



20 July 2026

CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE DECISION MEETING

A Cabinet Member for Finance Decision Meeting will be held at the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Tuesday, 28 July 2026 at 10.00 am.**

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

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

AGENDA

1. **Cabinet Member Introductions**

Welcome to the public and introduction of participants.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

To receive any declarations of interest by the Cabinet Member present.

3. **Officer Overview of the Report** (Pages 5 - 24)

Officer to provide a brief verbal summary of the report with key details relating to the decision, providing any updates that need to be considered by the Cabinet Member when taking the decision.

Purpose

To update on the implementation of the Crisis and Resilience Fund

Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member for Finance resolves 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

4. **Confirmation of Comments**

Confirmation of comments received by officer or Democratic Services.

5. **Public Questions**

The Cabinet Member may allow members of the public present at the meeting to speak or make representations. However, all questions must relate directly to the decision being discussed. If a question is deemed irrelevant by the Cabinet Member the member of the public will be advised where to direct their question.

6. **Cabinet Member Questions**

The Cabinet Member may request clarifications on the report and the proposed decision, including any alternative options for consideration.

7. **Decision**

The Cabinet Member will verbally confirm their decision, stating whether they:

- a) Accept the officer's recommendation
- b) Make a different decision contrary to the recommendation, or
- c) Refer the decision to a Cabinet meeting.

The Cabinet Member must inform the Democratic Services Officer of the reason for the decision, which will be officially recorded on the Decision Notice.

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COTSWOLD
District Council

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE DECISION MEETING
Subject	CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Patrick Coleman Cabinet Member for Finance Email: patrick.coleman@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Joseph Walker, Head of Economic Development and Communities Email: joseph.walker@Cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Clare Jobling, Community Wellbeing Manager Email: clare.jobling@Cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To update on the implementation of the Crisis and Resilience Fund
Annexes	Annex A – Summary of CRF Delivery Plan Exempt Annex B – Project Summaries
Recommendation(s)	That the Cabinet Member for Finance resolves 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
Corporate priorities	• Delivering Housing • Supporting Communities • Supporting the Economy



Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Gloucestershire County Council, as the authority locally responsible for CRF Local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report provides an overview of the Crisis and Resilience Fund and seeks Cabinet member endorsement for the proposed programme of activity.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Since 2021, central government has provided hardship funding to local authorities, first to support on the impact of Covid, and then the cost of living crisis. From April 2026, the initial mechanism, the Household Support Fund has been superseded by the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF). Beyond the name change, there are a few technical differences, and more of an emphasis on prevention.
- 2.2** Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is the managing body for the funding within Gloucestershire. They enlist district councils as key partners in this approach, to lever local knowledge and relationships with on-the-ground voluntary and community sector partners.

3. MAIN POINTS

- 3.1** Each district has been given a CRF allocation for the 2026-27 year. Cotswold has been awarded £170,450.
- 3.2** To expedite spend, the Council was asked to provide an indicative delivery plan to illustrate how local activity would complement centrally commissioned projects. Officers invited local voluntary and community partners to share their thoughts, to inform this exercise. The draft delivery plan, summarised at Annex A, was submitted to GCC, and has been endorsed by GCC, subject to local agreement on the project specifics.
- 3.3** Local partners have updated their proposals to reflect the resource available, which are presented today for Cabinet member endorsement.
- 3.4** Annex B contains the project summary sheets. These summarise the proposed activity, state the proposed project allocation, and present partners' proposals around spend and outputs. Subject to endorsement from the Cabinet member that individually and collectively these represent an appropriate and robust local package of activity to deliver the CRF, the Council will contract with each partner to deliver against the described projects.



3.5 It is proposed that £40,000 of the allocation is committed to supporting smaller 'settlement level' partners. One of the themes of the CRF is 'Community Coordination', which reflects a CRF programme ambition to improve the network of resident support, and maps well geographically distributed web of support in Cotswold District: there are a small number of larger charities which provide support, backed up by settlement level organisations. Our intention is to simplify the process for these local partners, and work with them to develop the referral mechanisms that take advantage of both their local reach and partner expertise – e.g. local partners providing referrals to Citizens Advice for benefits and debt advice. This report proposes a delegation for the allocation of these smaller grants, of up to £10,000 to the Head of Economic development and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet member.

3.6 The Council will then report an aggregated picture of spend and project activity to Gloucestershire County Council, quarterly through 26/27, noting that due to the delays launching this programme, there will be nothing to report for quarter 1.

4. NEXT STEPS

4.1 Subject to this decision, the Council will contract with partners, and transfer funds in accordance with the contract, and the ongoing monitoring of activity and outputs.

4.2 At this point, we do not know in detail how the County Council will manage this programme into year 2 – and year 3, which it should be noted commences with the expected vesting day of the future Gloucestershire unitary structure(s). Officers will continue to work closely with both the County Council's CRF team and local partners to 'bridge' the conversation to ensure CRF addresses local needs.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 Our CRF allocation needs to be spend by 31 March 2027, and on activity that fits with CRF criteria. Within the parameters agreed with GCC, the district council retains some discretion over the local spend and could seek agreement from GCC to vary their terms. Thus, an alternative distribution is possible, albeit challenging in timeframe. However, the options suggested above represent a coherent set of



proposals that complement centrally funded activity, and indeed the broader picture of community provision in the district.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1** The proposals appended to this report will support an effective local partnership to support local people through hardship and crisis in 2026 and should sustain and build inter-organisational referral routes to roll forward into future years' delivery.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** CRF is external funding, conditioned to be spend on agreed activities to alleviate financial hardship. It cannot be redirected to other activities. As such, the proposed expenditure does not affect the Council's financial position beyond the staff resource necessary to manage arrangements with partners and to process payments, which can be managed currently within establishment budget.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** This funding is provided to CDC on standardised GCC grant conditions. The reporting and monitoring expectations will be taken on by funded partners, who will sign up to these in contracting with CDC.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1** In the event that CRF funds are not allocated, they will be returned, via the County Council, to the Department for Work and Pensions. Thus, there is a risk without decision on the funds that this resource will be lost to the district and not spent to the advantage of local residents.
- 9.2** Without due consideration and supervision, there is a risk that funds could be spent to limited positive impact locally. This risk has been mitigated through early engagement with local partners and a focus on critical activity.

10. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 10.1** CRF is not directed at specific protected characteristics. However, protected characteristics can play a role in social and economic opportunity. More households where a householder has a disability, or single parent households, for example, are more likely to be in economic hardship. CRF partners have a strong commitment to equalities, which will be enforced through the contracting process. Overall, the



delivery of CRF supported activity will support residents in need, and support people with protected characteristics towards economic and social inclusion.

11. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1** There are unlikely to be significant climate and ecological emergency implications. By supporting residents in economic hardship, including fuel poverty, CRF may encourage additional use of home heating, but in all likelihood only to a level most households might take for granted. Conversely, supporting residents with utility costs may discourage them from using alternative heat sources such as open fires or gas heaters, which may be cheaper to run, but which present climate change and safety concerns.
- 11.2** Within the county CRF programme, GCC have supported Severn and Wye Energy Agency to provide household advice on energy efficiency, insulation and lowering bills, so within the wider CRF provision, we expect to see a net climate positive.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1** None

(END

Crisis & Resilience Fund 1		
C&R Pillar	Delivery	Annual budget
Resilience/	North Cotswold Foodbank	£ 20,000.00
Resilience/	South Cotswold Foodbank	£ 25,000.00
Community Coordination	Rural Hub partnership - smaller local partners to make warm referrals, host expert services etc	£ 40,000.00
Prevention	Cotswold Friends	£ 16,000.00
Prevention	The Churn	£ 18,000.00
Resilience	p3	£ 21,351.00
Community Coordination	CFN - Strategic Support	£ 15,000.00
Admin		£ 15,099.00
Total		£170,450.00

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COTSWOLD
District Council

Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026-27

Project Summary Form

1. Contact Details

Organisation: Cotswold Friends

Contact: Joanna Hammond, CEO

Email: REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

2. Project Description (Max 200 words)

Enabling Independence for Older and Vulnerable People

Distributing emergency financial grants from our own Hardship Fund for people who cannot wait for a formal process. Working with Age UK Gloucestershire to distribute the final HSF vouchers directly to people in crisis. Supporting people to complete their grant applications to the new Crisis & Resilience Fund. Acting as a direct referral partner for the North Cotswold Foodbank, supporting two to three households every week to collect food vouchers.

Acting as a trusted referrer to Citizens Advice, representing clients directly in appeals for debt, benefits, and housing support. Referring clients to P3 Debt Advice and housing agencies including Bromford Housing. Supporting applications for Blue Badges, Carers Assessments, and emergency grants from local funds including the Edith Mann Trust. Distributing warm packs and connecting people to energy support schemes. Running a cost-of-living page on our website, updated regularly, and distributing leaflets through our newsletter.

