

Motions to Council 8 December 2021

Chief Executive's accompanying notes

Motion 888

Armed Forces Community Covenant

Proposed by Cllr Andrew Gravells

Seconded by Cllr Dom Morris

Nearly a decade ago, in February 2012, Gloucestershire County Council along with its partners including the six district councils, local NHS representatives, and the Police and Crime Commissioner, signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant

The Covenant is a statement of mutual support between the civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It encourages support for the Armed Forces Community residing in Gloucestershire and recognises and remembers their sacrifices. This includes in-service and ex-service personnel, their families and widow(er)s, reservists, and partners in Gloucestershire. It's important that we continue to work with veterans in the county too, and we place on record our appreciation and gratitude to those organisations which work tirelessly with our local veterans and their families.

For the County Council and its partner organisations, the Armed Forces Community Covenant presents an opportunity for us all to continue sharing our knowledge and experience of how Local Government is structured and how it works, with the local bases in order to assist and advise our military neighbours and their families in practical ways when they might need our help or advice.

The County Council continues to keep in touch with the Military bases in the county, doing its best to ensure that all Military personnel are aware of how to access the Local Government services which are available, and also how we can learn from them on how we can address any issues which they encounter.

In the last few weeks, we have planned, and now begun, an e-learning course for all Elected Members, and county council staff, in an effort to make our Council even more effective in our work with our military residents.

	<p>Now, we believe that the time is right to update and reinforce the Covenant.</p> <p>Therefore, this Council proposes that on the 10-year anniversary of the original signing, the county council invites all original signatories (or their replacement bodies) to re-sign, highlighting their continued commitment to honouring the Armed Forces Community, and to contact all of the Gloucestershire Town and Parish Councils, inviting them to sign the updated Covenant too.</p>
Climate change implications	No implications arising from this motion
Resource implications	No implications arising from this motion
Human rights implications	No implications arising from this motion
Other implications relating to Council's policy framework	No implications arising from this motion

<p>Motion 889</p>	<p>Severn Edge STEP Fusion Reactor Proposed by Cllr David Gray Seconded Cllr Philip Robinson</p> <p>This Council welcomes and celebrates the announcement that the Severn Edge bid for the Berkeley and Oldbury sites has been shortlisted down to one of five as this reactor offers opportunities for Gloucestershire to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be at the forefront of decarbonised energy production and establish ourself as a leader in tackling climate change by building a world-leading prototype fusion power plant. • Create opportunities for local education, skills, and employment, as well as unlock regional opportunities for growth, funding and investment – all of which would help us level up in Gloucestershire. • Strengthen our economic success and innovation across the Western Gateway to achieve our shared goals of creating a greener, more inclusive future economy. <p>This Council therefore fully commits to working with Western Gateway partners to see this vital project delivered in Gloucestershire.</p>
<p>Climate change implications</p>	<p>STEP is an ambitious 21-year programme to deliver a net energy prototype fusion power plant by 2040. An objective of STEP is to demonstrate the potential for fusion power to provide limitless safe, clean, low carbon energy.</p>
<p>Resource implications</p>	<p>The Cabinet paper of 23 March 2021 confirmed that funding to support the joint submission is available in existing budgets for 2021/22.</p>
<p>Human rights implications</p>	<p>No implications arising from this motion</p>
<p>Other implications relating to Council's policy framework</p>	<p>No implications arising from this motion</p>

Motion 890**Domestic Abuse**

Proposed by Cllr Wendy Thomas

Seconded by Cllr John Bloxsom

Council deplores the risks that women and girls in Gloucestershire are subject to resulting from male violence.

Council is committed to ensuring that those who need to escape from domestic abuse are given as much support and assistance as possible so that they are able to re-build their lives away from abuse and harm.

We recognise that housing provision, delivered by partner organisations and housing authorities, is a key element of this support. Many victims of domestic abuse are forced to flee their homes to seek safety and support in a refuge or other form of temporary accommodation often in another area in order to put a safe distance between themselves and their abusers.

We note findings by Women's Aid that most women living with an abuser reported that abuse had worsened during the pandemic, with a fifth prevented from leaving by a lack of housing or refuge space.

In Gloucestershire referrals to the Domestic Abuse Helpline are reported to remain high and contacts into Children Service relating to Domestic Abuse are also reported to remain high.

We are also concerned that complex barriers to seeking support can result in lower levels of reporting and reduced access to domestic abuse services from people in some communities, including LGBT+ communities, and believe these gaps need to be addressed.

We welcome the introduction of new statutory duties upon this authority within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to support victims of domestic abuse and their children in domestic abuse safe accommodation and the inclusion of a duty to assess the need for accommodation-based support and prepare strategies to provide such support for victims.

