

Public Document Pack

Council
20/September2023



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 20 September 2023

Councillors present:

Nikki Ind - Chair
Gina Blomefield
Claire Bloomer
Patrick Coleman
Daryl Corps
David Cunningham
Tony Dale
Mike Evemy
David Fowles
Joe Harris
Paul Hodgkinson

Mark Harris – Vice Chair
Roly Hughes
Angus Jenkinson
Julia Judd
Juliet Layton
Andrew Maclean
Helene Mansilla
Mike McKeown
Clare Muir
Dilys Neill
Nigel Robbins

Gary Selwyn
Tony Slater
Lisa Spivey
Tom Stowe
Jeremy Theyer
Clare Turner
Chris Twells
Michael Vann
Ian Watson
Len Wilkins

Officers present:

James Brain, Forward Planning Manager
Jan Britton, Managing Director - Publica
Matthew Britton, Principal Planning Policy Officer
Andrew Brown, Democratic Services Business Manager
Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer)

Sarah Dalby, Elections Manager
Caleb Harris, Senior Democratic Services Officer
David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer
Kira Thompson, Election and Democratic Services Support Assistant
Robert Weaver, Chief Executive

54 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Ray Brassington and Jon Wareing

55 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members or Officers present.

56 Minutes

The Chair noted that there were exempt minutes as part of the item on Solar Photovoltaic Installation on Council Assets from the previous meeting. It was reaffirmed that any discussion on this would need to take place in closed session.

There were no comments on the exempt minutes.

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RESOLVED: That the public and exempt minutes from 19 July 2023 be agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Voting Record

25 For, 1 Against, 4 Abstention, 4 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson	Roly Hughes	Andrew Maclean	Jon Wareing
Claire Bloomer		Chris Twells	Nigel Robbins
Clare Muir		David Fowles	Patrick Coleman
Clare Turner		Dilys Neill	Ray Brassington
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Helen Mansilla			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evey			
Mike McKeown			
Nikki Ind			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

57 Announcements from the Chair, Leader of Chief Executive (if any)

The Chair introduced the announcements section.

The Chair noted the extensive commitments in the summer they had attended in their role as Chair of Council in the district and in the county. This included the Three Choirs festival launch in Gloucester Cathedral and the opening of the new Cotswold Friends Community Garden in Stow.

The Chair also noted the Mr Motivator Active Cotswold event on Sunday 1 October in Cirencester and encouraged all Members and residents to get involved.

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The Chair also wished to congratulate the winners of the Gloucestershire County Council Holiday Activities Fund Awards which included Stow Active Sports, Tetbury Area Youth and Community Trust, World Jungle.

The Chair also wished all a Happy Gloucestershire Day for 21 September 2023.

The Leader began his announcements by wishing to offer condolences following the death of David Prewett as one of the founding members for Cirencester Action on Buses. It was noted that the tireless work undertaken against bus service reductions and helping with the design of many of the routes in the area would not be forgotten.

The Leader also wished to highlight to Members the financial challenges faced by the Council in the light of Birmingham City Council issuing a Section 114 notice.

It was highlighted that the reduction in funding and other inflationary pressures had left many councils struggling. It was affirmed that Cotswold District Council was financially solvent, but this could change by the year 2026/27 if financial savings were not made.

It was highlighted that to avoid what Birmingham City Council, Woking Borough Council, and Thurrock Borough Council had gone through, action needed to be taken.

The Leader also noted the Chair's comments in regards to the photo competition, the winning entries of which would be hung in the Chamber.

The Chief Executive was then invited to give any announcements and urged all Councillors to complete their Cyber Security training to ensure they had the skills to prevent Cyber Security attacks.

58 Public Questions

Question 1: Councillor Michael Haines, Chipping Campden Town Council

The first public question was from Councillor Michael Haines from Chipping Campden Town Council and the newly appointed Chairman of the Chipping Campden Visitor Information Centre. Councillor Haines addressed the concerns around the withdrawal of the grant funding for the visitor information centres. It was commented that the decision was seen to reflect a lack of understanding about the importance of these centres in promoting the visitor economy. It was noted that the Town Council was not aware of any consultation undertaken. Councillor Haines asked Councillor Dale as the Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation.

- What consultation was carried out before the decision on Visitor Information Centres was taken?
- What assessment was made of likely job losses as a result of this decision, and;
- Why was the Town Council not asked to submit proposals to the Commissioning models?

Councillor Dale responded by explaining that it was felt that the public would understand the budget position. It was noted that the decision taken in December 2021 for the grant funding to not continue after 18 months which was communicated to Town and Parish Councils affected.

Question 2: Councillor Richard Harrison, Fairford Town Council

Councillor Harrison wished to ask what the Council was doing to ensure decisions on planning matters were being taken properly in accordance with development management policies. It was also asked what controls were in place to ensure decisions were not taken under delegated authority without proper notice or transparency under the scheme of officer delegation. It was commented that some recent decisions were damaging to the character of the district and conflicted with the policy of tackling climate change.

Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services, noted that advance sight of the question had been provided by Councillor Harrison. It was noted that the scheme of delegation had strict rules for its use and required that the case officer recommendation being proposed is checked by one other officer before being issued. It was outlined that therefore there were checks and balances provided within the scheme for these decisions. It was noted that the question pre-supposes that officers would attempt to act outside of the scheme of delegation, which was outlined as not being the case.

Councillor Harrison followed-up by commenting that it was viewed as inadvertent non-compliance with the scheme. Councillor Layton highlighted that policies are weighted and there were systems to consider all views and come to a balanced conclusion.

59 Member Questions

The Chair introduced this item by highlighting that the written responses to Member Questions were on desks. These are attached at Annex A

The supplementary questions can be found attached at Annex B.

60 Establishment of a Working Group for Boundary Reviews

The purpose of the report was to seek the approval of Council to create a Working Group to oversee the Local Government Boundary Review and Polling District Review which are due to take place in the next 2 years and agree Terms of Reference for the Group.

