



Wednesday, 1 April 2026

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Monday, 13 April 2026 at 4.00 pm.**

Jane Portman
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Councillors Gina Blomefield, Angus Jenkinson, David Cunningham, Paul Evans, Joe Harris, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Clare Turner, Michael Vann and Jon Wareing)

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 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is 3 members.
2. **Substitute Members**
To note details of any substitution arrangements in place for the meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
4. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2026.
5. **Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 11 - 14)
To consider actions outstanding from minutes of previous meetings.
6. **Chair's Announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
7. **Public Questions 4.15 pm**
A maximum of 15 minutes is allocated for an "open forum" of public questions at committee meetings. No person may ask more than two questions (including supplementary questions) and no more than two such questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation. The maximum length of oral questions or supplementary questions by the public will be one minute. Questions must relate to the responsibilities of the Committee but questions in this section cannot relate to applications for determination at the meeting.

The response may take the form of:

- a) A direct oral response (maximum length: 2 minutes);
- 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.

8. **Member Questions 4.30 pm**

A maximum period of fifteen minutes is allowed for Member questions. Questions must be directed to the Chair and must relate to the remit of the committee.

Questions will be asked in the order notice of them was received, except that the Chair may group together similar questions.

The deadline for submitting questions is 5.00pm on the working day before the day of the meeting unless the Chair agrees that the question relates to an urgent matter, in which case the deadline is 9.30am on the day of the meeting.

A member may submit no more than two questions. At the meeting the member may ask a supplementary question arising directly from the original question or the reply. The maximum length of a supplementary question is one minute.

The response to a question or supplementary question may take the form of:

- a) A direct oral response (maximum length: 2 minutes);
- 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.

9. **Report back on recommendations 4.45 pm**

For the Committee to note the Cabinet's response to any recommendations arising from the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

10. **Financial Performance Report - Q3 2025-26 5.00 pm**

Purpose

To set out the third quarterly budget monitoring position for the 2025/26 financial year.

Cabinet Member

Councillor Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance

Report Author

Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer

11. **Service Performance Report - Q3 2025-26 5.20 pm**

Purpose

To provide an update on progress on the Council's priorities and service performance.

Cabinet Member

Councillor Mike Evemy, Leader of the Council

Lead Officer

Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst

12. **Publica Business Plan 2026-28 5.40 pm**

Purpose

To consider the Draft Publica Business Plan 2026-28, produced by the Publica Board in consultation with Directors and Shareholders, and to recommend that the Leader (as Shareholder Representative) approves the plan.

Cabinet Member

Councillor Mike Evemy, Leader of the Council

Report Author

Frank Wilson – Managing Director, Publica

13. **Ecological Emergency Update (Pages 15 - 30) 6.00 pm**

Purpose

To update the Committee on progress in implementing the Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolve to:

- Note the progress made in implementing the Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

14. **Updates from Gloucestershire County Council Scrutiny Committees 6.15 pm**

Purpose

To receive any verbal updates on the work of external scrutiny bodies:

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Angus Jenkinson
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Dilys Neill

15. **Work Plan and Forward Plan (Pages 31 - 54) 6.35 pm**

For the Committee to note and review its work plan and to select Cabinet decisions for pre-decision scrutiny at future committee meetings.

(END)



Overview and Scrutiny Committee
02/March2026

Minutes of a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 2 March 2026

Members present:

Angus Jenkinson (Chair)	Clare Turner (Vice-Chair)	
David Fowles	Jon Wareing	Laura Hall-Wilson
Tony Slater	Michael Vann	Lisa Spivey

Officers present:

Andrew Brown, Head of Democratic and Electoral Services	Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer
Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer)	Matt Abbott, Head of Communications
Tyler Jardine, Trainee Democratic Services Officer	Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place
Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer	

Observers:

Councillor Mike Evely and Juliet Layton

OS.301 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Gina Blomefield and David Cunningham.

OS.302 Substitute Members

Councillor David Fowles substituted for Councillor Blomefield and Councillor Laura Hall-Wilson substituted for Councillor David Cunningham.
Councillor Angus Jenkinson Chaired the meeting with Councillor Clare Turner acting as the Vice-Chair.

OS.303 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interests were made.

OS.304 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 2 February 2026 were discussed. Councillor Tony Slater proposed accepting the minutes and Councillor Jon Wareing seconded the proposal which was put to the vote and agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED: to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2026.

OS.305 Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was noted that the response regarding compost required clarification and additional detail.

An update was requested on the supplementary solar PV information from David Stanley regarding installation costs in relation to projected savings.

OS.306 Chair's Announcements

The Chair updated the order of the agenda items to allow visiting speakers to attend additional Scrutiny meetings within the County.

OS.307 Report back on recommendations

There were no comments regarding the recommendations.

OS.308 Public Questions

Councillor Stephen Andrews, Chair of Kempston Parish Council, raised concerns that planning enforcement had declined since it was last reviewed. Referring to a recent Ombudsman report, he urged the Committee to set a clear timeframe for reviewing enforcement and reporting back.

OS.309 Member Questions

There were no Member questions.

OS.310 Update on Local Government Reorganisation

Jane Portman, Chief Executive Officer, Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place and Matt Abbott, Head of Communications, gave an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

In questioning and discussion, the following points were noted:

- Further information regarding the terms of reference for the technical, digital and customer, and property and assets workstreams was offered.

- Redundancy costs within the programme were sensitive and complex, with some redundancies expected. Posts would need to be reviewed, evaluated, and costed.
- The government's current election timetable showed Shadow elections scheduled for May 2027, with vesting day on 1 April 2028.
- The figure of approximately 1,100 public engagements from the public consultation referred to all councils across Gloucestershire.
- The invite to the Town and Parish webinar had been sent to all 360 clerks across Gloucestershire to forward to their councillors.
- The Government would use consultation responses to inform its decision. The local programme's role was to ensure residents across the County had every opportunity to participate.
- Individual consultation responses would not be published. Following the closure of the consultation, the Government would provide a summary overview.
- Risk management would be overseen by the Portfolio Board. A risk register would be reviewed fortnightly, with any risks requiring political input escalated to the Steering Board.
- The future operating model workstream was where systems planning and interdependencies between work programmes were being considered.
- Identity and culture work was a key part of the People and Culture workstream, with arrangements in place to support staff transitioning from the existing councils to the new council(s).
- The Programme Board currently included representatives from Town and Parish Councils. Beneath the Board, various project groups would operate, with potential for broader membership. Some groups may specifically involve the voluntary sector or town and parish councils to support delivery.

