has a substantial lead time from placement of orders to delivery which may impact on the Council's ability to meet completion deadlines.
- 2.2. The Council filed its first monthly return to Salix, the grant administering body, in April highlighting a commitment to work towards completion by the end of September but highlighting concerns regarding potential delays which may be beyond the Council's control.
- 2.3. In order to complete this project, the works identified initially through the feasibility study need to be checked to ensure they are technically viable, particularly in light of building structures and the desire to provide the best carbon option. Contractors then need to be appointed and orders placed for specialist plant and equipment. Installations then need to take place. Regard needs to be given to disruption of leisure centre services i.e. pool hall closure, to facilitate installations and therefore avoidance of peak times i.e. swimming lessons or school summer holiday activities. There is no scope within the tight project timescales to carry out an open tender process for the appointment of contractors and therefore despite the relatively high value of works (approx. £1M), appointment will need to be done via a Framework which is not an unusual approach. Initially the detailed technical feasibility and building works stages would have been tendered separately but a Framework has now been identified which enables both elements to be completed by one contractor. This streamlines the process and should reduce time taken and cost but it has brought forward the timeline for appointing a works contractor which needs a Cabinet decision.
- 2.4. The grant of £1.237M includes an allowance of 15 - 18% for project management or other related consultant costs required to deliver the project. A delegation is sought to allow award of all elements of required project management and the allocation of grant funding to pay for these services. Perfect Circle were appointed to commence project management support in March via a framework with appointment confirmed via a waiver. Perfect Circle is a consultancy consortium and their consultants Pick Everard are supporting the Council on this project. They would continue to manage the process through to completion.

## **Leisure Contract variation**

- 2.5 It is proposed that a variation is agreed with SLM which transfers responsibility for payment of utility bills to the Council and that as a result of this an adjustment is made to the management fee. The ambition of this contract variation is that the BEIS funding requirements are met but that the financial position remains neutral, so that SLM neither incur additional cost nor profit, as a result of the change. The original feasibility study indicated that if all measures were installed an annual revenue saving of £43,200 could be achieved, however this will be dependent on utility provider costs, which is highlighted in the risk section.
- 2.6 The current Leisure contract will either be extended (option for extension of up to three years subject to conditions and agreement) or a new contract put in place in July 2023, following a tender process, which provides the opportunity to review and make changes to how utility costs are managed within the contract.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. The funding bid was based on a feasibility study commissioned from Inspired Efficiency however further consideration of the viability of certain measures particularly in light of structural and design constraints mean that there will be some alteration to the works agreed, in consultation with Salix. There is a risk that due to redesign, alternative measures or market prices tendered costs for the installations exceed the grant funding allocated. A contingency sum of 7.5% was included in the bid for design and engineering costs, project management and capital works. Due to the delivery timeframes involved there will not be time to report back to Cabinet/Council once actual costs are known to seek approval at that stage if contingencies required exceed 7.5%. The Capital works to install plant and equipment provide the biggest unknown until tenders are received. Therefore agreement is sought for a contingency sum which equates to 12.5% of capital works (calculated as £118,670), providing a total of 20%. It is hoped that the project will still be delivered within the grant budget allocated.
- 3.2 The funding covers capital costs of installation and project management support only. There is no provision for ongoing revenue costs. There will be some ongoing revenue costs associated with the repair and maintenance of specialist plant and equipment such as solar panels, pool hall air handling units and air/ground source heat pumps. Costs for these services will be obtained but a commitment to meeting these annual costs is needed before the Council carries out the installations.

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Grant Agreement are not legally binding and no legal obligations or rights shall arise between the Secretary of State, Salix, and the Recipient from the provisions of either the MoU or the Agreement. The parties entering into the MoU and the Agreement should however intend to honour all of their obligations.
- 4.2. Failure to adhere to the conditions does give the Secretary of State the right to withhold, reduce or reclaim the grant.
- 4.3. The Council cannot publish (for promotional purposes) any material referring to the Project without the prior written agreement of the Secretary of State or Salix, and the funding body must be fully acknowledged in any such communications.

