

# Cheltenham Borough Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Meeting date:** 7 July 2025

**Meeting time:** 6.00 pm

**Meeting venue:** Council Chamber - Municipal Offices

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## **Membership:**

Councillor Tabi Joy (Chair), Councillor Jackie Chelin (Vice-Chair), Councillor Graham Beale, Councillor Julia Chandler, Councillor Chris Day, Councillor Juan Carlos Garcia Clamp, Councillor Sandra Holliday, Councillor Hannah Healy, Councillor Martin Horwood and Councillor Stan Smith

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## **Important notice – filming, recording and broadcasting of Council meetings**

This meeting will be recorded by the council for live broadcast online at [www.cheltenham.gov.uk](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk) and <https://www.youtube.com/@cheltenhambc/streams>. The Chair will confirm this at the start of the meeting.

If you participate in the meeting, you consent to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for broadcasting and/or training purposes.

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**Contact:** [democraticservices@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@cheltenham.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 01242 264 246

## **1 Apologies**

## **2 Declarations of interest**

## **3 Minutes of the last meeting (Pages 5 - 12)**

Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## **4 Public and Member questions, calls for actions and petitions**

## **5 Appointment of Co-optees to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 18:05 5 mins**

## **6 Cabinet Briefing**

**18:10 15 mins**

**Objective:** An update from the Cabinet on key issues for Cabinet Members which may be of interest to Overview and Scrutiny and may inform the work plan.

In the absence of the Leader, briefing from Councillor Jeffries, Deputy Leader (if he has an update, or if O&S Members have questions for him)

This will include an update from Councillor Baker as the Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling, Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces.

## **7 Minster Exchange (Pages 13 - 32)**

**18:25 30 mins**

**Objective :** Update on first year of operation and assessing the impact against original objectives.

Bruce Gregory, Managing Director, Hub 8

Andrew Roughan, CEO of Plexal

## **8 Feedback from other scrutiny meetings attended**

[Gloucestershire Health O&S Committee](#) – no update as meeting is not due to be held until 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

[Gloucestershire Economic Strategy Scrutiny Committee](#) – no update as meeting is not due to be held until 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

[Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel](#) – no update as meeting is not due to be held until 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

## **9 Updates from scrutiny task groups**

There are currently no active scrutiny task groups

## **10 Review of scrutiny workplan (Pages 33 - 34)**

**11 Any other item that the Chair determines to be urgent**

**12 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**Informal de-brief**

What went well? Can we identify opportunities for improvement or training needs?

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# Cheltenham Borough Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes

**Meeting date:** 19 May 2025

**Meeting time:** 18:00 – 18:55

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**In attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Jackie Chelin (Vice-Chair), Graham Beale, Julia Chandler, Chris Day, Sandra Holliday, Richard Pineger, Jan Foster and Hannah Healy

**Also in attendance:**

Claire Hughes, Richard Gibson and Victoria Bishop

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## **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Joy, Garcia Clamp and Smith.

Cllr Foster attended as a substitute for Cllr Joy.

## **2 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

## **3 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> March meeting were approved.

## **4 Public and Member questions, calls for actions and petitions**

There were none.

## **5 Cabinet Briefing**

Cllr Hay as Leader attended the meeting but as Council had occurred so recently there was nothing to report.

She invited Members to ask any questions of which there were none.

### **6 Matters referred to committee**

There were none.

### **7 Feedback from other scrutiny meetings attended**

There had been no recent scrutiny meetings due to the County Council Elections.

### **8 Updates from scrutiny task groups**

There are currently no scrutiny task groups.

### **9 Physical activity and sport strategy for Cheltenham - Draft Action Plan**

The Head of Communities, Wellbeing and Partnerships introduced the report as published. He explained that the action plan was being taken to Cabinet for approval on the 20<sup>th</sup> May.

He then gave some background to the report stating that there are a number of reasons for the Council to have an up-to-date sports and physical activity strategy including the need to secure investment into the Council's leisure facilities, supporting the ambitions of local sporting clubs, and addressing health inequalities. In addition, the strategy was identified as a corporate priority in the corporate plan 2023-2027.

The report sets out the journey of work that has been done since 2023. There have been two studies carried out – one with regard to leisure facilities and the other with regard to playing pitches. These provide a robust evidence base for the future. There was also a survey of young people the results of which were taken to Cabinet in February.

The action plan was drafted with support from the previous Cabinet Member and will be taken to Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

The engagement of stakeholders and how they are engaged with is important. For instance, schools are important stakeholders as they have assets like swimming pools and sports fields. The Council will work to unlock investment into sport and physical activity with creative means.

The matter then went to Member questions, the responses were as follows:

- There are many more opportunities with football and much more investment. However, this does mean that certain sports get side-lined e.g. hockey is one as their pitches get taken over by football. The Football Foundation invest, and they are keen that the pitches they invest in are used for multisport. This might create opportunities for other sports such as netball – which members felt was incredibly important for women and girls.

- In the context of local parks, the council needs to balance their use by sporting teams with making sure that they remain open to use by all.
- There is now less risk of schools selling off sports fields as Sport England can now raise a statutory objection. The case of Pittville School was slightly different as they were the only school that didn't have a sports hall they sold some of their unused playing fields to build the sports hall.
- The Council will use its business-as-usual budget to deliver the action plan and then look at seek funding from elsewhere to deliver wider ambitions. It was suggested that leveraging existing facilities in the private sector might help.
- The Feel-Good Pass has been launched and involves four community providers. With the No Child Left Behind activity pass there is an opportunity to bring on commercial providers
- The national bodies for sports are addressing toxic masculinity ensuring that investment is made and that they address the balance.
- As regard to the implementation schedule this is something that has to be discussed with the Cabinet Member as they will need to reflect on what takes priority.
- An advertising campaign would be a good thing, however that may have a cost implication, the Cabinet Member stated that he would take that idea away, there may be the opportunity to implement a small level comms campaign.
- Cycling was not mentioned in the report as it is a complex matter due to infrastructure requirements. There is an Active Age open day in June which we will make Members aware of.
- Significant investment is needed in the track at the Prince of Wales stadium. English Athletics and UK Athletics do not currently have funding. It would be advantageous to have a meeting with Cheltenham Harriers and Smiths Rugby Club as the main users of the site to try and find a way forward. It was acknowledged that this is a countywide resource and not just an issue for Cheltenham to solve.