A request to share material before the meeting was made by the Chair.

17:55 – Councillor Jon Wareing left the Chamber.

OS.311 LGR - Joint Scrutiny arrangements

The options for the proposed joint scrutiny options were presented to the committee by Rob Aliffe, Programme Sponsor for LGR Governance and Legal and Alice McAlpine, Programme Lead for LGR Governance and Legal.

They explained that the task was to deliver and prepare for LGR across the county and provide effective scrutiny. An overview of the 4 options was shared with the Committee and their views requested on the various options with the preferred option being number 4 – a Scrutiny Panel.

The Scrutiny Panel would have two principal roles: to hold the joint programme arrangements to account across the seven authorities, and to contribute to policy development. Members were invited to comment on their level of support for the

proposed model and to suggest how the Panel could operate effectively to inform the drafting of its terms of reference.

In questioning and discussion, the following points were noted:

- The seven councils would seek to reach a consensus on the preferred scrutiny model and host authority. The chosen host council would formally establish the Panel, and each of the seven authorities would appoint its representatives in accordance with its constitution.
- The Scrutiny Panel model would allow flexibility to involve town and parish councils. This could include representation from the Association of Parish and Town Councils or inviting parish and town councils to attend specific sessions to give evidence.
- Initially there would be a single Scrutiny Panel. This was because the programme operated as a single programme requiring a unified approach. If the government decided Gloucestershire should have two (or three) unitary councils, there may be some divergence to scrutinise the different council areas separately, but joint scrutiny of the overall programme would remain necessary.
- Scrutiny Panels often generated stronger and more effective recommendations than formal committees, despite lacking call-in powers.
- The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Panel would be determined by the scrutiny function itself.

In summary, the Committee expressed the following views:

- Option 4 or an alternative panel format was considered.
- Concerns were raised that a panel would lack formal authority, which a committee possessed.
- Private meetings would conflict with the ethos of scrutiny, with public transparency being important for engagement and trust.
- It was suggested that political membership be divided equally rather than proportionally.
- Communication processes were noted as needing transparency.

The Scrutiny Panel's focus would cover 11 workstreams across seven councils to ensure the Local Government Reorganisation programme met its timeframe, with particular attention to timing, finance, and legal compliance on vesting day.

There was little appetite for Options 1–3.

The Chair thanked the guests and commented that it would have been helpful to have seen the presentation in advance.

OS.312 Infrastructure Funding - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Policy

The purpose of the report was to seek delegated authority for the Assistant Director of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, to implement a programme of enhancements.

The report was introduced by Councillor Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, and Helen Martin, Director for Communities and Place, who highlighted the following points:

- The annual bidding window previously ran from March–May with bids assessed by an officer panel using a scoring framework.
- The proposed enhancements were to:
 - Extend the bidding window to year-round, with bids considered October–December.
 - Improve transparency and communication with towns, parishes, community groups, and infrastructure partners.
 - Strengthen the assessment process against clear strategic criteria.
 - Enhance monitoring and reporting to demonstrate impact.
- Cabinet asked to delegate authority to Assistant Director of Planning Services, in consultation with portfolio holder, to implement changes.

In questioning and discussion, the following points were noted:

- The current CIL value held was approximately £5 million.
- Further details on the type of funds that could be applied for was requested.
- Accountability for CIL funding was through legal agreements, requiring recipients to use the money as intended. Financial due diligence was carried out before funds were released to ensure organisations could deliver the project. The Council team would maintain ongoing contact with recipients to ensure funds were spent within agreed timeframes and on approved purposes.
- CIL funding was allocated via a legal agreement to the body delivering the infrastructure. County Council functions were applied for by the County Council, and Parish or Town Council functions were applied for by the relevant Parish or Town Council.
- There was currently no definitive approach for handling funding post-LGR.
- The current team had the skills and resources to implement the proposed changes. Whilst the team was currently busy with the Local Plan, the extended bidding and assessment periods made the enhanced engagement manageable.
- CIL funding was intended for local community infrastructure and could not cover major strategic projects, which fell under Section 106 agreements in collaboration with Gloucestershire County Council.
- A clear framework and scoring mechanism was in place to prioritise bids, considering factors such as wider community benefit, match funding, and deliverability within a reasonable timeframe.

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- The CIL scoring mechanism reflected policy priorities, and any redesign of the scoring framework would reassess those priorities. Council-determined priorities could be embedded in the scoring matrix through question selection and weighting.

The Committee thanked the Cabinet Member and officers and did not wish to submit any recommendations to Cabinet.

19:02 – Councillor Tony Slater left the Chamber.

OS.313 Updates from Gloucestershire County Council Scrutiny Committees

A review of security measures and Gloucester County Council was underway, and district councillors attending meetings would be issued with passes for access. It was noted that the Cirencester Growth Hub was now being used by the Royal Agricultural University, and that government funding had supported its construction.

OS.314 Work Plan and Forward Plan

This item was not considered because the 3-hour maximum duration had been reached.

The Meeting commenced at 4.00 pm and closed at 7.09 pm

Chair

(END)



Action	Officer	Response
2 March 2026 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
<p>Compost - measuring how much compost we're producing and the amount of carbon that is being captured in it and its contribution to biodiversity?</p> <p>The feedback from the committee was that the additional data circulated on 2 March was well received but they didn't feel that they had received the answer that they requested.</p>	Peta Johnson	<p>The Council collected 9,331 tonnes of garden waste from households in 2024/25. This material is delivered to Hills. The Council pays for the material to be composted by Hills.</p> <p>It is difficult to say the contribution that this makes to biodiversity as it depends on the type of compost that is produced, and its end use.</p> <p>Previous answer from 5 January repeated.</p> <p>Further details:</p> <p>Conversion factors are available for the various treatment options for garden waste. These compare treatment by incineration with energy recovery (otherwise known as Energy from Waste or EfW), composting, landfill, and anaerobic digestion. The following figures show the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per tonne of garden waste treated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EfW 4.7 kgCO₂e• Composting 9 kgCO₂e• Landfill 646.7 kgCO₂e• Anaerobic digestion 9 kgCO₂e <p>Carbon is captured in the growing cycle of plants. Carbon is emitted when garden waste is treated. These emissions fall outside of the Council's Scope 1 and 2 carbon reporting requirements.</p>



