

23rd September 2024



To Members of Council

You are hereby summoned to a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL to be held on **Monday, 9th December 2024 at 7.30pm** at Congregational Church Hall, Bedford Street, Stroud, GL5 1AY to conduct the following business.

Helen Bojaniwska
Chief Executive Officer (Town Clerk)

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive declarations of interest or requests for dispensations
3. To approve the minutes of the meetings of 30th September 2024 previously circulated
4. To receive the Mayor's remarks
5. To receive questions from members of the public
6. To receive reports from County and District Councillors (for information only)
7. To receive the CEO's Report (for information only)
8. To note the outcome of the review of County Council Division Boundaries
9. To approve meeting dates for 2025-26
10. To appoint Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils to complete the Council's internal audit for 2024-25
11. To receive reports on internal control checks conducted in August and November 2024
12. To consider a response to a government consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings
13. To consider a response to Stroud District Council's consultation on their draft Council Plan for Stroud District
14. To receive a report on relocation to Locking Hill
15. To resolve to opt to tax Locking Hill
16. To approve a contract for Phase 1 works at Locking Hill
17. To approve a contract for new play equipment at Park Gardens
18. To receive Committee and Working Group reports, previously circulated, as follows:

Finance & Policy Committee	23 rd September
Regeneration Working Group	3 rd October and 21 st November 2024
Consultations & Highways Committee	14 th October and 11 th November 2024
Personnel Committee	21 st October 2024
Environment Committee	5 th November 2024
Community Committee	18 th November 2024

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith, marital status and disability); Crime and Disorder (Section 17); Health and Safety; and Human Rights.

Cath Moore

Stroud District Councillor Report 21st November 2024

Since the last STC meeting I have chaired my first meeting as chair of the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Working Group which leads on these issues across all areas of SDC business.

Ismail Kholwadi who is the Chief Executive of the Friendship Café (pay it a visit if you haven't been already – an exceptional community activity hub) in Gloucester spoke at the meeting about his film initiative Unreflected Reflections. A screening of the second film in the Unreflected Reflections series, looking at the history of the Muslim population of Gloucester was arranged. Work has begun on developing the new EDIE policy, due to be published in April 2025. Work is progressing and being monitored on a wide range of initiatives – including monitoring staff recruitment and reasons for leaving and reviewing training needs.

Mandatory EDIE training was offered to all councillors this month. Hopefully everyone took it up.

I attended a Black History Month session in the council chamber looking at the contributions of black and minority ethnic military personnel over the past couple of hundred years.

We had a full council meeting on October 24th. There was a motion put forward by a Conservative Councillor seeking to condemn the winter fuel allowance changes. This was amended to emphasise a will to tackle all kinds of fuel poverty and was passed.

A motion asking SDC to support a Fossil Fuel non-proliferation treaty was passed.

Also passed as a motion submitted by Cllr Elizabeth Stanley asking the council to reinforce its commitment to racial equality – specifically via its updated EDIE policy.

The other main thing which happened was the agreement in principle of the Council's new Cultural Strategy. There was debate about this being seen as a little bit 'woolly' and an amendment was put to the original motion ensuring that going forward, new developments in this area are continually ratified by the Community Services and Licensing Committee.

I attended a meeting detailing the results of the Private Housing Conditions Survey which looked at the situation of housing across the private owner occupied and rented sector. Around 7 per cent fall into the non decent category (14 per cent nationally). This is largely due to excess cold, people falling on steps/stairs and dampness and mould. Fuel poverty was looked at but the way fuel poverty is calculated in England (Band D or lower and low income) does not seem to me to give a proper picture of true fuel poverty). 7.5 per cent of people on this metric were in Fuel Poverty. The biggest problem to me that came out of this is regarding the private rental sector where housing benefit allocation does not reflect the reality of rents in our area. Stroud 'market rent' is assessed together with Gloucester and the Forest of Dean and in fact our rents are much higher. This is an issue which we should be lobbying to alter in my view.

I also attended training on homelessness/homelessness prevention. Those at risk of homelessness has risen by 22% in the past year which is a lower rise than the year before. There are currently 50 households in temporary accommodation in the district and around 350 households were contacted by the council in order to prevent them becoming imminently homeless.

From: _WEB_Elections <Elections@stroud.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2024 4:42:50 PM
To: _DL_PARISH&TOWN CLERKS <Parish&Town@stroud.gov.uk>
Subject: Outcome of Review - Gloucestershire County boundaries

Good afternoon

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) have recently undertaken a review of the Gloucestershire County Council boundaries between 2013-2014. Stroud currently has 10 county divisions, however the outcome of the review has concluded that Stroud will now have 11 county divisions with the new division called 'Haresfield & Upton St Leonards'.

