



COTSWOLD
District Council

Tuesday, 11 March 2025

Tel: 01285 623181
e-mail: democratic@cotswold.gov.uk

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Wednesday, 19 March 2025 at 2.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

(Councillors Nikki Ind, Mark Harris, Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Evemy, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Chris Twells, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Len Wilkins and Tristan Wilkinson)

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**
To receive any apologies for absence. The quorum for Council is 9 members.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 February 2025.
4. **Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive**
To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Council, the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.
5. **Public Questions**
To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions from each member of the public should be no longer than one minute each and relate to issues under the Council's remit. At any one meeting no person may submit more than two questions and no more than two such questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation.

The Chair will ask whether any members of the public present at the meeting wish to ask a question and will decide on the order of questioners.

The response may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral answer;
- b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

6. **Member Questions**
A Member of the Council may ask the Chair, the Leader, a Cabinet Member or the Chair of any Committee a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Cotswold District. A maximum period of fifteen minutes shall be allowed at any such meeting for Member questions.

A Member may only ask a question if:

- a) the question has been delivered in writing or by electronic mail to the Chief

Executive no later than 5.00 p.m. on the working day before the day of the meeting; or

- b) the question relates to an urgent matter, they have the consent of the Chair to whom the question is to be put and the content of the question is given to the Chief Executive by 9.30 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

An answer may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral answer;
- b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

The following questions were submitted prior to the publication of the agenda:

Question 1: Councillor Blomefield to Councillor Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Despite increasingly wet weather, this country faces growing water shortages making it essential to better conserve this precious resource.

Currently, per capita water consumption is approximately 150 litres per day but could be reduced to 100 litres by using new technology, like Danish Flowloop and Dutch Hydroloop shower systems, as well as rainwater harvesting.

In Belgium, where rainwater harvesting is mandatory, the water is used for laundry and toilets.

New properties are now fitted with water meters, even better are smart meters which offer live usage tracking and leak detection—particularly important since 30% of leaks occur within properties. Reducing mains water consumption and increasing rainwater harvesting would not only help the environment but also lessen the load on the sewage system, reducing overflows into rivers and onto streets during heavy rainfall.

Given this, can the council provide an update on the progress and actions taken in response to Cllr Judd's motion on Grey Water, approved in September 2023?

Additionally, what steps is CDC taking to encourage water-saving plumbing fixtures, smart water meters, and rainwater harvesting systems in all new homes?

Question 2: Councillor Stowe to Councillor Harris, Leader of the Council

Has CDC stopped installing new street signs?

Question 3: Councillor Daryl Corps to Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Many new, unadopted housing developments in the district are experiencing ongoing and often drawn-out problems with management companies regarding open spaces on new developments.

These include the quality of the maintenance work carried out and the lack of

transparency over charges which can change every year and are unlimited. Stratford-on-Avon District Council have adopted a new "Open Space Supplementary Planning Document" whereby all future Public Open Space as part of new developments will ultimately be adopted by either the local Town/Parish Council or by the District Council.

As CDC is planning 1000's of new houses in Moreton and across the district, getting this right now will protect important green spaces across the district while ensuring a more certain future for residents.

Is CDC looking to adopt a similar approach?

7. **Publica Transition Plan - Phase 2** (Pages 9 - 40)

Purpose

To consider the document Publica Transition: A Plan for Phase 2 of Council Services ("Phase 2 Transition Plan"), to note its contents and to approve the recommendations therein.

Recommendations

That Council resolves to:

1. Approve the implementation of Phase 2 of the Publica Transition on the basis of the Phase 2 Transition Plan;
2. Delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council the decision to deal with any final detail matters arising from the Phase 2 Transition Plan;
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Governance in liaison with the Leader to update the constitution by making any consequential changes required as a result of Phase 2 of the Publica Transition.
4. Carry out a budget re-basing for the 2026/7 financial year so that the funding provided to Publica is proportionate to the services received.

