

Cheltenham Borough Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: 2 March 2026

Meeting time: 6.00 pm

Meeting venue: Council Chamber - Municipal Offices

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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Contact: democraticservices@cheltenham.gov.uk

Phone: 01242 264 246

1 Apologies

2 Declarations of interest

3 Minutes of the last meeting (Pages 5 - 16)

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2026.

4 Public and Member questions, calls for actions and petitions

5 Cabinet Briefing

Briefing from Councillor Hay, Leader (if she has an update, or if O&S Members have questions for her)

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
To include a regular update on the Household Recycling Centre from the Leader/Cabinet Member Waste, Recycling and the public realm.

6 Update on the Golden Valley Social Strategy (Pages 17 - 34) 18:25 30 mins

Objective: follow up to previous update and social inclusion strategies for partners.

Information/discussion paper : Director of Major Developments and Regeneration – Paul Minnis and Amy Keates – Construction Project Manager.

7 Youth Engagement Policy (Pages 35 - 46)

19:10 30 mins

Objective: 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 - Richard Gibson

8 Local Government Reorganisation - Joint Scrutiny Proposals

Presentation from Alice McAlpine, Programme Lead for Governance and Legal

9 Culture Board (Pages 47 - 50)

18:55 15 mins

Objective: To share the updated terms of reference for the culture board, and assessing success against this terms of reference

Briefing paper: Head of Communities, Wellbeing and Partnerships - Richard Gibson

10 Feedback from other scrutiny meetings attended (Pages 51 - 54)

Gloucestershire Health O&S Committee – 27th January 2026 update from Councillor Bamford

Gloucestershire Economic Strategy Scrutiny Committee 12th February 2026 – update from Councillor Orme – to follow

Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel 2nd February – update from Councillor Atherstone – to follow.

11 Updates from scrutiny task groups

There are currently no active scrutiny task groups

12 Review of scrutiny workplan (Pages 55 - 58)

To consider and approve the draft scrutiny work plan 2025/26

13 Any other item that the Chair determines to be urgent

14 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is due to be held on 30th March.

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Sorry Cheltenham Borough Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes

Meeting date: 12 January 2026

Meeting time: 18:00 – 19:45

In attendance:

Councillors:

Tabi Joy (Chair), Jackie Chelin (Vice-Chair), Chris Day, Juan Carlos Garcia Clamp, Martin Horwood and Stan Smith

Also in attendance:

Rowena Hay (Leader of the Council), Peter Jeffries (Deputy Leader), Cllr Bamford and Michelle Bignell (Licensing and Public Protection Manager)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Healy and Holliday.

2 Declarations of interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were signed as a true record after some minor amendments that were made by Councillor Chelin.

4 Public and Member questions, calls for actions and petitions

There were none.

5 Cabinet Briefing

The Leader and the Deputy Leader were both present at the meeting.

The Leader addressed the committee with regard to the letter that she had sent to Central Government with regard to the postponement of the elections that are due in May. She stated that Cheltenham is in a unique position in that at the last election Members stood for the potential of a 4 year term, however half of the Members who were up for election would only serve a term of 2 years. Had the Council know that Local Government Reorganisation was imminent, this would have not been the case and everyone would have been looking at a 4 year term. The request to postpone the election is not based on cost savings. The point was made that each authority that is involved in the transition to a unitary authority will not be provided with funding from the government, each authority will have to find between £1 and £2 million. In response to a question from the Chair, the Leader explained that the government would have to provide a response to the request by the end of February to reach the 6 week notice period for the May election.

A further question was asked with regard to the progress of the sale of the Municipal Offices. The Leader confirmed that the sale was still on track.

The Deputy Leader addressed the committee with regard to the budget proposals, highlighting that these had been delayed due to a late settlement from central government.

The Chair thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader for attending.

6 Enforcement of Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy

The Chair introduced the item and thanked the officer for all the teams hard work, the committee was also reminded that the purpose of the item was to scrutinise the enforcement of the policy not the policy itself.

The Licensing and Public Protection Manager introduced the briefing paper as published.

Members of the committee had submitted questions prior to the committee and these answers were published as a supplement midday on 12th January.

In response to Member questions, the following responses were provided :

- The licensing team have no power of entry for unlicensed premises, they can go to the venues with the police but cannot make a proper inspection. They can make recommendations but this does not have to be implemented by the unlicensed venues.
- There are only 2 venues that operate under the exemption.
- It was agreed that the details of the government's paper on proposed legislative changes affecting venues operating under the exemption would be circulated to Members. In respect of performers giving their feedback to any policy changes, the policy is open to public consultation, and anyone can submit their comments.

- With regard to the lack of a licensing police officer it was confirmed that the licensing team undertook their inspection in November without a police officer. Due to the experience of the Licensing department, the lack of police presence was not felt to be a problem.
- The new Licensing Police officer will be trained by the National College of Policing.
- There is a national framework that is applied to Sexual Entertainment Venues, however conditions can be set locally as well as at national level.
- There are standard conditions as to how leaflets are distributed and promotional literature is covered separately.
- It was clarified that there are usually 2 Sexual Entertainment Venues that operate within the exemption and 2 that are licensed.

The Licensing and Public Protection Manager took the opportunity to inform the committee that the Evening and Nighttime Economy (ENTE) strategy with regard to the Purple Flag accreditation was being reviewed. She reported that a recent test of local businesses on the Ask Angela initiative resulted in a 100% pass rate.

The Chair thanked the officer for attending.

7 Feedback from other scrutiny meetings attended

The report from the Member on the Police and Crime Panel was noted for information.

Councillor Bamford attended the meeting and presented the report regarding HOSC as published. He then took the opportunity to respond to Member questions.

The Chair concluded the item by advising Members that any further questions for HOSC should be directed to Democratic Services, who would arrange for them to be facilitated.

Councillor Bamford was then asked to address the committee in his capacity as Chair of Budget Scrutiny Working Group, which had considered the budget proposals as part of the consultation. He highlighted that this represented only initial feedback as key savings are fundamental to the budget. It had not been possible for the Working Group to review these fully as only a draft had been provided. This meant it had not been possible for members to fully scrutinise the budget proposals.

Councillor Bamford also emphasised that the timing of the government settlement makes it very difficult for full scrutiny activities to take place and for the Budget Scrutiny Working Group to fulfil their duty. He added however, that the timeframe of the final budget report is being reviewed to see if it is possible for the Working Group to meet again prior to the Council meeting on 27 February. If that is not possible Members will be able to share their feedback directly to that Council meeting.

He reported however, that there had been a very productive and positive discussion with the Chief Executive and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets which highlighted areas of concern to ensure decisions will be considered with these in mind. The importance of assessing deliverability of plans was also stressed.

The group was confident that leadership are committed to delivering the corporate priorities for residents and continuing to deliver excellent services as we move into Local Government Review. General balances, savings, borrowing and capital receipts will all need to fall in line to deliver these corporate priorities.

BSWG did have areas of concern around the detail and assessment of deliverability of the savings targets and how savings gaps will be filled. The assessment of the commerciality of assets will be key. Clarity around savings was also highlighted in the recent peer review.

The group noted that over the last two years there have been targets to increase the levels of general balances which have not been achieved. They emphasised the importance of having clear plans to ensure general balances reach the levels set out in the statement of the Section 151 Officer.

During the meeting, the following questions were asked of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets who was in attendance.

