

## Gloucestershire County Council – Annual parish report (April 2026)

### 1. Transport, roads and connectivity

**Bus services** – Service improvements announced for Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud, funded through the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP); further local changes awaited following additional Government funding. **Read more:** [New bus routes set to improve in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud](#)

**Cleaner buses** – £20m+ investment in zero-emission buses (and Euro VI fleet upgrades) supports network reliability and air quality countywide. **Read more:** [Multi-million-pound electric bus transformation for Gloucestershire](#)

**Mass Rapid Transit (long-term planning)** – Next-phase development will shape travel between Gloucestershire’s major towns over the next decade. **Read more:** [County council set to back next phase of Mass Rapid Transit development](#)

**Fix Our Roads** – 55 roads scheduled for resurfacing (March 2026); concerns raised by Cllr Chloe Turner with the Cabinet Member including that only 2 schemes are in Stroud district and the loss of the previous local highways funding pot. Brimscombe Hill due for resurfacing later this year. **Read more:** [55 roads to be resurfaced as part of ‘Fix our Roads’ campaign](#)

**Public rights of way** – Update of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) will set priorities for maintenance and accessibility; input welcomed from residents and user groups. **Read more:** [Residents invited to help shape the future of Gloucestershire’s public paths](#)

### 2. Support for residents and tackling hardship

**Crisis and Resilience Fund (£17.1m)** – Launched spring 2026 (replacing the Household Support Fund) to provide emergency help with food/energy, housing costs and essential items, alongside referrals to debt, employment and digital support. **Read more:** [County Council to support residents with £17.1 million Crisis and Resilience Fund; New Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide support to families in crisis](#)

### 3. Children, young people and education

**SEND specialist places** – Countywide investment includes a £20m special school in Cheltenham (200 places; part of £36m+ programme), helping reduce long travel for some Stroud district families. **Read more:** [New £20m Cheltenham special school given the green light](#)

### 4. Local economy, skills and community investment

**Strategic Economic Development Fund** – £2m+ allocated (Dec 2025) to projects supporting careers advice/employer engagement, a Local Area Energy Plan, and inward

investment. **Read more:** [Over £2million boost for projects driving local growth and innovation](#)

## **5. Strategy, governance and the county's future**

**Devolution** – Six of seven Gloucestershire councils expressed an ambition to join the West of England Combined Authority (WECA), with implications for transport funding, strategic planning and local voice. Government's decision on local government reorganisation in Gloucestershire (whether we will have one or two unitary councils) expected summer 2026, with the districts and county council to be abolished in April 2028. **Read more:** [Gloucestershire councils set sights on future membership of WECA](#)

**Budget 2026/27** – £698.4m approved (Feb 2026), supporting highways, social care, education, libraries and other core services. Green councillors secured a package of changes worth £390,000 - the changes will put more money into local climate projects, cycle routes and footpaths, protect children's health by tackling air pollution and strengthen local youth services.

**Read more:** [Council approves £698.4 million budget.](#)