

District & County Councillor's report for St Briavels Parish Council 12th January 2026

Gloucestershire County Council

The budget is at the top of the agenda now and a full public consultation is underway to see if anyone has any suggestions, or comments on how your taxes are going to be used.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/a2sbdxsc/2026-27-budget-consultation-document.pdf>

The proposed revenue budget for 2026/27 totals £697.5 million, a net increase of £32.4 million from 2025/26. This will need to cover:

- **£15 million** (over the three years) of additional investment so more maintenance can be done on our highways and more resurfacing schemes delivered across the county
- **£2 million** (over two years) of new investment to improve road safety with speed limit reviews and delivery of the community 20s programme.
- An additional **£250,000** a year to improve the maintenance and upkeep of our cycleways and footways.
- **£2.7 million** towards Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services to help meet the rising need and demand for Education, Health and Care Plan Needs Assessments so we can provide the right support at the right time to children and families with SEND.
- **£21.17 million** towards a new special school in Gloucester.
- **£80.2 million** (over three years) to deliver essential works for our maintained schools.
- **£6.35 million** towards three new adult care homes to provide high-quality environments that incorporate technology to enhance residents' care, particularly for individuals with complex needs such as dementia. It will ensure individuals remain within their local communities for their care.

- **£500,000** to establish a virtual Adult Social Care Academy: to support paid and unpaid carers get the information and skills they need.
- **£3.9 million** (over four years) to deliver key refurbishment and vital repairs to your household recycling centres.
- **£445,000** (over four years) to support a healthier, more resilient natural and built environment, including responding to the risks and impacts of climate change to the benefit of communities and supporting nature recovery and ecology to the benefit of communities.
- A new annual **£1 million** Community Prevention Grant Scheme to support people to stay independent for longer and to help reduce health inequalities.
- **£384,000** to support young people to achieve by ensuring they are included in their community and can do well in education and go on to find rewarding work.
- **£935,000**: Libraries towards upgrading library buildings and services
- **£1.5 million**: towards a new fire and rescue training facility
- **£2.5 million**: towards replacing ageing frontline fire and rescue vehicles
- **£1.3 million**: to deliver major refurbishment and expansion of the existing Cinderford fire station to accommodate full-time day crews.

This draft ambition is always tempered by the grant funding given by government and this year it looks like there will be a reduction in grant funding. This means that GCC will have to cut its cloth accordingly, using reserves, borrowing and raising fees and charges in order to balance the budget.

A council Tax rise of around **£84** (Band D property) for the year is expected.

County News from before Christmas

[Gloucestershire County Council launches new strategy to tackle domestic abuse](#)

On Monday 8 December, Gloucestershire County Council launched its new three-year strategy to tackle domestic abuse and make the county a place where everyone can live free from abuse and harm.

[County Council shows solidarity with Ukraine](#)

Gloucestershire County Council has signed an agreement with a region of Ukraine to provide support and share the expertise the county has in a number of areas.

Gloucestershire County Council celebrates top national endorsement for active travel ambitions

Gloucestershire County Council has been awarded the Level 3 rating by Active Travel England (ATE), recognising the county as one of England's highest performing authorities for active travel. It is the only predominantly rural council to achieve this milestone.

Have your say on Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service's Community Risk Management Plan

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is asking residents to help shape its future by sharing views on its new draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).

Important message for bird keepers

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in a large commercial poultry flock near Brockworth, Gloucestershire on 18 December 2025 by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Full Council next meet on 18th February 2026.

If you are interested in putting a question to GCC please let me know and I will help you accordingly. If you want me to represent you on any important issue that you feel impacts the parish, again please let me know and I am happy to bring it to GCC full council.

Recordings of Council Meetings are available on the GCC website:

<https://gloucestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Please use the GCC website FixMyStreets for pothole and highway problems.

Forest of Dean District Council

The cabinet meet on Thursday (15th) to determine the consultation of the draft Local Plan.

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=5525&Ver=4>

This includes all the proposed allocations of housing in the district, all 13,200 houses by 2042.

For St Briavels, this includes an allocation of 110 dwellings on land next to Hewelsfield Lane.

The draft Local Plan will be debated by full council thursday 22nd January when we will see whether or not the proposed draft can go to full public consultation.

The FoDDC budget for 2026/2027 is also currently up for public consultation. A modest increase in council tax of around **£5** for the year (Band D property) is planned.

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

Kind regards,

Cllr Chris McFarling

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