### **10 Accessibility and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) briefing note**

The Director of Governance, Housing and Communities introduced the report. She stated that the report was instigated by Councillor Tooke some time ago. It has taken some time to put together what is done by the individual teams within the Council. The report illustrates what each team is doing and what is being done with buildings and assets and the housing improvement plan to address and improve accessibility. The new ED&I policy will go to Council in September. There will be more opportunity to do things differently as the Council moves forward. The chamber is not really accessible and there is not much that can be done at the moment. The action plan captures what we can do with the current environment. The Council are currently working with the Star College with regard to access to buildings, also will be working with shops in the town to see which are accessible and this information will then be made available to the public via the Marketing Cheltenham website.

The Chair raised the issue of the problem for people with dementia is that they sometimes cannot see a way out of a strange building so it would be good to map that information as well. The Cheltenham Dementia Action Alliance are working with the BID to raise awareness of businesses about how to improve services to accommodate people living with dementia.

The responses to Member questions were as follows:

- The Council are working with the BID around shops and what can be done.
- Currently at the Everyman two wheelchair users cannot sit together as the lay out of the accessible seats does not allow for this. It has been requested that as part of the grant funding that the Council awards the Everyman they try and improve this.
- There are ongoing discussions with Gloucestershire Highways to improve pavements and the roads.
- It would be a political decision for improvements regarding accessibility to be made to the Municipal Offices before the Council moves out.
- It was agreed the that the completed EDI policy would come to the committee in October. It was also agreed that there would be a review in a years' time to see the progress that has been made.

The Chair thanked the officer for attending the meeting.

### **11 Review of scrutiny workplan**

Due to Cabinet changes it was requested that the Culture Board item be moved to a future meeting, this will be discussed more fully at the Chairs briefing in June.

There was also the reiteration of the request that the Accessibility and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion briefing note is brought to the committee when the policy is finalised.

### **12 Any other item that the Chair determines to be urgent**

There were none.

### **13 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

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# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Overview and Scrutiny – 7 July 2025**

### **Minster Exchange**

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

#### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

- 1.1 This briefing note is designed to provide Committee Members with an update on the operation of the MX development since its opening in 2024.

#### **2. Summary of the Issue & Background**

- 2.1 In 2019, the Council entered into a partnership with the Workshop Group (WSG) – operators of the successful Hub8 Brewery Quarter and Gloucestershire College cyber workspaces, to deliver the Minster Innovation Exchange (MX) to create a cyber start-up incubator and collaboration space as well as a performance venue.
- 2.2 For CBC the project formed one element of a programme of town centre investments spanning the Minster Gardens, Wilson Gallery, Clarence Fountain at Boots Corner and the purchase of 232 -242 High Street (also referenced as 'Poundland').
- 2.3 The objective of these investments was to significantly enhance the high street and connections between the Brewery and Minster Quarters of the town centre.
- 2.4 The MX also forms part of the Council's commercial strategy as following the Council's investment in the Golden Valley development the investment in MX was aimed at further developing and encouraging the concentration of cyber and wider ecosystem businesses.
- 2.5 During the construction of the MX there were number of issues which included development delays, insufficient skills in the developing contractor's team, defects to the structure and an under-estimation of elements of build costs which were compounded by supply chain issues and construction inflation.
- 2.6 As a result of these issues CBC took a number of remedial measures to stabilise and rectify the issues discovered.
- 2.7 On 20 November 2023 prior to its opening the O&S committee undertook a tour of the site before reflecting on learning from the project with the Chief Executive, finance officers and representatives from the MX project team.
- 2.8 The MX officially opened in July 2024 and the site comprises of a Growth Hub, shared office space, private offices, meeting rooms, members space, phone booths,

- 2.9** After a full year of operation the O&S Committee undertook a visit to the MX on 25 June 2025 to see the building in operation.
- 2.10** There continues to be lessons learnt from the first year of operation which are being acted upon and these are covered in the attached report and include changes to the layout to improve member experiences and revenue.

**3. Summary of evidence/information**

- 3.1** Report attached from Bruce Gregory, Managing Director, Hub 8.

**4. Next Steps - possible next steps for the committee to consider e.g. potential witnesses, further report, site visit etc.**

- 4.1** None identified at the present time.

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**Contact Officer**

Ann Wolstencroft

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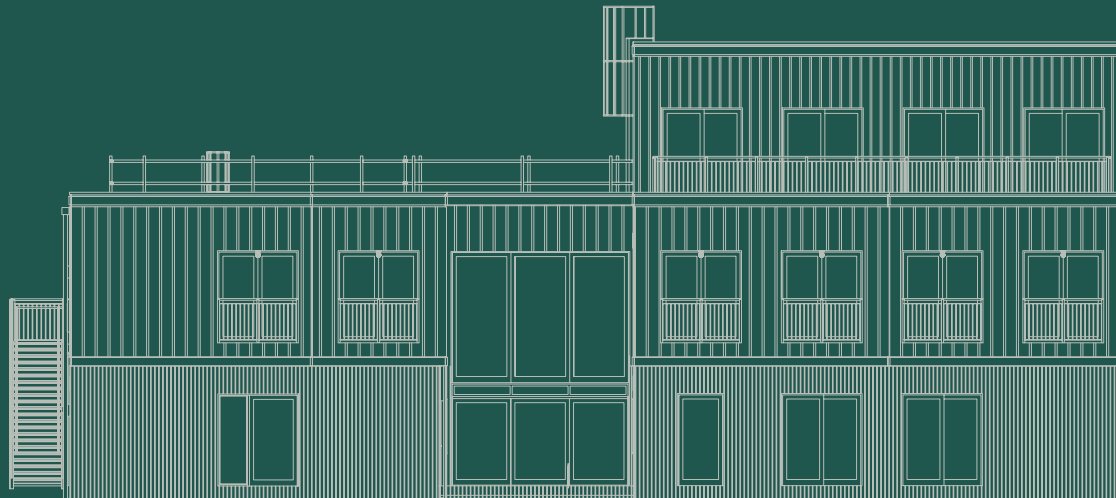
**Accountability**

