

Public Document Pack



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tuesday, 24 January 2023

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at Council Chamber - Trinity Road on **Wednesday, 1 February 2023 at 6.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Councillors Stephen Andrews, Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Patrick Coleman, Roly Hughes, Richard Norris, Gary Selwyn, Nigel Robbins, Nikki Ind and David Cunningham)

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. **Substitute Members**
To note details of any substitution arrangements in place for the Meeting.
3. **Minutes (Pages 5 - 10)**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 22nd of November as a true and accurate record subject to any amendments being made.
4. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members and Officers, relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
5. **Chair's Announcements**
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **Call in of Cabinet Decision relating to the Lease of Land at Station Road Kemble**
Purpose
To respond to the call-in of the decision to lease land at Station Road, Kemble, as allotments and community gardens to the local community and de-allocate this site within the adopted Cotswold District Local Plan (2011 to 2031) as a site for housing development.

Recommendation
That the Committee, considers the additional information presented in this report and decides whether,
 - (a) They are satisfied that the detail presented here does not fundamentally change the decision that has been made and therefore no further action is taken, or,
 - (b) To refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration.
 - (c) The matter requires a Full Council decision, that there are sufficient grounds to refer it to Council and a request is therefore made for it to be added to the next Council agenda.
9. **Annual Presentation of Ubico Business Plan**

Purpose

The Committee will receive a business plan and performance presentation at the meeting from Ubico.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the presentation

10. **Budget**

Report to follow

11. **Leisure and Culture Contracts Procurement (Pages 11 - 14)**

Purpose

To provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Leisure and Culture Contract Procurements.

Recommendation

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives the update contained within this report.

12. **Broadband Delivery Update (Pages 15 - 24)**

Purpose

To update Members on progress in delivering high speed broadband across the District

Recommendation

- a) That progress in delivering high speed broadband across the District and the future plans of both commercial infrastructure providers and the Fastershire Project are noted.
- b) That it is noted that the £500k allocation for broadband in the capital programme set aside in 2016 has now been removed as Gloucestershire County Council advised that they felt their own budget was sufficient and it would not have led to faster delivery of broadband in the District.

13. **Peer Review - Recommendations Relating to Overview and Scrutiny**

Purpose

To consider the Local Government Association's Feedback Report, and, to review the Action Plan that details how the recommendations relating to the responsibilities of this Committee will be implemented.

Recommendation(s)

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Review the findings of the Corporate Peer Review and associated action plan relating to this Committee;

Identify any additional actions to implement the Peer Review's recommendation as it relates to this Committee

14. **Quarterly Digest (Pages 25 - 54)**

Purpose

To consider any issues arising out of the Quarterly Digest for future debate and/or action by the Committee.

15. **Work Plan/ Executive Forward Plan (Pages 55 - 66)**

Purpose

To note the Committee's work plan and the Executive Forward Plan.

Recommendation

To note both of the plans and provide feedback upon future items for the Committee to consider.

(END)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
22/November2022



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 22 November 2022.

Councillors present:

Gina Blomefield
Claire Bloomer

Gary Selwyn - Chair
Patrick Coleman
Richard Norris

Nikki Ind
David Cunningham

Officers present:

Rob Weaver – Chief Executive
David Stanley – Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer
Claire Locke – Assistant Director for Property and Regeneration
Christopher Crookall-Fallon – Head of Climate Action
Caleb Harris – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ana Prelici – Democratic Services Officer

Observers:

Councillors Joe Harris and Mike Every

OS.210 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Andrews, Roly Hughes and Nigel Robbins

OS.211 Substitute Members

Councillor Tony Berry was substitute for Councillor Stephen Andrews

OS.212 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest from Members

Chris Crookall-Fallon Head of Climate Action declared an interest as a member of non-remunerated role as Chair of the Board of Directors. Bath and West Community Energy, a not for profit organisation.

OS.213 Minutes

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 4 October 2022 were considered and the Committee agreed that they were an accurate record of the meeting

Voting Record – For 7, Against 0, Abstentions 1, Absent 2,

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 18 October 2022 were considered and the Committee agreed that they were an accurate record of the meeting

Voting Record – For 7, Against 0, Abstentions 1, Absent 2,

OS.214 Chair's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Chair.

OS.215 Public Questions

There were no questions from the Public.

OS.216 Member Questions

There were no questions from Members.

OS.217 Bromford Housing presentation

The purpose of this agenda item was to receive a presentation from Bromford Housing.

The Homeseeker Plus Lead officer presented an overview of the HomeseekerPlus choice based system and the Local Connections criteria was explained along with the Allocations Policy and Verification Procedures.

The Committee noted that the HomeseekerPlus choice based lettings system had been commissioned in 2016 and consultation of the Common Allocations policy had taken place in 2019 and reviewed in 2021.

The Committee noted that the Local Connections criteria was applied to Affordable Homes allocation and considered the history of residence, and family and employment connections including membership of the Armed Forces. There were also 'special circumstances' including those fleeing domestic abuse, victim of modern slavery and other reasons prioritising residency in the area (e.g. Ukrainian migrants).

The Committee noted that Affordable Rent properties were available at 80% of the market rate and Social Rent properties were available at 60% of the market rate, although it was recognised that the 'market rate' was particularly high across the Cotswolds

The Associate Director Localities at Bromford provided an overview of Bromford Housing Association that owned around 5,000 (approx. 80%) of housing association rented properties across the district.

The Committee noted new properties were usually added through S106 agreements or those built by Bromford themselves and 70 new (Shared Ownership/Affordable Rent or Social Rent) properties had become available during 2021/2022.

The Committee noted that in the past two years Bromford Housing had created more Social Rented homes than any other Housing Association across the country.

The Committee noted 229 properties were offered for let in the Cotswold District in the previous financial year with vacated properties typically being 'turned around' within 38 days.

The Committee tenants were required to adhere to conditions within a lease or tenancy agreement particularly regarding not engaging in anti-social behaviour.

The Committee noted that the removal of a tenant from a property ultimately required a Court judgement decision, and this usually required a significant file of evidence that may have taken a long time to compile.

The Committee noted that Covenants place on properties (such as) 'tenants should be local and in full time work' were adhered to by Bromford, however where CDC choose not to enforce outdated Covenants, e.g. 'working from home is not allowed', Bromford respect these decisions.

The Committee noted that around 40 homes were currently empty (in addition to properties scheduled for demolition and redevelopment).

The Committee noted that Bromford Housing had a 'damp and mould task-force' that could act quickly to complete surveys and identify where remedial action was required.

The Committee noted that a definitive 'Time to Fix' list did not exist however emergency fixes were responded to within a day, and there was a target of 'within 5 days' for a first visit to determine what action was required.

The Committee requested a complaints procedure clearly showing how tenants could report issues and escalate them when necessary.

RESOLVED: The Overview and Licensing Committee meeting noted and thanked Bromford Housing Association for their presentation given and provided feedback as necessary.

OS.218 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy

The purpose of the report was to receive the draft budget proposals for 2023-24 and latest Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finance introduced the report and explained that its aim was to provide members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to question and gain clarification of any part of the draft Budget and MTF. The following parts of the report were discussed

Draft Budget Proposals

- Referendum on Council Tax increases limit had risen from 1.99% to 2.99% for District Councils.
- The three scenarios that featured in the report had been arrived at using modelling tools, and therefore represented a 'best guess' of likely outcomes during a period of unprecedented financial uncertainty.

Funding

- The Government had frozen the Business Rate Multiplier and confirmed local authorities would be compensated for any shortfalls.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments were not considered income however these would be made public from December Cabinet.

Expenditure

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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- The Council would continue to be liable for future payments into the Local Government Pension Scheme to meet future pension liabilities for employees now transferred to Publica.
- Council fuel costs had increased by £310,000 per annum. This had been accounted for in the current year and was likely to remain at this level for future years.
- The Publica pay negotiations had concluded and resulted in a £1,925 payment per employee. This equated to 6% for the Publica wage bill and 7% for the Ubico wage bill. A 4% pay increase had been estimated for the following year.

Other Income

- Fees and charges would be increased to enable services to be delivered without further subsidisation by the Council. Some free services would also be reviewed to ensure they were being charged for fairly.

Reserves

- The current administration had previously managed to deliver balanced budgets without the need to use reserves, and the Council's reserves were in a strong position. It was likely however, that future expenditure would require the use of reserves until future balanced budgets could again be achieved.

RESOLVED: Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the report that went to Cabinet on 4th November 2022 and provided feedback for Cabinet to consider on 9th January 2023.

OS.219 **Climate Change Emergency Strategy**

The purpose of the report was to receive a verbal update on progress to-date against the climate change strategy.

The Head of Climate Action delivered a verbal report supported by illustrations showing what actions were within the control of the Council, actions that could be influenced by the Council and actions that were not within the Council's sphere of influence. Details of the size and impact of these were also presented.

The Committee noted that there was a goal for the Council to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 and this work had moved ahead starting with low carbon heating for Council leisure centres already in place and work planned at Council offices at Trinity Road.

The Committee noted the positive effects from the introduction of agile working and the completion of analysis of employee work journeys.

The Committee noted that the carbon contribution of fuel used in Council vehicles had not reduced significantly.

The Committee noted the large number of place shaping initiatives that had been undertaken by the Council across the District and the positive affect these had on carbon emissions.

The Committee noted that the individual measures used to report carbon emissions would always be based on estimates and could never be 100% accurate, however the methodology employed over time had been consistent and therefore the reported trends were reliable and accurate.

The Committee noted the importance of 'Carbon Literacy' for employees which would provide information and advice that would enable Council officers and Members to consider when making decisions in their day to day service specific work.