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris introduced the report.

It was noted that the last review of the boundaries for the District Wards was in 2015. It was highlighted that the 32 wards covered by 34 Councillors represented at that time around 2000 electors with a 10% variance for individual wards.

It was highlighted that changes that had taken place since 2015 had meant a varying of the size of wards. It was highlighted that there were ten wards in the District over the 10% size variance set out by the Boundary Commission.

It was noted that a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission had been made to review the size of the wards in the District, and this work was set to be completed in good time before the next set of District elections in 2027.

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It was highlighted that a Polling District review was also required every five years, to look at polling stations and make sure they are fit for purpose.

It was noted that the two reviews would look at the number of Members, the size of the Wards and the polling station location within the District.

Councillor Stowe then seconded the report and provided comments on this item.

It was noted that a democratic deficit could emerge with the larger seats like Campden and Vale having over 2,600 electors per Member.

Members welcomed that work had already started on this issue following the May 2023 local elections.

There were various comments by Councillors that welcomed the engagement of all political groups on a cross-party basis.

It was noted by Council that there was an opportunity to review some polling stations and look at future requirements.

It was noted by the Council that the 10% variance was a statutory figure, but there was an opportunity on a local level to take house building into account.

There were various comments about dual Member wards and how these would need to be discussed as part of the reviews.

The Chair then asked each Group Leader for their Member nominations for the Boundary Reviews Working Group:

Councillor Joe Harris as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group confirmed the following Members: Councillors Paul Hodgkinson, Mike Evemy, Patrick Coleman and Clare Muir.

Councillor Stowe as Leader of the Conservative Group then confirmed the following Members: Councillors Stowe and Councillor Fowles.

Councillor Maclean was then confirmed as the nomination from the Green Group.

Voting Record

32 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Andrew Maclean			Jon Wareing
Angus Jenkinson			Ray Brassington
Chris Twells			
Claire Bloomer			
Clare Muir			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			

David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Helen Mansilla			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evey			
Mike McKeown			
Nikki Ind			
Nigel Robbins			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

61 A review of the Cotswold District Local Plan housing requirement

The purpose of the report was to agree that Full Council should approve the Review of the Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031 Housing Requirement, which finds that the local housing need of the district has not changed significantly and that the minimum housing requirement provided by the Cotswold District Local Plan does not require updating.

Councillor Layton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services, introduced the report.

- It was noted that a review of the strategic housing requirement was required every five years, and that a 2020 review highlighted that a partial update of the Local Plan was required to address issues such as changes to national policy and meeting the changing housing need in the District.
- It was highlighted that the adopted local housing requirement sets a minimum of 8400 homes and an additional requirement of 580 nursing and residential bed spaces.
- The review of the housing requirement carried out in Summer 2023 tested the adopted requirement to see if the number of homes needed to be higher or lower to meet housing needs whilst also protecting the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The review was confirmed to have found that 10,000 homes were already expected to be delivered over the Local Plan period (2011-2031).
- It was noted by Council that the local housing need in the district had not changed significantly, and that the Council had a robust housing land supply of 6.9 years.

- It was highlighted that the situation was being kept under review if any changes in the future to national policies, local housing need and any legal challenge through the planning process by applicants.

The Chair and other Members also wished to thank the Forward Planning officers for their work and for the Member Briefing provided.

It was noted that this was an important report to ensure that future developments are right for communities and are locally managed.

There was a query about special landscape areas and their protection of the AONB. The Chair then invited the Forward Planning Manager to respond to this. It was noted that special landscape areas were defined in policy EN6 of the Local Plan and that these were areas that were important to protect for their landscape character and tranquillity.

Councillor Joe Harris then seconded the report.

The thanks to the officers were reiterated by Councillor Harris for their work and to Councillor Layton for her leadership in this area.

It was noted that the situation ten years ago without a Local Plan and a five year housing land supply had changed communities, and this was why the report was so important to approve.

Voting Record

32 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Andrew Maclean			Jon Wareing
Angus Jenkinson			Ray Brassington
Chris Twells			
Claire Bloomer			
Clare Muir			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Helen Mansilla			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			

Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evely			
Mike McKeown			
Nikki Ind			
Nigel Robbins			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

62 Appointment of two Independent Persons to the Audit & Governance Committee

The purpose of this report was to appoint two appropriately skilled and experienced members of the public to be “independent members” of the Audit & Governance Committee.

Councillor Robbins as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee introduced this item.

It was noted that the advertisement for the role achieved a great response which should be welcomed.

The selected appointees were outlined to Council for their experience and the knowledge they could bring to the Committee.

Councillor Muir as the seconder then addressed Council.

It was highlighted as Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, that the expertise and oversight which would be provided was welcomed.

Council asked whether the appointments would be for a four-year term or would be permanent. The Director of Governance responded that it would be for a four-year term, and the current appointees could apply again if they so wished to after 4 years.

RESOLVED: The Council APPROVED to:

- 1) APPOINT John Chesshire and Christopher Bass to the Council’s Audit & Governance Committee for a four-year term, commencing immediately.

Voting Record

32 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Andrew Maclean			Jon Wareing
Angus Jenkinson			Ray Brassington

Chris Twells			
Claire Bloomer			
Clare Muir			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Helen Mansilla			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evey			
Mike McKeown			
Nikki Ind			
Nigel Robbins			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

63 Amendments to the Constitution - Recommendations of the Constitution Working Group

The purpose of this report was to consider amendments to the Constitution.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and proposed the recommendations.

It was noted that it was important that the Constitution is kept up to date in line with legislation.

The first change outlined was the creation of a Standards Hearing Sub-Committee which was outlined as being good practice for dealing with complaints against District Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors.

It was noted that these hearings are rare but are important for good governance.

It was also highlighted that the recommended two un-paid Town and Parish Councillors would be recruited from a geographical spread and would attend hearings relating to a Town/Parish Councillor in an advisory capacity.