Council is concerned that whilst there were 40 refuge spaces, spread across five districts, within Gloucestershire in at the time of the adoption of the Supporting People Strategy 2005-10, there are now only nine refuge spaces with all of these being

	<p>delivered by an independent provider within just one district in the County.</p> <p>Council acknowledges that whilst provision of dispersed accommodation, such as Places of Safety, can enable women to stay in their communities, this does not remove the need for other forms of safe accommodation including refuges nor offer the intensive support to women and children that properly funded refuges can.</p> <p>Council notes that demand for accommodation is higher than the provision available, that many refuge referrals are declined due to lack of space or capacity and that those most likely to access refuge provision may have minimal access to the resources needed to secure their safety without the support of this type of provision.</p> <p>Council resolves that both the Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee should consider the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment for Gloucestershire and the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy and in particular if the strategy has been given effect through commissioning/decommissioning decisions so as to meet “the need to ensure that all survivors are able to access safe accommodation irrespective of where they originally reside” (Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance Framework Para 291) including provision in more than one place and provision which is suited to meet a range of needs including complex needs.</p>
Climate change implications	No implications arising from this motion
Resource implications	Specific funding has been allocated from DLUHC. If the need for refuge provision exceeds the current budget this may impact on the Council’s ability to meet the requirements of this motion.
Human rights implications	No implications arising from this motion
Other implications relating to Council’s policy framework	<p>Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Gloucestershire County Council has a duty to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based support in its area,

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in its area• give effect to that strategy, and• monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy. |
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Responsibility for fulfilling this duty falls to the Council's executive, so while Council may ask the scrutiny function to scrutinise the strategy, responsibility for ensuring that plans are in place for additional refuge provision rests with Cabinet, so can only be determined by Cabinet.

Motion 891**Climate Leadership**

Proposed by Cllr Chloe Turner

Seconded by Cllr Chris McFarling

Council notes:

- That this authority declared a climate emergency in May 2019, with a goal to reach net zero by 2030, and as a member of UK100, has committed to deliver a carbon neutral county by 2045 (with an 80% reduction by 2030).
- That the Glasgow Climate Pact signed at COP26 recognises a crucial role for communities and local authorities. By "*recognizing the important role of ... local communities and civil society, including youth and children, in addressing and responding to climate change, and highlighting the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action*" the Pact makes plain the need for action at every level of government and society. Furthermore, the Pact explicitly calls on us "*to actively involve ... local communities in designing and implementing climate action*".
- That shortly before COP26, the UK government published its Net Zero Strategy, which includes the intention to establish a Net Zero Forum to coordinate the strategy with local government.

Council believes:

- That despite the wholehearted efforts of Alok Sharma MP and others, COP26 failed to provide the national targets to put the world on course for limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5C, and failed to commit to the phasing out of fossil fuels and to the carbon price mechanisms needed to shift the world economy from them.
- That the Climate Change Committee is correct when it states that it is "*crucial for the [Net Zero] Forum to promptly develop an agreed understanding of the role of local government in delivering Net Zero.*"

Council resolves, in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact and associated declarations to call on Cabinet to:

Local climate leadership:

- To complete the delivery of Carbon Literacy training for council staff and members by December 2022, to ensure we are consistent in addressing the climate emergency across our activities.
- To undertake a robust review of our 2019 Climate Change Strategy and associated Action Plan, and to ensure that other council strategies developed or reviewed from this point are congruent with the renewed Climate Change Strategy.
- To recognise a hierarchy of action with direct investment in facilities, infrastructure and changes to services first, with carbon off-setting as a last resort.
- To provide leadership with the issue of clear and regular (monthly) guidance and information on the path to net zero through the Greener Gloucestershire campaign, with transparency regarding the council's work, and honesty with regard to the changes in homes, transport and diets required of us all. To lend the council's commitment and authority to the newly established body Climate Leadership Gloucestershire, and to support and learn from neighbouring councils and other partners as they bring forward plans for decarbonising their own activities and supply chains, identifying and engaging in opportunities for working together.

Sustainable production and consumption:

- To accelerate our work on waste reduction, circular economy initiatives, sustainable food strategies and natural carbon capture, in particular on the council-owned rural estate. To consider the potential for a Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage system for the Waste to Energy facility at Javelin Park, especially if funding from BEIS is made available, as has been suggested.
- To expand our work on new renewables projects on county-owned land/buildings and in partnership with other landowners, and to continue to review our existing energy procurement to maximise the efficiency and sustainability of supply.