The final recommendations can be found [here](#).

Attached are the maps for the new divisions from the final recommendations along with a breakdown of which polling districts will now make up the new county divisions including any changes.

The changes to the county divisions will come into force on the next scheduled elections which will be Thursday 1 May 2025.

We are looking to republish our electoral register mid-January which will list the changes to the county divisions under 'future areas' and will also include the amendments the polling districts for the Parishes of Hamfallow and Ranwick and Westrip which are currently having a Polling District Review undertaken due to changes from the LGBCE on their warding arrangements.

Attached also is a copy our social media post advertising the changes. We would be grateful if you could also publicise the changes from the LGBCE review on any social media platforms in which you have.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards



Rebecca Poole (AEA Cert)
(She/Her)

Democracy and Information
Governance Officer

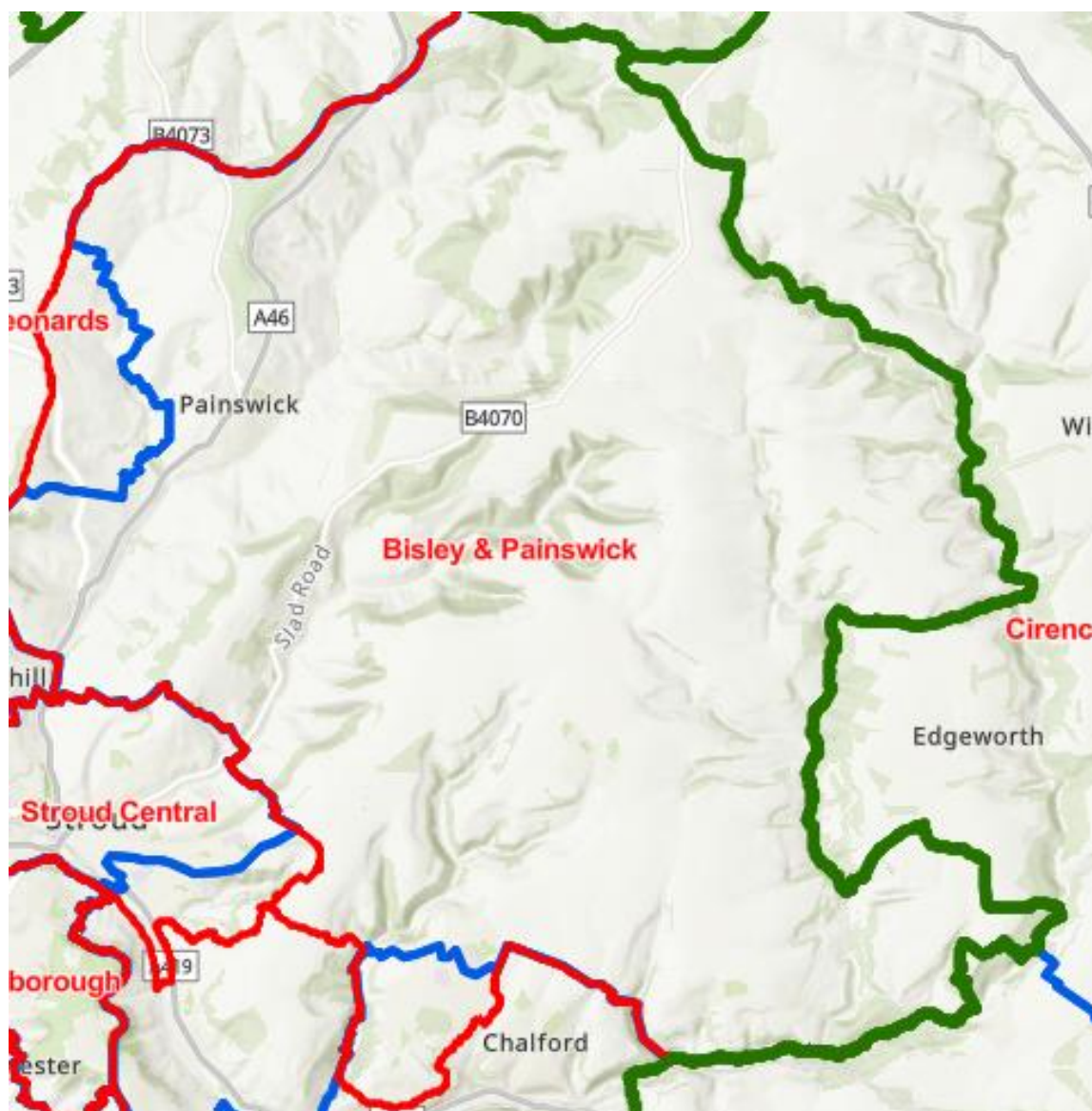
Stroud District Council

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Bisley & Painswick County Division
 LGBCE final recommendation (map 1)



