

Our Cotswolds, Our Plan: Action Plan 2024 Update - Progress by end of Q4 2023-2024

Green	On target
Amber	Off target but action being taken to ensure delivery (where this results in a reviewed target date, this is made clear in the table)
Red	Off target and no action has yet been agreed to resolve the situation
Complete	Action completed
Not Scheduled to Start	
Cancelled	
On Hold	

Objectives	Priorities	Actions	Commencement	Target Date	Cabinet Member, Lead officer(s)	RAG Rating	Comment for Q4	
Delivering good services	Ensure our workforce can deliver for the council and our community	Deliver a programme to bring Council services back in-house, maximising responsiveness and democratic accountability	Nov-23	Projected timeframe of two years, until 2025	Cllr Joe Harris Robert Weaver	On Target	In January, Full council approved the recommendations set out in the Local Partnerships report and agreed to instruct the Interim Programme Director to prepare a detailed transition plan to build on the recommendations set out in the Local Partnerships report.	
		Lease spare office space at Trinity Road	Dec-23	Mar-24	Cllr Mike Evemy Claire Locke Suzanne Barton	On Target	Work with Watermoor Point is progressing well with the details of both the legal agreement and the arrangements for fitting out the space well advanced. Works should complete early May with occupation Mid-May.	
	Ensure effective oversight of our services, to ensure value for money and good standards	Review the waste service, and undertake an options appraisal	Dec-23	Jun-24	Cllr Mike Evemy David Stanley			
	Enhance our financial resilience and make best use of our assets	Continue to ensure that the Council's MTFS five year strategy reflects economic conditions and the government's funding settlement	Feb-24	Reviewed annually	Cllr Mike Evemy David Stanley	On Target	The Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024-25 were presented and approved at the Full Council Budget meeting in February 2024.	
		Implement the Council's new asset management strategy and asset plans	Apr-24	Review April 2025	Cllr Mike Evemy David Stanley	Not Scheduled to Start During Quarter		
	Play our part in maintaining and enhancing the public realm across the district	Instigate second phase of activity to replace worn and damaged street nameplates	Feb-24	Feb-25	Cllr Joe Harris Claire Locke	Off Target, but action being taken to ensure delivery	Revised processes currently being agreed with Ubico to ensure installations aren't delayed and overall processes being reviewed to avoid errors with wording and location of signs. List of signs for replacement being cross checked with those already completed. Second tranche will then be planned in and budget and timeline provided.	
	Responding to the climate emergency	Reduce CO2 from Transport: We will actively encourage and support the transition to EVs and increased use of public and sustainable transport such as	Develop and deliver an Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy	Jan-24	Jul-24	Cllr Mike McKeown Claire Locke	On Target	EV charge points are now installed and operational at Trinity Road and Rissington Road. On street residential charge point scheme (ORCS) funding has been secured for last tranche of installations, with a business case being taken to July Cabinet recommending site allocation.
			Work with partners to implement the Sustainable Transport Strategy	Adoption as part of the Local Plan - projected	Apr-28	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson	Not Scheduled to Start During	