		<p>The Council delivers garden waste to Hills who then produce compost.</p> <p>We have no data on the amount of compost produced by Hills, or the biodiversity created through the use of this compost by their customers.</p>
<p>CIL Further information on the requirements on the bidding process - who could bid and for what.</p>	<p>Helen Martin</p>	<p>In the simplest terms, the bidder must be an infrastructure provider or partner and must be not-for-profit or a public body. CIL bids can be made for funding towards 'strategic infrastructure' which meets the needs of growth in our area. To be strategic, the infrastructure must meet the needs of residents from more than one settlement/ localised area. Bids cannot exceed the total available CIL.</p> <p>We will be reviewing our CIL bidding criteria, so there will be a validation checklist for submitting a bid. The scoring for bids is also being reviewed, so that infrastructure projects which are listed in our Infrastructure Delivery Plan, contribute towards the creation or maintenance of healthy and sustainable communities, or which address the climate and ecological emergency are prioritised. The current bidding period of March-May will also be reviewed. There will be a short pause on bidding whilst the review is underway, but then bids will be able to be submitted year-round for an at-least annual assessment. Details of the proposed changes are set out in the Cabinet report from February.</p>



		<p>There is information on our website regarding who can bid for CIL and what can be bid for. That information is here: Community Infrastructure Levy - Cotswold District Council.</p>
<p>LGR - Request for information on the Terms of Reference for the various LGR workstreams – particularly Digital & Customer Service, Data & Insight, Technology, Neighbourhood & Communities.</p>	<p>Jane Portman</p>	<p>Terms of reference for each of the 11 work programmes are currently being drafted and will be finalised during April. Once finalised, we will make them all available for Members.</p>
<p>EV panels Installation costs and potential feedback.</p>	<p>David Stanley</p>	<p>The total capital cost of the Solar PV panels installed at Trinity Road was £243,519.</p> <p>The on-site generation of electricity has resulted in a significant reduction in electricity expenditure. Annual costs have fallen from £113,087 in 2024 to £70,119 in 2025, delivering a saving of £42,968 in the first full year. These savings are expected to continue as long as the system operates at current performance levels.</p> <p>Routine cleaning and maintenance undertaken as required, is estimated to cost approximately £6,000, resulting in a net annual benefit of £36,968. This would represent a return on investment of 15.2%</p>

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Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 APRIL 2026
Subject	Ecological Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning Email: Juliet.Layton@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director - Planning Services Email: Geraldine.LeCointe@cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Danielle Berry, Head of Natural, Built and Historic Environment Email: Danielle.Berry@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	Update the Committee on progress in implementing the Ecological Emergency Action Plan.
Annexes	Annex A – Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2026: Progress Update
Recommendation(s)	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolve to: 1. Note the progress made in implementing the Ecological Emergency Action Plan.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to the Climate Emergency
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the progress achieved to date in delivering the Ecological Emergency Action Plan. The report has undergone internal review by the Corporate Leadership, Finance, and Legal teams.



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report outlines the actions already taken to deliver the Ecological Emergency Action Plan, as well as the ongoing work and future opportunities that will support its continued implementation.
- 1.2** It also provides an update on the Council's performance in The Woodland Trust's Nature Emergency Scorecard, which has assessed 395 UK councils against four criteria.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Cotswold District Council declared an Ecological Emergency on the 15th of July 2020 to complement the Climate Emergency declared by the Council in 2019. Consequently, an Ecological Emergency Action Plan was agreed as part of the Ecological Emergency declaration.
- 2.2** There have been significant declines in biodiversity across the UK, with the 2023 State of Nature Report identifying that one in six species is now threatened with extinction. The natural environment - often referred to as natural capital - provides a wide range of benefits, known as Nature's Contributions to People (formerly called ecosystem services), that underpin our economic, environmental, and social wellbeing. These include the provision of food, clean air and water, carbon sequestration, and natural flood management.
- 2.3** The climate emergency and ecological emergency are deeply interconnected. Climate change is a major driver of ecological decline; however, a healthy natural environment also plays a crucial role in both mitigating and adapting to climate change. For example, effective habitat creation and management can reduce carbon emissions and lower flood risk through enhanced carbon sequestration and the use of natural flood management techniques.

3. MAIN POINTS – Progress overview

- 3.1** Annex A outlines the actions taken to date to deliver the Ecological Emergency Action Plan. Although the Action Plan was designed to apply across all Council functions, its delivery is primarily led by the Development Management, Planning Policy, and Infrastructure and Natural, Built and Historic Environment Teams, working in collaboration with a range of external partners, including the Habitat First Group,



Cotswold Lakes Trust, the National Trust, Natural England, and the Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund.

3.2 The focus over the last 12-18 months has been:

- **Habitats Regulations Assessment (Strategic Access Management and Monitoring - SAMM):** The National Trust has recently appointed a warden on a two-year fixed-term contract to deliver SAMM mitigation for the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC. This role is fully funded through developer contributions secured by Cotswold District Council and neighbouring authorities from new housing developments located within the 15.4 km zone of influence around the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC. Similarly, a warden post for the North Meadow SAC will shortly be advertised by Wiltshire Council. This role will be funded jointly by Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council, and Cotswold District Council to support the delivery of SAMM mitigation at the North Meadow SAC.
- **Habitats Regulations Assessment (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace - SANG):** The National Trust has recently submitted a third bid for funding from developer contributions secured to deliver SANG mitigation. This follows two previously successful bids that are supporting the delivery of SANG mitigation at the Sherborne Estate to help relieve recreational pressures from new development on the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC. At a recent meeting with the National Trust and the Council, Natural England confirmed that they are satisfied with the approach being taken to deliver SANG at the Sherborne Estate.
- **Strengthened Biodiversity Duty:** The Council has published its first Biodiversity Duty Report, outlining actions already taken to meet its statutory obligations and setting out further opportunities for the next reporting period. The report also details the biodiversity net gain achieved, or expected to be achieved, through approved biodiversity gain plans.
- **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG):** Biodiversity Officers have continued to support the Development Management team in embedding BNG within the planning system. Most recently, officers have reviewed the Council's BNG monitoring fees and updated the Council's website to provide clearer, more concise guidance for developers and planning applicants.



