



Member Questions for Council – 15 July 2026

	Member asking question	Question	Cabinet Member	Suggested response
1	Cllr Daryl Corps	Please confirm how much money is currently held in the Council's Planning Appeals Reserve, often described as the planning 'fighting fund'? How much of that sum is ring fenced specifically for defending planning appeals, and how much, if any, has been spent or committed since the fund was established?	Cllr Patrick Coleman/ Cllr Juliet Layton	A balance of £0.720m is currently held in the Council's Planning Appeals Reserve. The reserve was established in 2024/25 following an underspend of £25k against the planning appeals budget. A further £0.710m was transferred into the reserve in 2025/26, funded from the over-achievement of planning fee income. To date, £15k has been drawn down from the reserve to fund an overspend within the planning appeals budget. There are currently no specific commitments against the remaining balance. However, the reserve continues to provide an important safeguard against the increasing financial risks associated with major planning applications. The ongoing increase in planning applications, and the associated growth in fee income, is being driven largely by major housing development proposals. Many of these schemes are speculative in nature and therefore carry a higher risk of



				planning appeals where permission is refused. In addition, decisions to grant permission may be subject to judicial review. Given the scale and complexity of such developments, any resulting appeals are more likely to be considered through informal hearings or public inquiries than by written representations. These processes can result in significant additional costs for the Council, including legal, professional and expert witness fees. Retaining the reserve therefore provides financial resilience against potentially substantial and unpredictable planning appeal and litigation costs. As with all Council Earmarked Reserves, the adequacy of reserves is reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process with recommendations on reserves included in the report to Cabinet and Council in February 2027. The adequacy of the reserves is formally considered as part of the Chief Financial Officer's Section 25 Statement which members should have due regard to when considering the budget.
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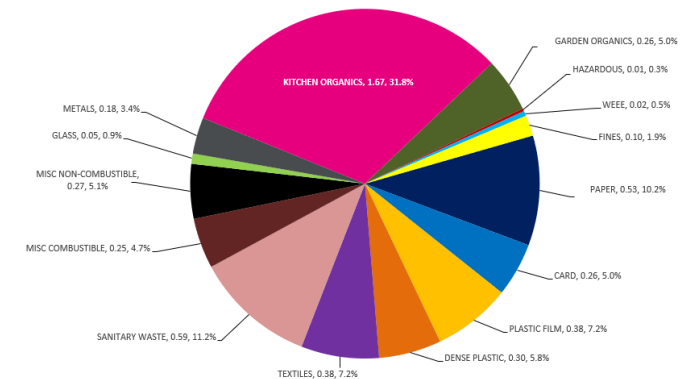
2	Cllr Gina Blomefield	The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) provides important additional funding for Town and Parish Councils and arises from statutory levies on new build housing and extensions to existing properties. If a Town or Parish has an existing Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) they receive 25% of the CIL amount with the rest going to the District Council funds and without an NDP they receive 15%. With the prospect of a huge increase in new developments across Cotswold District this could provide a useful additional revenue stream for local infrastructure projects. I understand that the criteria for CIL applications is being reviewed. It would be helpful if Town and Parish Councils could be briefed on this so that they can make plans in an organised way to spend their CIL money to best benefit their communities. Can you give me an update on when the new CIL criteria will be published?	Cllr Juliet Layton	The Council's new CIL bidding process will be published at the beginning of August and will apply to the 'Strategic Fund' which is collected, held and allocated by CDC. As part of the new process our Infrastructure Delivery Team will advise on how to improve bids, which could include strategic projects brought forward by Town and Parish Councils, where they fall short of the requirements for a valid bid. This updated process does not affect the funds transferred to Parish and Town Councils through the Neighbourhood CIL arrangements and they should follow their own processes to secure value for money. There are no current plans to brief town and parish councils on the new criteria and guidelines, but this information will be available on the Council's website.
3	Cllr Laura Hall-Wilson	While persuading residents to recycle more is a noble ambition, the overall waste a household produces is unlikely to go down. With smaller black bins what increased provision will there be to hold	Cllr Andrea Pellegram	The smaller bin policy will apply at the point the collection of plastic bags and wrapping is rolled out. Smaller bins will be provided for new properties and as existing bins become damaged and require replacement. This rolling programme



recycling (i.e. replacing the white and blue bags)
Additionally in my ward almost fortnightly recycling is left because the truck is full before it has finished its round, again with an anticipated increase in materials to be recycled, what provision will there be in the fleet to accommodate the extra needed to be collected?

of replacement will take many years to complete. Plastic bags and wrapping makes up 7.2% of the residual waste according to a waste composition analysis carried out in December 2024. A further 31.8% of the residual waste is food. By recycling these materials, residents should be able to manage with a smaller residual waste bin.

