



Minutes of a meeting of Cabinet held on Thursday, 8 May 2025

Members present:

Joe Harris	Mike Every
Claire Bloomer	Juliet Layton
Paul Hodgkinson	Tristan Wilkinson

Officers present:

Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer)	Sophia Price, Heritage and Design Manager
Jasper Lamoon, Principal Planning Policy Officer	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer
Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Frank Wilson, Interim Managing Director (Publica)
	Danielle Berry, Senior Biodiversity and Countryside Officer

Observers:

Councillor Patrick Coleman

90 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Mike McKeown. Apologies were also received from the Chief Executive Officer.

91 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hodgkinson declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 by virtue of his appointment to the CNL board by Gloucestershire County Council.

Councillor Layton declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 by virtue of her appointment to the CNL board by Cotswold District Council.

92 Minutes

The purpose of this item was to consider the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet on 3 April 2025.

There were no amendments to the minutes.

The approval of the minutes was proposed by Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council, and seconded by Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation. This proposal was put to the vote and agreed by Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 3 April 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Voting Record:

5 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention.

To approve the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 3 April 2025 as a correct record. (Resolution). (Resolution)		
For	Claire Bloomer, Mike Evemy, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson and Juliet Layton	5
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Tristan Wilkinson	1
Carried		

93 Leader's Announcements

The Leader commented on the Council Chamber being decorated with Union flags for the VE-day commemoration and congratulated all of those who had made the moving event, with councillors, staff, and community members attending such a success.

There was a special mention of guest of honour Alan McQuillin, a 102-year-old D-Day veteran from Kemble, who had shared reflections on the war.

Representatives from Tetbury and Fairford Historical Societies who had shared insights into local wartime history were also thanked.

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of those who served.

Councillor Joe Harris announced that this would be his final Cabinet meeting as Leader of Cotswold District Council, marking six years in post. Cllr Harris expressed thanks to Cabinet colleagues, councillors, officers, and staff for their support and service.

Councillor Mike Evemy was congratulated on being elected Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and would be the controlling group's nomination to be elected as the new Council Leader at the Annual Council meeting on 21 May 2025.

94 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

95 Member Questions

No member questions were received.

96 Schedule of Decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and/or Individual Cabinet Members

There was one Cabinet Member decision to report to Cabinet since the agenda for Cabinet on 3 April 2025 was published.

Cabinet Member Delegated Decision 1.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning participated in a decision meeting on 2 April 2025 regarding the progression of a Neighbourhood Plan submitted by Chipping Campden Town Council and whether it met the legal criteria to progress to a Section 16 Consultation.

The Cabinet Member considered the recommendations within the report and resolved to **AGREE** that the submitted documents met the requirements of Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 and **RESOLVED** that the Council should launch the statutory 'Regulation 16' consultation period for the standard six-week period.

The decision was effective on 11 April 2025.

97 Issue(s) Arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit and Governance

There was one recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider. The Committee had recommended that the Council give higher priority to implementing the recommendations of the Public Conveniences Working Group, which had been agreed by Cabinet on 1 February 2024.

Cabinet considered this recommendation and agreed that the implementation of the agreed recommendations should be treated as a higher priority.

98 Rural England Prosperity Fund 2025/26 (REPF) Update

The purpose of the report was to update Cabinet on the award of Rural England Prosperity Funding for 2025/26, to seek approval for the approach to delivery of REPF projects in 2025/26 and to agree the necessary delegations.

Councillor Tristan Wilkinson, Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment, introduced the item and thanked the Economic Development Lead and their team. It was noted that the applications already received were of high quality, and the assessment process was praised as fair, transparent, and effective.

The funding, provided through a direct government grant, would enable the Council to support local charities and community groups aligned with its objectives. Although the latest funding was lower than in previous years, it still represented nearly £1 million over three years.

The impact of even small grants was considered significant, particularly as other funding sources had diminished. Emphasis was placed on due diligence and value for money in decision-making. A key caveat required all projects to be completed within the financial year, necessitating timely decisions.

Promotion of CDC branding on funded projects was encouraged to raise awareness of District Council investment.

It was confirmed that the funding would be split, with 20% allocated to improving health and wellbeing, and 20% to developing the visitor economy. It was clarified that "tackling homelessness" was incorporated under "health and wellbeing" in line with government terminology.

Timelines were clarified, and it was confirmed that the application form was ready for publication, pending Council approval on 21 May. Applications would be scored and assessed by the assessment panel, producing a shortlist, with final decisions made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment.

Awareness of the scheme would be promoted via a press release, social media, the Council website, and the Business Matters newsletter. Strong interest in the funding had already been noted.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Tristan Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Mike Evely.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend to Council to

1. Amend the capital programme for 2025/26 to include the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) scheme capital budget of £229,240, which is fully funded from the 2025/26 REPF grant allocation.