Rowena Hay, Leader

mx

# Impact Report

July 2024-July 2025







# Foreword

In 2019 we set out on a mission to deliver and operate places that help drive social regeneration and inclusive economic growth in Cheltenham by bringing together government, industry, SMEs, startups and academia to collaborate and innovate. The strategy that was formed created the MX; a 20,000sqft innovation hub for the technology and creative sectors. Since its launch in July 2024, I'm very proud to highlight the achievements of the MX in this report; from welcoming over 20,000 visits, to becoming a home for 57 businesses and supporting over 500 jobs.

The partnership that we've formed with Cheltenham Borough Council to operate the MX has been central to its success. This partnership approach has enabled us to create a physical workspace with the infrastructure that our tech and creative community is looking for but also deliver support packages to our members to help supercharge their growth and impact agenda through The Growth Hub and Grown in Cheltenham programmes. The positive impact goes beyond the walls of the MX; its role in reinstating the Minster Gardens as a place that the community now come to enjoy cannot be underestimated.

This would not have been possible without our partners, members, collaborators and colleagues and I would like to thank each and every one in supporting this. We look forward to working with you to continue our mission.

Bruce Gregory  
Managing Director, Hub8



# Our Story

Since its founding in 2019, Hub8 has established itself as an orchestrator to enable the development and growth of Cheltenham's tech community.

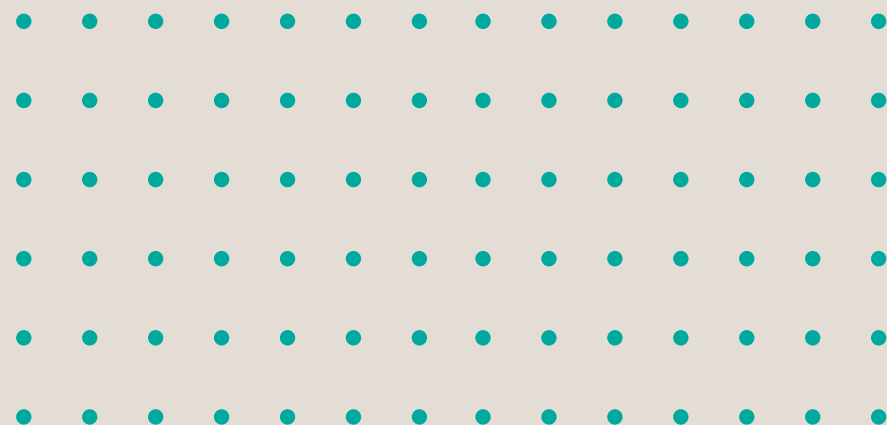
Hub8 provided the first dedicated work and innovation space in the town for startups, SMEs, industry, academia and government to come together to collaborate and innovate. In 2021 Hub8 opened its second location in the town, delivered in partnership with Gloucestershire College at its Cheltenham Campus adjacent to GCHQ.

Plexal and Hub8 have been long term collaborators since 2019; working in partnership to deliver the NCSC for Startups Innovation Programme in Cheltenham. In January 2023 Plexal acquired a majority shareholding in Hub8 as part of the companies' mission to build the UK's most connected technology ecosystem.

As demand for its services expanded, Hub8 by Plexal transitioned to a new, larger home at the Minster Exchange (MX), a state-of-the-art innovation hub in the heart of Cheltenham delivered in partnership with Cheltenham Borough Council and home to The Growth Hub. This strategic move marked a significant step in scaling its mission to support the UK's tech sector, and it is the impact of this transition to MX that this report will explore in depth.

The MX provides a juxtaposition between Cheltenham's historic past and high-tech future, bringing life and vibrancy back to the oldest part of the town by integrating our next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders with the wider community.

This report examines the transformative impact of the MX since opening last July —highlighting how it has helped supercharge collaboration, boost economic activity, and position Cheltenham and Gloucestershire as national leaders in secure technologies.



Over  
**500**  
businesses  
supported

Home to  
**57**  
companies,  
providing  
**534**  
jobs

Total number  
of visits:  
**11,457**  
workspace

**3,358**  
events

**4,693**  
cafe

**Green  
Energy:**  
generated  
**23,100 kWh**  
The equivalent of planting  
**270 trees / 4,470kg of CO2**  
emissions saved



# Inclusive Economic Growth

The MX has been purpose-built to accelerate growth, drive innovation, and open up opportunities for businesses of all sizes—from early-stage startups to established firms. Through initiatives like The Growth Hub and Grown in Cheltenham, the MX supports local entrepreneurs by offering access to tailored business support, expert advice, and a thriving community of peers. These programmes don't just boost individual ventures—they help create new jobs, unlock potential, and promote inclusive economic growth across the region.

