



Member Questions for Council – 15 July 2026

	Member asking question	Question	Cabinet Member	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 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.
1b	Cllr Daryl Corps Supplementary question	What value does the administration place on protecting the Cotswolds? What criteria are used to decide whether a particular place, landscape or community is important enough to justify using the Planning Appeals Reserve?	Cllr Mike Every	Moreton was not considered unworthy of being defended. An appeal should only be pursued where there is a reasonable chance of success. Before deciding to withdraw from the Moreton appeal, the council obtained independent external advice, which concluded that the council was likely to lose. Pursuing the appeal could therefore have resulted in costs of tens or potentially hundreds of thousands of pounds. The council does have funding available to fight planning appeals, as custodians of



		Why was the recent appeal in Moreton not considered worth fighting for?		public money, the council must ensure value for money and cannot pursue appeals where there is little or no prospect of success. The decision was based on the circumstances of the individual application, not on the community concerned. The Local Plan currently under development will be important in reducing speculative development.
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	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.



		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?		
2b	Cllr Gina Blomefield Supplementary question	Could the council organise a briefing meeting for Town and Parish Councils covering all aspects of CIL, including the money held by parish councils? Some newer councillors may lack knowledge about CIL, and some parishes are holding significant sums that they have not yet decided how best to use.	Cllr Mike Every	A briefing meeting for Town and Parish Councils can be considered. Many Town and Parish Councils are already aware of their CIL money, how long they have to use it and when it may need to be returned. However, the council can review the communication and information provided to Town and Parish Councils when CIL monies are allocated, including guidance on how and when the money needs to be used. Action: The matter will be taken back to officers for further consideration and discussed with Councillor Layton.
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 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	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 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.



		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?		FIGURE 4: AVERAGE COTSWOLD HOUSEHOLD RESIDUAL WASTE COMPOSITION (KG/HH/WK AND %) <table><thead><tr><th>Waste Category</th><th>Weight (KG/HH/WK)</th><th>Percentage (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>KITCHEN ORGANICS</td><td>1.67</td><td>31.8%</td></tr><tr><td>GARDEN ORGANICS</td><td>0.26</td><td>5.0%</td></tr><tr><td>HAZARDOUS</td><td>0.01</td><td>0.3%</td></tr><tr><td>WEEE</td><td>0.02</td><td>0.5%</td></tr><tr><td>FINES</td><td>0.10</td><td>1.9%</td></tr><tr><td>PAPER</td><td>0.53</td><td>10.2%</td></tr><tr><td>CARD</td><td>0.26</td><td>5.0%</td></tr><tr><td>PLASTIC FILM</td><td>0.38</td><td>7.2%</td></tr><tr><td>DENSE PLASTIC</td><td>0.30</td><td>5.8%</td></tr><tr><td>TEXTILES</td><td>0.38</td><td>7.2%</td></tr><tr><td>SANITARY WASTE</td><td>0.59</td><td>11.2%</td></tr><tr><td>MISC COMBUSTIBLE</td><td>0.25</td><td>4.7%</td></tr><tr><td>MISC NON-COMBUSTIBLE</td><td>0.27</td><td>5.1%</td></tr><tr><td>GLASS</td><td>0.05</td><td>0.9%</td></tr><tr><td>METALS</td><td>0.18</td><td>3.4%</td></tr></tbody></table> 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.	Waste Category	Weight (KG/HH/WK)	Percentage (%)	KITCHEN ORGANICS	1.67	31.8%	GARDEN ORGANICS	0.26	5.0%	HAZARDOUS	0.01	0.3%	WEEE	0.02	0.5%	FINES	0.10	1.9%	PAPER	0.53	10.2%	CARD	0.26	5.0%	PLASTIC FILM	0.38	7.2%	DENSE PLASTIC	0.30	5.8%	TEXTILES	0.38	7.2%	SANITARY WASTE	0.59	11.2%	MISC COMBUSTIBLE	0.25	4.7%	MISC NON-COMBUSTIBLE	0.27	5.1%	GLASS	0.05	0.9%	METALS	0.18	3.4%
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3b	Cllr Laura Hall-Wilson Supplementary question	Will households receive a larger recycling bin to accommodate the increase in recycling, and how will the waste collection fleet cope with the additional recycling when vehicles are	Cllr Andrea Pellegram	The new waste service will begin rolling out from the beginning of April. Households will be able to recycle flexible plastics, but no additional bins will be provided for these materials. Instead, residents will be asked to use their own plastic bags to contain flexible plastics and wrapping. Changes in shopping behaviour are resulting in less paper waste and more																																																



