

Gloucestershire County Council Parishes Report

April 2026

County News

Lib Dem administration chooses not to renew Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group

After two successful years, 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.

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. However, the Green Group has questioned the administration's decision to progress with Microsoft as a key partner, given [the security concerns being raised by other European countries.](#)

[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.

[First communities announced for Gloucestershire's Safer Roads and Community 20s programme](#)

Gloucestershire County Council has today finalised 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.

[New Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide support to families in crisis](#)

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

[County council set to back key bridge project to unlock Cotswold canal restoration](#)

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

[County Council exploring all options to provide long-term future for Lydbrook Bridge](#)

Gloucestershire County Council 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 and 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

There was no Full Council meeting held in April. The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13th May**.

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

- The *Stronger Futures* plan (see above)
- 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 closure and disposal of Great Western Court Reablement Unit
- The Cotswold Canal Trust Stroudwater Renovation.
- Gloucestershire *Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan*.

Meetings were also held of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Audit and Governance Committee, Constitution Committee plus two meetings of the new Highways Local Panel.

Full recordings of all meetings can be found [here](#).

Roads

Please continue to use and promote the use of [FixMyStreet](#) to report issues on the roads.