

Public Document Pack



COTSWOLD
District Council

Tuesday, 7 July 2026

Tel: 01285 623181

e-mail: democratic@cotswold.gov.uk

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Wednesday, 15 July 2026 at 6.00 pm.**

Jane Portman
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

(Councillors Mark Harris, Ray Brassington, Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Naomi Bloomer, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Len Wilkins and Tristan Wilkinson)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1PX
Tel: 01285 623000 www.cotswold.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence. The quorum for Council is 9 members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered at the meeting.

3. **Minutes** (Pages 9 - 38)

Purpose

To confirm the minutes for the following two Council meetings:

1. 18 March 2026
2. 20 May 2026 (Annual Meeting)

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**

The Chair to declare the winners of the Unsung Heroes awards for July 2026.

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 15 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 5.00pm 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 9.30am 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 from Cllr Daryl Corps to Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Please confirm how much money is currently held in the Council's Planning Appeals Reserve, often described as the planning 'fighting fund'? How much of that sum is ring fenced specifically for defending planning appeals, and how much, if any, has been spent or committed since the fund was established?

Question from Cllr Gina Blomefield to Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) provides important additional funding for Town and Parish Councils and arises from statutory levies on new build housing and extensions to existing properties. If a Town or Parish has an existing Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) they receive 25% of the CIL amount with the rest going to the District Council funds and without a NDP they receive 15%.

With the prospect of a huge increase in new developments across Cotswold District this could provide a useful additional revenue stream for local infrastructure projects.

I understand that the criteria for CIL applications is being reviewed.

It would be helpful if Town and Parish Councils could be briefed on this so that

they can make plans in an organised way to spend their CIL money to best benefit their communities.

Can you give me an update on when the new CIL criteria will be published?

Question from Cllr Laura Hall-Wilson to Cllr Andrea Pellegram, Cabinet Member for Environment and Regulatory Services

While persuading residents to recycle more is a noble ambition, the overall waste a household produces is unlikely to go down.

With smaller black bins what increased provision will there be to hold recycling (i.e. replacing the white and blue bags).

Additionally in my ward almost fortnightly recycling is left because the truck is full before it has finished its round, again with an anticipated increase in materials to be recycled, what provision will there be in the fleet to accommodate the extra needed to be collected?

Question from Cllr Daryl Corps to Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Residents across the district raised serious concerns during the Local Plan consultation.

For transparency and openness for residents, can the administration provide any examples at this point of where public feedback has resulted in material changes to the emerging plan?

Question from Cllr Gina Blomefield to Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Housing associations play an important role in the Cotswolds providing social and affordable housing to residents.

Bromford is CDC's largest provider but there are a number of other smaller players. There is a deep concern that the supply is insufficient for the demand.

Can I have an update of the amount of new stock added to Cotswold District Council's affordable and social housing?

Please also provide the number of social housing units sold on by social housing associations on the open market?

Question from Cllr David Fowles to Cllr Andrea Pellagram, Cabinet Member for Environment and Regulatory Services

Prior to your appointment we expressed concern that following the removal of

waste bins in lay-bys across the Cotswolds, residents have complained, that contrary to the administration's view that if there were no bins, visitors and residents would take their waste home; the waste is being left behind in lay-bys.

Your administration undertook to do a review with Ubico, Please could you provide an update?

Question from Cllr David Fowles to Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

During the recent by election for Cirencester Park division, residents asked questions about plans to improve the town.

Please could you update me on the status of the Cirencester Town Centre master plan and the working group which was set up to drive the plan forward?

8. **Committee membership change**

The Leader of Council to report that Cllr Naomi Bloomer will replace Cllr Ian Watson on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

9. **Making the Cotswold District Dementia Friendly** (Pages 39 - 50)

Purpose

To update Council on progress and proposed actions to contribute towards the Council ambition to make the Cotswold District Dementia Friendly.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

1. Note the progress made since the Council motion in January 2026 and the evidence gathered through engagement with town and parish councils and officers.
2. Approve the proposed programme of dementia-friendly workstreams set out in this report.
3. Endorse continued partnership working with town and parish councils, health partners, the voluntary and community sector, and local dementia support organisations to take this work forward.
4. Request that progress report be shared with Overview and Scrutiny in approximately 12 months.

10. **Motion report - Food and Farming** (Pages 51 - 56)

Purpose

This report responds to the motion approved at Full Council on 18 March 2026 which requested an update on how food and farming would be incorporated into the development of the future operating model under Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

1. Note the opportunities for embedding food and farming as part of LGR in Gloucestershire.
2. Request the Gloucestershire LGR Joint Scrutiny Panel to consider how food and farming could be included as an active element within climate planning work for the new shadow authority or authorities.

11. **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2025/26** (Pages 57 - 90)

Purpose

To receive the annual report from Overview and Scrutiny for 2025/2026.

Recommendation

That Council notes the report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2025/26.

12. **Notice of Motion**

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

Motion 2026/004

Improving Maternity Services across Gloucestershire

Proposed by Cllr Laura Hall-Wilson

Seconded by Cllr Dilys Neil

Two reports have recently been published highlighting failures in maternity care in the UK, the Ockenden maternity review and the independent report led by Baroness Amos. The latter included findings and recommendations that specifically relate to Gloucestershire, highlighting the importance of sustained leadership and collaborative action to improve services and restore public confidence.

Safe, accessible and high-quality maternity services are essential for the health and wellbeing of women, babies and families across Gloucestershire.

Residents of the Cotswold District have experienced concern regarding the availability and resilience of maternity services within the county.

The continued limitations on services at Stroud Maternity Unit and for Home Births have reduced the range of birth choices available to families in the Cotswold District and increased pressure on other maternity units across Gloucestershire.

While responsibility for commissioning and delivering maternity services rests primarily with the NHS, local authorities have an important leadership, convening and scrutiny role in championing the interests of residents and supporting

improvements to public health.

That Full Council resolves to:

- 1 **Agree** that every family should have access to safe, high-quality maternity care and genuine choice over where and how they give birth to improve outcomes for mothers and babies both during labour and postpartum. Restoring confidence in maternity services requires strong partnership working between local government, the NHS and other stakeholders therefore Cotswold District Council should use its influence to ensure that the concerns of residents are clearly communicated to those responsible for planning and delivering maternity services.
- 2 **Request** that the Leader meet with the Cabinet Member who leads on Health at Gloucestershire County Council at the earliest opportunity to discuss the current challenges facing maternity services across Gloucestershire and to seek agreement on how both councils can work together to advocate for improvements to maternity provision, including:
 - the restoration and development of services at Stroud Maternity Unit;
 - action to address workforce shortages, particularly the recruitment and retention of midwives needed to provide safe and reliable home birth services; and
 - implementation of the recommendations relevant to Gloucestershire arising from the recent report led by Baroness Amos.
- 3 **Write** jointly, where appropriate, to NHS Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Integrated Care Board and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, setting out the concerns of local authorities and seeking clear plans and timescales for improving maternity services.
- 4 **Report** back to Full Council on the outcome of these discussions and any actions agreed to support improvements in maternity services for the residents of Gloucestershire.

13. **Next meeting**

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Council will be held on 12 August 2026 at 6pm to consider the Local Plan.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held on 23 September 2026 at 6pm.

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Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 18 March 2026

Members present:

Mark Harris (Chair)	Ray Brassington (Vice-Chair)	
Claire Bloomer	Laura Hall-Wilson	Andrea Pellegram
Nick Bridges	Joe Harris	Tony Slater
Patrick Coleman	Paul Hodgkinson	Lisa Spivey
Daryl Corps	Angus Jenkinson	Tom Stowe
David Cunningham	Julia Judd	Jeremy Theyer
Tony Dale	Juliet Layton	Craig Thurling
Paul Evans	Helene Mansilla	Clare Turner
Mike Evemy	Mike McKeown	Ian Watson
David Fowles	Dilys Neill	Len Wilkins

Officers present:

Jane Portman, Chief Executive Officer	Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Andrew Brown, Head of Democratic and Electoral Services	Tyler Jardine, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer
Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer)	Matt Abbott, Head of Communications
Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer	Emma Cathcart, Head of Service, Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit

84 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Gina Blomefield, Councillor Nikki Ind, Councillor Michael Vann, Councillor Jon Wareing and Councillor Tristan Wilkinson.

85 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made by Members in relation to any items on the agenda.

86 Minutes

Council considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 February2026.

Councillor Every proposed the approval of the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Stowe, put to the vote and agreed by Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Full Council 23 February 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Voting record:

23 For, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions.

Councillor Daryl Corps and Councillor Jeremy Theyer did not vote.

To APPROVE the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 February2026 (Resolution)		
RESOLVED that the minutes of Full Council 23 February 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.		
For	Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Every, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	23
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	David Cunningham, Paul Evans and Andrea Pellegram	3
Carried		

87 Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive

The Chair welcomed the newly elected Councillor for The Beeches, Councillor Paul Evans, and congratulated him on securing over 50 per cent of the vote, expressing confidence in his future contribution to the Council.

The Chair also extended congratulations to Emma Cathcart, Assistant Director of the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit, on being awarded Female Pioneer of the Year at the Public Sector Counter Fraud Awards, in recognition of her outstanding leadership and innovation in local government.

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The Chair also recognised the achievement of Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place, who had been named one of the Women of Influence for 2026 by the Royal Town Planning Institute's official magazine, acknowledging her significant impact within the planning profession and her leadership in shaping inclusive, resilient and vibrant communities. Members joined in congratulating her on this well-deserved recognition.

The Chair reported having recently attended as a judge at the ORACY Primary Schools public speaking competition ("Look Who's Talking"), a county-wide initiative supporting the development of oracy skills among primary-aged children, and noted the high standard of participation and the wide range of topics presented.

Best wishes were extended by the Chair to Kira Thompson of the Democratic Services and Elections Team on the occasion of her maternity leave.

The Chair advised that the Council was currently advertising for the post of Head of Democratic and Electoral Services. Members were reminded that Andrew Brown had been undertaking the role on a shared basis with West Oxfordshire District Council, which had indicated its intention to retain him on a full-time basis. It was anticipated that transitional support during the recruitment period would be provided, with arrangements to be finalised.

As this was likely to be the final meeting at which Andrew Brown would be present in this capacity, the Chair invited Members to place on record their sincere thanks and appreciation for his valuable contribution and service.

The Chair then invited the Leader of the Council to make any announcements.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Every, reported that he had five brief updates for Members.

He congratulated Councillor Paul Evans on his electoral victory, noting that the Council's administration had increased its representation to 22 members, the largest it had been, and expressed his satisfaction at the continued vote of confidence in the administration.

The Leader provided an update on local government reorganisation, noting ongoing work led by the Chief Executive and regular meetings of council leaders. He encouraged Members and residents to participate in the Government consultation on proposals for the future structure of local government in Gloucestershire, ahead of the closing date of 26 March. He also advised that two identical all-member briefing sessions on LGR would be held on 14 and 17 April 2026.

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The Leader referred to a recent Government announcement regarding a £27 million support scheme for lower-income households reliant on heating oil, to be delivered through a new Crisis and Resilience Fund from 1 August 2026. He noted that, as a rural district, the area was likely to have a higher proportion of affected residents. Funding would be allocated to upper-tier authorities, with Gloucestershire County Council responsible for distribution, and local officers would work collaboratively to support delivery, although further detail was awaited.

The Leader provided an update on the Local Plan, advising that a summary of consultation responses—comprising over 3,500 individual comments from more than 2,000 respondents—was due to be published imminently.

Finally, the Leader updated Members on discussions regarding devolution and the Government's proposals for "foundation strategic authorities." He noted that Gloucestershire leaders, supported by their Chief Executives, had been considering available options following correspondence from Government. He expressed his support, and that of his administration, for the approach led by Gloucestershire County Council to pursue membership of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) as a long-term objective, alongside the submission of an expression of interest for a county-wide foundation strategic authority.

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive Officer.

88 Unsung Heroes Awards

The Chair announced the Unsung Heroes Awards in the over 25 category for March 2026.

Rachel and Arthur Cunynghame were jointly recognised for their many years of dedicated and largely unrecognised voluntary service in the Chipping Campden area. Working in partnership, they were commended for providing vital support within a rural community where access to services could be limited, and for the significant and positive impact of their commitment and generosity.

Jayne Davies was recognised for her outstanding contribution to the community through her voluntary work supporting vulnerable young people, including mentoring and involvement in wellbeing initiatives. She was further commended for her creativity and dedication in raising funds to support these services, and for her selfless approach and commitment to helping others.