- **Appendix 2 of the Budget Proposal** shows an **increase of nearly 80%** in the budget for the **Chief Executive Directorate**. Clarification was sought as to the factors driving this significant interest, whether this was primarily attributable to staffing costs or whether it related to other specific areas of expenditure.
- Several apparent omissions were noted within Appendix 7 specifically relating to Street Trading Consent Fees and Charges 2026/27, specifically from reference 16.28 onwards there was no proposed charge listed for seasonal Ice Cream Vehicles and for hot food units, only the full-year charge is shown; half-year, quarterly, and monthly rates are not included. It was asked as to whether these omissions are intentional and if not, whether the shorter-term charging options had been inadvertently excluded. If so, concern was expressed that the absence of these options may discourage participation in street trading.

The Cabinet Member Finance was not in a position to respond in detail to the questions and undertook to provide an answer in due course.

In response to Member questions the following replies were provided :

- The government has provided a very late settlement to local authorities
- The authority must determine how to address the budget gap, as central government is not adequately funding the services that residents expect.
- Questions about the extent to which Members are expected to respond to the budget consultation fall within the remit of the finance team rather than BSWG.
- Responses to the budget consultation have historically come mainly from other political parties; when members of the public do respond, their feedback tends to be more directly aligned with their concerns.

8 Updates from scrutiny task groups

There are currently no scrutiny task groups.

9 Review of scrutiny workplan

The work plan was noted for information.

10 Any other item that the Chair determines to be urgent

There were none.

11 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is the 2nd March, it was also brought to Members attention that the April meeting has been moved to the 30th March.

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Information/Discussion Paper

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2nd March 2026

Golden Valley Social Value Workstream:

Annual Review

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?

The Social Value workstream remains a core component of the Golden Valley Development (GVD), underpinning the Council's ambition to maximise community benefit throughout the project lifecycle. As the development moves closer to Phase 1 construction, the Golden Valley Team has requested a formal presence at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide a progress update, maintain transparency, and to answer any questions the Committee may have. For context, Phase 1 includes the Innovation Centre (now called *Idea*) the Mobility Hub (now called *Router*) and the associated infrastructure. A reserved matters planning application is currently being considered for Phase 1 by the local planning authority.

Given the scale, duration and strategic importance of the GVD, ongoing oversight will help provide assurance that Social Value commitments are being met, aligned with Council priorities, and continue to evolve in response to community needs.

2. Summary of the Issue

At last year's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Golden Valley Social Value Strategy was presented and endorsed as the guiding framework for how the programme will deliver social value. This strategy is fundamental to the programme, without it, the GVD would not be able to deliver one of its key outputs, ensuring meaningful, measurable benefits for local communities. Over the past 12 months, this strategy has remained a central focus and has shaped the development of two key documents now progressing for Phase 1: the Social Value Plan for construction and the Social Value Charter for future occupiers.

2.1 Social Value Plan – Phase 1 Construction

With B&K now formally appointed as the construction contractor, the development of the Phase 1 Social Value Plan has become a primary focus. This plan will outline the practical actions, commitments and measurable outcomes that B&K will deliver over the next two years during the construction phase.

The Plan will prioritise activities that generate the greatest benefit for neighbouring communities, including:

- skills and employment opportunities for local residents,
- targeted workshops and engagement with schools and colleges,
- support for local community groups and voluntary organisations,
- and wider initiatives aligned with education, inclusion, and community wellbeing.

The Social Value Plan is being developed collaboratively with B&K and HBD to ensure it is deliverable, targeted, and aligned with the wider ambitions of the Golden

Valley programme and CBC's corporate priorities.

2.2 Social Value Charter – Phase 1 Occupiers

In parallel with the construction-focused plan, work is nearing completion on the Golden Valley Social Value Charter for future Phase 1 occupiers. The Charter will set out clear annual commitments that all occupiers will be expected to deliver once they move into the buildings, ensuring that social value continues into the operational life of the development.

The Charter will focus on key themes including:

- inclusive employment and fair access to opportunities,
- engaging with the local supply chain,
- support for community and VCSE partners,
- sustainability and responsible business practice,
- and ongoing collaboration with local stakeholders.

The Charter has been developed to ensure occupiers are meaningfully embedded within the Cheltenham community and contribute positively to the area from the outset. It will go live once occupiers begin to take up space in Phase 1.

Together, the Social Value Plan and Charter will ensure Social Value is embedded throughout both the construction and operational phases of the project, aligned with wider Council priorities and responsive to the needs of local communities.

3. Summary of evidence/information

Over the past year, the Golden Valley Social Value Team has significantly

strengthened local engagement, supported community programmes, and expanded education and skills opportunities across Cheltenham, which has helped developed the direction of the Social Value Plan and Charter. The following summary provides a snapshot of key activity delivered between January 2025 and February 2026.

Engagement & Collaboration

- Regularly meeting local community groups such as West Cheltenham Partnership, Common Ground, VSCE partnership, ITSA and Lives of Colour.
- Hosted a major multi-stakeholder GVD Social Value workshop in October 2025, attended by 50+ community partners to discover the local needs and where GVD can support during phase 1 construction.
- Coordinated a presentation from Henry Boot's Community Investment Group, working with CBC's Community Investment Team to identify funding and resource support opportunities
- Bowmer & Kirkland (B&K) presented to the Social Value workstream members (July 2025).
- Facilitated a shadowing session of GCHQ's outreach programme at Hester's Way Primary School (January 2025)
- Held 14 monthly Social Value meetings, representing 15 permanent members including Gloucestershire County Council and GCHQ.
- Supported HBD's membership on the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Board, which commenced in September 2025.
- Planned a knowledge-exchange workshop between NCLB and HBD's innovation

partners in South Yorkshire for March 2026.

- In February 2026 HBD delivered a presentation on Golden Valley to the Construction Excellence forum with a general update and a focus on Social Value
- In February, the Golden Valley Development provided funding to Cleeve School to support their Distribution Hub for the next academic year, a key part of the Cyber First initiative. The hub loans educational cyber equipment to primary and secondary schools, helping young people across Gloucestershire develop digital skills and confidence.

Community Support

- Launched a digital food pantry at St Thomas More ('Tommies') to improve digital inclusion and access to affordable food.
- Issued four community newsletters to over 40 stakeholders throughout 2025.
- Enabled 37 free community events, promoting local engagement, wellbeing, and connectivity.

Education & Skills

- Funded 97 primary school children, across five Cheltenham schools, to participate in extracurricular coding clubs.
- Held multiple meetings with local primary and secondary school head teachers, building relationships to inform future skills, careers and curriculum-based activities linked to the innovation district.

3.2 The Social Value workstream brings together a diverse and collaborative group of partners, reflecting the breadth of expertise needed to deliver meaningful,

place-based impact for the GVD. Its 15 permanent members include representatives from GCHQ, who bring deep community knowledge and frontline insight; Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), providing strategic alignment across education, skills and county-wide priorities; Plexal, offering innovation-led perspectives and experience in supporting businesses and emerging talent; and wider Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) community and project leaders, ensuring strong local leadership, governance and delivery capability. This diversity enables the workstream to make well-informed decisions, rooted in both community need and strategic opportunity.

