

Cheltenham Borough Council Council Minutes

Meeting date: 22 June 2026

Meeting time: 2.30 pm - 3.45 pm

In attendance:

Councillors:

Martin Horwood (Chair), Glenn Andrews, Victoria Atherstone, Paul Baker, Adrian Bamford, Graham Beale, Angie Boyes, Jackie Chelin, Barbara Clark, Julia Chandler, Flo Clucas, Mike Collins (Vice-Chair), Chris Day, Cathy Dearden, Iain Dobie, Callum Eldridge, Jan Foster, Steve Harvey, Rowena Hay, Sandra Holliday, Jamie Jamieson, Peter Jeffries, Richard Lawler, Alisha Lewis, Richard Pineger, Karen Priest, Arthur Snell, Dr Steve Steinhardt, Izaak Tailford, Simon Wheeler and Suzanne Williams

Also in attendance:

Claire Hughes (Director of Governance, Housing and Communities), Gareth Edmundson (Chief Executive) and Adele Taylor (Interim Director of Finance and Operations (S151 Officer))

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Barnes, Davies, Henderson, Joy, Pemberton, Sankey, Smith and Tooke.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor sent sympathy to Councillor Smith, following his recent bereavement.

2 Declarations of interest

The Mayor declared an interest in Agenda item 10, having been involved in the process from the start. He said he would withdraw during the debate.

Councillor Beale also declared an interest in Agenda item 10, as a Member of the parish council.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 04 June were approved without amendments, and signed by the Mayor as a true record.

4 Communications by the Mayor

The Mayor reported on a full first month in office, having attended more than 12 events, including meetings with Cheltenham Housing Aid Centre, the Samaritans and the Ukrainian Business Forum, and celebrations of D-Day and the launch of the Heritage Action Plan and map, a great initiative which celebrates Cheltenham's history and heritage. The Cheltenham Education Partnership event on climate change was a fantastic collaboration with schools from all sectors, and a fashion show at the University of Gloucestershire a stunning showcase of talented young people. He also attended degree shows and prize-givings, and the U3A Open Day.

5 Communications by the Leader of the Council

The Leader shared the following updates:

- OneLegal has been highly commended in the 'Excellence in Training' category for lawyers in local government; it is good to be acknowledged nationally and publicly, and a credit to the investment of the legal team, led by Shahzia Daya, in 'growing our own';
- it is exciting to have reached an important milestone in the Golden Valley journey, with all primary conditions met and work ready to commence in July. Huge thanks to all the officers and Members involved;
- a recent networking event at the MX brought many businesses and charities together under the Golden Valley Social Value Charter, with over 100 participants making valuable connections to help drive this forward. Thanks to Jack at HBD and Amy from CBC for pulling this together;
- Members were briefed at the last Council meeting on the government's decision on the statutory change order and its invitation to councils to submit their thoughts by 16 July. The seven Gloucestershire councils have collated their thoughts in one document, which is being shared with Members (attached); all responses reflect a consistent preference for a clear, collaborative and streamlined approach to LGR across the county. Summarising the response, she said that CBC supports:
 - in the case of a single unitary, the creation of a new council operating through the joint committee model rather than a preparing council and implementation executive, with balanced representation between the county and district/ borough/city councils and clear leadership arrangements;
 - a single implementation team, led by the county council chief executive, alongside aligned election arrangements and a single returning officer at county level;

- across all the options, including two-unitary models, joint committee structures and consistent governance, principles and practical arrangements that ensure smooth transition, clarity of leadership and strong local representation;
- measures to preserve Cheltenham's civic identity, including the use of charter trustees where necessary and a clear, county-wide approach to naming and electoral alignment.

She concluded saying that her overall preference is for a pragmatic and collaborative model that balances county leadership with meaningful district/borough/city involvement, to ensure stability and effective governance throughout that transition period. She said whatever the government does, CBC will continue to serve the people of Cheltenham first.

6 To receive petitions

There were none.

7 Public Questions

The following public question and response were taken as read:

Question from Emma Nelson to Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services, Councillor Flo Clucas

I see there now a Security Guard at the main entrance to the Municipal Offices. Why is this now deemed necessary, when was the change made, and what is the total annual cost to CBC for provision of this service?