Tony King was recognised for his exceptional voluntary service as a First Responder and for his leadership of the Cirencester group. His willingness to respond to call-outs across Gloucestershire and Swindon at all hours, providing reassurance and potentially

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life-saving assistance, was acknowledged. It was noted that he was unable to attend the meeting and would receive his award by post.

At the conclusion of the item, the Chair invited those recipients in attendance to come forward to receive their certificates and lapel badges.

89 Public Questions

The Chair asked for any public questions and Ms Mary Cobbett was invited to address the Council to follow up on questions raised at the previous meeting. She expressed her appreciation for the support provided by Democratic Services and reiterated her concern regarding pensioners living solely on the state pension who may be adversely affected by recent financial changes, including increased tax liabilities and reductions in benefits. She emphasised the importance of identifying and supporting this group, particularly those not in receipt of Pension Credit, and highlighted the potential impact on their financial circumstances. Reference was also made to wider national concerns regarding similar households and the need for appropriate targeting of support schemes.

Ms Cobbett asked the following questions:

1. The number of pensioners in the Cotswold District who are living on the state pension and currently receiving Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction.
2. The number of people in the District in receipt of state pension and whether the Council was writing to these residents to advise them to contact the Council upon receipt of updated tax bills, in order that their benefits could be reassessed and adjusted where appropriate.

In response to the concerns raised by Ms Cobbett, the Leader, Councillor Mike Every acknowledged the concerns regarding pensioners living solely on state pensions and their eligibility for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction. He emphasised that the LIFT programme would continue to support eligible residents and that officers would take urgent steps to prioritise communications and ensure residents were informed

A letter providing a full response to Ms Cobbett's questions confirming these actions would be issued by the Leader once the information had been compiled and the process finalised.

90 Member Questions

Councillor Claire Bloomer arrived at 2.25 pm.

Councillors' written questions, written responses, supplementary questions and supplementary responses can be found in Annex A attached.

91 Constitution Working Group recommendations

The purpose of the report was to present recommendations from the Constitution Working Group arising from meetings on 7 October 2025 and 13 February 2026 regarding: disclosable interests; Standards Hearing Sub-Committee procedure rules; and committee membership.

The Leader, Councillor Mike Every, introduced the item and advised that the Constitution Working Group had presented three recommendations to Council.

1. The Group proposed strengthening the planning protocol regarding disclosure of interests, with the suggested amendments set out in Annex A.
2. The Group also recommended that improvements to the operation of standards hearings were carried out, reflecting lessons learned from the recent hearing in November, as detailed in Annex B.
3. The Group also recommended amending the constitution to allow both the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council to serve on the Planning and Licensing Committee simultaneously, noting that the previous restriction appeared historical and unnecessary.

Councillor Every asked Council to consider and approve the recommendations of the Constitution Working Group.

The Chair asked whether there were any questions for clarity.

Councillor Len Wilkins sought clarification on the process for multiple complainants speaking at standards hearings, referring to the procedure outlined at section 3.3 (page 49) of the papers, which stated that complainants should consolidate their concerns through a single speaker.

The Monitoring Officer, Angela Claridge, explained that for any future hearings, arrangements would be made in advance to identify the nominated speaker(s) and to clarify the questions to be raised. This process was intended to ensure that multiple complainants could coordinate their representation and avoid the issues experienced at the November hearing.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor David Fowles who expressed support for the changes proposed.

There was no debate on the matter.

The proposer, Councillor Mike Every was invited to sum up, but felt the matter had been adequately covered.

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The Chair then moved to the vote on the resolution which was proposed by Councillor Mike Every and seconded by Councillor David Fowles.

Voting record:

27 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Did not vote Councillor Angus Jenkinson and Councillor Nick Bridges.

To APPROVE the Constitution Working Group recommendations (Resolution)

Council RESOLVED 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.

For	Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	27
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

92 Review of political proportionalities on committees

The purpose of the report was to review political proportionality following the outcome of two recent by-elections and the ensuing change in the political balance of the Council. Following the by-elections in The Rissingtons and The Beeches wards the Liberal Democrat Group now had 22 members, and the Leader had requested a review of the political proportionalities on committee to reflect this.

The Leader, Councillor Mike Every, introduced the report, supported by Annex A, which set out the revised proportionality and explained the allocation methodology. It was noted that the Council operated five committees: Overview and Scrutiny, Planning and Licensing, Audit and Governance, Performance and Appointments, and Appeals.

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Officers had recalculated allocations based on the updated composition; the Council now comprised two political groups, Liberal Democrat and Conservative, with two non-aligned members. Councillor Mike Every proposed the recommendations to Council and confirmed that one of the non-aligned members, Councillor Claire Turner, would continue on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the second non-aligned member, Councillor Nikki Ind would join the Planning and Licensing Committee, having previously sat on the Performance and Appointments Committee

The following members were nominated to vacant committee seats:

- Audit and Governance Committee: Councillor Craig Thurling;
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Paul Evans (replacing Councillor Nick Bridges);
- Performance and Appointments Committee: Councillor Tony Dale;
- Appeals Committee: Councillor Mark Harris (replacing Councillor Tony Dale).

There were no questions for clarity

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton who had nothing further to add.

There was no debate on the matter.

The Chair invited Councillor Every to sum up.

Councillor Every clarified that the proposal included two changes as well as two proposals to fill existing vacant seats on Committees.

The Chair then moved to the vote on the resolution which was proposed by Councillor Mike Every and seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton.

Voting record:

28 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Councillor Julia Judd did not vote.

To AGREE political proportionalities and appoint to vacant seats on committees (Resolution)		
Council RESOLVED 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		
For	Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Angus Jenkinson, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy	28

	Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

93 Appointment of Independent Members to the Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor Helene Mansilla, Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, introduced the item and provided an overview of the report, explaining that the item concerned the appointment of independent members to the Audit and Governance Committee. It was noted that two independent members had been in place since September 2020–23 and that their external expertise had strengthened the Committee’s oversight over financial and non-financial matters. Councillor Mansilla acknowledged the recent resignation of John Chesshire, recording thanks for his contribution, and proposed the appointment of Nick Craxton as his replacement. Councillor Mansilla also proposed extending the tenure of the other independent member, Christopher Bass, until 31 March 2028, aligning with the abolition of the Cotswold District Council.

The Chair invited questions for clarity. Members raised queries regarding the experience of Nick Craxton and the processes followed during the recruitment exercise. Members noted that while Mr Craxton had previously been involved in independent panels, further details on his suitability for the Audit and Governance Committee could be provided. Clarification was also sought on whether independent members had opportunities to meet collectively for support and guidance. Angela Claridge confirmed that there was a thorough recruitment process and provided information on existing collaborative support structures for independent members.

The Chair then sought a seconder for the proposal. Councillor Len Wilkins seconded the proposal and spoke in support, noting confidence in Nick Craxton’s suitability based on prior engagement.

The Chair moved to the debate. During the debate, members expressed general support for the recommendation while highlighting the importance of future opportunities to engage directly with candidates. No objections to the proposal were raised, and there was no extended debate.

The Chair invited the proposer, Councillor Helene Mansilla, to sum up. Councillor Mansilla reaffirmed the recommendations and thanked members for their comments.

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The Chair then moved to the vote on the resolution, which was proposed by Councillor Helene Mansilla and seconded by Councillor Len Wilkins.

Voting record:

28 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention.

To APPROVE the appointment of Independent Members to the Audit and Governance Committee (Resolution)

Council RESOLVED 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.

For	Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	28
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Jeremy Theyer	1
Carried		

94 Community Governance Review

Councillor Mike Every, Leader of the Council, introduced the item, reminding members that Council had agreed to undertake a community governance review in November in response to requests from a number of parish and town councils. He explained that the report before members summarised the consultation outcomes, feedback from ward members, and recommendations for council decisions.

Councillor Every outlined the recommendations:

- Cirencester and Preston/Siddington boundaries – No changes were proposed. While differences of opinion existed between Cirencester Town Council and the relevant parish councils, consultation responses indicated that residents in the affected areas preferred to remain in their current parishes. The report concluded that boundary changes at this time were premature, noting pending strategic developments.

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- Cutsdean Parish Council – The proposal to become a parish meeting was supported, with the change scheduled to take effect no later than 1 October 2026.
- Fairford Town Council – The request to increase councillor numbers was supported.
- Moreton-in-Marsh – No boundary changes were proposed, as any adjustment was considered premature.
- Southrop Parish Council – The proposal to increase councillor numbers was supported.
- Tetbury Town Council – The proposal to establish wards was supported by the town council and reflected the majority consultation preference.

The Chair invited questions for clarity. Councillor Len Wilkins sought confirmation on whether the Cutsdean changes could take effect sooner due to operational challenges. Councillor Every confirmed awareness of the October 2026 timeline, and that the change would come into effect no later than the 1st of October 2026 once all the legal requirements had been put in place. Councillor David Fowles commented on the active role of Southrop Parish Council and sought clarification regarding the loss of precept powers when a parish council becomes a parish meeting, the loss of precept was confirmed by officers. Councillor Patrick Coleman raised a query regarding population versus electorate numbers for Fairford and Southrop, which officers agreed to clarify post-meeting. Councillor Laura Hall-Wilson requested a good communications approach to ensure residents understood the changes, which Councillor Every confirmed would be coordinated with Tetbury Town Council and officers.

Several members expressed views during the debate:

Councillor Joe Harris emphasised the long-standing resident preference for Siddington residents to remain within their parish, reflecting community pride.

Councillor Ian Watson and Councillor Laura Hall-Wilson supported clear communications for affected residents, particularly in Tetbury.

Councillor Patrick Coleman and Councillor Helene Mansilla endorsed the recommendations for Fairford and Moreton-in-Marsh, noting alignment with council guidance on size and representation.

Councillor Paul Evans welcomed the decision to respect residents' wishes in Siddington and requested clarification of consultation responses, which Councillor Every provided in the summing-up.

Councillor Juliet Layton seconded the proposal, expressing support for residents' views in Siddington.

At the Chair's invitation, Councillor Mike Every summed up, confirming that 90 consultation responses had been received regarding Siddington, with the majority expressing a desire to remain in Siddington. He noted that Fairford and Moreton-in-

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Marsh had declined warding proposals, while Tetbury's warding arrangement was supported for better local representation. The recommendations regarding the status quo for Cirencester, Preston, and Siddington, as well as other proposed changes, were confirmed as appropriate.

The Chair moved to the vote on the resolution, which was proposed by Councillor Mike Every and seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton.

Voting Record:

29 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

To APPROVE the recommendations of the Community Governance Review: (Resolution)

Council RESOLVED 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.

For	Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	29
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0

Carried

95 Change to Full Council meeting date

Councillor Mike Every introduced the item and explained that the proposal was to change the date of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting from 17 June to 12 August at 6:00 pm. He advised that this change was requested to allow additional time for officers to complete work on the Local Plan following the Regulation 18 consultation, which had received over 2,000 responses and approximately 200 new site submissions. Councillor Every emphasised that the additional time would enable officers to prepare a robust plan for Regulation 19 consultation and for submission to the Planning

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Inspectorate, with the aim of achieving a sound Local Plan by 2027. He acknowledged the inconvenience of an August meeting but stressed the importance of ensuring the plan was robust and deliverable within statutory timeframes.

Councillor Mark Harris, in the Chair, asked whether the date change was requested by officers. Councillor Evely confirmed that officers had advised the Council that additional time was needed to give the Local Plan the best chance of being found sound, and that the proposed date change would accommodate this without impacting the overall consultation timeline.

The Chair asked if there were any further questions for clarity. There were no additional questions.

The Chair sought a seconder for the proposal. Councillor Juliet Layton seconded the proposal and reserved the right to speak.

The Chair moved to the debate, no debate ensued.

Councillor Layton, who had reserved her right to speak then spoke in support of the recommendations, emphasising the need to follow officers' advice and ensure the Local Plan was robust for Regulation 19 consultation and subsequent inspection. Councillor Layton highlighted the importance of giving officers sufficient time to meet deadlines and ensure the plan contained all necessary material for consultation and inspection.

The Chair invited the proposer, Councillor Mike Evely, to sum up. Councillor Evely reiterated that the proposed date change was intended to give officers sufficient time to prepare the plan, maximise the chances of it being found sound, and ensure timely consultation and submission to the Planning Inspectorate before Christmas. Councillor Evely also noted that the proposed August meeting would still allow the Regulation 19 consultation to commence in the summer and run into September and October, providing ample opportunity for public engagement.

The Chair then moved to the vote on the resolution, which was proposed by Councillor Mike Evely and seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton.

