



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Our Cotswolds, Our Plan: Action Plan 2024



# Delivering Good Services



Priorities	Actions	Commencement	Target Date	Cabinet Member, Lead officer(s)
<b>Ensure our workforce can deliver for the council and our community</b>	Deliver a programme to bring Council services back in-house, maximising responsiveness and democratic accountability	November 2023	Projected timeframe of two years, until 2025	CLlr Joe Harris Robert Weaver
	Lease spare office space at Trinity Road	December 2023	March 2024	CLlr Mike Evely Claire Locke Suzanne Barton
<b>Ensure effective oversight of our services, to ensure value for money and good standards</b>	Review the waste service, and undertake an options appraisal	December 2023	June 2024	CLlr Mike Evely David Stanley
<b>Enhance our financial resilience and make best use of our assets</b>	Continue to ensure that the Council's MTFS five year strategy reflects economic conditions and the government's funding settlement	February 2024	Reviewed annually	CLlr Mike Evely David Stanley
	Implement the Council's new asset management strategy and asset plans	April 2024	Review April 2025	CLlr Mike Evely David Stanley
<b>Play our part in maintaining and enhancing the public realm across the district</b>	Instigate second phase of activity to replace worn and damaged street nameplates	February 2024	February 2025	CLlr Joe Harris Claire Locke





# Responding to the Climate Emergency

Priorities	Actions	Commencement	Target Date	Cabinet Member, Lead officer(s)
<b>Reduce CO2 from Transport: We will actively encourage and support the transition to EVs and increased use of public and sustainable transport such as cycling and walking.</b>	Develop and deliver an Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy	January 2024	July 2024	Cllr Mike McKeown Claire Locke
	Work with partners to implement the Sustainable Transport Strategy	Adoption as part of the Local Plan - projected June 2025	April 2028	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson James Brain
	Taxi Transition - explore the opportunity for the creation of an EV Taxi policy	April 2024	June 2024	Cllr Mike McKeown Jon Dearing Mandy Fathers
<b>Cut Council Carbon Footprint, implementing sustainable practices in all council operations, emphasising energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption, across our buildings, fleet and suppliers.</b>	Create a Climate Board, agree governance arrangements and key outcomes.	January 2024	Review January 2025	Cllr Mike McKeown Claire Locke
<b>Increase renewable energy generation within the district, ensuring local benefit</b>	Support and promote community owned renewables initiatives	December 2023	Review June 2024	Cllr Mike McKeown Claire Locke
	Explore the business cases for the installation of solar panels on Council owned assets.	January 2024	July 2024	Cllr Mike McKeown Claire Locke





# Responding to the Climate Emergency

Priorities	Actions	Commencement	Target Date	Cabinet Member, Lead officer(s)
<b>Champion initiatives to address the ecological emergency and nature recovery, focusing on reducing CO2 and conserving and enhancing the district's biodiversity and natural beauty.</b>	Implement the new requirements around Biodiversity Net Gain	January 2024	Review July 2024	CLlr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson
<b>Reduce CO2 from Buildings: Foster community-led climate action, supporting residents and businesses adopting renewable heating and improving energy efficiency.</b>	Continue to promote and deliver Cotswold Home Solar, in partnership with MakeMyHouseGreen	January 2023	Review July 2024	CLlr Mike McKeown Charlie Jackson
	Consider the business case on optimising the delivery of high quality retrofit advice and support	July 2024	July 2025	CLlr Mike McKeown, CLlr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson
<b>Ensure our planning policies deliver our corporate priorities and promotes both carbon neutral development and infrastructure</b>	Subject to proposed legislative changes, complete full review of the Local Plan	January 2024	June 2025	CLlr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson James Brain
	Develop a new Cotswold Design Guide – building for the future in the Cotswolds	September 2023	September 2024	CLlr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson James Brain
	Work with Cirencester Town Council on the coordination of the Cirencester Town Centre Masterplan and the Cirencester Neighbourhood Plan policies	January 2024	Review February 2024	CLlr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson James Brain



# Delivering Housing



Priorities	Actions	Commencement	Target Date	Cabinet Member, Lead officer(s)
<b>Working with our partners to explore innovative routes to deliver more affordable homes</b>	Explore innovative approaches to housing delivery	February 2024	August 2025	Cllr Joe Harris Robert Weaver Charlie Jackson
	Deliver an exemplar zero carbon affordable housing development in Down Ampney	December 2023	April 2028	Cllr Joe Harris Robert Weaver Claire Locke
<b>Understanding everyone's housing needs</b>	Support refugees to retain adequate housing	July 2023	Review March 2024	Cllr Joe Harris Jon Dearing Caroline Clissold
	Continue to monitor housing needs, using Homeseeker Plus, to inform housing strategy and implementation	January 2024	July 2024	Cllr Joe Harris Jon Dearing Caroline Clissold
	Continue to build on the success of the Housing First Project with a new county wide approach	January 2024	July 2024	Cllr Joe Harris Jon Dearing Caroline Clissold
<b>Adopting and implementing our new housing strategy</b>	Consult and adopt the Council's new Housing strategy	December 2023	June 2024	Cllr Joe Harris Charlie Jackson James Brain