RESOLVED: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the progress to date against the climate change strategy.

OS.220 **Leisure and Culture Options Update**

The purpose of this report was to receive a verbal update on the ongoing work on the Leisure and Culture contract.

The Assistant Director for Property and Regeneration provided a verbal update on the Leisure and Culture Contract procurement process that would be concluded in the New Year and confirmed that the outcome for the process will be on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda for January 2023.

RESOLVED: Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the ongoing work on the Leisure and Culture contract.

OS.221 **Financial, Council Priority, and Service Performance Report - 2022-23 Quarter 2**

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on progress on the Council's priorities and service performance and to provide information on the Council's financial position.

The Chief Executive provided a summary of the report and highlighted a number of items within the report.

The Committee noted that a number of initiatives had been introduced to provide support for residents making Council Tax payments and a performance measure monitoring council tax payment collection rates across the District had been introduced to detect any reduction in Council Tax payments due to the Cost Of Living Crisis.

The Committee noted that 71 Affordable Homes had been delivered within the year (target of 50 homes).

The Committee noted improvements in the time taken to validate Planning Applications.

RESOLVED: Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed overall progress on the Council priorities, service delivery and financial performance for 2022-23 Q2

OS.222 **Performance Task and Finish Group Update**

The purpose of the report was to receive a verbal update on progress to-date of the group from the Chair of the group.

The Chair of the Performance Task and Finish Group provided a verbal update on recent work completed by the Group.

The Committee noted that Cabinet Members had been interviewed and their comments distilled into a report that differentiates Management Indicators from Key Performance indicators to enable a report to be produced that will:

- Improve current KPIs
- Develop new KPIs that are more relevant and

- Determine where Management Data should be distributed more widely to Members.

RESOLVED: Overview and Scrutiny noted the update on progress of the Performance Task and Finish Group.

OS.223 Employment Policies Task and Finish Group

The purpose of the report was to receive the draft terms of reference for the group and appoint two additional Members to the Employment Policies Task and Finish group.

The Chair of the Employment Policies Task and Finish Group provided an update on the initial work of the Group including the completion of its draft Terms of Reference and agreement that two additional Councillors would be required for Group. The Chief Executive indicated several Councillors had been nominated but the final selection had not been agreed.

RESOLVED: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved the draft terms of reference, subject to any amendments being made and agreed the appointment of two Members to the group (names to be agreed).

OS.224 Quarterly Digest

The Quarterly Digest was noted.

OS.225 Work Plan/Executive Forward Plan

The Committee noted the Work Plan and several amendments.

The Meeting commenced at 4.00 pm and closed at 7.00 pm

Chair

(END)



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2023
Subject	LEISURE AND CULTURE CONTRACTS PROCUREMENT UPDATE
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Jenny Forde Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing Email: jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Scott Williams Business Manager - Contracts Email: scott.williams@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Leisure and Culture Contract Procurements.
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives the update contained within this report.
Corporate priorities	These contract procurements support the following Council priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to the challenges presented by the climate crisis • Delivering our services to the highest standards • Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Cllr Jenny Forde Senior Officers – CDC/Publica



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** In May 2022, the Council granted authority for the commencement of a procurement process for the appointment of Leisure and Culture Management Contractors, for the operation of the Council's Leisure and Culture facilities.
- 1.2** As part of the procurement exercise, a commitment was given to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with key updates on the procurement process and timeline. The first of these updates was provided on 4th October 2022.
- 1.3** The procurements are following a competitive procedure with negotiation process, which commenced in September 2022, with the publication of the notice within the Official Journal of European Union (OJEU).
- 1.4** A Project Board oversees the project, which is made up of Cabinet Member, Senior Officers from the Council, Publica, South West Audit Partnership (SWAP), Trowers & Hamlins (legal) and Max Associates (leisure consultants).

2. PROJECT UPDATE

- 2.1** Stage one of the procurement process comprised the Standard Selection Questionnaire (SSQ) designed as an initial assessment to identify and shortlist suitable potential candidates. Five leisure management contractors expressed an interest at SSQ in the leisure contract and two in the culture contract. Following assessment and compliance checks, all contractors were invited to submit initial tenders (ISIT).
- 2.2** The deadline for tender returns was 9th January 2023 and the Council received four bids for the leisure contract and two for the culture. The evaluation team made up of key specialist officers, Max Associates and Trowers and Hamlins, assessed and scored the commercial and quality method statements for each of the tenders.
- 2.3** The evaluation team then met to review, discuss and agree moderated scores for each of the bids.
- 2.4** The tables below set out the criteria and weightings used for the ISIT evaluation, which were established using the paired comparison exercise undertaken by the cross party work group.

Leisure



Evaluation Criteria and Weightings	% weighting
Price / commercial	
1 Management Fee	25%
2 Capital investment proposals	15%
3 Viability of business plan	5%
4 Acceptance of commercial terms and conditions	5%
	50.00%
Quality	
1 Delivering Strategic Objectives	20%
2 Social and economic benefits	10%
3 Environmental Management	10%
4 Research, intelligence, and product development	10%
	50.00%
	100.00%

Culture

Evaluation Criteria and Weightings	% weighting
Price / commercial	
1 Subsidy Payment	25%
2 Commercialisation and ability to reduce subsidy	15%
3 Grant funding	5%
4 Acceptance of commercial terms and conditions	5%
	50.00%
Quality	
1 Delivering Strategic Objectives	10%
2 Commercial approach to developing services and assets	10%
3 Staff and volunteering	10%
4 Retail and catering	10%
5 Research, intelligence, and product development	10%
	50.00%
	100.00%

- 2.5** The Council is currently in a period of negotiation with bidders, whilst bidders respond to clarifications raised by the council during the ISIT evaluation and a series of scheduled negotiation meetings with each of the contractors is being completed.
- 2.6** Following closure of negotiation, a shortlist will be established, which is likely to include a minimum of three contractors for the leisure contract and two for the culture contract.
- 2.7** Successful bidders at ISIT will be invited to submit revised tenders (ISRT), which will comprise of marks up to their ISIT, these will be evaluated by relevant officers using the same evaluation criteria and weightings set out above. Once scored, the evaluation panel will meet again to complete a further moderation step.



- 2.8** Preferred bidder and the contract award report is planned for the March 2023 Cabinet and Council meetings for approval, with the new contract commencing on 1st August 2023, for both the leisure and culture contracts.

3. PROJECT PLAN

- 3.1** The remaining procurement timeline for the Leisure and Culture contracts are shown below, including key Council meeting dates:
- 30th January – Final evaluation of ISIT
 - 8th February – Negotiation meeting with bidders
 - 10th February – Bidders invited to submit revised tenders
 - 17th February – Deadline for ISRT submission
 - 23rd February – Preferred bidder proposed.
 - 28th February – LMT
 - 1st March – Informal Cabinet
 - 13th March – Cabinet
 - 15th March – Council

4. RISKS

- 4.1** The procurements for the Leisure and Culture contracts have an aggressive timescale and so recognising the importance of these two contracts to the Council, in addition to Max Associates being commissioned to provide project coordination, Trowers & Hamlins LLP, which are specialists in this area, have been commissioned to support the Councils legal team in the associated legal aspects of the procurement.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Cabinet and Council will review the 2023/24 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy at their meetings in February 20223 which will include consideration of the resources available to support the Leisure and Culture Contract.
- 5.2** As outlined in Section 3 of this report, the Council will approve the contract award(s) at the meeting on 15 March 2023.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 1st FEBRUARY 2023
Subject	BROADBAND DELIVERY UPDATE
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation Email: tony.dale@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Paul James, Economic Development Lead Tel: 01285 623558 Email: paul.james@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To update Members on progress in delivering high speed broadband across the District
Annexes	None.
Recommendation/s	<p>a) <i>That progress in delivering high speed broadband across the District and the future plans of both commercial infrastructure providers and the Fastershire Project are noted.</i></p> <p>b) <i>That it is noted that the £500k allocation for broadband in the capital programme set aside in 2016 has now been removed as Gloucestershire County Council advised that they felt their own budget was sufficient and it would not have led to faster delivery of broadband in the District.</i></p>
Corporate priorities	Ensure the benefits of the internet and digital technologies are accessible to everyone in the district
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Gloucestershire County Council/Fastershire, Openreach, Gigaclear



1. BACKGROUND

Broadband is nowadays viewed as an essential utility, alongside heating, electricity and running water. It is necessary for many households to be able to access basic services, as well as for businesses to be able to function effectively. During the pandemic, with people ordered to work from home where possible, the need for good broadband came into sharp focus. The lack of good quality broadband is one factor which can lead to digital exclusion and this can contribute to social isolation as well as having obvious economic disadvantages. Delivery of broadband is a greater challenge in rural areas due to the sparsity of the population, which increases costs and means there are fewer customers for it to be delivered commercially than in urban areas. Against this backdrop, the District is performing well in delivering good quality broadband, both through commercially-led activity and through publicly-assisted installation, with plans to further improve the position in the coming months and years.