It was noted that the call-in rules were being changed to reflect the outcome of the 2023 local elections.

Councillor Every then seconded the item and outlined some points of clarification to the proposals.

It was noted that the terminology was mixed in the report but that the sub-committee would be responsible for undertaking standards hearings whereas general standards matters would remain the responsibility of the Audit and Governance Committee.

It was also noted that the word ‘must’ should replace the word ‘should’ to reflect the requirements of call-in.

It was therefore noted that the call-in rules would become the following;

The power of call-in can be exercised by any three Members of the Committee (who must be from either (i) at least two political groups; or (ii) one political group and a nonaligned (independent) Committee Member, if one sits on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

It was asked as to how Town and Parish Councillors would be recruited for participation in the process. The Director of Governance outlined that some ideas had been taken from other local authorities and Gloucestershire Association of Town and Parish Councils (GATPC). It was noted the approach for recruitment had not been formalised, but that the geographical spread would be considered. Once this had been formalised, it would then go back to Members.

It was reaffirmed that the number of people who could exercise call-in could be more than 3, and that this rule was one that the Council had agreed in its Constitution.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- 1) AGREED to establish a Standards Hearing Sub-Committee (of the Audit and Governance Committee). This would be a politically balanced 3-member sub-committee with membership appointed by the Committee each year.
- 2) INSTRUCTED the Director of Governance & Development (Monitoring Officer) to recruit up to two town and parish council representatives to act as a non-voting consultee(s) at hearings to determine whether a town or parish councillor has breached their council’s code of conduct.
- 3) AUTHORISED the Director of Governance & Development (Monitoring Officer) to update i) Part B, Article 8 of the Constitution with consequential amendments to the Audit & Governance Committee’s membership Page 95
- 4) AUTHORISED the Director of Governance & Development (Monitoring Officer) to update Part D6, paragraph 4.13, Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Voting Record

32 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Andrew Maclean			Jon Wareing

Angus Jenkinson			Ray Brassington
Chris Twells			
Claire Bloomer			
Clare Muir			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Helen Mansilla			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evey			
Mike McKeown			
Nikki Ind			
Nigel Robbins			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

64 Petition received in relation to Visitor Information Centres

The purpose of this item was to consider a petition presented by Councillors David Fowles and Tom Stowe regarding Visitor Information Centres in the Cotswold District.

The Chair announced that as the Local Petition Scheme within the Constitution only allowed for a maximum debating time of 15 minutes, it was felt by many Members from all groups that this wasn't sufficient time to debate the topic.

The Chair therefore proposed that this specific Rule of Procedure (in paragraph 19 of the Local Petition Scheme) be suspended for the duration of this item.

Councillor Nikki Ind proposed, and Councillor Joe Harris seconded.

RESOLVED: That Council suspend the time limit rule in paragraph 19 of the Local Petition Scheme as outlined for the duration of this item.

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Voting Record

30 For, 2 Against, 0 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson	Andrew Maclean		Jon Wareing
Claire Bloomer	Chris Twells		Ray Brassington
Clare Muir			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Helen Mansilla			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evey			
Mike McKeown			
Nikki Ind			
Nigel Robbins			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

Councillor Tom Stowe as the Petition Organiser and Leader of the Conservative Group presented the petition to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council.

Councillor Stowe highlighted that:

- Councillor Stowe and Councillor Fowles had presented the petition to the Deputy Chief Executive on Tuesday 5 September which called for the reversal of the decision to cut £54,000 to save visitor information centres in Bourton-on-the-Water, Chipping Campden, Stow-on-the-Wold and Tetbury.
- The petition contained 2093 signatures and 953 signatures from Cotswold residents. It was noted that since the petition was handed in, there were an additional 316 signatories with 83 of these being from Cotswold district residents.

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- The response was higher than the Council's budget consultation and was a great example of local democracy in action.
- Visitor information centres helped contribute to the tourism sector of the Cotswolds which was an industry providing many jobs to residents.
- The decision to remove grant support taken by Cabinet would have an impact on the provision of visitor information centres.
- The funding was to be withdrawn at the end of September and therefore that time was of the essence for Cabinet to reconsider the decision taken.

Councillor Fowles, the second petition organiser then spoke and highlighted that:

- The Council's stated principles to decision-making, and that local views would be considered to contribute to decisions taken.
- There were Members from both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups who represent wards which have Visitor Information Centres located in their ward.
- The decision taken in December 2021 by Cabinet included a consultation with these centres, which had not appeared to have been done.
- The centres provide the opportunity to seek information and buy products which was felt could not be as useful online.

The Chair then addressed Council as a Tetbury ward member. It was noted that there was no known engagement with Tetbury residents, and that only 7 residents from Tetbury had signed the petition itself. It was noted that Tetbury Town Council had been planning for the removal of funding, and that the financial position of the Council needed to be considered.

Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation then addressed Council as the accountable member and said that:

- There had been a lot of proactive efforts to promote modern and active tourism and this decision could be helpful to provide modern digital services.
- The concerns were recognised by the Cabinet, and that the Council had given grants during its time in office.
- Many of the Visitor Information Centres had been planning for the future when the original decision was taken in December 2021.
- Digital training had been given to help all organisations businesses in the district promote tourism globally.
- Whilst it was regrettable that the grants had to be removed, it was hoped that the Visitor Information Centres would continue to engage with their communities.

There were various points raising concerns over the future of these centres once the grant funding had been withdrawn. However, it was also highlighted how alternative funding sources such as Crowdfund Cotswold may be available to them.

It was noted that Cabinet would need to reconsider the decision quickly if it wished to do so before the funding was withdrawn. Therefore, option two would not be considered as helpful at this point.