- **Habitat Banks:** The Legal Team, working in collaboration with the Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund, the National Trust, and the Council's Biodiversity Officers, has completed two Section 106 agreements to establish habitat banks within the District, one at Sherborne Estate and the other at Saintbury Grounds Farm. The Council is also working with the Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund to bring forward a third habitat bank.
- **Gloucestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy:** As a supporting authority, Cotswold District Council has worked closely with Gloucestershire County Council, the responsible authority, alongside other key stakeholders, including the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership and the Cotswold National Landscape, to help deliver Gloucestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The strategy is a spatial tool that identifies where and how nature recovery can be most effectively achieved across the county. This spatial tool will be used to inform both plan- and decision-making.
- **Local Plan Update:** The Natural, Built and Historic Environment Team has been working with the Planning Policy and Infrastructure Team to review existing Local Plan policies and the Cotswold Design Code in support of the Council's "green to the core" agenda. In addition, the county-wide Climate and Planning Manager has been reviewing the Council's climate-related planning policies to help deliver ambitious and consistent local plan policies.
- **Collaboration with External Stakeholders:** The Natural, Built and Historic Environment Team continues to work with a range of external stakeholders on smaller, ongoing projects that support nature conservation across the District. For example, the Cotswold Lakes Trust was recently successful in securing funding from the "para 20" pot - financial contributions collected from the developer of the Lower Mill Estate development - to deliver nature conservation initiatives across the Estate and the wider ecologically and hydrologically connected land. This bid will support efforts to conserve the nationally important population of black poplar trees within the Cotswold Water Park. In addition, the Council's Tree Officers have recently secured trees from Gloucestershire County Council to deliver infill tree planting across the District.



4. MAIN POINTS – Nature Emergency Scorecard

4.1 The Woodland Trust, working in partnership with the Wildlife Trusts, Wildlife and Countryside Link, and Climate Emergency UK (the organisation responsible for the Climate Emergency Scorecards), has developed a Nature Emergency Scorecard. A total of 395 councils across the UK have been assessed against four criteria. Cotswold District Council currently meets three of these four criteria:

- Whether the council has declared an ecological or nature emergency - only 28% of Councils have made this declaration.
- Whether the council has committed to producing an evidence-based action plan for nature recovery - just 14% of Councils have produced an Ecological Emergency Action Plan or equivalent.
- Whether nature recovery has been embedded into the council's strategic plans and policies - only 37 out of 395 Councils (around 9%) have achieved this.

4.2 These results provide strong evidence that Cotswold District Council is both considering and actively progressing the ambitions set out in the Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

4.3 The only criterion the council does not currently meet is the "30 by 30" commitment, which requires councils to protect and manage 30% of their landholding for nature recovery by 2030.

4.4 However, a comparison of performance across local authorities shows that only three other rural councils in England currently meet the same criteria, and none have yet achieved the "30 by 30" commitment. In addition, Cotswold District Council is the only rural council in the southwest to meet three of the four assessment criteria.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

An alternative option would be to withdraw the Ecological Emergency declaration and take no further action to implement the action plan. However, this would mean that the Council would, at a minimum, fail to meet its statutory obligations. For example, integrating Biodiversity Net Gain and Gloucestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy into plan- and decision-making.



6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The Ecological Emergency Action Plan continues to be delivered, with work primarily centred on fulfilling the statutory duties associated with the Communities and Place directorate. Nevertheless, progress has also been made on non-statutory services of the action plan, including the establishment of two habitat banks and infill tree planting across the district. Additional resources would, however, be required to expand this work further.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Ecological Emergency Action Plan can continue to be delivered at its current pace using existing resources.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The report raises no direct legal implications.

8.2 Biodiversity net gain is now a statutory requirement within the planning process. Other than the use of Section 106 legal agreements, which secure all off-site gains as well as monitoring fees for significant on-site and off-site gains, and the establishment of habitat banks, there are currently no further implications to report.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT

9.1 There are no risks associated with noting the report for information.

10. EQUALITIES IMPACT

10.1 The report raises no direct impacts.

11. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The report is presented for noting; however, it clearly demonstrates a positive response to both the climate and ecological emergencies.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 None.

(END)



Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2026: Progress Update

	Actions in the 2020 Ecological Emergency Action Plan	Recent actions undertaken	Ongoing actions
a	Put ecological issues at the heart of the Council's actions for climate emergency and ensure that opportunities to gain mutual benefits for both climate and the ecological emergencies are maximised.	Planning Policy Officers attend meetings led by the county-wide Climate and Planning Manager, who has reviewed all climate-related policies to ensure consistent alignment across the county.	Continue to work with the Council's Climate Change Team and the county-wide Climate and Planning Manager to deliver ambitious, consistent and efficient climate-related planning policies. Publish a retrofit and decarbonisation guide for residents.
b	Ensure that ecological emergency and nature recovery considerations are embedded in all work areas and decision-making processes.	The Council employs 3 FTE Biodiversity Officers. Biodiversity is considered in most planning applications and plan-making, helping ensure the Council delivers on its corporate priority to produce a new Local Plan with policies that are 'green to the core'.	Continue to consider biodiversity in the planning system.
c	Take a leadership role on the ecological emergency and nature recovery in the Cotswolds by engaging, influencing, and inspiring partners across the District, County, and region to drive meaningful process in nature recovery.	The Council's Biodiversity Officers have collaborated with the Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund and the National Trust to deliver two habitat banks in the district: Saintbury Grounds Farm and Sherborne Estate.	Continue to work with external stakeholders to deliver additional habitat banks across the district that deliver opportunities identified in the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.



		Following March's Cabinet meeting, 10% of CIL is no longer ring-fenced to support the ecological and climate emergencies. However, Cabinet has agreed to the development and implementation of a detailed scoring matrix for bids to ensure an appropriate balance of projects are funded included those that respond to the climate and ecological emergencies.	Support the Planning Policy and Infrastructure Team to develop and implement a new scoring matrix that includes climate and ecology-related criteria.
d	Review the adopted Local Plan to ensure that the ecological emergency and nature recovery (including green infrastructure, ecosystem services, and natural capital) are strategic priorities for planning and new development, through site allocations, policies and an up-dated Cotswold Design Code.	<p>New Cotswold Design Code places a greater emphasis on green infrastructure, natural capital and biodiversity.</p> <p>Biodiversity constraints have been fully explored on all potential site allocations, ensuring habitats of greatest value are retained and new opportunities have been identified.</p> <p>Biodiversity-related local planning policies have been strengthened.</p>	Design briefs and master-planning for strategic site allocations will identify constraints and opportunities to deliver meaningful biodiversity enhancements that aid in connecting these sites to the wider ecological network.
e	Continue to support the development and implementation of the Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network and the Gloucestershire Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital Mapping, including through the Local Plan, biodiversity net gain and developer contributions.	These documents and tools informed the development of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and have since been superseded by it.	N/A
f	Play a pro-active role in developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the County.	Cotswold District Council played an active role in preparing the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery	Cotswold District Council will 'have regard' to the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy in decision and plan-making.



