

## Liberal Democrat Group Resolution on Item 11: Visitor Information Centres

This Council notes:

- I. the petition signed by 957 residents and 1,140 non-residents of the District and the desire from the signatories for the Visitor Information Centres in Chipping Campden, Stow-on-the-Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water and Tetbury to remain open;
- II. the budget it passed on 15 February 2023 removed the funding allocation for the four visitor information centres with effect from 1 October 2023 following the decision by Cabinet on 6 December 2021 to continue funding the centres for an 18-month period until 30 September 2023;
- III. the report presented to Cabinet on 17 July 2023 when the Cabinet decided to allocate an additional £6,000 to the Bourton Visitor Information Centre in recognition of the support to be provided for coach parking in the village until 31 December 2023.
- IV. that the four affected centres have been offered non-financial, transitional, strategic support by the Council's economic development lead, working closely with the local town and parish councils alongside input from the tourism team until 31 December 2023. The purpose of the support is to work alongside the VICs towards a self-sustaining business model and provide signposting to known funding opportunities for projects which facilitate digital engagement. This could include connecting to business support or training and potential opportunities to bid for relevant funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund or Rural England Prosperity Fund to support sustainable future delivery models.

The Council recognises its financial position. It is facing a significant financial challenge over the medium-term with a budget gap of £5m identified (2024/25 to 2026/27) in the February 2023 MTFS and a forecast overspend of £448,000 in its 2023/24 revenue budget as reported to Cabinet on 12 September. With both expenditure and income pressures continuing it is likely the budget gap will increase in part due to higher levels of inflation this year. The Council therefore needs to take action to bring its income and expenditure into line.

The Council therefore resolves to take no additional action in response to this petition.