

County Councillor Report December 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 – feel free to copy me in.

County News

[Gloucestershire County Council signals support for single unitary proposal](#)

A vote taken at November's Full Council meeting marked a major step towards the biggest change in local government for more than 50 years, as the Council voted to support the single unitary option of LGR. This decision was ratified at Cabinet, who agreed to submit the single unitary proposal to Government. As we were only given by Central Government the two options of either a single unitary or an East / West split creating two unitaries, I personally voted for the single unitary proposal. However in my speech I made it clear that I believed Gloucestershire was best served by retaining the current two tier system of District and County Councils.

[Gloucestershire County Council has released details of its budget for 2026/27.](#)

In the current proposals, spending for 2026/27 will reach £697.5 million, an increase of more than £32.4 million on 2025/26 levels.

For more information on the budget and details on how to have your say, visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/budget-2026/27

Public consultation runs from 4 December 2025 until 5pm on 9 January 2026.

[Liberal Democrats unveils council strategy at this month's council meeting](#)

Also at this month's Full Council meeting, the Liberal Democrats launched their council strategy for 2025–2029. The Green Group voted to support the strategy while promising to push for greater ambition on the environment and social justice.

[County council set to back next phase of Mass Rapid Transit development and delivery](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is set to approve the next stage of work to develop a business case and early delivery steps for a new Mass Rapid Transit system in Gloucestershire.

[Call for carers to share their views - National Survey 2025](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is inviting carers to take part in the 2025 national survey of adult carers in England. Surveys have now been sent out to a random sample of around 1,000 carers across Gloucestershire, giving them the opportunity to share their experiences and help shape future support.

[Invitation to residents to take part in an important conversation about the future of health and care services in Gloucestershire.](#)

Views wanted on:

1. **Neighbourhood health and care:** Developing and tailoring support and services to meet local needs, working with communities to tackle health inequalities, and delivering joined-up care close to home where possible. *Getting Ready for the Future NOW!* also looks at services further afield, including specialist care or treatment.

2. **Online, digital and technology:** Making the most of advances in technology to improve care, support people to manage their health and make services more efficient.
3. **Wellbeing, prevention and maintaining health independence:**

See <https://getinvolved.glos.nhs.uk/getting-ready-for-the-future-now>

Or complete the survey in the “Have Your Say” section of the engagement booklet

Staff recognised for achievements at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service awards evenings

Ceremonies to celebrate the achievements and long service of staff at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) have been held at The Stonehouse Court Hotel.

New report highlights key risks to county from climate change

Gloucestershire County Council has been assessing the risk of climate change to the county, in partnership with Climate Leadership Gloucestershire. See <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gcc-news/news-november-2025/new-report-highlights-key-risks-to-county-from-climate-change/>

Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund

The recently launched Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund scheme is continuing to seek applications from eligible groups. The scheme delivers funding to community initiatives seeking to make a positive impact on health and wellbeing, access to nature, digital inclusion, community cohesion, and reducing inequalities. Each Councillor is allocated £20,000 to support projects in their division.

More information about the new scheme is available on the dedicated webpage. Guidance for how to apply is available at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/business-property-and-economy/finance-funding-and-grants/grassroots-neighbourhood-fund/how-to-apply/>

GCC Meetings last month

Full Council

This month saw a historic meeting of the Full County Council as councillors voted on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation. [Members from the Green Group voiced their concerns that the reorganisation was undemocratic, a threat to local representative democracy and created high costs for the Council before deciding which of the two options on the table – one or two unitary authorities – offered the least-worst option.](#)

Myself, together with five members of the Green group, voted for the one-unitary option. The other three of the group abstained from the vote, saying neither of the options would benefit residents and that ‘none of the above’ should have been included as a third option.

In addition to the LGR debate, the Liberal Democrats presented their council strategy (see above) and three motions were debated. [The Green Groups motion to better incorporate the views and needs of young people in decision-making was passed with unanimous support.](#)

A Reform motion to “improve transparency, responsiveness, and equity in highways service” was passed following an amendment from the Liberal Democrats while a Green amendment to the [Conservative-proposed motion](#) on the reform of agricultural inheritance tax was referred to scrutiny.

The amendment sought to protect genuine family farmers while ensuring wealthy landowners pay their fair share.

A full recording of the meeting can be viewed [here https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/1033603](https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/1033603)

Cabinet

This month's GCC meeting of the Cabinet ratified the decision of Full Council on LGR (see above). During the meeting, Cabinet also approved:

1. The Council Strategy
2. Continued funding of the development of a mass rapid transit business case for Gloucestershire.
3. To delegate authority to procure a Framework Agreement and call-off of contracts related to the provision of behaviour change interventions for perpetrators of domestic abuse, i.e. the service known as Positive Relationships Gloucestershire (PRG).
4. To procure a contract for the provision of public notices advertising services.
5. To delegate to authority to award contracts for the supply of Microsoft Surface laptops for GCC staff.
6. The adoption of the Gloucestershire County Council Planning Performance Agreements Charter
7. Continued participation in Adoption West (AW).
8. Extension to the term of the council's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)/SAP Implementation Programme.