Support Services staff, including Befriending, Carer Wellbeing and Independence Support, are trained to spot and respond to financial hardship. 300 volunteers, who

make visits to people's homes every week, are often the first to notice that something is wrong.

We do not wait to be asked. We see. We act.

3. CRF Grant offer: £16,000

NB – as new activity is unlikely to commence until q2, please do not flat profile unless specific project activity proceeded at risk in q1. Where you have received HSF, please only include activity that post dates or is additional to HSF funded activity.

4. Financial Summary

Item	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Quarterly Spend (£)	n/a	£5,333	£5,333	£5,333
Cumulative (£)	n/a	£5,333	£10,666	£16,000

HSF Round 7 funds that were authorised to carry over into 2026/27 have been used to fund Cotswold Friends Independence Service for Qtr 1. Crisis Resilience funding will contribute to funding for Qtrs 2, 3 and 4.

5. Outputs by Quarter 2026/27

Outputs: Independence Service - Instances of Support	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Independence Service - Shopping, Prescriptions, Hospital support and general support.	n/a	20	20	20
Cost of Living Support – HSF vouchers, foodbank, grant applications, warm packs, debt referrals, hardship fund and more	n/a	40	40	40

Digital Inclusion Support	n/a	62	62	62
Advice & Signposting support	n/a	50	50	50
Volunteer Recruitment	n/a	4	5	5

6. Certification

- ☐ Evidence of Governance and complaints procedures - Yes
- ☐ Safeguarding Policy - Yes
- ☐ Public Liability Insurance - Yes
- ☐ Equalities Policy - Yes



COTSWOLD
District Council

Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026-27

Project Summary Form

1. Contact Details

Organisation: People, Potential, Possibilities (P3)

Contact: Matt Gasside, Head of Support (Gloucestershire)

Email: REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

2. Project Description (Max 200 words)

People, Potential, Possibilities (P3) will establish a Community Link Worker to expand early intervention and crisis support across the Cotswold district. The organisation currently supports individuals experiencing housing instability, financial hardship, poor mental health and social isolation through community-based services. Demand continues to increase due to cost of living pressures and gaps in preventative provision, particularly in rural areas.

Funding will support a 26-hour-per-week Community Link Worker providing weekly drop-in sessions across Stow-on-the-Wold and Chipping Campden, alongside targeted home-based support for individuals with complex needs. Support will include housing advice, benefits assistance, budgeting and income maximisation. Delivered through trusted community venues and within people's homes where necessary, the project will improve access to support, enable earlier intervention and prevent escalation into crisis, while building long-term resilience and independence.

3. CRF Grant offer: £21,351

The GCC allocation does not stretch to being able to fund the project identified in the EOI in its entirety, so we have proposed 40%.

NB – as new activity is unlikely to commence until q2, please do not flat profile unless specific project activity proceeded at risk in q1

4. Financial Summary

Item	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Quarterly Spend (£)	0	7,117	7,117	7,117
Cumulative (£)	0	7,117	14,234	21,351

5. Outputs by Quarter

Outputs	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Individuals supported	0	10	30	30
Crisis interventions / 1:1 support	0	5	15	15
Residents supported with housing/benefits	0	5	15	15
Community drop-in sessions delivered	0	8	26	26

6. Certification

X Evidence of Governance and complaints procedures

X Safeguarding Policy

X Public Liability Insurance

X Equalities Policy



COTSWOLD
District Council

Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026-27

Project Summary Form

1. Contact Details

Organisation: South Cotswolds Foodbank

Contact: Eliza Dunlop, Fundraising and Community Relations Manager

Email: REDACTED

2. Project Description (Max 200 words)

South Cotswolds Foodbank will expand its integrated model of crisis response and resilience building to better support households experiencing acute financial hardship across rural areas. The organisation currently delivers emergency food parcels, cash-first support, and rapid triage with referral into specialist advice services. Demand is increasing, particularly in isolated communities with limited transport and digital access. Additional funding will enable expansion of outreach into underserved rural areas, including new place-based delivery in the east of the district, alongside increased capacity for same-day triage and crisis support. The project will extend cash-first interventions such as fuel vouchers and essential items, while strengthening partnerships with advice providers to address underlying issues including debt, income maximisation and wellbeing. Alongside crisis response, the project will enhance resilience-building activity through financial capability support, digital inclusion, and targeted engagement with families and vulnerable adults. Overall, the project aims to reduce repeat crisis need, improve access to services, and build longer-term financial resilience across communities.

