

CBC Corporate Plan 2023-2027 – year one review



Key Priority 1: Enhancing Cheltenham’s reputation as the cyber capital of the UK

Key Priority 2: Working with residents, communities and businesses to help make Cheltenham net zero by 2030

Key Priority 3: Increasing the number of affordable homes through our £180m housing investment plan

Key Priority 4: Ensuring residents, communities and businesses benefit from Cheltenham’s future growth and prosperity

Key Priority 5: Being a more modern, efficient and financially sustainable council

CBC Officers have collated the below information on progress made over the first year of CBC’s Corporate Pan 2023-2027.

Key Priority 1 – Enhance Cheltenham’s reputation as the cyber capital of the UK

<p>Current Planning Status – West Cheltenham (Golden Valley)</p> <p>Allocated site in the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and subject to adopted supplementary planning document (Golden Valley development SPD).</p> <p>West Cheltenham, also known as the Golden Valley, is being planned as a Garden Community across 3 separate developers working on a collaborative masterplan. Overall, this £1bn development will bring forward around 184,000 sqm of commercial office space with a focus on the cyber, science and technology sectors. Additionally, there will be around 2502 low carbon homes with green spaces, community areas and, potentially, leisure facilities. Planning applications covering most of the JCS allocation are live and will likely be determined during 2024 to bring this strategic allocation to delivery.</p>	<p>Lead landowner/ developer</p> <p>Cheltenham Borough Council/HBD Midland Land Portfolio Ltd / St Modwens</p>	<p>Number of dwellings / Commercial</p> <p>c. 2502 new homes c. 184,000 sqm of commercial office space</p>	<p>Forecast timescales planning applications</p> <p>St. Modwens/Midland Land Portfolio Ltd: Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) in place. Application submitted and statutory consultation undertaken. Ongoing engagement with local planning authority. Holding objection from Highways England (6 months)</p> <p>CBC/HBD: PPA in place. Two outline applications submitted November 2023 and statutory consultation undertaken. Holding objection from Highways England (6 months). Ongoing engagement with local planning authority.</p> <p>Neema Land Holdings Ltd. PPA in place and pre application ongoing. Likely outline submission summer 2024. Ongoing engagement with local planning authority.</p> <p>Local Planning Authority interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active PPAs in place ▪ weekly cross boundary management meetings with Tewkesbury Borough ▪ Local Planning Authority (LPAs) led collaborative meetings across developers, next collaboration meeting expected in July 2024. Active dialogue across all parties and LPAs looking to bring together a further collaborative meeting of all parties if needed to drive programme of applications and resolve any disagreements between parties. ▪ Collaborative work taking place to consider Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) policy in the context of the Garden community principles with Natural England. ▪ Ongoing engagement with Highways England and Gloucestershire County Council as Highways Authority to gain an aligned position in respect of transport. ▪ Ongoing work with education authority to broker engagement with site promoters ▪ Ongoing work with NHS and Sports England regarding social infrastructure on the site. ▪ Cross boundary member briefings
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<p>Golden Valley Funding</p>	<p>The council is excited that £20m has been secured from the Department of Levelling up Housing and Communities to help super-charge the first phase of the national cyber innovation centre at the heart of the Golden Valley Development. The Council’s investment in West Cheltenham and associated Cyber projects includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the purchase of the land totalling £40m adjacent to GCHQ where the new National Cyber Innovation Centre will be built - a recent funding commitment of up to £95m to enable construction of the first phase of the Golden Valley Development to include the NCIC
<p>Minister Exchange (MX)</p>	<p>The council has provided significant funding to support the construction and development of the MX in Cheltenham town Centre. MX will serve as a prelude for the National Cyber Innovation Centre within the Golden Valley development providing approx. 20,000 sq</p>

	<p>feet of accommodation for the cyber technology sector.</p> <p>The space will encompass co-working areas, private offices, training and product development and testing facilities, as well as a versatile multi-functional performance and event space. MX due for completion in summer 2024 and is targeted to have members moving in during July. From the Autumn the whole building will be in use including the event space and café.</p>
Plexal	<p>In May 2023 the council commissioned Plexal – a government-focused innovation agency – to establish the ‘Front Door’ mechanism. A Front Door group, comprising multiple local organisations, including the council, is now operational and is promoting the Cheltenham ecosystem and Golden Valley, with a focus on the pipeline of enquiries for workspace and engagement in the campus.</p>
The Front Door Group	<p>To support this, the Front Door group developed a broader vision for Golden Valley which builds from cyber security, looking at security and resilience across many other sectors, all of which align closely to the government’s vision for the UK science and technology sectors making Cheltenham more attractive for investment in these sectors.</p>
Development Funding Agreement with HBD X Factory	<p>Full Council approval was granted in September 2023 for the council to enter into the conditional Development Funding Agreement with HBD X Factory. This provides a funding envelope of up to £95m for the first phase of development at Golden Valley – the National Cyber Innovation Centre.</p> <p>The council entered in the Development Funding Agreement with HBD X Factory in December 2023.</p>
Planning Applications	<p>Outline planning applications have been submitted in 2023 (23/01874/OUT St Modwens, 23/01875/OUT HBD, 22/01817/OUT HBD), with one more to be submitted in 2024 (Nema), for a mixed use scheme at Golden Valley which will comprise approximately one million square feet of commercial development to accommodate a range of companies and organisations in the cyber technology sector with supporting housing, leisure and ancillary uses. The Local Planning Authority is actively progressing these applications.</p>