Voting record:

28 For, 1 Against, 0 Abstentions.

To APPROVE a change to the June 17 Full Council meeting date (Resolution)		
Council RESOLVED to:		
1. Agree to move the date of 17 June 2026 Full Council meeting to 12 August 2026, at 6.00 pm.		
For	Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Daryl	28

	Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Evemy, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	
Against	Joe Harris	1
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

96 Notice of Motions

The Chair invited Councillor Angus Jenkinson to speak. Councillor Jenkinson proposed the motion on climate and ecological transformation in the Cotswold District and noted that the motion addressed serious and critical issues while remaining modest in scope, asking the Council to do what it could within its remit. Councillor Jenkinson highlighted that the Council had previously declared climate and ecological emergencies and emphasised the importance of considering these issues as the district moved towards a unitary authority structure.

He referred to a recent government report, released under the Freedom of Information Act, which indicated that all ecosystems in the UK were on a trajectory toward failure. He stressed that agriculture and farming were central to addressing climate, ecological, and food security challenges and that the Council had an opportunity to support a resilient local food system. Councillor Jenkinson concluded his introduction by noting the rural nature of the district and the significance of the issues, urging the Council to consider actions that could make a meaningful difference locally and globally.

The motion requested that the Chief Executive explore practical measures the Council could take to support sustainable food and farming practices, strengthen short supply chains, and contribute to ecological transformation within the district.

The Chair moved to the debate. Councillor Juliet Layton noted that the district council had limited powers over farming practices and highlighted wider challenges in nature recovery and sustainable agriculture. She questioned the potential influence of a new unitary authority under local government reorganisation (LGR) on these issues, noting constraints such as the lack of local abattoirs and historical government policies that favoured intensive farming.

Councillor Angus Jenkinson responded that while statutory powers were limited, the Council could leverage convening and influence to support sustainable farming. He

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cited examples from advisory groups, catchment partnerships, and initiatives in Wales demonstrating the impact of coordinated action on food sourcing and health outcomes. He also emphasised the importance of cultural change and the wider food chain in achieving sustainable outcomes.

Councillor Claire Bloomer suggested closer collaboration with town and parish councils, which manage allotments and local food projects, to engage communities in sustainable practices. Councillor Laura Hall-Wilson queried the level of consultation with farmers and farming organisations in preparing the motion. Councillor Jenkinson explained that the motion was informed by broad engagement with advisory groups, DEFRA, catchment partnerships, and conferences, reflecting widespread farmer perspectives.

Other members raised points on historical and regenerative farming practices, with Councillor Jenkinson noting correspondence with MPs and party leadership to advocate for greater recognition of food and farming in policy.

Councillor Mike McKeown spoke as seconder of the motion and noted that the Council had focused on supporting residents and businesses in reducing emissions through measures such as energy retrofitting, solar installation, and EV charging infrastructure. He emphasised that similar support should be extended to the agricultural sector, highlighting the importance of including food and farming in the planning of the new unitary authority under Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Councillor Mike McKeown stated that climate action required ongoing attention and that coordinated support could help farmers overcome economic and practical challenges. He cited a local example where the Council had collaborated with landowners and developers to address flooding, demonstrating the Council's ability to achieve practical outcomes. Councillor McKeown concluded that the motion aimed to ensure farmers and landowners were engaged, that the LGR programme included food and farming as a key track, and that collaboration with organisations such as Climate Leadership Gloucestershire would support effective implementation.

During the debate, members expressed broad support for the motion while noting that the council's role was primarily one of facilitation and influence, rather than direct delivery of farming initiatives. Several councillors highlighted that, although agriculture was not a statutory responsibility, the Council could act under the general power of competence to support local farmers, champion sustainable practices, and influence wider climate and ecological outcomes.

Members referenced the Council's previous initiatives in energy retrofitting, electric vehicle infrastructure, and community engagement as examples of how local action could achieve meaningful impact, emphasising that similar approaches could be extended to the agricultural sector. Councillors also noted the economic and

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environmental challenges facing farmers, including changing markets, climate impacts, and the need for access to advice, support, and collaborative opportunities.

Some speakers cautioned that competing priorities and the ongoing local government reorganisation presented practical constraints, and stressed the importance of early planning, engagement with farmers, landowners, and academic experts, and collaboration with organisations such as Climate Leadership Gloucestershire to ensure effective implementation. It was noted that embedding food and farming within climate and ecological strategies could support public health, food security, local economic resilience, and sustainable land use, and that the creation of a new unitary authority presented a unique opportunity to plan for these issues strategically.

The debate concluded with agreement that the motion would help ensure food and farming were considered in the planning and future operations of the new council, with clarity on leadership, priorities, and potential partners, while engaging the local farming community in shaping decisions that affect them.

The Chair invited Councillor Jenkinson to sum up.

In summing up, the proposer thanked members for their support and acknowledged the contribution of farmers and local stakeholders who had informed the motion. Councillor Jenkinson highlighted the potential of agriculture to mitigate climate change, including natural flood management, soil carbon capture, and improving food and health outcomes, noting the urgency of embedding these considerations into the planning of the new unitary authority. He also emphasised that the motion sought to use the Council's existing powers and competencies to influence outcomes and engage partners effectively. The proposer concluded by urging members to support the motion, stressing that timely action could make a meaningful difference for the local community, the agricultural sector, and the wider environment.

The Chair then moved to the vote on the motion proposed by Councillor Angus Jenkinson and seconded by Councillor Mike McKeown.

Voting record:

20 For, 0 Against, 6 Abstentions.

Councillor David Cunningham, Councillor Julia Judd and Councillor Len Wilkins did not vote.

To APPROVE the recommendations of the Climate and Ecological Transformation in the Cotswold District and Gloucestershire Motion (Motion)
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 RESOLVED 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).

For	Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Angus Jenkinson, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Lisa Spivey, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner and Ian Watson	20
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Daryl Corps, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Tony Slater, Tom Stowe and Jeremy Theyer	6
Carried		

97 Next meeting

The next meeting of Full Council was confirmed as being on Monday 20 May at 6:00 pm. It was noted that this would be Annual Council.

The Meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 4.46 pm

(END)

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Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 20 May 2026

Members present:

Mark Harris (Chair)	Ray Brassington (Vice-Chair)	
Gina Blomefield	Paul Hodgkinson	Tom Stowe
Claire Bloomer	Nikki Ind	Jeremy Theyer
Nick Bridges	Angus Jenkinson	Craig Thurling
Patrick Coleman	Julia Judd	Clare Turner
David Cunningham	Juliet Layton	Michael Vann
Tony Dale	Mike McKeown	Ian Watson
Paul Evans	Dilys Neill	Len Wilkins
Mike Evemy	Andrea Pellegram	Tristan Wilkinson
David Fowles	Tony Slater	
Joe Harris	Lisa Spivey	

Officers present:

Jane Portman, Chief Executive Officer	Tyler Jardine, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer)	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer
Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer	Kirsty Winters, Communications Officer
Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer	

98 Election of a Chair

Councillor Mark Harris opened the meeting and then stood down for the first item on the agenda. Councillor Ray Brassington welcomed councillors, members of the public present, and those watching online. He introduced the first item of business, being the election of the Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2026/27, and called for nominations.

Councillor Juliet Layton stood to nominate Councillor Mark Harris for a second term, commenting on his excellent chairing over the past twelve months.

Councillor Tony Dale seconded the nomination.

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There were no further nominations for the position of Chair of Council, so the nomination was put to a vote and agreed by Council.

Voting Record

30 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

Having been elected, Councillor Harris signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair. The Proper Officer witnessed the signature.

Councillor Harris expressed his gratitude for the honour of being re-elected Chair of Council and affirmed his commitment to the role.

To APPOINT Councillor Mark Harris as Chair of Council (Resolution)		
RESOLVED: That Councillor Mark Harris be appointed as Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2026/27		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every, David Fowles, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	30
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

99 Appointment of a Vice-Chair

The Chair presided over the appointment of a Vice-Chair of Council and nominated Councillor Ray Brassington for the position.

The Chair called for a seconder. Councillor Paul Evans stood to second the nomination of Councillor Ray Brassington as Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic year 2026/27.

There were no further nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of Council.

The nomination was put to a vote and agreed by Council.

Voting record:

29 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Councillor Craig Thurling did not vote.

Having been elected Councillor Brassington signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chair. The Proper Officer witnessed the signature.

To APPOINT Councillor Ray Brassington as Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2026/27 (Resolution)		
RESOLVED that Councillor Ray Brassington be appointed as Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2026/27.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every, David Fowles, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	29
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

100 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Helene Mansilla, Councillor Jon Wareing, Councillor Daryl Corps and Councillor Laura Hall-Wilson.

101 Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive

The Chair invited Councillor David Fowles to speak. Councillor Fowles stood to thank officers and members for their good wishes and messages of support following his recent accident, stating that these had sustained him during his stay in the Acute Assessment Unit at Great Western Hospital.

Councillor Fowles confirmed that he was recovering well and, after making a light-hearted remark about his appearance, reiterated his sincere gratitude for the kindness and support he had received.

The Chair then invited Councillor Joe Harris to speak.

Councillor Harris stood to thank colleagues for their support during a recent Code of Conduct investigation arising from a Counter Fraud report, noting that no wrongdoing had been found. He welcomed the apology received from the Chief Executive and commented on the personal impact the matter and related social media speculation

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had had on both himself and his family. He also suggested that consideration be given to strengthening pastoral support for councillors facing high-profile allegations.

The member informed Council that this would be his final meeting at Cotswold District Council following his decision to take up a new role. He paid tribute to Council officers for their dedication and hard work during recent challenges, including the pandemic; cost of living crisis; energy crisis and Brexit, and thanked councillor colleagues from across the political spectrum for their support, challenge and collaboration over the years.

He reflected on his time serving on the Council, including ten years as Leader of his group and six years as Council Leader, and expressed pride in having encouraged others into public service. He concluded by stating that serving the Council had been an honour and thanked members and officers for their support throughout his political career.

The Chair then invited other Councillors to speak. Members paid tribute to Councillor Joe Harris on the occasion of his departure from the Council. It was noted that he had first become involved in local politics at a young age and had subsequently built a long and distinguished record of public service.

Members highlighted his leadership of the Council, his campaigning ability, and his commitment to key priorities including housing, climate action, and service improvement. His work during the COVID-19 pandemic, including efforts to maintain public communication and engagement, was particularly recognised.

Councillors across all groups acknowledged his visibility and energy in public life, his contribution at district, county, and national level as well as through the LGA, and his ability to engage with residents and colleagues alike. His mentoring of new councillors and support for colleagues at the start of their political careers was also noted.

While acknowledging that political debate with him could be robust, members expressed respect for his dedication and commitment to public service. Several members thanked him personally for his support and wished him well for the future, and his new career, recognising the significant contribution he had made to the Council and the wider community.

Chairs Announcements:

The Chair then moved to his announcements and also paid tribute to Councillor Joe Harris, stating that he was very proud of his contribution and legacy. He noted that Councillor Harris had made a significant impact on the political landscape in the Cotswolds, contributing to increased political engagement and changes in local representation over a number of election cycles.

The Chair observed that under his leadership the Liberal Democrat Group had grown substantially in representation and had led the Council for two terms, and described this as a key part of his legacy in changing local politics. He further noted that Councillor Harris was leaving public office at a point of success in his political career and commended the manner of his departure.

The Chair concluded by wishing him every success in his new career.

As part of his announcements the Chair commented on his future involvement with an operator of a leisure-based activity in the Cotswold Water Park. He stated that he had previously worked with the operator for approximately 10 years in a marketing and advisory capacity, and that this engagement might in due course relate to planning applications before the Council concerning the regularisation and potential expansion of existing facilities.

He confirmed that he was not a director, shareholder, or office holder in the organisation, and that no planning applications or pre-application submissions had yet been made. The Chair then advised that he had discussed the matter with the Monitoring Officer and the Director of Planning and had agreed a protocol for future engagement to ensure there was no unfair advantage arising from his position as a Councillor. He emphasised that he was making the declaration in the interests of transparency.

The Chair then reminded Members that, with effect from 11 May 2026, the Local Government Pension Scheme would be available to eligible elected Members in England under the age of 75. He noted that details had been circulated and were available on the Member portal.

A planning training session for all Members on Wednesday 3 June at 2.00 pm was also highlighted. Members were encouraged to attend regardless of previous attendance, including both Planning Committee Members and those not serving on the Committee, in order to ensure a sufficient pool of trained Members for any necessary substitutions. The importance of attendance was emphasised, and Members were reminded of the significance of planning matters within their wards.

The Leader was then invited to speak.