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

The Social Value workstream will now focus on developing the Phase 1 Social Value Plan in partnership with B&K and HBD, ensuring it fully aligns with our community-first approach. This work will prioritise two of the most deprived areas in Cheltenham, Hester's Way and Springbank which stays consistent with the ambitions set out in the original business case five years ago, recognising these areas will also be most directly affected during construction. We will continue to strengthen relationships with local community partners and establish a set of clear, measurable KPIs to guide, track and report delivery throughout Phase 1. This will ensure our commitments remain transparent, achievable and grounded in the needs of the communities we serve.

Focus for the Next Period

The Social Value workstream is moving into a delivery-focused phase for 2026, with a clear, milestone-driven programme of activity designed to demonstrate structured

planning, strong engagement, and measurable outcomes. Key priorities include:

- **Finalising the Social Value Charter** and submitting it through the CBC approval routes so it can be incorporated into Phase 1 lease documentation.
- **Completing the Phase 1 detailed, targeted Social Value Plan** with B&K and HBD.
- **Publishing the first 2026 Golden Valley community newsletter** in March, led by HBD, to maintain transparent communication with community groups and partners.
- **Delivering the first Golden Valley Social Value Networking Event** in May at The MX, bringing together local charities, community groups, and industry partners.
- **Sustaining engagement with community partners and education providers**, ensuring strong links with local schools, colleges, and the VCSE sector.
- **Continuing to fund free places for Cheltenham school children** to attend JamCoding after-school sessions, supporting digital inclusion and skills.

Background Papers	Social Value Charter
Contact Officer	1. Paul Minnis, Director – Major Developments & Regeneration 07443 217459 paul.minnis@cheltenham.gov.uk 2. Amy Keates – Construction Project Manager 07502 580 650 amy.keates@cheltenham.gov.uk
Accountability	Councillor Alisha Lewis

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CHELtenham
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Social Value Charter

2026

H B D



Golden Valley Development Social Value Charter

Connecting Cheltenham Through Innovative and Impactful Partnerships

1. Our Commitment to Social Value

At Golden Valley (GV) we believe innovation should create more than economic growth – it should deliver long lasting significant benefits for the people, communities and environment across Cheltenham and the wider Gloucestershire area.

This Social Value Charter (SVC) applies to all businesses occupying designated office accommodation at GV, with discretion reserved to also seek commitment from other commercial occupiers where feasible. It defines a clear minimum standard (as part of a tiered commitment structure) and through the provision of guidance, recommendations and wayfinding examples it ultimately aims to maximise the social value output generated from the development as well as building networks and adding value to the experience of our occupier community.

By signing this charter, you commit to ethical business practices and meaningful actions that strengthen local employment, support community wellbeing, protect our environment, and promote inclusivity. You also agree to provide measurable quantitative data to evidence the impact of these actions. Together, we will ensure that GV is not only a hub for innovation and enterprise but a catalyst for positive social impact.

Overseeing delivery of the SVC will be the Social Value Occupier Board (SVOB), which will comprise of representatives from all occupiers that have committed to the SVC, as well as all associated landlords / landowners. The SVOB will monitor progress, ensure accountability, and ultimately seek continuous improvement so that social value remains at the heart of the GV ambition. Your progress will be measured and evidenced through annual reporting to the GV SVOB ensuring transparency and accountability.

2. Tiered Commitment Structure

The SVC recognises that the businesses attracted to GV will vary in size, resource and capacity (to deliver social value outputs). To ensure fairness and flexibility we have therefore developed a tiered commitment structure (summarised below) which allows occupiers to choose a level aligned with what they can realistically achieve:

- **Bronze** – Foundational commitment
- **Silver** – Enhanced commitment
- **Gold** – Leadership commitment

	Area	Bronze Foundational Commitment	Silver Enhanced Commitment	Gold Leadership Commitment
1	Local Employment & Skills	Support at least 1 local education outreach event or initiative	Support at least 2 local education outreach events or initiatives	Support at least 3 local education outreach events or initiatives including offering work placements and mentoring
2	Local Supply Chain	10% local sourcing	20% local sourcing	30%+ local sourcing
3	Local Community Engagement	Support 1 local charity partner, event or initiative	Support 2 local charities, events or initiatives	Commitment to long-term local community partnerships
4	Environmental Responsibility	-1 meaningful environmental initiative - Introduce waste reduction initiatives	- 2 meaningful environmental initiative - Introduce waste reduction initiatives	- 3 meaningful environmental initiative - Introduce waste reduction initiatives
5	Health & Wellbeing	Delivery of 1 staff wellbeing workshop or wellbeing initiative.	Delivery of 2 staff well-being workshops or well-being initiatives.	- Delivery of 2 staff wellbeing workshops - Commit to supporting at least one Gloucestershire-wide health and wellbeing initiative
6	Digital Inclusion – Mandatory IT Equipment Donation	Donate any redundant non-secure IT equipment to ITSA Digital Trust	Donate any redundant non-secure IT equipment to ITSA Digital Trust	Donate any redundant non-secure IT equipment to ITSA Digital Trust

All commitments set out above are deemed to represent the **mandatory annual threshold (minimum standard)** for each tier, although in this context it is important to consider the following definitions (which apply to all aspects of the SVC):

- **Local:** any reference to ‘local’ within the SVC means organisations, suppliers, and services physically based within Gloucestershire. These principles include prioritising Gloucestershire-based businesses for fit-out, facilities, and operational services, as well as actively engaging with Cheltenham and the wider Gloucestershire charities, community groups, and social enterprises to support employment, skills development, and wellbeing initiatives.
- **Supply Chain:** any reference to ‘supply chain’ within the SVC means only the services and functions which specifically serve the relevant businesses’ on-site occupation designated accommodation at GV. In other words, it does not impose an expectation on businesses to readjust their entire (national / global) supply chain to meet the supply chain related commitments set out within the SVC.

3. Principles and Actions

Every qualifying occupier at GV is required to deliver meaningful social value actions under the core principles set out in section 2, each being central to the overarching GV ambition. The following section provides a more detailed breakdown of each core principle to include guidance, recommendations and wayfinding suggestions.

1. Local Employment & Skills

- **Prioritise recruitment for all operational, administrative support, and skilled or manual labour roles from Cheltenham postcodes wherever possible:** ensuring local residents benefit from employment opportunities created by the development.
- **Support the delivery of modern work experience:** by supporting local education outreach including attending a careers event, engaging with a careers initiative or supporting education events hosted at Golden Valley.
- **Deliver a knowledge-sharing session:** (e.g., digital skills, cyber awareness) for a school or community group.

Signpost: [Gloucestershire Careers and Skills Portal](#), [C2S | The Growth Consultancy](#), [Cheltenham's Cyber Security & Technology Hub | CyNam](#)

2. Local Supply Chain

- **Source a minimum of 10% of goods and services locally:** (Cheltenham and Gloucestershire) such as fit out contractors, furniture and equipment suppliers, food and beverage supplier, cleaners and hygiene services.
- **Strengthening the local supply chain:** occupiers are required to review their business supply chain to embed local procurement wherever possible, with the aim of maintaining and strengthening the Gloucestershire economy. Where local options are not available, national suppliers should be prioritised. All occupiers must provide evidence demonstrating how their procurement decisions have supported the local or national economy.
- **Optional but encouraged:** actively strengthen the local economy by becoming a member of a relevant local business network- such as Together Gloucestershire or the Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce.

- **Signpost:** [Together Gloucestershire](#); [Business Networking | Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce](#)
-

3. Community Engagement

- **Support at least one local charity or community initiative:** through volunteering, fundraising, or in-kind contributions.