		June 2025		James Brain	Quarter	
cycling and walking.	Taxi Transition - explore the opportunity for the creation of an EV Taxi policy	Apr-24	Nov-24	Cllr Mike McKeown Jon Dearing Mandy Fathers	Off Target, but action being taken to ensure delivery	Later this year, the policies regarding taxi licensing will be reviewed. Currently, most of our taxi fleet meets the Euro 6 emissions standard. Additionally, we ensure that all new taxi licensing applications are for vehicles that are 5 years old or less. To maintain safety and performance standards, all vehicles, regardless of age, must undergo a 6-monthly MOT. As part of our upcoming policy review, we will also consider the inclusion of electric vehicles (EVs) for licensed taxis.
Cut Council Carbon Footprint, implementing sustainable practices in all council operations, emphasising energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption, across our buildings, fleet and suppliers.	Create a Climate Board, agree governance arrangements and key outcomes.	Jan-24	Review January 2025	Cllr Mike McKeown Charlie Jackson		
Increase renewable energy generation within the district, ensuring local benefit	Support and promote community owned renewables initiatives	Dec-23	Review June 2024	Cllr Mike McKeown Charlie Jackson		
	Explore the business cases for the installation of solar panels on Council owned assets.	Jan-24	Jul-24	Cllr Mike McKeown Claire Locke	Off Target, but action being taken to ensure delivery	The installation of solar panels at Trinity Road has experienced a slight delay due to proposed adjustments to the original design. These changes were prompted by concerns regarding the weight of the panels and the structural integrity of the roof. A revised plan has been developed, integrating the PV panels into the roof structure, and has received approval from both Planning and the Structural Engineer. Written confirmation is now awaited that the supplier will absorb the additional cost. Whilst this has delayed the scheme by a few weeks, it is hoped work will start on-site in May. Terms have provisionally been agreed with New Brewery Arts and Power Purchasing agreement being prepared by legal.
Champion initiatives to address the ecological emergency and nature recovery, focusing on reducing CO2 and conserving and enhancing the district's biodiversity and natural beauty.	Implement the new requirements around Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	Jan-24	Review July 2024	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson	On Target	Progress persists in the implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), especially concerning the allocation of secured funds to fulfil necessary mitigation measures. The first mandatory BNG applications have been received and are presently under review. The primary focus has shifted towards establishing necessary processes, providing training, and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.
Reduce CO2 from Buildings: Foster community-led climate action, supporting residents and businesses adopting renewable heating and improving energy efficiency.	Continue to promote and deliver Cotswold Home Solar, in partnership with MakeMyHouseGreen	Jan-23	Review July 2024	Cllr Mike McKeown Charlie Jackson		
	Consider the business case on optimising the delivery of high quality retrofit advice and support	Jul-24	Jul-25	Cllr Mike McKeown Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson	On Target	Options to optimise delivery of high quality retrofit support are currently being explored and considered. A Gloucestershire-wide consortium bid was submitted to South West Net Zero Hub (SWNZH). If successful CDC would receive funds to employ a retrofit engagement officer. CDC are also contributing to creation of a Gloucestershire-wide retrofit support offer being developed through CLG (Climate Leadership Gloucestershire) partnership. Finally, CDC are considering bidding for funding from the MSC Foundation as part of a consortium.

	Ensure our planning policies deliver our corporate priorities and promotes both carbon neutral development and infrastructure	Subject to proposed legislative changes, complete full review of the Local Plan	Jan-24	Jun-25	Cllr Juliet Layton	On Target	CDC is currently partially updating its adopted Local Plan to make it green to the core. A consultation was held on the draft Local Plan policies between 1 February 2024 and 7 April 2024. Consultation responses are currently being considered and further supporting evidence is being produced before a final version of the Local Plan will be consulted on early in 2025. The Local Plan update will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate before June 2025 for an Independent Examination in Public led by a government appointed Inspector.
					Charlie Jackson James Brain		
		Develop a new Cotswold Design Guide – building for the future in the Cotswolds	Sep-23	Sep-24	Cllr Juliet Layton	On Target	City Science have been commissioned to help deliver the new Cotswold Design Code (note guide!). A draft Design Code has been shared for comment. The final Design Code is currently being worked up.
				Charlie Jackson James Brain			
		Work with Cirencester Town Council on the coordination of the Cirencester Town Centre Masterplan and the Cirencester Neighbourhood Plan policies	Jan-24	Review February 2024	Cllr Juliet Layton	On Target	A consultation was held on the draft master plan between 1 February 2024 and 7 April 2024. Consultation responses are currently being considered, which will inform a more detailed version of the masterplan. Mace, a highly experienced consultancy with a proven track record of delivering masterplans, have been appointed to assist with the delivery of the masterplan. CDC has also been working with Cirencester TC on their Neighbourhood Plan policies and comments have been provided on the draft NDP policies.
					Charlie Jackson James Brain		
Delivering Housing	Working with our partners to explore innovative routes to deliver more affordable homes	Explore innovative approaches to housing delivery	Feb-24	Aug-25	Cllr Joe Harris	On Target	Proactive Approach to Affordable Housing Delivery paper approved by Cabinet with the suggestions to be explored, in order to increase the supply of affordable homes within the district. The recruitment process for the Strategic Housing Development and Enabling Manager is currently underway.
					Robert Weaver Charlie Jackson		
		Deliver an exemplar zero carbon affordable housing development in Down Ampney	Dec-23	Apr-28	Cllr Joe Harris	On Target	Delays with planning application submission initially due to issues with the drainage design and a slow response from the architects and then the new requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain. Planning submitted in June 2024.
				Robert Weaver Claire Locke			
	Understanding everyone's housing needs	Support refugees to retain adequate housing	Jul-23	Review March 2024	Cllr Joe Harris	On Target	This is an ongoing situation with the Housing Team working with s151's and our countywide partners to ensure that no refugee is left to rough sleep.
					Jon Dearing Caroline Clissold		
		Continue to monitor housing needs, using Homeseecker Plus, to inform housing strategy and implementation	Jan-24	Jul-24	Cllr Joe Harris	On Target	Monitoring housing needs is ongoing with recent increases in homelessness noted. Causes for these increases are varied, but homelessness is rising in most local authorities, leaving more households competing for the same amount of available affordable accommodation. Housing is working with Strategic Housing to source additional long term temporary accommodation as well as working with local independent business to increase the supply of short term accommodation.
				Jon Dearing Caroline Clissold			
		Continue to build on the success of the Housing First Project with a new county wide approach	Jan-24	Jul-24	Cllr Joe Harris	On Target	The Cotswold Housing First project is recognised across the county as being an exemplary example of how projects of this type should be approached. Successful outcomes are above national averages and the Housing Team continue to work closely with Bromford and P3 to ensure the continued success of this project.
				Jon Dearing Caroline Clissold			
Adopting and implementing our new housing strategy	Consult and adopt the Council's new Housing strategy	Dec-23	Jun-24	Cllr Joe Harris	On Target	A public consultation on the Housing Strategy ran from 10th January to 21st February to gather residents' views and understand housing challenges and priorities. Feedback will shape Council collaboration with partners, inform funding bids	

