



County Council

Wednesday, 27 November 2019 at 10am

Council Chamber - Shire Hall, Gloucester

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Chair's Opening of Council

“May we find wisdom to carry out our duties, humanity to listen to all, the courage to do what is right and the generosity to treat each other with respect.”

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2	MINUTES (Pages 1 - 24) To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2019.
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Please declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other interests that you may have relating to <u>any relevant matters</u> due to be discussed at the meeting. You should do this by signing the form at the back of the Council Chamber and you may also make an oral declaration if you so wish. If you become aware of an interest you have during the course of the meeting, you should declare it orally at the time you become aware of it and sign the form at the back of the Chamber at the end of the meeting.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Care Ambassadors' Tree of Life
Members are invited to visit the display on the Council Chamber landing.
- b) Fostering Excellence Awards
To congratulate Henry Wells, 19, one of Gloucestershire County Council's ambassadors for vulnerable children and young people, on winning the award for 'outstanding contribution by sons and daughters' at The Fostering Network's 'Fostering Excellence Awards'.
- c) Adverse weather
To thank Council teams who have kept the highway network running, protected properties from flooding and supported vulnerable people during the recent periods of heavy rainfall.
- d) Transformation and Change Awards 2019
To congratulate staff and teams who were nominated for awards. The Leader of the Council attended the ceremony in the Council Chamber on 7 November 2019.
- e) ICT support
Staff from ICT will be on hand over the lunch break to provide advice to members.

5

CLLR ROGER WILSON

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a member of a local authority to attend at least one meeting of that authority within a six month consecutive period, in order to avoid being disqualified as a councillor. This requirement can be waived if any failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the authority, in advance of the six month period expiring.

Unfortunately, due to a serious illness, Cllr Roger Wilson, who represents the Winchcombe and Woodmancote Division, has not been able to attend any formal Council meetings since Cabinet on 24 July 2019. The Leader of the Council requests that Council suspends the six month rule for Cllr Wilson until further notice.

6

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item.



To answer any written public questions about matters which are within the powers and duties of the County Council.

The closing date for receipt of questions is 10am on Wednesday, 20 November 2019. Please send questions to the Chief Executive marked for the attention of Stephen Bace (email stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

Questions received and proposed responses do not accompany this agenda but will be available prior to the meeting.

7 CORPORATE PARENTING (Pages 25 - 28)

Report from Cllr Richard Boyles, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years.

8 PETITIONS

To receive petitions presented by members without discussion.

9 MOTIONS

The Council's Constitution provides for a maximum of two hours for debate on motions. At the end of the two hour period, those members who have already indicated their intention to speak on the motion being debated at that time will be allowed to speak, the mover of the motion will be asked to sum-up and the vote will be taken.

The time limit for member speeches is three minutes and the time limit for proposing a motion is five minutes.

The following motions were received by the closing date of 10am on 19 November 2019:

Motion 848 - Tree planting

Proposed by Cllr Lesley Williams

Seconded by Cllr Graham Morgan

This Council passed a motion on 15th May 2019 recognising that there is a climate emergency.

This Council committed to an 80% reduction in the corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving to 100% with carbon offset by the same date. Research now



shows that planting billions of trees is the best and cheapest way to tackle climate change.

This Council resolves to request Cabinet to develop a policy of tree planting; with a target of planting 2 trees for each Gloucestershire resident by 2030, if not sooner, and to work with tenant farmers and encourage at least 2 trees per field for most pasture land.

I ask that a progress report is included in the annual Environmental report.

Motion 849 – Responsible investment policy

Proposed by Cllr Colin Hay

Seconded by Cllr Rachel Smith

This Council notes that:

- A 'Climate Emergency' was declared by Gloucestershire County Council in May 2019, along with five of the six district councils.
- Burning fossil fuels poses a serious risk to the stability of the climate upon which our well-being and economy depend.
- Research demonstrates that up to 80% world's proven fossil fuel reserves will have to remain unburnt if we are to have a reasonable chance of keeping global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the globally agreed target for climate change mitigation.
- Since 80% of fossil fuels must remain in the ground, the reserves of the fossil fuel industry risk becoming 'stranded assets' with little or no value – representing a substantial financial risk for those that invest in them.

This Council further notes that:

- Gloucestershire Pension Fund currently has over £140 million invested in the oil, coal and gas industries – nearly 7 per cent of the total pension investments.
- To date, over 1,100 institutions representing nearly \$11.5 trillion in assets have committed to divest from fossil fuel companies.
- Over a dozen UK councils have committed to divestment, including Stroud District Council and nearby Oxford City Council.
- Divesting from fossil-fuel industries is both environmentally and financially responsible, with fossil-free portfolios outperforming non-divested equivalents in recent years.

This Council commits to:

- Review its Investment Strategy and develop and implement a Responsible Investment Policy, which rules out new investments in Fossil fuel companies.



- Call on Gloucestershire Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels by requesting its representative on the Pension Fund Committee to call for the development and adoption of responsible investment policies which:
 - 1 Immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies.
 - 2 Divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within three years.
 - 3 Set out an approach to quantify and address climate change risks affecting all other investments.
 - 4 Focus future investments on areas that minimise climate change risk.