Key Priority 2 – Working with residents, communities and businesses to help make Cheltenham net zero by 2030

<p>Green Flag</p>	<p>Cheltenham has 7 Green Flag parks. The Green Flag Award® scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.</p> <p>The purpose and aims of the scheme is to ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live, and these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve</p> <p>CBC has once again submitted applications for seven parks and one green heritage award (Pittville Park). Judging took place in May and results are awaited.</p>
<p>The council supports the multi-disciplinary Climate Leadership Gloucestershire (CLG)</p>	<p>CBC is attending and supporting both the CLG meetings and working closely with the County Wide Climate Officers supporting the work of the underlying workgroups progressing the 10 themes identified within the workplan. As a consequence of a bid from the CLG workgroup, CBC has been granted £20k to fund a Retrofit Officer to support its work in this area.</p>
<p>Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (2022/23)</p>	<p>Approved by Council 20th June 2022, this SPD is now a key tool supporting the work of the development management team. Through 2023 these principles have been embedded across negotiations. Significant work has been put into the development of the Climate Checklist alongside training materials which was used within the Councillor induction process, there are wider plans to roll out further training across the wider officer teams including planning, property and regeneration.</p>
<p>Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan (GCTSLP)</p>	<p>As we prepare the CGTSLP, in the context of the council declaring a climate change emergency, having in place a pathway to Cheltenham net zero by 2030 and much firmer government narrative and commitment to climate change. The first Regulation 18 consultation has now concluded. As part of that consultation the approach to planning for climate change and nature recovery was a key theme being tested. The main issues identified through that consultation are in the process of being analysed.</p> <p>As we work through the CGTSLP, this may result in further updates to the Climate Change SPD. In addition, over 2024 we will be embarking on the preparation of a nature recovery SPD, recognising the important role of biodiversity and nature recovery as part of the wider climate change agenda. This should dovetail with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy that the Local Nature Partnership are seeking to progress. To support this we have recently appointed an ecologist to support the planning team.</p> <p><i>The programme of CGTSLP is set out in the summary to key priority 4.</i></p>
<p>Overall Emission Reduction Performance</p>	<p>The 2022/23 carbon report demonstrates emission reductions of 15% compared to the year 2021/22; on track to get to net zero by 2030, using a straight-line trajectory. Total scope 1 (fossil fuel) emissions have reduced by 903.6 tCO₂e (39.2%) compared to the prior year, and 1923.5 tCO₂e (57.9%) compared to the baseline.</p>

Vehicle Emission Reduction	The transition to hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) as a fuel, alongside fleet electrification, has reduced emissions by 278.6 tCO ₂ e, equivalent to a 2.8% decrease in total emissions for reporting year 2022/23. Carbon savings relating to these transitions have been calculated for April 2023 – September 2023 totalling to 397.6 tCO ₂ e.
Heat Study	During 2023 an £85k grant was secured to fund the detailed feasibility study for two potential heat networks, one in Golden Valley and the other in the town centre. Work commenced on this study during January 2024 and is due for completion during Q3 2024.
Borough-Wide Business Emissions	<p>The Cheltenham Zero initiative now has 170 businesses registered. CBC has made offers of £120,000 grants to businesses and community groups to support energy efficiency/decarbonisation, alongside practical advice and use of the Zellar decarbonisation toolkit. Through UKSPF funding CBC commissioned Zellar and Cheltenham Zero to deliver a project which utilises the Zellar online sustainability platform and enables businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and energy bills. Over 60 businesses have engaged so far against an output target of 30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is proposed to bring management of the Cheltenham Zero initiative in house and an advert for resource to support this is due to be issued before the end of June.
Decarbonising Social Housing Stock within Cheltenham Borough Homes	£2.2m grant funding has been obtained from DESNZ (Department of Energy Security and Net Zero) SHDF (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund) to support decarbonisation works. All works under SHDF Wave 1 have been completed – 59 properties have received varying degrees of fabric improvements with 25 of those also receiving low carbon heating (in the form of shared loop ground source heat pump heating systems). This completes the SHDF Wave 1 Project. SHDF Wave 2.1 is on-going with major fabric improvement works to 30 properties recently completed, with 40 properties underway, a further 130 homes are to benefit from improvements to improve their energy performance by Autumn 2025.
Events Sustainability	Working in partnership, sharing best practice and building on Cheltenham’s own Climate Impact Assessment Tool, a Donut Assessment Tool for Events (DATE) has been developed and was launched in March 2023. This expanded version of the tool pilots the implementation of the national Green Events Code. DATE provides local authorities with a free-to-use, simple tool kit to assess an event’s community, accessibility and environmental sustainability impacts and is now being used nationally and internationally. The council’s Christmas ice rink was powered by a combination of battery, onsite electricity and a generator powered by Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil. This meant that only 12.7% of the fuel was used compared to the 2021 event and fuel emissions were reduced by 98.7%. The Cheltenham Ice Rink is now being seen as best practice within the events industry in the approach the council adopted in respect of energy.
Community Emission Reduction	<p>A segmented approach is being developed across the Council to stimulate retrofit improvements. £45k funding (£24k CBC / £20k Local Net Zero Hub) has been secured for a full time Retrofit Engagement Officer, fixed term for 1 year to better support development of the Council’s current and future projects in this space.</p> <p>‘Able to Pay’ Retrofit</p> <p>A decision was taken to start with understanding better the most effective approaches to stimulating retrofit within the ‘able to pay’ market. UK SPF funding (£37,500) was secured to fund the Future Fit Homes (FFH) pilot project to build stronger understanding around</p>

