



Cabinet response to recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 February 2026

The following recommendation arose from an item on the Retail and Hospitality Sectors in the Cotswold District.

Recommendation	Agree (Y / N)	Comment	Responsible Cabinet Member	Lead Officer
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 let 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 . The Council also has a Green Economic Growth		
4. That the Council considers developing an integrated strategy for town centre economies, building communities not just houses, with a view to enhancing the Cotswolds' unique visitor economy.	N			



		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 essential local retail provision and employment opportunities.	Y	Councillor Wilkinson will send a letter to the relevant government minister.		