Leaders Announcements:

The Leader advised Members of a government consultation recently issued in relation to proposed local government structural changes. It was reported that a meeting of Gloucestershire leaders had taken place, attended by Councillor Wilkinson on behalf of the Leader and Councillor Spivey, Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, together with officials from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Members were informed that a draft Structural Changes Order had been issued for comment, providing for the abolition of existing councils and the creation of new unitary arrangements. The deadline for responses had been set as 16 June, and concern was noted regarding the limited timescale and the fact that this preceded the Government's final decision on the preferred model for Gloucestershire.

It was reported that each of the seven councils had been asked to respond to 10 questions covering the three options submitted.

The Leader confirmed that, following discussions with the Chief Executive and fellow leaders, a report would be brought to Cabinet on 4 June to agree the Council's

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response. It was noted that this was an executive consultation and that the final decision rested with Government.

Members would be invited to submit comments, and further information, including the consultation document, would be circulated. It was also noted that discussions were ongoing between Gloucestershire leaders and Chief Executives to explore areas of common ground, including governance matters such as naming conventions and returning officer arrangements.

Members were advised of the anticipated timetable, including a Government decision ahead of the parliamentary recess, and potential legislation the following year, with implications for implementation and elections. Consideration was also being given to referring the matter to Overview and Scrutiny prior to Cabinet.

The Leader concluded by paying tribute to Councillor Joe Harris. He reflected on first meeting him in 2010 and campaigning alongside him in 2011, noting his early political involvement, including becoming Mayor of Cirencester at the age of 20 and later serving as Group Leader. Councillor Joe Harris's role in strengthening the Group's electoral position and supporting the formation and leadership of the administration from 2019, as well as his earlier work in opposition during challenging electoral periods was noted.

The Leader noted his strategic leadership, including development of the Council's corporate priorities and contributions to wider local government work, including at the LGA. He thanked Councillor Joe Harris for his leadership, support, and service, and wished him well for the future.

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive.

102 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest from Members present.

103 Announcement of the Leader on Cabinet Appointments

The Leader presented the updated Cabinet portfolio responsibilities, noting that the document had been circulated as part of Agenda Item 6.

The Leader formally congratulated Councillor Evans on his appointment to the Cabinet, as Cabinet Member for Health and Communities. His portfolio included public health, safeguarding, and community safety partnership functions previously overseen by Councillor Tony Dale, as well as liaison with the voluntary and third sector, previously held by the Leader. It was also noted that Councillor Evans would take lead responsibility for work relating to young people and older people, including the Council's response to dementia-friendly communities, it was confirmed that a report on this work was expected to be brought to the July Council meeting.

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Members were advised of minor associated portfolio adjustments, including a change in title for Councillor Dale to Cabinet member for Leisure, Culture and Visitor Experience. The Leader concluded by thanking councillors for their support and looked forward to working with members and officers to enhance the district.

RESOLVED: Full Council NOTED the appointments of the Cabinet portfolio holders.

104 Appointment to Committees 2026-27

The Leader, Councillor Mike Every introduced the item on committee nominations and working groups, referring Members to Annex B.

It was reported that the Council was required to review committee memberships annually and that Annex A set out the political balance calculations. Members were reminded that political balance arrangements had been agreed at the previous meeting in March 2026 and remained unchanged; accordingly, the existing committee allocations were carried forward for the new civic year.

Councillor Mike Every, proposed the nominations as set out in Annex B on an en bloc basis, the nominations were seconded by Councillor Tom Stowe.

There being no questions or objections, the Chair moved to the vote.

Voting record:

30 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

To AGREE appointments to Council committees and working groups for the Civic Year 2026/27 and to make appointments to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of Committees for the Civic Year 2026/27 (Resolution)

Full Council RESOLVED to:

1. DETERMINE that, in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act"), the Council shall continue to apply the political balance provisions under the Act to committees as shown in Annex A;
2. APPOINT Councillors to serve on the Council's Committees and working groups as set out in Annex B for a term of office expiring at the next Annual Meeting of the Council;
3. APPOINT Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the Council's Committees and working groups as shown in Annex B;
4. NOTE the arrangements for substitutions set out in part 4 of the report;

For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every,	30
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	David Fowles, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

105 Record of Attendance 2025/26

The Leader, Councillor Mike Every introduced the report on member attendance for the civic year 2025/26 highlighting that the report was to note.

A query was raised regarding the recording of attendance for Members acting as substitutes on committees, suggesting that such attendance should be recorded as attendance as a substitute member rather than as an observer, in order to better reflect Members' contributions.

Officers clarified that Members attending as substitutes were recorded as having attended the meeting as a committee member, while the "observer" category referred to Members attending in a non-voting capacity, often in connection with portfolio responsibilities or committee liaison roles. It was noted that substitute attendance was therefore already reflected within the attendance figures.

It was further noted the distinction between substitute Members, who were entitled to vote, and observers, who were not.

The Chair further highlighted that attendance records related specifically to meetings of Cotswold District Council.

RESOLVED: Full Council NOTED the Record of Attendance 2025/26 report.

106 Appointments to Outside Bodies 2026-27

The Leader introduced the report on appointments to outside bodies and scrutiny committees.

It was proposed that Councillor Angus Jenkinson continue as the Council's representative on the Gloucestershire County Council Economic Strategy Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Dilys Neill continue on the Gloucestershire County Council

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Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Conservative Group nominated Councillor David Fowles as substitute member for both committees.

Members were also advised of the establishment of the Gloucestershire Local Government Reorganisation Joint Scrutiny Panel, comprising two representatives from each Gloucestershire authority to scrutinise work relating to local government reorganisation. Councillor Angus Jenkinson was nominated as the administration representative and Councillor Gina Bloomfield was nominated as the Conservative Group representative.

The Leader also referred Members to the executive appointments to outside bodies set out in Annex A, Table 2.

The resolution was proposed by Councillor Mike Every and seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton.

The Chair then moved to the vote on the recommendations of the Outside Bodies report.

Voting record:

30 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

To AGREE nominations to outside bodies for the Civic Year 2026/27 (Resolution)		
Council RESOLVED to:		
1. CONFIRM the appointments to the Gloucestershire County Council Economic Strategy Scrutiny Committee and the Gloucestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Annex A Table 1. 2. NOTE the appointments to outside bodies by the Leader of the Council in respect of executive functions, as set out in Annex A Table 2;		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Every, David Fowles, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	30
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

107 Notice of Motions

Councillor Paul Hodgkinson was invited to propose Motion 2026/003: Protecting our Cotswolds Hospitals.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Hodgkinson highlighted the importance of community hospitals across the Cotswolds, including facilities in Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Fairford and Tetbury. He stated that local hospitals provided essential healthcare services close to home, including rehabilitation, outpatient services, diagnostics, and minor injury provision, while also reducing pressure on larger acute hospitals.

Councillor Hodgkinson expressed concern regarding the gradual reduction of services within community hospitals and noted that residents were increasingly sceptical of assurances that service reductions described as “temporary” would later be restored. He stressed the importance of transparency, accountability, and meaningful consultation where changes to local healthcare provision were proposed. He further noted the importance of local healthcare services within a rural district with an ageing population and planned housing growth, and referred to significant public support for protecting local hospitals.

During the debate, Members from across the Chamber spoke in support of the motion and made the following points:

- Community hospitals played a vital role in supporting elderly and vulnerable residents, particularly those requiring rehabilitation or treatment closer to home.
- Minor Injury Units and local outpatient services were highly valued by residents and often provided quicker and more accessible treatment than larger acute hospitals.
- Local hospitals had played a significant role during the COVID-19 pandemic, including acting as vaccination centres and supporting wider community healthcare provision.
- Rural healthcare provision was particularly important given transport challenges within the Cotswolds and the increasing demand arising from an ageing population and planned housing growth.
- Members expressed concern regarding the long-term reduction and centralisation of healthcare services and the impact this could have on local communities.
- It was noted that stronger community healthcare and social care provision could help reduce pressure on larger hospitals and improve patient outcomes.
- Members also recognised the important contribution made by NHS staff, volunteers, and community organisations supporting local healthcare services.

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Councillor Claire Bloomer seconded the motion, expressing strong support. She highlighted the importance of community hospitals in providing accessible healthcare in rural areas, reducing pressure on larger hospitals, and supporting local communities. She also noted the impact of reduced services over time and the challenges faced by residents travelling longer distances for treatment due to limited public transport provision.

In summing up, Councillor Hodgkinson thanked Members for their support and reflected on positive experiences reported by residents of local hospitals and staff. He reiterated the importance of protecting community hospitals and ensuring that any temporary service reductions did not become permanent by default. He welcomed the suggestion of members that, when writing to NHS England, the Leader should seek clarity on the definition of "temporary", including an appropriate timeframe, to prevent the term being applied too loosely or without clear limitation. Concerns were expressed that measures described as temporary could otherwise become effectively permanent in the absence of proper review or accountability. He welcomed the cross-party support for the motion and urged Members to support it unanimously.

The Chair then moved to the vote on the motion proposed by Councillor Hodgkinson and seconded by Councillor Bloomer.

Voting record:

29 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Councillor David Cunningham did not vote having left the Chamber at 7.03pm.

Motion 2026/003 Protecting our Cotswolds hospitals (Motion)

Full Council RESOLVED to:

1. REQUEST that the Leader of the Council write formally to Gloucestershire's NHS to seek assurances regarding the long-term future and sustainability local community hospital facilities emphasising that all temporary withdrawals of services should be just that - temporary, not permanent and to advocate for maximum utilisation of local community hospital facilities;
2. AGREE the vital role played by rural community hospitals in Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Fairford and Tetbury in providing accessible healthcare to residents of the Cotswolds.

For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Paul Evans, Mike Evemy, David Fowles, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	29
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Council
20/May2026

Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

108 Next meeting

The next meeting of Full Council was confirmed as being on Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 6:00 pm

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 7.25 pm



COTSWOLD
District Council

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	COUNCIL 15 JULY 2026
Subject	MAKING COTSWOLD A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY DISTRICT
Wards affected	All wards
Accountable member	Councillor Paul Evans Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Email: Paul.Evans@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Helen Martin Director of Communities and Place Email: Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Joseph Walker Head of Economic Development and Communities Email: Joseph.Walker@Cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To update Council on progress and proposed actions to contribute towards the Council ambition to make Cotswold District dementia friendly
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	That Council resolves to: 1. Note the progress made since the Council motion in January 2026 and the evidence gathered through engagement with town and parish councils and officers. 2. Approve the proposed programme of dementia-friendly workstreams set out in this report. 3. Endorse continued partnership working with town and parish councils, health partners, the voluntary and community sector, and local dementia support organisations to take this work forward.



	4. Request that a further update be brought back to Council in approximately 12 months setting out progress, emerging opportunities and any resource implications requiring future decisions.
Corporate priorities	• Delivering Good Services • Supporting Communities
Key Decision	YES
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Engagement with Town and Parish Councils through the Forum meetings in May.



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** At its meeting in January, Council considered a motion to make Cotswold District dementia friendly. The Council requested that a report be brought back for its consideration in six months exploring how this action might be realised, with a particular ask that it reflects the opportunity to work with town and parish councils.
- 1.2** This report provides an overview of the scale of dementia across Cotswold District, recognising the breadth of existing support and the commitment of local activists, and sets out a coordinated programme to build awareness and strengthen local action. It proposes a practical and ambitious approach for the district council, town and parish councils, and wider community partners to play their part in making Cotswold a more dementia-friendly district.
- 1.3** This report sets out in brief a picture of the incidence of dementia in Cotswold District. It recognises the tapestry of support and the endeavour of local activists, and sets out a proposal to increase awareness within local government – both the district council and town and parish councils – and within the wider Cotswold community.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Dementia is an umbrella term for a range of conditions affecting memory, thinking, communication and daily life, and it can affect people of different ages and backgrounds. It is more prevalent in older age cohorts, but is not a 'natural' function of aging, and is not limited to older people, with a range of circumstances and conditions that can lead to earlier onset dementia.
- 2.2** Dementia is a major and growing issue in the UK, with just under 1 million people currently living with the condition, and affecting approximately 1 in 14 people aged over 65. Diagnosis rates are improving but a significant proportion remain undetected, meaning real demand exceeds recorded figures. National projections used by the NHS indicate a 40–45% increase to around 1.4 million people by 2040**, creating sustained pressure on health, care, and community services.
- 2.3** In Gloucestershire, this trend is intensified by an older population and faster growth in the highest-risk age groups. Local modelling used by the One Gloucestershire ICS estimates that around 9,900 people aged 65+ were living with dementia in 2020, rising to around 13,400 by 2030, an increase of approximately 35%. Cotswold is particularly affected because of its age profile, with an estimated 2,000–2,200 residents currently living with dementia. The same modelling indicates this could rise to around 3,000–3,300 by 2040, representing roughly 1,000 additional cases over 15 years. This will place increasing pressure on carers, community services and local



infrastructure, and strengthens the case for coordinated action now to expand both formal and informal support within communities.