		<p>Strategy, which was endorsed by Cabinet in March 2026.</p> <p>The Council's website was updated to inform applicants and developers about the introduction of the strategy and its implications for the delivery of BNG on their proposals.</p>	<p>A member briefing will be delivered to help embed the strategy into the Council.</p>
g	<p>Promote tree/woodland planting and re-wilding in the right places and with the right species to maximise wildlife value, carbon sequestration and other benefits, in line the with the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy.</p>	<p>One of the Tree Officer posts has been increased from 0.4 FTE to 0.6 FTE, providing additional capacity to manage caseloads, support planning officers with consultation responses, and monitor and manage Council-owned trees.</p> <p>When processing Tree Preservation Order applications for tree removal, Tree Officers recommend replacement species based on site location, geology, and any other relevant constraints.</p> <p>Similarly, when reviewing planning applications that trigger biodiversity net gain requirements or require mitigation for impacts on trees, officers are recommending conditions to secure the 'right tree in the right place'.</p> <p>Discussions with Gloucestershire County Council have been successful</p>	<p>Discussions will continue with Gloucestershire County Council to identify further tree planting opportunities.</p>



		in securing tree planting for infill schemes across the district, including two locations in Stow-on-the-Wold and Cirencester, and one location each in Willersey, Bourton-on-the-Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water, Fairford, and Mickleton.	
h	Work with farmers and other rural land managers to support the move towards lower carbon emission farming and other actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change while at the same time increasing natural capital and providing additional ecosystem service benefits.	<p>The Council has worked collaboratively with the National Trust to establish a habitat bank at Sherborne Estate, which will create new species-rich grassland habitat on formerly arable land.</p> <p>Similar discussions are on-going with other external stakeholders.</p>	The Council will continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities to raise awareness of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy among farmers and rural land managers. The strategy identifies nature recovery opportunities across the County which can enable access to relevant grant funding.
i	Ensure that the Council-owned land and buildings are managed in a biodiversity-friendly manner and that opportunities are taken to create new wildlife habitat.	<p>Land is managed in a sensitive manner e.g. wildflower planting in cemeteries.</p> <p>Tree planting opportunities explored where possible.</p> <p>An affordable housing scheme in Down Ampney – integration of biodiversity net gain in accordance with the Environment Act 2021.</p>	<p>Continue to integrate biodiversity-friendly practices on Council owned-land and buildings.</p> <p>Deliver habitat creation, enhancement and restoration in line with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p>
j	Progress the Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan to maximise biodiversity and other opportunities in the area.	Cotswold Lakes Trust, in partnership with the Council, has begun updating several Habitat and Species Action Plans within the Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan to ensure they remain relevant, achievable, and	<p>Continue to work in partnership with the Cotswold Lakes Trust and other external stakeholders.</p> <p>Officer's will continue to attend the Cotswold Lakes Nature Conservation Forum to facilitate discussion to enable the implementation of the</p>



		aligned with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Habitat and Species Action Plans set out within the Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan.
k	Support and collaborate with our partnership organisations, including the partner organisations within the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership, such as the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, the Cotswolds National Landscape, the Woodland Trust, the Cotswold Lakes Trust, the National Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records.	<p>The Council continues to have a service level agreement with the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records.</p> <p>The Head of the Natural, Built and Historic Environment sits on Gloucestershire's Local Nature Partnership Board to represent Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>The Council and Habitat First Group work together to facilitate and coordinate nature conservation projects within Lower Mill Estate and on adjoining land that is connected to the Estate ecologically or hydrologically.</p> <p>The National Trust has secured funding twice from the Council's Cotswold Beechwoods SAC Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) fund, with a third bid currently under consideration.</p>	Officer's will continue to work collaboratively with external stakeholders to deliver meaningful ecological gains across the district.
l	Provide advice for local communities on how to incorporate biodiversity, green infrastructure and natural capital (ecosystem services) into their neighbourhood plans and other initiatives.	Chipping Campden, Moreton, Cirencester and Siddington Neighbourhood Development Plans are each at different stages of	Continued reactive support will be provided to Neighbourhood Development Plan groups.



		preparation and adoption. However, all of them include policies relating to biodiversity and green infrastructure.	
m	Progress the ongoing green infrastructure (GI) agenda by completing the draft Cotswold District Council GI strategy, ensuring high-quality, well-managed GI in new developments, contributing to the Local Plan review and neighbourhood plans, and providing inputs into the county GI strategy.	<p>Cotswold District Council's GI strategy (2023) was adopted by Cabinet in January 2024.</p> <p>Officers continue to promote the integration of the District GI strategy to incorporate high-quality, well managed GI in new development.</p> <p>The new Cotswold Design Code places a greater emphasis on GI, natural capital and biodiversity.</p>	Cotswold District Council's GI strategy (2023) will be reviewed and, where necessary, updated to support the Local Plan update.
n	Promote the creation of new natural green spaces and green links across the district.	The amended pre-application advice fee schedule now includes a bespoke biodiversity net gain service, enabling developers and applicants to engage directly with Biodiversity Officers. This ensures proposals meet the biodiversity gain objective while delivering meaningful ecological enhancements and robust green infrastructure.	The Local Plan update will include a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) strategy, allocating sites across the district to provide new natural green spaces that will help mitigate recreational impacts on the North Meadow (and Clattinger Farm) SAC and the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC.
o	Liaise with other partners to establish an ambitious biodiversity net gain system for Gloucestershire.	<p>Successfully collaborated with neighbouring authorities to embed biodiversity net gain into the planning system.</p> <p>Produced several guidance documents for developers and applicants which</p>	Continue to adapt the Council's approach to biodiversity net gain in response to any changes introduced by Government following the 2025 public consultation.