2. PROGRESS UPDATES

- 2.1. Delivery of broadband is largely a commercial activity, with the market dominated by a number of large providers such as BT, EE, TalkTalk, Sky, Vodafone and Virgin Media. These are a mixture of those who have their own infrastructure (such as BT Openreach) to those who act as wholesalers and others who agree bulk purchases for their own retail customers. Virgin Media have their own infrastructure but do not operate within the Cotswold District. The decision by the Government to open up the Openreach infrastructure for other accredited providers to use has seen a number of other players entering the marketplace. Gigaclear via Fastershire has a significant presence in the District, delivering fibre to the premise, and other providers are believed to be looking to supply market towns within the area.
- 2.2. However, good quality broadband would not be provided universally if left to the market alone. Therefore the Government has made available significant funding to speed up the rollout of broadband through Building Digital UK (BDUK), which is part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. In a Gloucestershire context, this has been channelled through the Fastershire project which is a partnership between Gloucestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council. Fastershire was set up to deliver superfast broadband, which has now been largely achieved, and the Government is looking to deliver Project Gigabit centrally, so the Fastershire project looks likely to come to an end on 31st March 2024.
- 2.3. Broadband technology has moved on over time. Initially copper wires were used, but now fibre optic cables (shortened to 'fibre') which are able to support greater speeds are the norm. When we talk about fibre, this can either be 'fibre to the cabinet' (FTTC - which serves a number of premises and where copper wires are used for the final section of the journey to each individual premises) and 'fibre to the premises' (FTTP - which, as the name suggests, uses fibre optic cables all the way to the property).



- 2.4. As technology has moved on, for example with gaming, streaming of films and more widespread use of video call platforms such as Zoom, greater bandwidth is required. Superfast broadband is defined as download speeds of 30mbps and above. Ultrafast is defined as download speeds of 100mbps and above. Whereas 30mbps would have been sufficient for most purposes in the past, it is now seen as less than ideal for households with multiple users. Installation of broadband is currently focused on being 'Gigabit capable'. A gigabit is the fastest and most reliable available broadband speed and is the same as 1,000 megabits per second (Mbps). Gigabit-capable means that the connection can handle speeds of 1,000 Mbps but users only sign up to speeds they need and can afford. As demand increases, users can choose the option to pay for more speed as required.
- 2.5. It is worth noting that advertised internet speeds are not always consistent with what consumers experience for a variety of reasons. The use of wi-fi, although convenient, is not a direct internet connection and in itself leads to a loss of speed. The use of multiple devices within a premises, including tablets and mobile phones, can all have an impact on bandwidth particularly when applications like video conferencing and streaming are used.

Progress with delivery

- 2.6. Progress has been made with delivery of broadband across the District in recent years. According to the Think Broadband website, the District has coverage of 97.8% of superfast broadband and 53.8% of ultrafast broadband. It is also worth noting that of the 53.8% of ultrafast broadband, 53.5% is delivered by full fibre, compared with 43.4% nationally. Other comparable local rural districts have coverage as follows:

Table 1

District	Superfast (%)	Ultrafast (%)	Gigabit (%)
UK Average	97.8	75.2	72.4
Cotswold	97.8	53.8	53.5
Forest of Dean	89.9	46.9	43.9
Stroud	96.1	38.1	38.1
Tewkesbury	98.1	74.5	75

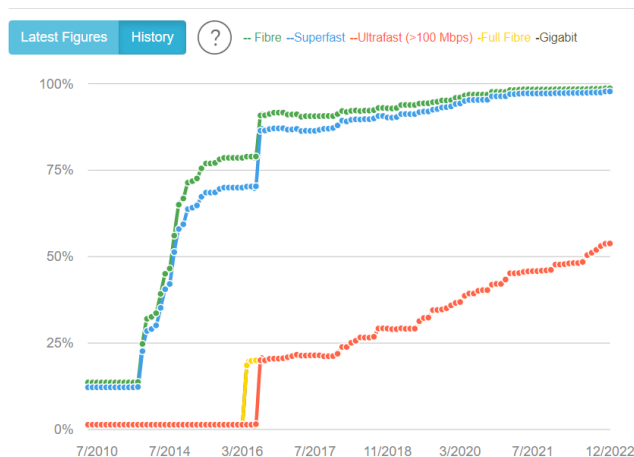
West Oxfordshire	99.6	86.7	81.8
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Source: Think Broadband website

Image I shows how coverage has improved dramatically in the District over the last decade.

Image I

Cotswold Superfast and Fibre Coverage



Source; Think Broadband website

- 2.7. The Openreach upgrade of Cirencester exchange is making good progress and by the end of March 2023 they anticipate reaching 5,000 properties served on the Cirencester exchange with full fibre broadband. This would take full fibre coverage to almost 44% for that specific exchange area which is in line with the UK average. Following recent engineering surveys of the wider exchange area, they have identified that there is a lot of cable directly buried in the ground (without duct). This will need careful planning of the best route to take to carry the new fibre cable and therefore they expect the exchange to take a further 12/18 months to complete.
- 2.8. Gigaclear have been on-site in Cirencester, delivering gigabit-capable broadband, and in Northleach. In Cirencester, the network of live connections in the town has increased from 1500 to 3500. They have highlighted the offer of a free connection within the build area for a Community Hub, such as a community centre or school, details of which can be found at www.gigaclear.com/community-hub. Gigaclear are on site at Moreton-in-Marsh and were due to connect 700 premises by the end of 2022 and 1700 by September 2023. Fairford, Tetbury, Bourton-on-the-Water, South Cerney and Stow-on-the-Wold are due to be delivered in 2023. The current work being undertaken by Openreach and Gigaclear



should make a significant impact on the ultrafast/gigabit figures for the District once completed.

- 2.9. In addition, Openreach have pledged to deliver full fibre to a number of settlements in the District (Tetbury, Northleach, South Cerney, Bourton-on-the-Water, Fairford and Lechlade) by 2026. Bourton-on-the-Water is scheduled to be delivered in 2023. Officers are in regular contact with both Gigaclear and Openreach, offering assistance where needed and encouraging them to complete their rollout as quickly as possible. Fibreheroes are also due to start work to connect over 2300 homes in Bourton-on-the-Water shortly.

The National Context

- 2.10. In May 2019, the Chancellor announced a £5 billion commitment to fund gigabit-capable broadband. The Government's target is for 85% of premises to have access to gigabit-capable broadband by 2025. The procurement for delivery of Project Gigabit in Gloucestershire is due to go live between April and June 2023, with the contract awarded between January and March 2024. The number of properties in scope is 44,700 and the contract value is estimated to be between £40-80 million. The Project is designed to deliver gigabit-capable broadband to the properties which would not be covered on a commercial basis.
- 2.11. The Government has made available £210 million for eligible rural areas to get Gigabit-capable broadband. The Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme offers up to £4500 per home or business towards the cost of installation. Further information is available at <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>. In addition, £164 million has been made available to connect public sector buildings like GP surgeries, libraries and schools in hard to reach areas, with more than 5000 buildings have been connected.

Universal Service Obligation

- 2.12. The Government introduced, from March 2020, a Universal Service Obligation (USO) whereby households and businesses are able to request an improved connection if they have a download speed of less than 10mbps or an upload speed of less than 1mbps if they will not be covered by a public broadband scheme in the next 12 months. If the cost of their share of the network is less than £3400 they won't have to pay and if it is more than that they need to pay the excess costs above £3400.

Fastershire Community Broadband Grant

- 2.13. The Fastershire Community Broadband Grant is targeting the final 3% of properties in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire that still require access to a superfast broadband of 30mbps or more. The County Council has recently taken a decision to increase the amount of the Fastershire Community Broadband Grant from £5000 to £7000 in order to increase



its attractiveness to the infrastructure providers as a number of small schemes have not attracted any tenders.

- 2.14. The purpose of the grant is to provide these properties with access to superfast connection (30mbps or above), but the scheme will only invest in networks that are capable of providing access to gigabit connections (1,000mbps) so community projects that are successful will have access to Fibre to the Property. <https://www.fastershire.com/about-fastershire/community-broadband-grant>.
- 2.15. In some cases, the solution may mean using a new supplier or different technology to reach a deeply rural community, or to extend an existing network further to reach outlying properties that were too expensive to connect in previously.

- 2.16. Any property in the Cotswold District either residential or business can benefit from the grant provided that it:

- Is listed in Fastershire address data
- Cannot access a superfast connection (30mbps or above)
- Is not included in a planned commercial rollout by a network provider
- Is not included in one of Fastershire's on-going rollout contracts with Openreach, Gigaclear or Airband.
- Has not already benefited from a Fastershire grant.

The deadline for grant applications is 31 August 2023.

- 2.17. Properties at Draycot and Northwick Park have already benefited from the grant and Fastershire have been looking to identify others within the District who would qualify. There is a role for councillors as community leaders to raise awareness of the scheme and encourage eligible communities to come forward.

Fastershire Business Grant Scheme

- 2.18. The County Council is also creating a Fastershire Business Grant Scheme, running from 1st January 2023 to 31st August 2023 of up to £20,000 for businesses with download schemes of less than 30mbps, providing the business makes a 20% contribution to the costs.

Gloucestershire Digital Household Grant

- 2.19. In addition, the County Council have approved the creation of a Gloucestershire Digital Household Grant scheme for residential properties with download speeds of less than 30mbps who are unable to apply for a Fastershire Community Broadband Grant. This



new grant will support improved digital connectivity based on 4G technology by supplying and installing a 4G Directional Antenna and external 4G router. If the household does not receive sufficient 4G signal strength to receive 4G Broadband the Fastershire Team will explore alternative options with the household. This could include use of a satellite-based solution although the costs of using a satellite are typically higher.

- 2.20. Phase One of the Gloucestershire Digital Household Grant will begin in May 2023 and will concentrate on properties in the Forest of Dean which were transferred out of Fastershire's contract with Gigaclear. Phase Two, which will be open to all qualifying households in the County, including in Cotswold District, will commence in September 2023.

Available Funding

- 2.21. Within Gloucestershire, the Fastershire project has £1.01m allocated for grant support in 2022/23 and 2023/24. The County Council have taken a decision to allocate £210,000 for Fastershire Community Grants (approx. 30 premises), £200,000 for Fastershire Business Grants (approx. 10 premises) and £600,000 for the Gloucestershire Digital Household Grants (approx. 1000 premises). Based on previous experience, the County Council believe that this funding should be adequate for the likely demand.

CDC Contribution

- 2.22. At its budget meeting in February 2016, the Council allocated £500k in its Capital Budget for the provision of broadband in the District. As of this year, none of this budget had been used. This is, perhaps, not surprising given that the sensible strategy is to allow the maximum coverage to be delivered commercially before stepping in with public subsidy. £500k as a commitment from the Council's budget is a sizeable sum, but in terms of broadband delivery it is relatively small. To put it into context, over £65 million of funding has been supplied by BDUK to Fastershire to date. In addition, there are considerations around State Aid and Best Value which have to be taken into account. Following a report to Cabinet in 2022, Officers continued in dialogue with Gloucestershire County Council and Fastershire with a view to devising a top-up to the Fastershire Community Broadband Grant to make use of the £500k allocation. However, in October 2022 County Council Officers advised the Council that it could not make use of the funding in a way that would accelerate delivery of broadband in the District. It was therefore removed from the Council's Capital Programme.

Planning Policy

- 2.23. Many authorities are now using planning policy to insist on the delivery of good quality broadband to new developments. Policy INF9 of the Cotswold District Local Plan



adopted in 2018 states that developments “should include the provision of telecommunications infrastructure with sufficient flexibility to support the fastest available data transfer speed at the time of development.” It is recognised that good quality broadband is seen by many homebuyers as a prerequisite of a purchase and as a result, to a large degree, will be delivered by the market. The current review of the Local Plan has considered the existing policy and believes it is still relevant and proportionate today.

Mobile phone signal

- 2.24. Mobile phone signal is a slightly separate but connected topic in terms of connectivity. There are areas of the District where coverage is poor. Officers are in regular contact with the main operators to encourage them to improve the position where needed, although their investment plans are by their nature long-term and difficult to change. For example, BT have upgraded their mast near Fairford which should have improved signal around that area. It is recognised that there is still some way to go to achieve universal coverage. It should also be noted that fibre is also needed for the rollout of 5G mobile coverage.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. £500k was allocated in the 2016/17 Capital Budget for delivery of broadband across the District. As Gloucestershire County Council have advised that they felt that their own budget for broadband grants was sufficient and the Council’s funding would not lead to faster delivery of broadband in the District, it was removed from the Capital Programme in October 2022. The capital receipts allocated to fund this project will now be utilised to fund other projects in the Council’s Capital Programme, reducing the requirement to undertake external borrowing and the associated costs of borrowing (interest and the provision of a minimum revenue provision (MRP) to repay the borrowing). Aside from this, there are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. There is a risk that communities may not come forward to access the various grant schemes. This can be mitigated by using our communications networks. There is also a risk that the County Council has put in place may not be sufficient. Based on previous experience, they do not believe that this is the case.



6. EQUALITIES IMPACT (IF REQUIRED)

- 6.1. The Council's Corporate Plan objective is to ensure the benefits of the internet and digital technologies are available to everyone in the District. The rollout of good quality broadband is an important element in the delivery of that objective.

7. ECOLOGICAL AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)

- 7.1. Good quality broadband enables residents to access services digitally and work from home effectively and in doing so reduces the need for travel, which has a positive effect on emissions.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 8.1. The Council could maintain its capital allocation for broadband, but it would not accelerate delivery and would therefore not be good value for public money.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1. The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:
- None.
- 9.2. These documents will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at xxxxxxxx during normal office hours for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting. Please contact the author of the report.

(END)

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HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber at Shire Hall, Gloucester.

Present	Cllr Andrew Gravells MBE (Chair)	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson
	Cllr David Brown	Cllr Alan Preest
	Cllr Linda Cohen	Cllr Stephen Andrews
	Cllr David Drew (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Adrian Bamford
	Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr Collette Finnegan
	Cllr Stephen Hirst	Cllr Helen Fenton

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pam Tracey, Stephan Fifield and Jill Smith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2022 were confirmed and agreed as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public representations were made at the meeting.

5. NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE WINTER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2022/23

Eve Olivant and Mary Hutton from NHS Gloucestershire outlined proposals relating to the NHS Gloucestershire Winter Sustainability Plan 2022/23. Please refer to the presentation document published with the agenda for details of the proposals.

Responding to questions, NHS Gloucestershire, acknowledged the challenges presented by the potential spread of new variants from the Covid-19 Coronavirus, in addition to anticipated pressures likely to impact on NHS services from large numbers of people experiencing flu symptoms.

In response to the challenges, it was clarified that the proposals set out in the Winter Sustainability Plan 2022-23 did not differ significantly from the activities included in the Winter Plan from the previous year.

The focus of the new plan would concentrate on the following areas of activity:

- Prepare for new COVID-19 variants and other respiratory challenges

- Increase the amount of care provided outside hospitals, notably, in Primary Care and Mental Health
- Increase the resilience provided by NHS 111 and 999 services
- Improve 999 Cat 2 responses and reduce ambulance handover times
- Expand the availability of alternative services without patients having to go to an acute hospital
- Reduce demands placed on acute and community hospital wards
- Ensure people are discharged safely and quickly from acute, mental health, and community settings
- Provide better support for people at home, including expanding 'virtual wards'

Responding to questions on the response to new variants of the coronavirus and the measures in place to deliver the Covid-19 booster and flu vaccination, it was reported that: -

1. Covid-19: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) had set out the following recommendations for the Autumn Coronavirus (COVID-19) Booster Programme. Those eligible for a further vaccine dose included:

- All adults aged 50 years and over
- Those aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, including pregnant women
- Those aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- Those aged 16 to 49 years who are carers
- Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- Frontline health and social care workers

2. Flu Vaccine.

Although it was initially thought those eligible for the flu vaccine would be those over 65 and those in clinical risk groups, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) had since announced it would be widening the offer of the free flu vaccine to more eligible groups. The additional groups would only be eligible after the most vulnerable, including previously announced pre-school and primary school children, those aged 65 years and over and those in clinical risk groups, have been offered the vaccine.

For further information, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-50s-to-be-offered-covid-19-booster-and-flu-jab-this-autumn>

NHS Gloucestershire confirmed it would be encouraging as many people as possible to have their vaccinations. This included those eligible to visit local pharmacies and drop in centres where vaccines were being offered. Recent reports confirmed, Gloucestershire, as a county was once again performing exceptionally well, (the highest in the country), in the roll out of booster and flu vaccines. To avoid impacting on other services, a separate team of NHS personnel had been appointed to deliver the vaccination programme.

Several members expressed concern about the transfer of patients to urgent and emergency care by ambulance. It was confirmed that in the past few weeks there had been a significant improvement in meeting transfer targets and that a whole system reset plan had been put in place to address current issues.

Acknowledging concerns about increased demands being placed on the NHS 111 and the NHS Out of Hours Service, members were reminded that, in response to the issues impacting on Urgent and Emergency Care Systems that had been raised at scrutiny committee meetings in July, the members of the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and the Adult Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee (ASCC), had arranged to meet at a joint scrutiny committee meeting on 15 November 2022 to consider a single item agenda on the delivery of urgent and emergency care in Gloucestershire.

Representatives from each of the following organisations would be invited to contribute to the discussion and to respond to member questions. In addition, members would receive an update on the conclusions and findings of the diagnostic work being undertaken by consultants, Newton Europe, (in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council and NHS Gloucestershire).

The organisations invited to make representation at the meeting included: -

NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
NHS Gloucestershire Hospitals Foundation Trust
NHS Gloucestershire Health and Care Foundation Trust
NHS Gloucestershire Primary Care
NHS 111 Service
South-West Ambulance Service Foundation Trust
Gloucestershire Police
Gloucestershire County Council

Responding to member requests, Cllr Andrew Gravells, had also arranged for a small group of members to visit SWAST and NHS 111 at the Bristol control offices on Tuesday 8 November 2022. The purpose of the visits would allow members to observe the working environment at each location and to speak to key workers. Information and data from the visits to be shared with the committee.

Healthwatch Gloucestershire suggested it might be useful to include/publicise an overview of information in the form of an NHS Gloucestershire directory of services. The information to highlight key services and promote recommended pathways for when a person becomes ill or is involved in an emergency situation. Healthwatch Gloucestershire offered to assist in producing the directory and this was welcomed. Members supported the proposal and agreed the proposal would be a useful alternative to assist those patients without access to online services.

Given the significance of the challenges to the urgent and emergency care system in Gloucestershire and following on from the outcomes identified by Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection reports in 2022/2022, it was agreed this extensive issue was likely to form the focus of ongoing work for the members of both the

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee in 2023/24.

The proposed winter plan was noted, subject to a request for a review of performance in the Spring.

6. REDUCING HEALTH INEQUALITIES (COUNCIL MOTION 881)

At the Gloucestershire County Council meeting on 8 September 2021, members considered Motion 881, (Tackling poverty and deprivation in Gloucestershire), with a request to 'bring regular progress reports on the progress of the Health and Wellbeing Board's seven strategic priorities to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee'. To view the discussion at the council meeting on 8 September 2021, please visit the Council website at the link [here](#)

Acknowledging common interests with the Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee, members received a presentation from Kate Emsley, Senior Commissioning Manager at Gloucestershire County Council, on the impact of inequalities on the health and wellbeing on different groups of people in Gloucestershire. Please refer to the attached PowerPoint for details of the presentation.

Incorporated within the report was an overview of the outcomes of the Gloucestershire Levelling Up Our Communities Conference held on 19 May 2022. Recent data indicated that Gloucestershire enjoyed overall good health and life expectancy, thus emphasising a need to work hard to uncover and understand any inequalities that existed.

