



COTSWOLD
District Council

Friday, 13 February 2026

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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 **Monday, 23 February 2026 at 6.00 pm.**

Jane Portman
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 Evemy, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, 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 9 - 42)
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21 January 2026.
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**
No Member Questions have been submitted prior to the publication of the agenda.
7. **Budget Council Protocol**
The Council's Constitution (Part G Appendix D) includes the Budget Protocol ([link to Budget Protocol](#)) which sets out the procedures followed at the Budget Council meeting.

In view that the Budget Council meeting day is a Monday rather than the usual Wednesday (i.e. brought forward by 2 days), the **deadline included in the linked document for amendments** needs to be brought forward by 2 days reflecting the Full Council decision on the change of date.

For clarity, the deadline is: **no later than 3.00 p.m. on the Thursday [19 February 2026] before the Council meeting [on Monday 23 February 2026]**

8. **Appointments to Committees**

For Council to consider the following the resignation of former councillor Nigel Robbins:

1. The appointment of a member to the vacant Liberal Democrat seat on the Audit and Governance Committee.
2. The appointment of a Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.

9. **2026-27 Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy** (Pages 43 - 210)

Purpose:

To present the Revenue Budget for 2026/27, Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2026/27 to 2029/30.

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to approve:

1. the Medium-Term Financial Strategy set out in Annex B
2. the Budget Pressures and Savings for inclusion in the budget, set out in Annex C
3. the Council Tax Requirement of £7,419,716 for this Council
4. the Council Tax level for Cotswold District Council purposes of £163.93 for a Band D property in 2026/27 (an increase of £5)
5. the Capital Programme, set out in Annex D
6. the Annual Capital Strategy 2026/27, as set out in Annex E
7. the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2026/27, as set out in Annex F
8. the Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts, as set out in Annex H
9. that £2m is set aside in a new earmarked reserve Council Priority: LGR Transition through the releasing of £2m of the balance currently held in the Financial Resilience Reserve.
10. the balances and reserves forecast for 2026/27 to 2029/30 as set out in Section 7 of the report.

10. **Council Tax 2026/27** (Pages 211 - 230)

Purpose:

To set the Council Tax and precepts for 2026/27.

Recommendation:

That, subject to confirmation of Gloucestershire County Council's precept, Council resolves to:

- 1) Agree for the purposes of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 35(2), that there are no special expenses for the District Council in 2026/27;
- 2) Note that, using their delegated authority, the Deputy Chief Executive calculated the Council Tax Base for 2026/27:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 45,261.49 [item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish Precept relates as in the attached Schedule 1.
- 3) Agree that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2026/27 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £7,419,716.
- 4) Agree that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2026/27 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) 52,952,023 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils and any additional special expenses.
 - (b) £39,934,694 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
 - (c) £13,017,510 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (d) £287.60 being the amount at 4(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year

(including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses);

- (e) £5,597,794 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act as per the attached Schedule 2.
 - (f) £163.93 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by Item T(2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept or special item relates;
 - (g) the amounts shown in Schedule 2 being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area shown in Schedule 2 divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;
 - (h) the amounts shown in Schedule 3 being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(f) and 4(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;
- 5) Note that for the year 2026/27 the Gloucestershire County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated below:

Valuation Band	Gloucestershire County Council	Police and Crime Commissioner
	£	£
A	1,175.64	227.05
B	1,371.58	264.90
C	1,567.52	302.74

D	1,763.46	340.58
E	2,155.34	416.26
F	2,547.22	491.95
G	2,939.10	567.63
H	3,526.92	681.16

- 6) Agree, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to set the aggregate amounts shown in Schedule 4 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2026/27 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
- 7) Agree the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2026/27 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 8) Authorise the following Council/Public Officers: Deputy Chief Executive, Interim Director – Resident Services, Director of Governance and Development, Legal Executive, Business Manager – Environmental, Welfare and Revenues, Revenues Manager, Revenues Lead and Senior Recovery Officer to:
 - (a) collect and recover any National Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax; and
 - (b) prosecute or defend on the Council's behalf or to appear on its behalf in proceedings before a magistrate's court in respect of unpaid National Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax.

11. **Pay Policy Statement 2026** (Pages 231 - 246)

Purpose:

To consider the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27.

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to approve the Pay Policy 2026/27.

12. **Notice of Motions**

No motions have been received for this meeting of Council.

13. **Next meeting**

The next meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 2.00pm.

(END)