	<p>Active Travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build on recent active travel bid successes for our urban areas, and step up funding efforts for our rural districts where public transport options are limited. To ensure timely delivery of commitments in our Local Transport Plan and Bus Service Improvement Plan with regard to active, public and shared transport. <p>Finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To request that the Pension Committee review the allocation of passive funds in the Council's pension scheme as part of the upcoming MTFS exercise (if not sooner), and consider moving these passive funds to the new Paris Aligned Benchmark Passive Fund offered by the Brunel Pension Partnership for schemes within its pool. To bring forward proposals for a local Green Investment Bond, as promoted by the LGA, to enable our communities to invest in local green infrastructure projects.
Climate change implications	This motion relates directly to the Council's Climate Change strategy. Detailed implications of the motion would be considered as part of the review of that strategy.
Resource implications	Any funding required for the initiatives listed over and above the existing climate change budget will need to be considered by Cabinet and Council as part of the annual budget setting process.
Human rights implications	No implications arising from this motion
Other implications relating to Council's policy framework	Gloucestershire County Council's existing climate change strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2019. Responsibility for revision and delivery of the strategy rests with Cabinet.

Motion 892**Repairing public confidence in Gloucestershire Highways**

Proposed by Cllr Roger Whyborn

Seconded by Cllr Lisa Spivey

This Council recognises that our county's highway maintenance is failing at numerous points, with councillors from all parties inundated by appeals from residents to fix potholes, mend broken infrastructure, replace signs, cut overgrown vegetation and clear leaves from drains, as well as reports of dodgy traffic lights and poor-quality repairs.

This Council also notes that the number of potholes has been going up year on year, with 24,668 needing to be repaired in 2019/20, 36,447 in 2020/21 and more than 43,000 in the first half of 2021/22. Taken together with the proportion of carriageways and other assets at "end of life" this indicates progressive deterioration of our highways infrastructure.

This Council believes, in short, that the system is broken.

Moreover:

- Councillors and our residents are frustrated by the unresponsiveness of the system and its lack of local sensitivity to local situations, leading to a widespread sense of a lack of empowerment.
- Council is concerned that, having declared a Climate Emergency, our highways leaders are moving too slowly, in both policy and operations, to address the changes required to decarbonise our county and protect our communities from climate-change events.

This Council believes major changes must be applied to the culture of our highways leadership if the Council is to regain the confidence of the people of Gloucestershire. As such, it calls upon Cabinet to:

- Conduct a detailed review, in consultation with districts, parishes and communities, of the way the Council delivers highways services to the county.
- Consider, through scrutiny, how best to devolve decisions on spending priorities and operational decisions to a local level, to the maximum extent possible, to enable local ownership and to empower our communities.
- Establish a task and finish group to interrogate how we can achieve the best value-for the taxpayer and superior highway results for our residents – bringing in experts from better-performing councils and interest groups to

	provide advice to our councillors.
Climate change implications	While the motion comments on the extent to and speed with which Gloucestershire Highways is responding to the Climate Emergency, there are no direct Climate Change implications arising from the motion itself.
Resource implications	The cost of undertaking any review can be met from existing budgets. Any longer term resource implications arising from a review will be subject to the Council's usual budget-setting process.
Human rights implications	No implications arising from this motion
Other implications relating to Council's policy framework	No implications arising from this motion

<p>Motion 893</p>	<p>Policing and anti-social behaviour Proposed by Cllr Jeremy Hilton Seconded by Cllr David Brown</p> <p>This Council believes that improved police patrols, especially on foot, by Gloucestershire Constabulary would help reduce the incidence of petty crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>This Council notes that Chris Nelson, the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), committed in his manifesto to cut anti-social behaviour in our communities by 50% during his term of office.</p> <p>This Council notes that the PCC has also promised to employ an extra 300 police officers.</p> <p>This Council agrees that the burden of providing the additional financial resources to Gloucestershire Constabulary to allow for the extra 300 members of staff should be borne by the Government and not by the local council taxpayer.</p> <p>This Council therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invites the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide a public presentation to the County Council on how he intends to deliver on his commitment to halve anti-social behaviour in Gloucestershire over the next three and a half years. • Asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary seeking further funds to allow the PCC to employ more police officers in Gloucestershire without overburdening Gloucestershire taxpayers.
<p>Climate change implications</p>	<p>No implications arising from this motion</p>
<p>Resource implications</p>	<p>No implications arising from this motion</p>
<p>Human rights implications</p>	<p>No implications arising from this motion</p>
<p>Other implications relating to Council's policy</p>	<p>Section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides for each police area in England and Wales outside London to have a police and crime panel with the function of scrutinising the decisions and actions of the police</p>

framework

and crime commissioner.

The draft Gloucestershire Police & Crime Plan was considered by the Gloucestershire Police & Crime Panel at its meeting on 28 September 2021.