	<p>the most effective techniques to support retrofit delivery, alongside the key barriers to be unlocked across Cheltenham. Planet Cheltenham is our project delivery partner.</p> <p>FFH has an emphasis on positive, tangible actions and initiatives to support a reduction in borough carbon emissions. The project will engage 1000 people, offer 50 households direct support, and see 10 properties install low, or zero carbon energy infrastructures. Residents will share advice and support and crucially involve neighbours, friends and family in the first stage of the project. They may have already undertaken some retrofit projects, be 'in the process' of working towards a project, or just beginning their retrofit journey.</p>
EV Charging Installation Programme	CBC is progressing its first phase of EV charging programme with the ambition to deliver approximately 40 rapid chargers across multiple sites. Heads of terms have been agreed for three sites and it is expected that the first chargers will be available for the public to use from September 2024.
Golden Valley	Monthly meetings to monitor delivery of Golden Valley SPD sustainability objectives have been put in place from January 2024.
Flood risk mitigation	<p>CBC flood officers are working collaboratively with other Risk Management Authorities to bolster the Borough's resilience to flood risk, in both existing and future climates. A flood risk mitigation strategy was developed in 2024 with 3 key areas of focus (Resilience, Planning and Assets). The strategy compliments the national and local flood risk management strategies published by the Environment Agency and Gloucestershire County Council respectively and is summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resilience: Nature-based flood alleviation and bolstered community resilience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retrofit of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) and natural flood management (NFM) partnership schemes are being planned in Warden Hill, Oakley and Charlton Kings. SUDS have also recently been implemented in greenspaces at Naunton Park and Benhall. Nature-based solutions complement existing flood alleviation defences in the town and provide benefits to water quality, biodiversity, and amenity. ○ Raising awareness of flooding and enabling communities to take their own actions towards building resilience is achieved and planned through community engagement events, sharing relevant resources, creating infographics, and through our volunteer flood warden network which has been grown to achieve greater coverage across the Borough. ○ CBC are category 1 responders for emergencies and maintain an emergency response flood plan and the Charlton Kings rapid response flood plan in collaboration with the local resilience forum. ▪ Planning: Development located in areas where flood risk can be managed sustainably. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As part of the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan (GCTSLP) the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) will be updated to ensure best available flood risk data and guidance is used as evidence to locate future development in low flood risk areas. A Water Cycle Study (WCS) will also be produced to assess the impact of planned growth and policy options on water cycle processes including water supply, wastewater collection and treatment, and water quality to ensure that development can be accommodated in the most sustainable way. ○ CBC flood officers are consultees for non-major developments and review applications to ensure they are appropriately located and designed with SUDS that mitigate flood risk to both users of the development and elsewhere throughout its lifetime. Gloucestershire County Council (The Lead Local Flood Authority) and the Environment Agency are consulted in

	<p>the same manner on major developments and CBC flood officers can also provide technical advice to planning officers on major developments where required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CBC undertake consenting and enforcement duties on ordinary watercourses to ensure new structures are designed appropriately and debris or activities causing flood or environmental risks are dealt with. ▪ Assets: Our flood assets and watercourses fit for purpose and healthy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CBC owned and maintained land includes 17km of watercourse, 21 debris screens, 8 flood alleviation schemes and 10 sustainable drainage systems. An asset and watercourse maintenance plan has been developed and implemented to ensure existing flood alleviation schemes and assets remain fit for purpose and future risks can be identified. ○ The plan is a 'living document' and future updates will include best practice habitat management where possible to further promote biodiversity on watercourse corridors. ○ Projects such as 'Reclaim the River' removing Himalayan Balsam and litter have had holistic benefits to the water environment and biodiversity
Looking Forward to 2024	<p>The focus for the first part of 2024 is on creating a net zero emission reduction plan with milestones and costs to address the direct emissions from the Council's key buildings, alongside the creation of specific sustainability objectives, across the key areas of work within the Council.</p>

Key Priority 3 – Increasing the number of affordable homes through our £180m housing investment plan