Note: Draft recommendation was to include Painswick (Edge Ward) under Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division (blue line in map), however at the final recommendations it was resorted back to be retained in Bisley & Painswick County Division.

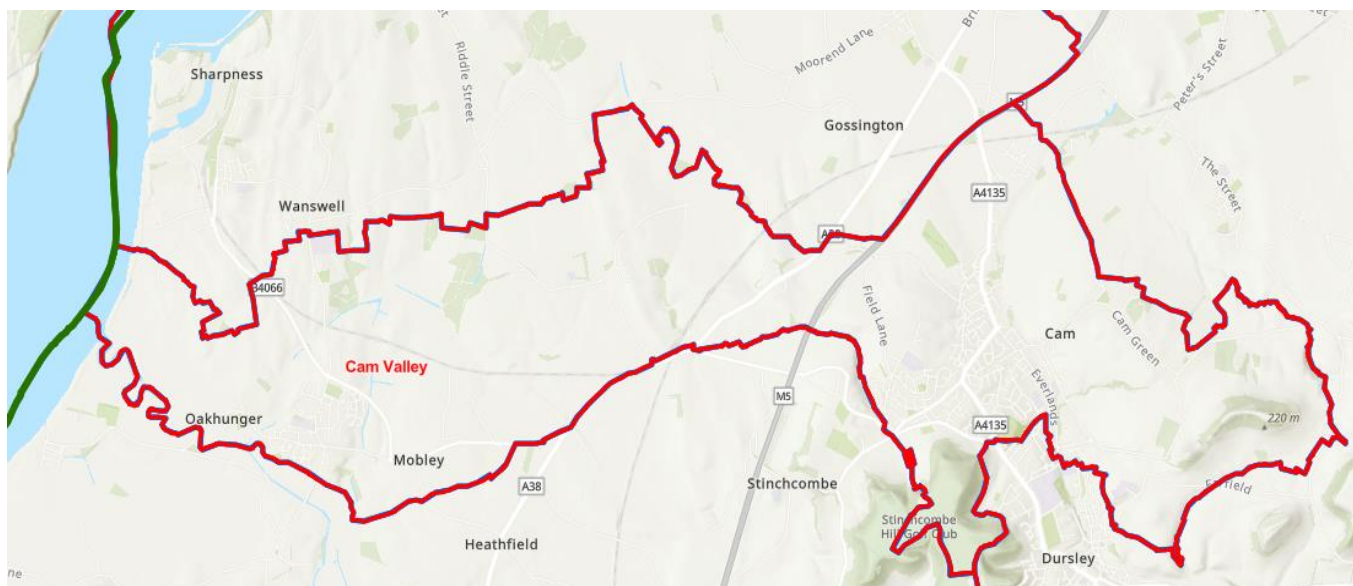
Bisley & Painswick County Division will be made up of:

BA	Bisley (Bisley Ward)	No change
BB	Bisley (Eastcombe Ward)	No change
BC	Bisley (Oakridge Ward)	No change
CHA	Chalford (Bussage Div 1)	Change, see below
CHB	Chalford (Bussage Div 2)	Change, see below
PUA	Cranham	No change
PUB	Miserden	No change
PUC	Painswick (Edge Ward)	No change
PUD	Painswick (Painswick Ward)	No change
PUE	Painswick (Sheepscombe Ward)	No change
PUF	Painswick (Slad Ward)	No change
PUG	Pitchcombe	No change

Outcomes:

1. The following polling districts to be moved from Minchinhampton County Division to Bisley & Painswick County Division:
 - a. CHA (Chalford, Bussage Div 1)
 - b. CHB (Chalford, Bussage Div 2)
2. The following polling districts to be removed from Bisley & Painswick County Division and added to Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division:
 - a. HA (Brookthorpe with Whaddon)
 - b. HD (Harescombe)
 - c. PUH (Upton St Leonards Div 1)
 - d. PUI (Upton St Leonards Div 2)
 - e. RWRB (Randwick, Randwick Ward)
 - f. RWRC (Whiteshill)

