

CABINET DECISIONS

The Leader announced that the Corporate Plan item on the agenda was being withdrawn as further consideration was required before it could be considered by Members.

2024/25 Budget Consultation Feedback Report

This report provides feedback to Cabinet from the recent consultation on the Administration's budget proposals and considers it as part of the formulation of the 2024/25 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Update To update Cabinet on the progress of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund projects, to approve the recommendations of the UKSPF Assessment Panel for 2024-25 projects and to seek delegated authority for the use of the remainder of the funding.

Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support Penalty and Prosecution Policy

Cabinet:

AGREED to adopt the Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support Penalty and Prosecution Policy.

Review of Parking Charges and Season Tickets

Changes to pay and stay parking charges and season ticket charges. The report also proposes the introduction of charges for Sunday parking based on the tariff for Monday to Saturday pay and stay charges. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Dale and seconded by Councillor Evely.

Cabinet APPROVED:

1. The revised pay and stay parking charges set out in Annex B of the report effective from 1 April 2024.
2. The revised season ticket parking charges set out in Annex C of the report effective from 1 April 2024.
3. That the differential applied to season ticket charges for the Whiteway Car Park is increased from 71.3% to 75.3% as set out at paragraph 3.3.

4. The introduction of charges for Sunday parking based on the tariff for Monday to Saturday pay and stay charges effective from 1 April 2024.
5. That the charging period for Sunday parking is as set out in the table at paragraph 3.5.
6. That chargeable times on Sunday at Mangersbury Road are changed from 10am - 4pm to 10am - 6pm to align with the wider proposals for Sunday charging set out in this report.
7. An update to the Parking Order to consult on the implementation of recommendations a to f set out above.
8. Delegating authority to consider the Parking Order consultation responses to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy

To update the 2017 version of the Green Infrastructure, Open Space and Play Space Strategy. The strategy is an evidence paper that supports the Local Plan and its update being Green to the Core. Cabinet APPROVED the Green Infrastructure Strategy for adoption.

Cotswold District Local Plan Update and the Cirencester Town Centre Framework Masterplan
Cabinet:

1. AGREED to recommend to Council that Cotswold District Council begin the preparation of a new Local Plan that would extend the plan period from 31 March 2031 to 31 March 2041 and approves the Vision, Objectives and Development Strategy consultation document, as presented at Annex B, to be published for a six week public consultation;
2. APPROVE the draft policies consultation document at Annex C for a six week public consultation;
3. APPROVE the updated Local Development Scheme as presented at Annex D is approved;

4. APPROVE changes to the Statement of Community Involvement as presented at Annex E;

5. APPROVE the emerging Cirencester Town Centre Framework Masterplan 'initial ideas' consultation document for a six week public consultation as presented at Annex F;

6. NOTED upcoming national policy changes and the impact this may have on the preparation of the Local Plan at Annex G; and

7. DELEGATED AUTHORITY to the Forward Planning Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, to agree questionnaires and make minor and typographical corrections to the consultation documents prior to being published for public engagement.

**CHANGES TO THE PLANNING PROTOCOL
SCHEME OF DELEGATION and THE PLANNING REVIEW PANEL**

On 24 January, the Full Council voted to approve an update to the Scheme of Delegation following recommendations by the PAS (Planning Advisory Service).

The most significant item is the 28 day call-in deadline from the date of validation. This means that District and Parish Councillors need to identify concerns very early on in the application stage, without the benefit of a case officer's report. Currently members call in applications towards the end of the process. Going forward, if an application is of concern, District Councillors will need to liaise with Planning Officers and Parish Councillors with some urgency. A pro-forma will be created which will also give the member the ability to make a conditional request for scrutiny at the Planning Committee.

At present the Planning Review Panel is held monthly, which can result in delays for some applications. It is proposed to amend this to a bi-weekly meeting which would mean that no application waits longer than 14 days from the point of call in.