<p>Affordable Housing</p>	<p>129 affordable homes (29 x social rent, 54 x affordable rent, 46 x shared ownership) have been delivered since the adoption of the CBC Corporate Plan on 20th February 2023 until 31st March 2024, of which 57 have been delivered through Cheltenham Borough Council, working alongside Cheltenham Borough Homes (54 x affordable rent, 3 x shared ownership) as part of our £180m housing investment plan.</p> <p>Of the 57 homes that have been delivered by CBC, 21 have been acquired specifically to house Ukrainian and Afghan households at risk of homelessness through the first round of the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF), which has been supported by £2.36m of grant funding secured from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), thereby delivering on our commitments as a Town of Sanctuary. An additional 2 homes have also been secured for Ukrainian households through £214,600 of DLUHC grant funding within the second LAHF funding round, taking the total funding secured by CBC from DLUHC to support households from Ukraine and Afghanistan to £2.57m, reflecting the Council’s commitment to preventing homelessness and supporting community integration.</p> <p>Since the start of our Housing Investment Programme, CBC will have spent approximately £52m (205 completed homes) by the end of 23/24 and is allocating £10.6m for 24/25 and projecting further investment of £71m over the following 3 years. During 23/24 CBC has been successful in bidding for 70 new homes under a s106 agreement for a development in the northwest of Cheltenham.</p> <p>CBC has also secured £2.2m of grant funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund in addition to a £3.8m investment from our HRA to improve the energy efficiency of 187 hard to heat Council homes.</p>
<p>Homelessness & Rough Sleeping</p>	<p>Since 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, the Housing Options Service have prevented the homelessness of (or assisted out of homelessness) 435 households, exceeding our target of 290 for this period.</p>

Key Priority 4 – Ensuring residents, communities and businesses benefit from Cheltenham’s future growth and prosperity

<p>Supporting the Cheltenham Trust (TCT) in reopening the Wilson</p>	<p>The project has been progressing well and with practical completion and hand over taking place on 12 January 2024.</p> <p>The works have created three refreshed, flexible gallery spaces. These will enable TCT to display our collections in a more dynamic way and will lend themselves better to changing exhibitions. The spaces are more user friendly and have much improved access for all users.</p> <p>In addition, there are three new objects stores – approx. 35% more storage space on-site.</p> <p>TCT is currently fundraising to a target of £200,000 to redisplay the Collections Galleries and open to the public ensuring that our communities are involved in creating displays that are socially relevant, dynamic, and link to key learning outcomes. TCT recently secured £30k from DCMS Wolfson for improved display cases, lighting and CCTV.</p> <p>TCT is planning for 8 months of community consultation to help them determine what collections will be displayed in the new spaces, what stories they will be sharing, and how they will do this.</p> <p>The galleries are on track to reopen in summer 2025.</p> <p>Meanwhile visitor numbers to the Wilson are up significantly from before the refurbishment, 2023/24 saw 100,304 visitors compared to 62,285 in 2018/19 and 49,496 in 2019/20.</p>
<p>Work with partner organisations to develop a sports strategy for Cheltenham, to improve and further develop sport provision and help ensure more opportunities for external funding to improve health and wellbeing opportunities for local people</p>	<p>High level draft vision and outcomes were agreed by Cabinet in July 2023:</p> <p>Cheltenham is a place where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from sport and physical activity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cheltenham is a place where all our communities enjoy and benefit from physical activity 2. Our physical and community infrastructure is accessible and affordable but also high-quality and sustainable 3. We collaborate to create active and inclusive communities <p>In line with outcome 1 – the council undertook a survey, to understand how we keep people being active but also understand the barriers that might be preventing people from being active in the first place. The survey opened on 31 January 2024 and closed on 21 March 2024. There were 163 responses, 90% of respondents are either reasonably or very interested in being more active. The main barriers to being more active are costs, lack of time and having to book in advance, or be a member.</p> <p>In line with outcome 2 – Max Associates were commissioned to complete both a built facilities strategy and a playing pitch strategy with the latter subcontracted to consultants FMG. Both documents assess the quality of current provision against future need up to 2041 and</p>

	<p>make recommendations about how the town can continue to invest in its sporting infrastructure. The built facilities strategy was endorsed by Cabinet on 2 April and the Playing Pitch Assessment will be considered by Cabinet on 23 July.</p> <p>Further to the Cabinet decision making on the overarching assessment a costed action plan will be brought back to Cabinet later this year.</p>
<p>No Child Left Behind (NCLB)</p>	<p>‘No Child Left Behind’ has continued to raise awareness of issues affecting our children, such as criminal exploitation, period poverty or healthy eating, and work with partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to tackle this. Notable outcomes include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over 90 organisations signed up to the Community agreement from all sectors. To enable all these organisations to actively support the aims of NCLB the partnership has restructured itself. There is now a Strategic Board that meets bi- monthly and a delivery group that meets monthly. • Delivery of the Holiday Activity and Food programme in Cheltenham which ran across the spring, summer and winter holidays. • Working with local head teachers from primary, secondary and special schools, as well as Young Gloucestershire, to develop the NCLB mentoring programme for vulnerable children and young people with an application to be submitted to Spirax Sarco to fund this • Ran large events such as the NCLB Awards in February 2024 and NCLB Party in the Park in August 2023 which were great opportunities to grow the partnership, as well as being free opportunities for children and young people to take part in new experiences and allow them to show their talents. • Secured grant funding from Safer Streets 5 and the Serious Violence duty to allow it to undertake work to support vulnerable young people in the Town through detached youth work and partnership working with the St Giles Trust. • Working with partnership to support expansion of the healthy start scheme to Cheltenham’s pantry network as well as increase uptake. • Working with the CBC Air Quality officer to put together a campaign on improving air quality in Cheltenham due to the adverse impact it has on Childrens development.
<p>With Cheltenham Borough Homes, evaluate options of how we can support the Big Local and Saracens FC to take forward the development of a new sustainable community facility in St Peter’s and the Moors</p>	<p>The Petersfield Community and Sports Hub will form a key part of the over-arching strategy to support the Moors estate. The hub building will not only be about sport, but it will create a key point for positive community interaction and support across the various agencies working across the area.</p> <p>To date the Petersfield Partnership has secured just over £1m and has appointed contractors to undertake the work.</p> <p>The next steps for the project are to secure in principle agreement from the Council for a lease and grant agreement to Petersfield Partnership and to close the funding gap between funds raised to date and the costs of delivering the project. Engagement is ongoing with relevant potential funding partners.</p>

