

COLN VALLEY WARD

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

JUNE 2026

[Forthcoming Committee Meetings](#) (underlined texts are linked)

Monday 1 June 4.00 pm [Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

Thursday 4 June 6.00 pm [Meeting of Cabinet](#)

Wednesday 10 June 2.00 pm [Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee](#)

Thursday 25 June 2.00 pm [Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading](#)

Monday 29 June 4.00 pm [Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

[There is no full Council Meeting in June](#)

[Recent Committee Meetings](#)

Wednesday **13 May** 2.00 pm [Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee](#)

Wednesday **20 May** 6.00 pm [Meeting of Annual Council, Council](#)

Thursday **28 May** 2.00 pm [Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading](#)

CABINET DECISIONS - 4 June 2026

Waste and Environment - Service Design Options

To set out a package of waste and recycling service design options to support a cohesive, compliant, and efficient approach to service delivery. (see below)

Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Agree to the withdrawal of the Bring Bank service.
 2. Agree to the proposed approach for how residents would present the new recyclable plastics at the kerbside (i.e. in a tied, self-supplied, single-use sack).
 3. Agree to a reduction in the size of the standard issue refuse bin (from 180 litre to 140 litre) on a replacement/ phased basis.
- Notification of Draft Decisions Thursday, 4 June 2026
4. Agree to the new arrangement for the combined collection of paper and card.
 5. Note the financial implications.

6. Grant delegated authority to the Director of Communities and Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Regulatory Services to take the required steps to implement the recommendations above.

Asset Management - Abberley House/ Corinium Museum Roof Repair Project

To update the Cabinet on the Abberley House Roof Repair Project and seek delegated authority to proceed with the works post the procurement process.

Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Agree that repair work to the roof should be expedited
2. Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to receive quotations for the repair work; to instruct work to be carried out; and to deal with minor matters arising during the works.

Local Government Reorganisation - Gloucestershire Structural Changes Order

To outline the governance, legal framework, and key arrangements for the Gloucestershire Structural Changes Order, and to seek Cabinet's agreement to submit representations to Government on behalf of Cotswold District Council. Cabinet noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the matter and that its comments had informed the proposed response. It was also noted that all the Gloucestershire councils were working within their existing published meeting schedules to consider the consultation questions from MHCLG on local government reorganisation. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel at Cotswold District Council had been the first group of members to publicly consider the issues, with other councils due to follow shortly. It was explained that representations from all seven councils would be collated into a single submission. Where there was agreement, a unified position would be reflected; where differences existed across the proposals, these would be clearly identified along with the underlying rationale for differing views. The aim was to achieve as much consistency as possible across the county's response, which would be submitted to the Government by the deadline of 16 June 2026.

An amendment to the first recommendation was noted.

The (amended) recommendations were proposed by Councillor Mike Every and seconded by Councillor Tristan Wilkinson.

Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Endorse the Cabinet response document as the basis for its response to the questions set out by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) regarding Gloucestershire's Structural Changes Order
2. Delegate authority to the Leader of the Council to submit formal representations to MHCLG by their deadline of 16 June 2026

Asset Management - Out-of-District Investment Properties

To seek Cabinet's approval to pursue options for the disposal of out-of-district investment properties. The report was in relation to the Council's three out-of-district investment properties, which were acquired in 2010 following funding approval in 2009 to generate a stable rental income stream. It was noted that the properties comprised retail assets within the commercial sector and that their financial performance had declined in recent years. Reference was made to wider market conditions, including structural changes within the retail sector following the COVID-19 pandemic and evolving consumer behaviour, which had contributed to reduced returns and increased risk exposure. It was further noted that this reduced level of income had already been reflected within the Council's medium-term financial planning. It was reported that, having regard to financial performance, prevailing market conditions, and the Council's Asset Management Strategy, the continued holding of the assets would result in reduced ongoing revenue income and increased exposure to risk, and that their disposal was therefore considered appropriate. In addition, it was noted that the proposed approach could assist in simplifying the Council's asset position in the context of potential local government reorganisation. The report therefore sought Cabinet approval to actively market the properties for disposal in line with the Council's Asset Management Strategy.

Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the recommendation to actively market all three out-of-district investment properties for disposal.
2. Delegate to the Strategic Head of Housing, Property and Assets to progress negotiations with support from the Assistant Director – Legal Services.

BY-ELECTIONs

Cllr Joe Harris has stepped down as councillor from Gloucestershire County Council for the Cirencester Park division and as councillor from Cotswold District Council for the St Michael's ward, Cirencester. Both by-elections will take place on July 2.

He was first elected in 2011 and Leader of the Council from 2019 to 2025, is stepping down to focus on his career outside local government. Residents of the St Michael's ward are encouraged to make sure they are registered to vote and take part in the by-election and check their voting arrangements and ensure the necessary identification is validated where required.

Information about ID requirements are available on the [Cotswold District Council website](#).

Key dates for the election process are:

Notice of Election: Thursday 28 May

Nomination papers: Submit by hand to Council Offices, Trinity Road, GL7 1PX between 10am and 4pm from Thursday 28 May

Deadline for nominations: 4pm, Friday 5 June

Publication of candidates: No later than 4pm, Monday 8 June

Register to vote: By Tuesday 16 June

Postal vote applications: By 5pm, Wednesday 17 June

Proxy vote and voter authority certificate applications: By 5pm, Wednesday 24 June

Election day: Thursday 2 July

The Notice of Election and nomination packs are available on the [council's website](#). Poll cards will be posted this week.

PLANNING

On Wednesday 3 June, there was a Planning refresher course. I was particularly interested to learn that in October new legislation is coming from the central Government for a change in constitution for calling in/planning review panel process. Elected members will no longer be able to call in Schedule 1 (household development) to committee and Schedule 2 will be subject to a gateway mechanism.

As a reminder, at the moment, if Members take a different view to Planning Officers they can call an application in, with valid considered and defensible Material Planning considerations. A refusal at committee should explain: What is the harm? Why does this proposal cause it? What policy or material consideration is relevant? What evidence is there to support the judgement? Why would conditions or obligations not overcome it? The NPPF identifies 6 tests for Planning Conditions: Necessary; Relevant to Planning; Relevant to the development; Enforceable; Precise; Reasonable. If a refusal at Planning Committee is referred to PINS for appeal, and the reasons for refusal are not substantiated, costs might be awarded against the council.

ENFORCEMENT - May 2026

Do we have enforcement officers?

Yes. The Council currently has four enforcement officers. One officer is on a phased ("soft") return following long-term sickness absence, and another has just started this month. New officers are required to reopen and reassess cases left by previous officers rather than simply picking them up part-way through, which can slow visible progress initially.

How many cases are there?

There are around 650 live enforcement cases, with the majority dating from 2023–24,

although a small number are much older. On average, around one new case is received each working day.

To reduce the backlog, officers must carefully review cases to close those that are inactive or already resolved, prioritise high-harm cases, and pursue “quick wins” where possible, while progressing more complex cases that may involve legal action.

Is enforcement actually happening?

Yes. Enforcement outcomes vary depending on the case. Some are resolved through the resubmission of planning applications, while others progress to legal action and court, which can take time and significant resources. Court cases are reported publicly through the press and Audit & Governance reports. We have requested some solid numbers on this. In Quarter 1, 72 new cases were opened and 24 were closed within three months. The average closure time is currently around 13 months, reflecting the complexity of many cases and the legal processes involved.

What else is being done to maintain confidence?

- The enforcement period has recently been extended from 4 years to 10 years, strengthening the Council's ability to act.
- New case management software is being trialled to improve efficiency.
- Performance dashboards are being developed to improve reporting to Members.
- Enforcement will be discussed at Overview & Scrutiny at the end of June, and work is ongoing to improve the clarity and regularity of updates to Members and parishes.

