

County Councillor Report for April 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 – feel free to copy me in.

County News

[County to begin work on roll out of 20mph speed limits](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is set to begin introducing community-backed 20mph speed limits and other road safety measures as part of a new road safety programme.

[Pulhams launches electric buses and depot improvements following £8m investment](#)

Pulhams is launching 15 electric buses into service and has unveiled significant improvements to one of its depots thanks to a multi-million investment in clean technology.

[New climate report shows county emissions fall](#)

Gloucestershire County Council has published its sixth annual Climate Change Report, setting out progress made and strengthening its long-term commitment to tackling climate change.

[Growth Hub network receives funding approval](#)

Gloucestershire's network of Growth Hubs will continue to provide free business support in every district after funding was approved to keep the countywide service open.

[New countywide bus map launched for Gloucestershire](#)

Gloucestershire County Council has published a new bus map showing all the main bus routes across the county, operated by all the major operators. See [County bus network maps | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

[Residents invited to help shape the future of Gloucestershire's public paths and countryside access](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is starting work on an important update to its Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) – the long term strategy that guides how the county looks after and improves its network of public footpaths, bridleways, byways and access routes.

[County Council team recognised in national SEND awards](#)

A team at Gloucestershire County Council that supports young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has been shortlisted for a national award.

Transport and Housing

I attended a meeting on Thursday April 02 hosted by Quedgeley Town Council to discuss infrastructure. Attendees at the meeting included the MPs Alex McIntyre (Gloucester) and Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (North Cotswolds) together with local county, district and parish Councillors and representatives from county and district councils.

As the population of Gloucestershire increases, the pressure to build new homes throughout the county also increases. Currently each district has targets for the number of homes which need to be built, meaning in Stroud there are demands to cover much of our agricultural land with housing. The road transport network we have currently cannot sensibly support this.

GCC is now tasked by the Government with looking at a Spatial Development Strategy looking at development across the county. My view is that this opens up the possibility of building new homes where the main centres of employment are, i.e. Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud. Traffic here should be managed by a much improved public transport system, e.g. trams. However the solution currently proposed involves spending many hundreds of millions improving M5 junctions 10 and 12 so we can continue to build new housing estates in Stroud District.

I made this argument at the meeting receiving some interested nods but with no real commitment in taking the idea forward

Visit to Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Services (GFRS) SkillZONE

On Wednesday 18th March, County Councillors were invited to visit Gloucester South Community Fire Station to meet staff from the Trading Standards and Coroners and GFRS departments and learn more about the services they provide to the community. Members also had the opportunity to tour SkillZONE, an interactive life skills village which teaches young people how to keep themselves safe at home and in their communities.



GCC Meetings

Full Council Votes

Council voted to support the option of joining the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). The final decision on this will be made by the Labour Government.

The Greens proposed calling a motion to urgently look into opportunities for expanding publicly renewable energy across Gloucestershire to ensure energy security. This will reduce carbon emissions while providing financial benefits to local authorities and communities.

The Conservative Group called on Cabinet to strengthen support for Gloucestershire's farmers and rural communities by prioritising local procurement and produce and enhancing Public Health efforts to address rural mental health.

Both motions were passed.

Cabinet

This month's GCC meeting of the Cabinet took the following decisions related to LGR:

- Approved the strategic case for joining the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) as Gloucestershire's preferred option in response to the Government's invitation to submit an expression of interest in forming a foundation strategic authority.
- Approved the establishment of a joint programme with Gloucestershire's District Councils to deliver Local Government Reorganisation across Gloucestershire.

They also approved the following reports:

- Approved the Council Strategy Action Plan to deliver the priorities set out in the Council Strategy.
- Approved the County Council's Commercial Strategy.
- Approved the annual update of the Council's progress with its Gloucestershire Climate Change Report and recommendations on net zero commitments.
- Confirmed the implementation of the Safer Roads and Sustainable Transport and Strategic Highways Public Health, Community 20s programme.
- Approved the allocation of Local Authority Bus Grant funding—awarded by the Department for Transport (DfT)—for use in the Sustainable Transport and Strategic Highways period 2026-2030 and also to re-procure existing bus services and home to school transport services when those contracts expire between April 2026 and 31 August 2027.
- Noted the Council's Performance and Risk Monitoring Report.
- Approved the delegation of authority to procure services for the supply of social care and health community equipment.

- Approved GCC accepting the use of the Best Start Family Hubs grant during the period 2026–2029 and delivering the programme.
- Approved taking receipt of and delegating authority for the Crisis and Resilience Fund grant provided by the Department of Work and Pensions for the purpose of the funding as described in this report for the period 2026–2029.
- Approved recommissioning and procuring a contract for the supply of Children and Young Adult Carers Support Services.

Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund

The 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. Applications can be accepted until March 2027. I still have £10,000 left to spend.

More information about the new scheme is available on the dedicated [webpage](#). Guidance for how to apply is available [here](#).

Roads

The only resurfacing works planned which may the Haresfield & Upton area is work around junction 12 - A38 / A430 Bath Rd Hardwicke Gloucester

Community climate change fund - applications now OPEN for 2026

Following the Green Group's amendment to the budget announced in February, the fourth round of the [community climate change fund](#) is now live.

[The fund has previously granted up to £150,000 since January 2024, supporting 35 projects across the county](#), including installing bike shelters to encourage cycling, LED lights, energy saving measures for vulnerable people in homes, composting and growing local produce, repair cafe and bike repair workshops, carbon literacy training and installing solar panels or batteries.

Eligible groups don't have to be climate experts to apply. The fund can be used to support communities who are starting their journey to take action and protect their local environment, increase the health of their local community and help cut costs.

Priority will be given to projects that are able to reduce the most carbon, reach the most people and provide the best value for money. 🌍

Applications will close on 29 April 2026 at 5pm

National News

The climate and nature crisis threatens all aspects of British life, from national security to the food supply - but solutions exist. The National Emergency Briefing, held in Westminster last November, was commissioned to present the latest evidence, and build an irresistible call for the Government to stage a televised emergency briefing, the essential first step towards the WW2-scale response now required.

The evidence from the briefing has been brought together with reactions from members of the public – alongside some well-known voices including Jennifer Saunders and Deborah Meaden. The film, hosted by Chris Packham,

A number of showings of the 45 minute film are planned around Gloucestershire over the coming months. These showings are free of charge and will include a discussion after the screening about the issues raised.

The local one to Stroud this month is at the Trinity Rooms on Field Rd, GL5 2HZ on Sunday 26th of April from 3:30 to 5:30