The work to concentrate on the seven strategic priorities identified by the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB). These included: Physical Activity, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Mental Wellbeing, Loneliness and Social Isolation, Healthy Weight, Best Start in Life and Housing. It was explained that the priorities had been considered as HWBB priorities since 2019, with regular updates and reports at HWBB meetings. Each priority received dedicated agenda time to 'spotlight' the area in terms of progress, opportunities and challenges.

'Highlight' reports, reporting on each of the seven strategic priorities had been considered at a HWBB meeting held in September, in addition to a performance update report, comprising indicators for each priority area.

Key highlights identified from the reports included: -

1. Physical activity - distribution of over £250,000 grant funding; a pilot approach used to social prescribing for young people; delivery of on-line workshops for communities, clubs and organisations; strength and asset-based delivery in geographical areas of inequality;

2. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - evidence of good professional knowledge of ACEs; 138 ACE Ambassadors forming a network of people to champion ACEs awareness across Gloucestershire; Action on ACEs' partnered

with the Nelson Trust to roll out training to 160 people from VCS organisations and ACEs Ambassadors

3. Mental wellbeing – roll out of a £200k community grants scheme for community led and based projects aimed at addressing the wider determinants of mental health and Five Ways to Wellbeing initiative, focusing on groups at highest risk of poor mental health and social isolation; provision of new early intervention mental health services throughout the pandemic to improve access to support for children and adults experiencing mild-moderate mental health issues working alongside existing commissioned services; completion of a suicide audit to inform a refresh of the countywide suicide prevention strategy and action plan; ongoing delivery of training in suicide prevention, mental health and crisis care awareness for VCS and public sector organisations.

4. Loneliness and social isolation – it was noted that, since the pandemic, there had been significant changes to peoples' social connectedness. To address such changes, new and diversified community-based activities had been introduced to bring people together and to consider the differences and need for change since 2019.

5. Healthy weight - Feeding Gloucestershire (FG) was established to coordinate and enable local efforts to help coordinate and support efforts to improve access to affordable healthy food for those affected by food insecurity, working with food aid providers and charities and develop a sustainable programme to eradicate food poverty; a successful bid had been made to participate in the Soil Association's Sustainable Food Places (SFP) programme and become one of the country's first Sustainable Food Counties; pilot delivery of community-based weight management support to continue in Gloucester City and the Forest of Dean until March 2023, to be followed with a countywide children and young people's community weight management service.

6. Best Start in Life – highlights from the nine focus areas introduced to help support families seek the best start in life included: The Steps Ahead Programme, funded through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) Grant, (providing tailored packages of care to support families impacted by the pandemic in all areas of child development); equity audit of Gloucestershire's maternity services, (introduced to make improvements to services for women from areas of deprivation and some ethnic minority groups); help provided to young children who had missed out on support provided during the pandemic;

7. Housing and Health – this priority had shifted significantly during the past year due to the Ukraine situation and the use of contingency hotels for asylum seekers. At the time of the meeting, Gloucestershire was hosting refugees through a variety of schemes, including the Gloucestershire Refugee Resettlement Programme (GRRP) for Syrian refugees, the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, the Homes for Ukraine (HFU) scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme

It was noted that significant changes had impacted on the county since the priorities had been identified in 2019, notwithstanding the COVID pandemic which had created specific challenges in progressing each of the priorities. It was agreed the

current cost-of-living rise would undoubtedly affect the outcomes of the priority areas and present new challenges.

It was confirmed that the HWBB priorities would now form part of the developing Integrated Care Partnership Strategy, with a focus on long-term change from tackling the wider determinants of health and primary prevention. It was requested that the members of both committees should continue to receive periodical updates on each of the strategic priorities.

Cabinet Member, Cllr Nick Housden, informed the meeting that the County Council would be launching its Levelling Up Together Grant Scheme that day, committing £1.5million to delivering initiatives considered to be the most effective for the 10 most deprived communities in the county. Cllr Housden said he hoped to see improved opportunities for both children and adults from the huge investment, in addition to creating improvements in wellbeing, skills and employability.

Responding to requests on how to support work within local communities, including the work of voluntary organisations, members were advised to visit two useful websites, including the 'Your Circle' website and the 'Know your own Patch' network. Referring to work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Cheltenham Borough Council, members noted the importance of promoting joined up working by the District and Borough Councils. Members also acknowledged the impact of inequalities on mental health and the importance of early intervention. It was suggested that mental health be added to the committee work plan for consideration at a future meeting and the suggestion was noted.

In addition to the report, members received a detailed update on the 'Levelling Up Our Communities Conference' held on Thursday 19 May 2022. The conference was attended by over 131 people from a broad range of voluntary sector and community groups and public sector leaders. To view the conference report and summary of the discussions, including next steps, please refer to the link [here](#). It was agreed the conference had been useful in highlighting how important it was to work together to reinforce the links between communities, voluntary and community sector partners, public sector organisations and businesses.

Strongly advocating the need to maintain a firm commitment on tackling inequalities and in making real changes to people's lives, members agreed it was essential to adopt a coordinated approach and requested regular updates on the work going forward.

Cllr Housden agreed it was important to maintain the momentum on this area of work. Thanking the County Council's Public Health Team, Cllr Housden said this was not the end but the beginning of the work.

The report was noted.

URGENT ITEM: CARE QUALITY COMMISSION GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST INSPECTION REPORT

This item was considered as an item of urgent business in accordance with

Paragraph 7 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution: Rules of Procedure/Rules on Access to Information about the County Council's Formal Business.

The item was added to the agenda at the request of the Chair of the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Andrew Gravells.

Under consideration of the urgent item, members of the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee were invited to ask questions on the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Inspection Report published by the CQC on 7 October 2022. The report relates to inspections of Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and Cheltenham General Hospital on 12-13 April 2022 and 14-16 June 2022.

Representatives from the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in attendance at the meeting gave a verbal update on the findings of the inspection report and responded to questions from the members of the committee. Please see attached the summary report presented at the meeting.

To visit the CQC webpage please go to the link [here](#)

To view the inspection report relating to the inspection of Gloucestershire Hospitals (published on 7 October 2022) please go to the link [here](#)

Please also refer to section 3.1.2 of the One Gloucestershire NHS Integrated Care Board Report at item 8 of the agenda for comments from the GHNHSFT.

To view the extensive committee discussion on the item, please visit the Gloucestershire County Council website at the link [here](#) for a recording of the meeting.

Pending the response to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection report, members agreed to await until the formal response was publically available, and in the meantime, requested to have sight of the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Action Plan to consider the 49 actions that had been agreed.

7. NHS ONE GLOUCESTERSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS) PERFORMANCE REPORT

The committee received an update on the performance of the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG) in relation to NHS constitutional and other agreed standards. The report was taken as read at the meeting and can be viewed at the link [here](#).

Responding to specific issues involving potentially personalised information, members were advised to contact NHS Gloucestershire representatives after the meeting to discuss the issues in more detail.

The update was noted.

11. ONE GLOUCESTERSHIRE NHS INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB) UPDATE

The committee received a detailed update on the One Gloucestershire Integrated Care System (ICS) Partnership, (the ICP received formal recognition on 1 July 2022). The report was produced by the One Gloucestershire NHS Integrated Care Board.

One member enquired about the Lydney/South Forest GP provision going forward and agreed to receive an update after the meeting.

The report was taken as read at the meeting and can be viewed at the link [here](#).

9. FIT FOR THE FUTURE 2: OUTCOMES OF ENGAGEMENT REPORT

A briefing paper and Fit for the Future 2 Output of Engagement Report was shared with committee members in advance of the meeting, with a request for questions or points of clarification to be sent to the NHS in advance of the meeting.

No questions or points of clarification were received ahead of the meeting.

The report was taken as read at the meeting.

To view the full report, please visit the Fit for the Future 2 Project page on the Get Involved in Gloucestershire online participation platform:

<https://getinvolved.glos.nhs.uk/fit-for-the-future-2>

NHS colleagues confirmed that the Output of Engagement Report, (setting out all the engagement activity and responses to the engagement that took place during May and June 2022), had been reviewed by Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the ICB and NHS England. The quality of the report was noted by the committee.

In response to member questions, NHS colleagues confirmed that, as part of the overall engagement with people and communities, key stakeholders, voluntary and community sector partners, GP Practice Patient Participation Groups (PPG) were invited to participate in the engagement over the summer.

The committee discussed next steps and considered whether further public involvement would provide additional information, such as alternatives or impacts, that could influence decision making. The committee concluded that the engagement undertaken to date was sufficient and requested that updates be brought to future meetings of the committee regarding the implementation of Fit for the Future 2 service changes.

CHAIRPERSON

Meeting concluded at 1.35pm

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

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Reducing Health Inequalities: an update on Council Motion 881 – Tackling Poverty and Deprivation in Gloucestershire

Tuesday 18th October 2022

Update provided by Kate Emsley, Senior Commissioning Manager, PWC Hub, GCC



Defining health inequalities

Health inequalities are avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people.