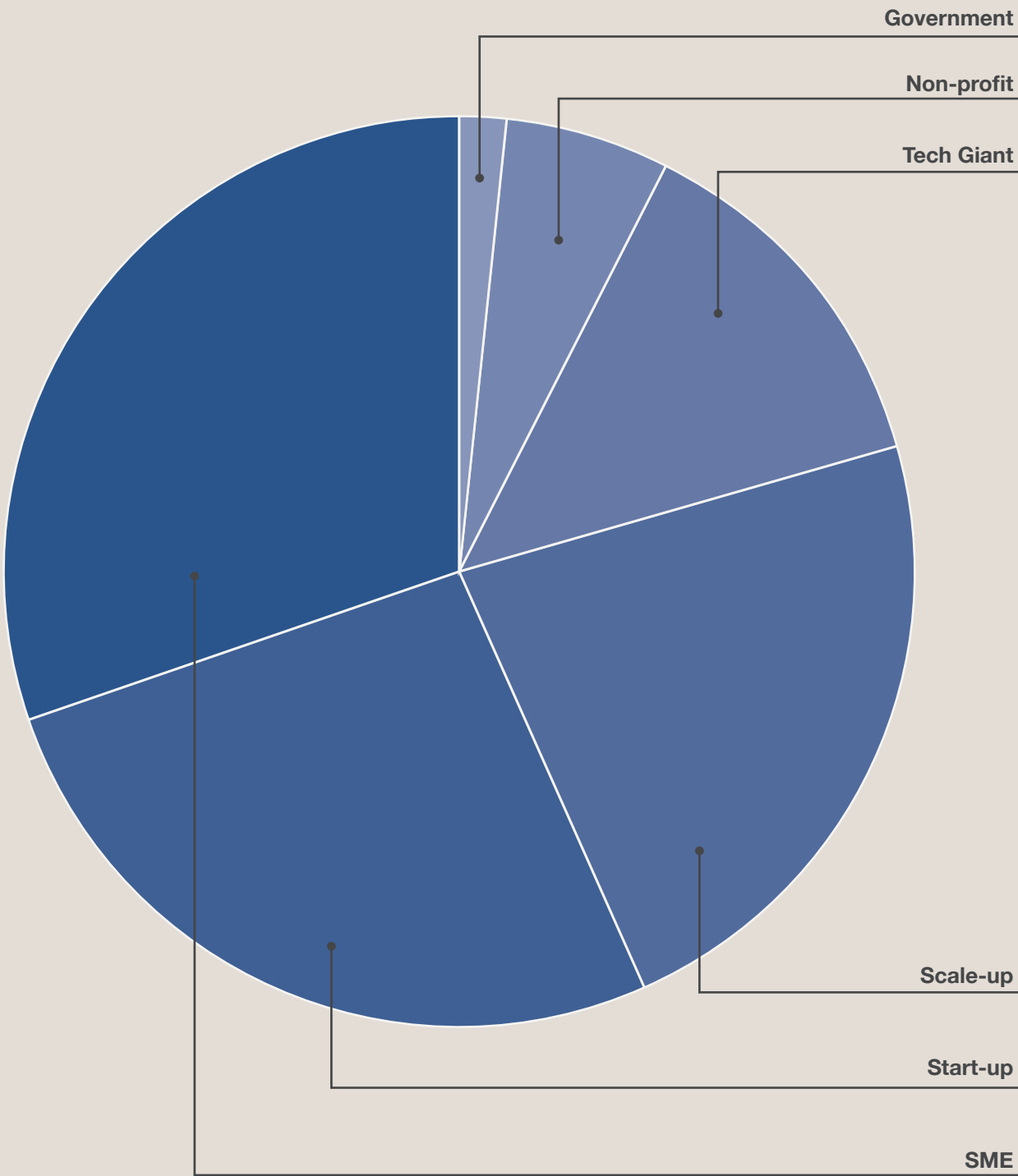
By enabling collaboration, knowledge exchange, and access to wider networks, the MX is laying the foundation for a more resilient and dynamic local economy. As we look ahead to the delivery of Golden Valley Development (GVD), the work happening within the MX today is already building the pipeline of talent, innovation, and investment that will shape Cheltenham's future.







# MX Members



# Member Spotlight High Growth Startups

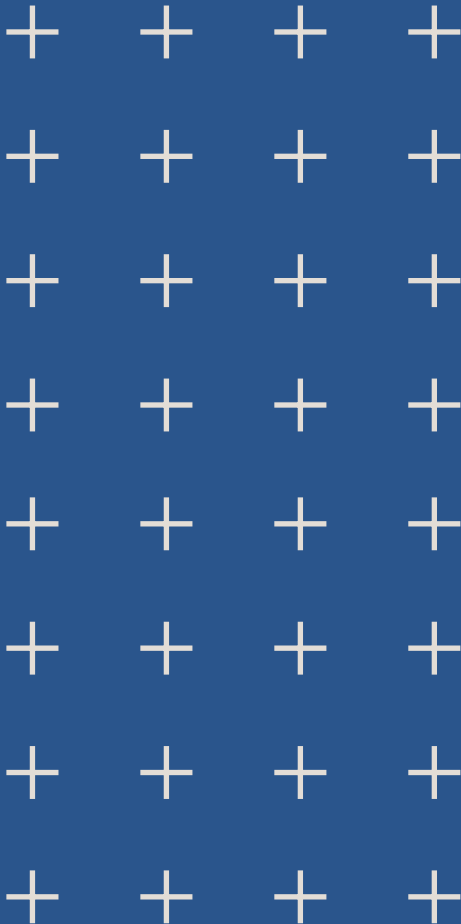


Sitehop is a fast growing UK sovereign network security company delivering FPGA-powered, quantum-ready solutions to protect data in transit. Hub8 and the cyber ecosystem around Cheltenham has played a key role in their growth journey. Their first investment round was led by a Cheltenham based angel investor who they met at a Hub8 hosted event which was also attended by two of the VCs that have gone on to back them through later rounds.

Hub8 MX now provides Sitehop with a second home in the UK as they tap into the wealth of technical talent in the region to build out their engineering team. They also benefit from proximity to investors, government customers / stakeholders and an array of potential go to market partners.



Cloudbase has secured seed funding in January of this year, and is aiming to raise again in January of next year. They set up a new office in Hub8 MX in May to help them to leverage the Plexal network (they popped out of four Plexal led accelerators in previous lives!) to generate early traction and introductions to strategic partners and investors.