Cabinet Member response

A security officer has been introduced in response to verbal and physically aggressive incidents in the public areas of the Municipal Offices, often targeted at staff. The frequency of incidents of this nature has increased over a period of time and notably so over the past six months. The presence of a security officer is intended to support the wellbeing of both colleagues and members of the public who work in and visit the offices.

This is a temporary six-month trial which commenced on 11 May 2026 and is part of a wider programme of improvements to enhance safety in the building. The cost will be a maximum of £23,000

8 Member Questions

One Member question had been received, with the response provided as follows:

Question from Councillor Chris Day to Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control, Councillor Paul Baker

The Planning Protocol which was in place prior to the updated Protocol approved by the Council on 18 May says: "A schedule of all requests [for referral to the Planning Committee], together with the reasons as to whether they [sic] why they were accepted or declined will be maintained by the Head of Planning"

Could the Cabinet Member please supply a list of ward councillor requests for a Planning Committee decision that have been declined over the last three years. I would be grateful if the list would identify the planning application reference, and whether the request was declined because (a) it was received outside of the 21 day time limit, (b) did not contain valid planning reasons or (c) for other reasons.

I would also be grateful if the date range covered by the response could be identified.

Cabinet Member response:

The following table relates to the time-period 01 April 2023 – to date.

Ref. No.	Proposal and Location	Committee Requested by	Decision	Chair of Planning Reason for Decision	Date delegated decision issued
26/00442/FUL	Self-build dwelling at Charlton Manor, Ashley Road.	Cllr Chris Day	Not called	Clear technical officer concerns that can be dealt with through officer decision.	27.05.26
26/00483/CONDIT	Variation of Con2. of 24/00399/FUL at The Folley Swindon Road	Cllr Flo Clucas	Not called	The variation does not affect the original decision. Layout and wildlife issues are being dealt with through officer input.	LIVE

26/00447/FUL	Rear balcony at 53 Leckhampton Road	Cllr Julia Chandler	Not called	Satisfied that visual impact will be mitigated by screening and vegetation and can be dealt with through officer decision.	22.05.26
25/00930/CONDIT	Variation of conditions 21 and 22 of planning permission ref. 20/01788/FUL land Shurdington Road	Cllr Martin Horwood	Not called	Councillor missed deadline 21-day deadline.	12.11.25
25/01712/FUL	Erection of 2no. Dwellings at former co-op Leckhampton Road.	Cllr Julia Chandler	Not called	Councillor missed deadline 21-day deadline.	LIVE
25/00286/CONDIT	Further extended use of vehicular construction access from Manor Road (Swindon Farm Phase 1)	Cllr Flo Clucas	Not called	Insufficient reasons given	09.04.2025
24/00073/FUL	12 months vehicular construction access from Manor Road (Swindon Farm Phase 1)	Cllr Flo Clucas	Not called	Insufficient reasons given	15.03.2024
24/00167/DISCON	Discharge of conditions 3 (design details) and 5 (minor ancillary works) at The Lodge, College	Cllr Garth Barnes	Not called	Outside remit of Planning Committee (discharge of conditions are always delegated)	27.06.2024

	Bath Road.				
23/001102/CLEUD	Use of land as a residential caravan site for 19 caravans at Woodlands Park, Swindon Lane	Cllr Fisher	Not called	Outside remit of Planning Committee (CLEUDS are always delegated	22.08.2023

Councillor Day thanked the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control for his response. He did not have a supplementary question.

9 Revisions to Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) Licensing policy

The Leader presented the report as published, saying it was the job of local authorities to administer the licensing regime in accordance with the law, taking no moral stand and recognising that sex establishments are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries. Licensing and regulation of SEVs is the preferred approach, minimising public protection and public safety risks. She said the licensing committee undertook informal engagement sessions with a wide range of key stakeholders before commencing the formal policy review, with outcomes from these sessions fully considered and some of them incorporated in the policy proposals. Proposed changes, and those rejected, are set out with full reasons in the report. A working group was set up in late 2025, and a short consultation on two further amendments (the designated permitted area (DPA) and changes to the list of relevant considerations for licensed premises) has been run; these have subsequently been included in the policy, with reasons set out in the report.

She said this is a sensitive subject and the council is fully committed to protecting residents and visitors, adding that it is heartening to see that the government has now committed to building a safer society for women and girls.

There were no Member questions.