Councillor Every then proposed the following resolution in response to the petition:

“This Council notes:

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- 1) The petition signed by 957 residents and 1,140 non-residents of the District and the desire from the signatories for the Visitor Information Centres in Chipping Campden, Stow-on-the-Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water and Tetbury to remain open;
- 2) The budget it passed on 15 February 2023 removed the funding allocation for the four visitor information centres with effect from 1 October 2023 following the decision by Cabinet on 6 December 2021 to continue funding the centres for an 18-month period until 30 September 2023;
- 3) The report presented to Cabinet on 17 July 2023 when the Cabinet decided to allocate an additional £6,000 to the Bourton Visitor Information Centre in recognition of the support to be provided for coach parking in the village until 31 December 2023.
- 4) That the four affected centres have been offered non-financial, transitional, strategic support by the Council's economic development lead, working closely with the local town and parish councils alongside input from the tourism team until 31 December 2023. The purpose of the support is to work alongside the VICs towards a self-sustaining business model and provide signposting to known funding opportunities for projects which facilitate digital engagement. This could include connecting to business support or training and potential opportunities to bid for relevant funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund or Rural England Prosperity Fund to support sustainable future delivery models.
- 5) The Council recognises its financial position. It is facing a significant financial challenge over the medium-term with a budget gap of £5m identified (2024/25 to 2026/27) in the February 2023 MTFs and a forecast overspend of £448,000 in its 2023/24 revenue budget as reported to Cabinet on 12 September. With both expenditure and income pressures continuing it is likely the budget gap will increase in part due to higher levels of inflation this year. The Council therefore needs to take action to bring its income and expenditure into line.

The Council therefore resolves to take no additional action in response to this petition.”

It was then noted that within the Council's Budget passed by Council in February 2023, the Visitor Information Centre funding reductions had been outlined and agreed by a majority vote.

It was highlighted that the financial position of the Council was not considered within the petition's resolution, and therefore could not be considered by those signing.

Councillor Joe Harris as seconder of the Liberal Democrat's Group resolution said that the debate had been constructive, but that the financial challenges meant that the proposal in the petition could not be met.

It was highlighted that some services may need to be reconsidered or taken on by Town and Parish Councils if possible. It was further noted that the Town and Parish Councils did not have a cap on their precept levels, and therefore this could be a source of funding for them.

Following a query raised by the Senior Democratic Services Officer, it was confirmed by the Director of Governance that the Liberal Democrat Group Resolution would be voted upon as it was the first resolution proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED: That Council NOTED:

1. The petition signed by 957 residents and 1,140 non-residents of the District and the desire from the signatories for the Visitor Information Centres in Chipping Campden, Stow-on-the-Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water and Tetbury to remain open;
2. The budget it passed on 15 February 2023 removed the funding allocation for the four visitor information centres with effect from 1 October 2023 following the decision by Cabinet on 6 December 2021 to continue funding the centres for an 18-month period until 30 September 2023;
3. The report presented to Cabinet on 17 July 2023 when the Cabinet decided to allocate an additional £6,000 to the Bourton Visitor Information Centre in recognition of the support to be provided for coach parking in the village until 31 December 2023.
4. That the four affected centres have been offered non-financial, transitional, strategic support by the Council's economic development lead, working closely with the local town and parish councils alongside input from the tourism team until 31 December 2023. The purpose of the support is to work alongside the VICs towards a self-sustaining business model and provide signposting to known funding opportunities for projects which facilitate digital engagement. This could include connecting to business support or training and potential opportunities to bid for relevant funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund or Rural England Prosperity Fund to support sustainable future delivery models.
5. The Council recognises its financial position. It is facing a significant financial challenge over the medium-term with a budget gap of £5m identified (2024/25 to 2026/27) in the February 2023 MTFs and a forecast overspend of £448,000 in its 2023/24 revenue budget as reported to Cabinet on 12 September. With both expenditure and income pressures continuing it is likely the budget gap will increase in part due to higher levels of inflation this year. The Council therefore needs to take action to bring its income and expenditure into line.

The Council therefore RESOLVED to take no additional action in response to this petition

Voting Record

21 For, 10 Against, 1 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson	Chris Twells	Andrew Maclean	Jon Wareing
Claire Bloomer	Daryl Corps		Ray Brassington
Clare Muir	David Cunningham		
Clare Turner	David Fowles		
Dilys Neill	Gina Blomefield		
Gary Selwyn	Jeremy Theyer		
Helen Mansilla	Julia Judd		
Ian Watson	Len Wilkins		
Joe Harris	Tom Stowe		
Juliet Layton	Tony Slater		
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evemy			

Mike McKeown			
Nikki Ind			
Nigel Robbins			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Roly Hughes			
Tony Dale			

65 Notice of Motions

There were two motions presented to Full Council as included within the document pack.

Motion 1: Rail Ticket Offices Motion.

The motion was presented by Councillor Hodgkinson as the proposer.

- It was noted that this issue was important as it was central to the concerns from the closure of rail ticket offices. The specific concerns were around accessibility, the quality of service and the future of public transport within the District.
- It was highlighted there had been a decline in rail ticket offices over the previous 10 years which had been met with public concern. It was stated that recent announcements in the Summer of 2023 about the closure of ticket offices in Moreton and Kemble and in Kingham in West Oxfordshire.
- It was noted that a petition had been launched by Councillor Hodgkinson and Councillor Jenkinson in response to the proposed closure of Moreton's rail ticket office, which had received public support.
- It was noted that there was a concern around job security for those staff working in ticket offices in the District.
- It was noted that the Chief Executive as part of the motion was being instructed to write to Mark Harper MP, as Secretary of State for Transport, and also to Great Western Railway in regards to the closures.
- It was also noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could provide value in questioning the decision with representatives from the railway.

An amendment had been tabled by Councillor Fowles and seconded by Councillor Blomefield which struck out point 3 of the resolution (the referral to Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and inserted the following point (point 4):

- *Petition the MP for the Cotswolds to write to Mark Harper MP, Secretary of State for Transport, to request a review of the provision of rural ticket offices in the Cotswolds.*

Councillor Hodgkinson clarified that in proposing the motion he was altering the motion to accept the insertion of point 4 but without removing point 3 which referred the issue to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Jenkinson as the seconder, spoke in regard to the altered motion.