		<p>were adopted by neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Worked collaboratively to develop legal agreements to secure off-site and significant gains and monitoring fees.</p> <p>Worked collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and external stakeholders to deliver the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p>	<p>Champion the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and communicate its vital role in delivering biodiversity net gain.</p>
p	<p>Review how our natural environment can increasingly become a new part of the tourism offer of the Cotswolds.</p>	<p>A warden has been successfully funded through developer contributions collected by Cotswold District Council and neighbouring authorities to deliver Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) mitigation at the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC. Similarly, Cotswold District Council, working in partnership with Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council, has agreed to advertise a warden post to support SAMM delivery at the North Meadow SAC. Together, these roles help raise awareness and educate visitors about the importance and sensitivity of these internationally designated sites.</p> <p>The Council has provided funding to the National Trust to deliver Suitable</p>	<p>Continue to explore opportunities to integrate biodiversity and nature recovery in tourism projects.</p> <p>Continue to work with neighbouring authorities to deliver SANG mitigation for the North Meadow SAC and the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC.</p>



		<p>Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) mitigation at the Sherborne Estate, helping to reduce recreational pressures on the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC arising from new development.</p> <p>The Council supports car-free Cotswolds and has provided funding to enhance opportunities for car-free leisure travel and tourism.</p>	
q	<p>Consider the implications for the Council of the Environment Act 2021.</p>	<p>Biodiversity net gain monitoring fees have been revised to ensure full cost recovery.</p> <p>The Council's website was updated to provide guidance on the requirements for a legal agreement.</p> <p>The Council published its first Biodiversity Duty report, which outlines existing actions taken to support biodiversity, identifies new opportunities for the next reporting period, and summarises progress on biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Gloucestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy was approved by Gloucestershire County Council in January 2026, published in February</p>	<p>Adapt the Council's approach to biodiversity net gain in response to any changes introduced by Government following the 2025 public consultation.</p> <p>Prepare a Biodiversity Action Strategy detailing specific interventions to enhance biodiversity within the district, informed by the measures of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p>



COTSWOLD

District Council

		2026, and endorsed by Cotswold District Council in March 2026.	
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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Council currently operates the Strong Leader and Cabinet form of governance. The Council has appointed one Overview and Scrutiny Committee which has the power to investigate Cabinet decisions and any other matters relevant to the district and its people, making recommendations to the Council, Cabinet or any other Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council. Scrutiny has an important role in holding the Cabinet to account and in contributing to policy development. The Council has agreed an Executive Scrutiny Protocol to guide how Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will interact with each other.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee operates a work plan which is agreed annually but provides for flexibility to enable the Committee to respond to emerging issues or priorities. The work plan will include a mix of Cabinet reports that have been selected for pre-decision scrutiny, and reports on other Council services, topics or issues which have been specifically commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In setting and reviewing its work plan, Scrutiny will be mindful of the constraints of the organisation and will take advice from officers on prioritisation, which may be informed by the following considerations (TOPIC criteria):

Timeliness: Is it timely to consider this issue?

Organisational priority: Is it a Council priority?

Public Interest: Is it of significant public interest?

Influence: Can Scrutiny have meaningful influence?

Cost: Does it involve a high level of expenditure, income or savings?

Call in

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider any “call-in” of a decision that has been made but not yet implemented. This enables the Committee to consider whether the decision made is appropriate given all relevant information (but not because it would have made a

different decision). It may recommend that the Cabinet, a Portfolio Holder or the Council should reconsider the decision. (It should be noted that Cabinet does not have to change its decision following the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

Item	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer
Monday 13 April 2026		
Publica Business Plan 2026-28	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Frank Wilson, Managing Director (Publica) frank.wilson@publicagroup.uk
Financial Performance Report Q3 2025-26	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk
Service Performance Report Q3 2025-26	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst Alison.Borrett@publicagroup.uk
Ecological Emergency Update	Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Danielle Berry, Natural, Built and Historic Environment Manager Danielle.berry@cotswold.gov.uk
Monday 1 June 2026		
Planning Enforcement Report	Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning - Cllr Juliet Layton	Harrison Bowley, Head of Planning Services Harrison.Bowley@Cotswold.gov.uk
Asset Management Strategy	Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance	Alan Hope, Head of Strategic Housing, Property and Assets alan.hope@cotswold.gov.uk

Climate Emergency Update	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability - Cllr Mike McKeown	Olivia McGregor, Climate Change & Carbon Reduction Lead olivia.mcgregor@cotswold.gov.uk
Making the Cotswolds a Dementia Friendly district	Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience - Cllr Tony Dale	Joseph Walker, Head of Economic Development and Communities joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk
Monday 29 June 2026		
Financial Performance Report - Q4 2025/26	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk
Service Performance Report - Q4 2025/26	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst Alison.Borrett@publicagroup.uk
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2025/26	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer julia.gibson@cotswold.gov.uk
Monday 3 August 2026		
Local Plan	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning – Juliet Layton	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director - Planning Services geraldine.lecointe@cotswold.gov.uk
Monday 7 September 2026		

Council Performance Report - Q1 2026/27	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk
UBICO Update	Cabinet Member for Environment and Regulatory Services - Councillor Andrea Pellegram	Peta Johnson, Head of Waste and Environment peta.johnson@cotswold.gov.uk
Monday 12 October 2026		
LGR Update	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Jane Portman, Chief Executive Officer jane.portman@cotswold.gov.uk
Artificial Intelligence Update	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Digital - Councillor Mike McKeown	John Chorlton, Chief Technology Officer john.chorlton@publicagroup.uk
Monday 16 November 2026		
Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2026/2027	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk
Leisure Contract - Freedom Leisure	Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience - Cllr Tony Dale	Joseph Walker, Head of Economic Development and Communities joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk
Cotswold Community Safety Partnership Update	Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience - Cllr Tony Dale	Joseph Walker, Head of Economic Development and Communities joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk

Monday 11 January 2027		
Council Performance Report - Q2 2026/27	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk
LGR Update	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Jane Portman, Chief Executive Officer jane.portman@cotswold.gov.uk
Monday 8 February 2027		
Budget 2027/28, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk, David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer David.Stanley@cotswold.gov.uk
Monday 8 March 2027		
Dates to be confirmed		
Cost of Living Support	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Mandy Fathers, Business Manager for Environmental, Welfare and Revenue Service Mandy.Fathers@publicagroup.uk
Strategic Infrastructure Funding Update	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning – Juliet Layton	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director - Planning Services geraldine.lecointe@cotswold.gov.uk

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COTSWOLD
District Council

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN
INCORPORATING NOTICE OF DECISIONS PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE
SESSION AND NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE A KEY DECISION**

The Forward Plan

By virtue of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, local authorities are required to publish a notice setting out the key executive decisions that will be taken at least 28 days before such decisions are to be taken. The Regulations also require notice to be given of any matter where it is proposed that the public will be excluded during consideration of the matter.