Signpost: [Go Volunteer Glos](#), Cheltenham Borough Council Housing - TES@cheltenham.gov.uk for training and employment and community.involvement@cheltenham.gov.uk for community support, [Support Us > CCP](#), [Find Where You Belong - YMCA Cheltenham](#), [WEST CHELTENHAM PARTNERSHIP](#), [Community Food Pantry](#), [Alliance for Equality CIC – Embracing Diversity](#), [Empowering Inclusion!](#), [Connections webpage](#), [Home - Cornerstone Community Centre - Cheltenham](#), [Home - The Cheltenham Trust](#), [Lives of Colour](#), [The Butterfly Garden - a project for people of all ages dealing with disablement of any kind](#), [Home - No Child Left Behind](#)

4. Environmental Responsibility

- **Implement at least one meaningful environmental initiative:** e.g., reduce energy use, improve biodiversity, increase energy efficiency, cut waste, promote sustainable transport, or conserve water.
- **Introduce waste reduction initiatives:** e.g., recycling stations, paperless office.
- **Promote sustainable transport:** e.g., cycle-to-work schemes, car sharing.

Signpost: [Vision 21 - Promoting a Sustainable future for Gloucestershire](#)

5. Health & Wellbeing

- **Provide access to mental health resources** for staff.
- **Ensure your staff participate in at least one wellbeing workshop or have access to a wellbeing benefit:** e.g., stress management, mindfulness
- **Promote physical health and wellbeing:** by encouraging simple activities such as lunchtime walking groups, sharing monthly wellbeing tips, and participating in local charity walks or community fitness events.

- **Commit to supporting at least one Gloucestershire-wide health and wellbeing initiative annually:** by promoting staff participation or volunteering (e.g., county mental health awareness campaigns or community fitness events).

Signpost: [The Isbourne Wellbeing Centre, Cheltenham](#) and [Welcome | Swindon & Gloucestershire Mind, Home - The Cheltenham Trust](#)

6. Digital Inclusion – Mandatory IT Equipment Donation

- **Donate any redundant non-secure IT equipment to ITSA Digital Trust:** this includes computers, monitors, keyboards, mice, and cables. ITSA refurbishes and redistributes equipment to families in need, helping bridge the digital divide in Gloucestershire. ITSA will collect the equipment from your office and wipe all data, if not already completed.
- **Improve digital connectivity for families in social housing:** occupiers are encouraged to support improved digital connectivity for families in social housing by helping provide Wi-Fi access. This may involve working with the local Council housing team and could be achieved through a voluntary annual contribution. We understand this may not be feasible for all occupiers, and participation is optional.

Signpost: [Computer recycling charity - ITSA Digital Trust](#); BMA@cheltenham.gov.uk

4. Reporting & Assessment

To ensure the SVC delivers meaningful impact, we have established a clear and transparent reporting and assessment process which will provide all occupiers with guidance, accountability, and recognition for their contributions, while safeguarding fairness across the development.

Assessment will focus on the following key areas:

- Occupiers must submit a Social Value Report every April which details all relevant social value actions completed in the previous financial year (ending in March). This reporting must provide measurable impact metrics, extending to include all actions which go beyond the minimum commitment set out within the occupier's ascribed tier. A reporting template will be circulated in advance of the annual SVOB meeting, where all submitted reports will be reviewed and discussed.
- Progress will be assessed against tier commitments and the appropriateness of actions relative to business size and resources.

Annual reviews, supported by the SVOB, will ensure continuous improvement and shared success. Our goal is not only to monitor compliance, but to foster collaboration and innovation that maximises social value for Cheltenham and the wider Gloucestershire community and supports occupiers to enjoy a diverse and engaging network.

In relation to the annual meeting the expectation would be for each business to have at least one representative in attendance (typically a decision-maker or Social Value/ESG lead). Whilst the specifics of each session (in terms of discussion points) may evolve over time, the consistent features will be to review reported actions, feedback impact data (e.g. local procurement percentages, volunteer hours, donations, success stories, etc.) and ultimately identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration (between occupiers and the wider community).

5. Recourse for Non-Compliance

To maintain the integrity and impact of the SVC, all occupiers are expected to deliver the commitments agreed within their chosen tier (Bronze, Silver, or Gold). Accountability ensures that social value actions translate into real benefits for Gloucestershire's economy, community, and environment.

Consequences for non-delivery exist not as a penalty, but as a safeguard to ensure fairness and accountability. The following outlines the approach to non-compliance:

- Year 1: supportive approach, including guidance and resources provided to help occupiers meet their commitments.
- Year 2: formal notice, issued with a requirement to submit an improvement plan.
- Persistent Non-Compliance: inclusion in the annual SVOB report as non-compliant and reduced access to community benefits (e.g., marketing opportunities, shared facilities).

These measures are designed to uphold transparency and collective success. When every occupier fulfils their commitments, we amplify positive impact and ensure the values of the SVC are delivered in practice.

6. Annual Reporting – What You Must Submit

Reporting Requirements

Occupiers must submit a comprehensive Social Value Report demonstrating the full scope of social value delivered over the reporting period, including any actions that go beyond their minimum tier commitments. A reporting template will be provided to all occupiers well in advance of the submission deadline to ensure consistency and clarity in what is required.

We will assess the appropriateness and quality of the social value delivered by reviewing the evidence submitted against the occupier's tier commitments. This assessment will consider:

- **Quantitative data** – such as percentages achieved, volunteer hours contributed, number of beneficiaries supported, items donated, and other measurable outputs.
- **Qualitative impact** – including partnerships formed, ESG improvements, community benefits, and feedback or stories.

The report will include:

1. Summary of Actions

- Provide a clear overview of all social value activities completed.
- Indicate which commitments were delivered and confirm your tier level (Bronze / Silver / Gold).

2. Measurable Impact Metrics

Include specific, quantifiable data such as:

- **Careers Engagement:** Number of career events participated in and total participant engagement (e.g., attendees or people reached).
- **Local Procurement:** Percentage and total value of goods and services sourced locally (within Gloucestershire). All occupiers must provide evidence of how their procurement choices have supported the local or national economy.
- **Volunteering:** Total volunteer hours contributed, number of staff involved, and types of activities delivered.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Number of IT equipment items donated and/or number of households provided with Wi-Fi access.

3. Community Feedback & Stories

- Share feedback or testimonials from schools, charities, or local groups.
- Include social value stories and acknowledgements to build qualitative evidence.

Information/Discussion Paper

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 3 March 2026

No Child Left Behind Update

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 report provides an update on the progress of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) programme and outlines priorities for 2026. Key achievements in 2025 include the successful delivery of the Year of Youth Action, major engagement activities such as Party in the Park (attended by over 3,600 people), coordination of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, and development of legacy projects including the Youth Activity Pass and Youth Café.
- 1.2 Looking ahead, the report sets out the outline plans for a Year of Action on Education for All commencing September 2026 that will address challenges around school attendance, engagement, and mental health through community-based solutions.

2. Background

2.1 About No Child Left Behind

- 2.2 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was formed in December 2018. The Council is responsible for all aspects of NCLB and currently employs two part-time officers on a fixed term contract to deliver this in consultation with the Cabinet member for safety and communities. Given that NCLB is a collaborative movement, it has established a strategic board (see below) that advises the cabinet member in her decision-making.

