



**COTSWOLD**  
District Council

Tuesday, 16 September 2025

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## **COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Wednesday, 24 September 2025 at 6.00 pm.**

Jane Portman  
Interim Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

(Councillors Mark Harris, Ray Brassington, Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Every, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Nigel Robbins, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, 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** (Pages 7 - 36)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 16 July 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 member questions have been submitted for response:

**Question 1:**

**Councillor Dilys Neill to Councillor Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning**

I have often raised concerns about the number of long-term empty properties across the district and in my own ward in particular (120) which I consider to be scandalous. The question I would like to ask today is about two specific properties, the Old Funeral Directors in Well Lane and the adjacent house, Shepherd's Cottage which are in the same ownership. These properties have been empty for over ten years and are in a state of disrepair and continuing to deteriorate. They have both been broken into and littered empty alcohol cans suggest that they may have been used for under-age drinking and possibly drug dealing. Windows have been broken with glass on the ground outside. Both properties have been repeatedly boarded up and then broken into. They are an eyesore in Stow and have attracted complaints from many residents. The latest concern is that they are infested with rats which are getting into the roof space of the house to which the properties are attached. The owner of the adjacent house has employed a pest control officer who is unable to gain access to the empty properties and so the rats are still present, causing a nuisance and health hazard. CDC know who owns the property but officers seem unable to take action. What can the Council do about this longstanding and worsening problem?

**Question 2:**

**Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning**

Does the council monitor and record the number of Social Houses sold on the open market by Housing associations in the district?

**Question 3:**

**Councillor David Fowles to Councillor Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning**

The current administration has frequently stated its commitment to building affordable houses and has appointed a very experienced officer to identify sites. Please could you confirm how many sites have been identified, how many houses these sites could deliver and if any of these sites have progressed to planning applications?

**Question 4:**

**Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning**

At Full Council in November 2022, I proposed a motion on the "Provision of Community Public Access Defibrillators on New Developments". This motion was passed unanimously, and officers began work incorporating new policies into the local plan. Policy SD4.3 – relating to the provision of defibrillators on new developments – was included in the draft local plan update. Given the current situation with the Cotswold Local Plan and the work now being carried out to develop a new plan, please can you confirm that the Council remains committed to retaining these policies in the new Local Plan?

**Question 5:**

**Councillor David Fowles to Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience**

For several years I have monitored the use of the Cirencester Rugby Club car park. As I recall it cost over £300k to convert, since then it appears to have had little or no use. Could you confirm the occupancy levels and income that CDC derives from this car park?

**Question 6:**

**Councillor Len Wilkins to Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience**

Bourton-on-the-Water has been overwhelmed by tourists this year. The superb weather has encouraged them to stay until late with many remaining in Bourton until 9pm and 10pm. Bourton Parish Council has written to CDC some weeks ago requesting that public toilets stay open later and suggesting that car parking fees are charged beyond the current 6pm deadline. It is still awaiting a reply. Is there any information I can give them?

**Question 7:**

**Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning**

There are many areas across the Cotswold District where the current sewage systems are at or near full capacity.

With the likely increase in new development in the coming years, please can you confirm that the concerns of local communities raised during the planning application process will be given due consideration and robust conditions will be applied to ensure local sewage networks are able to cope with the increased demand on their systems?

**Question 8:**

**Councillor Laura Hall-Wilson to Councillor Tristan Wilkinson, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation**

At the last meeting of Full Council I enquired about the process for distributing funds from UKSPF and the allocation to Tetbury through the Towns Centre Initiative being strange because there were no terms of reference for the initiative and the money was essentially being awarded by CDC to itself.

Is there any update on the progress of this Town Centre initiative and any detail as to what the money allocated is likely to be spent on?

**Question 9:**

**Councillor Jon Wareing to Councillor Mike Evemy, Leader of the Council**

Denying the existence of a problem is a well understood tactic to avoid having to develop a solution for it.

This is why it was pivotal that in July 2019 Cotswold District Council declared a climate emergency. CDC's response to this meant the Council committed to a range of activities including taking leadership in developing a strategy to address the emergency.

Would the Leader of the Council agree with me and the Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience, that we face another crisis in our District whereby Bourton-on-the-Water, and other iconic locations within the District, are suffering the burden of overtourism as defined by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation "the impact of tourism on a destination, or parts thereof, that excessively influences perceived quality of life of citizens and/or quality of visitors experiences in a negative way."?

Would the Leader also therefore commit that the Council ensures that, going forward, the work of the Council acknowledge this crisis and demonstrates it's support, through sustainable tourism approaches, to reverse the degradation of

the social, economic and natural environments of these special localities that define the unique character of the District?

By acknowledging the reality of overtourism for thousands of residents in the District you will give impetus for change, faith that local politicians do listen and optimism for restoring balance and harmony in our communities.

7. **Corporate Plan 2024-2028 Update** (Pages 37 - 64)

Purpose

To seek Council adoption of a refreshed Corporate Plan for the period 2025 through to 2028. While the extant Corporate Plan was agreed last year, there have been significant changes nationally and locally which are reflected in the refreshed plan.

Recommendation

Cabinet on 4 September 2025 resolved to recommend to Council to:

1. Adopt the Corporate Plan 2025-2028, subject to any agreed modifications
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Leader, to finalise the design.

8. **Treasury Management Outturn** (Pages 65 - 84)

Purpose

To receive and discuss details of the Council's Treasury management performance for the period 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

1. Note the Council's Treasury Management performance for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
2. Approve the Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024/25.

9. **Notice of Motions**

No motions were received prior to the deadline of 5.00pm on Monday 15 September 2025.

10. **Next meeting**

The next meeting of Council will be held on 26 November 2025 at 2.00pm.

(END)