In debate, Members welcomed the public consultation and introduction of the strongest, safest policy that the council can take forward at this time. They made following comments:

- thanks to the Leader, Cabinet, and licensing officers for the huge amount of time spent on this, and the former Chair of Licensing Committee for his proactive approach;
- Cheltenham is a proud festival town, and with the requirements for SEVs driven by visitors and operators coming to the town specifically for this. A nil approach would not be practical, but the proposed activity is limited to the town centre, away from residential areas;
- the exemption allows operators to set up without a licence, as long as they don't use the same venue more than once a month, for more than 24 hours in one session, or more than 11 times a year. This is not ideal but is hopefully being prioritised under the government's Violence against Women and Girls strategy, to ensure the safety of everyone, not just the performers;
- Cheltenham is rightly proud of its accredited Purple Flag area, which promotes a safe and welcoming town centre;
- the new chair of Licensing Committee and the newly-appointed Cabinet Member for Safety and Communities are urged to continue work around the exemption rules.

The Cabinet Member for Safety and Communities thanked the Leader and Members for their comments and agreed with all the conclusions of this long and methodical process, which protect performers' welfare, ensure premises are properly inspected, and make sure operators are aware of their legal responsibilities, whilst maintaining good professional working relationships with CBC.

The Leader added thanks to Louis Krog and Michelle Bignell for all their hard work.

Members voted unanimously to approved the recommendations.

RESOLVED THAT:

- **the consultation feedback is noted;**
- **the revised policy document attached at Appendix 6 is adopted.**

10 The 'making' of the Leckhampton with Warden Hill Neighbourhood Plan

Having declared an interest in this item, the Mayor handed the Chair to the Deputy Mayor.

Introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control said that, on behalf of the parish council, the Mayor has been a huge driver of this process, which started its journey in 2015. The outcome is testimony to the determination, focus and commitment of everyone involved – parish councillors, borough councillors and officers – and, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, will allow the community to play a greater part in the planning process, focussing on its priorities and ensuring its local character is preserved. He noted the high level of public approval, which demonstrates the strong connection between the community and the parish council, and was delighted to propose that the neighbourhood plan be adopted.

There were no questions.

In debate, Members welcomed the report and made the following comments:

- the Neighbourhood Plan has been ten years in the making and involved many people, with thousands taking part in the consultations. The community's aspirations, together with its character and heritage, will now have to be taken into account in planning decisions; this is a great result;
- this experience and outcome should be used as a model going forward to other areas of the town with similar aspirations;
- from a climate and environmental point of view, this is a great result and will make a positive difference. It shows that the parish council takes environmental issues seriously, and it will help with CBC's mission going forward;
- this is an enormous and outstanding achievement – congratulations to all in Leckhampton with Warden Hill parish – but anywhere in Cheltenham can do the same, not just parished areas. A neighbourhood forum needs to be created first, which can be a challenge, but hopefully this success will make it a little bit easier going forward.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control thanked Members for their positive comments, and added that another key positive is that the neighbourhood share of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) receipts increase from 15 to 25% with the neighbourhood plan in place – a significant benefit for the community.

RESOLVED THAT:

- a) Council approves the request to 'make' the Leckhampton with Warden Hill Neighbourhood Plan at Appendix 3, as part of Cheltenham Borough Council statutory Development Plan following the outcome of the positive referendum result;**
- b) authority is delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in agreement with the Qualifying Body (Parish Council), to correct any minor errors such as spelling, grammar, typographical formatting, and clarify policy mapping that do not materially affect the substantive content of the Plan;**
- c) authority is delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control, to prepare the decision statement for publication.**

Unanimous

Returning to the chair, the Mayor thanked Members for their support, saying the last eight years have been an amazing exercise and great learning process for him, helping to create the first neighbourhood plan in Cheltenham.

11 Notice of Motions

There were no motions.

12 Any other item the Mayor determines as urgent and which requires a decision

There were none.

