



COTSWOLD
District Council

Tuesday, 10 March 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 **Wednesday, 18 March 2026 at 2.00 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, 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**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 February 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. **Unsung Heroes Awards**
Purpose:
To announce the Unsung Heroes awards for this quarter.
6. **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.
7. **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: Cllr Tom Stowe to Cllr Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning.

Please could you confirm the current number of open Planning Enforcement cases and does the current level of staffing and resources within the Planning Enforcement team allow Cotswold District Council to deliver an effective and timely service?

Question 2: Cllr Tony Slater to Cllr Mike Evemy, Leader of the Council.

Following the O&S briefing on the latest LGR position I am concerned that the LGR work is taking too much time from our senior officers, who as a result, cannot dedicate their service to Cotswold District Council. CDC seems to have more of its officers leading workstreams and programmes of work than other district and city councils. While it is pleasing that our officers have the advanced skills to be picked for this important work, it distorts the fair share of costs between the other contributors.

As with the Publica transition, the estimated costs of £1.5m (already equivalent to around 900 band D taxpayers) do not account for the significant officer time, and the taxpayers of the Cotswolds are therefore paying more than their fair share for

the reorganisation, and at the same time losing out on service that should be provided.

Please can you explain how these role allocations are weighted for fairness, and what additional backfill costs are envisaged to fill the void when officers are working on LGR?

Question 3: Cllr Tom Stowe to Cllr Mike Evey, Leader of the Council.

Does Cotswold District Council own a camera drone? If so, how much did it cost and what ongoing/recurring costs to the council are there?

Question 4: Cllr Tony Slater to Cllr Andrea Pellegram, Cabinet Member for Environment and Regulatory Services.

Litter along our roads and lanes has become intolerable and is particularly visible in the winter months when the vegetation is dormant. Please can the member outline what steps are being taken to rid our beautiful countryside of this menace, as it is a poor advertisement for the Cotswolds?

Question 5: Cllr Jeremy Theyer to Cllr Andrea Pellegram Cabinet Member for Environment and Regulatory Services.

There will soon be an order being placed for the new bin truck fleet – what flexibility is there with these new vehicles once they are in operation to adapt for changes in recycling and waste collection legislation which may be imposed in the future by government?

Question 6: Cllr Len Wilkins to Cllr Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance.

Cotswold residents have supported CDC and its predecessors for over 50 years. During this time reserves have accrued, we have a duty to ensure that Cotswold Council Taxpayers get the best return and value for money from these reserves. Could our representatives during the negotiations on LGR ensure our residents assets are protected and not lost to bail out other local councils involved in the transition?

Question 7: Cllr Laura Hall-Wilson to Cllr Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience.

The report from the Town Centres Initiative has recently been published and for Tetbury one of the key recommendations is parking improvements. I hear from businesses and residents on almost a daily basis how they struggle with parking in Tetbury. Please confirm what measures you will be taking in reaction to this report, to improve the flow of cars and look at how to make parking easier for visitors to our town?

Question 8: Cllr David Fowles to Cllr Mike Evely, Leader of the Council.

When the decision was taken to sell the memorial cottages in Cirencester, the Council gave notice to one of the tenants - the Living Memorial Historical Association - who ran their WW2 museum from one of the Cottages.

A promise was made that we would help the Association to store their collection and find a new home. Since when nothing has happened.

Given our armed forces are once again embroiled in another conflict, finding a home for this museum is even more relevant. Please could you update us on the current position?

Question 9: Cllr David Fowles to Cllr Tristan Wilkinson, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation.

Under the last Conservative government, Gloucestershire received considerable Government funding to invest in Growth hubs including the Growth hub at the RAU. This funding has now disappeared and the centre is now known as The Alliston Centre. This site was intended to be the beginning of a £100m investment announced in January 2023 to create an Innovation village' on a 12 acre site at the RAU. Planning was applied for 'phase 1' in October last year.

Please could you update us on when work is going to start on phase 1, the status of the Growth Hub and the overall status in terms of investment funding for the Innovation project?

