



Notification of Draft
Decisions Tuesday, 28 July 2026

**Notice of Draft
Decisions of Cabinet Member for Finance Decision Meeting -
Tuesday, 28 July 2026**

1. Cabinet Member Introductions

Councillor Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance, welcomed the public to the meeting and introduced the responsible officer.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Note the activity enabled by the Crisis and Resilience Fund
2. Agree to the proposed distribution for the 2026 allocation
3. Delegate authority to the Head of Economic Development and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet member, to agree the distribution of smaller grants to enable the Community Coordination theme.
4. Delegate authority to the Head of Economic Development and Communities, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to finalise grant terms

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest from the Cabinet Member or Officers.

3. Officer Overview of the Report

The Head of Economic Development and Communities introduced the report and provided background information on the fund. The Cabinet Member was advised that the Crisis and Resilience Fund was a central government funding programme administered through Gloucestershire County Council to support households facing financial challenges, particularly in relation to food costs, utility bills and wider household budget pressures.

It was noted that the fund replaces and expands upon the previous Household Support Fund, which had been introduced following the COVID-19 pandemic in response to the cost-of-living crisis. Whilst the funding mechanism was new, the



Notification of Draft

Decisions Tuesday, 28 July 2026

approach of allocating funding to district and borough councils followed an established pattern used under the Household Support Fund arrangements.

The Cabinet Member heard that the Crisis and Resilience Fund placed greater emphasis on preventative work, with a focus on building household resilience and supporting residents before they reach a point of crisis. The Council's intention was therefore to work with local partners to provide support that improves residents' financial wellbeing and reduces reliance on emergency financial assistance.

The proposed allocations included direct grant awards to a number of established organisations delivering support across the district. These were:

- North Cotswolds Food Bank - £20,000
- South Cotswolds Food Bank - £25,000
- Cotswold Friends - £16,000
- The Churn Neighbourhood Hub - £18,000
- P3 - £21,000

It was explained that funding for the North and South Cotswolds Food Banks would be used to provide embedded advice services, delivered through Citizens Advice, alongside emergency food provision. The objective was to support individuals accessing food banks to improve their financial circumstances and reduce the likelihood of requiring ongoing emergency support. The Officer also noted that the purpose and expected outcomes of each grant were detailed within Annex B of the report.

In addition, a sum of £40,000 had been set aside for smaller grants to community organisations operating at a local settlement level across the district. Officers confirmed that discussions were ongoing with prospective recipients and that there was a need to distribute the funding promptly given that the programme was already one quarter into the financial year.

The report also included provision for:



Notification of Draft

Decisions Tuesday, 28 July 2026

- Funding to support the work of the Cotswold Food Network, recognising its role in coordinating partners and addressing issues relating to food provision and financial inclusion across the district.
- Funding to support the administration of the programme.

Members were reminded that the recommendations also sought delegated authority for the Head of Economic Development and Communities, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to determine the allocation of the smaller grants and, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to finalise the associated funding arrangements.

4. Confirmation of Comments

No additional comments had been received since the publication of the agenda.

5. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

7. Decision

The Cabinet Member confirmed that, having reviewed the information and analysis provided within the report, they were satisfied that the proposed allocations would support the Council's objectives and provide meaningful benefits to residents and communities across the district.

It was noted that the organisations identified for funding were well-established and highly regarded providers of support within the Cotswold District. The Cabinet Member expressed their view that the proposed expenditure represented good value for money and would contribute positively to the wellbeing and resilience of local people.

Resolved that:



Notification of Draft

Decisions Tuesday, 28 July 2026

1. The activity enabled by the Crisis and Resilience Fund be noted.
2. The proposed distribution of the 2026 Crisis and Resilience Fund allocation be approved.
3. Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Economic Development and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to determine the distribution of smaller grants to support the community coordination theme.
4. Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Economic Development and Communities, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to finalise grant terms and conditions, including arrangements relating to the Cotswold Food Network.

The Cabinet Member noted that the report clearly set out the evidence, analysis and rationale supporting the recommended allocations. The proposals were considered to align with the Council's aims and objectives, with the funding levels being reasonable, proportionate and targeted towards areas of identified need.

The approved allocations were expected to deliver tangible benefits for individuals, families and communities across the district through the provision of preventative support, financial wellbeing initiatives and crisis intervention services. The Cabinet Member also recognised the strong reputation and value of the organisations receiving funding and was satisfied that the allocations represented an effective and prudent use of public funds.

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