# Growth Hub

Delivered in partnership with Hub8 and Cheltenham Borough Council, The Growth Hub provides tailored support for businesses at all stages—from startups to scaling firms—with a focus on Cheltenham's growing digital and tech sector.

The Growth Hub offers fully funded access to expert business consultants, workshops, mentoring, and networking opportunities, helping local businesses develop skills, access new markets, and build strategic connections. Its location within the MX places it at the centre of a thriving innovation ecosystem. Designed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange, The Growth Hub is playing a key role in supporting inclusive economic growth, collaborating with DWP, Gloucestershire B Local, Net Zero, Glos Jobs, The BID, Chamber of Commerce, Gloucestershire Business Groups, FSB, Business West, LSIPS, The Lab and Adult Education to support the long-term development of Cheltenham's digital economy.

More than

1,000

businesses supported\*

17

new enterprises established\*

27

jobs created\*

25

events hosted

\*Statistics based upon Growth Hub operation from April 2023 to April 2025







# Grown in Cheltenham

The Grown in Cheltenham programme, delivered in partnership with Plexal, was launched in September 2024 and has provided targeted support to local businesses ready to scale, helping them unlock their full potential while contributing to local economic growth. Participants in the programme reflect the town's diverse and innovative talent base, including:

**Alice Violet Creative** brings a unique blend of luxury branding and cyber expertise to help complex organisations communicate clearly and confidently.

**Growm** is pushing the boundaries of ecommerce with immersive 3D and AR technologies, seeking market-entry support and funding opportunities to take his engineering-led startup to the next level.

**Nomadic** proves that high-impact visual content doesn't require a London postcode. They are leveraging the Grown in Cheltenham network to champion regional creativity and strengthen their foothold in the local economy.

**Zest Intelligence** has over 50 years' combined experience in government and regulated industries developing transformative AI and data strategies.

**Head-on PR** is a creative communications agency with a big difference. And that difference is its people – a UK and international team of highly responsive, uber creative minds, steeped in over a century of combined experience serving a roster of long-standing clients.

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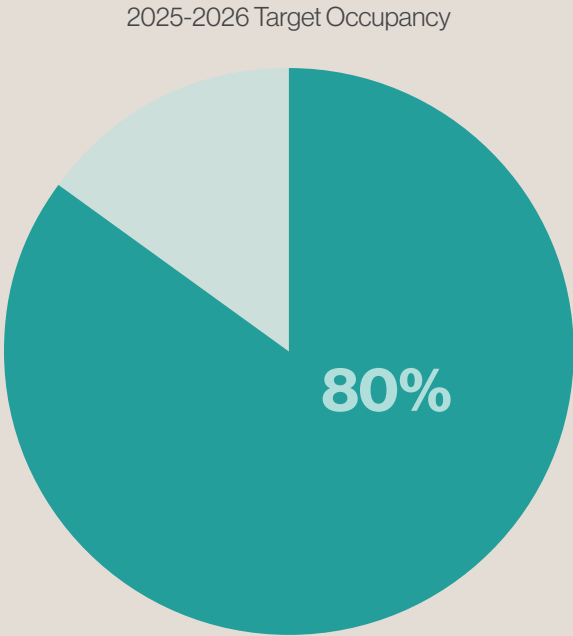
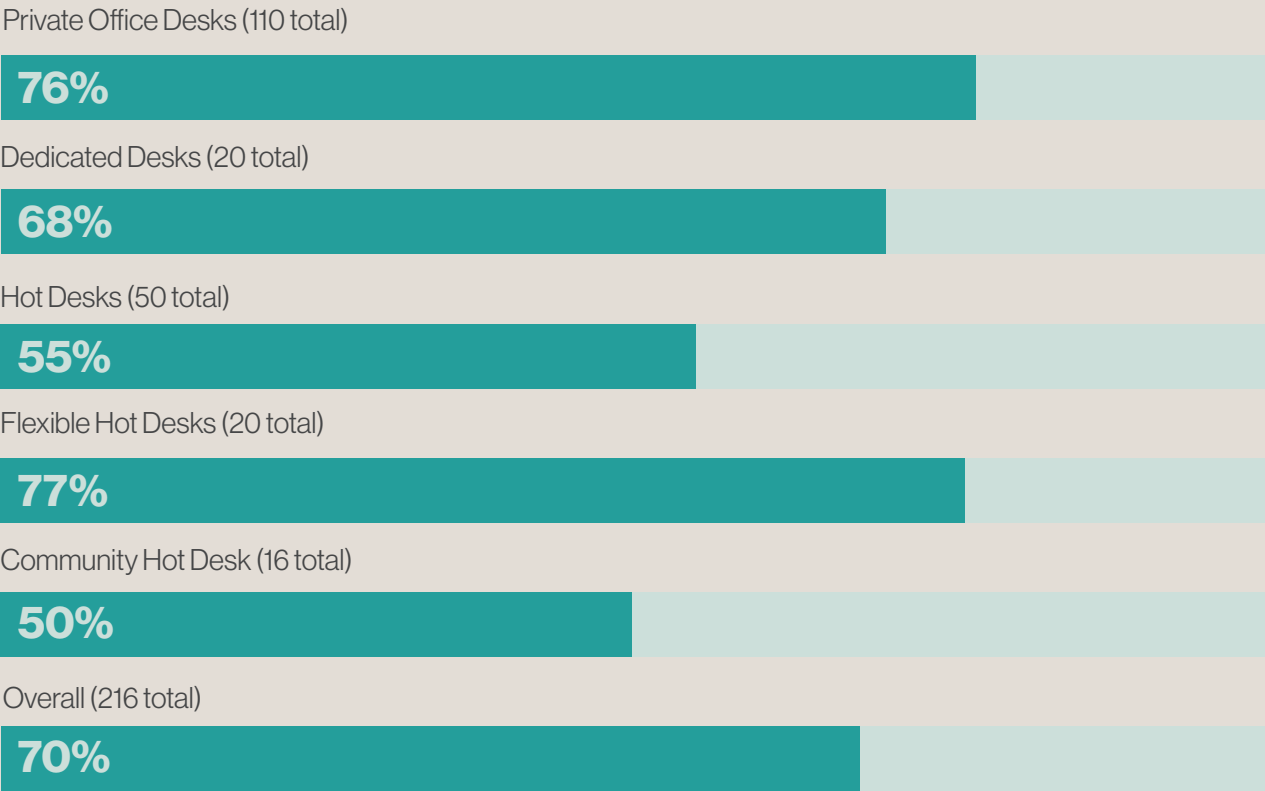
Hub8 MX is the place to be if you are a Startup or SME looking to grow your business in Cheltenham, I say that with confidence. For us, a small software startup, it has been pivotal in getting to where we are today. From acting as an inspiring place to bring new team members and clients, to being the perfect location for like-minded networking in both the co-working areas and embedded events space. I have found partners, clients, and friends all under this one roof. Testament to the building, location and