8. **Community Governance Review - Upper Rissington** (Pages 41 - 46)

Purpose

To approve the final recommendation of the Community Governance Review for Upper Rissington.

Recommendations

That Council resolves to:

1. Approve the final recommendations in relation to the Upper Rissington and Great Rissington.
2. Authorise the Head of Legal Services to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council.

9. **Pay Policy Statement 2025** (Pages 47 - 60)

Purpose

To consider the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

1. Approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26.

10. **Amendments to the Constitution - Report of the Constitution Working Group (March 2025)** (Pages 61 - 108)

Purpose

To consider proposals from the Constitution Working Group for amendments to the Constitution.

Recommendations

That Council resolves to:

1. Agree to remove the words "The Chief Executive will act as the Cost Centre Manager for that budget" from paragraph 4.18 of Part D6: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules.
2. Approve the Protocol for Webcasting Meetings (Annex A) for inclusion in the Constitution.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Governance and Development to update the Protocol for Webcasting Meetings in the event that the government changes the law to enable remote attendance and/or proxy voting at local authority meetings.
4. Approve the changes to Part D1 11.3 to clarify how questions on notice will be dealt with at Cabinet and Committee meetings (Annex B).
5. Approve the updated Probity in Licensing Protocol (Annex C).
6. Approve the updated Contract rules (Annex D).

11. **Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation** (Pages 109 - 130)

Purpose

To note the work underway across Gloucestershire in response to the formal invitation received from Government to develop proposals for local government reorganisation (LGR).

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

1. Note the work taking place across Gloucestershire in response to the formal invitation from Government to develop proposals for Local Government Reorganisation
2. Note the Gloucestershire letter to Government on interim proposals.

12. **Motion A: Farmers Motion**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Motion has been received:

Farmers Motion

Proposer: Councillor Julia Judd

Secunder: Councillor Joe Harris

This Council notes that we currently only produce 60% of the food that we need here in the UK. Food imports already outnumber exports by £33.2 billion. A reduction in the food that we produce will only increase our vulnerability to international factors outside our control - we have already felt this impact in the energy market.

This Council also notes that:

- According to the NFU: 7,419 people are directly employed in agriculture in Gloucestershire, that's 12.1% of the South West's farm workers
- Gross Output = £318 million, GVA = £128 million
- Of the 85,397.1 Hectares of arable farmland, 63.2% (53,965.1Ha) is cereal crops, that's 24.1% of Gloucestershire's farmed area and 18% of all the South West's cereal production.
- The National Farmers Union calculates that 75% of commercial family farms will fall above the £1 million threshold across the UK.
- Over the past 60 years the proportion of household income spent on food in the UK has halved, from 33% in 1957, 11.8% in 2022. Food prices have come down, farmers' income from food production has come down and supermarket profits have ballooned.
- neither DEFRA, the Government's own department, nor industry experts in the farming sector were consulted before the chancellor made her announcement. DEFRA did not even know about the decision until after the chancellor's announcement.

This Council believes that

- proper consultation with farmers and industry experts could have led to fairer and more appropriate solutions that are not detrimental to family farms or the wider industry. The changes were rushed out and have not been subject to due diligence or proper consideration.
- If hard-pressed farmers are forced to sell their farms because they can't afford to carry on due to a huge tax burden, the land is less likely to stay in food production.
- Large farms are being bought by businesses so that they can take advantage of the 20% tax advantage, and small pockets of land which farmers sell off to cover tax burdens are often re-purposed for example

dog walking fields, equestrian or amenity land such as re-wilding, but not put back into food production

- Tax discount to businesses or individuals buying agricultural land to avoid tax should be abolished

This Council resolves to :

1. Agree to support Cotswold farmers by campaigning against IHT reforms for farms.
2. Request that the Leader writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging her to scrap the IHT reform imposed on farmers.

13. **Next meeting**

The next meeting of Council will be held on 21 May 2025 at 6.00 pm.