	The council has secured £87k from the Office for the Police Crime Commissioner to commission the St. Giles Trust to employ an exploitation worker to assist with our ongoing work in the area.
Poundland	A project team has been established and is reviewing options for redevelopment of the site.
Purple Flag	Cheltenham has retained its Purple Flag Accreditation in 2024. CBC are in active discussions with Cheltenham BID (Business Improvement District) over who will take ownership of Purple Flag due to the retirement of the council's Evening and Night-time economy Coordinator in March.
Reduction in Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)	<p>Within the last 12 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solace have opened 131 cases of ASB for investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40 related to alcohol, drug related or public space nuisance - 67 related to hate crime, abuse, intimidation or stalking - 24 related to noise nuisance or social housing • Solace have applied for 24 civil injunctions against perpetrators of ASB & 3 closure of properties • Solace welcomed their first apprentice into the team for a two-year period from September 2023, this is a good indication that Community Safety & ASB is recognised as a priority in Cheltenham and is a topic of interest to education leavers. • Solace signed the ASB Pledge in partnership with OPCC and Cheltenham Borough Council as well as the five other local authorities within the County. This recognises both Solace's and CBC's commitment to tackling ASB and protecting victims through the ASB Case review process and existing partnership. <p>Via the Communities Partnership (Cheltenham's community safety partnership) funding has been secured for community safety related projects. Projects delivered in 2023/24 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bystander intervention training for organisations and nighttime economy venues • Installation of additional CCTV for St Marys and Regent Street • Installation of lighting in Sandford Park • Inclusion project support for 3 secondary schools, Bournside, All Saints Academy & Pittville • Street Storage pilot in partnership with CCP
Vacant Units and town centre land use efficiency action plan	<p>This was approved by Cabinet in Sept 2023. CBC and Cheltenham BID have committed to a focussed and sustained effort to reduce the number and impact of vacant properties in the town centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships have been established with town centre agents and enquiries from potential incoming operators are managed and referred accordingly. • Work to audit the town centre is well underway with an update on the latest vacancy rate due in the first quarter of 24-25. • Owners of units which are persistently vacant, or in need of repair are being contacted. • Work is underway with the Enforcement Officer to review units which are in need of remedial work and attention.

	<p>While longer term plans are established via the planning process, Cavendish House is temporarily occupied by a pop-up hub with 50 businesses in situ (June 2024) and more scheduled to join. The Marketing Cheltenham team are looking to work with the operator to promote this temporary business.</p> <p>A long-term vacant unit, the old Sports Direct on High Street, has been purchased for conversion to a nighttime economy venue. All updates on the action plan are published here: https://movingtocheltenham.com/vacant-units</p>
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UK Shared Prosperity fund

Background: Jan 2023, CBC received £1,178,035 from the UK Gov through UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Project 1: SME Carbon Reduction Support 2022/2023	CBC commissioned Zellar, the online sustainability platform, which enables businesses to calculate their carbon emissions and provides sustainable action plans detailing how to reduce their emissions. At 31/3/24 64 businesses have engaged against a target of 30. This has led to 462 sustainability actions being carried out by businesses.
Project 2: Safe Cycle Hub 2024/25	Options are currently being finalised to support increased cycle infrastructure across the town.
Project 3: Retrofit Street Funding 2024/2025	Vision 21 (under the Planet Cheltenham arm) have been successful in their proposal to deliver the retrofit streets project (now publicly branded as 'Future Fit Homes, Cheltenham'). A contract has been created and is awaiting signature. Project development will continue in QTR 1 with delivery beginning intensively in QTR2.
Project 4: SME Climate Capital Fund 2023/24 & 2024/25	Local businesses were invited to apply for a grant to implement capital works for new energy efficiency measures. Fund applications have now closed and applications are being assessed with payment due to successful applicants in April / May 2024.
Project 5: Electrical infrastructure 2024/25	Electrical infrastructure to reduce event delivery emissions. Options and estimated costings are currently reviewed.
Project 6: Climate Change Projects 2024/25	Assessments have been made in 2023. And from there, the climate change team at CBC will identify suitable projects for this funding.
Project 7: Construction and Skills School 2023/24	Funding was provided to the early stage of the construction and skills school which has now received all approvals and construction is underway.

