



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Proposed Cabinet response to recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Financial Performance Report Q4 2025-26

Recommendation arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29.06.2026

Recommendation regarding Financial Performance Report Q4 2025-26:	Agree (Y / N)	Comment	Responsible Cabinet Member	Lead Officer
1. Ubico Contract: To inform the Cabinet of concerns around the Ubico contract and support more rigorous monitoring and forecasting of costs following delayed notification of 2025-26 cost pressures.	Y	Monthly forecasts are prepared by Ubico with quarterly forecasts underpinning the Council's Corporate Performance reporting. Officers have already had discussions with Ubico on financial performance expectations for 2026/27 and 2027/28 following the adverse outturn position.	Cllr Patrick Coleman	David Stanley/ Peta Johnson
2. LGR Reserve Fund: To commend the Council on putting aside reasonable funds into an LGR	Y	The Council has recognised the need to set aside adequate funds to support LGR Transition in	Cllr Patrick Coleman	David Stanley



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

reserve for future costs relating to local government reorganisation.		Gloucestershire. The funding split between Gloucestershire County Council and the 6 District Councils was agreed by Leaders in January 2026. The amount set aside by Cotswold District Council reflects this agreement.		
---	--	---	--	--

Proposed Cabinet response to recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Service Performance Report Q4 2025-26

Recommendation regarding Service Performance report Q4 2025-26	Agree (Y / N)	Comment	Responsible Cabinet Member	Lead Officer
1.Processing time for Land Charges To inform the Cabinet of concerns regarding extended processing times for land charges and the impact on residents and businesses buying and selling properties in the district.	Y	Acknowledged.	Cllr Juliet Layton	Geraldine LeCointe/ Helen Martin



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

2. Council Tax support applications To commend officers on the improvement in processing time for council tax support applications	Y	Thank you.	Cllr Patrick Coleman	Mandy Fathers
3. Empty Homes To express concern regarding the growing number of empty homes in the district and seek information from officers on the actions that the Council is taking to address this problem, recognising that the powers available to the Council are limited	Y	As at the end of May 2026 there was a total of 881 properties classified as LTE. This a decrease on the number since the beginning of 2026. Of these 340 falls into the following: Property for Sale or rent. Awaiting demolition. Undergoing major works, probate recently granted. There are also 186 properties classed as retirement homes. Some of these are private individuals who are doing their best to sell the property, but a large proportion are held by organisations/developers.	Cllr Patrick Coleman	Mandy Fathers



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

		504 of the total number has been classed as LTE for 6 – 24 months and for many these are still transactional types of properties, and some may also fall into the undergoing major works category. Our LTE officer continues to communicate with those LTE property owners. Where properties are causing a demonstrable concern for locals are and not being maintained, other departments within the council are involved, such as colleagues in Planning Enforcement and/or Environmental Protection. Due to the costs involved in enforcing sales/management orders as well as the time and resource required to		
--	--	--	--	--



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

		undertake such work, no enforcement such as this has taken place. Officers will continue to monitor the situation.		
--	--	--	--	--

Proposed Cabinet response to recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Planning Enforcement report

Recommendation	Agree (Y / N)	Comment	Responsible Cabinet Member	Lead Officer
1. To note that that there is a recognised long-standing issue relating to Planning Enforcement.	Y	Acknowledged.	Cllr Juliet Layton	Harrison Bowley
2. To welcome the steps currently being taken to employ the services of an individual with particular expertise in this field.	Y	Acknowledged.	Cllr Juliet Layton	Harrison Bowley
3. To note particular concerns relating to:	Y	Acknowledged.	Cllr Juliet Layton	Harrison Bowley



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

i) Communication with members, especially when they have submitted a suspected breach of planning – recognising that members are not decision makers but their community links and historic knowledge can be a valuable resource for Enforcement Officers. ii) Lack of a system showing progress against current and backlog cases along with their classification. iii) Clarity on responsibility for individual cases when one officer leaves and another is appointed. iv) Communication with the public – making sure that published guidance is available to residents to provide them with clear information on how to notify the Council of suspected planning breaches and also give details of how this process is managed to enable a better understanding.				
---	--	--	--	--



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

4. To request an update on progress against the Planning Advisory Service Peer Review action plan.	Y	An update on progress against the PAS Action Plan was already contained within paragraph 2.3 of the O&S report.	Cllr Juliet Layton	Harrison Bowley
5. To request an action plan for the backlog clearance strategy, with a particular emphasis on those cases where real harm is being caused.	Y	A backlog Clearance Strategy has already been produced and is referenced within the O&S report. The strategy is being implemented, however, has been constrained by resource challenges. It is proposed to provide quarterly updates to the Planning Committee on progress against the Strategies objectives.	Cllr Juliet Layton	Harrison Bowley
6. To request that the Cabinet takes all reasonable steps to address the issues, including rethinking how the Council tackles planning enforcement and the resources allocated to it.	Y	The Planning Service will be considering all available options to deliver service improvements including updating and modernising	Cllr Juliet Layton	Harrison Bowley



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

		back-office systems, reviewing team capacity and engaging in relevant enforcement service and digital planning networks.		
--	--	--	--	--