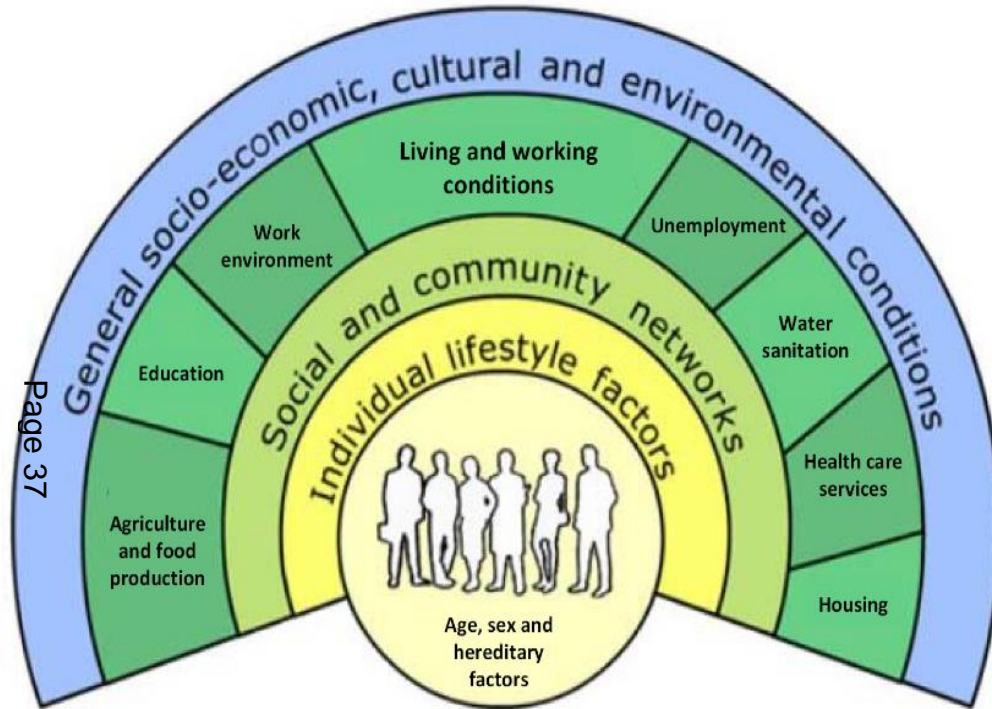
They are differences between people or groups due to social, geographical, biological or other factors. These differences have a huge impact, because they result in people who are worst off experiencing poorer health and shorter lives.



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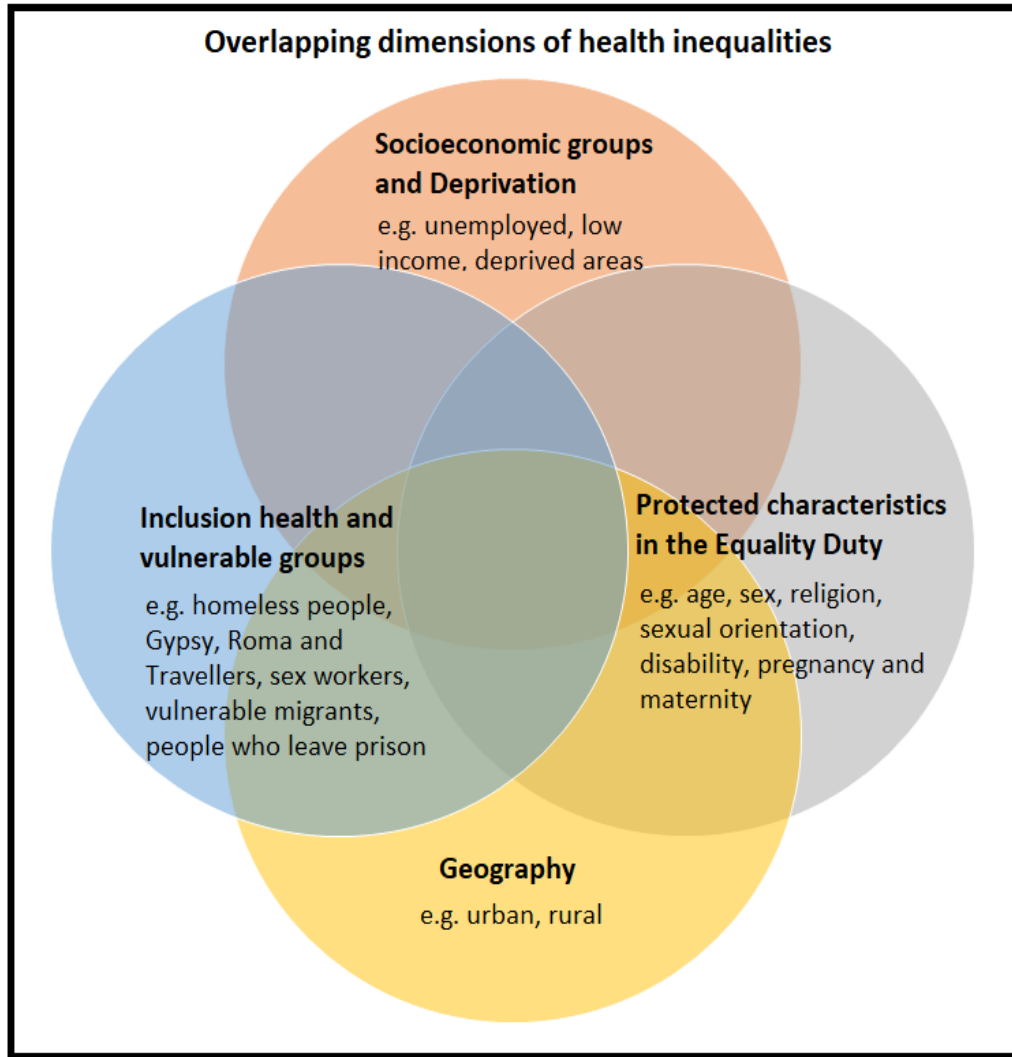
What influences our health?



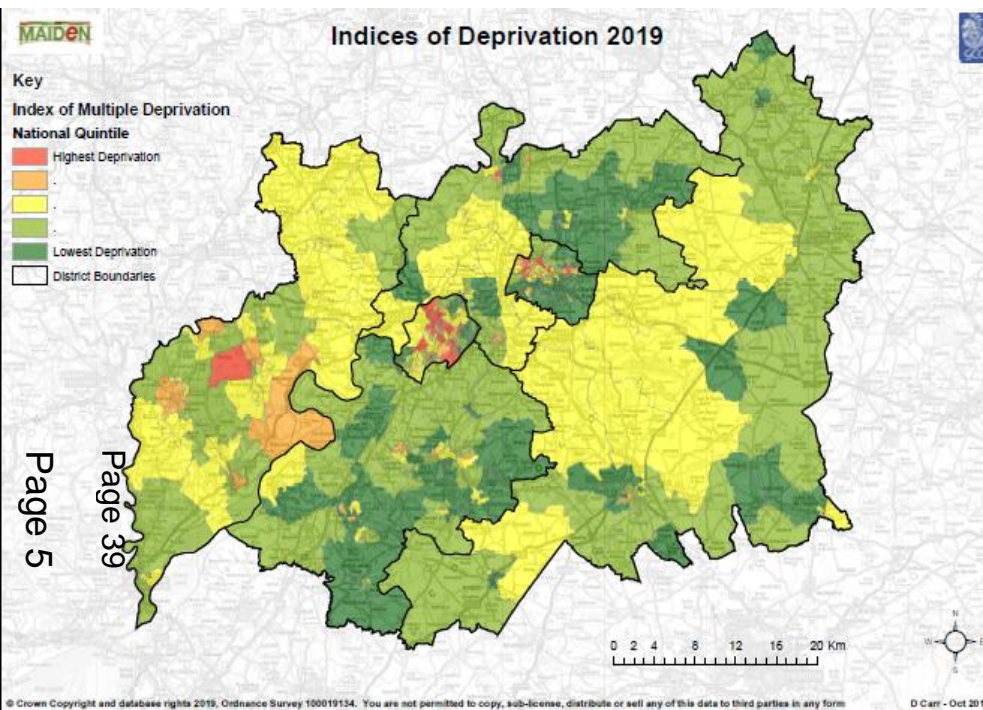
The rainbow model maps the relationship between the individual, their environment and health.

Dahlgren and Whitehead framework (1991)

Who experiences health inequalities?



Why are health inequalities important in the Gloucestershire system?



A boy born today in the least deprived area in Gloucestershire can expect to live on average 8.7 years longer than a boy born in the most deprived area in Gloucestershire, and a girl 6.5 years longer.

The unemployment rate in the most deprived decile is 6 times higher than in the least deprived decile.

“The more equal and engaged people feel, the better a citizen they feel empowered to be”

“There is good evidence that reducing inequalities in health is good for everyone socially, economically and in terms of overall health and wellbeing”

Relevant strategies

Building Back Better in Gloucestershire

2022-2026

Event Summary Report

Levelling up together

Conference • Thursday 19 May 2022

gloucestershire.gov.uk

Gloucestershire
COUNCIL

REDUCING HEALTHCARE INEQUALITIES

NHS

The Core20PLUS5 approach is designed to support Integrated Care Systems to drive targeted action in health inequalities improvement

CORE20
The most deprived 20% of the national population as identified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation

20%

Target population

CORE20 PLUS5

PLUS
ICS-chosen population groups experiencing poorer-than-average health access, experience and/or outcomes, who may not be captured within the Core20 alone and would benefit from a tailored healthcare approach e.g. inclusion health groups



Key clinical areas of health inequalities



1 MATERNITY
ensuring continuity of care for 75% of women from BAME communities and from the most deprived groups



2 SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS (SMI)
ensuring annual health checks for 60% of those living with SMI (bringing SMI in line with the success seen in Learning Disabilities)



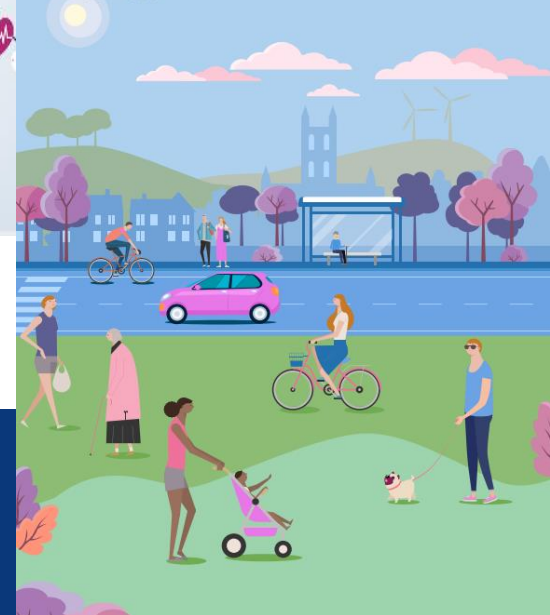
3 CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASE
a clear focus on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), driving up uptake of Covid, Flu and Pneumonia vaccines to reduce infective exacerbations and emergency hospital admissions due to those exacerbations



4 EARLY CANCER DIAGNOSIS
75% of cases diagnosed at stage 1 or 2 by 2028



Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Summary Version
2019 - 2030



Living our values



Accountable



Integrity



Empower



Respect



Excellence

Programmes of work focusing on health inequalities in Gloucestershire



“The single most important intervention is to understand that there is no single most important intervention”

Harry Rutter, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



A large blue arrow pointing downwards, composed of a grid of small dots, located in the top left corner.