## **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1. From the point at which the Council appointed consultants to support this project costs were incurred. There is a risk that this project reaches an advanced stage including full installation but breaches grant conditions and therefore the grant is reclaimed. This risk is mitigated by early stage project planning to map out the delivery timelines for the project and dialogue with Salix on this matter. It appears it may not be possible to get agreement in advance to delays however it seems unlikely that BEIS would seek to reclaim funding if good progress can be demonstrated. Until any delays are agreed there will remain a financial risk to the Council of full project costs. This should be considered against the reduction in carbon emissions that will be achieved and the potential revenue return from reduced utility costs (see sections 6.1, 2.5 and 5.2).
- 5.2 The terms of the current Leisure Contract between the Council and SLM provide for utility bills to be paid by SLM and a fixed Management fee to be paid to the Council. Once decarbonisation measures are installed they should reduce the demand for gas and electricity and therefore reduce costs. SLM currently have a favourable contract for utility costs as part of their national leisure services provision, so if the Council takes responsibility for utilities back there is a risk that the Council cannot negotiate services from a utility provider that match the tariffs SLM have and as a result utility costs actually increase. Every effort will be made to manage this risk however this decarbonisation work is primarily driven by the Climate Emergency priority, not achieving cost savings.
- 5.3 There is a risk linked to risk 5.2 above that SLM fails to manage utility usage effectively in leisure centres if minimising usage is not financially driven, however SLM have a strong commitment to the Climate Agenda and the Council is therefore confident they will continue to drive down utility usage.
- 5.4 Failure to effectively maintain and repair plant and equipment could result in breakdowns or systems such as solar PV not operating at an optimum. Funding does therefore need to be allocated to ensure suitably qualified and experienced specialist engineers can carry out routine maintenance and reactive repairs. This will be considered as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process along with savings from reduced energy consumption.
- 5.5 There is a risk due to design, engineering or structural constraints that not all works included in the initial feasibility study are viable. If this is the case suitable alternatives will be explored but there remains a risk that some elements need to be removed from the project.

## **6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. Carrying out these works will save around 10% of the Council's annual CO2 emissions, and provide a very visible public-facing story for evidencing the Council's progress on tackling the climate emergency, in line with the Climate Emergency Strategy adopted in September 2020.

## **7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**


- 7.1. The Council could decide not to proceed with installations based on the risks outlined however this will impact on the Council's ability to deliver its Climate Emergency priority.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1. None

(END)



 <b>COTSWOLD</b> DISTRICT COUNCIL	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET – 13 MAY 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 12</b>
Subject	<b>FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO RISSINGTON ROAD CAR PARK, BOURTON ON THE WATER</b>
Wards affected	Bourton Village
Accountable member	Cllr Mike Every – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance Email: <a href="mailto:mike.every@cotswold.gov.uk">mike.every@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Mrs Maria Wheatley, Parking Manager
Summary/Purpose	To seek agreement to allocate capital and car parking earmarked reserve funds for improvements to Rissington Road Car Park, Bourton-on-the-Water
Annexes	Annex A - Technical Design of the Improvements to Rissington Road Car Park
Recommendation/s	<p>a) <i>That cabinet recommends to Council the allocation of £245,000 of capital funding and £92,000 of car park earmarked reserve fund to make improvements to Rissington Road Car Park, Bourton-on-the-Water; and</i></p> <p>b) <i>That Cabinet delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources to award the contract for the agreed works.</i></p>
Corporate priorities	Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standard.
Key Decision	YES
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Cabinet Member, Senior Officers and Ward Member