- It was highlighted that whilst there was an understanding to make the railways viable, it was a core service for many residents.
- It was reaffirmed that many individuals struggle with a digital platform for tickets, and having a human support was important.

Councillor Fowles asked for clarity in regard to the motion due to some revisions being accepted. The Chair clarified that the motion was altered by the proposer who accepted the amendment in regard to point 4. Councillor Fowles then announced that following discussions with Councillor Hodgkinson before this item, that the amendment would be withdrawn so the proposal could be fully supported.

There was also a question by Councillor Fowles about whether it could be a cross-party motion, but the Chair highlighted that Councillor Jenkinson as seconder had already spoken to the motion.

There were various comments made in debate raising concerns for elderly and disabled residents, and those lacking ICT skills in the district highlighted in the motion. It was also highlighted how these were the same residents affected by the removal of cash payments from car parks.

It was noted that there was a safeguarding element to rail ticket offices, especially with railway stations at night.

It was highlighted that as the railway companies were private operators, and it was important for them to have a human interface.

It was noted that providing ticket offices was particularly important to promote sustainable travel into the future for all people.

Councillor Blomefield, as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, spoke about the importance for Members to engage with the sessions proposed with Great Western Railway.

There were comments raised about the capacity for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine this on top of the usual business.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed (as amended) to

- **INSTRUCT** the Chief Executive to write to Mark Harper MP Secretary of State for Transport, and the Chief Executive of the Rail Delivery Group, expressing Council's opposition to the possible closure of staffed rail ticket offices – and in particular the office(s) at Moreton in Marsh, Kemble and Kingham.
- **INSTRUCT** the Chief Executive to write to Great Western Railway expressing the Council's opposition to any plans to close the staffed ticket office(s) at Moreton in Marsh, Kemble and Kingham.
- **REFERRED** the issue to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the recommendation that representatives from Great Western Railway are invited to attend a Scrutiny Meeting at the earliest possible point to discuss future plans for ticket offices and staffing at our local stations.

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- PETITION the MP for the Cotswolds to write to Mark Harper MP, Secretary of State for Transport, to request a review of the provision of rural ticket offices in the Cotswolds.

Voting Record

30 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention, 3 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Andrew Maclean		Gary Selwyn	Chris Twells
Angus Jenkinson			Jon Wareing
Claire Bloomer			Ray Brassington
Clare Muir			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gina Blomefield			
Helen Mansilla			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evely			
Mike McKeown			
Nikki Ind			
Nigel Robbins			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

Motion 2: Grey Water Motion

Councillor Julia Judd as the proposer of the motion introduced the motion. The following points were highlighted:

- It was highlighted how there were very simple ways of capturing rainwater such as water butts which could have a big impact.

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- It was noted that there were significant problems with water drought, and the harvesting of rainwater and re-use of grey water was important to combat this.
- It was noted that minimising hot water use was important for reducing carbon emissions.
- It was noted that it was important that the use of these systems can prevent localised flooding.

Councillor Maclean then seconded the motion and spoke to the motion.

- It was highlighted that promoting these schemes in developments is difficult to enforce at present.
- It was highlighted that river pollution was also a big problem and these systems will help to reduce that.

An amendment was tabled by Councillor Spivey which was highlighted at Annex A.

Councillor Judd and Councillor Maclean accepted the amendment, and this became the substantive motion.

Councillor Spivey as the proposer for the amendment thanked Councillor Judd and Councillor Maclean for accepting the amendment.

It was noted that the measures should be part of national standards and it was important to promote this within the National Planning Policy Framework, and with the water companies.

It was highlighted that as part of the review of the Local Plan, the Cotswold District design code could be reviewed to reflect the intentions of this motion.

It was highlighted by Members that parts of the motion did not go far enough to cover areas like agriculture which were high users of water.

RESOLVED:

That Council:

Endorses the use of rainwater and greywater systems to achieve water neutrality.

- Request that officers investigate how rainwater and greywater systems can be promoted for use in developments and properties in the wider District.
- Request that officers investigate how rainwater and/or greywater systems could be applied to Council assets such as the Council Offices, Trinity Road.
- Request that the findings of these requests be delivered by officers through a briefing note to Members'.
- Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the MP asking for urgent action on funding for the Environment Agency to investigate and take action on illegal sewage spills by water companies
- Writes to the Secretary of State for DHLUC lobbying for changes in the NPPF and Building Regulations, making the introduction of greywater recycling mandatory in new housing developments

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Voting Record

31 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention, 3 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Andrew Maclean			Chris Twells
Angus Jenkinson			Jon Wareing
Claire Bloomer			Ray Brassington
Clare Muir			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Helen Mansilla			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evely			
Mike McKeown			
Nikki Ind			
Nigel Robbins			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

66 Next meeting

The next meeting of Full Council will be on Wednesday 22nd November.

67 Matters exempt from publication

Full Council did not enter into private session.

68 Exempt minutes from the meeting on 19th July 2023

The exempt minutes within the private document pack were taken as read and agreed at Agenda Item 3.

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The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 9.35 pm

Chair

(END)

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Member Questions for Council - 20 September 2023

Question	Response
<p>Question 1 from Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability</p> <p>In December last year, your predecessor, Cllr Coxcoo, stated her position that tourists travelling to the Cotswolds via air travel should be deterred. Please could you confirm the Cabinet's current position on promoting the Cotswolds as a place to visit for air travellers?</p>	<p>We welcome visitors to the Cotswolds from all over the world and would ask them and indeed support them, where possible, to travel here in the most sustainable way possible.</p> <p>A couple of points on how we support sustainable visitor travel:</p> <p>The District Council plays a key role in Cotswolds Tourism Destination Management Organisation and the newly formed Cotswolds Plus Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP). The Destination Management Plan identifies sustainability as a priority and highlights an objective to: "To increase usage of sustainable transport by visitors when travelling to and around the Cotswolds". Efforts are made to specifically target operators with an active & sustainable travel element.</p> <p>I'm currently working with officers to make the Cotswolds a better place to visit in an electric vehicle, by accelerating both our own and partners installation of electric vehicle chargers. We've all been frustrated by the lack of progress on the lack of progress when it comes to electric vehicle charging points and I hope to bring positive news on this soon.</p> <p>I'd also like to highlight this administration's work on green economic growth means that we now host ZeroAvia here in the Cotswolds, who are one of the companies that is leading the transition to sustainable aviation.</p>

Question 2 from Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services

CDC recently issued a Press Release about the planning department including new information about recruitment.