2.3 Key Priorities for NCLB

1. To highlight the issue of children growing up in poverty in Cheltenham and the inequality between them and their more affluent peers including:
 - Commissioning research;
 - Engaging and listening to local young people.

2. To address the inequality gap with a programme of events and activities:

- Coordinating the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme that provides free enriching activities and nutritious meals during school holidays for children on free school meals;
- Large-scale community events including Party in the Park.

3. Be a call to action for all sectors to work together to make transformational change over the longer-term:

- Community agreement in place which 105 organisations have signed;
- Collaborations with local VCS organisation, schools, and community groups;
- Hosting an annual awards and showcase events to celebrate individuals, organisations, and projects that make a positive impact on children and families here in Cheltenham.

2.4 The role of the NCLB strategic board is to:

- Develop a strategic vision for helping children and young people in Cheltenham, which all NCLB members will follow;
- Engage in and create fundraising campaigns, which will help to support relevant events and activities;
- Have oversight of delivery;
- Agree the direction and priorities with the operational sub-groups;
- Monitor and review delivery outcomes, including risks, and advise on delegation of funding for operations.

3. Data and Insights: Understanding Current Needs

3.1 The NCLB Strategic Board reviews data to stay informed on issues affecting children and families and engages directly with young people through the current Year of Action.

3.2 Key insights include:

- **Child poverty:** 15% of children under 16 live in absolute low-income families; eight local areas rank among the 20% most deprived nationally for the proportion of children living in income deprived families.
- **Education:** Children in poverty face higher absence rates and a significant attainment gap of 34% in English and Maths GCSEs between free school meals (FSM) pupils and their peers.
- **Health and wellbeing:** Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) referrals have risen 25% since 2021, with increasing cases of autism, social/emotional needs, and speech/language difficulties. FSM pupils report higher rates of self-harm, eating disorders, and mental health support needs.
- **Safety concerns:** Teenage girls report harassment and fear after dark; FSM pupils are more likely to experience police involvement and gang association.

- **Youth priorities:** Young people want more free/affordable activities, safe evening spaces, jobs, apprenticeships, and inclusive town centre spaces.

3.3 Supporting data is provided in Appendix 1.

4. Key Projects: progress and next steps

4.1 Year of Youth Action

Cabinet endorsed 2025 as a Year of Youth Action to celebrate and mobilise young people's voices, talents, and leadership.

Highlights:

- Youth engagement programme delivered over the year to deepen understanding of issues affecting young people that will be summarised in a report to Cabinet in April 2026;
- Delivery of events including Party in the Park and NCLB Showcase;
- Scoping of the Youth Activity Pass and Youth Café as legacy projects – see below.

Engagement Activities:

- Cheltenham Education Partnership Horizons event;
- The Children's Society Your Voice event;
- Cambray Carnival;
- COP30 School Climate Conference;
- Her Voice: Her Cheltenham survey and focus groups;
- Youth Pass engagement;
- GCC One Plan consultation at Party in the Park.

Next Steps:

- Review Year of Youth Action via Cabinet report in April;
- Sustain and build on engagement initiatives;
- Proposed 2026 focus: *Year of Action on Education for All* to address declining school attendance and engagement.

4.2 Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) / Party in the Park

Achievements:

- NCLB coordinated the delivery of the HAF programme in Spring, Summer, and Winter holidays funded by GCC, including sports, arts, trips, and family activities;
- Party in the Park 2025;
 - Over 3,600 children and young people attended, 955 free meals provided.
 - Inclusive event with 1,600 attendees reporting additional needs.

- Cost: £20k, equating to £5.55 per child including food.

Next Steps:

- GCC launched a HAF procurement (2026–2029) opportunity in January; Cheltenham indicative allocation is £193k (Year 1). CBC has submitted a bid for to be the district lead for Cheltenham that will then coordinate the delivery of HAF in Cheltenham.
- Party in the Park 2026: Scheduled for 5 August; plans include enhanced facilities, healthy food options, and inter-generational activities.

4.3 Youth Activity Pass

Overview:

- UKSPF-funded (£20k) project to develop a digital pass for young people (11–18 years) offering discounted access to events and opportunities.
- Phase 1 (to March 2026): Develop proof-of-concept platform with CyNam, GlosCol, and industry partners; pilot testing planned for Easter holidays.

Future Scope:

- Expand to include skills development, mentoring, work experience, and apprenticeships.

Next Steps:

- Complete platform development and pilot with selected schools in April.

4.4 Youth Café

- £9k OPCC grant secured to pilot a town-centre Youth Café at Smokey Joe's for 6 weeks. Opened successfully on 12 Feb with 22 young people in attendance on the first night and 33 on 19 Feb – proving that there is demand for the cafe.
- The development of the pilot was informed by feedback from young people. The delivery partners are Springbank CIC and The Rock.

Next Steps:

- Monitor pilot delivery of Youth Café to inform the development of a longer-term solution.

4.5 Business Engagement

- Strengthened partnerships with local businesses (e.g. Infrastar, McDonald's Incito, Renishaw, HBD).
- Fundraising group established; LinkedIn page launched December 2025.
- Nine sponsors were confirmed for the NCLB Awards that were held on 5 February 2026.

Next Steps:

- Explore sponsorship and social value opportunities.
- HBD-supported best practice visit to Sheffield (25 March).

- Grow LinkedIn presence and secure further sponsorship.

4.6 GCC One Plan

- NCLB designated as Cheltenham's Integrated Locality Board for delivery of One Plan priorities.
- £51k commissioning pot launched to address local needs (school attendance, mental health, SEND).

Next Steps:

- Commissioning pot closed to bids on 9 January; 12 bids received which are now being assessed by GCC.

5. The proposed Year of Action – Education For All

The NCLB Strategic Board recognises growing challenges in school attendance and engagement, with many families struggling to access the support needed for children to thrive. While education remains the responsibility of schools and statutory partners, NCLB can play a vital role in mobilising community-based solutions that strengthen learning, wellbeing, and aspiration.

5.1 Purpose:

The Year of Action will shine a light on the scale and complexity of these challenges, raise awareness, and promote collaborative approaches that remove barriers to learning and support children's overall wellbeing. It will align with schools and GCC's One Plan as well as engaging with national campaigns for literacy such as the National Year of Reading and online safety initiatives.

NCLB will engage with existing and new partners and communities to deliver the a range of activities. The current thinking is set out below – though this needs to be discussed and signed off by the NCLB Board and CBC Cabinet member.

5.2 Raising awareness and understanding across the community

- Parent Workshops: helping parents understand the education system and strategies to support their children, especially those that have additional needs
- Support workforce development within school and the wider community to better understand issues that can impact engagement with education including children with SEND, trauma, neurodivergence and mental health.
- Promote understanding within the community of the key issues that impact attendance to gain wider support to preventative initiatives

5.3 Supporting children, young people and families

- Support families with their basic needs to remove barriers to education such as help with transport, uniform banks, housing concerns or food poverty.
- Signpost to mental health support that meet the needs of children and young people most at risk of non-attendance.
- Develop peer-support opportunities for children, young people and parents to help build belonging and community.
- Work with children, young people and families to understand the issues that arise during transition from primary to secondary school to develop evidenced-based solutions
- Work with existing community support to ensure it links with schools at an early stage to prevent persistent absence.
- Pair students with mentors from local organisations to build aspiration and belonging.