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** The Rissington Road car park at Bourton-on-the-Water requires significant improvement to improve the customer experience and to ensure compliance with industry standards. This car park is essential to the tourist trade and also accommodates several recycling bring banks for residents use.
- 1.2.** Since 2014/15 the following parking projects have been funded from the Council's Capital Programme in order to make improvements to car parks:
- Refurbishment and improvements to the Forum car park, Cirencester;
  - New pay and display machines installed district wide;
  - Refurbishment and improvements to the Beeches car park, Cirencester;
  - Resurface and improvements to the West Street and Church Street car parks in Tetbury;
  - Adaptations to pay and display machines to allow contactless payments;
  - Refurbishment and improvements to the Sheep Street car park, Cirencester including demolition of the Old Memorial Hospital building;
  - Creation of the Whiteway car park, Cirencester, (at the Rugby Club).
- 1.3.** The Property Services Team regularly monitors the condition of the Council's car parks. The Rissington Road Car Park is now in need of significant improvements.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1.** This car park is essential to the tourist trade in Bourton-on-the-Water and therefore work needs to take place when demand for the car park is at its lowest. The aim is to minimize any disruption to car park users by beginning the work after the October half term 2021. For the safety of car park users, it will be necessary for the whole car park to be closed. As part of the procurement process for appointing a contractor, however partial reopening as the work progresses will be reviewed as the works are progressed. The car park currently has insufficient and ineffective drainage, which prevents the dispersal of storm & surface water collection. This allows pooling of water and damages the car park surface.
- 2.2.** The entire car park requires: a new drainage system, resurfacing and layout redesign. This will reduce ongoing maintenance works and provide a long term improved facility for users. A Project specification has been prepared by external consultants and agreed by Property and Parking services officers. The work to be carried out will include the following:
- A new improved drainage system;
  - Full resurfacing works to entire car park with a porous material;
  - Increase the number of disabled bays from 2 to 6.
  - Full re-lining with re-design of layout to include items such as pedestrian walkways, disabled parking, directional markings and improved and industry compliant vehicle and aisle spacing;
  - Future proof the site by providing electric vehicle charging points;
  - Improved height and access barriers;

- Replacement and additional signage;
- Increased and improved lighting scheme;
- Improved landscaping and boundary works.

**2.3.** The above work will provide an enhanced environment, provide a car park which is fit for the future and will enable financial savings through lower reactive and planned maintenance costs.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**3.1.** This project is estimated to cost £337,000 which can be met from the Capital Programme (£245,000) and the Parking earmarked reserve (£92,000).

**3.2.** Between November 2003 and March 2013 Cotswold District Council enforced the on-street parking across the district, on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council under an agency agreement. Under the agreement any surplus at the end of the contract term was shared equally between the two Councils. This on-street surplus is ring fenced under section 55 of RTRA 1984 and may only be used for specific purposes. This fund has a balance of £92,000.

**3.3.** Unplanned maintenance has been carried out in this car park over the last 4 years at a cost of over £10,000 for the period.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1.** The Legal Team have confirmed the conditions are correct for spending the fund in line with section 55 of the RTRA, as this car park is key to support the traffic management in the village.

### **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

**5.1.** There are financial risks related to not making the improvements as the structure of the car park will continue to degrade, requiring ongoing surface repairs. Improving the car park will reduce Health & safety risks to car park users. Improvements to lighting provisions are required in order to comply with industry recommendations and to improve Health & Safety for car park users. The proposed layout will reduce risks to pedestrians due to improved visual markings and directional systems.

### **6. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

**6.1.** The proposed improvements will be an advantage for all users particularly those with mobility problems as the surface will be more even and easier to traverse particularly with small wheeled items such as pushchairs, wheelchairs or walking frames. The proposal includes an increase in the number of large bays for blue badge holders from the existing 2 bays to 6 bays. There are no disadvantages for any specific groups.