Cam Valley County Division
 LGBCE final recommendation (map 2)



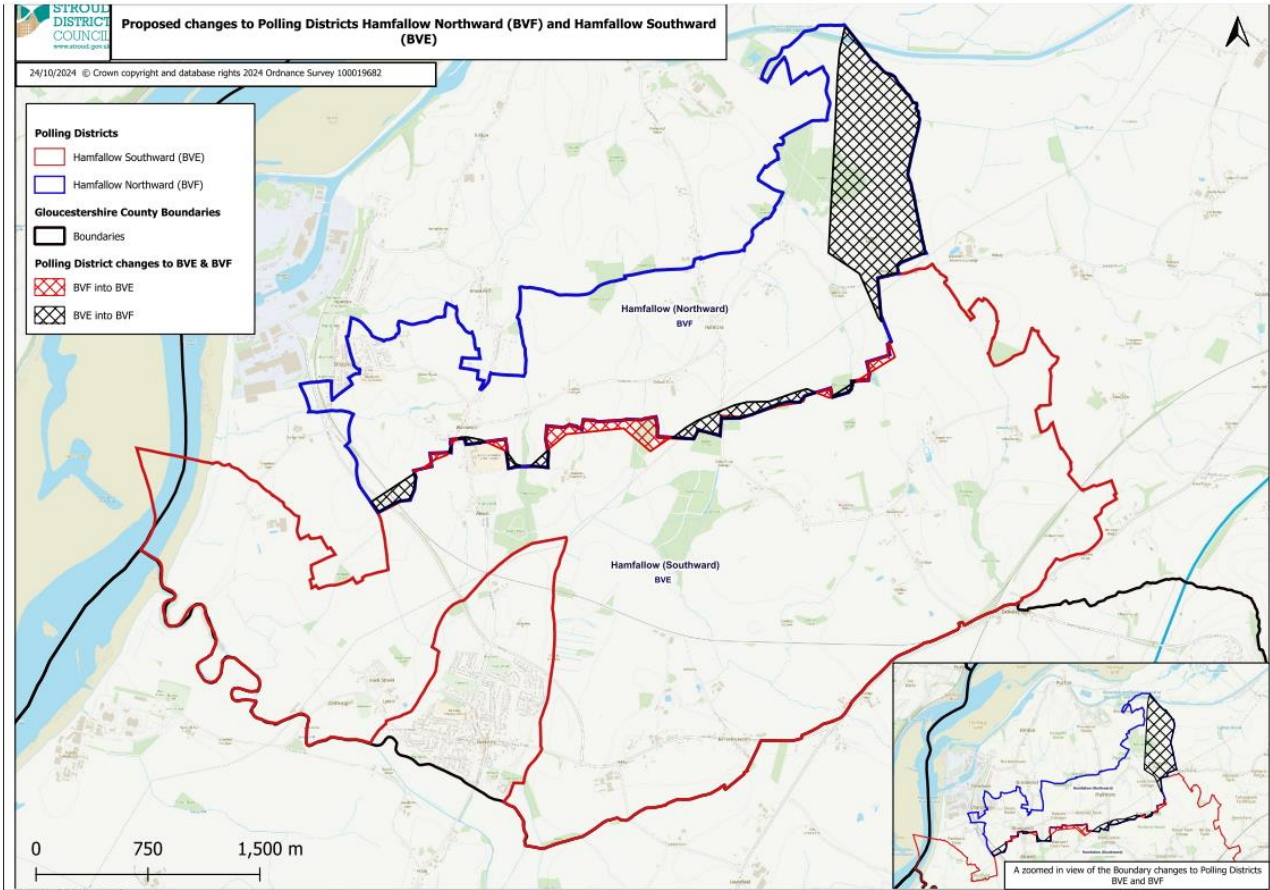
Cam Valley County Division will be made up of:

BVB	Berkeley	No change
BVE	Hamfallow (South Ward)	Change, see above
CEA	Cam East Div 1	No change
CEB	Cam East Div 2	No change
CWA	Cam West Div 1	No change
CWB	Cam West Div 2	No change

