

## County Councillor Report October 2025

Please contact me any time on:

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And please report any Highways defects via the Fix My Street app or

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

For parish councillors & clerk use only via [highwayscouncillors@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:highwayscouncillors@gloucestershire.gov.uk) – feel free to copy me in if you'd like to.

### County News

County council Children's Services judged 'Good' overall following Ofsted inspection

- Government responds to Green Group motion regarding the nationalisation of Thames Water. Emma Hardy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has responded to the Green Group motion from July's Full Council meeting regarding the case for nationalising Thames Water and the wider UK water industry. The response can be read here [ministerial-response-to-motion-959.pdf](#)
- Council to continue to lead on support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Cabinet agreed plans for Gloucestershire council to continue its joint leadership of the Department for Education's (DfE) Southwest Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Change Partnership Programme. The programme places Gloucestershire in a unique position to test new approaches and influence the DfE by providing feedback on its proposed reforms. A link to the cabinet paper is here.

Connect to Work launches in Gloucestershire

- Gloucestershire County Council announces the launch of the 'Connect to Work' scheme which officially started operating in July 2025. Funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Connect to Work is one of a series of measures which aims to support people back into work.

Council creates over 1,500 new childcare places in Gloucestershire

- Gloucestershire County Council has helped to create over 1,500 new childcare places since April 2024, including 526 Early Years places and 1,128 Wraparound childcare places.

Have your say on Gloucestershire's digital future

- Gloucestershire County Council is inviting residents, businesses and community groups to help shape a new vision for the county's digital future. Public engagement will run until Monday 20 October and residents can provide their opinions online. See [Have your say on Gloucestershire's digital future | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Consultation launch of Gloucestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

- Gloucestershire County Council is announcing the launch of a public consultation for the county's first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The consultation process

began on the 8 September and runs for six weeks, closing on Wednesday 15 October. Feedback can be provided online. [Have your say – Gloucestershire’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy – consultation launches | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

## Local Government Reorganisation Update

Proposals for the LGR are continuing to be considered by each of the seven councils. A public consultation on the options:

- A single unitary council for the whole county
- Two unitary councils split east (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Cotswold) and west (Gloucester, Forest of Dean and Stroud)
- A ‘Greater Gloucester’ unitary council plus a unitary council for the remainder of the county.

This is expected to be run by government early in 2026 before a decision is likely to be made by mid-2026. For more information, please visit the dedicated local government reorganisation site: <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

Full Council in September passed the following motions:

1. Support for the Adopted Children and the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Fund and opposing Government cuts.
2. Green Group motion for Gloucestershire County Council to support the application by the Forest of Dean District Council to have its area designated as a UNESCO Biosphere.

A motion raised by Reform to review the planning status of hotels for migrant accommodation was rejected.

GCC Cabinet has approved the following:

- An investment of £1.1 million to create a new Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund that will allow each county councillor to invest £20,000 into local grassroots projects.
- The appointment of an external improvement partner to support Gloucestershire County Council’s (GCC’s) Adult Social Care service to deliver the objectives of GCC’s “Prevent, Reduce, Delay” transformation workstream.
- Highways works in relation to the Forest Road Lydney Geotechnical Stabilisation Scheme and a highways framework agreement relating to the provision of construction works in respect of highways, structures, drainage and geotechnical schemes.
- The supply, installation and maintenance of 229 new and replacement advertising enabled bus shelters and 15 free-standing units (FSUs).

The policies governing how schemes within the 20mph rollout are prioritised and delivered are still being agreed.

The SEND Local Area Partnership, which includes Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire NHS providers, and Gloucestershire Hospital Trust invites all parents and carers of children and young people aged 0–25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to take part in its Annual Parent Carer Survey. The [Parent Carer Survey](#) is open from

Monday 6 October and will close on Friday 5 December 2025. Families can take part online by visiting: [www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk)