

## MARCH 2026

Cllr Len Wilkins, Bourton Vale District Councillor

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## Bourton Vale Ward

Forthcoming Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

Monday 2 March 4.00 pm Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 5 February 4.30 pm Meeting of Performance and Appointments Committee

Thursday 5 March 6.00 pm Meeting of Cabinet

Wednesday 11 March 2.00 pm Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee

Monday 18 March 2.00 pm Meeting of Council

Thursday 26 March 2.00 pm Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading

## Recent Committee Meetings

Monday 2 February 4.00 pm Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 5 February 4.30 pm Meeting of Performance and Appointments Committee

Thursday 5 February 6.00 pm Meeting of Cabinet

Wednesday 11 February 2.00 pm Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee

Monday 23 February 6.00 pm Meeting of Budget Council, Council

Thursday 26 February 2.00 pm Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire and Street Trading

## CABINET MEETING DECISIONS - 5 FEBRUARY

### **Issue(s) Arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit and Governance**

Cabinet noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had pre-scrutinised the item on Retail and Hospitality Sectors in the Cotswold District. As a result of this scrutiny five recommendations were made which are set out in a supplementary paper. Cabinet support was confirmed for four of the five proposed elements and a willingness to write to the Government to highlight the local impact of national policy decisions was indicated.

### **200 Asbestos Management Plan**

To submit an Asbestos Policy to Cabinet for approval, ensuring compliance with statutory duties and clarity regarding the Council's responsibilities as both an employer and a property owner.

The proposal was agreed by Cabinet

### **Contract for Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Services**

To seek Cabinet approval to proceed with negotiations and to enter into a Common Service Agreement with Ubico Limited for the delivery of waste collection, street cleansing, and grounds maintenance services, with the new agreement proposed to replace the current contract which was due to expire on 31 March 2027.

The proposal was put to the vote and agreed by Cabinet.

### **Revenue Budget 2026-27, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

To present the Revenue Budget for 2026/27, Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2026/27 to 2029/30 to Cabinet.

The Council proposed to increase Council Tax by £5 for a Band D property. As of 28 January 2026, the forecast for business rates had increased by £178,000 due to retained renewable energy schemes.

The final government finance settlement, due on 9 February 2026, could pose a small risk of change.

Substantial capital investment of almost £8.5 million in the waste vehicle fleet.

The benefits of digital transformation and AI to improve service efficiency, reduce administrative workload, and enhance resident services were noted.

Free two-hour parking in high streets like Bourton-on-the-Water to support local shops and maintain vibrant community centres.

Cabinet considered the budget report and approved for recommendation to Council:

1. the Medium-Term Financial Strategy
2. the Budget Pressures and Savings for inclusion in the budget
3. the Council Tax Requirement of £7,419,716 for this Council
4. the Council Tax level for Cotswold District Council purposes of £163.93 for a Band D property in 2026/27 (an increase of £5)
5. the Capital Programme,
6. the Annual Capital Strategy 2026/27,
7. the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2026/27,
8. the Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts,
9. that £2m is set aside in a new earmarked reserve Council Priority: LGR Transition through the releasing of £2m of the balance currently held in the Financial Resilience Reserve.
10. the balances and reserves forecast for 2026/27 to 2029/30 as set out in Section 7 of the report.

Cabinet approved delegation to the Council's Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation

with the Chief Executive, Leader, and Cabinet Member for Finance

11. To agree changes to the General Fund Summary arising from the Final Local Government Finance Settlement and the Business Rates Retention Scheme estimates prior to submission to Council.

## DEVOLUTION - GLOUCESTERSHIRE LGR

The government opened its consultation on proposals for LGR in Gloucestershire on Thursday **5 February**. This will be open for seven weeks. This follows the submission of three proposals to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government last November.