How many vacancies are there currently and will that mean that the planning department will be running at full capacity for the foreseeable future?

Our Cotswold District Planning team has a team of 13 FTEs assessing planning applications. Following a period of relative stability we now have 4 vacancies within the team. Reasons for leaving include family commitments, moving into the private sector, change in career and taking time out for travelling.

We are reviewing how best to fill these vacancies in order to ensure we're working as smartly and efficiently as possible, taking the opportunity to review any possibilities for cost savings whilst ensuring we don't compromise on good service and performance. We will utilise temporary resource if we feel more time is needed to review these considerations.

It's worth noting that there is a national shortage of planners and after 10 years of austerity councils struggle to compete with the private sector when it comes to terms and conditions that we can offer current and prospective employees.

With this in mind and this administration's ambition to enhance planning services, whilst balancing required cost savings, a holistic resource review is underway and may result in further changes in team structure.

Question 3 from Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture

Please could you confirm the total costs to CDC of hosting the upcoming Mr Motivator event on Sunday 1st October?

The total estimated cost of the event is £3800. The exact figure will be available after the event. There is no direct cost to Cotswold District Council for the event.

It is funded through an external grant received from NHS Gloucestershire to get people more active, promote healthy lifestyles and tackle health inequalities. This therefore represents an investment in the wellbeing of our residents and preventative activity such as this significantly reduces the future burden on the NHS which is a priority for our administration.

This event is part of the wider Active Cotswold programme, which aims to develop an improved leisure offer. Apart from improvements to the leisure centres and facility-based offers, Active Cotswold specifically aims to co-create more community based, affordable,

	<p>sustainable, and inclusive physical activity opportunities that are accessible to people where they live.</p> <p>Examples of initiatives that have already been implemented are Community Fit Kits, a new inclusive Outdoor Movement Class and free access to the Mr Motivator Motivation Club which is an online offer.</p> <p>I look forward to Councillor Stowe attending the event if he can.</p>
<p>Question 4 from Councillor Len Wilkins to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council</p> <p>There have been some recent high profile cyber security attacks on several private and public organisations. This threat is likely to continue to grow over the coming years. To counter this growing threat it's vital that organisations have a policy of continuous improvement in cyber security practice to support the security, resilience and integrity of digital services, data and systems. Does the council have a formal published cyber-security policy?"</p>	<p>We have made significant investments in Cyber Security. Cyber Security is now embedded in every technology and data decision across the Council.</p> <p>In early 2022, in the wake of the Gloucester City Council Cyber incident, a gap analysis was conducted comparing the Councils security capabilities with information provided by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). Whilst the analysis concluded our systems would have detected an attack with similar traits to the Gloucester City incident, other attack pathways were identified. The analysis made a series of recommendations which were given a high priority and accepted. The recommendations included additional funding for security tools to enhance threat visibility and protection as well as investment in staff and professional training.</p> <p>Through this investment, supplemented with additional Local Government Association (LGA) funding, the 4 Councils now employ 3 staff dedicated to Cyber Security that form a Cyber Team within the shared ICT team. In total, across our ICT team we now employ 5 staff who hold cyber certifications. These certifications require continuous, professional development (CPD), ensuring the staff's skills and knowledge are up to date.</p> <p>Across the ICT partnership our systems ingest over 40 million security logs per day. Our Cyber Team use Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning to reduce this to an average of 25 incidents per day. Each incident is reviewed by the Team and the appropriate action taken.</p>

	<p>We accept that we cannot stand still. Our technical security systems continue to evolve and adapt as new threats emerge. Our ICT staff receive regular cyber intelligence from the NCSC as well as leading private sector security organisations. As an aside, security information sharing between our neighbouring Councils in Gloucestershire has significantly improved over the past two years.</p> <p>We do not publish a formal policy that lists the current security tools and deterrents deployed as this would be the equivalent of providing a burglar with the blueprints to our buildings.</p> <p>To provide further detail, a confidential Councillor Cyber Briefing has been arranged for 14th November 2023, which I would encourage you all to attend. This briefing will include a live demo of some of the Councils security capabilities. It will also include details of enhancements being deployed in the current financial year.</p> <p>It would be appreciated if all members could complete their Cyber Security training as soon as possible. The training is an NCSC accredited course specifically designed for Councillors. A similar course is being rolled out to all Officers across both Publica, Ubico and the Councils.</p>
<p>Question 5 from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture</p> <p>A local resident from the farming community raised concerns with me regarding the future of the very important collection of old agricultural equipment currently displayed at the Old Prison, Northleach. I followed this up and</p>	<p>Thank you for your question and for taking the time to liaise with the Museum and Friends of the Cotswolds on the wide and varied collection that we have including the agricultural equipment. As you may be aware, there is an agreement in place between the Council and the Friends regarding the collection. We had a productive meeting in the last few days with the Friends which included some of the points and observations you have made in your question.</p> <p>We discussed with the Friends of the Cotswolds how we can make the displays more</p>

subsequently had a meeting with Emma Stuart of the Corinium Museum together with Dr Alison Grierson-Brooks at the Old Prison and also met three of the volunteers who work on the conservation of the objects. As I understand it the collection is owned by the Corinium Museum which in turned is owned by Cotswold District Council. Many of the pieces in the collection are 'accessional' and were accepted by the Government in lieu of death duties so cannot be sold. Friends of the Cotswolds bought the Old Prison from CDC in 2012-2013 and agreed to house and maintain the collection there. A review of the display with a condition report was due to have been carried out in July 2022 but was never done.