	Planning strategy	Strategy			Charlie Jackson James Brain		Shape Council collaboration with partners, inform planning process, and ensure priorities align with residents' needs for greater access to affordable housing.
Supporting communities	<b>Strengthen our links with town and parish councils and key stakeholders</b>	Continue the annual programme of Town and Parish Council Forum engagement events	Jan-24	Jan-25	Cllr Joe Harris Angela Claridge	On Target	A forum event was held on 28th February, with the next event scheduled for mid June. A Town and Parish newsletter will be issued after the May elections.
	<b>Address the challenges of flooding and water quality and sewerage discharges</b>	Identify opportunities to influence policy and host a sewage summit with the outcome being reported to the Council in May.	Jan-24	May-24	Cllr Lisa Spivey Phil Martin James Brain	Off Target, but action being taken to ensure delivery	The date for the sewage summit has now been finalised and will take place on the 8th July in the Corinium Museum in Cirencester. All 3 Water companies will be attending, along with the EA and representatives from Earth Watch. A report to Council will be present in September following the event.
		Identify gaps and bolster the Cotswold Flood wardens programme	Jan-24	Jun-24	Cllr Lisa Spivey Robert Weaver Phil Martin	On Target	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) appointed a new officer to support the flood warden programme early in the year, but unfortunately she resigned shortly after, so the focus of activity has been on recruitment. This notwithstanding, GRCC were able to run a Flood Warden meeting in February.
	<b>Enhance connectivity, and biodiversity in the Cotswold Water park</b>	Continue to work with Gloucestershire County Council on the creation of a safe crossing of the Spine Road	Jan-24	Review in January 2025	Cllr Juliet Layton Andy Barge Philippa Lowe	On Target	Officers continue to liaise with Gloucestershire County Council on this project and the Council has funded a feasibility study, the results of which are awaited. There is potential funding for the project from UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Sustrans also believe there may be other funding opportunities.
		Install cycle racks, in consultation with the local community	Jan-24	Mar-25	Cllr Juliet Layton Andy Barge Philippa Lowe	On Target	In collaboration with Life Cycle, the Council have installed 51 new community bike stands across the District including in Lechlade, Fairford and South Cerney.
		Work with partners to embed the Nature Recovery Plan for the Waterpark	Jan-24	Review every six months	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson Sophia Price		
	<b>Healthy place making through the Local Plan</b>	Embed Healthy Homes Act into the Cotswold Design Code	Jun-25	Jun-25	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson	Not Scheduled to Start During Quarter	
		Introduce a requirement for Community Access Defibrillators in new developments	Jun-25	Jun-25	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson	Not Scheduled to Start During Quarter	
		Focus on green infrastructure, to enhance biodiversity and community wellbeing	Jun-25	Jun-25	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson	Not Scheduled to Start During Quarter	
	<b>Develop and deliver a District Council cultural strategy</b>	Commence development of the cultural strategy	Feb-24	Sep-24	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright	On Target	Initial meetings have been held internally with members and relevant officers as well as external partners. Meeting scheduled with the museum and Freedom Leisure to speak about the strategy and their involvement. Worskop will be organised for June bringing together relevant local organisations to explore the development of a cultural strategy for the district.