13 Local Government Act 1972 -Exempt Information

RESOLVED THAT:

- in accordance with Section 100A(4) Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining agenda items as it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public are present there will be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5, Part (1) Schedule (12A) Local Government Act 1972, namely:

Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Paragraph 5: Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

14 Exempt Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 04 June were approved and signed as a true record.

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REPRESENTATION IN THE CASE OF A SINGLE UNITARY AUTHORITY FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Question	Response
Would you prefer a preparing council and implementation executive model (where geographies align) or a new council model with a joint committee?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer a new council with a Joint Committee Cotswold District Council would prefer a preparing council with an Implementation Executive Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government
How many members from each relevant council would you prefer to sit on the Implementation Executive/Joint Committee, including the balance from different councils?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer a Joint Committee of 12 persons comprised as follows: 6 persons from the County Council 6 persons from the City, Borough, District Councils (1 from each) Stroud District Council would prefer a Joint Committee of 14 persons comprised as follows: 2 persons from each of the County Council, City, Borough, District Councils (2 from each) Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government
Would you prefer for any individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles, and if so, who?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer for individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles and these individuals should be Chair: Leader of the County Council Deputy: Leader of one of the City/District or Borough Councils Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.

Question	Response
What are your views on any requirement for political balance in the implementation executive/joint committee(s)?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Stroud District Council do not believe there should be a requirement for political balance in the Implementation Executive/Joint Committee. Tewkesbury Borough Council did not provide a view on the requirement for political balance in the Implementation Executive/Joint Committee. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government
What would be your preferences for the membership of the Implementation Team and whether roles should be specified?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer that there is one Implementation Team comprising officers from county council and chief executives from each of the district councils. The leader of the Implementation Team should be the Chief Executive of the County Council and the deputy leader of the Implementation Team should be one of the Chief Executives from one of the City/District/Borough councils. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government
Who should be the returning officer for the first election to each of the new unitary councils that proposals would see established?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the returning officer should be the Gloucestershire County Council Chief Executive. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.

Question	Response
Would you prefer the SCO to align future parish council elections with those of the new councils?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer that the SCO aligns future parish council elections with those of the new council. There is an expectation that government will seek a view from Town and Parish Councils as separate legal entities to the seven existing county, city, borough and district councils. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.
What are the current legal names of the councils?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council confirm that the current legal names of the councils are: • Cheltenham Borough Council • Cotswold District Council • Forest of Dean District Council • Gloucester City Council • Gloucestershire County Council • Stroud District Council • Tewkesbury Borough Council
What would be your preferred name for the new council?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the preferred name for the new council is Gloucestershire Council. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.

Question	Response
If different to proposals, has there been any further modelling of your preferred councillors for each new council that you would like the Secretary of State to consider, alongside any information on the rationale for the numbers?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council confirm that no further modelling has been undertaken. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.
Question for 17 August or before: What are your suggested wards, that reflect the proposal and councillor numbers decided, and that best meet the LGBCE guidance, for inclusion in the SCO?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council suggest that warding is based on existing county council divisions – 55 divisions, 2 members per division making 110 members Gloucester City Council has not provided a response to this question as at the date of submission. Stroud District Council has not provided a response to this question at this time but will respond to this question by the deadline of 17 August 2026. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.

Additional Question asked of all Gloucestershire Councils

Question	Response
What arrangements are required for the transfer of any civic or ceremonial functions?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Stroud District Council agree that in the event of alternative arrangements not being in place by Vesting Day (i.e. through the creation of town councils) the SCO should establish Charter Trustees to preserve the civic and ceremonial functions of the City of Gloucester and the Borough of Cheltenham. Tewkesbury Borough Council did not raise this question when seeking agreement of their response. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government

REPRESENTATION IN THE CASE OF TWO UNITARY AUTHORITIES FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE (EAST and WEST)

Question	Response
Would you prefer a preparing council and implementation executive model (where geographies align) or a new council model with a joint committee?	The option of a preparing council is only available in the case of one unitary authority

Question	Response	
How many members from each relevant council would you prefer to sit on the Implementation Executive/Joint Committee, including the balance from different councils?	EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer a Joint Committee for East Gloucestershire of 12 persons comprised as follows: 6 persons from Gloucestershire County Council each of whom shall be a member for a division within the area for East Gloucestershire 2 persons from Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council Stroud District Council would prefer a Joint Committee of 12 persons comprised as follows: 3 persons from each of Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government	WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer a Joint Committee for West Gloucestershire of 12 persons comprised as follows: 6 persons from Gloucestershire County Council each of whom shall be a member for a division within the area for West Gloucestershire 2 persons from Gloucester City Council, Forest of Dean Council and Stroud District Council Stroud District Council would prefer a Joint Committee of 12 persons comprised as follows: 3 persons from each of Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucester City Council, Forest of Dean Council and Stroud District Council. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government