It is also proposed to amend the Planning Protocol to require either the Chair or Vice

Chair of the Planning Committee to be in attendance (however both will be invited as a matter of course) and to remove the requirement for a member of Legal Services to be in attendance but to continue to invite them as a matter of course. We support the creative and dynamic suggestions drawn up by the sadly outgoing Interim Development Manager, David Morren, however we do have some concerns, which we voiced unequivocally at the Full Council meeting on 24 January, see at 1:02:00.

https://cotswold.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/839591

1. There will be a need for both the Ward Member and Parish Councillors to engage and come to an opinion very quickly when planning applications first come through. If Parish Councillors have concerns, it is imperative that you feed them through to me as soon as possible. Luckily we are very engaged with the planning procedure, so we can usually identify potentially contentious applications. In 2022-23, 172 planning applications dropped into my inbox, whereas one of the Cirencester wards only had 9, so this revised practice will impact some wards more than others.
2. We have suggested that if the Ward Councillor recommends that a Site Inspection would be beneficial, then this should be noted on the Pro Forma.
3. In general, 28 days is a reasonable length of time, however there will inevitably be times when communication is not quick enough, for instance when people are unavailable say on holiday, are ill etc.
4. We have suggested that the council solicitor should remain present at the Planning Review Panel meetings, because in my experience, the panel might not know that he or she is needed - until he or she is! I also believe that both the Chair and Vice-Chair should be in attendance, simply because two heads are better than one.
5. Finally we suggested that this protocol be revisited and should be diaried for full council scrutiny in say 12 months' time, or earlier if appropriate.

FIBRE OPTIC TELEGRAPH POLES

You may have received correspondence this week from David Dunbar of Willersey

Parish Council. I thought I would clarify the policy for you:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/596/schedule/2/made>

(you'll need to scroll down quite a long way).

Fibre optic telegraph poles are allowed under permitted development.

Schedule 2 Part 16 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 sets out the permitted development rights

relating to telecommunications apparatus. The following is relevant to fixed line

broadband:

Prior approval does not apply in relation to Class A development on any article 2(3)

land which consists of the construction, installation, alteration or replacement of a

telegraph pole, cabinet or line, in connection with the provision of fixed-line

broadband.

Telecommunication operators do not therefore typically need planning permission or

prior approval for the erection of telegraph poles, even in AONBs or conservation areas.

Parking Provision Consultation - give your views on parking in the Cotswolds

This consultation runs from 15 January to 12 February.

The current parking strategy was updated in 2016. Since then several factors have

influenced transport and parking behaviours, such as the climate agenda, the

Coronavirus pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis and the wider economy.

Where do you park? What is the purpose of your visit? What could be improved? The

Council's car parking strategy looks at what car parking is needed across the district

based on the number of people parking, what the needs of those people are and

what might be required in future.

The new strategy will set out how parking can be improved so the Council can deliver

a better provision, in partnership with the County Council, parish councils and other

organisations. Take part in the consultation here.

A417 MISSING LINK UPDATE

Traffic England. All roadworks and planned road closures on motorways and major A roads published, including the A417.
www.trafficengland.com

National Highways. A Road Closure Report, which includes a seven day look ahead of planned road closures, updated twice daily, Monday to Friday except bank holidays.
www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/.

Gloucestershire Highways. For local road closures managed by Gloucestershire County Council visit:
[https:// www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/)

A417 Communications Team on 0300 123 5000 or email:
a417missinglinkatairballoon@nationalhighways.co.uk

Forthcoming Committee Meetings

Thurs 1 Feb 6pm Cabinet

Wed 7 Feb 2pm Planning & Licencing

Tues 20 Feb 2pm Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street

Trading Consent Matters)

Wed 21 Feb 6pm Council Budget Meeting

Tues 27 Feb 4pm Overview & Scrutiny

Best wishes

Cllr David Fowles
CDC Councillor for Coln Valley Ward