CQC Inspection Findings: Well-led and Surgery

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Reflections

- We have had an unprecedented two-and-a-half years in which staff have been selfless in their efforts to deliver the best care in difficult circumstances; the pressures have changed, rather than diminished
- The CQC findings provide a helpful perspective on the Trust, which tells us that there are issues to address many of which have their origins in pandemic context, others (relating to culture) cannot be explained away by the pandemic and ongoing pressures
- The issues identified are not evident everywhere all the time, and are not demonstrated by everyone, but they are having a disproportionate impact
- There is much to reflect on, but of utmost importance is that we listen to our staff and work together to respond to the issues, using the findings and recommendations as a platform to expedite the change already underway
- I am personally disappointed that the report didn't reflect more of the incredible things our colleagues achieve every single day



CQC ratings: Surgery

Safe	Effective	Caring	Responsive	Well-led	Overall
Inadequate ↓ ↓ Aug 2022	Requires Improvement ↓ Aug 2022	Good → ← Aug 2022	Requires Improvement → ← Aug 2022	Inadequate ↓ ↓ Aug 2022	Inadequate ↓ ↓ Aug 2022

What led the CQC to judge the service as inadequate?

- High number of never events – 7 in the previous year
- Use of theatre recovery overnight
- Insufficient capacity in our Surgical Assessment Unit(SAU) leading to long waits for patients to be assessed
- Mandatory training and appraisal below expected levels
- High staff vacancy rate and turnover
- Our estate was considered not fit for purpose in some areas
- Staff reported incidents, which were investigated but dissemination of the learning from these incidents was not always evident

What led the CQC to judge the service as inadequate?

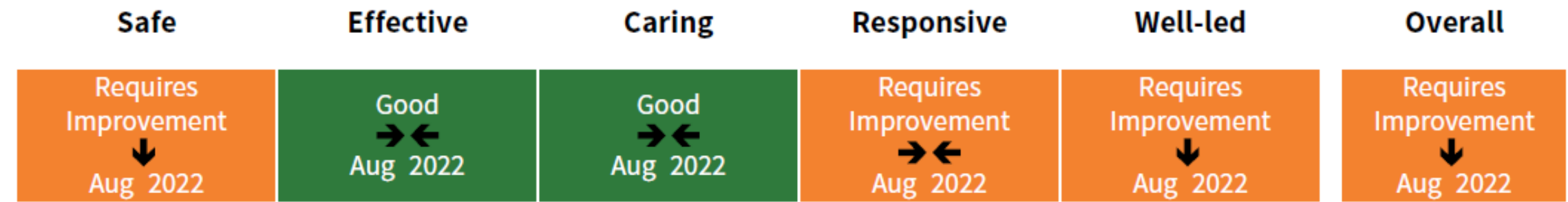
- High number of never events – seven never events in the previous year. An improvement programme was instigated two years ago and we have not had a theatre never event for 310 days from a previous median of one every 59 days
- Use of theatre recovery overnight – lacks privacy dignity but very safe and enabled patients to have cancer surgery that they would not otherwise have had. 2500 cancer operations undertaken during the pandemic of whom 252 were looked after in recovery. 100% of patients surveyed said they would rather have been cared for in recovery than had to wait at home for their surgery
- Insufficient capacity of the Surgical Assessment Unit(SAU) – recognised by the Trust in 2020 and a new unit comes on board in summer 2023 as part of a £100m+ investment in our estate
- Mandatory training and appraisal - when staff vacancies were at their highest which was very common during the pandemic COVID, we prioritised patient facing activities over training and development. 85% of staff were up to date against an internal standard of 90%
- High staff vacancy and turnover rate -Our greatest challenge. Nationally,40,000 nurses left the NHS last year with fewer than 42% saying they would not recommend the NHS as a place to work. We have and continue to have an unrelenting focus recruitment and most importantly retention

In summary

- The CQC identified a number of risks to safety which if poorly controlled and / or persisted could lead to unsafe services
- Our surgical outcomes are in line with surgical units nationally and better in some areas
- However, I do not believe our surgical service is unsafe and we are determined to address the issues raised as we begin to reset services post-pandemic
- Our staff are our greatest asset and I am determined we will support them to ensure that when they are next inspected, they will be rightly proud of the CQC's findings



CQC ratings: The Trust



Key findings

- Leaders did not always use the organisation's values to improve the culture and services for patients.
- They observed a high tolerance of poor behaviours
- The Trust did not have an open culture where staff could raise concerns without fear
- Leaders did not always promote equality, diversity and inclusion in their daily work, and some staff groups did not get the same opportunities for career development
- There was a disconnect between some senior level leaders' perception and the reality for the frontline staff

Key findings

- Most leaders have the skills and abilities, experience and capacity to manage the Trust; however, many were new
- The Trust had a vision for what it wanted to achieve and a strategy to turn it into action, developed with relevant stakeholders
- A review of the effectiveness of committee structures and governance was underway. Changes were being implemented to improve risk management and visibility from frontline services to the Board
- Leaders encouraged innovation and participation in research and staff, and leaders had a good understanding of quality improvement methods and the skills to use them

Next steps – the “how”

- Being brave and bold
- Colleagues who do not demonstrate our values, will have no place in our organisation
- Zero tolerance of discrimination, bullying and harassment
- Encouraging staff to surface the issues : we can't work with what we're not talking about
- Talking, thinking and problem-solving together



**Relationships
are the key**

Next steps: Well-led – the ‘what’

- All Senior Leaders “Back to the Floor”
 - Relationships, empathy, understanding, insight, humility
- Full-time Freedom to Speak Up Guardian role: linked with cultural work
- Staff Experience Improvement Programme
 - Survey results: clarity of focus
 - Restorative Just and Learning Culture implementation: placing emphasis on culture and learning
 - Living and breathing the Trust’s values and behaviours: team development, action learning and support for leaders and managers
- People and OD Department transformation programme to ensure we have a function with the capacity and capability to lead the change necessary



**‘Inch-wide,
mile deep’**

Questions



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN CIVIC YEAR

2022-23

Chair: Cllr Stephen Andrews

Vice-Chair Cllr Gary Selwyn

The Local Government Act 2000 established four main roles for overview and scrutiny committees to perform:

- Holding the executive to account, including performance management
- Policy development and review
- External scrutiny
- Best value

The Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities published by MHCLG in May 2019 includes a number of policies and practices authorities should adopt or should consider adopting when deciding how to carry out their overview and scrutiny functions.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Local Government Association outlined four principles for effective scrutiny:

- Constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge
- Amplifies the voices and concerns of the public
- Led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
- Drives improvement in public services.

Good scrutiny and good governance support and reinforce these principles and should lead to the following points being taken as key for good scrutiny to thrive:

- Accountability – an environment where responsibility for services and decisions is clear and where those holding responsibility can and are answerable for success and failure;
- Transparency – the publication, proactively, of information relating to services and decisions to allow local people, and others, to hold policymakers and decision-makers to account; and,
- Involvement – rules, principles and processes whereby a wide range of stakeholders (including elected representatives) can play active roles in holding to account, and influencing and directing the development of policy.

In addition to the items detailed in this work plan, every agenda will include a review of the Executive Forward Plan, the Quarterly Digest of GCC Scrutiny meetings and the Scrutiny Work Plan.