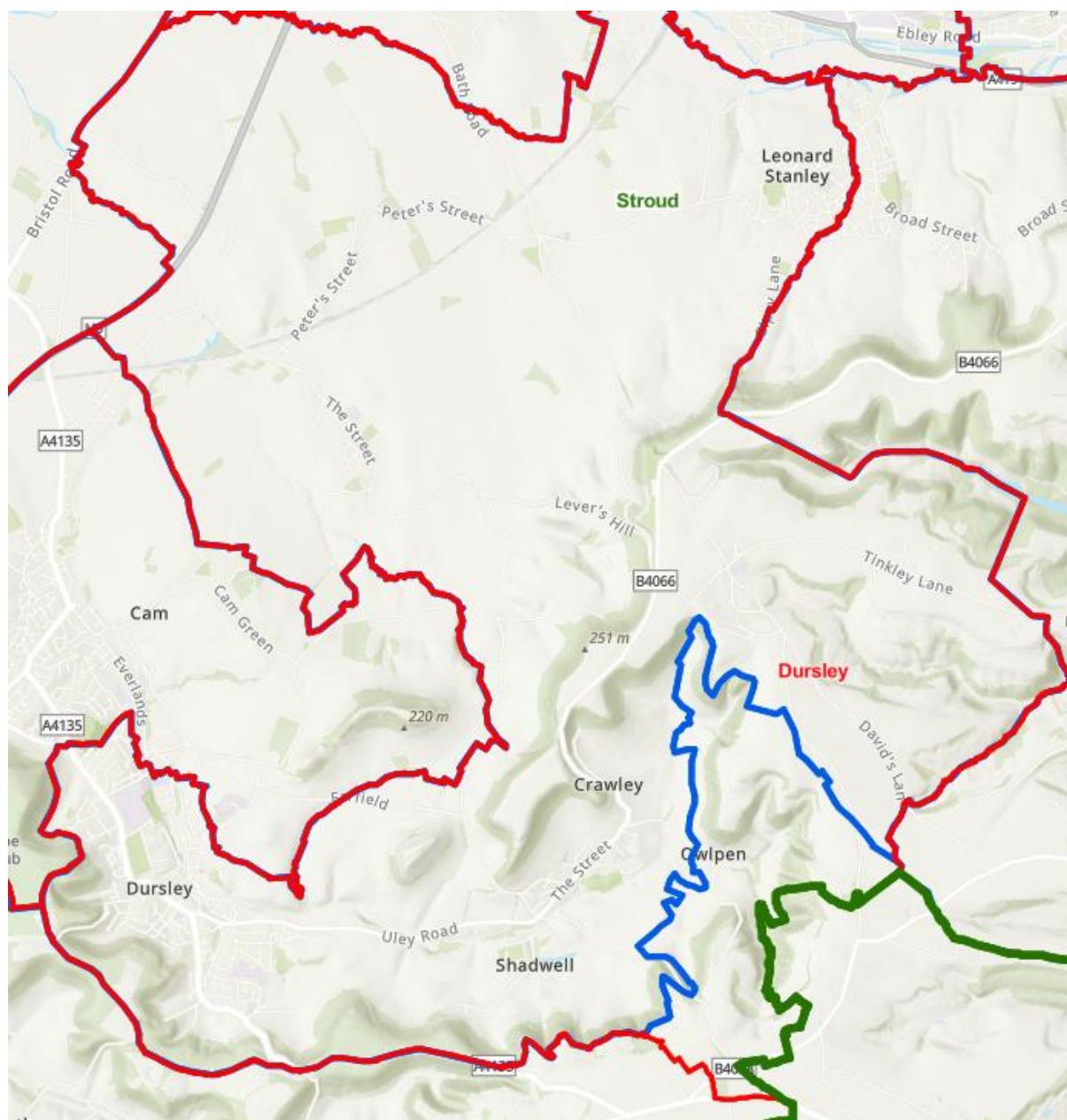
Outcomes:

1. Alteration to the Hamfallow Parish to create two parish wards and removing the Div 1 and Div 2 references.
2. Rename of BVE Hamfallow (Div 1) to Hamfallow (South Ward) (map 3)
3. BVE, Hamfallow (South Ward) polling district has been amended so that the boundary continues along Slimbridge Lane meaning a triangle of properties in the North East have moved into BVF, Hamfallow (North Ward) – (map 3)
4. BVE, Hamfallow (South Ward) northern boundary has been altered to allow more natural boundary lines.
5. Councillors allocated to new Parish wards are as follows (still 9 but split):
 - a. Hamfallow North – 5 Councillors
 - b. Hamfallow South – 4 Councillors
6. The following polling districts to be moved from Cam Valley County Division into Hardwicke & Severn County Division:
 - a. BVF Hamfallow (North Ward)
 - b. BVG (Hinton, Sharpness)