5.4 Encouraging informal learning and extra-curricular development

- Engage with the National Year of Reading campaign organised by the National Literacy Trust and the Department for Education. Cheltenham Festivals are also engaging with this through the year so there are opportunities for collaboration.
- Facilitate connections between sports, activity, cultural and creative projects and schools and youth work to allow children and young people to develop confidence and skills that help them in their education
- Develop the Youth Café concept to allow young people a place to support practical learning and social skills outside of education settings
- Pilot the Youth Pass to give young people a greater understanding of opportunities that are open to them whilst also creating a sense of belonging and rewarding them for personal development.
- Work with local employers to encourage meaningful work experience for young people especially those at risk of non-attendance.

5.5 Alignment:

This initiative supports GCC's One Plan objectives and contributes to two Children's Coalition priorities:

- Narrowing the attainment gap for children eligible for free school meals.
- Improving school attendance.

6. Next Steps

Members are asked to note the following updates for action during 2026:

- **NCLB Awards**
 - Successfully hosted the No Child Left Behind Awards on 5 February 2026, and will now commence for next year's awards.
- **Holiday Activities and Food Programme**
 - Subject to decision-making by GCC, potentially take on district lead role for Cheltenham to coordinate the delivery of the HAF programme for 2026/27, starting with the delivery of the Spring programme in April 2026.
- **Youth Café Pilot**
 - Monitor the Youth Café pilot that launched on 12 February 2026.
- **Youth Activity Pass**
 - Develop a proof of concept web-based platform for pilot testing with selected schools by end of March 2026.
- **Review of Year of Youth Action**
 - Present a report to Cabinet in April 2026 reviewing the Year of Youth Action and setting out plans to sustain and build on youth engagement initiatives.
- **Party in the Park 2026**
 - Deliver the next Party in the Park event on Wednesday 5 August 2026.
- **Proposed Year of Action on Education for All / Learning for Life**
 - Commence a Year of Action in September 2026 focused on three themes:
 - Awareness and understanding across the community.
 - Support and engagement with children, young people, and families.
 - Informal learning and extracurricular development.
- **Business Engagement**
 - Explore business sponsorship opportunities for NCLB in greater detail, alongside social value initiatives.
- **Governance Models**
 - Officers to review future governance models for NCLB and bring a future paper to Cabinet for consideration.

Background Papers

Contact Officer

**Richard Gibson, Head of communities,
wellbeing & communities**

**Tracy Brown, Safeguarding & partnerships
manager**

Accountability

**CIlr Victoria Atherstone, Cabinet Member
Safety and Communities**

Appendix 1 – Data and Insights

Wider context

The borough contains two Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that fall into the most deprived 10% nationally (parts of Hesters Way and St. Pauls). These areas have long been associated with higher deprivation levels.

The IoD 2025 measures seven domains:

- Income & Employment: Hesters Way and Springbank show high levels of income and employment deprivation.
- Education, Skills & Training: St Paul's and St Peter's score poorly, indicating challenges in educational attainment.
- Health & Disability: Some areas in west Cheltenham have above-average health deprivation.
- Crime: Urban wards like St Paul's and parts of Lansdown show higher crime-related deprivation.
- Barriers to Housing & Services: Cheltenham is okay with this domain, but affordability remains an issue in some areas.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. Cheltenham 8 areas that are ranked in the most deprived 20% nationally for this indicator. These areas are:

- Hesters Way 1
- Hesters Way 2
- Hesters Way 3
- Oakley 2
- Oakley 3
- St Mark's 1
- St Paul's 2 (ranked 946 out of 32,844 LSOAs ie top 3% most deprived nationally and second top in the County) This puts this part of Cheltenham in a similar bracket to parts of Blackpool, Sheffield and Birmingham.
- Swindon Village 2

LSOA ref	IDACI national rank
St PAUL'S 2	946
HESTERS WAY 3	1,304
OAKLEY 2	4,334
SWINDON VILLAGE 2	4,628
HESTERS WAY 2	4,755
St MARK'S 1	4,804
HESTERS WAY 1	5,604
OAKLEY 3	6,012

Cheltenham children's needs analysis – October 2025

- 15% of children under 16 are living in absolute low-income families (households whose income falls below a fixed threshold that represents the minimum needed to maintain a basic standard of living), with this rate increasing post-pandemic.
- Single parent households on Universal Credit have increased significantly since 2021, indicating growing financial vulnerability.
- 40.5% of children known to social care receive Free School Meals (FSM).
- There has been a significant net increase (c.25%) in referrals to the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service between 21/22 and 24/25 with the greatest increase in referrals of 5-11 year olds.
- There has been a significant increase in the rates of children with autism spectrum disorder, social, emotional and mental health needs and speech, language and communication needs.
- There is a significant attainment gap of 34% between FSM pupils and the overall cohort in English and Maths GCSEs (FSM 22.2% vs overall 56.5%)
- Percentage of school population that have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) in Cheltenham is 5.59 slightly higher than Gloucestershire which is 5.12%, however the percentage receiving SEN support is 14.21% which is lower than Gloucestershire's overall percentage of 15.8%
- Fixed term exclusion rates per 1,00 for pupil with no SEN support are 51.3, but rise to 334.6 for those with SEN support and 235.1 for those with an EHCP
- Permanent exclusion rates per 1,000 for pupils without SEN support are 0.2 again rising significantly to 9.0 for those with SEN support and 5.1 for those with an EHCP.

Cheltenham school leaders have told NCLB that local data closely aligns to the national picture. National data shows that attendance declines steadily across secondary school, from around 93.5% in Year 7 to 91.0% in Year 11, while persistent absence rises from 21% to 26% over the same period.

This pattern coincides with a marked drop in pupil engagement and satisfaction after transition: enjoyment scores fall from 6.0 in Year 6 to 3.8 in Year 7, and continue to decline through Year 8 and 9, with feelings of safety and belonging also reducing significantly. By Year 10 and 11, engagement stabilizes but remains well below primary levels, and motivation to learn is a concern for nearly a third of pupils.

These trends highlight a strong link between declining engagement and worsening attendance, particularly for vulnerable groups such as pupils with SEND or those eligible for Free School Meals, and underline the need for support for children and families during the transition from year 6 to year 7 and then in the early years of secondary school to stop disengagement.

Pupil Wellbeing Survey -July 2025

- Pupils eligible for FSM were significantly more likely to report missing 10% or more of school sessions in the previous term (40.5%) compared to those not eligible (27.2%) in Cheltenham.
- Pupils eligible for FSM were more likely to report being in trouble with the Police (5% vs. 2%); more likely to report carrying a weapon (4.7% vs. 2.7%) and joining a gang (0.9% vs. 0.3%).
- Pupils eligible for FSM (10.3%) were almost twice as likely to report they were receiving professional mental health support at the time of the survey than non-eligible pupils (6.1%)

- Almost 1 in 3 pupils in secondary and post-16 settings eligible for FSM report ever self-harming compared to 1 in 5 of their less vulnerable peers. They were also significantly more likely to report having an eating disorder (17.4% vs. 8.8%)
- 78.5% of pupils eligible for FSM reported the food available at home enabled them to eat healthily, this was significantly lower than those not eligible (86.2%).

Engagement findings

At a recent youth voice engagement event held in June this year, young people told us that they wanted:

- More free and affordable activities in town for young people
- More jobs for young people
- More apprenticeships opportunities
- More places to go, instead of hanging out in the town centre
- More disabled and neurodiverse youth clubs-important for everyone to feel included
- More low-cost spaces for teenagers
- More evening safe spaces after 5:30pm in town centre

NCLB has also worked with teenage girls at risk of exploitation through Pittville School, All Saints Academy, The Children's Society and Youth justice team to gather their experiences of living in Cheltenham.