What are the plans for the future of this historic collection of farm equipment which I feel should be given greater care and more publicity so that more people now as well as future generations can learn about farming methods before the advent of modern machinery and enjoy seeing these fascinating objects?

prominent and accessible to ensure these fascinating objects are cared for, conserved and displayed so they receive the attention they deserve.

We will continue to work closely with our stakeholders to make improvements to the display of old agricultural equipment including funding new information and interpretation boards and obtaining an up-to-date condition survey of all the historic and culturally significant artefacts that are in the collection at the Old Prison, Northleach.

Question 6 from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

I read the latest Ubico newsletter with interest, particularly regarding the visit to Oak Quarry Household Recycling Centre in Coleford by students from the Heart of the Forest Special School. I am frequently asked questions regarding recycling by residents – where it goes, how it is organised

Ubico manages the household waste recycling centres on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) who are the Waste Disposal Authority. Oak Quarry Household Recycling Centre is in the Forest of Dean district. Information about where waste is sent by GCC is on their website here -

<https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/recycling-at-home/where-are-gloucestershires-materials-recycled/county/asbestos/#main>

Councillor Lynden Stowe, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member - Finance and Change at GCC has been asked to provide details to Councillor Blomefield of the proceeds from waste

<p>and the proceeds from it. Could a visit to this recycling facility for all interested District Councillors be arranged so that we could see for ourselves how this important service is managed by Ubico</p>	<p>materials.</p> <p>Cotswold District Council provides a domestic kerbside service to all residents of the district and details of where recycling materials are taken are on the Council's website here - https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-happens-to-your-recycling/</p> <p>I have asked Officers to arrange a visit for Members to a Household Recycling Centre and I know they have already been in contact with Councillor Blomefield about this.</p>
<p>Question 7 from Councillor David Fowles to Councillor Mike Evely, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance</p> <p>Given the national concern over public buildings constructed using RAAC concrete, could the leader confirm that no buildings owned by CDC were constructed using this material.</p> <p>If CDC does not have this information, will the leader confirm what plans he has to reassure members of the public that our buildings are safe?</p>	<p>I am responding to your question as a portfolio holder for assets. As soon as the issue with RAAC became widely known, the Leader asked officers to carry out a review of the Council's buildings. Here is a summary of the key findings from that review:</p> <p>Corporate buildings: Our corporate buildings (Trinity Road and Moreton Area Centre) are not affected by RAAC.</p> <p>Leisure Centres: Our leisure centres are not at risk due to more recent construction.</p> <p>Commercial Buildings: Initial feedback indicates there's a low risk in our commercial buildings due to age and construction method.</p> <p>Properties Constructed Between 1950 and 1990 Further review of properties constructed between 1950 and 1990 is underway to ensure nothing is missed.</p>

	<p>I will ensure Members are advised if further investigations identify any issues regarding RAAC in our buildings. In addition, the Leader has asked housing associations with homes in the District to tell the Council if any of their housing stock is affected and will update Members following receipt of their replies.</p>
<p>Question 8 from Councillor Daryl Corps to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Historically all Council meetings were held during the working day. When the Liberal Democrats took power in 2019, the times of meetings were reviewed and changed so that a number of meetings now take place in the evenings.</p> <p>This change was designed to allow elected members who worked to attend meetings as well as giving members of the public more flexibility.</p> <p>Since 2019 we have been through Covid, introduced agile working for staff and held local elections resulting in a large number of newly elected members who in many instances have to attend Parish Council meetings and other meetings in the evenings.</p> <p>We have experienced many instances where staff are not available in the evenings and members have meeting clashes and conflict.</p> <p>I believe the schedule of meeting times doesn't work and</p>	<p>I do not recognise the statement that there have been many instances where staff have not been available to attend evening meetings. Speaking to both our Chief Executive and the Managing Director of Publica they haven't raised any concerns in this respect on behalf of staff.</p> <p>The current start times for committee meetings were agreed by Council in November 2022.</p> <p>A draft programme of meetings for 2024/25 will be coming forwards to the next meeting of Council, which will provide Members with an opportunity to propose alternative start times.</p> <p>It's worth noting that most councils hold the majority of their formal meetings in the evening to make it easier for working age people to attend and that this is considered best practice in the local government sector.</p>

needs to be changed as a priority.

Please could the portfolio holder undertake a review?

Question 9 from Councillor Nikki Ind to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member Climate Change and Sustainability

Further to the recent announcement that the first funding for rural electric buses via the Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas programme is being made available to all local authorities in England outside of London, can you please confirm that Cotswold District Council is working with Gloucestershire County Council to apply for this funding to provide rural transport, which is lacking in the District and particularly in my area in the south – which missed out on the Robin ‘on demand’ trial currently being run in the north of the District.

I am certainly keen to encourage and support the transition from fossil fuel to zero emissions bus services and improve public transport access in the Cotswolds and will seek to work with GCC to ensure the Cotswolds is represented on this.

I understand the Department for Transport (DfT) launched the Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) 2 fund on 8 September 2023 and it has requested that local highways authorities submit notifications of intention by 20 October 2023. The deadline for submitting a bid is 15 December 2023. At the time of writing Gloucestershire County Council has not yet considered what a potential bid could look like and whether it will submit a bid.

Gloucestershire County Council have explained that like ZEBRA 1, applicants can bid for up to 75% of the cost difference between a zero-emission bus and a standard conventional diesel bus and up to 75% of capital expenditure incurred for infrastructure. It appears an element of the fund will be ring-fenced for rural areas. DfT ZEBRA 2 guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-zero-emission-bus-funding-zebra-2/apply-for-zero-emission-bus-funding-zebra-2>.