Question	Response	
Would you prefer for any individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles, and if so, who?	EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer for this to be a decision for each Joint Committee but with the principle of the Chair being from either the County or relevant district/borough council with the Deputy Chair being from the opposite tier to that of the selected Chair Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer for this to be a decision for each Joint Committee but with the principle of the Chair being from either the County or relevant district/borough council with the Deputy Chair being from the opposite tier to that of the selected Chair Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.
What are your views on any requirement for political balance in the implementation executive/joint committee(s)?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Stroud District Council do not believe there should be a requirement for political balance in the Implementation Executive/Joint Committee. Tewkesbury Borough Council did not provide a view on the requirement for political balance in the Implementation Executive/Joint Committee. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government	

Question	Response	
What would be your preferences for the membership of the Implementation Team and whether roles should be specified?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer that there is one Implementation Team comprising officers from county council and chief executives from each of the district councils. The leader of the Implementation Team should be the Chief Executive of the County Council and there will be two deputy leaders of the Implementation Team one being the Chief Executive of a district/borough/City council within the area of East Gloucestershire and one being the Chief Executive of a district or borough council within the area of West Gloucestershire. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government	
Who should be the returning officer for the first election to each of the new unitary councils that proposals would see established?	EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the returning officer should be a Chief Executive from one of the Borough or District Councils within the area of East Gloucestershire Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the returning officer should be a Chief Executive from one of the Borough, District or City Councils within the area of West Gloucestershire Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.

Question	Response
Would you prefer the SCO to align future parish council elections with those of the new councils?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer that the SCO aligns future parish council elections with those of the new council. There is an expectation that government will seek a view from Town and Parish Councils as separate legal entities to the seven existing county, city, borough and district councils. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.
What are the current legal names of the councils?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council confirm that the current legal names of the councils are: • Cheltenham Borough Council • Cotswold District Council • Forest of Dean District Council • Gloucester City Council • Gloucestershire County Council • Stroud District Council • Tewkesbury Borough Council

Question	Response	
What would be your preferred name for the new council?	EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the preferred name for the new council is East Gloucestershire Council. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the preferred name for the new council is West Gloucestershire Council. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.
If different to proposals, has there been any further modelling of your preferred councillors for each new council that you would like the Secretary of State to consider, alongside any information on the rationale for the numbers?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council confirm that no further modelling has been undertaken. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	

Question	Response	
Question for 17 August or before: What are your suggested wards, that reflect the proposal and councillor numbers decided, and that best meet the LGBCE guidance, for inclusion in the SCO?	EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council suggest 26 wards, based on existing County Council divisions, each electing 2 councillors (52 in total). Existing division names to be retained. Stroud District Council have not provided a response to this question at this time but will respond to this question by the deadline of 17 August 2026. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council suggest 29 wards, based on existing County Council divisions, each electing 2 councillors (58 in total). Existing division names to be retained. Stroud District Council have not provided a response to this question at this time but will respond to this question by the deadline of 17 August 2026. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.

Additional Question asked of all Gloucestershire Councils

Question	Response
What arrangements are required for the transfer of any civic or ceremonial functions?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Stroud District Council agree that in the event of alternative arrangements not being in place by Vesting Day (i.e. through the creation of town councils) the SCO should establish Charter Trustees to preserve the civic and ceremonial functions of the City of Gloucester and the Borough of Cheltenham. Tewkesbury Borough Council did not raise this question when seeking agreement of their response. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government

**REPRESENTATION IN THE CASE OF TWO UNITARY AUTHORITIES FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE
(GREATER GLOUCESTER AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE)**

Question	Response
Would you prefer a preparing council and implementation executive model (where geographies align) or a new council model with a joint committee?	The option of a preparing council is only available in the case of one unitary authority