This Forward Plan incorporates both of these requirements. In the interests of transparency, it also aims to include details of those items to be debated by the Cabinet that relate to either policy/budget formulation, matters which will be subject to a recommendation to the Council, and other matters due to be considered by the Cabinet. This programme covers a period of four months, and will be updated on a monthly basis. The timings of items may be subject to change.

It should be noted that although a date not less than 28 clear days after the date of the notice is given in each case, it is possible that matters may be rescheduled to a date which is different from that given provided, in the cases of key decisions and matters to be considered in private, that the 28 day notice has been given. In this regard, please note that agendas and reports for Meetings of the Cabinet are made available on the [Council's Web Site](#) – five working days in advance of the Meeting in question. Please also note that the agendas for Meetings of the Cabinet will also incorporate a necessary further notice which is required to be given in relation to matters likely to be considered with the public excluded.

There are circumstances where a key decision can be taken, or a matter may be considered in private, even though the 28 clear days' notice has not been given. If that happens, notice of the matter and the reasons will be published on the Council's Web Site, and available from the Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1PX.

Key Decisions

The Regulations define a key decision as an executive decision which is likely –

(a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or

(b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the authority.

In financial terms, the Council has decided that a key decision is any executive decision which requires a budget expenditure of £150,000 or more, or one which generates savings of £150,000 or more.

A key decision may only be made in accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules contained within the Council's Constitution.

Matters to Be Considered in Private

The great majority of matters considered by the Council's Cabinet are considered in 'open session' when the public have the right to attend.

However, some matters are considered with the public excluded. The public may only be excluded if a resolution is passed to exclude them. The grounds for exclusion are limited to situations where confidential or exempt information may be disclosed to the public if present and, in most cases involving exempt information, where in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The definitions of these are set out in the Council's Constitution.

Documents and Queries

Formal reports presented relating to any executive decision will be available on the Council's Web Site at least five working days in advance of the Meeting at which the decision is to be made (except insofar as they contain confidential and/or exempt information).

The Decision Notice for each key decision will be published as soon as reasonably practicable after it has been made. We will seek to do this within five working days of the date of the decision. The Decision Notice will be available for public inspection on the Council's Web Site, and at the Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1PX.

If you have any questions about the Forward Plan, or if you wish to make representations about any of the matters contained within it, please contact the Council's Democratic Services Team. The Democratic Services Team can also, on request, provide copies of, or extracts from, documents listed in the Plan and any which subsequently become available (subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure).

Contact Details:

Democratic Services, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1PX

E-mail: democratic@cotswold.gov.uk **Telephone:** 01285 623000 **Website:** www.cotswold.gov.uk

The Council's Executive Arrangements

The Council currently operates the Strong Leader and Cabinet form of governance.

By law, the Cabinet can comprise a Leader of the Council, together with up to nine other Members to be appointed by the Leader (one of whom has to be appointed as Deputy Leader). The Leader will be elected by the Council, for a four-year term; and the Deputy Leader appointment is also for a four-year term.

The Cabinet at Cotswold District Council currently comprises a Leader, a Deputy Leader, and six other Cabinet Members. The structure is as set out in the table below.

Executive decisions are taken either collectively by the Cabinet or individually by Cabinet Members.

The Cabinet meets nine times a year; whereas decision-making by individual Cabinet Members occurs on an 'as and when needed' basis.

Decisions of the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members are subject to scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Mike Every	Leader	Executive functions and corporate plan delivery; Local Government Reorganisation and devolution; Third sector and town and parish council liaison; Communications; Publica and UBICO; Diversity, inclusion and young people.
Juliet Layton (Deputy Leader)	Housing and Planning	Strategic housing; Homelessness and refugees; Forward planning the local plan and neighbourhood plans; Development management, heritage and conservation; Biodiversity emergency response; Member development.
Mike McKeown	Climate Change and Digital	Climate emergency response; Community energy and energy efficiency; Council sustainability and sustainable transport; Digital innovation, inclusion, and accessibility; Adoption and governance of AI technologies; Cybersecurity and data governance.
Patrick Coleman	Finance	Financial strategy and management; Property and assets; Revenues and benefits; Grant funding and Crowdfund Cotswold; Cost of living support.
Tony Dale	Health, Culture and Visitor Experience	Public health; Parking operations and public toilets; Leisure centres; Culture and museums; Tourism; Safeguarding and Community Safety Partnership.
Tristan Wilkinson	Economy and Council Transformation	Economic development; Council transformation; Business liaison; Flooding and sewage.
Andrea Pellegram	Environment and Regulatory Services	Waste and recycling; Environmental and regulatory services; Street cleaning; Public realm.

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exempti on Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
16 April 2026 - Cabinet							
Service Performance Report Q3 2025-26	No	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst Alison.Borrett@publicagroup.uk	Chief Executive Officer - Jane Portman
Financial Performance Report Q3 2025-26	No	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley
CDC Strategic Risk Register	No	Open	Audit and Governance Committee Cabinet	9 Apr 2026 16 Apr 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer David.Stanley@cotswold.gov.uk	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley
Discretionary Rate Relief policy	No	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Mandy Fathers, Business Manager for Environmental, Welfare and Revenue	Managing Director (Publica) - Frank Wilson

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
						Service Mandy.Fathers@publicagroup.uk	
Publica Business Plan 2026-28	Yes	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Frank Wilson, Managing Director (Publica) frank.wilson@publicagroup.uk	Chief Executive Officer - Jane Portman
Updated Publica Members Agreement and Services Agreement	Yes	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) Angela.Claridge@Cotswold.gov.uk	Chief Executive Officer - Jane Portman
Retention Strategy 2026-28	Yes	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) Angela.Claridge@Cotswold.gov.uk	Chief Executive Officer - Jane Portman