8. **Constitution Working Group recommendations** (Pages 11 - 40)

Purpose:

To present recommendations from the Constitution Working Group arising from meetings on 7 October 2025 and 13 February 2026 in relation to:

- Disclosable interests
- Standards Hearings Sub-Committee Procedure Rules
- Committee Membership

Recommendations:

That Council resolves to:

1. Agree to amend the Planning Protocol to include the new paragraphs drafted by the Head of Legal Services about the declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests, as shown in Annex A.
2. Agree to amend the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee Procedure Rules following a review, as shown in Annex B.
3. Agree to amend Article 5 to remove the rule that says the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council cannot both serve on the Planning and Licensing Committee.

9. **Review of political proportionalities on committees** (Pages 41 - 44)

Purpose:

To review the political proportionalities on committees following receipt of a notice that a member has joined a group.

Recommendations:

That Council resolves to:

1. Agree the political proportionalities as set out in Annex A.
2. Appoint to any vacant seats on committees in accordance with the wishes of the political group to which the seat has been allocated, as expressed at the meeting

10. **Appointment of Independent Members to the Audit and Governance Committee** (Pages 45 - 50)

Purpose:

To appoint one/extend the other appropriately skilled and experienced members of the public to be "independent members" of the Audit & Governance Committee.

Recommendations:

That Council resolves to:

1. Appoint Nick Craxton to the Council's Audit & Governance Committee commencing immediately, until 31 March 2028.
2. Extend Christopher Bass' appointment to the Council's Audit & Governance Committee until 31 March 2028.

11. **Community Governance Review** (Pages 51 - 64)

Purpose:

To approve the final recommendations of the Community Governance Review.

Recommendations:

That Council resolves to:

1. Approve the final recommendations in relation to the Community Governance Review for Cirencester, Cutsdean, Fairford, Moreton-in-Marsh, Southrop, Tetbury, as set out in the table at para. 5.1.
2. Authorise the Head of Legal Services to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council.

12. **Change to Full Council meeting date**

Purpose:

To consider a change to the June Extraordinary Full Council meeting date.

Recommendation:

Council is recommended to agree to move the date of the 17 June 2026 Full Council meeting to 12 August 2026, at 6.00pm.

13. **Notice of Motions** (Pages 65 - 66)

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

Motion A:

Climate and Ecological Transformation in Cotswold District and Gloucestershire

Proposed by: Councillor Angus Jenkinson

Seconded by Councillor Mike McKeown

Motion:

The motion addresses the urgent need for local action to support sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices in response to escalating climate and ecological challenges.

Council notes:

- The Council's declared Climate and Ecological Emergencies and its continuing commitment to be green to the core in response to these
- The findings of the UK's national risk assessment identifying critical threats

to ecosystems and biodiversity with international evidence that many natural systems are on trajectories towards failure

- The recent call by the United Nations Secretary-General for a transition beyond GDP towards recognising the value of natural systems and ecosystem services for local and global future outcomes
- The conclusions of successive international UN IPCC scientific reports that agricultural methods have a vital role in mitigating climate and ecological impacts, which also affect food supply
- Both Cotswold District and Gloucestershire have amongst the highest proportions of agricultural land of any local authority areas in England with thousands of farm enterprises that are in or considering transition to regenerative practices
- That Gloucestershire contains the largest National Landscape in England and a National Forest Park
- That climate, ecology and food resilience depend on successful agricultural transition, a goal relevant to the Food and Farming track in local government re-organisation.

Recognising the significant potential of local agriculture to contribute positively to climate and ecological recovery, and the need for coordinated local and regional support to enable this, Council resolves to:

- 1) Request that the Chief Executive and the Leader propose the following when representing the Council on the work to prepare for local government reorganisation:
 - a) That the LGR Programme formally adopts Food and Farming as an active element within its climate planning work - whether as its own strand or as a sub-strand as officers determine as most effective; and
 - b) That the LGR Programme uses Climate Leadership Gloucestershire's Food and Farming track as a convening mechanism.
- 2) Request that the Chief Executive and the Leader report back to the July 2026 meeting of the Council with an update on the development of the Future Operating Model(s) of the new unitary council(s) and how Food and Farming is being considered within them and including the following:
 - a) who will take ownership of it (political and officer leads),

- b) what the early priorities are, and
- c) which partners could be involved (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, catchment partnerships, Environment Agency, National Landscapes, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, National Farmers Union, and others as appropriate).

14. **Next meeting**

The next meeting of Council will be held on 20 May 2026, starting at 6.00 pm.

(END)