New warding arrangements and areas being moved between BVE and BVF (Map 3):



Dursley County Division
 LGBCE final recommendations (map 4)

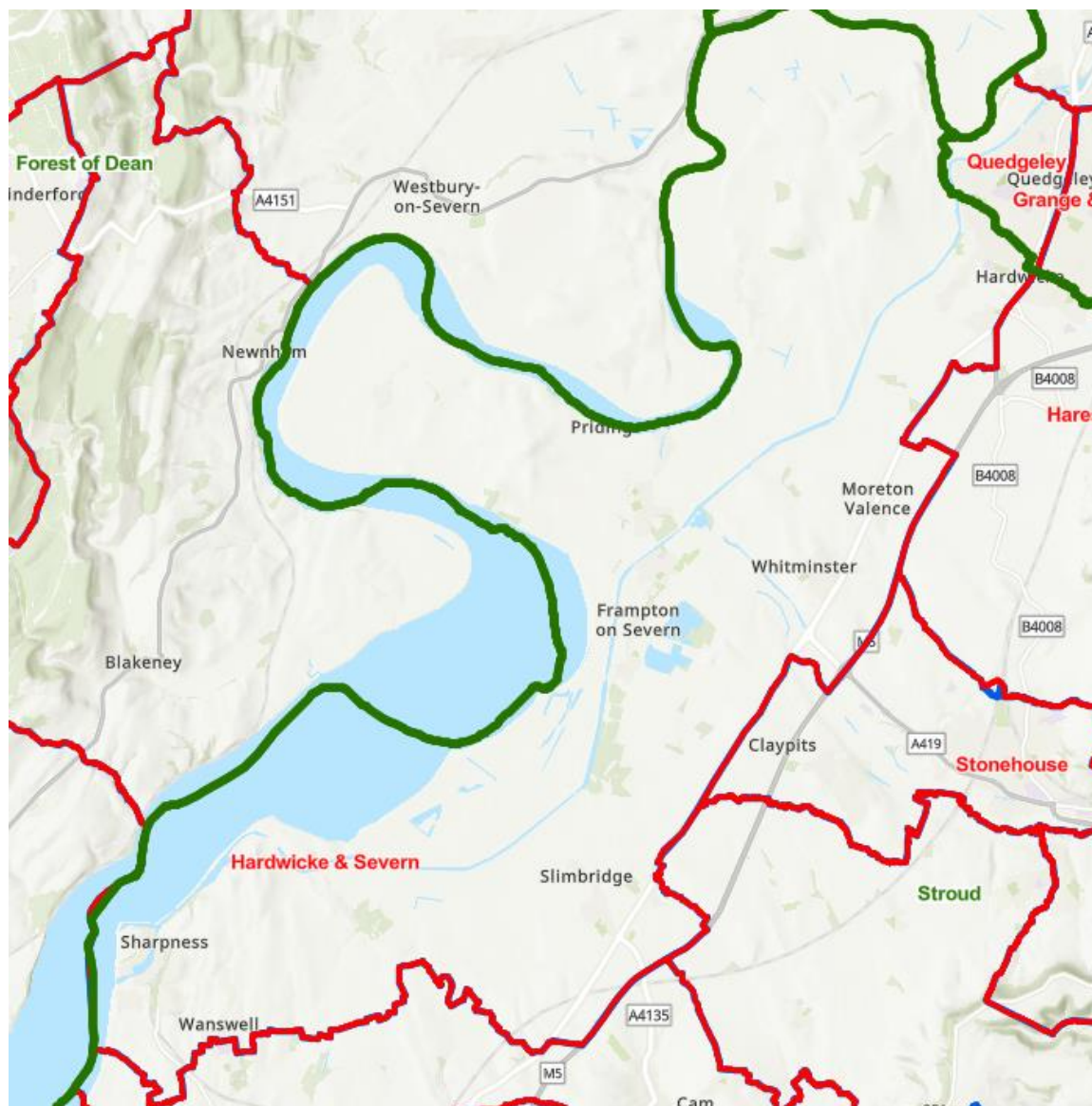


Note: Draft recommendation was to include Owlpen (CUC) in Wotton-under-Edge Division however the final recommendations concluded to retain it within Dursley.