	Encourage resilient, well-connected and active communities that take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing	Continue to deliver an asset based community development approach	Jan-24	Apr-28	Cllr Lisa Spivey	On Target	Continued engagements with various community groups, including the Chesterton Community Project Group, Bromford Housing, and The Salvation Army, aim to enhance community resilience and improve residents' health and well-being using the ABCD method. Additionally, the organisation, promotion, and support of the 'Getting Connected' Courses for Digital Inclusion for older people have yielded positive results, with over 60 older adults benefiting from the program. Notably, Bourton on the Water, Fairford, and Tetbury have seen significant participation, with attendees forming WhatsApp group chats and socialising outside of the course, effectively reducing isolation and loneliness while increasing digital inclusion.
					Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright		In addition, the planning stages have been completed for the 'DIGI DAY' project, a new initiative for 2024 that aims to further support and enhance community knowledge of digital topics through expert advice and guidance.
		Celebrate success - promote the work being done by partners across the district to inspire communities	Feb-24	Review August 2024	Cllr Claire Bloomer Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright	On Target	Planning for the Unsung Hero Awards has commenced. The scheme will launch in May with first awards being awarded on July 17th.
		Continue to promote community activity through Crowdfund Cotswold	Feb-24	Review August 2024	Cllr Lisa Spivey Andy Barge Joseph Walker	On Target	The spring round of Crowdfund Cotswold launched in February, with a deadline for applications of 24th April. The remaining projects from the autumn round met their targets.
	Promote healthy lifestyles, fun and self-care for all ages	Monitor and review delivery of the District leisure contract with Freedom Leisure	Aug-23	Aug-25	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson David Stanley Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright	On Target	Regular meetings have been scheduled to review performance and to identify and mitigate any risks.
		Continue to deliver the Healthier District and Connected Communities objectives and priorities set out in the Active Cotswolds Action Plan, and implement the Playing Pitch Strategy's action plan.	Jan-24	Review January 2025	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson Angela Claridge Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright	On Target	Please see Active Cotswold Programme for updates
		Work with partners to develop a consistent, countywide approach to identify opportunities to support to care leavers	Jun-24	Review December 2024	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson David Stanley Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright	On Target	A member briefing about care leavers and cooperate parenting responsibilities was held in March. Further actions will follow incl. support to access leisure activities locally. Further meetings to be held with district colleagues.
					Cllr Claire Bloomer		Community Support Officer Food Sustainability post has started in Dec 23. The first Financial Inclusion Workshop has been held in

	<b>Work with partners to ensure vital services cover the district, and offer support to our residents if crises hit</b>	Continue to be a proactive member of the Cotswold Food Network Steering Group and support initiatives under the network's umbrella	Jan-24	Review January 2025	Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright	On Target	February. Attendance was very good with advice and support services from across the district. This first workshop focussed on mapping and understanding what support and advice is available for people and where the gaps are. A second workshop is scheduled for May to look at how this information can be used to improve the provision across the district.
		Continue to work with the NHS Integrated Locality Partnership to support youth mental health	Jan-24	Review January 2025	Cllr Claire Bloomer	On Target	£116k have been awarded for projects supporting children, young people and families. These projects are being delivered by local voluntary sector organisations. Projects include: youth provision in Chipping Campden; Cirencester Town Youth Provision, Digital Youth Work, Gloucestershire Young Carers Activity Days; Positive Body Image Performance at Cirencester College; Family Fun and Health Days...
					Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright		
	Maintain a multi-service response to the cost of living crisis, and other challenges to community wellbeing	Jan-23	Review January 2025	Cllr Claire Bloomer	On Target	Regular member led working group is reviewing issues and responses to those issues and ensuring support to communities and existing groups and promotion of the help that is available.	
				Claire Locke Jacqueline Wright			
	<b>Keep residents safe, through awareness raising around domestic abuse and fraud</b>	Continue to raise the profile of the Community Safety Partnership to reduce the fear of crime and ensure residents know how, and where, to get support	Feb-24	Review February 2025	Cllr Lisa Spivey	On Target	The Cotswold Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is launching their new Action Plan in April. The CSP is planning to be part of local community events to raise its profile and share relevant information.
					Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright		
		Deliver Rural Domestic Abuse Champions programme in partnership with other rural Gloucestershire districts and Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Services	Feb-24	Mar-25	Cllr Lisa Spivey/Cllr Claire Bloomer	On Target	Originally, 70 participated in training for the Rural Domestic Abuse Champion's training, 20 remain in place, with new organisations requesting training such as Cirencester TC, CGL (recently changed to VIA) and Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue service. New online training was provided in March'24 with a quarterly newsletter also offered in March. GDASS are in the process of updating their website to map the gaps in training across the district. Cotswold are following FoD in the 'Cut it Out' project, aimed at beauty providers, giving training on how to deal with information given regarding the risk of a client in a domestic abuse situation.
					Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright		
		Train frontline staff to identify Domestic Abuse and review internal processes to recognise and support victims of abuse	Feb-24	Jul-24	Cllr Lisa Spivey/Cllr Claire Bloomer	On Target	We have provided information for the Manager's Newsletter to promote GDASS training to all teams. GDASS are offering Rural Champions training, in two parts, to both staff and Members. We will review level of training to ensure victims of DA are given any support we can give.
Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright							
Coordinate activity under Home Office's safer Streets Fund to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour and violence against women and girls	Feb-24	Review February 2025	Cllr Lisa Spivey	On Target	Funds for Safer Streets round 4 and 5 have been distributed to local TPC's after engagement and updates about initiatives are being received.		
			Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright				
<b>Supporting the economy</b>	Work with key sectors to create new highly skilled jobs, through promotion of apprenticeship opportunities	Feb-24	Apr-28	Cllr Tony Dale	On Target	Officers continue to work with businesses from key sectors, including agritech, cyber/digital and sustainable aviation to promote employment opportunities. The most recent meeting of the Cotswold Economic Advisory Group focused on apprenticeships, with a presentation by St James' Place on their	
				Philippa Lowe			