# Supporting Communities



Priorities	Actions	Commencement	Target Date	Cabinet Member, Lead officer(s)
<b>Strengthen our links with town and parish councils and key stakeholders</b>	Continue the annual programme of Town and Parish Council Forum engagement events	January 2024	January 2025	Cllr Joe Harris Angela Claridge
<b>Address the challenges of flooding and water quality and sewerage discharges</b>	Identify opportunities to influence policy and host a sewage summit with the outcome being reported to the Council in May.	January 2024	May 2024	Cllr Lisa Spivey Phil Martin James Brain
	Identify gaps and bolster the Cotswold Flood wardens programme	January 2024	June 2024	Cllr Lisa Spivey Phil Martin Rob Weaver
<b>Enhance connectivity, and biodiversity in the Cotswold Water park</b>	Continue to work with Gloucestershire County Council on the creation of a safe crossing of the Spine Road	January 2024	Review in January 2025	Cllr Juliet Layton Andy Barge Philippa Lowe
	Install cycle racks, in consultation with the local community	January 2024	March 2025	Cllr Juliet Layton Andy Barge Philippa Lowe
	Work with partners to embed the Nature Recovery Plan for the Waterpark	January 2024	Review every six months	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson Sophia Price
<b>Healthy place making through the Local Plan</b>	Embed Healthy Homes Act into the Cotswold Design Code	June 2025	June 2025	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson
	Introduce a requirement for Community Access Defibrillators in new developments	June 2025	June 2025	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson
	Focus on green infrastructure, to enhance biodiversity and community wellbeing	June 2025	June 2025	Cllr Juliet Layton Charlie Jackson



# Supporting Communities



Priorities	Actions	Commencement	Target Date	Cabinet Member, Lead officer(s)
<b>Develop and deliver a District Council cultural strategy</b>	Commence development of the cultural strategy	February 2024	September 2024	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
<b>Encourage resilient, well-connected and active communities that take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing</b>	Continue to deliver an asset based community development approach	January 2024	April 2028	Cllr Lisa Spivey Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
	Celebrate success - promote the work being done by partners across the district to inspire communities	February 2024	Review August 2024	Cllr Claire Bloomer Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
	Continue to promote community activity through Crowdfund Cotswold	February 2024	Review August 2024	Cllr Lisa Spivey Andy Barge Joseph Walker
<b>Promote healthy lifestyles, fun and self-care for all ages</b>	Monitor and review delivery of the District leisure contract with Freedom Leisure	August 2023	August 2025	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson David Stanley Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
	Continue to deliver the Healthier District and Connected Communities objectives and priorities set out in the Active Cotswolds Action Plan, and implement the Playing Pitch Strategy's action plan.	January 2024	Review January 2025	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson Angela Claridge Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
	Work with partners to develop a consistent, countywide approach to identify opportunities to support to care leavers	June 2024	Review December 2024	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson David Stanley Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright

# Supporting Communities



Priorities	Actions	Commencement	Target Date	Cabinet Member, Lead officer(s)
<b>Work with partners to ensure vital services cover the district, and offer support to our residents if crises hit</b>	Continue to be a proactive member of the Cotswold Food Network Steering Group and support initiatives under the network's umbrella	January 2024	Review January 2025	Cllr Claire Bloomer Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
	Continue to work with the NHS Integrated Locality Partnership to support youth mental health	January 2024	Review January 2025	Cllr Claire Bloomer Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
	Maintain a multi-service response to the cost of living crisis, and other challenges to community wellbeing	January 2023	Review January 2025	Cllr Claire Bloomer Claire Locke Jacqueline Wright
<b>Keep residents safe, through awareness raising around domestic abuse and fraud</b>	Continue to raise the profile of the Community Safety Partnership to reduce the fear of crime and ensure residents know how, and where, to get support	February 2024	Review February 2025	Cllr Lisa Spivey Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
	Deliver Rural Domestic Abuse Champions programme in partnership with other rural Gloucestershire districts and Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Services	February 2024	March 2025	Cllr Lisa Spivey/ Cllr Claire Bloomer Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
	Train frontline staff to identify Domestic Abuse and review internal processes to recognise and support victims of abuse	February 2024	July 2024	Cllr Lisa Spivey/ Cllr Claire Bloomer Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright
	Coordinate activity under Home Office's safer Streets Fund to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour and violence against women and girls	February 2024	Review February 2025	Cllr Lisa Spivey Andy Barge Jacqueline Wright





# Supporting the Economy

Priorities	Actions	Commencement	Target Date	Cabinet Member, Lead officer(s)
<b>Work with partners to develop the skills of our residents</b>	Work with key sectors to create new highly skilled jobs, through promotion of apprenticeship opportunities	February 2024	April 2028	Cllr Tony Dale Andy Barge Paul James
	Deliver a programme of activities in year 3 of the Shared Prosperity Fund to help those furthest from the employment market	April 2024	March 2025	Cllr Tony Dale Andy Barge Paul James
<b>Attract and manage investment to boost the local economy</b>	Consider the results of the digital and green survey of community buildings, and enable improvements through Rural England Prosperity Fund	April 2024	March 2025	Cllr Tony Dale Andy Barge Paul James
<b>Support local businesses, to enhance the vibrancy of our towns and villages, and to manage the opportunity and impact of the visitor economy</b>	Continue to deliver against the six priorities set out in the Cotswold Tourism destination management plan	January 2024	March 2025	Cllr Tony Dale Andy Barge Chris Jackson
	Continue to support the Local Visitor Economy Partnership, to ensure better coordination of tourism activity and delivery against national growth targets	January 2024	Review January 2025	Cllr Tony Dale Andy Barge Chris Jackson
<b>Work with local and county partners to grow a strong and sustainable economy</b>	Undertake a refresh of the Green Economic Strategy	February 2024	April 2024	Cllr Tony Dale Andy Barge Paul James
	Continue to support the development of the Royal Agricultural University's Innovation Village	January 2024	January 2025	Cllr Tony Dale Andy Barge Paul James
	Continue to work with The Growth Hub to support existing businesses and encourage the growth of start-ups, with a focus on the outreach provision supported by the Shared Prosperity Fund	January 2024	March 2025	Cllr Tony Dale Andy Barge Paul James





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**Picture credits:**

Cover image: Darren Clarke - Sheep grazing at the Coneygree in front of the East

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