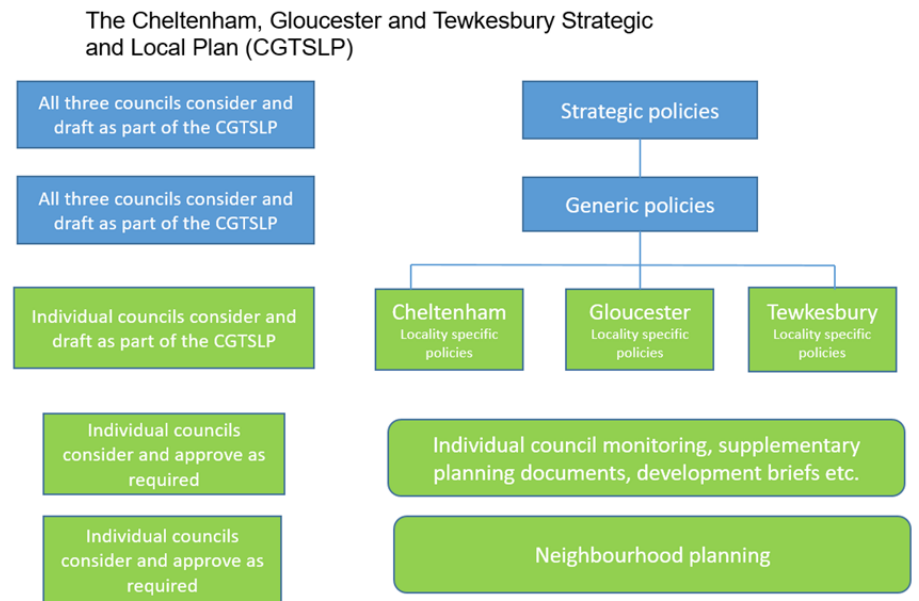
Project 8: Cheltenham Growth Hub 2023/24 & 2024/25	Funding enables The Growth Hub to provide free business support for existing or start-up businesses. The team can access funded resources for existing business owners looking at potential growth or dealing with issues in their business. The comprehensive business start-up advice service is free for anyone interested in setting up their own business. The service offers free access to mentors, peer networks, advice and events throughout the year. Advisors in Cheltenham are able to support businesses from all sectors but specialise in providing support to cyber-tech, digital and creative businesses, reflecting the high density of start-ups and SMES in the town from these sectors.
Project 9: Place Marketing and Inward Investment 2023/24 & 2024/25	Promoting Cheltenham as a place to do business via the Front Door Project.
Project 10: Dataface 2023/24 & 2024/25	Cheltenham Festivals is delivering this project which enables young people to tell stories they care about through gathering and presenting data. Engaged with 3700 learners to support their understanding of visual data presentation. Outputs are on track to be achieved.
Project 11: Connected Cheltenham 2024/25	This project is currently in development and will provide data about the impact of events and further understanding about visitors to Cheltenham.
Project 12: Employment Skills Hub Outreach 2024/25	Gloucestershire County Council will provide support for people who are furthest from the labour market to access advice and opportunities for learning and employment. This is a continuation of the GEM project which has worked successfully for a number of years.

Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan

The [Gloucester, Cheltenham, and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy](#) (JCS) adopted in December 2017 set the strategic direction for development up to 2031 and formed part of the statutory development plan of Cheltenham. The JCS is now being replaced by the preparation of the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan (CGTSLP). Key milestones were approved by Cabinet July 2023 via the [Local Development Scheme](#) (LDS)

The [CGTSLP](#) presents a fresh approach to plan making for our area and looks to build in greater efficiencies and continued commitment to cross boundary working. As summarised in the graphic below, the governance agreed builds in and ensures that localism and understanding our communities is at the heart of plan making.

The table below summarises the key milestones and progress to date on the CGTSLP.



The Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan (CGTSLP) (produced by Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council)	
Role and subject / Geographical coverage	<p>This will set out the development strategy; development requirements; policies (strategic and non-strategic) and site allocations for Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council.</p> <p>Strategic based policies – drafted jointly by Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council with the support of Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Cheltenham locality-based policies – drafted by Cheltenham Borough Council.</p>
When adopted, will replace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (adopted December 2017); ii. Cheltenham Plan (adopted July 2020); and iii. Remaining, yet to be replaced ‘saved’ retail policies of the Cheltenham Borough Local Plan Second Review (adopted June 2006).
Timetable – Key Stage¹	
Consultation on Spatial Options and Key Policy Areas (Regulation 18)	Formal consultation began in mid-January 2024 and ended in mid-March 2024.
Consultation on Preferred Options (Regulation 18)	Commencing March 2025
Consultation of Pre-submission (Regulation 19)	Commencing January 2026
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	April 2026
Stages below subject to Planning Inspector Programme)	
Hearings (sometimes referred to as Examination in Public ²) (Regulation 24) and Major Modifications Consultations (the latter if needed)	TBC
Inspector’s final report sent to LPA (Regulation 25)	TBC
Adoption (Regulation 26)	TBC

