

July 2026 -County Report

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Transport

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

[travelinesw - welcome](#)

[County bus network maps | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

[Rights of way online map | Highways](#)

Get ready to book free activities for eligible children and young people this school summer holiday

[Get ready to book free activities for eligible children and young people this school summer holiday | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Families can view activities available through Gloucestershire County Council's summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) from midday on Monday 22 June. Bookings will be open from midday on Monday 6 July.

A wide range of free, fun activities and nutritious food will be on offer for eligible children and young people across the county to keep them happy, healthy and entertained from Wednesday 22 July to Tuesday 1 September for the summer school holidays.

Children in Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals can take part.

To view the activities on offer families should visit the Family Hubs booking system and create an account:

<https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/Home>

Welcome to The Library Challenge!

This summer in all Gloucestershire libraries for children age 3 +

[Welcome to The Library Challenge! | Gloucestershire Libraries](#)

Travel through time, get reading, and earn rewards!

There are lots of fun, interactive activities waiting for you! You can try them on your own, or team up with friends, siblings, or grown-ups.

Complete tasks and earn free rewards. Show your activity in any way you like - write it, draw it, stick things in, or add photos. It's your time-travelling story, so make it your own! If you need inspiration, just ask your library for activity sheets to help you get started.

[Download The Library Challenge 2026 Map](#) to explore the 6 different zones: Daring Dreamers, Lost Worlds and Hidden Treasures, Courageous Quests, Big Stories Small Island, Perilous Past, and Epic Myths and Fables.

Full council saw motions passed on:

- Extending Youth Voice in Climate Decision-Making
- Community Energy and Community Benefit for Gloucestershire
- Highways Community Partnership
- Donation of Decommissioned Fire Engines to Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine

For the whole agenda and members and public questions please follow this link:

[Agenda for County Council on Wednesday 24 June 2026, 10.00 am](#)

🔧 A417 Missing Link and Air Balloon roundabout works 🔧

National Highways announced that from 6am on Monday 29 June, traffic on the A417 between Gloucester and Cirencester will be switched onto a new temporary route from the A46 Brockworth interchange to the former Cowley roundabout. This arrangement is expected to be in place for at least five weeks while they continue building the new road.

🔑 What to expect:

- Narrower lanes and a 40mph speed limit
- Single-lane traffic in both directions between A46 Brockworth Junction and Air Balloon
- Permanent closure of the existing A417 between Air Balloon and the B4070

This change allows them to keep traffic moving and continue construction safely.



Plan ahead:

National Highways expect significant delays, so please allow extra time for your journey. If you're travelling longer distances, consider alternative routes, especially during peak times.



Upcoming closures:

Thursday 25 June (9pm–6am): Overnight closure between A46 Brockworth and Air Balloon

Friday 26 June (9pm) to Monday 29 June (6am): Full weekend closure between A429 Burford Road and Air Balloon



Please follow signed diversion routes (not sat navs).



Please note all dates are subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.

For more information about the scheme please visit the national highways website:

[A417 Missing Link - National Highways](#)

We appreciate the delays will be frustrating and we're working closely with National Highways to make sure every effort is made to reduce congestion. You can help by raising awareness about the roadworks through your networks. We will continue to share updates as we receive them and we urge anyone with concerns to contact National Highways on: info@nationalhighways.co.uk or 0300 123 5000.

Local Government Reorganisation.(LGR) Below is the link for all the up to date information, we are expecting to hear what form LGR will be for Gloucestershire in the first half of July.

[Future Gloucestershire : Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire.](#)

Trading standards

[Nearly 2,000 unsafe 'squishy' toys seized by Trading Standards | Gloucestershire County Council.](#) Gloucestershire Trading Standards are warning parents, carers and retailers to take extra care when buying popular 'squishy' toys, after officers uncovered hundreds of unsafe products on sale across the county.

Chief Fire Officer Mark Preece to retire on 1 October 2026

Mark joined the Service in December 2019 as the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, being promoted to Deputy Chief Fire Officer in 2020 and then to Executive Director of Community Safety and Chief Fire Officer in 2022. His long career in fire and rescue started in 1991 when he joined Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service as a firefighter going on to serve in a number of key roles.

He has led Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) through a period of significant change and challenge, with a focus on strengthening service delivery, improving culture and modernising the service to meet the needs of Gloucestershire's communities.

The council's Appointments Committee will consider options for recruiting a new Chief Fire Officer and Executive Director of Community Safety. The recommended approach is to launch recruitment in 2027. Subject to the committee's decision, temporary leadership arrangements will be put in place ahead of Mark's retirement