Local Government Reorganisation - Devolution

1. Where Gloucestershire is in the LGR process

- Gloucestershire submitted **three LGR options** to the government in **November 2025**.
- Government consultation closed on **26 March 2026**.
- Gloucestershire is now in **Phase 2 – preparing for implementation**.
- A government decision is expected **before summer recess (June/July 2026)**.
- **Vesting Day** remains **1 April 2028**.

Councils are not waiting for the decision before preparing, due to the scale of work required.

2. The three options submitted

The options considered by government are:

- A **single county-wide unitary authority**
- **Two unitary authorities (east–west split)**
- **Greater Gloucester and the rest of Gloucestershire**

The government may select one of these or propose a modification.

3. How councils are working together

- All **seven Gloucestershire councils** are participating, regardless of which option they supported.
- Leaders and Chief Executives have agreed shared **ways of working principles**.
- Councils are:
 - Sharing officer capacity
 - Jointly funding implementation preparation
 - Working collaboratively through a single programme structure

4. Governance and programme arrangements

- **Political oversight:** Group Leaders Steering Group (all councils).
- **Portfolio Board:** Programme sponsors (Chief Executives and senior officers).
- Around **10 work programmes**, including:
 - Legal & governance
 - Finance
 - Assets & property
 - People & culture
 - Digital & technology
 - Communications & engagement
 - Neighbourhoods & communities

Each programme has a sponsor and a lead drawn from across county and district councils.

5. Programme management and assurance

- A central **Programme and Portfolio Management Office (PPMO)** is in place.
- Led by a dedicated Portfolio Director.
- The PPMO:
 - Coordinates work across all programmes
 - Manages risks and interdependencies
 - Tracks progress to Vesting Day
 - Ensures strong governance and decision-making discipline

6. Structural Change Order (SCO)

- The **Structural Change Order** is the legislation that formally creates the new council(s).
- The government intends to accelerate this process.
- Councils must begin shaping local elements of the SCO **before** the government decision.

Areas where local input matters include:

- Names of new councils
- Election arrangements
- Ward boundaries
- Composition of shadow and joint bodies
- Civic and ceremonial arrangements

7. Elections and councillor terms

If there is one unitary authority

- District councillors continue until April 2028.
- Elections in May 2027 elect **110 councillors**.
- These councillors act as both County Council and Preparing Authority until Vesting Day.

If there are two unitary authorities

- County and district councillors remain in post until April 2028.
- Elections in May 2027 elect two shadow authorities.
- Those councillors become unitary councillors from April 2028.

8. National context

- The government has made different decisions in the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) areas.
- East and West Sussex decisions were deferred.
- MHCLG has stated that **each area is assessed individually**, and no inference should be drawn for Gloucestershire.

9. Government consultation

- Around **2,200 responses** were received (approx. 0.34% of the population).
- This is consistent with other areas nationally.
- Consultation **informs** but does not determine the decision.

- Full results will be published **with the government's decision**.

10. Scrutiny arrangements

- Councils are working towards **joint scrutiny arrangements**.
- The preferred approach is a joint scrutiny panel.
- Strong expectation that scrutiny will be conducted **transparently and largely in public**.
- Final arrangements will be agreed by council leaders.

11. Neighbourhoods and communities

- All proposals place strong emphasis on:
 - Local democracy
 - Neighbourhood voice
 - Community empowerment
- Work is at an **early, listening stage**.
- Town and parish councils are seen as **central partners**.
- No neighbourhood boundaries have been fixed.
- The aim is **more local influence, not less**.

12. Parish councils

- Parish councils are **not being abolished or forced to take on new responsibilities**.
- Any additional role would be voluntary.
- Existing rules on elections, precepts and vacancies remain unchanged.
- Parish involvement will increase as proposals are developed.

13. Devolution

- The government is encouraging areas to consider **Foundation Strategic Authorities**.
- Six Gloucestershire councils support:
 - Gloucestershire becoming a Foundation Strategic Authority
 - Longer-term ambition to work with **WECA**
- Tewkesbury has asked to keep options open.
- Government response is awaited.

