



COUNCIL MOTION FORM

Title of Motion: Protecting our Cotswolds hospitals

Motion: 2026/003

Proposer: Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

Seconder: Councillor Claire Bloomer

Rural community hospitals in the Cotswolds at Cirencester, Moreton, Fairford and Tetbury provide essential, accessible healthcare close to home. They ease pressure on larger hospitals such as Cheltenham and Gloucester, support older and recovering patients, and ensure that people in rural areas are not forced into long, difficult journeys for routine treatment and rehabilitation.

Any cuts, closures or "temporary" service changes at any of the Cotswolds' hospitals undermine this lifeline. When community hospitals lose services, patients face longer waits, families take on increased travel burdens and already stretched NHS services become even more strained. With thousands of new homes planned and an ageing population in the Cotswolds, we need *greater* investment in our rural hospitals, not further reductions.

We call on this Council to show its support for the future of Cotswolds' NHS services, for the Leader of the Council to write to Gloucestershire's NHS emphasising that all temporary withdrawals of services should be just that - temporary, not permanent and for our local hospitals to be used as much as possible.

That Full Council resolves to:

1. Request that the Leader of the Council write formally to Gloucestershire's NHS to seek assurances regarding the long-term future and sustainability local community hospital facilities emphasising that all temporary withdrawals of services should be just that - temporary, not permanent and to advocate for maximum utilisation of local community hospital facilities
2. Agree the vital role played by rural community hospitals in Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Fairford and Tetbury in providing accessible healthcare to residents of the Cotswolds

Council Meeting Date: 20 May 2026