### **7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1.** The proposal includes the provision of electric vehicle charging points in the Rissington Road car park.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 8.1.** Works to extensively patch and reline to match existing layout only, would reduce the overall cost. However existing drainage issues would remain and the medium to long term maintenance issues for the surface would reappear. This option would not include additional disabled bays, improved lighting or the installation of infrastructure for electric vehicle charging units.
- 8.2.** Works could be reduced further by patch repairing the high priority areas only and reline only where necessary. As the option above no other improvements would be made and financial savings would be realised.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1.** None



### INSPECTION CHAMBER SCHEDULE NOTES

- 1 LEVELS TO BE ADJUSTED AS REQUIRED TO SUIT FINAL LEVELS & CROSSFALLS.
- 2 PPIC = OSMAWAVIN RANGE 450 IC OR EQUAL. BASES AS APPROPRIATE TO SIZE AND POSITIONS OF CONNECTING DRAINS
- 3 A= 4500. C.I. PETER SAVAGE KD31C. C250 LOADING



NOTES
1. THIS DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LATEST REVISIONS OF DRAWING C03 & THE CIVIL WORKS SPECIFICATION

KEY

- PROPOSED POROUS HALF SLOTTED RIGID PLASTIC STORMWATER DRAIN 150 UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE WITH RIGID DRAIN HALF PERFORATED OR EQUAL
- PROPOSED PLASTIC STORMWATER CARRIER DRAIN 150 UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
- EXISTING STORM DRAINS
- EXISTING DRAINS TO BE REMOVED
- EXISTING MACADAM/ASPHALT SURFACE PLAINED & OVERLAYED WITH NEW SURFACE COURSE SEE SECTION A+A
- EXISTING TARMACADAM SURFACE PLAINED & OVERLAYED WITH POROUS MACADAM AS SECTION A+A
- NEW POROUS MACADAM CONSTRUCTION AS DRAINING COURSE
- RAISED ISLAND INFILLED WITH 100mm P20w CONCRETE ON PLASTIC SHEET ON 150mm TYPE 1 SUB-BASE
- LANDSCAPED AREA REQUIRING BREAKING OUT OF EXISTING SURFACES A REPLACEMENT WITH 100mm 450mm SUBSILL & 100mm TOPSILL CULTIVATED & SEEDS AS LANDSCAPING SPEC.
- EXISTING MACADAM AROUND TIEOUT BLOCK PLAINED AND OVERLAYED WITH NEW AGC SURF MACADAM SURFACE COURSE. ALL BELOW GROUND COURSES, STREET FURNITURE ETC.
- WATERCOURSE
- SS NOT EXISTING CHAMBER & REFERENCE TO G
- G NEW OR INSPECTION HOLE GLYS AS NOTED
- +128.00 EXISTING LEVEL
- +127.85 PROPOSED LEVEL
- PROPOSED EXISTING LOCATIONS
- TEST PIT: PLACE COATING & SUMMERY OF FINDINGS REFER TO SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT
- MULTI STANDARD ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINTS e.g. SIGNING
- ALL EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED TO MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS WITH IN SITU CONC. PLUMB TO SIZE REDD TO IN SITU. GDN 3 CONC.

C	28.01.20	MJ	PUBLIC COMMENTS INCORPORATED
B	16.09.19	MJ	DRAFT TENDER ISSUE
A	12.02.19	JB	INITIAL ISSUE
Rev	DATE	BY	AMENDMENT

DRAWING STATUS  
Tender

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CLIENT <b>Publica</b>	
PROJECT <b>Rissington Road Car Park Bourton on the Water</b>	
DRAWN BY DATE	CHECKED DATE
<b>JB</b> <b>12.02.19</b>	<b>MJ</b> <b>12.02.19</b>

<p>TITLE</p> <p><b>PROPOSED CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS GENERAL ARRANGEMENT</b></p>			
<p>SCALE</p> <p><b>1:200@A1</b></p>	<p>PROJECT No.</p> <p><b>1468</b></p>	<p>DRAWING No.</p> <p><b>C01</b></p>	<p>REV.</p> <p><b>C</b></p>



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