¹ Regulation references taken from [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 as amended](#)

² The examination begins when the Plan is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and is completed when the final report is sent to the Local Planning Authorities.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

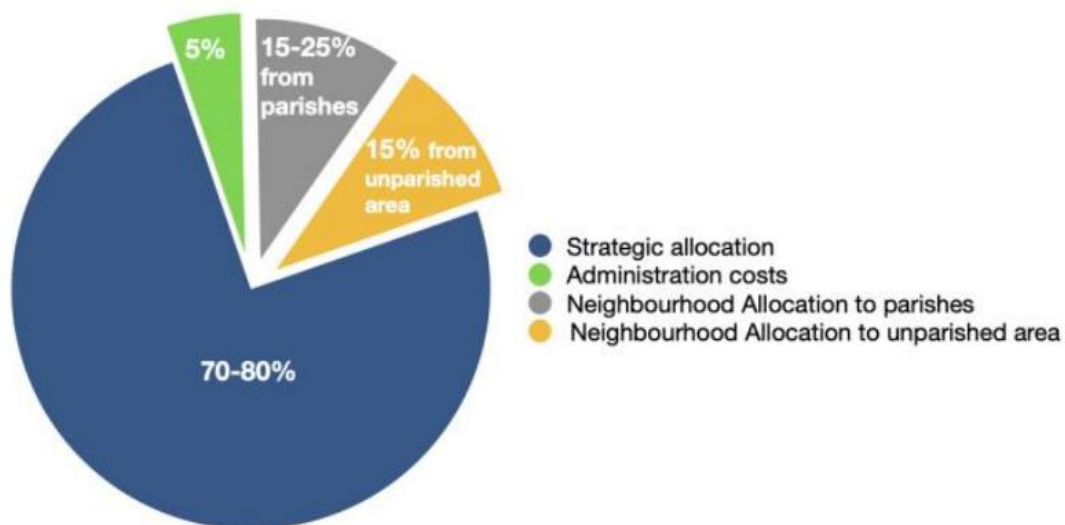
To ensure engagement with communities, stakeholders and businesses is locked into decision making across our planning functions, Council approved the refresh of the [Statement of Community Involvement](#) in December 2023. The SCI sets out:

- how we will consult and engage with the community during the preparation, production and implementation of local plans and supplementary planning documents
- how we will consult the community and stakeholders on planning applications and related development management processes

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Council is a CIL charging authority and approved the introduction of CIL October 2018 with the commencement of charging on planning applications granted permission on or after 1st January 2019. CIL in simple terms is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. It is an important tool for local authorities to use to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in their area.

Since 2019 the CIL pot has been slowly growing and values received reported annually via the council's statutory Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS), submitted to government. In line with CIL regulations, CIL is allocated according to national regulations along the following split.



Over the past 2 years cabinet and council have worked collectively to put in place clear governance regarding CIL.

Neighbourhood CIL: The value of neighbourhood CIL is recognised by all members. Within parished areas, the appropriate levels of CIL, as defined by the CIL regulations, is passed directly to the parish councils. In non-parished areas, the council has a responsibility to spend CIL accumulated on behalf of those communities. To facilitate in an open and transparent way the allocation of neighbourhood CIL funding, a new CIL Neighbourhood Panel was established. Training was provided to members and the Panel undertook a bidding round using the online portal Citizen Space January 2023. The bidding closed on 30th April 2023 and generated 26 projects identified by community groups and stakeholder, requesting a total of £450,000 worth of funding.

From the competitive bidding round, the Neighbourhood Panel recommended to Cabinet that £128,355.00 was allocated across 16 projects. These was approved on 11th July 2023, as summarised below.

Applicant	Project	Agreed allocation
SPJARA (St Philip and St James Area Residents' Association)	Bath Road Utility Box Decoration	£1,000.00
Borough Councillor Tony Oliver	Bournside Safe Crossing Campaign	£12,000.00
Friends of Sandford Parks (FOSP)	Safer Sandford	£13,000.00
Friends of Pittville	Sensory beds in Pittville Park	£1,000.00
Vision 21 Gloucestershire	Planet Cheltenham	£17,000.00
Benhall Residents' Association	Benhall Air Quality Survey	£3,500.00
Public Hearts Defibrillator Campaign	Public Hearts Defibrillator Campaign	£9,000.00
Hester's Way Partnership	Springbank Creative Youth Space	£12,000.00
Hesters Way Forum	Fiddlers Green Park Play Area Improvement Project	£12,000.00
Friends of King George V (KGV) Playing Field	KGV Perimeter Path Phase 1	£9,855.00
Councillor Garth Barnes, Cheltenham Borough Council	Regent Street Outdoor Café Culture Project	£10,000.00
Cheltenham Borough Council	Rowena Cade playground improvements	£10,000.00
Fairview Community Association	Cheltenham Cricket Club Disability Ramp	£3,000.00
We Create Cheltenham CIC	Honeybourne Honey	£2,500.00
Cheltenham Paint Festival	Cheltenham Paint Festival	£7,500.00
Springbank Community Group CIC	Reroofing the Ron Smith Pavilion – Phase 1	£5,000.00
	TOTAL	£128,355.00

Strategic CIL: In December 2023 Council agreed the establishment of a CIL joint Committee and a refreshed infrastructure list. Working with our partners Gloucester and Tewkesbury Council agreed to engage on a collective basis with infrastructure providers and build transparency into future CIL allocation and the setting of priorities through the operation of a Joint Committee. Gloucester and Tewkesbury made decisions January 2023 and the Joint Committee will be operation during 2024 with the first meeting anticipated September.