awesome team that run it. 10/10 from me!  
James Campbell - CEO & Founder - Growm

”



# Occupancy



# Looking Forward

We've learnt a lot from our first year of operating the MX. We've listened to our members and reviewed how the different areas are utilised. In response to these learnings we're planning to make some changes to the layout to improve member experiences and drive revenue. These changes include:

**Create a new 18-person private office** - located on the top floor, we're planning to convert the dedicated desk office into a new private office

**Install more phone booths** - in response to members feedback

**Invest in a permanent AV solution** for the Event Space

**Increase utilisation of the Members Lounge** - by introducing 12 new dedicated desks into the area

**Increase utilisation of The Growth Hub** - by introducing 6 new dedicated desks into the area





# A Place for the Community

One of the MX's core priorities is to reclaim and revitalise the historic core of the town; turning a previously underutilised area into vibrant, inclusive place. The MX does this by providing a place for people to work, attend events or enjoy a coffee and cake: it's about strengthening Cheltenham's social fabric, and ensuring our community has a space to thrive, connect, and take pride in.





# It's been an eventful year

We're proud to have hosted a wide variety of events that bring our community together.

July 2024



MX Opens

October



Technology heading event

December

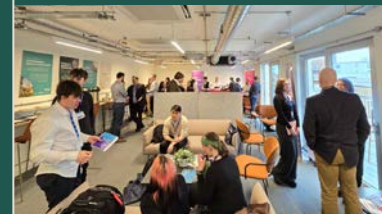


Carol Service hosted with St Matthew's and The Minster Church

February



MX hosts Chief Scientific Advisor



Over 100 students attend Cyber Leaders Challenge

April



Public Hearts 100th Defibrillator Event

June



CyNam 25.2

September



P3M Akamai Kick Off

**GROWN in  
CHELTENHAM**



Grown in Cheltenham Launch

November



The Growth Hub launches

January



MX Cafe 'Moosh' Opens, since welcoming over 4,000 community members

March



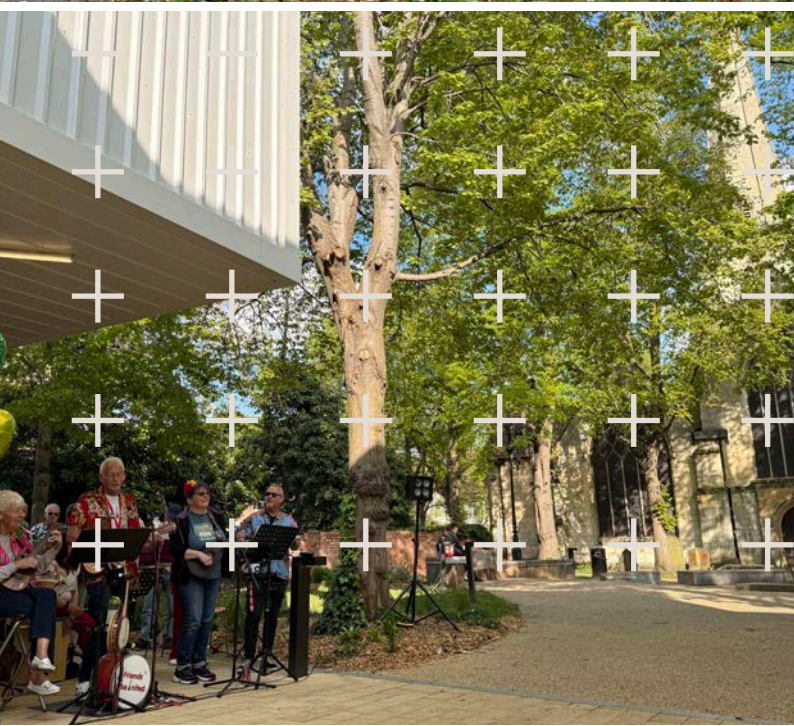
TechnoloGL50

May



Music for disabilities





“

The opening of the MX has had a clear impact on the Minster church yard and the church community who regularly use it. The visual appearance of the new building drew a range of initial reactions that could perhaps be described as ‘Marmite-like’, but we have all become accustomed to our new neighbour, and the overriding sense is one of gratitude that at least one of our neighbouring buildings is now smiling at us, rather than turning it’s back to us.

We have been really pleased to note an increase in the foot traffic through the churchyard, and an increase in the number of people enjoying spending time there. This is a benefit to us in providing increased opportunity for us to engage with people who live, work, and pass through our parish, which is what we love to do! Not least with the new community of people who have landed on our doorstep in the MX building itself. We’re excited about the new opportunities that we can see.

Perhaps the real highlight has been the cafe, which has been one of the big draws in bringing more people through. It’s also been a real blessing to the members of our church who now have somewhere to sit and admire the church building and it’s green Oasis in the heart of the town. Many of the volunteers who open the building to the public each day enjoy a well deserved cuppa after a shift.