	<b>Work with partners to develop the skills of our residents</b>				Paul James		apprenticeships, with a presentation by St James's Place on their programme and the lessons for other employers.	
		Deliver a programme of activities in year 3 of the Shared Prosperity Fund to help those furthest from the employment market	Apr-24	Mar-25	Cllr Tony Dale Philippa Lowe Paul James	On Target	Being delivered through Gloucestershire County Council's Employment and Skills Hub Outreach programme. Output and outcome targets have been agreed. A legal agreement between the two councils has been agreed and is in the process of being executed.	
	<b>Attract and manage investment to boost the local economy</b>	Consider the results of the digital and green survey of community buildings, and enable improvements through Rural England Prosperity Fund	Apr-24	Mar-25	Cllr Tony Dale Philippa Lowe Paul James	On Target	Grant programme is being administered by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC). Three grants have been agreed and there is a rolling programme for applications/approvals. An online information session was held recently which was well-attended and will hopefully result in a number of new applications.	
		<b>Support local businesses and farms, to enhance the vibrancy of our towns and villages, and to manage the opportunity and impact of the visitor economy</b>	Continue to deliver against the six priorities set out in the Cotswold Tourism destination management plan	Jan-24	Mar-25	Cllr Tony Dale Philippa Lowe Chris Jackson		
	Continue to support the Local Visitor Economy Partnership, to ensure better coordination of tourism activity and delivery against national growth targets		Jan-24	Review January 2025	Cllr Tony Dale Philippa Lowe Chris Jackson			
	<b>Work with local and county partners to grow a strong and sustainable economy</b>		Undertake a refresh of the Green Economic Strategy	Feb-24	Apr-24	Cllr Tony Dale Philippa Lowe Paul James	On Target	Awaiting the adoption of the new Gloucestershire Economic Strategy, which will be considered by the County Council Cabinet and City Region Board in June 2024. A report will be brought to Cabinet later in the year.
			Continue to support the development of the Royal Agricultural University's Innovation Village	Jan-24	Jan-25	Cllr Tony Dale Philippa Lowe Paul James	On Target	Officers and the Cabinet Member continue to liaise with the RAU. An outline planning application was submitted in April 2024.
		Continue to work with The Growth Hub to support existing businesses and encourage the growth of start-ups, with a focus on the outreach provision supported by the Shared Prosperity Fund	Jan-24	Mar-25	Cllr Tony Dale Philippa Lowe Paul James	On Target	Funding for 2024-25 was approved by the Chief Executive and Cabinet Member in line with the Cabinet resolution. Officers meet monthly with representatives from the RAU/Growth Hub to monitor progress against outputs/outcomes and are confident the targets will be achieved. The Outreach Navigator continues to work across the district and the first event in the north of the district, held at the Moreton Area Centre, took place in February 2024 and was well-attended.	