14. What happens next

- Await government decision (summer 2026).
- Further member briefings will follow.
- Detailed work will accelerate once the decision is known.

- Members will continue to be kept informed and involved.

[Local government reorganisation in Gloucestershire - GOV.UK](#)

[Future Gloucestershire : Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire](#)

A decision is expected this summer with elections for the new unitary authority or authorities planned for May 2027. Any new structure will come into effect no earlier than April 2028.

BIN COLLECTIONS

- Waste and recycling services are being streamlined to make it quicker and more convenient for residents.
- Later this year, cardboard and paper recycling will be collected together in the cardboard only blue bag or the paper box.
- From April 2027 kerbside collection will include plastic bags and wrapping such as carrier bags, bread bags, cereal liners and detergent pouches - in line with the Government's Simpler Recycling requirements - can be recycled at the kerbside
- The 24 bring bank facilities will be phased out as a wide range of materials can be collected at the kerbside (charity banks are unaffected). Removing the sites is also expected to help tackle issues like fly-tipping and graffiti.

To support this move – which increases the ability for residents to recycle more at home – and to align with other councils across Gloucestershire, the Council will begin introducing smaller general waste bins. This will be a gradual, long-term change. Smaller bins will only be issued when an existing bin needs replacing - such as when damaged - or for new properties. Households that need more space will be able to request a larger bin if they meet the criteria, ensuring the service remains flexible.

A417 MISSING LINK

A417 Upcoming Closures

The A417 will be closed in both directions between the A46 Brockworth junction and the Air Balloon roundabout overnight (9pm - 6am) from:

Monday 8 June from 9pm on to 6am Thursday 11 June

A436 Closures

The A436 will be closed in both directions between the Air Balloon roundabout and the Seven Springs roundabout overnight (9pm - 6am) on:
Monday 15 June from 9pm to 6am Thursday 18 June

These closures are required to allow us to carry out earthworks, surfacing, drainage works and central barrier construction so that traffic can be moved onto the new A417. These activities may generate noise, which we will monitor each night.

Any updates will be communicated on the project website
nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link.

Check the National Highways website for updates and other works in the region.

Access for emergency services will be fully maintained during the closures.

Fully signposted diversion routes will be in place during the closure. Please follow the official, signed diversion route and not satnav.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dZMn6iutH0>

To receive National Highways updates, opt in to ensure compliance with GDPR, [please follow this link](#).

Visit the [A417 Missing Link web page](#).

The Customer Hub, located at the crusher compound at Shab Hill, is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am until 2pm. You can visit any time during these hours, without pre-booking an appointment. Members of the team will be on hand to answer questions. 10 mph and site restrictions. Please Reverse Park.

A417 Project Office, Birdlip, Gloucester, GL4 8JX

What3words: <https://what3words.com/shaped.quietest.payback>

Site visits for members of the public. If you are interested, please
contact A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk

All roadworks and planned road closures on motorways and major A roads, including the A417, are published here: <https://www.trafficengland.com/>

Road Closure Reports, which includes a seven day look ahead of planned road closures, are updated twice daily, Monday to Friday except for bank holidays:
<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/>

To find the latest information about local road closures, please visit: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/>

Webpage: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-west/a417-missing-link/>

Email: A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk

Phone: 0300 123 5000

X: @HighwaysSWEST Facebook: @HighwaysSWEST

Please report highway issues, such as potholes, and track their progress online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet

Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown is your MP for North Cotswolds cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk

Cllr Mark Harris is your Gloucestershire County Council councillor, responsible for Highways - Mark.Harris@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Cotswold District Council [NEWS](#)

Cllr David Fowles

Conservative District Councillor

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*If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting District Council officers or other agencies relevant to your query. *

* For more information on how I and the District Council use personal data

visit <http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-data/data-protection/>

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