”

Stefan Davies, Curate St Matthew’s and The Minster

**MX has hosted 37  
events free of charge  
which have welcomed  
1,343 visitors**



# Golden Valley

A key element of ensuring sustainable growth of the technology sector in Gloucestershire will be providing a strong pipeline of talent for organisations in the region. Golden Valley, in partnership with the University of Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire College, AWS and Gloucestershire County Council, is creating a skills hub which seeks to provide clearer pathways for individuals aged 14-65 into tech roles. Aptitude testing and providing careers advice will identify groups of talented people who could be suitable for a job in the digital sector, but who would struggle to source the right qualifications and potential employers. The MX is playing a critical role in the development of this skills hub and hosting relevant events and support sessions in advance of Golden Valley opening in 2027.







# Our Apprentices

Hub8 by Plexal's team that run the MX include three employees that started their careers with us as apprentices in 2021. We've built a strong and impactful partnership with Gloucestershire College to support and develop apprenticeship opportunities in the region. Through placements in business administration and marketing, our apprentices have gained hands-on experience in a vibrant, innovation-led workspace, while contributing meaningfully to the day-to-day operations at Hub8. These apprenticeships not only provide valuable professional development and real-world skills for young talent but also strengthen the local skills pipeline. This approach underscores MX's commitment to nurturing future professionals and contributing to Gloucestershire's innovation ecosystem.

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**Natalia Tarnawa**

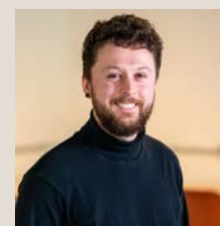
Administration Assitant

I began my journey at Hub8 through a Business Administration apprenticeship, this was a great introduction to the working world coming straight from education and enabled me to develop transferrable skills such as independence and time management to balance my studies and work. The apprenticeship was my gateway into a full time position within the company where I now support daily operations and present attendee statistic reports, as well as hold the responsibility of independently opening or closing the hubs.

I started my business apprenticeship over four years ago now, finishing in 2023, and from an early stage I was given the chance to support across business operations. The opportunity to work on real projects early on played a pivotal role in the success of my apprenticeship, allowing me to apply actual working examples and principles to my course.

Building on that experience, during the latter stages of my apprenticeship I began to play a key part in the MX construction project on the journey to go-live, which continued once we were fully operational. Working in this different environment helped me learn and develop new skills that I wouldn't have gained so quickly otherwise.

As the Innovation Delivery Lead, I now take a more strategic approach, focusing on delivery across business operations and bridging the gaps between IT, Ops, and FM. One of the biggest things that's helped me get here is the trust I had early on from Bruce. I was given the space to learn, take ownership, and figure things out, which made a massive difference. I'm now looking to build on that and grow into my leadership role at Hub8, while also looking to support others the same way I was supported.



**Cameron Carter**

Marketing Coordinator

Four years ago, I started my apprenticeship at Hub8 and I can honestly say it shaped the path I'm on today. The collaborative, fast-moving environment gave me the chance to learn directly from marketers, designers, founders, and tech professionals all under one roof. That early exposure to real projects gave me the confidence to grow into my current role as a Marketing Coordinator, where I now lead campaign rollouts, manage digital content, and support brand development across platforms.

”



**Tyler Campbell**

Innovation Delivery Lead

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# National Connectivity

Since meeting in 2019 Hub8 officially partnered with Plexal in 2023 with the ambition to connect regional cyber-tech, digital and creative startups and SME communities across the UK.