Income arising from CIL as of 23/5/24 was as follows:

Authority		Reg 61 - Admin		Reg 59A - Parish Neighbourhood	Reg 59F - District Neighbourhood	Reg 59(i) - Infrastructure	Total Inc	Total Exp	Total Bal
Cheltenham	Income	£249,899.79		£359,400.02	£180,767.10	£2,919,344.42	£3,709,411.33	£227,124.88	£3,482,286.45
	Expenditure/To Pool	£68,405.00	£179,672.61	£31,719.88	£127,000.00	£0.00			
	Balance	£1,822.19		£327,680.14	£53,767.10	£2,919,344.42			
Gloucester	Income	£145,787.56		£189,963.22	£144,359.44	£1,783,608.43	£2,263,718.65	£124,393.54	£2,139,325.11
	Expenditure/To Pool	£54,393.54	£82,795.47	£0.00	£70,000.00	£0.00			
	Balance	£8,598.55		£189,963.22	£74,359.44	£1,783,608.43			
Tewkesbury	Income	£647,052.98		£2,074,028.04		£9,712,873.40	£12,433,954.43	£104,560.92	£12,329,393.50
	Expenditure/To Pool	£35,478.54	£605,117.30	£69,082.38		£0.00			
	Balance	£6,457.14		£2,004,945.66		£9,712,873.40			
Total Inc		£1,042,740.33		£2,623,391.28	£325,126.54	£14,415,826.26	£18,407,084.41		
Total Exp		£158,277.08	£867,585.37	£100,802.26	£197,000.00	£0.00	£456,079.34		
Total Bal		£16,877.87		£2,522,589.02	£128,126.54	£14,415,826.26			£17,951,005.07

Review of Community Infrastructure Levy

It is important that the charging schedule which sets the financial levels of CIL are reviewed and tested. This is particularly relevant in a post Covid-19 environment where we have seen worldwide shifts in costs relating to development and construction. During 2024 we will be setting a programme for the review and examination of the Cheltenham CIL charging schedule.

CIL: process for change – Testing Gloucestershire shared challenges and opportunities

Further to consideration by the Gloucestershire Chief Executives Group in 2023 of Section 106 and CIL, Cheltenham has taken on the leadership of facilitating a countywide conversation between the 6 districts and county council. Focussing upon:

- leadership & resources
- governance
- policy & evidence
- systems & processes
- project delivery

A workshop was undertaken on 9th January 2024, facilitated by planning Advisory Service. This tested the above within the context of best practice nationally. A key outcome of the workshop was agreement and identification of area to focus change for improving cross-county governance of developer contributions. A task group has been formed with named representatives across the councils. Review of capacity and resources is ongoing to formulate a more detailed programme of activities alongside the resources required to deliver.

Key Priority 5 – Being a more modern, efficient and financially-sustainable council

<p>Montpellier Toilets</p>	<p>The refurbishment of Montpellier Gardens toilets began in April 2024 and is scheduled to be completed by September 2024. The refurbishment includes a Changing Places facility, gender neutral and family toilets and parity between male and female toilets for the first time on this site.</p> <p>See below for more info: Council agree design concept for the refurbishment of the Montpellier Gardens public toilets Cheltenham Borough Council</p>
<p>Residents Survey</p>	<p>The results shows that overall, 90% of Cheltenham residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. This is a 6% increase when compared to the 2019 results and 9% higher than the Local Government Association (LGA) national polling at 81%; and 89% of residents would recommend Cheltenham as a place to live and 80% of residents felt Cheltenham has a positive future.</p> <p>See below for more info: Results are in for 2022 independent residents' satisfaction survey Cheltenham Borough Council</p>
<p>Car Parking Strategy</p>	<p>A strategy is in draft and Cabinet are being consulted.</p>
<p>Clarence Fountain</p>	<p>Finished in 2022. New accessible space to sit, relax and enjoy, with a boost to nature and removal of artificial grass. Planting has been selected in line with the council's net zero ambitions.</p>
<p>Netcall</p>	<p>Netcall, through it's low-code platform, helps us to improve our customer experience, operational efficiency, and drive digital transformation. To date, the Commercial & Business Development team have designed, built and deployed the following applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netcall/Causeway Integrated Waste Management Solution for Waste & Recycling • Business Parking Permits • Bulky Waste Management Solution • HR Recruitment Applicant Tracker • HRC (Household Recycling Centre) Booking System • Waste Receptacle Ordering System (Agent only) • Waste & Recycling - Missed Collections <p>We are also in the process of developing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing Safeguarding Booking System • FOI (Freedom of Information) System

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allotments Management System (Paused)• Staff Parking Permits• SSO (single sign on) for internal use |
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