

## County Councillor Report for May 2026

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.

## County News

### **First communities announced for Gloucestershire’s Safer Roads and Community 20s programme**

GCC has defined the first communities to be brought forward as part of its new Safer Roads and Community 20s programme – a countywide initiative designed to improve road safety, support public health and help create nicer places to live.

First is Cirencester, Preston and Siddington

Second is Cheltenham including Swindon Village, Leckhampton with Warden Hill, Prestbury, Charlton Kings, and Up Hatherley

For full list see [First communities announced for Gloucestershire’s Safer Roads and Community 20s programme | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

### **Lib Dem administration chose not to renew the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group**

The group was involved with climate action and advocating for youth voices in County Council decisions. They played an important role in scrutinising the Council’s climate strategies, action plans and budgets. However, following budget reviews, the administration has decided not to continue with the programme.

### **Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service urges public to Be Water Aware as warmer weather approaches**

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is urging people to take extra care in and around water as the weather starts to improve, as part of the National Fire Chiefs Council’s (NFCC) annual Be Water Aware campaign.

### **GCC Cabinet approves Stronger Futures plan**

Stronger Futures is a council-wide programme designed to ‘modernise’ GCC and make sure it is LGR ready. The plan is structured around three clear workstreams—Technology, Third-Party Spend and Organisational Design—which intend to strengthen the Council’s financial position, digital capability and organisational readiness.

Due to the security concerns being raised by other European countries the Green Group has questioned the administrations' decision to progress with Microsoft as a key partner.

### **New Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide support to families in crisis**

GCC has introduced the Crisis and Resilience Fund, a new programme providing support to families experiencing extreme hardship.

### **Backing announced for key bridge project to unlock Cotswold canal restoration**

GCC is set to support a major step forward in the restoration of the Stroudwater Canal by approving a £1 million contribution towards replacing a Walk Bridge near Whitminster.

### **County Council exploring all options to provide long-term future for Lydbrook Bridge**

GCC is exploring all options to secure a sustainable, long-term future for Lydbrook Bridge in the Forest of Dean, ensuring the best possible value for local residents.

### **LGR Update**

The core LGR portfolio team is now in place:

- Emily McGuinness has been appointed as the Portfolio Director
- Simon Higgins as the LGR Strategic Adviser.

The implementation programmes have now been 'stood up' with ongoing work to outline how and what each programme would deliver over the next few years, balancing ensuring that the authority(ies) was 'safe and legal' to deliver and ambition for its development over a number of years.

The Portfolio Plan has begun to identify critical milestones and interdependencies.

Newtrality had been commissioned to scope service transition activity, including helping with collecting baseline data from all seven councils.

Councils are currently discussing options for joint scrutiny arrangements to be approved by the Gloucestershire Leaders group.

### **GCC Meetings**

Cabinet met on 22nd April. At the meeting, they voted to approve:

- The closure and disposal of Great Western Court Reablement Unit
- The Cotswold Canal Trust Stroudwater Renovation.
- Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan.
- The Local Growth Plan, the councils economic plan for the next ten years which seeks to increase economic growth through being "unequivocally pro-business" and leaning into Gloucestershire's "comparative advantage sectors" with growth potential, including cyber security, agritech and aerospace engineering.

The challenge with this approach is that the evidence suggests that an economic strategy based on the pursuit of aggregate growth disproportionately benefits the rich and harms

our natural environment. Pursuing an economic strategy based on investment targeted at industries with direct social and environmental benefit together with some redistribution of wealth would more beneficial for Gloucestershire.

Meetings were held for:

- Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee,
- Audit and Governance Committee
- Constitution Committee

For full recordings of all meetings see [Webcast library - Gloucestershire County Council Webcasting](#)