- 2.4** In Gloucestershire, this trend is amplified by an older population and faster growth in the highest risk age groups. Local modelling used by the One Gloucestershire ICS estimates around 9,900 people aged 65+ were living with dementia in 2020, rising to circa 13,400 by 2030 (an increase of approximately 35%). Cotswold is particularly affected due to its age profile, with in the region 2,000–2,200 residents currently living with dementia. The same modelled would suggest an increase to in the region of 3,000–3,300 by 2040, roughly 1,000 additional cases over 15 years. Clearly, this places a significant pressure on carers, community services, and local infrastructure, and reinforces the case for strengthening the formal and informal support that can be provided within the community.
- 2.5** This challenge is reflected in the Gloucestershire ICS programme around Neighbourhood Health, which aims to help people live independently for longer by shifting care closer to home, focusing on prevention, and integrating health, social care and voluntary sector support. The programme recognises that rising demand from older populations and people with complex conditions cannot be met sustainably through traditional service models alone, and that population health management and early intervention must play a central role. By mobilising local partners and strengthening community capacity, the Council is aligning strongly with this strategic direction and is well placed to secure the support of system partners.
- 2.6** Communities and activists across the district are already responding to this situation. There are numerous groups support people living with dementia and their carers, including memory cafes and singing groups, volunteer drivers, and a wide range of drop-in sessions. The Churn, Cotswold Friends, Tetbury Area Youth and Community Trust and Age Uk recently launched their 'Age Friendly Cotswolds' programme, which will be a vital pillar of support for older residents, including those with dementia. Within the parish sector, there are fantastic examples of excellent practice to introduce dementia friendly practices. This baseline of activity is something to be truly proud of, and to celebrate through any discussion, and something we can look to build upon, to try to respond to the increasing incidence of dementia.

3. MAIN POINTS

- 3.1** The town and parish council forums in May created an early opportunity to introduce the Council's ambition to local councils and begin shaping a shared approach. Attendees received an introductory presentation and were briefed on the Council's January decision. The sessions were also used to test confidence in signposting support, understand the values that should underpin this work, gauge appetite to



participate and gather ideas to inform delivery. This provided useful evidence for the Council's planning and opened an early invitation to partner in the next phase of work.

- 3.2** To provide a simple and visual indicator of the thoughts in the room, an on-line tool, 'Slido' was used. 31 individuals used the tool across the two forums, from 19 parishes, from across the district.
- 3.3** Attendees were asked: 'If a friend or neighbour asked you about the support available for people living with dementia, would you feel confident responding?' Across the two events, 29% of respondents said yes, which may reflect the profile of some of the strong services already operating in the district. 53% answered no, showing clear scope for a focused programme to raise awareness and strengthen confidence in signposting people to support.
- 3.4** The same question was asked of Council staff. Because signposting is already a familiar part of many roles, confidence levels were higher, but responses also showed that staff would welcome stronger knowledge of local provision in order to support residents more effectively.
- 3.5** When asked what support services they knew of for people living with dementia or their carers, parish attendees described a rich and varied network across the district, including specialist services, broader community support groups and community institutions such as local churches. This suggests that strong local assets already exist, but that awareness of the full picture is uneven. The Council therefore has a clear role in connecting, promoting and strengthening this local ecosystem of support.
- 3.6** Attendees were also asked to describe what a dementia-friendly community would look like. The most frequent response at both Cirencester and Moreton was 'caring', followed by 'understanding', 'supportive' and 'patient'. Staff responses echoed the same themes. While these findings are not surprising, they are important: they show that a dementia-friendly district is not defined only by specialist provision, but by everyday behaviours, welcoming places and informed communities. This reinforces the case for the Council to focus not only on services, but on building inclusive communities with towns and parishes across the district.
- 3.7** Parishes were also asked whether they would support the Council's ambition, and the response was strongly positive: 90% said yes and 10% were unsure. This provides a strong foundation for collaborative delivery.
- 3.8** Making the Cotswold District dementia friendly requires a broad and coordinated programme of activity that establishes the Council as both a leader and an enabler of dementia-friendly practice across the district. The proposed approach is built around five interconnected workstreams—training, awareness, engagement, mapping,



service improvement, and funding and facilitation—which together will strengthen internal capability, build public understanding and create a stronger evidence base for future decisions. The programme is designed to deliver visible early progress while building the foundations for long-term and sustainable improvement.

4. Training

- 4.1** The training workstream focuses on building knowledge, confidence and consistency among staff and elected members. Initial activity centres on rolling out Level 1 dementia awareness training to all staff, supported by all-staff briefings, with scope to extend access to Members as the programme develops. This training will be delivered through the existing corporate training budget via the on-line platform, positioning dementia awareness alongside other core organisational requirements such as safeguarding and health and safety. This approach will ensure that all staff develop a baseline understanding and are better equipped to apply that knowledge in customer interactions. A universal training offer also sends a strong message of commitment and strengthens the Council's credibility in working with partners.
- 4.2** A more advanced Level 2 offer is proposed for service champions to embed expertise within teams. This additional awareness and expertise is crucial to empower colleagues to review service processes and consider any existing barriers to customers living with dementia. As above, this will be delivered within the existing training budget.

5. Awareness

- 5.1** The awareness workstream seeks to raise the profile of dementia support and position the council as an advocate, using communications channels such as corporate messaging, the website and the Cotswold Community Network. This is complemented by proposals for wider engagement activity, including events featuring experts and lived experience voices.
- 5.2** Members will be aware that the Council issued a press release following the motion in January, supported by further social media activity and an item in Cotswold News in April. This communications activity is a core part of the wider programme to build community awareness. It gives the Council a practical route to educate residents, promote the strong work of local partners, encourage people to access support and inspire others to contribute through volunteering or charitable giving.
- 5.3** The Council can now extend the reach of this messaging by encouraging town and parish councils, and other local partners, to share content through their own networks and publications. Attendees at the forum specifically suggested that the



Council provide ready-to-use communications materials, creating a straightforward and immediate opportunity to build district-wide momentum.

6. Engagement

6.1 Alongside awareness raising and training, the Council can deepen local knowledge and give greater visibility to partners by creating a platform for them to explain their work directly. The Council is well placed to host events that bring together local experts, lived experience voices, district councillors, town and parish councillors, staff and other interested parties. Attendees at the May forums expressed clear interest in this approach. Practical, accessible learning of this kind will strengthen staff understanding and improve knowledge of local provision. The recommended starting point is a programme of webinar-based 'lunch and learn' sessions that can also be recorded, making participation as easy and inclusive as possible. Building on this experience, officers recommend working with local partners to explore the option of a local conference. Tentatively, this would take place in early summer 2027, to increase public awareness and knowledge, but also to reflect on progress and next steps.

6.2 Mapping.

6.3 Officers propose a workstream to build a clear and comprehensive understanding of existing activity across the district and identify gaps. This will involve gathering intelligence from town and parish councils and community networks, alongside benchmarking against established models such as the Forest of Dean. Through current partnership work, officers across services already hold useful knowledge of provision within their own remits, but this work will give Cabinet a fuller district-wide picture of current provision, capacity and opportunity. This evidence-led approach will ensure that future decisions are shaped by a realistic understanding of local strengths and needs.

6.4 This exercise will work in tandem with the awareness programme. Building a comprehensive picture of activity will depend on town and parish councils, and the local voluntary and community sector, sharing their knowledge of local provision. In doing so, the Council will not only gather better intelligence but also actively strengthen the partnerships needed to take this work forward.

7. Service improvement

7.1 From the autumn, following completion of Stage 1 dementia training, colleagues will be invited to review services and identify any unintended barriers that may affect residents living with dementia. The Council can lead by example through practical



and visible improvements to services and facilities, including dementia-friendly audits of premises and early changes such as clearer signage and more accessible environments. These practical early actions will demonstrate organisational commitment, improve the day-to-day experience of residents and encourage partners and communities to adopt similar approaches across the district.

- 7.2** This programme also creates a platform for longer-term innovation. The Association for Dementia Studies at the University of Worcester has opened discussions with the Council on its dementia-friendly environmental self-assessment tool, including work on access to green space. In Cotswold, where amenity green space largely sits within the town and parish council tier, the Council's emerging partnership approach places the district in a strong position to help shape and test this work in practice. This could position Cotswold as an early exemplar nationally, while also giving the Council and its partners access to specialist expertise to better understand and improve this important aspect of dementia-friendly place-making.

8. Funding and facilitation

- 8.1** As the town and parish council forums demonstrated, there is already real appetite to support this agenda. One barrier is knowledge, which this programme is designed to address, but there is also a significant opportunity in turning that appetite into collective action. There may also be practical barriers to community-led initiative. Through Crowdfund Cotswold, the Council already has a strong mechanism for helping to address financial barriers to activity. The existing criteria of the scheme are broad enough to support a wide range of community initiatives, as reflected in the diversity of projects it has already backed. Within that framework, the Council should consider running a targeted campaign to encourage projects that support people living with dementia and their carers, helping more proposals to come forward.
- 8.2** The Council also supports community action through practical advice, facilitation and signposting. The Community Wellbeing Team already works with a range of community providers to connect them to external funding, helpful partners and other sources of support. The Council also supports GRCC to provide organisational development support, including for community buildings that form part of the infrastructure underpinning much of this work.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 9.1** The Council declared an aim in January to work towards making the Cotswold District dementia friendly, working with the district's town and parish councils. This requires a partnership approach, as set out in the report. The Council could take a more prescriptive approach, but delivery will be subject to the appetite of parish partners. A clear ask from the



conversations at the town and parish council forums was that the Council is mindful of the existing infrastructure and partnership working, and that it takes care to support this.

10. CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1** The approach outlined above outlines a deliverable approach to increasing awareness and understanding of dementia, and catalyses well-informed action. It seeks to work in close partnership with town and parish councils, recognising their connection with residents and local provision. It looks to use the district's strengths convening a local conversation and using its media reach, but seeks to avoid creating reliance on the district council with a mind to local government reorganisation.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1** As outlined, the programme is deliverable within existing resources, but will take significant time and effort from colleagues across the organisation. The additional training requirement will be serviced from within the current budget. The media work will be delivered by the Communications team, working closely with colleagues in Community Wellbeing to build links with local partners and develop media products.
- 11.2** Any service improvements that have financial implications will need to be identified by the relevant services, and either effected in the existing budget or considered as additional investment.
- 11.3** As noted above, Crowdfund Cotswold is an existing and already budgeted for community grant scheme. Should a targeted campaign be agreed, and further projects come forward, the Council may need to prioritise how it allocates grant in further rounds.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1** There is no legal requirement for the Council to undertake this work. That being said, dementia is captured by Equalities legislation, with disability being a protected characteristic. By increasing awareness and training, and reflecting on service design, the Council may identify hitherto unidentified reasonable adjustments that can be made to enhance service access.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 13.1** With a focus on training and awareness raising, there is limited direct risk to the Council. Given the focus on partnership working, it should also be noted that there should not be a transfer of risk to parish or town councils either. Better awareness around access to services by a distinct group of services users should instead reduce service friction and potentially offset the risk of challenge.



13.2 With any public profile activity, a clear risk may be reputational. The engagement so far suggested clear support for the Council's ambition, so it is hard to conceive that this workstream presents significant reputational risk.

14. EQUALITIES IMPACT

14.1 This report articulates the Council's ambition and programme to support a vulnerable group of residents, but does not seek to do this in any exclusionary fashion. People living with dementia benefit from protection under the disability characteristic, and there is a strong connection across to age, given the increased prevalence in older age groups.

14.2 Importantly, the behaviour and physical adjustments that would benefit people living with dementia are also likely to be beneficial to others. Encouraging front line staff and residents to develop their soft skills to support those living with dementia could also benefit those with sensory impairments, for example.

15. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are likely to be very limited climate change or ecological implications from the work envisaged by this report.

15.2 Developing a better service engagement with people living with dementia, their carers and local support organisations may encourage residents otherwise facing barriers to engage with services like energy efficiency programmes, and public transport, so on balance, it may be reasonable to think there would be a minor benefit. It is difficult to imagine that this work could have negative climate change or ecological outcomes.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None identified

(END)



COTSWOLD
District Council

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	COUNCIL 15 JULY 2026
Subject	FOOD AND FARMING MOTION REPORT
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Mike Every, Leader of the Council Email: mike.every@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Jane Portman, Chief Executive Officer Email: jane.portman@Cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place Email: helen.martin@Cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	This report responds to the motion approved at Full Council on 18 March 2026 which requested an update on how food and farming would be incorporated into the development of the future operating model under Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	That Council resolves to: 1. Note the opportunities for embedding food and farming as part of LGR in Gloucestershire. 2. Request the Gloucestershire LGR Joint Scrutiny Panel to consider how food and farming could be included as an active element within climate planning work for the new shadow authority or authorities.
Corporate priorities	• Delivering good services • Responding to the climate emergency • Supporting communities • Supporting the economy



Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	As this report does not introduce new policy or budget commitments, wider public consultation has not been required.



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** On 18 March 2026, the Council resolved to seek formal recognition of food and farming within LGR climate planning and to report back on governance, priorities and partnerships.
- 1.2** The Cotswold District and wider Gloucestershire have a high proportion of agricultural land. There are a substantial number of farm enterprises transitioning towards regenerative and climate-resilient practices. Agriculture is central to climate mitigation, biodiversity recovery and food resilience.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** National and international assessments have highlighted escalating risks to ecosystems, biodiversity and food systems, and emphasised the role of agriculture in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and supporting ecological recovery.
- 2.2** Gloucestershire County Council is currently developing a Food and Farming Strategy which will be aligned to the Local Growth Plan.
- 2.3** LGR presents a structural opportunity to embed food and farming within climate leadership, spatial planning, economic development and public health functions of the new unitary council or councils.

3. GOVERNANCE AND OWNERSHIP

- 3.1** How the Council responds to the challenges facing the food and farming community should be part of a wider picture, including LGR and the regional position.
- 3.2** A Gloucestershire-wide Joint Scrutiny Panel has recently been established to consider the LGR programme. Each Council (six districts and county) has nominated two non-executive members to sit on the panel. This is one means by which it can be further developed.
- 3.3** The Cotswold District Council members are the chair and vice-chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Gina Bloomfield and Cllr Angus Jenkinson (who is the Councillor for Regenerative Agriculture and Ecology).
- 3.4** The panel is well-placed to look at the potential for local agriculture to contribute positively to climate and ecological recovery. It provides an opportunity to consider this at a county level alongside the regional context. It can engage with key stakeholders such as the National Farmers Union, local enterprise and rural business



networks, academic and research institutions and community food partnerships along with the Environment Agency and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

3.5 Cotswold District Council officers will be liaising with Gloucestershire County Council officers as they develop the Food and Farming Strategy. Although this is work in progress it is likely that it explore areas such as:

- Developing skills career pathways
- Supporting and promoting wellbeing
- Importance of place and communities
- Balancing nature and climate change
- Driving innovation and exploring opportunities
- Implications for LGR and collaboration with bordering counties

3.6 Consideration will be given to how food and farming fits into the national policy framework. The current emphasis in the Modern Industrial Strategy being around 'AgriTech' as a Frontier Technology and understanding how our capabilities in this sector could be supported and developed.

3.7 The indicative timeline for 2026 is as follows:

- June: Scoping Review
- July: Stakeholder engagement in July (which will include engagement with the Agri-Food and Rural Business Group)
- August: drafting of Strategy
- September – Consultation and Scrutiny
- October – Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 The Council resolution on food and farming could be referred to the successor unitary council or councils without consideration by the LGR Joint Scrutiny Panel. With limited resources available due to local government reorganisation, this may mean that it is not given sufficient weight in developing future priorities.

4.2 The recommended approach provides a Gloucestershire-wide approach and allows key stakeholders to provide views on how food and farming can be aligned with



climate, biodiversity and resilience in the new operating model for the new unitary council or councils.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1** Food and farming are central to delivering climate mitigation, biodiversity recovery and food resilience in Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds.
- 5.2** The LGR Joint Scrutiny Panel is ideally placed to consider how this should be taken forward by the new unitary council or councils.
- 5.3** Whilst the recommendations of the panel are not binding on the new unitary council or councils, it can add significant value by providing a body of evidence to support future priorities.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1** If the approach suggested is not followed, opportunities for working with partners in developing future priorities for the new unitary council or councils may be missed.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 9.1** The proposals are strategic and organisational in nature and do not adversely impact protected groups.

10. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1** The approach supports the Council's climate and ecological emergency declarations.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1** None identified

(END)

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COTSWOLD
District Council

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – 1 JUNE 2026 COUNCIL - 15 JULY 2026
Subject	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026
Wards affected	None
Accountable member	Councillor Gina Blomefield, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Email: gina.blomefield@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Angela Claridge, Monitoring Officer Email: angela.claridge@cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer Email: julia.gibson@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To receive the annual report of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Annexes	Annex A – Executive Scrutiny Protocol (Part E10 of the Constitution) Annex B – Recommendations to Cabinet 2025/26 Annex C – Current Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Recommendation(s)	That the Committee resolves to: 1. Approve the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2025/26 for submission to full Council.
Corporate priorities	• Delivering Good Services • Responding to the Climate Emergency • Delivering Housing • Supporting Communities • Supporting the Economy
Key Decision	NO



COTSWOLD
District Council

Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Director of Governance, Executive Director - Corporate Services (Publica), Cotswold Management Team



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** An annual report may be submitted to Full Council to demonstrate the impact of Overview and Scrutiny and the effectiveness of the Executive Scrutiny Protocol under Part E10 (point 10.3) of the Constitution.
- 1.2** The Council therefore is asked to note the report for the previous civic year and the future work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** A Corporate Peer Challenge Report published in October 2022 highlighted differing views regarding the effectiveness of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function. The report welcomed the requirement for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be an opposition member as a mature constitutional change that provided a strong foundation. The report also noted that the Leader and Cabinet were clear that they wished to be held to account by the Overview and Scrutiny process.
- 2.2** Following the Peer Challenge report, the Council has refocused the role of Overview and Scrutiny on holding Cabinet to account and contributing to policy development on behalf of the local community.
- 2.3** The Council under the Cabinet and Leader model now has an effective Overview and Scrutiny Committee which provides pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet decisions and contributes to the development of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. The Committee is also empowered to consider other issues that affect the district or its people.
- 2.4** Decisions to be taken by Cabinet are (subject to urgency rules) published on the Forward Plan for a minimum of 28 days in line with the statutory provisions of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. This includes Key Officer Decisions, delegated by Cabinet. For completeness, Council decisions are also included on the Forward Plan.
- 2.5** The Committee of 10 Members, chaired by an opposition Member, provides oversight of the work of the Cabinet and will question Cabinet Members about proposals within their portfolio responsibilities.



- 2.6** Council in November 2022 adopted the Executive Scrutiny Protocol which sets out the relationship between the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive (Cabinet).
- 2.7** The protocol describes how effective working relationships between the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet enable strong and effective decision-making.
- 2.8** Paragraph 10.1 of the protocol sets out the following requirements to demonstrate the success of the protocol. These are:
- Recognition of the value of scrutiny;
 - A clear record of constructive challenge;
 - Valuable scrutiny reviews that achieve impactful outcomes;
 - An open and accountable decision-making process
- 2.9** Officers have also taken into account guidance from external bodies such as the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny to support the Committee in applying best practice in delivering the aims of the Protocol.

3. THE VALUE OF SCRUTINY AND CONSTRUCTIVE CHALLENGE

- 3.1** For Overview and Scrutiny to be effective, it must be able to demonstrate its ability to scrutinise the work of Cabinet and provide 'critical friend' analysis of proposals due to come before it.
- 3.2** Under the Executive Leader and Cabinet Model operated by the Council, Overview and Scrutiny has a key role in providing democratic checks and balances in relation to the Cabinet.
- 3.3** In the 2025/26 civic year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to undertake effective pre-decision scrutiny of selected Cabinet reports.
- 3.4** Annex C provides the current Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. This work programme is agreed annually but reviewed at each meeting and adjusted to take account of emerging priorities and any adjustments to the Cabinet Forward Plan.
- 3.5** At each meeting, Overview and Scrutiny provides pre-decision scrutiny of reports, hearing from the Leader/Cabinet Member responsible for each report. There is then the opportunity for the Committee to discuss the reports in detail and ask the Cabinet Member questions. On occasions, other Members or public speakers may also make representations to the Committee which inform its deliberations.



4. VALUABLE SCRUTINY REVIEWS THAT ACHIEVE IMPACTFUL OUTCOMES

- 4.1** Whilst there were no Task and Finish groups in 2025/26, Scrutiny Reviews conducted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue to play an important role in enabling Members to have input into the policy-development process.
- 4.2** Under Article 7.3 of the Constitution, Task and Finish Groups can be set up by the Committee to provide critical oversight of areas of Council policy and to consider relevant external policy matters.
- 4.3** These groups are made up of a select number of Members on a cross-party basis. The membership of Task and Finish Groups may include non-Executive Members who are not Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO CABINET

- 5.1** Overview and Scrutiny have the authority to make recommendations to Cabinet on any issue that it considers appropriate, regardless of whether it relates to a Cabinet decision. Whilst the majority of recommendations made to Cabinet relate to pre-decision scrutiny items, other topical recommendations are also made from time to time.
- 5.2** Annex B provides the list of recommendations that have been presented to Cabinet in the 2025/26 civic year. Any recommendations are agreed by the Committee at the conclusion of each agenda item, with the Chair and Vice-Chair confirming with officers the final wording of the recommendations after the meeting if necessary.
- 5.3** Cabinet Members are then given the opportunity to consider that the recommendations and the responses are agreed collectively by Cabinet, before being reported back to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.4** In total, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made 18 recommendations to Cabinet in 2025/26, of which 17 were accepted or partially accepted. This compares with 9 recommendations in 2024/25, all of which were accepted, in whole or in part, by Cabinet.
- 5.5** A number of these recommendations made a noticeable contribution to the quality of Cabinet decision-making, notably in relation to the Local Plan.



- 5.6** Overview and Scrutiny also made a number of important recommendations to Cabinet on other community and Council priority issues, including the the Council's communication channels and accessibility for Cotswold residents.
- 5.7** The Committee discussed these topics with the relevant Cabinet Members and officers to gain background knowledge and understanding of the issues involved.
- 5.8** Key areas of public concern received focused scrutiny this year, particularly in relation to the Local Plan, support for the Cotswold District retail and hospitality sector, and Local Government Reorganisation.
- 5.9** During the 2025/26 civic year, the Committee also considered proposals for future scrutiny arrangements associated with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Members received a presentation on options for joint scrutiny arrangements across the Gloucestershire councils during the transition period and considered the governance implications of the models presented.
- 5.10** The Committee discussed the importance of maintaining effective democratic oversight and constructive challenge throughout the LGR process, whilst also ensuring appropriate cross-council engagement and transparency in decision-making arrangements.
- 5.11** Following consideration of the options presented, the Committee supported the proposed Scrutiny Panel model. A Joint Scrutiny Panel is a temporary cross-council scrutiny body established during LGR to provide democratic oversight of the transition to new authorities.
- 5.12** It exists to ensure that major decisions taken during the reorganisation are properly scrutinised, even though existing councils are being abolished as a flexible approach to enabling joint scrutiny arrangements during the transition period whilst maintaining links to the existing scrutiny functions of individual councils.
- 5.13** The agreed key principles for the Panel are:
- 5.13.1.1** There is a clear commitment to meetings held in public while reserving right to meet in private if necessary.
- 5.13.1.2** The request is that each council nominates two representatives with the recommendation that these should include one representative from each of the two main parties (nominations are solely at the discretion of each council).
- 5.13.1.3** There will be clear lines of reporting/feedback set out in Terms of Reference.



6. AN OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- 6.1** Through the mechanisms described in the previous sections, Overview and Scrutiny promotes open and accountable decision-making which is a fundamental part of the Council's governance structure.
- 6.2** Cabinet is expected, in accordance with the Protocol to be open and transparent with the Committee and to support its scrutiny of decisions before it.
- 6.3** Cabinet Members for items are invited to meetings of Overview and Scrutiny and are substituted by the Leader or another Cabinet Member where possible if they are not able to attend.
- 6.4** Whilst senior officers in the room may assist in providing specialist details to the Committee, the focus of the Committee has been to engage with Cabinet Members.
- 6.5** In addition to the pre-decision scrutiny approach outlined above, all Cabinet decisions, Cabinet Member decisions and key decisions taken by officers are subject to call-in by any three members of the Committee (who must be from at least two political groups) within 5 working days of the decision being taken. Call-in is intended to be used in exceptional circumstances where a decision is believed to be contrary to the authority's decision-making principles.
- 6.6** If a valid call-in is made, the decision will be referred to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (which may be a specially convened meeting). The Committee will hear why the decision was taken and why it was called in before deciding whether the decision can stand and be implemented immediately, or whether the decision is referred back to the decision maker with comments, or in some circumstances, referred to Council.
- 6.7** No decisions were called in during the 2025/26 civic year.

7. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

- 7.1** Overview and Scrutiny continued to provide opportunities for public engagement during the 2025/26 civic year through the inclusion of public participation at Committee meetings. This included the consideration of 5 public questions and/or statements, which informed Members' discussions on a range of issues including representation at the Farming Motion Working Group (South Cotswold Labour Party), the Local Plan Regulation 18 timetable, planning enforcement timescales, and



environmental and antisocial behaviour concerns relating to recent aircraft deployment from RAF Fairford.

- 7.2** In addition to direct public participation, Overview and Scrutiny has also taken account of a range of external stakeholder views and consultation evidence where available as part of reports presented for scrutiny. During 2025/26, this included representations and engagement with Bromford Housing Association, Freedom Leisure and UBICO as part of the Committee's consideration of relevant service and community issues.
- 7.3** Community concerns raised by Members, through public engagement and via other Council channels have also helped to inform the development of the work programme, ensuring that scrutiny activity reflects issues of significance to residents across the district.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1** The relationship between the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet is an important element of the Council's overall governance arrangements.
- 8.2** Overview and Scrutiny play a key role in holding the Cabinet to account and providing an effective mechanism for addressing community issues.
- 8.3** The Executive Scrutiny Protocol (Part E.10) agreed by Full Council sets out the framework for this relationship to ensure effective policy development and pre-decision scrutiny.
- 8.4** The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the 2025/26 Civic Year is evident in its scrutiny of Cabinet decisions and its contribution to policy development, including through the work of Task and Finish Groups when required.
- 8.5** In doing so, the Committee demonstrates its capacity to provide constructive and insightful input within the Council's decision-making processes.

9. PRIORITIES FOR 2026/27

- 9.1** In the 2026/27 civic year, Overview and Scrutiny will continue to support the Council's governance arrangements through effective pre-decision scrutiny, constructive challenge and contribution to policy development.
- 9.2** A key focus will remain the scrutiny of Cabinet proposals to ensure that decisions are informed by appropriate Member consideration prior to implementation.



- 9.3** The work programme for 2026/27 will continue to focus on key strategic issues affecting the Council and the district. Priority areas are expected to include:
- updates from Freedom Leisure and UBICO;
 - progression of the Local Plan;
 - the ongoing implications of Local Government Reorganisation;
 - scrutiny of the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy; and
 - delivery of priorities within the Council Plan.
- 9.4** The work programme will continue to be reviewed throughout the year to reflect emerging issues, changes to the Cabinet Forward Plan and matters of significant public interest.
- 9.5** In line with the Executive Scrutiny Protocol, the focus of Overview and Scrutiny will remain:
- constructive and effective challenge;
 - open and accountable decision-making;
 - evidence-led scrutiny and policy development; and
 - positive working relationships between Overview and Scrutiny, Cabinet and officers.
- 9.6** Consideration will also continue to be given to opportunities to enhance public engagement in the scrutiny process and improve awareness of the role of Overview and Scrutiny within the Council's governance arrangements.

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 10.1** Council is asked to note the effectiveness of the Protocol and the scrutiny processes. It may request that officers bring a future report in a different format if it wishes to do so.
- 10.2** Council can refer any constitutional matters regarding scrutiny processes to the Constitution Working Group should any such concerns arise.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1** There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1** There are none arising from the report.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT



13.1 None.

14. EQUALITIES IMPACT

14.1 Not applicable to this report.

15. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

15.1 Members are required to travel to Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings in-person as required by statutory provisions which may have a climate impact. The Committee reviews the progress against the Climate Emergency and Corporate Plan actions against climate change and carbon reduction.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.

(END)

EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY PROTOCOL FOR COUNCILLORS OF COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

November 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview & Scrutiny must be located at the strategic heart of the authority and is a key element of the decision making process acting as a 'critical friend'.

1.2 This Protocol applies to Scrutiny (all members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, including substitutes and any Member who sits on an Overview & Scrutiny Task & Finish Group), and the Executive (all Members of Cabinet and executive officers with delegated authority to undertake executive functions).

2. Trust

2.1 All Members should promote an atmosphere of openness at Overview & Scrutiny meetings and should strive to ensure that questioning and debate takes place within a climate of mutual respect and trust.

2.2 Overview & Scrutiny Members need to trust that Members of the Executive are being open and honest.

2.3 Executive Members need to trust Overview & Scrutiny Members with information and to trust in their views.

3. Policy Development and Pre-Decision Scrutiny

3.1 "Policy Development" refers to the development of the Budget and Policy Framework, which is defined in Article 4 of the Constitution as comprising the following plans and strategies (as agreed by Full Council 14 July 2021):

- Corporate Strategy/Corporate Plan
- Community Strategy
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
- Plans and strategies which together comprise the Development Plan (the Cotswold District Local Plan and the Council's input into the Gloucestershire County Structure Plan)
- Housing Strategy
- Pay Policy
- Licensing Policy Statements (Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005)

3.2 The Budget and Policy Framework also includes a number of budgetary policies which may be more appropriately developed in conjunction with Audit Committee - The Medium-Term Financial Strategy; Capital Programme; Setting the Council Tax; Decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirements, the control of its capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits, and The Capital, Treasury Management and Investment Strategies.

3.3 The importance of early input from Overview & Scrutiny into policy development is recognised. Scrutiny can act as a sounding board and a think tank in investigating issues coming up on the horizon, bringing in added value. Cabinet Members and Executive Officers should draw to the attention of Overview & Scrutiny Committee any key policy in addition to those in the Budget and Policy Framework that is being developed or is due for review to ensure timely input.

3.4 The development of the Budget and Policy Framework needs to be an inclusive process involving both Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The Cabinet and relevant lead Officer will consider the views of Scrutiny in the development of the policy and provide a response to the recommendations of Scrutiny within 28 days or earlier should the report of the Cabinet require publication. The detail of Scrutiny's involvement shall also be included within the body of the Cabinet report. The Cabinet/Full Council will continue to be responsible for approving and adopting policy.

3.5 Cabinet Members may wish to request views from Scrutiny on a decision before it is taken. The Cabinet Member will be responsible for circulating the details to the relevant Scrutiny Committee Members, through Democratic Services. Utilising this as an option does not exclude the decision from being subject to call-in. However, it will give the Cabinet Member the ability to consider different views and perspectives of a decision to be taken before it is taken.

3.6 Scrutiny may review the Forward Plan and select upcoming decisions for pre-decision scrutiny.

4. Holding Decision Makers to Account

4.1 A key role of Scrutiny is in holding the Cabinet to account for decisions taken and performance of services. In holding the Cabinet to account Scrutiny Members will:

- Consider decisions taken by the Cabinet, individually and collectively and items on the Forward Plan through formal Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings;
- Review service performance and performance against policy and targets;
- Be prepared to ask searching questions that provide a constructive challenge;
- Be positive and respectful in their interactions with Cabinet Members and Executive Officers;
- Represent the voice of the public;
- Listen to the responses provided and assist the Cabinet in identifying areas for further consideration and improvement.

4.2 In return, Cabinet Members will:

- Be willing to be open, honest and engaged in providing a response to constructive challenge;
- Value the importance of Scrutiny;
- Be supportive of the scrutiny process and invite and seek opinion from Scrutiny on decisions to be taken, where appropriate;
- Provide a positive contribution to Scrutiny meetings;
- Attend meetings when invited to do so to answer questions and present information;

- By way of a direct answer
- By reference to published publications
- By referring a matter to an Officer in attendance, if they are not able to respond
- If an answer cannot immediately be given, by providing a written answer within five working days unless it is not reasonable to do so. If considered unreasonable, an explanation as to why will be given.
- A combination of the above four options.

4.3 The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has a legal role in respect of any key executive decision that has not been notified on the Council's Forward Plan for 28 clear days prior to the date of decision. In exceptional circumstances the Council may need to operate alternative decision making arrangements for a period of time e.g. in response to an emergency. In any such situation it is expected that the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be consulted on any urgent key decisions in the normal way.

5. Scrutiny Work Planning

5.1 Prior to the start of each Municipal Year, Scrutiny will hold a Work Planning Workshop. As part of this Workshop the views of the relevant Cabinet Member(s) will be inputted, as will the views of Overview & Scrutiny Members, Officers, any external guests who are invited to contribute, and any members of the public who submit suggestions to the Council. The advice of the Cabinet Member(s) may be sought regarding the priorities of the Council, areas of planned policy development and they will be asked to highlight any areas of conflict and instances where Scrutiny may be invited to assist in work. The Workshop will inform the development of a draft Scrutiny Work Programme. At the beginning of the Municipal Year the views of any new Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members and Cabinet Members will be sought before the draft work plan is presented to the first meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their endorsement.

5.2 The Chair & Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will informally meet periodically with the Leader and Cabinet Members in order to:

- Discuss upcoming issues and provide for ongoing Cabinet input into Scrutiny work plans;
- Ensure liaison between Scrutiny and the Cabinet over Council priorities, targets and performance;
- Continue to build on the positive working relationship between the two functions.

5.4 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?

6. Overview & Scrutiny Recommendations to Cabinet

6.1 Scrutiny may make recommendations to the Cabinet about functions for which the Council is responsible or about issues that affect the district and its people through a report arising from a formal Committee meeting or by way of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group report.

6.2 Once Scrutiny has agreed a recommendation, the views of the relevant Cabinet Member(s) will be sought within 10 working days (if not already provided at a meeting) and will be included within the report. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will have the opportunity to meet with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to discuss the recommendation and the response before the final report is submitted to the Cabinet for consideration. Upon formal receipt of a recommendation from Scrutiny, Cabinet will:

- Give due consideration to any recommendations or views expressed and respond to recommendations in writing within 2 months of receipt of the recommendations;
- Provide an explanation for the reasons why recommendations made by Scrutiny have not been pursued (where applicable).

7. What Scrutiny Can Expect From Senior Officers.

7.1 Whilst Scrutiny undertakes to deliver effective outcomes for local people, it will only be able to do this if senior officers make a commitment to work with and respond to Scrutiny in a constructive manner. The following are proposed as the roles and responsibilities that will govern the Council and Public's relationship with Scrutiny. Senior Officers will:

- Provide professional advice to Scrutiny;
- respect the independence of Scrutiny;
- recognise the value that Scrutiny can add to service improvement;
- co-operate positively with Scrutiny in developing and undertaking its work programme;
- participate in the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations made by Scrutiny that are agreed by Cabinet;
- Contribute to a positive culture that values constructive scrutiny.

8. Call-in

8.1 Decisions may be called in in accordance with the procedure rules set out in Part 4.13 of the Constitution. Cabinet Members will be expected to attend any meetings of Scrutiny at which a call-in request in relation to their area of responsibility is being considered. If the relevant Cabinet Member cannot attend, the Leader or a Deputy Leader should attend in their absence. The purpose of their attendance will be to answer questions of fact not to present the item. The following procedure will take place where call-ins are being considered:

- i. The Member who called in the decision will speak first;
- ii. The Chair will invite the Cabinet Member (decision maker) to respond;
- iii. The Committee will then ask questions of the decision maker, who may ask a relevant Officer to supply further information if necessary;
- iv. Scrutiny debates the issue and votes on the outcome. The Committee will either agree with the decision, in which case it can be implemented immediately, or agree

to refer the decision back to the decision maker with comments. Alternatively the Committee could refer the call in to Full Council.

9. Scrutiny Consideration of Confidential or Exempt Decisions

9.1 Scrutiny Members have a right to access exempt information pertaining to their engagement with policy development or decisions that have been taken or are yet to be taken in order to allow effective scrutiny. Should a Scrutiny Member wish to ask questions pertaining to exempt information at a public Committee meeting, the press and public will be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Cabinet Member will be expected to answer in an open and transparent manner. The exempt information will remain confidential and all elected Members and Officers who receive that information shall maintain that confidentiality in line with the Codes of Conduct for Elected Members and Officers.