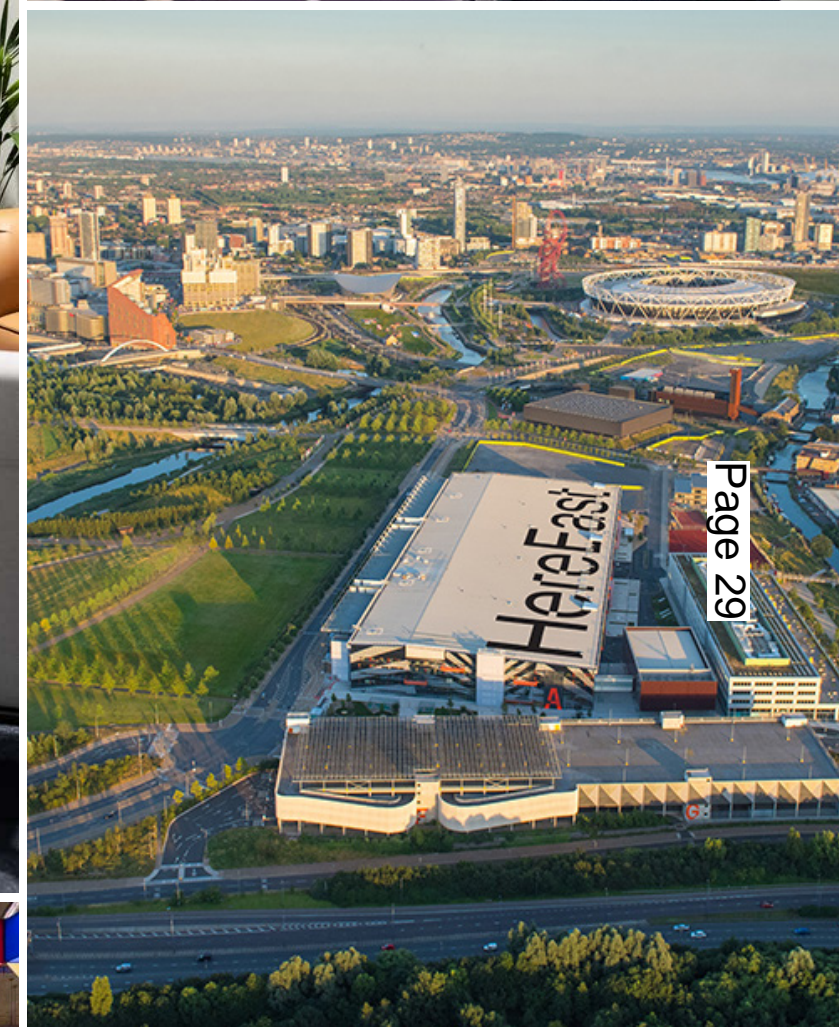
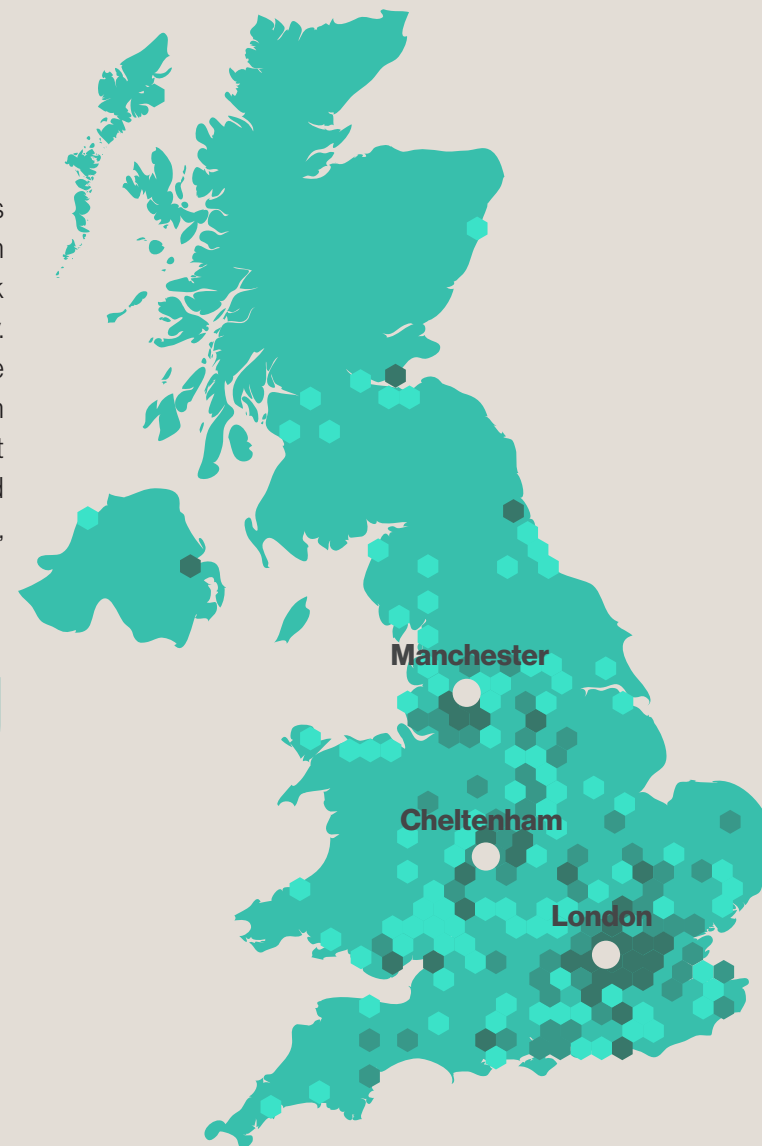
Plexal's impact spans across the UK and extends internationally through the businesses and organisations supported. With a presence in London, Manchester, and Cheltenham our mission is to build the UK's most connected technology ecosystem.

“

At Plexal, we're focused on solving society's challenges through collaboration with government, startups and industry to unlock prosperity and reinforce national security. With the southwest region emerging as the preeminent hub for cross-sector collaboration in cyber and national security, it was clear we fit into the heart of that ecosystem and are excited to help drive its future growth and development, as we close the gap between regions.

Andrew Roughan, CEO of Plexal

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**The MX plays a pivotal role as a place that celebrates our technology ecosystem, helping it to become a fabric of our community and establish the Minster Gardens as a place for everyone to enjoy**







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UK Government

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## Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Plan 2025/2026

Title	Objective	Format	Officer/Interested Party/Partner
<b>8th September 2025</b>			
Preventative Maintenance on Council assets and Community Leased Buildings	To understand the general approach to the planned maintenance of public facilities and the asset management strategy	Information/Discussion Paper	Director of Finance and Assets
Culture Board	Assessing outcomes of the activities and measuring success against original objectives	Information/Discussion Paper	Head of Communities, Wellbeing and Partnerships
Overview and Scrutiny (O & S) Annual Report	The achievements of scrutiny for the municipal year 2024-2025 for submission to Council	Information/Discussion Paper	Chair of Overview and Scrutiny
<b>24th November 2025</b>			
Draft Procurement Strategy	To consider the emerging CBC procurement strategy	Information/Discussion Paper	Strategic Procurement Manager
Devolution	Assessing the opportunities and threats of devolution and how officers are prioritising/responding to these.	Information/Discussion Paper	Chief Executive
Flood Risk Management and Prevention	To understand partnership working to improve flood mitigation in the borough	Information/Discussion Paper	Climate, Flooding and Decarbonisation Manager and Gloucestershire partners
Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion policy update	A review of implementation	Information/Discussion Paper	Director of Governance, Housing and Communities
<b>2026</b>			

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Plan 2025/2026

<b>Title</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Officer/Interested Party/Partner</b>
Safeguarding – Safety for Women and Girls in the Borough	To update O&S on the work being carried out by the Cheltenham community safety partnership in response to the “Your experiences, your voice – Life in Cheltenham for young women” report and event	Information/Discussion Paper	Safeguarding and Partnerships Manager
Youth Engagement	To update O&S on progress being made by No Child Left Behind to deliver a year of youth action	Information/Discussion Paper	Head of Communities, Wellbeing and Partnerships
Empty Homes	Evaluating data and measures to encourage putting back in use and respective barriers	Information/Discussion Paper	Private Sector Housing
Equalities, Diversities & Inclusion Policy	An annual update (May 2026)	Information/Discussion paper	Director of Governance, Housing and Communities