2. Approve the provisional allocations as set out in para 3.1.
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment and the Council's Section 151 Officer to allocate the funding, having regard to the recommendations of the REPF Assessment Panel.

Voting Record:

6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain.

To Approve recommendations 1 to 3 of Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) report (Resolution)		
RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend to Council to: 1. Amend the capital programme for 2025/26 to include the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) scheme capital budget of £229,240, which is fully funded from the 2025/26 REPF grant allocation. 2. Approve the provisional allocations as set out in para 3.1. 3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment and the Council's Section 151 Officer to allocate the funding, having regard to the recommendations of the REPF Assessment Panel.		
For	Claire Bloomer, Mike Evemy, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Juliet Layton and Tristan Wilkinson	6
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

99 Cotswold District Council Renewable Energy Study January 2025

The purpose of the report was to present the Cotswold District Renewable Energy Study and to provide evidence-based advice to inform decisions on renewable energy deployment and achieving net zero, while also supporting the Local Plan Update. Cabinet endorsement was sought to use the study as an evidence base for Council policies going forward.

The report was introduced by the Principal Planning Policy Officer in the absence of Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability.

The Cotswold District Renewable Energy Study, conducted by the Centre for Sustainable Energy in Bristol had been commissioned by the District Council to support its goal of becoming "Green to the Core", and funded through the local plan reserve, as it supported the update of the local plan.

The comprehensive study had two main strands: assessing how the Council estate could move toward carbon neutrality and; exploring how planning policy could support wider district efforts to become more sustainable.

The importance of investing in renewable energy as a means to strengthen energy security and reduce long-term costs was noted.

No contradictions with current planning guidelines were identified when considering the recommendations. It was noted that while the study went further than national policy in some areas, this was permissible and not expected to cause issues.

Financial implications were highlighted, and it was noted that any future projects would require business cases to be submitted to balance future development with financial constraints.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Joe Harris and seconded by Councillor Tristan Wilkinson

Cabinet RESOLVED to endorse the Renewable Energy Study for use as:

- part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan;
- part of the evidence base for future Council policies and procedures in regard to responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies.

Voting record:

6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain.

To Endorse the Renewable Energy Study as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan review and for informing future policies and procedures. (Resolution)		
RESOLVED that Cabinet endorses the Renewable Energy Study for use as: • part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan; • part of the evidence base for future Council policies and procedures in regards to responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies.		
For	Claire Bloomer, Mike Every, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Juliet Layton and Tristan Wilkinson	6
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

100 Endorsement of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) Management Plan 2025-2030

The purpose of the report was to seek Cabinet's endorsement of the Cotswolds National Landscape (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - AONB) Management Plan 2025 – 2030 and seek endorsement of its use as part of the evidence base for the preparation and implementation of relevant Council strategies, policies and projects including but not limited to the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.

Councillor Layton introduced the Cotswold National Landscape Board five-year management plan.

The policies within the plan were described as ambitious and comprehensive, addressing key issues such as climate change, farming mitigation, landscape management, carbon sequestration, and hedgerow management. These themes aligned closely with recent agenda items and Council priorities.

Although the plan did not fully align with every local plan policy it was noted that Council policies would take precedence where necessary. However, few conflicts were anticipated.

The plan also supported nature recovery across the Cotswolds and promoted improved public access to enhance physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. It aimed to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the Cotswold National Landscape and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

Monitoring and reporting arrangements were outlined in the annexes.

Councillor Juliet Layton and Councillor Paul Hodgkinson having declared an interest as they serve on the board of the CNL, left the Chamber for the debate and the vote.

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor Joe Harris and seconded by Councillor Claire Bloomer.

Cabinet RESOLVED to endorse the recommendation of the report that the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030 be used as

- part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan;
- part of the evidence base for the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans;
- part of the evidence base for the preparation and implementation of relevant Council strategies, policies and projects;
- as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications (where compatible with relevant Local Plan and national policy); and
- to inform the development and delivery of the Council's services and activities.

Voting Record

4 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions due to conflict of interest.

To endorse the Cotswold National Landscape (CNL) Management Plan 2025/30 (Resolution)

RESOLVED that Cabinet endorsed the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2025–2030 for use as:

- part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan;
- part of the evidence base for the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans;
- part of the evidence base for the preparation and implementation of relevant Council strategies, policies and projects;
- as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications (where compatible with relevant Local Plan and national policy); and
- to inform the development and delivery of the Council's services and activities.

For	Claire Bloomer, Mike Every, Joe Harris and Tristan Wilkinson	4
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	Paul Hodgkinson and Juliet Layton	2
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

The Meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 6.31pm

(END)