10. Ensuring Compliance with the Protocol

10.1 The Monitoring Officer and the Business Manager (Democratic Services) will be responsible for overseeing compliance with the Cabinet/Scrutiny Protocol which should be used by Members to support the wider aim of supporting and promoting a culture of scrutiny. The success of the Protocol will be determined by:

- Recognition of the value of scrutiny;
- A clear record of constructive challenge;
- Valuable scrutiny reviews that achieve impactful outcomes;
- An open and accountable decision making process.

10.2 An Annual Report may be submitted to Full Council each year with the aim of demonstrating the impact of Scrutiny and the effectiveness of the Protocol. The report may also include the draft Scrutiny Work Programme for the following year.

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Annex B

Recommendations to Cabinet from Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2025/26

Recommendation	Agree (Y/N)	Comment	Responsible Cabinet Member	Lead Officer
Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Peer Review & Action – 08 July 2025				
1. That Ward Members are key local contacts for officers to engage and interface with in terms of planning enforcement activities. <i>Section 3, item 1 (pages 82 & 93 of Cabinet's pack) "Enhance internal communication and understanding".</i>	Partly agreed	An all-member briefing on planning enforcement will be held and communication to Members about enforcement cases will be improved.	Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director for Planning Services
2. That the Council encourages the use of existing functionality that is available but not utilised to its full capacity. <i>Section 3, item 10 (page 84 & 103 of Cabinet's pack) "Maximise digital capabilities and embrace technological innovation".</i>	Y	Fully support the help of colleagues in ICT to help maximise digital and technological innovation.	Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director for Planning Services
3. That the Council prioritises recruitment to vacant posts within Planning Enforcement, notwithstanding the recruitment challenges faced by local government. <i>Paragraph 3.2 (page 87 of Cabinet's pack)</i>	Y	Recruitment to the enforcement service will be treated as a priority within existing resources.	Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director for Planning Services

Local Plan Update – 08 July 2025				
1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive timely updates as the Local Plan develops	Y	It is recommended that Members receive updates at key stages in the development of the Local Plan.	Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director for Planning Services
2. That the Council commits to a publicly available communications and engagement strategy for both Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultations, specifying: • What methods will be used (digital, in-person, targeted) • Clear stakeholder mapping with consideration of how hard-to-reach groups will be involved • How it will be resourced • How Artificial Intelligence (AI) summaries will be verified and validated How the Council will lobby the government on the unrealistic housing targets	Y	<i>Communications and engagement will be a critical part of developing and shaping the Local Plan.</i> <i>Given the current planning context, which has seen our housing target doubled, leading to the loss of our five-year land housing supply - leaving us at the mercy of speculative development and minimal opportunity for residents to have their say - updating the Local Plan will enable residents to have a say, and engage on future development in the district.</i> • <i>As such, and prior to this recommendation being made, we have already started working on a comprehensive communications and engagement strategy to maximise community participation.</i> • <i>That strategy will be guided by the council's Statement of Community Involvement, which is already publicly available on the website, setting out what we consult on, how we will consult, at</i>	Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director for Planning Services

		<i>what stages we consult, and who with. We are legally bound – as part of the Local Plan update process – to adhere to the terms of this statement. It is therefore unnecessary to publish anything else – but any consultation activity, requiring community participation, will be appropriately and thoroughly advertised in good time.</i> • <i>Our communications and engagement strategy will be guided by both the timelines of the Local Plan project process and the Statement of Community Involvement. I can assure everyone that it will utilise online and offline channels, ensure engagement is targeted when it needs to be, but be broad, accessible and innovative in principle, seeking to capture as many views from across our communities as possible.</i> • <i>We also intend to engage government, to impress upon them and the Planning Inspectorate that the Cotswold's National Landscape, covering 80% of our district, massively impinges on our ability to deliver on the amount of housing being requested. That programme of engagement will run alongside the Local Plan process.</i> <i>In respect of using artificial intelligence to analyse consultation responses, these tools</i>		
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		<i>are becoming more and more sophisticated. The platform that we intend to use, Go Vocal, is reputable and has in-built AI functionality, fine-tuned for the purpose of analysing public consultation data. We plan to test a small sample of responses first – that can be sense-checked – before committing to undertake more analysis of responses via this method.</i>		
3. That the Local Plan is disseminated to Town and Parish Councils to ensure two-way dialogue on proposed site allocations and development priorities commencing June 2026 as part of the Regulation 19 consultation on the draft plan.	Y	<i>Town & Parish Councils will be a primary stakeholder group, and we will devise a thorough programme of engagement for the district's councillors and clerks, leveraging a mixture of channels throughout the plan process.</i>	Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director for Planning Services
4. That the Council considers the establishment of a Local Plan (Contingency) reserve to support the delivery and completion of the Local Plan. Cabinet are encouraged to consider this request as part of the 2026/27 Budget Strategy and MTFS Update due in October 2025 to ensure adequate resources are made available at the start of the Local Plan delivery timetable.	Y	Cabinet will consider a prudent amount to hold as a contingency budget held as an earmarked reserve (and subject to expenditure decision arrangements as set out in paragraph 6.11 of the report) as part of the early 2026/27 budget setting process. Cabinet will consider this request 'in the round' taking into account other Council priorities, financial position set out in the February 2025 MTFS, and the likely reduction in funding this Council will receive in 2026/27 as indicated in the Fair Funding 2.0 consultation document.	Councillor Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

5. That consideration is given to whether the proposed resources are sufficient to meet the anticipated risks set out in the report.	Y	Proposed resources are considered adequate but Cabinet do note the risks as set out in the report. Establishing a contingency budget, to be held as an earmarked reserve and subject to decision making arrangement, as set out in paragraph 6.11 of the report, provides adequate mitigation	Councillor Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
6. That the Council ensures that sufficient resources are in place to deliver the business-as-usual planning activity such as the management of planning applications and enforcement activity and this is considered as part of the 2026/27 Budget Strategy and MTFS Update due in October 2025.	Y	Cabinet will consider the financial performance of 'business as usual planning activity' in the quarterly financial performance reports. The Budget Setting process for 2026/27 will need to consider any request additional resources for future financial years.	Councillor Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Financial Performance Report 2025-26 Quarter 1 – 01 September 2025				
1. That consideration is given to putting local social and/or archaeological artefacts on public display at the Council's offices, including artefacts related to the history of local government in the area.	Y	The Council's Leisure and Culture Manager will explore with the Museum operator, Freedom Leisure, opportunities to improve public access to the Museum's extensive collection	Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Health Culture and Visitor Experience	Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place

Cotswold District Local Plan (2011-31) Regulation 18 Consultation
- 13 October 2025

That the Council continues to lobby government for a significantly lower housing target for the Cotswold District given: a) 80% of the district is within the Cotswold National Landscape area. b) The infrastructure challenges across the district (sewage capacity, rural roads, public transport, etc.) c) Lack of access to facilities and employment in many areas. d) The need for government support to address some of these challenges (e.g. funding for a bypass). The reality of what scale of development and supporting infrastructure will be deliverable in the remaining developable parts of the district.	Y	The Leader has drafted a letter to go to Steve Reed which will set out what we are doing and reiterate these messages. The letter will set out the challenges and constraints unique to the district which impact upon our ability to deliver the government's housing targets. It will also reference infrastructure and ask what support the government can provide to unlock funding and to ensure utilities providers are positioned to support this growth with adequate and timely provision.	Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place
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District Local Plan Regulation 18 – Preferred Options November 2025 – 5 November 2025				
That the Council clearly communicates to town and parish councils and the wider public: a) The importance of getting a local plan in place at the earliest opportunity in order to manage development appropriately and to prevent piecemeal speculative development (which won't provide supporting infrastructure); b) Why the local plan timeline is fixed and the Regulation 18 consultation cannot be extended; How respondents can make valid contributions and what the material planning considerations are in relation to the Local Plan.	Y	Information on the importance of getting a local plan in place as soon as possible, why the timelines for consultation cannot be extended and the planning grounds on which objections representations can be made clear to the wider public – indeed this work is well underway. Eight news releases have been issued on or in relation to the council's Local Plan since July. All of these have been published on the council's website, on social media, in its newsletters and in media outlets – and they all reference the urgency around getting a Local Plan in place and the work being undertaken. As part of a comprehensive communications and engagement plan being executed over the coming weeks – targeting diverse audiences in different ways, through both paid-for (advertisements), owned (council social, newsletters, website) and earned (media, partners) channels, we will reiterate the message in part a of the recommendation, and tie in messaging set out in part b and c (where appropriate and relevant).	Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place Matt Abbott, Head of Communications

		This will include: • At presentations to over 160 Town and Parish councillors at council-run forums. One was hosted last night (Nov 5) and one to be held in Cirencester next Monday (10th). • At four public exhibitions in locations across the district • At parish council-organised public meetings that officers and members have been invited to • Regular member briefings (by email) On the webpages via Q&As (we are collating all the questions submitted to date and/or which have been asked at events – and sharing those for councillors and public to use). We will continue to update as events occur throughout the consultation period. • On social media – our content on this topic, designed to engage and inform, is performing well – having reached over 81k people since July. We will be utilising paid and organic posts.		
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		• Via our regular email newsletters (Local Plan, business, general) which have more than 8,000 combined subscribers. • Through "Community Comms Packs" which are being shared with town and parish councils for sharing with their residents, encouraging participation in the upcoming consultation – which will provide guidance on 'material' feedback for planning consideration. This will all be in addition to messaging on the Local Plan, already planned to go out in the coming days/weeks. This includes: • A printed newsletter going through the letterbox of every household in the district • Advertising on buses Posters and leaflets in all council-owned assets (i.e MAC, leisure centres, car parks)		
Consideration of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Submission – 17 November 2025				
That progress on the implementation Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire, including decisions on the use of transition funds allocated by the Council, are subject to scrutiny and reported to Full Council, until such a	Yes	Updates will be reported to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee periodically and/or at key milestones to keep members informed of progress.	Cllr Mike Evemy, Leader of the Council	Jane Portman, Interim Chief Executive Officer.

time as the Shadow Authority is established.				
Retail and Hospitality Sectors in the Cotswold District – 2 February 2026				
1. That the Council writes to the local Members of Parliament inviting them to lobby on behalf of local businesses in the retail and hospitality sectors faced with the challenges of increased Business Rates and employment costs.	Y	Councillor Wilkinson will send a letter to local MPs.	Councillor Tristan Wilkinson, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Transformation	Paul James, Economic Development Lead
2. That the Council continues to liaise with agents and landlords to encourage them to advertise more prominently their vacant retail properties.	Y	This is something we do already and will continue to do.		
3. That the Council considers how to minimise the loss of retail space to residential, in particular in the district's smaller towns, through the Local Plan.	Y	The Local Plan fulfils this purpose. The NPPF states that planning policies and decisions must support the role of town centres at the heart of local communities, and take a <i>positive approach</i> to their growth, management, and adaptation.		
4. That the Council considers developing an integrated strategy for town centre economies, building communities and not just housing, with a view to enhancing the Cotswolds' unique visitor economy.	N	The Council also has a Green Economic Growth Strategy, which was reviewed in 2025. It is not considered that an additional strategy is necessary.		

5. That the Council writes to the government to advise them of the looming crisis in the retail and hospitality sectors and highlight the vulnerability of high streets and small communities that rely on access to them for essential local retail provision and employment opportunities.	Y	Councillor Wilkinson will send a letter to the relevant government minister.		
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COTSWOLD
District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN **1 MAY 2026 – 31 AUGUST 2027**

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 1 June 2026		
Asset Management Strategy	Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance	Alan Hope, Head of Strategic Housing, Property and Assets alan.hope@cotswold.gov.uk
Asset Management - Investment Properties	Cabinet Member for Finance - Councillor Patrick Coleman	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer David.Stanley@cotswold.gov.uk
Waste and Environment - Service Design Options	Cabinet Member for Environment and Regulatory Services - Councillor Andrea Pellegram	Peta Johnson, Head of Waste and Environment peta.johnson@cotswold.gov.uk
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2025/26	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Evemy	Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer julia.gibson@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 Evemy	Alison Borrett, Senior Performance Analyst Alison.Borrett@publicagroup.uk

Planning Enforcement Report	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning – Juliet Layton	Harrison Bowley, Head of Planning Services Harrison.Bowley@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
Motion report - Food and Farming	Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience - Cllr Tony Dale	Tim Atkins, Interim Assistant Director - Communities & Place tim.atkins@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
Climate Emergency Update	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability - Cllr Mike McKeown	Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place helen.martin@cotswold.gov.uk
Monday 7 September 2026		
Council Performance Report - Q1 2026/27	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Every	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 Every	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 Every	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer michelle.burge@cotswold.gov.uk

LGR Update	Leader of the Council - Councillor Mike Every	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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