

Cabinet
26/November2025



COTSWOLD
District Council

Minutes of a meeting of Cabinet held on Wednesday, 26 November 2025

Members present:

Mike Evemy (Leader)

Claire Bloomer

Patrick Coleman

Paul Hodgkinson

Mike McKeown

Andrea Pellegram

Officers present:

Andrew Brown, Head of Democratic and Electoral Services

Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer)

Jane Portman, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place

Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer

David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer

Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer

Observers:

Councillor Nikki Ind

165 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Juliet Layton and Councillor Tristan Wilkinson.

166 Declarations of Interest

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct, members who were also elected to Gloucestershire County Council or any Town or Parish Council ("double-hatted" members) could participate in the debate on matters relating to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposals, provided that they approached the discussion with an open mind. The Monitoring Officer also advised that prior expression of a view on LGR proposals did not automatically preclude participation, subject to the member remaining open to persuasion during the meeting.

Furthermore, members who had previously declared their membership of another local authority in their Register of Interests were not required to repeat this declaration at the Cabinet meeting.

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

167 Leader's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Leader.

168 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

169 Member Questions

There were no member questions.

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

The Leader gave some background to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendation and tabled the Chair's formal response.

It was noted that while the government had provided some funding to support councils to the current stage of the LGR process, implementation of LGR changes would be the responsibility of councils themselves, with no additional central funding. All costs would have to be covered by savings in other areas, with expenditure upfront and savings realised later.

The report considered by the Committee estimated Cotswold District Council's share at £2m. It was noted that this number was still subject to discussion with the other councils. The Deputy Chief Executive & Section 151 Officer had recommended prudently allocating this amount to cover the Council's share of reorganisation costs.

In response to the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it was confirmed that regular periodic updates would be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and decisions would remain open to scrutiny as usual. It was further noted that Councillor Patrick Coleman and the Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer, would consider the level of financial provisions to be allocated at budget time.

No further comments were raised by Members.

The formal response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendation was published online during the meeting.

171 Consideration of Local Government Reorganisation Submission

Councillor Mike Evemy, Leader of the Council introduced the item which was the consideration of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) submission.

It was noted that all Members had been present at Full Council, where the options for Local Government Reorganisation had been debated at length. Council had unanimously resolved in favour of requesting that Cabinet propose a single unitary authority for Gloucestershire, the only unanimous decision among the Gloucestershire councils, with the remaining councils reaching majority decisions.

The Leader thanked Cabinet colleagues and Council Members for their decision. It was noted that Council had requested that Cabinet propose the single unitary option in response to the Minister's invitation of 5 February 2025, and had further asked the Leader to send an accompanying letter setting out the reasons for the decision, based on the Full Council debate and Cabinet's discussion. Council had also requested that Cabinet and officers continue to prepare for LGR ahead of the expected government decision in June or July 2026.

Cabinet was required to determine its proposal. The Leader stated that, on balance, the single unitary option appeared to be in the best interests of the District and its residents. Reference was made to the Full Council debate, which had emphasised the resilience of services, the vulnerability of users of SEND and adult social care, the importance of financial sustainability, and the £10m difference in ongoing savings between the available options. Concerns had also been expressed regarding the long-term viability of a two-unitary split.

It was noted that Cabinet decisions were usually subject to a five-day call-in period by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; however, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed to support call-in being disapplied in this case.

Members were invited to comment. Councillor Coleman commended the careful, evidence-based approach taken throughout the process. Councillor Hodgkinson endorsed these remarks and expressed his support for the single unitary option, citing the Fire Service as a strong example of unified service delivery.

Councillor Evemy concluded by noting that significant work lay ahead, with increasing Member involvement required. He reported that four councils in the county supported the single unitary option, one supported the Greater Gloucester option, one supported the East/West split and one had expressed no preference. These three options would therefore go forward for consideration, after which the government would determine viability. Should the Greater Gloucester option be deemed viable, it would be considered; however, it was considered more likely that the single unitary and

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east/west options would proceed to consultation, with a decision expected from government in June or July 2026.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Mike Every and seconded by Councillor Paul Hodgkinson.

Vote:

6 For, 0 against, 0 Abstentions.

Proposal of a single unitary option for Gloucestershire (Resolution)

Cabinet RESOLVED to :		
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Propose the single unitary council option for Gloucestershire in response to the ministers invitation on 5 February 2025.2. Treat the decision as urgent under Part D6, paragraph 4.14 of the Constitution, and therefore dis-apply the call-in procedure, on the grounds that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would prejudice the Council's and the public's interests. | | |
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For	Claire Bloomer, Patrick Coleman, Mike Every, Paul Hodgkinson, Mike McKeown and Andrea Pellegram	6
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0

Carried

172 Next Meeting

The next Cabinet meeting was scheduled for 8 January 2026 at 6:00 pm.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 6.17 pm

(END)