Motion 853 – Opposing a Cotswold National Park

Proposed by Cllr Joe Harris

Seconded by Cllr Mark Hawthorne

This Council notes that

- The Government recently commissioned a review of National Parks and AONB sites in England, led by Julian Glover. The findings of the review (Landscapes Review) were published in September.
- The Cotswolds, which already has Conservation Board Status as an AONB, receives approximately 23 million visitor days each year, with tourism worth around £900m to the local economy.
- The Landscapes Review identifies the Cotswolds as a ‘strong candidate, to be considered for National Park status’, suggesting Natural England and Ministers consider the case for this designation.
- While 44% of the AONB is in Cotswold District and 64% is in Gloucestershire, only a 10th of the current AONB board are elected members in Cotswold District and less than 40% of the councillors on the board come from Gloucestershire.

This Council further notes, however, that:

- The Cotswolds is not reliant upon just its landscapes and tourism for its economy, it is also a thriving area for a wide range of businesses and technologies with more than 40 established employment sites, many of which are located within the AONB.
- A National Park designation would greatly restrict the ability of Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council to pursue its economic and wider social priorities, and the Council would lose a raft of planning powers to a largely appointed body.
- There is already a housing affordability crisis in the Cotswolds and a National Park designation could further exacerbate this as there is often a ‘price premium’ applied to National Park areas designation. A National Park

designation would reduce democratic accountability across significant parts of Cotswold and Stroud districts, as well as parts of Tewkesbury and Cheltenham.

This Council resolves to write to Natural England and relevant Ministers:

- To support aspects of the Landscape Review, including the underlying thrust of promoting and supporting national landscapes for our nation's wellbeing while protecting and enhancing our countryside.
- But to reject the notion of a National Park designation for the Cotswolds, noting that tourism is already thriving in the areas and that no evidence has been provided to show how the costs to the wider economic future outweigh the smaller benefits that would come from a change in designation.
- To work with other local authorities within the AONB and the Cotswolds Conservation Board to address the challenges and opportunities highlighted in the Landscapes Review.

Motion 851 – County Council Planning Policy: achieving the highest environmental standards

Proposed by Cllr Lesley Williams

Secoded by Cllr Kate Haigh

This Council passed a motion on 15 May 2019 recognising that there is a climate emergency.

This Council is committed to an 80% reduction in the corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving to 100% with carbon offset by the same date.

This Council should implement a planning policy that ensures all new developments that are being sponsored by GCC are built to the highest environmental standards. This policy should include the use of heat source pumps, solar panelling, recycled grey water and any other measures that would mitigate against climate change.

These measures should be included in all buildings and in the considerable school building programme that this Council is now undertaking. The Council to change its planning policy to mandate these standards for all new schools, including free schools, and to work with planning authorities in the District Councils to ensure that this standard is adopted for all other buildings sponsored by GCC.

Motion 852 – Private schools in Gloucestershire

Proposed by Cllr Mark Hawthorne

Secoded by Cllr Patrick Molyneux



This Council notes the Labour Party proposes to abolish all private schools. This Council notes there are 8,123 students in 25 private schools in Gloucestershire.

This Council further notes it would cost in excess of £35m pa, more than 10% of the total schools budget every year, to transfer these students to the state system, and this would be the equivalent of cutting £83,388 pa from the average Gloucestershire primary school and £415,759 pa from the average Gloucestershire secondary school. As a result, the average Gloucestershire primary school would lose the equivalent of almost 3 teachers, and the average secondary over 14 teachers. This is simply on the basis of providing average per pupil state funding for each private school student, and includes no provision for one-off redundancy and compensation costs, which would potentially be very significant.

This Council believes that the proposal would do massive and unjustified damage to Gloucestershire state schools and deny parental choice, for no reason other than the politics of envy and division. This Council resolves to oppose the Labour Party's proposals, and to write to all county MPs setting out our opposition.

10 MEMBER QUESTIONS

Up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

To answer any written member questions about matters which are within the powers and duties of the County Council.

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11 SCRUTINY REPORT (Pages 29 - 32)

Cllr Shaun Parsons, Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to present the report on recent scrutiny activities. Scrutiny chairs to answer questions relating to their committees.

The report incorporates a report on the activities of the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel which Chair, Cllr Colin Hay, can answer questions on.



12	<p>CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE (Pages 33 - 68)</p> <p>Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chair of the Constitution Committee, to present the report from the meeting held on 14 October 2019.</p>
13	<p>CABINET</p>
	<p>a) CABINET 9 OCTOBER 2019 (Pages 69 - 110)</p> <p>To consider the Cabinet Decision Statement for the meeting held on 9 October 2019. Cllr Richard Boyles, Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Early Years, to present the recommendation relating to the Youth Justice Management Plan which forms part of the Council’s policy framework.</p>
	<p>b) CABINET 13 NOVEMBER 2019 (Pages 111 - 116)</p> <p>To consider the Cabinet Decision Statement for the meeting held on 13 November 2019.</p>
	<p>c) CABINET MEMBER DECISION STATEMENTS (Pages 117 - 120)</p> <p>To consider the Cabinet Member Decision Statements for the period 29 August to 7 November 2019.</p>
14	<p>COTSWOLD AONB CONSERVATION BOARD</p> <p>To appoint a member to sit on the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Conservation Board to replace Cllr Roger Wilson.</p>
15	<p>GLOUCESTERSHIRE LGPS ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19 (Pages 121 - 274)</p> <p>Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Chair of the Pension Committee, to present the 2018-19 annual report for the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).</p>

RECORDING MEETINGS, INSPECTION OF PAPERS AND GENERAL

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Simon Harper, Head of Democratic Services

☎ 01452 324202, email simon.harper@gloucestershire.gov.uk



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