3. CRF Grant offer: £25,000

£20,000 to enable embedded FI advice to Food bank users. £5000 to extend coverage across the south Cotswolds, working with partner organisations to enable colocation and warm referrals. NB – as new activity is unlikely to commence until q2, please do not flat profile unless specific project activity proceeded at risk in q1. Where you have received HSF, please only include activity that post dates or is additional to HSF funded activity.

4. Financial Summary

Item	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Quarterly Spend (£)		8,334	8,333	8,333
Cumulative (£)			£16,667	£25,000

5. Outputs by Quarter

Outputs	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Households supported		85	95	90
Crisis interventions		54	65	60
Advice referrals		37	45	45
Outreach sessions delivered (in person / remote)		24 / 36	35 / 36	40 / 36

6. Certification

- ☒ Evidence of Governance and complaints procedures
- ☒ Safeguarding Policy
- ☒ Public Liability Insurance
- ☒ Equalities Policy



COTSWOLD
District Council

Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026-27

Project Summary Form

1. Contact Details

Organisation: The Churn Community Hub

Contact: Sarah Bourne, CEO

Email: REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

2. Project Description (Max 200 words)

The Churn Community Hub will expand its established crisis response and resilience provision to support individuals and families experiencing financial hardship and complex needs across the South Cotswolds. Demand for accessible, community-based support is increasing, with many residents requiring intensive one-to-one assistance to navigate benefits, housing issues, debt and wider wellbeing challenges. Additional funding will increase capacity for crisis triage and practical follow-through support, ensuring people can act on advice rather than being signposted alone. Support will include completing applications, improving digital access, attending appointments and accessing grants and services. The project will strengthen a “no wrong door” approach while expanding preventative activity, including wellbeing programmes, financial resilience sessions and digital inclusion support. By combining crisis intervention with longer-term resilience building, the project will stabilise situations earlier, reduce escalation and improve independence, confidence and wellbeing.

3. CRF Grant offer: £18,000

£16000 towards direct Community Hub delivery.

£2000 towards outreach and work with partners to support warm referrals and the development of a hub network.

NB – as new activity is unlikely to commence until q2, please do not flat profile unless specific project activity proceeded at risk in q1. Where you have received HSF, please only include activity that post dates or is additional to HSF funded activity.

4. Financial Summary

Item	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Quarterly Spend (£)		5,333	6,334	6333
Cumulative (£)		5,333	11,667	18000

5. Outputs by Quarter

Outputs	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Individuals supported		120	157	174
Crisis interventions / 1:1 support		51	65	84
Residents supported with applications		26	32	30
Resilience / wellbeing sessions delivered		43	60	60

6. Certification

x ☐ Evidence of Governance and complaints procedures

x ☐ Safeguarding Policy

x ☐ Public Liability Insurance

x ☐ Equalities Policy



COTSWOLD
District Council

Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026-27

Project Summary Form

1. Contact Details

Organisation: North Cotswold Foodbank

Contact: Kevin Carden, Foodbank Manager

Email: REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

2. Project Description (Max 200 words)

North Cotswold Foodbank will strengthen its existing crisis response and develop a more integrated community support model to assist households experiencing financial hardship across rural communities. The Foodbank currently provides emergency food parcels to individuals referred by partner agencies and works with Citizens Advice advisors to deliver support alongside food provision. Demand is increasing due to ongoing cost of living and energy pressures, particularly in rural areas with limited access to services. Funding will support the development of community hubs alongside weekly foodbank sessions, bringing together partner organisations to provide accessible, place-based support including advice, guidance and crisis intervention. The project will maintain and expand Citizens Advice provision to ensure individuals receive practical support to address underlying issues. By combining immediate crisis support with accessible community advice and support, the project aims to reduce repeat need, improve resilience, and increase access to services for residents in isolated communities.

3. CRF Grant offer: £20,000

£15,000 to enable embedded FI advice to Food bank users. £5000 to extend coverage across the North Cotswolds, working with partner organisations to enable co-location and warm referrals.

NB – as new activity is unlikely to commence until q2, please do not flat profile unless specific project activity proceeded at risk in q1. Where you have received HSF, please only include activity that post dates or is additional to HSF funded activity.

4. Financial Summary

Item	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Quarterly Spend (£)		6000	8000	6000
Cumulative (£)	0	6000	14000	20000

5. Outputs by Quarter

Outputs	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Households supported		139	139	139
Crisis interventions				
Advice support / referrals		40	40	40
Community hub sessions delivered		2	13	26

6. Certification

- x Evidence of Governance and complaints procedures
- x Safeguarding Policy
- x Public Liability Insurance
- x Equalities Policy