Meeting Date	Item	Description of Scrutiny focus	Lead Member	Supporting Officer
24 th January 2023	Budget	Update on Budget and MTFS ahead of budget setting by Council in February. Identify impacts from Autumn Statement.	Cllr Mike Every, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance	David Stanley
	Broadband Fastershire	<i>Clarification on the status of this is awaited and will inform agenda item.</i>		Paul James
	Leisure and Culture Options Update	Scrutiny of procurement process to-date ahead of Cabinet and Council decisions to appoint a	Cllr Jenny Forde Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	Scott Williams
	Peer Review: Overview & Scrutiny Recommendations	Update on delivery against Peer Review action plan. Peer Review report going to January Cabinet.	Cllr Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Rob Weaver
	Quarterly Digest			-
	Work Plan/Executive Forward Plan			-

21st March 2023				
	Neighbourhood Planning	To receive an update on which communities have Neighbourhood Plans or are developing them and	Cllr Rachel Coxcoon Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning	James Brain
	Publica Business Plan 2023/24	The existing Business Plan is for 2022 – 2025. There is therefore no new business plan for 2023/24 but Committee will receive an update report against the current Business Plan.	Cllr Joe Harris, Leader	Jan Britton
	Q3 2022/23 Performance Report	To scrutinize performance as set out in the Q3 performance report.	Cllr Joe Harris, Leader	Rob Weaver
	Quarterly Digest			-
	Work Plan/Executive Forward Plan			-

Meeting Date	Item	Description of Scrutiny focus	Lead Member	Supporting Officer
First mtg	Leisure and culture procurement update	Suggest focuses on mobilization plans, any changes for the customer, any investment in		Scott Williams
First Mtg	Peer Review	Update against Peer Review Action Plan		Rob Weaver
First mtg	Employment Policy Review	Update on Employment Policy Improvements		Zoe Campbell
Second Mtg	Asset Management Strategy	Update on approach to asset management		Claire Locke
Second/third Mtg	Local Plan update	After Reg.19 sign off, scrutiny of whether sufficient resources are in place to deliver plan and how this will be managed.		James Brain



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN
INCORPORATING NOTICE OF DECISIONS PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE SESSION AND NOTICE
OF INTENTION TO MAKE A KEY DECISION**

JANUARY 2023 – MARCH 2023

Published 23rd December 2022

The Forward Plan

By virtue of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, local authorities are required to publish a notice setting out the key executive decisions that will be taken at least 28 days before such decisions are to be taken. The Regulations also require notice to be given of any matter where it is proposed that the public will be excluded during consideration of the matter.

This Forward Plan incorporates both of these requirements. In the interests of transparency, it also aims to include details of those items to be debated by the Cabinet that relate to either policy/budget formulation, matters which will be subject to a recommendation to the Council, and other matters due to be considered by the Cabinet. This programme covers a period of four months, and will be updated on a monthly basis. The timings of items may be subject to change.

It should be noted that although a date not less than 28 clear days after the date of the notice is given in each case, it is possible that matters may be rescheduled to a date which is different from that given provided, in the cases of key decisions and matters to be considered in private, that the 28 day notice has been given. In this regard, please note that agendas and reports for Meetings of the Cabinet are made available on the [Council's Web Site](#) – five working days in advance of the Meeting in question. Please also note that the agendas for Meetings of the Cabinet will also incorporate a necessary further notice which is required to be given in relation to matters likely to be considered with the public excluded.

There are circumstances where a key decision can be taken, or a matter may be considered in private, even though the 28 clear days' notice has not been given. If that happens, notice of the matter and the reasons will be published on the Council's Web Site, and available from the Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1PX.

Key Decisions

The Regulations define a key decision as an executive decision which is likely –

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the authority.

In financial terms, the Council has decided that a key decision is any executive decision which requires a budget expenditure of £150,000 or more, or one which generates savings of £150,000 or more.

A key decision may only be made in accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules contained within the Council's Constitution.

Matters To Be Considered in Private

The great majority of matters considered by the Council's Cabinet are considered in 'open session' when the public have the right to attend.

However, some matters are considered with the public excluded. The public may only be excluded if a resolution is passed to exclude them. The grounds for exclusion are limited to situations where confidential or exempt information may be disclosed to the public if present and, in most cases involving exempt information, where in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The definitions of these are set out in the Council's Constitution.

Documents and Queries

Formal reports presented relating to any executive decision will be available on the Council's Web Site at least five working days in advance of the Meeting at which the decision is to be made (except insofar as they contain confidential and/or exempt information).

The Decision Notice for each key decision will be published as soon as reasonably practicable after it has been made. We will seek to do this within five working days of the date of the decision. The Decision Notice will be available for public inspection on the Council's Web Site, and at the Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1PX.

If you have any questions about the Forward Plan, or if you wish to make representations about any of the matters contained within it, please contact the Council's Democratic Services Team. The Democratic Services Team can also, on request, provide copies of, or extracts from, documents listed in the Plan and any which subsequently become available (subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure).

Contact Details:

Democratic Services, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1PX

E-mail: democratic@cotswold.gov.uk **Telephone:** 01285 623000 **Website:** www.cotswold.gov.uk

The Council's Executive Arrangements

The Council currently operates the Strong Leader and Cabinet form of governance.

By law, the Cabinet can comprise a Leader of the Council, together with up to nine other Members to be appointed by the Leader (one of whom has to be appointed as Deputy Leader). The Leader will be elected by the Council, for a four-year term; and the Deputy Leader appointment is also for a four-year term.

The Cabinet at Cotswold District Council currently comprises a Leader, a Deputy Leader, and seven other Cabinet Members. The structure is as set out in the table below.

Executive decisions are taken either collectively by the Cabinet or individually by Cabinet Members.

The Cabinet generally meets monthly; whereas decision-making by individual Cabinet Members occurs on an 'as and when needed' basis.

Decisions of the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members are subject to scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor	Portfolio Area	Areas of Responsibility
Joe Harris	Leader	Coordination of executive functions, Policy framework including the corporate plan, Public Housing and homelessness, Town and Parish Council liaison, Clean and Green campaign, UBICO (including street cleaning)
Mike Evemy (Deputy Leader)	Finance	Financial strategy and management, Revenue and Benefits Grants
Rachel Coxcoon	Climate Change and Forward Planning	Climate change and energy planning, Sustainable transport, Strategic forward planning, Local plan, Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106, Allowable solutions
Page 61 Tony Dale	Economy and Council Transformation	Car parking operations and strategy, Business transformation, Local Enterprise Partnership and county-wide partnerships, Economic development, Recovery Investment Strategy, Tourism and visitor information centres, Chamber of commerce liaison
Andrew Doherty	Waste and Recycling	UBICO (Waste and Recycling), Waste and recycling, Flooding
Jenny Forde	Health and Wellbeing	Refugee support, Public health, well-being and mental health, Improving social mobility and tackling social isolation, Crime, disorder and safety, Supporting and safeguarding people, Health centres, museums and culture, Young people
Juliet Layton	Development Management and Licensing	Development Management, Heritage and design management, Environmental and regulatory services, Cotswold Water Park
Lisa Spivey	Corporate Services	Property and asset management, Trinity Road transformation, Democratic services, Communications and consultation, Customer experience and channel shift

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes / No)	Likely to be Considered in Private (Yes / No)	Decision – Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer	Consultation	Background Documents
Agile Working Capital Expenditure Report	Yes	No	Rob Weaver, Chief Executive	TBC	Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services	Claire Locke	Consultations within the Agile Working Project Report March 2022 Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Deputy Chief Executive.	Agile Working Project report
Peer Review Update	No	No	Council	18 Jan 2023	Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Rob Weaver		
Proposed Amendments to the Constitution	No	No	Council	18 Jan 2023	Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Angela Claridge	Constitution Working Group	CDC Constitution
Programme of meetings - follow up report	No	No	Council	18 Jan 2023	Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Andrew Brown	Full Council – 16/11/22	
Dispensations	No	No	Council	18 Jan 2023	Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Angela Claridge	N/A	None
Budget and MTFS	Yes	No	Cabinet Council	6 Feb 2023 15 Feb	Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for	David Stanley	Public officers, Cabinet Member and portfolio holder	

				2023	Finance			
Planned Expenditure of the Homelessness Prevention Grant 2023-24	Yes	No	Cabinet	6 Feb 2023	Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Caroline Clissold		Letter from Housing Minister Housing Legislation and Guidance
Fees and Charges	No	No	Cabinet	6 Feb 2023	Mike Every, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance	David Stanley		
Car Parking – Review of Season Ticket Pricing	No	No	Cabinet	6 Feb 2023	Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Transformation	Mandy Fathers	Portfolio Holder, Leader, Monitoring Officer, Head of Legal, Group Manager for Resident Services, Publica Group Finance Director, Chief Finance Officer, Finance Business Partner, Chief Executive	
Public Toilet Financial Review	No	No	Cabinet	6 Feb 2023	Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services	Maria Wheatley	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Chief Executive, Deputy Chief	

							Executive, Business Manager for Environment, Housing and Revenue.	
Approval of contract awards for Leisure and Culture'	Yes	No	Cabinet Council	13 March 2023 15 March 2023	Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	Scott Williams		
Electric Vehicle Charging Point update report	No	Yes	Cabinet	13 March 2023	Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance	Claire Locke	David Stanley	
Procurement and Contract Management Strategy – Draft for Consultation	No	No	Cabinet	13 March 2023	Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance	Ciaran Okane	Approved by the Audit Committee on the 28th April 2022	Procurement and Contract Management Strategy.
Business Rates Relief 2023/2024. Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Scheme	No	No	Cabinet	13 March 2022	Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance	Mandy Fathers	Portfolio Holder, Leader, Monitoring Officer, Head of Legal, Group Manager for Resident Services, Publica Group Finance Director, Chief Finance Officer, Finance Business	

							Partner, Chief Executive	
Financial, Council Priority and Service Performance Report - 2022-23 Quarter Three	No	No	Cabinet	13 March 2022	Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Robert Weaver		
Council Tax Support Fund – Discretionary Fund	No	No	Cabinet	13 March 2023	Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance	Mandy Fathers	Portfolio Holder, Leader, Monitoring Officer, Head of Legal, Group Manager for Resident Services, Publica Group Finance Director, Chief Finance Officer, Finance Business Partner, Chief Executive	
Introduction of S106 Monitoring Fee Schedule	No	No	Cabinet	13 March 2023	Councillor Rachel Coxcoon, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning	Jasper Lamoon	Legal Services and Development Management Officers	
UK Shared Prosperity Fund update	Yes	No	Cabinet	13 March 2023	Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and	Paul James	Informal Cabinet, Senior Management, Cotswold Economic Advisory Group	Cabinet report considered at the meeting in

					Transformation			July 2022
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