Dursley County Division will be made up of:

CUA	Coaley	No change
CUB	Nymphsfield	No change
CUC	Owlpen	No change
CUD	Uley	No change
DA	Dursley (Central Ward)	No change
DB	Dursley (Highfields Ward)	No change
DC	Dursley (Kingshill Ward)	No change
TSA	Frocester	No change
TSD	Leonard Stanley	No change

Hardwicke & Severn County Division
 LGBCE final recommendation (map 5)



A number of changes have been made to the polling districts, warding arrangements and electoral arrangements for this County Division which can be found on the next page.

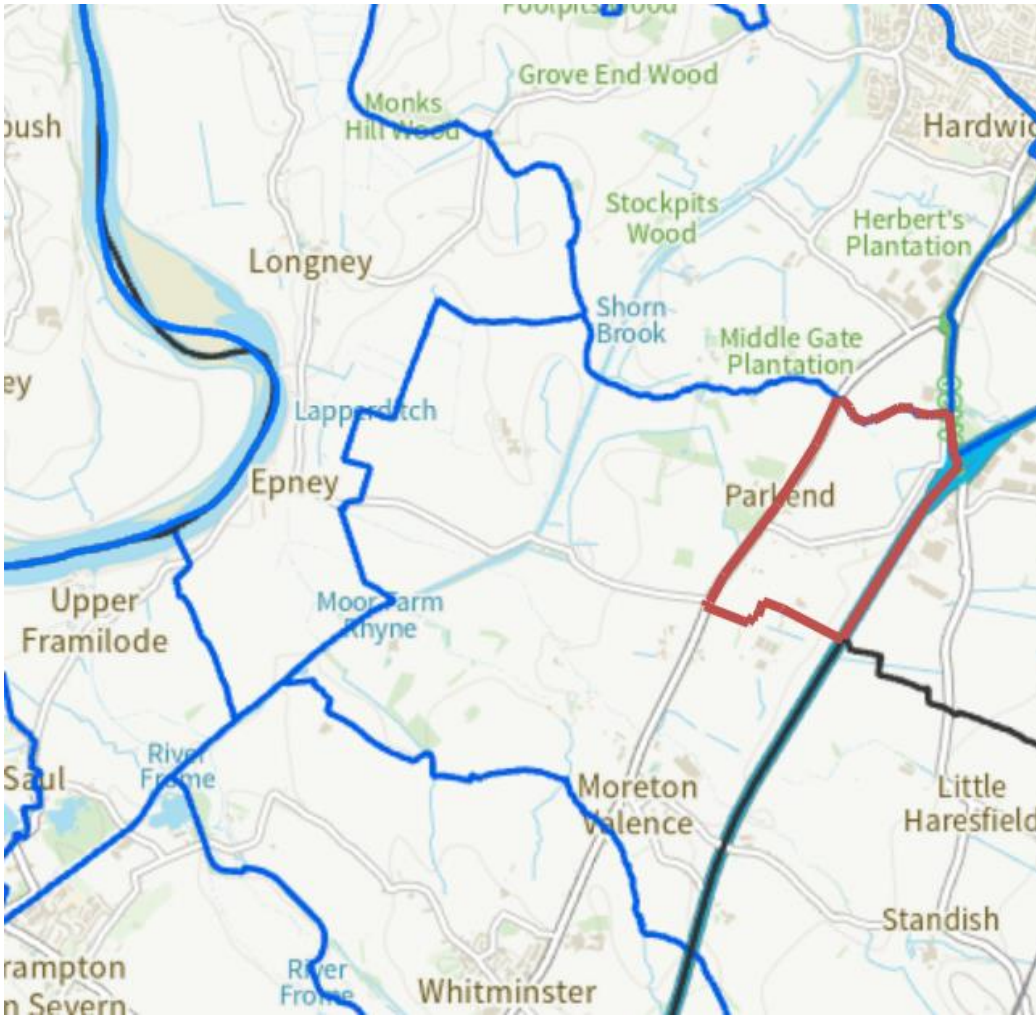
Hardwicke & Severn County Division will be made up of:

BVF	Hamfallow (North Ward)	Change, see below
BVG	Hinton, Sharpness	Change, see below
BVH	Slimbridge	No change
HB	Elmore	No change
HC	Hardwicke	No change
HG	Longney	No change
HH	Moreton Valence	Potential change, see below
SA	Arlingham	No change
SB	Frampton-on-Severn	No change
SC	Fretherne-with-Saul (Fretherne Ward)	No change
SD	Fretherne-with-Saul (Saul Ward)	No change
SG	Whitminster	No change

