

**District & County Councillor's report for
St Briavels Parish Council
9th February 2026**

Gloucestershire County Council

Budget

Budget scrutiny

The council's Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dedicated an all-day session on 8 January to the proposed budget. The session covered adult social care, public health, children and families, fire and rescue, and environment.

At the session, it was noted that the provisional Fair Funding settlement has been extremely challenging for Gloucestershire, requiring an additional £10m in savings from the consultation budget. Funding challenges provided a reason for the strong rhetoric on prevention not being sufficiently backed up in the budget itself. However, Green members see this as an oversight as investment in prevention can save money in the long run.

The Green Group also believe the budget is weak on the environment. While it includes investment in some environmental measures (e.g. hiring an ecologist, promoting sustainable drainage systems) and some investment bus and active travel, these are small and unambitious.

County News

[Cabinet set to recommend £697 million budget for Council approval](#)

Gloucestershire County Council's cabinet is set to recommend that the proposed budget for the next year is put forward to Full Council for debate and approval at its February meeting (see below for more details).

[Council supports f40's campaign for increased education funding](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is supporting f40's campaign for increased and fairer education funding, with major reforms to SEND provision. (f40 = the forty least funded educational authorities campaign for fairer funding)

[Council set to approve use of £772 million education grant](#)

Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet is set to approve the use of the £772.21 million Dedicated Schools Grant which will support education across the county in 2026/27.

Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee raises concerns with Care Quality Commission on inspection numbers

The Chair of Gloucestershire County Council's Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee has, on behalf of the committee, written to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) calling on it to review the number of care provider inspections it carries out.

New measures proposed to improve road safety

New measures are being proposed by Gloucestershire County Council to improve road safety, reduce congestion and encourage more people to use public transport.

M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme receives £71.5m funding boost

Gloucestershire County Council has received a funding boost, following the decision by UK Government to commit to providing an additional £71.5 million towards the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme.

Householders urged to register their appliances to help prevent fires

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is urging residents to take a few minutes to register their household appliances and help reduce the risk of avoidable fires and safety incidents.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Each year, GCC joins millions around the world in marking Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January – the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. This year's theme, Bridging Generations, reminds us that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors. It lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us. This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past - to listen, to learn and to carry those lessons forward. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future.

Next steps

The public consultation on the budget consultation closed on the 9th January. At its meeting on 28 January, the Cabinet will carefully consider the results of the consultation, recommendations from the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

Committee and feedback from unions and other stakeholders before making final decisions on the budget it will propose to Full Council on the 18th February. Green amendments to the budget will be debated and voted on during this meeting.

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.

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

Forest of Dean District Council

Local Plan

At the full council meeting on 22nd January, the draft local plan was approved to go out to consultation. The consultation finishes on 18th March. Everyone is invited to share their comments on the proposed allocation of 13,200 houses in the district by 2042.

Included in the plan report is a suite of policies on a variety of planning considerations that will help shape the plan and provide material considerations upon which to help determine applications in the future.

Allocations are generally made on land which has been put up for development by the landowner.

A timetable of Local Plan consultations has been issued and all councillors and residents are welcome to visit, learn more and put forward their comments as they see fit.

Charter for the Rivers

At the full council meeting on 28th January, a motion to approve a Charter for the Rights of Rivers in the Forest of dean was passed. This will help give the Rivers a voice and a rallying point for all those who wish the rivers to flow healthily once again.

Budget

following consultation, on 12th February the cabinet will determine whether the draft budget should be put to full council for approval on 19th February. The Revenue and Capital budgets and council tax proposals 2026/2027 will include a pay policy statement.

https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s38944/F.766%20Cabinet%20Report%20-%20Revenue%20and%20Capital%20Budget%202026_2027.pdf

It is expected that the funding for LGR for this Council will be between £1.5m and £2.2m depending on which proposal is selected.

The growth items from section 5.14 give a flavour of what is being proposed to deliver on the council plan priorities.

Flooding

Finally, you will all know that it is particularly wet right now and that a number of flood warnings have been issued in our region.

Should your property be flooded, please report it to the FoDDC so that flood engineers can record the incident and give advice and support if the flooding is extensive.

If you can also report flooding to me from blocked drains and gullies that would help me get the Highways and Flooding teams to visit and assess the situation for repair or maintenance.

Please contact me if you feel I can help you in any council related matter.

With kind regards,

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