		already sometimes full before completing their rounds?		cardboard, and this has been taken into account. Paper and cardboard are already collected separately from residual waste, and households will retain their two existing receptacles. The new waste collection fleet has been designed using modelling of future waste flows and will have larger vehicle containers for cardboard. Less paper waste is expected.
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.
4b	Cllr Daryl Corps Supplementary question	Can the council identify one specific site, policy or housing figure that was materially changed as a result of public feedback, including what it was before and after the consultation? Residents want to know whether their views have genuinely been listened to rather than consultation simply being a "suggestion box".	Cllr Juliet Layton	The draft local plan is due to be published on Friday 24 July, allowing residents and members to see what changes have been made as a result of the consultation. Responses to the consultation will also be published. A consultation summary was published earlier in March. The purpose of the Regulation 18 consultation was to obtain feedback, while the Regulation 19 consultation is intended to lead to the production of the Local Plan. The changes made in response to consultation can therefore be assessed when the draft Local Plan and accompanying papers are published.



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. 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	56	2025/26	57	2024/25	12	2025/26	8	2026/27 (YTD)	2
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5b	Cllr Gina Blomefield Supplementary question	Could Registered Providers of social and affordable housing (RP's) be asked to provide figures showing reductions in their housing stock, even though they are not obliged to notify the local authority? Could the figures also be separated between social and affordable housing and included in future service performance reports?	Cllr Mike Evemy	The council already has some information on housing stock held by registered providers and can seek further information where available. It is not clear whether all registered providers have already been asked to provide these figures, so this will be checked with officers. The council has some information relating to Bromford but does not currently have equivalent information for all other providers. The possibility of obtaining further information and improving the reporting of social and affordable housing figures can therefore be explored. (Action)
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.



6b	Cllr David Fowles Supplementary question	Are lay-bys without bins being monitored? Where bins are provided, can the frequency of collection be increased, particularly during the summer when bins are overflowing? Can residents be reassured that lay-bys without bins are being monitored and that overflowing bins will be emptied more frequently?	Cllr Andrea Pellegram	Lay-bys are being monitored as part of a new review process. Ubico teams have been trained to use new software called Alloy, which enables them to assess whether bins are overflowing using a red, amber and green system. The council is beginning to use this system to monitor the situation. The number of bins can also be increased where necessary. Where a parish clerk requests an additional bin, the council can provide one and Ubico will empty it.
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.



7B	Cllr David Fowles Supplementary question	What has happened to the Cirencester Town centre Masterplan since 2019? Why, after several years, is there still no viable master plan, and is it acceptable to rely on the Waterloo car park despite the flooding issues?	Cllr Mike Every	Progress on the Cirencester Town Centre Masterplan has taken longer than expected. The process has been affected by the global pandemic and issues relating to proposals for the Waterloo car park. Work has continued on the plan, alongside progress on the Neighbourhood Plan and its Regulation consultation. The forthcoming local plan will establish the wider framework for the development of Cirencester as a whole. Once the local plan establishes the wider development context and requirements for the town, the specific requirements of the town centre can be considered. Following completion of the local plan process, the intention is to produce a Town Centre Masterplan that sits alongside the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.
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