

# Gloucestershire County Council – Council Strategy 2022-2026: *Building Back Better In Gloucestershire*

## Introduction

The Council Strategy is the key element of the Council's Policy Framework that set the Council's strategic priorities, and in turn, influences the Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget. This strategy – *Building Back Better in Gloucestershire* - has been developed by Cabinet, with support and advice from senior officers, following the Council Elections in 2021. It covers a four-year period, and sets out how the Council will address the key challenges and opportunities facing the county. It will be refreshed and updated annually alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

*Building Back Better in Gloucestershire* sets out a clear vision and priorities for 2022 – 2026, focusing on creating a greener, healthier, more prosperous Gloucestershire for everyone. Those priorities are:

- Tackling climate change
- Improving the resilience of our roads
- Delivering sustainable growth
- Levelling up our communities
- Securing investment for Gloucestershire
- Transforming Children's Service, Adult Social Care, and Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- Improving the experience we offer our customers.

## Governance

Cabinet approved and published the draft strategy in December 2021, alongside the MTFS, for public consultation. As part of this process, the strategy was also subject to scrutiny as part of a whole-day session on 6 January 2022. Feedback from scrutiny and the consultation process was considered by Cabinet at its meeting in January 2022. In particular, the following amendments to the strategy were made in response to the comments received:

- An additional priority to refresh the Council's Road Safety Policy and review speed limits where there is an evidenced safety concern;
- Emphasising that our ambition for inward investment extends beyond the STEP fusion project to other opportunities, particularly Cyber Central;
- Clarifying our commitment to ensuring economic growth supports the development of green jobs and skills;

- Underlining the fact that this is a strategy that will deliver for rural and urban areas, and that the benefits to economic growth need to extend to all communities.

Having approved the draft Council Strategy at its meeting on 26 January 2022, Cabinet is recommending it to the County Council for approval. Please follow this link for the Cabinet report and background documents –

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=43385>

Once approved the adopted Council Strategy (2022-2026) will be published on the Council's website and will form the basis of the Council's Performance Management System, informing the content of Directorate and Service Planning and of quarterly performance reporting to Scrutiny.

### **Recommendation**

That the Council approves the adoption of the Council Strategy 2022-2026: *Building Back Better in Gloucestershire*.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne  
Leader of the Council  
16<sup>th</sup> February 2022