Key issues raised include:

Harassment and personal safety concerns:

- Catcalling, being followed and inappropriate touching
- After-dark, in parks, during raceweek

Barriers to seeking help:

- Judgement and stigma
- Professionals' responses and lack of trust
- Complexity of services

Challenges teenage girls face in the town:

- Exposure to violence and fighting
- Emotional and social pressures
- Pressure to try drugs and alcohol

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Briefing Note – Cheltenham Culture Board

Committee name: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 3 March 2026

Responsible officer: Richard Gibson, Head of communities, wellbeing & partnerships

This note provides information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Cabinet or a committee but where no decisions from Members are needed.

If Members have questions relating to matters shown, they are asked to contact the officer indicated.

Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee have indicated that they would like to receive an update about the work of Cheltenham Culture Board.

This briefing note updates members about the work of the board.

The Cheltenham Culture Board

Cheltenham Culture Board was set up to connect the cultural sectors together and to take on the role of producing a cultural strategy for Cheltenham.

Since its inception in July 2021, the Culture Board has built a strong alliance across Cheltenham's cultural and creative communities and takes a leading role to advocate that culture and creativity should be central to the economic and social life of Cheltenham.

The aim of the Culture Board is to set and deliver a cultural strategy for Cheltenham which makes demonstrable progress towards the Board's longer-term vision for the town:

The board has developed a representative structure, drawing people together with a diverse range of skills, knowledge and expertise to give their perspective in areas of culture, business, community and academia.

The Cheltenham Culture Strategy

The board has worked to develop [a culture strategy](#) for the town that was endorsed by Cabinet in April 2023.

In producing the strategy, the board consulted widely with cultural partners and key stakeholders across the town all of which endorsed an assessment of Cheltenham as a place with powerful cultural and heritage assets that need to be celebrated and nurtured.

What also emerged from the consultations was the need for a cultural vision that would shift a gear in our approach to developing and deepening the cultural offer; establishing

Cheltenham as a truly innovative creative place and destination; fostering creative expression; alongside much greater community engagement.

The strategy’s vision is:

Cheltenham is a vibrant place and cultural destination where the fusion of arts, digital and heritage innovation fosters creative and inclusive communities where everyone has the chance to thrive

To meet this cultural vision, the board agreed six objectives that provide the focus for the strategy and the board’s action plan as set out below with a summary of progress against these.

Objective	Progress
Forge partnerships and collaboration across the heritage, cultural and digital sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members collaborated towards a successful Arts Council England bid to host the Holst 150 celebrations that were held in March 2025. • Facilitated engagement and fed in to Golden Valley social value plans. • Cultural organisations report improved networking and relationships. Cheltenham Arts Network has been set up which is a network of primarily visual arts organisations who meet regularly to discuss issues and share best practice.
Use culture and creativity to improve the life chances of our young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed a Learning and Participation sub-group to coordinate experiences and participatory opportunities for young people - the work from which has informed the development of the No Child Left Behind youth activity pass – which will be piloted in March 2026.
Promote equity of opportunity to help build inclusive and creative communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural partners are engaged with No Child Left Behind to improve equitable access to cultural opportunities via the youth pass. • With funding from the council’s health and wellbeing fund Cheltenham Festivals “Connections” scheme provided over 600 free tickets to Jazz, Science, Literature and Music Festivals— for local people and families experiencing hardship. • Inclusion is a core element of the grant funding awarded to cultural organisations by the Council. • Development of a doughnut Toolkit (based on doughnut economics model) as a cultural accessibility framework.
Celebrate and nurture our community, grass-roots creative talents and ambitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture board members have committed to supporting emerging talent. This is clearly demonstrated by The Wilson’s We Are Creators programme, supporting emerging visual artists from across Cheltenham and Gloucestershire to develop their practice and build successful careers in the visual arts sector.
Drive our visitor economy and wider place brand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheltenham is known as The Festival Town. Members of the council’s Marketing Cheltenham team are active participants in the Culture Board, ensuring the town’s programme of events and variety of attractions are effectively promoted to

	visitors and residents via the Visit Cheltenham brand, increasing audiences.
Use culture, creativity and innovation to contribute to the Cheltenham Zero and work collectively to address the climate emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the board have committed to ensuring climate impact is considered within cultural programming. Cheltenham Festivals, Cheltenham Borough Council, and Cheltenham Trust have all implemented carbon reduction initiatives in their events and cultural venues. • The Council is taking the lead in piloting the Green Events Code of Practice which provides a clear, nationally consistent framework that helps event organisers and local authorities improve environmental performance.

Refinement of the board's structure

The board has recently undertaken a review of its structure. An independent facilitator was appointed to work with board members.

The facilitator found that the value of the Culture Board was not in question and was clearly articulated during the session. There is commitment and energy to deliver the Culture Board's purpose more efficiently. However, board members indicated that the structure should strike a better balance between networking and more focused strategic sessions. There was also a lack of consensus about the most effective structures and processes for delivering the strategy.

The facilitator's recommendations were that formal board meetings should be replaced with:

Monthly open networking sessions:

Focused on sharing ideas and knowledge. These sessions would not be chaired and be hosted by a cultural venue.

Quarterly Culture Network meetings;

Designed to foster collaboration and partnership, support cultural development and innovation, enable shared learning, celebrate and promote local culture, and keep the cultural strategy under review. These meetings would be hosted by different organisations, with relevant information shared across the network.

Progress to date

The monthly social meetings are hosted by The Cheltenham Trust at The Wilson as part of the Wilson Lates programme, taking place on the first Wednesday of every month.

The first meeting of the new Culture Network took place on 4 February 2026, hosted by Cheltenham Festivals. Attendance was good, and discussions included the NCLB youth activity pass, the Cheltenham Heritage Strategy, and Local Government Reorganisation.

A more detailed report on the workings of the new Culture Network will be brought forward once it has had sufficient time to become established.

Contact Officer: Richard Gibson, Head of communities, wellbeing & partnerships

Email: richard.gibson@cheltenham.gov.uk

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Report to March 2026 Meeting of CBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Summary of 27th January 2026 Meeting of GCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

A full recording of this meeting is available in the meetings section of the GCC website. The agenda reports pack which includes presentations is also available on this website with the SWAST report attached separately. At the time of writing this report the minutes were not yet available.

1. Scrutiny Items –

1.1 Adult Learning Disability Service Review

Gloucestershire County Council data indicates that currently approximately 12,000 adults in Gloucestershire have a learning disability, with those aged between 18 and 64 accounting for three-quarters of the total. The rate of increase in the next 10 years is predicted to be most steep in the older age groups as life expectancy improves.

The services commitment to deliver care close to home fell under 2 headings:

- Commitment to invest in community-based options for care and treatment. The modelling indicates this will reduce the need for in patient specialist LD beds from current levels of 4 per year to 2 per year for Gloucestershire's population
- Commitment to access timely and 'appropriate' inpatient care if necessary (i.e. via reasonable adjustments and/or specialist facilities)

At the December ICB Board the following changes were agreed:

- a) Additional investment in CLDT (Community Learning disability therapists) and community support workers (to improve liaison with families and people with learning disabilities)
- b) Investment in voluntary sector partner(s) to enhance independent working and living.
- c) A better crisis response • A more proactive, clinically led approach to managing the Dynamic Support Register, to anticipate and manage crises • more investment in emergency response staff • the development of crash pads and respite accommodation • Pre-admission pathway to ensure timely, well-planned admission when needed.
- d) A decision not to commission a stand-alone Learning Disability unit in Gloucestershire (i.e. Berkeley House) given the low predicted level of demand (2 beds per annum) and related risks of maintaining quality and safety standards.