FIGURE 4: AVERAGE COTSWOLD HOUSEHOLD RESIDUAL WASTE COMPOSITION (KG/HH/WK AND %)



There is still paper and card in the residual bin and there may be more paper and card in the future where manufacturers shift from making packaging from plastic to using paper/ card. These changes are being considered in the design of the new recycling vehicles (compartment size/ level of compaction) and should therefore enable more efficient use of the vehicles and fewer instances such as you describe.



4	Cllr Daryl Corps	Residents across the district raised serious concerns during the Local Plan consultation. For transparency and openness for residents, can the administration provide any examples at this point of where public feedback has resulted in material changes to the emerging plan?	Cllr Juliet Layton	There have been consultations on the Local Plan in 2022, 2024 and 2025. All comments have been fed into the following iterations of the plan and its policies. Comments from the Regulation 18 consultation last year were fed into the master planning work and had a direct impact on the layout and scale of new strategic sites.				
5	Cllr Gina Blomefield	Housing associations play an important role in the Cotswolds providing social and affordable housing to residents. Bromford is CDC's largest provider but there are a number of other smaller players. There is a deep concern that the supply is insufficient for the demand. Can I have an update of the amount of new stock added to Cotswold District Council's affordable and social housing? Please also provide the number of social housing units sold on by social housing associations on the open market?	Cllr Juliet Layton	Social and affordable housing new stock delivered in Cotswold District: <table><tr><td>2024/25</td><td>56</td></tr><tr><td>2025/26</td><td>57</td></tr></table> Disposals by registered social housing providers in Cotswold District: Private Registered Social Housing Providers (RPs) are required by Section 176 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, to notify the Regulator of Social Housing (the regulator) (RSH) about any disposal of a dwelling that is social housing. RPs are not obligated to notify the Local Authority.	2024/25	56	2025/26	57
2024/25	56							
2025/26	57							



				The RSH website data identifies that the total number of disposals by RPs in Cotswold District in 2024/25 was 20 (of which 12 were by Bromford Flagship – see below). The data is not yet available from RSH for 2025/26 (issued late October). Bromford Flagship is by far the largest RP in Cotswold District, being responsible for approximately 70% of all social and affordable housing in the District. Their disposals in the CDC area are as follows: <table><tr><td>2024/25</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>2025/26</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>2026/27 (YTD)</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	2024/25	12	2025/26	8	2026/27 (YTD)	2
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6	Cllr David Fowles	Prior to your appointment, we expressed concern that following the removal of waste bins in laybys across the Cotswolds, residents have complained, that contrary to the Administration’s view that if there were no bins, visitors and residents would take their waste home; the waste is being left behind in lay-bys. Your administration undertook to do a review with Ubico. Please could you provide an update?	Cllr Andrea Pellegram	Litter bins have not been removed from all laybys. There are 103 litter bins in laybys across the District. Some have been removed but only in cases where the bins were being repeatedly stolen or vandalised. These bins were removed due to vandalism and cost issues. The bins in laybys are scheduled to be cleared and litter picked once a week; there are a handful of layby bins which get cleared twice a week. For example, A40, A429, Burford Road and A46 Tetbury						



				There are limited issues with the bins which are still in situ including fly tipping and overflowing bins, but this is mostly seasonal and are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The bins tend to overflow more in the summer months due to heavier traffic with the increased visitors to the area and more fly tipping over Christmas etc.
7	Cllr David Fowles	During the recent by election for Cirencester Park division, residents asked questions about plans to improve the town. Please could you update me on the status of the Cirencester Town Centre master plan and the working group which was set up to drive the plan forward?	Cllr Juliet Layton	The Cirencester Master Plan was delayed in the Spring of 2025 due to changes to the Environment Agency flood maps which identified the Waterloo Car Park as a higher flood risk. No further work could be undertaken on the master plan until investigations were made into the development potential of the site. This work dovetailed into the Local Plan Reg 18 consultation and, due to the likely significant increase in new homes in the Cirencester environs, it is considered prudent to include the overarching principles of the draft master plan in the new Local Plan and revisit the detail of the master plan after the local plan submission has been finalised.