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
Advertising, Sponsorship & Endorsement Policy	No	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evemy	Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) (Angela.Claridge@Cotswold.gov.uk)	Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) - Angela Claridge
Artificial Intelligence Adoption Strategy	Yes	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Digital - Councillor Mike McKeown	John Chorlton, Chief Technology Officer (john.chorlton@publicagroup.uk)	Chief Executive Officer - Jane Portman
Creation of a Commercial Development Post	No	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience - Cllr Tony Dale	Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place (helen.martin@cotswold.gov.uk)	Chief Executive Officer - Jane Portman
UBICO Business Plan 2026-27	No	Open	Cabinet	16 Apr 2026	Cabinet Member for Environment and Regulatory Services - Councillor Andrea Pellegram	Peta Johnson, Head of Waste and Environment (peta.johnson@cotswold.gov.uk)	Director of Communities and Place - Helen Martin

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
20 May 2026 - Full Council							
Record of Attendance 2025/26	No	Open	Council	20 May 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer Nickie.Mackenzie-Daste@Cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) - Angela Claridge
Appointment of Committees 2026-27	No	Open	Council	20 May 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer Nickie.Mackenzie-Daste@Cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) - Angela Claridge
Outside Body Appointments 2026-27	No	Open	Council	20 May 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer Nickie.Mackenzie-Daste@Cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) - Angela Claridge

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
4 June 2026 - Cabinet							
Making the Cotswolds a Dementia Friendly district	No	Open	Council	17 Jun 2026	Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience - Cllr Tony Dale	Joseph Walker, Head of Economic Development and Communities joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Communities and Place - Helen Martin
2 July 2026 - Cabinet							
Service Performance Report - Q4 2025/26	No	Open	Cabinet	2 Jul 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Every	Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst Alison.Borrett@publicagroup.uk	Chief Executive Officer - Jane Portman
Financial Performance Report - Q4 2025/26	Yes	Open	Cabinet	2 Jul 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
Strategic Risk Register - Q4 2025/26	No	Open	Cabinet	2 Jul 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer David.Stanley@cotswold.gov.uk	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley
15 July 2026 - Full Council							
Treasury Management Outturn 2025/26	No	Open	Council	15 Jul 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2025/26	No	Open	Council	15 Jul 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer julia.gibson@cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) - Angela Claridge

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
6 August 2026 - Cabinet							
Local Plan	No	Open	Cabinet Council	6 Aug 2026 12 Aug 2026	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning – Juliet Layton	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director - Planning Services geraldine.lecointe@cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Communities and Place - Helen Martin
12 August 2026 - Full Council							
10 September 2026 - Cabinet							
Council Performance Report - Q1 2026/27	Yes	Open	Cabinet	10 Sep 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Every	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk	Chief Executive Officer - Jane Portman
23 September 2026 - Full Council							
15 October 2026 - Cabinet							

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
19 November 2026 - Cabinet							
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding Statement 2025/26	No	Open	Cabinet	19 Nov 2026	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning – Juliet Layton	Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place helen.martin@cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Communities and Place - Helen Martin
Council Tax Support Scheme 2027/28	No	Open	Cabinet	19 Nov 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Mandy Fathers, Business Manager for Environmental, Welfare and Revenue Service Mandy.Fathers@publiscagroup.uk	Executive Director Operations
25 November 2026 - Full Council							
Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2026/2027	No	Open	Council	25 Nov 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
Programme of Meetings 2027/28	No	Open	Council	25 Nov 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer Nickie.Mackenzie-Daste@Cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) - Angela Claridge
Members Allowances Scheme 2027/28	No	Open	Council	25 Nov 2026	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer Nickie.Mackenzie-Daste@Cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) - Angela Claridge
14 January 2027 - Cabinet							
Council Performance Report - Q2 2026/27	Yes	Open	Cabinet	14 Jan 2027	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk	Chief Executive Officer - Jane Portman

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
Fees and Charges 2027/28	Yes	Open	Cabinet	14 Jan 2027	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cots.wold.gov.uk	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley
20 January 2027 - Full Council							
11 February 2027 - Cabinet							
Budget 2027-28, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy	No	Open	Cabinet	11 Feb 2027	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cots.wold.gov.uk	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley
22 February 2027 - Full Council - Budget Council							
Budget 2027/28, Capital Programme and Medium Term	No	Open	Council	22 Feb 2027	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
Financial Strategy						michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk, David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer David.Stanley@cotswold.gov.uk	
Pay Policy Statement 2027	No	Open	Council	22 Feb 2027	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Carmel Togher carmel.togher@cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) - Angela Claridge
Council Tax 2027/28	No	Open	Council	22 Feb 2027	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk, David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer David.Stanley@cotswold.gov.uk	Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) - David Stanley

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
11 March 2027 - Cabinet							
17 March 2027 - Full Council							
26 May 2027 - Full Council - Annual Council							
Record of Attendance 2026/27	No	Open	Council	26 May 2027	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer Nickie.Mackenzie-Daste@Cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) - Angela Claridge
Appointments to Outside Bodies 2027/28	No	Open	Council	26 May 2027	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer Nickie.Mackenzie-Daste@Cotswold.gov.uk	Head of Democratic and Electoral Services - Andrew Brown
Appointment of Committees 2027/28	No	Open	Council	26 May 2027	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evey	Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Head of Democratic and Electoral Services - Andrew Brown

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
						Nickie.Mackenzie-Daste@Cotswold.gov.uk	
Report Dates yet to finalised							
Cotswold Business Solar	No	Open	Cabinet		Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Digital - Councillor Mike McKeown	Paul James, Economic Development Lead paul.james@cotswold.gov.uk , Olivia McGregor, Climate Change & Carbon Reduction Lead olivia.mcgregor@cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Communities and Place - Helen Martin
Cirencester Town Centre Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document Consultation	Yes	Open	Cabinet	Before 16 Apr 2026	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning – Juliet Layton	Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place helen.martin@cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Communities and Place - Helen Martin

Item for Decision	Key Decision (Yes/No)	Exemption Class	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Cabinet Member	Lead Officer/ Report Author	Accountable Officer
Cabinet Member delegated decisions							
Cabinet Member Decision Meeting (Neighbourhood Plans)	Yes		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning Decision Meeting	31 Mar 2026	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning – Juliet Layton	Mark Harrison, Senior Local & Neighbourhood Planning Policy Officer mark.harrison@cotswold.gov.uk	Director of Communities and Place - Helen Martin