The consultation will ask for views on all three proposals submitted:

- One single county-wide unitary council
- Two unitary councils (east/west split)
- Two unitary councils (Greater Gloucester and Gloucestershire Unitary)

Respondents will be asked to what extent the proposals:

- Are based on sensible geographies and economic areas
- Will deliver the outcomes described in the proposals
- Are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity, and withstand financial shocks
- Will deliver high quality, sustainable public services
- Have been informed by local views and will meet local needs
- Will support devolution arrangements
- Will enable stronger community engagement and give the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment

Additionally, there will be a question in relation to the Greater Gloucester and Gloucestershire unitaries proposal, asking to what extent consultees agree or disagree that it sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change.

Consultees will also be able to leave free text to explain or expand on the answers they provide or leave general comments. The consultation will be via an online survey. Additionally, we are arranging for hard copies to be made available in all council-owned user centres (i.e libraries, area centres, offices etc).

MHCLG has made provision for consultation responses to be made by post and email. Details are on the consultation page, linked below.

A link to the consultation can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-gloucestershire>

Details on all three proposals are available at: [Future Gloucestershire : Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire](#)

You are encouraged to share the information and links with your own networks and contacts.

Who will be consulted?

In notifying councils that the consultation will start on Thursday, MHCLG confirmed the list of stakeholders that it will be consulting directly. We have added those organisations or contacts that MHCLG will not consult with directly to a local list, to ensure we leave no stone unturned in reaching out to every corner of your communities over the coming seven weeks.

Although this is a government consultation, we are activating a thorough communications and engagement plan to ensure we reach as many stakeholders and residents as possible, and encourage them to share their views. To achieve this, we will be engaging town and parish councils, community organisations and partners across the county, sharing materials that they can use to promote the consultation, while leveraging our own online and offline channels.

What happens after the consultation closes?

As a recap, feedback from the consultation will help the government assess which option best meets its criteria for effective local government.

A decision is expected in summer 2026, 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.

## FUNDING FOR VILLAGE HALLS

With the end of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund, it is one funding source still open for these projects, albeit at a maximum of 20% - but it all helps.

<https://acre.org.uk/village-halls-small-grants-fund/>

## BY-ELECTION

A by- election to fill the vacancy in The Beeches Ward will take place on Thursday 12 March 2026, following the resignation of Councillor Nigel Robbins in February.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A RETROFIT ROADSHOW?

Justine Mallinson is the Retrofit Engagement Officer at CDC and she has contacted me to say that the Retrofit Engagement Scheme has been extended until August 2026 and she is planning to run Retrofit Roadshows across the district between February and the middle of April.

These events provide residents with practical advice and information on home energy efficiency improvements, helping them reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. She is looking for new locations, as well as returning to areas that hosted events last summer.

Would your Parish be interested in hosting a roadshow event? She would like to discuss this further with you if your village hall might be a suitable location. Please get in touch with me if you are interested.

## FAKE PARISH.UK PAGES

They are operated by a private company that aggregates publicly available data about parishes; they are not an official parish council website nor part of the government.

Because they republish open public data, they are acting lawfully and cannot be compelled to remove their sites unless they publish inaccurate information.

The best parish councils can do is make clear to residents which website is the official one eg: [https:// templeguitingparishcouncil.co.uk](https://templeguitingparishcouncil.co.uk)

There is concern about misleading content; however, unless any such content appears, there is no formal action the parish council can take. However out-of-date content might appear and be misleading.

## BINS AND MISSED COLLECTIONS

PLEASE continue to keep me informed if a bin collection is missed. Many of you are reporting that your green waste bins are not being collected and I have been told that some green bins have been replaced with new, smaller ones in some areas. As you pay a licence for these which should cover the cost of the collection, I asked if there are grounds for compensation and I have been told there are none.

## ROAD WORKS UPDATES

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

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](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/>

Please report highway issues, such as potholes, and track their progress online at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet) Or download the app: FixMyStreet

Cllr "HODGKINSON, Cllr Paul" <paul.hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk>Paul Hodgkinson is your Gloucestershire County Council councillor, responsible for Highways – [paul.hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

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

<https://www.cotswoldconservatives.com/>