It should be noted that the “Robin” was funded via the Rural Mobility Fund not ZEBRA 1. GCC was not able to bid for ZEBRA 1 funding as it could not raise the local matched funding contribution needed. Again ZEBRA 2 bid depends on whether it can find a bus operator to work with who is also willing to invest and contribute financially. GCC are contacting operators this week to see who may be interested.

Question 10 from Councillor Dilys Neill to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

(This question was received past the deadline for a guaranteed response in advance of the meeting of Friday 8th September. It was therefore not published on the main agenda)

What are the council's policies for bringing empty properties back into use? Do you know how many empty properties there are in Cotswold District and how many have been brought back into use, particularly for accommodation in the last year?

The council is committed to bringing as many empty properties back into use as possible and our current strategy is outlined in the Long Term Empty Homes Strategy 2019 - 2024. You can find a link to this on the council's website - [link to Long Term Empty Homes Strategy](#)

As at the end of July 2023 there were 846 long term empty homes on the register.

236 properties have been removed from the Long Term Empty register during this financial year.

We'll shortly begin work on the next iteration of the Long Term Empty Homes strategy and I'd appreciate Cllr Neill's input as I know Stow, Mangersbury and the Swells suffer because of long term empty properties.

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Question Number	Follow-up question	Answer
<p>Question 1 from Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability</p>	<p>Councillor Stowe asked for Councillor McKeown to clarify that former Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning, Rachel Coxcoon, was wrong to state that long haul air travellers should be deterred from visiting the Cotswolds, and that visitors are welcomed across the world irrespective of their means of travel?</p>	<p>Councillor McKeown stated that he couldn't comment on previous comments made by a former Councillor. It was stated that tourism is always welcomed, and that the administration was proud of companies like Zero Avia being within the District which promotes sustainable air travel for the future.</p> <p>Councillor Dale as the Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation was invited to comment on this area. It was highlighted that it was down to individuals as to which travel method they use. It was highlighted that Zero Avia was developing technology which would help to decarbonise air travel, and that Members should be proud of the companies' work.</p>
<p>Question 2 from Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services</p>	<p>Councillor Judd asked about the work of the enforcement team and their performance.</p>	<p>Councillor Layton responded that the workforce narrative provided for Planning Officers could also be applied to Enforcement Officers. However, it was noted that a new Member of the team was starting shortly, but the Council kept the team structure under review in line with demand.</p>
<p>Question 3 from Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture</p>	<p>Councillor Stowe responded by noting that he was not able to attend but that he wished the event well. It was asked that given public funds may have been used in some way, a debrief</p>	<p>Councillor Hodgkinson responded by recognising the importance of monitoring how taxpayer money is spent. However, it was outlined that the importance of this event</p>

	<p>be provided to Members after the meeting for attendance to the session, and how many people then subsequently signed up for the course? It was also asked if a feedback survey would be provided?</p>	<p>would be for health prevention, and the balance between money spent and the prevention of illness. It was noted that the Cabinet Member would confirm with officers in regards to the feedback form, and the confirmation of attendance and money spent.</p>
<p>Question 4 from Councillor Len Wilkins to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Councillor Wilkins thanked Councillor Harris for the full answer and stated he did not have a supplementary question.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Question 5 from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture</p>	<p>Councillor Blomefield asked about the condition report which had not been carried out, and when would this be done to preserve the historic agricultural equipment?</p>	<p>Councillor Hodgkinson thanked Councillor Blomefield for highlighting this equipment. It was confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Friends of the Cotswolds on this matter. It was stated that the timetable could not be confirmed, but that preserving this equipment for the public was seen as important.</p>
<p>Question 6 from Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance</p>	<p>Councillor Blomefield noted contact with Publica officers on a visit to a recycling centre from Ubico or at the centre in Cricklade operated by Thamesdown. It was highlighted that there was a lot of waste generated through modern life and it was important that Members get the opportunity to visit a centre.</p>	<p>Councillor Evey confirmed that he had asked officers to organise this. It was noted that this could be part of Member Development, so that new and existing Members have the opportunity to understand these processes.</p>
<p>Question 7 from Councillor David Fowles to Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance</p>	<p>Councillor Fowles was reassured that this issue had been looked into. It was asked as to how many buildings between the years 1950-1990 are included in</p>	<p>Councillor Evey confirmed that he would ask for that information and provide it to Councillor Fowles and any other interested Members.</p>

	the review for RAAC and the timetable for completing this review.	
Question 8 from Councillor Daryl Corps to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Councillor Corps had asked as to why the date of Cabinet had moved from a Monday to a Thursday, and would Members get the chance to review the programme of meetings to minimise any clashes with other commitments?	Councillor Joe Harris confirmed that this had been done to assist Cabinet Members to join the meetings. It was confirmed that the programme of meetings would be considered at the next meeting of Council on 22 November 2023. However, it was noted that any change to the start times away from afternoon and evening meetings would leave the Council as an outlier. However, Councillor Harris suggested that it would be helpful for Group Leaders to meet to try and reach a consensus.
Question 9 from Councillor Nikki Ind to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability	Councillor Ind asked about the vacancy for the Sustainable Transport Officer, and who was the current contact for this?	Councillor McKeown confirmed that he would provide this information to Councillor Ind.
Question 10 from Councillor Dilys Neill to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Councillor Neill confirmed that any discussion on this would be welcome. It was highlighted that in Stow there were many empty properties, particularly in retirement developments where this was figure between 80-90 empty flats. Councillor Neill wished to know if this was an issue in other wards, as this was a particular concern for areas like Stow within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	Councillor Harris noted the concerns in Stow, and the supply of retirement developments which were not available to other people. It was highlighted that the Long-Term Empty Homes Strategy would be reviewed to tackle this problem. This was particularly a concern in regards to empty homes. It was highlighted that a meeting with officers would take place to discuss this.

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