How many members from each relevant council would you prefer to sit on the Implementation Executive/Joint Committee, including the balance from different councils?	GREATER GLOUCESTER Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer a Joint Committee for East Gloucestershire of 12 persons comprised as follows: 6 persons from the County Council each of whom shall be a member for a division within the area of Greater Gloucester 3 persons from Gloucester City Council one of whom must be the Leader of the Council 1 person from Forest of Dean Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council Stroud District Council would prefer a Joint Committee of 9 persons comprised as follows: 3 persons from Gloucestershire County Council, 3 persons from Gloucester City Council 1 person from each of Forest of Dean Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government	GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer a Joint Committee for West Gloucestershire of 10 persons comprised as follows: 5 persons from the County Council each of whom shall be a member for a division within the area for Gloucestershire persons from Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council Stroud District Council would prefer a Joint Committee of 12 persons comprised as follows: 2 persons from Gloucestershire County Council 2 Persons from each of Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government
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Question	Response	
Would you prefer for any individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles, and if so, who?	GREATER GLOUCESTER Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer for individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles and these individuals should be: Chair: Leader of the Gloucester City Council Deputy: Cabinet Member of Gloucestershire County Council representing a ward from within the Greater Gloucester Area Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer for individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles and these individuals should be: Chair: Leader of the County Council (on the basis they represent a ward outside the Greater Gloucester Council area) Deputy: Leader from district/borough council within the Gloucestershire Council area Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.
What are your views on any requirement for political balance in the implementation executive/joint committee(s)?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Stroud District Council do not believe there should be a requirement for political balance in the Implementation Executive/Joint Committee. Tewkesbury Borough Council did not provide a view on the requirement for political balance in the Implementation Executive/Joint Committee. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government	

Question	Response	
What would be your preferences for the membership of the Implementation Team and whether roles should be specified?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer that there is one Implementation Team comprising officers from county council and chief executives from each of the district councils. The leader of the Implementation Team should be the Chief Executive of the County Council. There should be two deputy leaders – one should be the Chief Executive of Gloucester City Council; the other should be one of the Chief Executives from one of the remaining District/Borough councils. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government	
Who should be the returning officer for the first election to each of the new unitary councils that proposals would see established?	GREATER GLOUCESTER Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the returning officer should be the Chief Executive from Gloucester City Council Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the returning officer should be the Chief Executive of Gloucestershire County Council Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.

Question	Response
Would you prefer the SCO to align future parish council elections with those of the new councils?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council would prefer that the SCO aligns future parish council elections with those of the new council. There is an expectation that government will seek a view from Town and Parish Councils as separate legal entities to the seven existing county, city, borough and district councils. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.
What are the current legal names of the councils?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council confirm that the current legal names of the councils are: • Cheltenham Borough Council • Cotswold District Council • Forest of Dean District Council • Gloucester City Council • Gloucestershire County Council • Stroud District Council • Tewkesbury Borough Council Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government and therefore have not confirmed the legal name of Forest of Dean District Council.

Question	Response	
What would be your preferred name for the new council?	GREATER GLOUCESTER Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the preferred name for the new council is Greater Gloucester Council. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council agree that the preferred name for the new council is Gloucestershire Council. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.
If different to proposals, has there been any further modelling of your preferred councillors for each new council that you would like the Secretary of State to consider, alongside any information on the rationale for the numbers?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council confirm that no further modelling has been undertaken. Gloucester City Council is undertaking some further modelling and may submit additional information by separate cover. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	

Question	Response	
Question for 17 August or before: What are your suggested wards, that reflect the proposal and councillor numbers decided, and that best meet the LGBCE guidance, for inclusion in the SCO?	GREATER GLOUCESTER Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council and Tewkesbury Council suggest wards based on 18 existing City Council wards for the surrounding parishes coming in (based on parish council building blocks) Gloucestershire County Council understand that Gloucester City Council is undertaking further work on warding proposals and may make further representations by 17 August deadline. Gloucester City Council have not provided a response to this question as at the date of submission. Stroud District Council have not provided a response to this question at this time but will respond to this question by the deadline of 17 August 2026. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.	GLOUCESTERSHIRE Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council and Tewkesbury Council suggest wards based on County Council divisions, two members per division with one division only having one member as will be split with Greater Gloucester. Gloucestershire County Council understand that Gloucester City Council is undertaking further work on warding proposals and may make further representations by 17 August deadline. Gloucester City Council have not provided a response to this question as at the date of submission. Stroud District Council have not provided a response to this question at this time but will respond to this question by the deadline of 17 August 2026. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government.

Additional Question asked of all Gloucestershire Councils

Question	Response
What arrangements are required for the transfer of any civic or ceremonial functions?	Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council and Stroud District Council agree that in the event of alternative arrangements not being in place by Vesting Day (i.e. through the creation of town councils) the SCO should establish Charter Trustees to preserve the civic and ceremonial functions of the City of Gloucester and the Borough of Cheltenham. Tewkesbury Borough Council did not raise this question when seeking agreement of their response. Forest of Dean Council decided to delay submitting a representation pending further information or clarity from Government

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