



COUNCIL MOTION FORM

Title of Motion: **Climate and Ecological Transformation in Cotswold District and Gloucestershire**

Proposer: Councillor Angus Jenkinson

Seconder: Councillor Mike McKeown

The motion addresses the urgent need for local action to support sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices in response to escalating climate and ecological challenges.

Council notes:

- The Council's declared Climate and Ecological Emergencies and its continuing commitment to be green to the core in response to these
- The findings of the UK's national risk assessment identifying critical threats to ecosystems and biodiversity with international evidence that many natural systems are on trajectories towards failure
- The recent call by the United Nations Secretary-General for a transition beyond GDP towards recognising the value of natural systems and ecosystem services for local and global future outcomes
- The conclusions of successive international UN IPCC scientific reports that agricultural methods have a vital role in mitigating climate and ecological impacts, which also affect food supply
- Both Cotswold District and Gloucestershire have amongst the highest proportions of agricultural land of any local authority areas in England with thousands of farm enterprises that are in or considering transition to regenerative practices
- That Gloucestershire contains the largest National Landscape in England and a National Forest Park
- That climate, ecology and food resilience depend on successful agricultural transition, a goal relevant to the Food and Farming track in local government re-organisation.

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, Full Council resolves 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) 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).

NOTES:

1. Motions must be submitted to Democratic.Services@Cotswold.gov.uk not later than 7 working days prior to the date of the meeting.
2. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility, or which affect the Cotswold District.
3. Council cannot instruct the Leader but can makes requests of the Leader.
4. Council motions cannot commit resources or expenditure. Any request for resources would need to be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Council meeting date: 18 March 2026.