2. Information Items – see presentations for full details:

2.1 NHS Gloucestershire 5 Year Strategy: Online, Digital & Technology

The Committee received the second of three presentations on issues included in the NHS Gloucestershire 5 Year Strategy reflecting the 3 Gloucestershire NOW themes:-

N – Neighbourhood, Health & Care

O – Online Digital & Technology

W – Wellbeing, Prevention & Maintaining Health Independence

2.2 Gloucestershire Home Birth Services Update

This was a verbal item on the temporary suspension of the home birthing service due to the lack of highly experienced midwives required to run this service which requires a 24/7 rota for only one birth a week.

The committee also received a brief update on the temporary closure of the Cheltenham Aveta Centre for Births (all other maternity are still provided there) as well as some post-natal maternity services at Stroud hospital.

These closures/ suspensions of service will remain in place whilst the ICB conducts a maternity health needs assessment to inform any case for change. The needs assessment involves a review of nationally available data and trends, and the evidence base for what works in terms of quality and safety. Initial findings from the needs assessment indicate that the number of women having an induction has been increasing in Gloucestershire in line with national figures. The number of elective and emergency Caesarean sections have been increasing, both nationally and within Gloucestershire (45.27% in May 2025 compared to 34.99% in April 2022). The change in Caesarean rates has required a significant change in the resource needed, such as an increase in obstetric consultant time and an increase in theatre sessions.

One member suggested that the Trust should offer a home Caesarean service. I'm pleased to say that most of the other questions to NHS staff were rather more sensible.

The range of services being offered for mothers giving births includes:-

- Obstetric-Led Delivery Suite within the Women's Centre in Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.
- Midwifery-led care at Stroud Maternity Unit and Gloucester Birth Unit, both of which offer birth in more homely environments and have ample capacity.

2.3 Gloucestershire Integrated Care System (ICS) Performance Report (incl Cancer Performance Briefing)

Last year the Hospitals Trust received national recognition for being the 6th most improved in respect of long waits in A&E. At a time when figures have been generally getting worse and when demand has continued to escalate, 12 hour waits reduced from 14% of attendances in 2023/24 to 8.9% when this recognition was received to 6.1% at the latest count. Clearly still a horrible experience for a large number of patients but it is vindication for the changes made to the A&E patient pathway which have at times received adverse comment including from HOSC members.

At the start of 2024/25 there were 3000 patients waiting over 52 weeks for their procedure, that figure is now down to 122 or 0.2% of the total waiting list with only 30 of those with the local service (GHT). However, only approx. 70% of elective patients hit the 18 week wait which represented some movement towards the interim 73% target but is still some way away from the actual target of 92%

Performance against all the Cancer Waiting Times (CWTs) targets is good compared with national and regional averages in all categories but the 62-day target from referral to first definitive treatment is still, at 77.1%, well below the target of 85% with the prostate pathway continuing to be the most problematic.

Growth in demand for diagnostics continues unabated and whilst activity in almost all modalities continues to rise in line with plans more people than ever are waiting over 6 weeks for their test at 24.3% (approx. 4500). Additional recruitment has provided more slots in echocardiography but there is still a shortfall of about 100 slots per month. Performance in all 3 endoscopy modalities has declined and stands at 41.6% over 6 weeks. More non-recurring slots have been purchased from Great Western Hospitals to try to address this. On the positive side two new (but replacement) MRI scanners are now fully commissioned with a corresponding significant increase in performance.

Appointments in general practice in September 2025 remain at record levels. Registered population has increased by 6% since 2019/20, whilst appointment activity has increased by 26%. 30% more patients have seen the GP at least once in 2024/25 compared with in 2023/24.

2.4 NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) Update – this report is divided into 2 sections

- Section 1, an update on national and local commissioning issues focusing mostly on this occasion on maternity services for Gloucestershire. It was noted that the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) National Maternity survey was published in December 2025 and highlighted a significant improvement for Gloucestershire Hospitals Trust, and it was one of just six trusts in England to emerge as 'better than expected'. The CQC Maternity Services Survey asks women a wide range of questions about their experience of choice, continuity of care and the support they receive in hospital maternity services. Over the past three years the Trust has acted on CQC findings, taken part in the NHS England maternity safety support programme and brought in independent experts to help review and shape our service plans. So it's pleasing to see results that reflect progress being made.
- Section 2, an update from the 2 provider Trusts; Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (GHC), Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHT) and South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

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Title	Objective	Format	Officer/Interested Party/Partner			
30th March 2026						
Community Governance Review	To receive an update on the progress of Cheltenham's community governance review, the provisional recommendations, latest thinking on the prospects for a new town council and how we would resolve council tax discrepancies between this and the existing C5 if the new town council took on any townwide responsibilities such as twinning, arts and culture or the ceremonial mayoralty.	Information/Dis cussion Paper	Director of Governance, Housing and Communities – Claire Hughes/Alison			
6th July 2026						
Equalities, Diversities & Inclusion Policy	An annual update and review of implementation	Information/Dis cussion paper	Director of Governance, Housing and Communities – Claire Hughes			
Safeguarding – Safety for Women and	To update O&S on the work being carried out by the Cheltenham community safety	Information/Dis cussion Paper	Safeguarding and Partnerships Manager – Tracy Brown			

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Girls in the Borough	partnership in response to the “Your experiences, your voice – Life in Cheltenham for young women” report and event					
September 2026 (TBC)						
UBICO Update	To receive the annual UBICO report and update	Information/Dis cussion Paper	Head of Environmental and Bereavement Services – Karen Watson			
Charging for replacement recycling bins and bags – update a year on	To receive an update on the implementation of the scheme and understand any community feedback. The report would look to cover the following: changes in volumes of receptacles being issued; any increase in fly tipping ; reasons for changes made to charging schedule (from 1 Jan 2025); lessons learned, and any unexpected challenges experienced and how they were overcome.	Information/Dis cussion Paper	Head of Environmental and Bereavement Services – Karen Watson			
November 2026 (TBC)						
2026						
Digital Roadmap for	To understand what will be included in the	Information/Dis cussion paper	Head of Commercial and Income Generation			

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Customer Interaction	Digital Roadmap for customer interaction and how this will improve the customer experience					
Draft Procurement Strategy	To consider the emerging CBC procurement strategy	Information/Dis cussion Paper	Strategic Procurement Manager			
Strategic and Local Plan	To bring an update on the strategic and local plan	Information/Dis cussion Paper	Planning Policy Manager			
S106	To look at the process of consulting on, making, defending and enforcing section 106 agreements, particularly with reference to the April 2022 report by cabinet to build enhanced transparency and engagement with ward members (recommendation 6 relating to section 6 of the report Decision - Community Infrastructure Levy Governance & Section 106 engagement - Modern Council (cheltenham.gov.uk))	Information/Dis cussion Paper	Head of Planning or Director of Community and Economic Development - Chris Gomm or Tracey Birkenshaw			

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