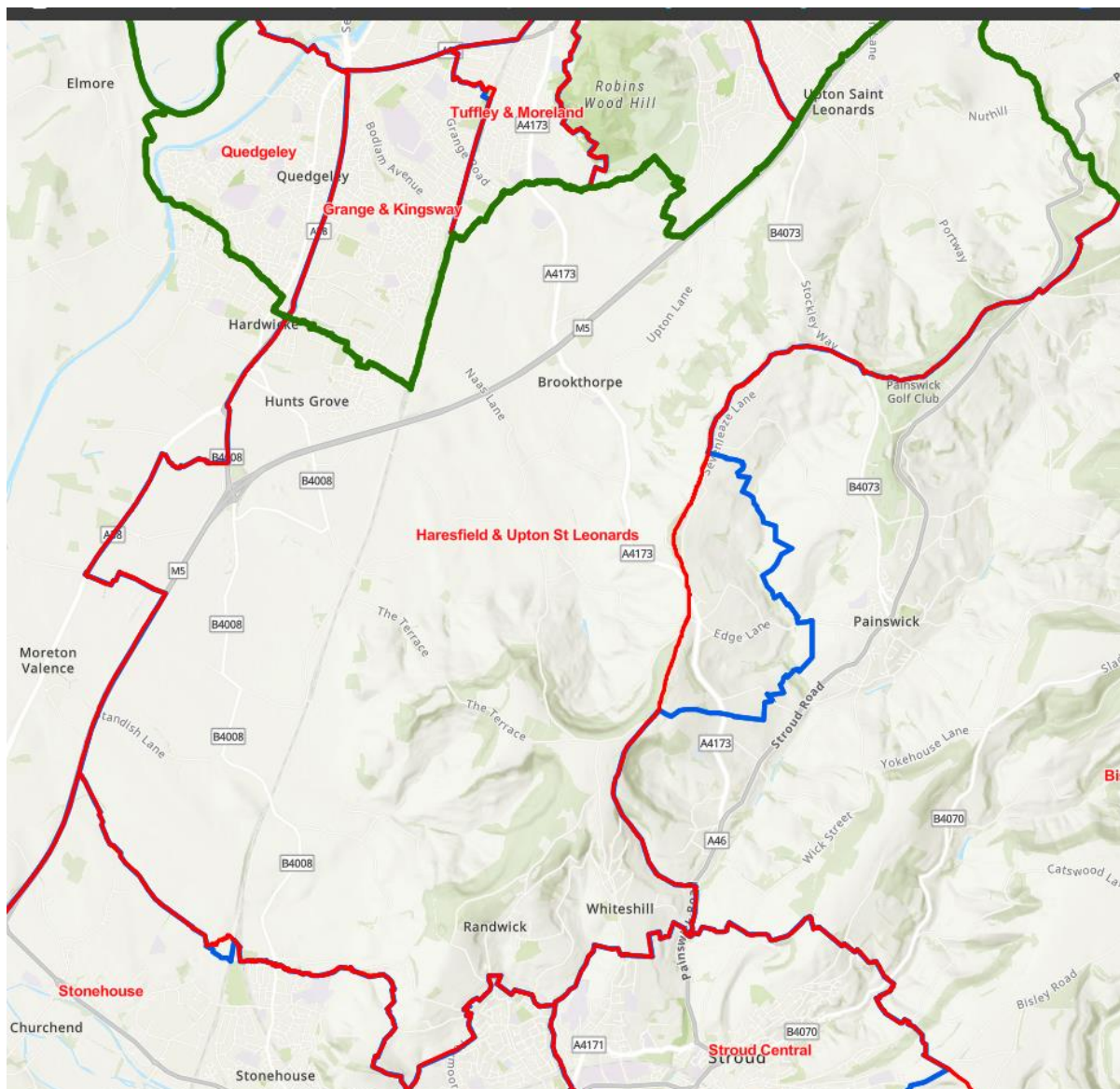
Outcomes:

1. Alteration to the Hamfallow Parish to create two parish wards and removing the Div 1 and Div 2 references.
2. Rename of BVF Hamfallow (Div 2) to Hamfallow (North Ward) (map 3)
3. BVE, Hamfallow (South Ward) polling district has been amended so that the boundary continues along Slimbridge Lane meaning a triangle of properties in the North East have moved into BVF, Hamfallow (North Ward) – (map 3)
4. BVF southern boundary has been altered to allow more natural boundary lines.
5. Councillors allocated to new Parish wards are as follows (still 9 but split):
 - a. Hamfallow North – 5 Councillors
 - b. Hamfallow South – 4 Councillors
6. The following polling districts to be moved from Cam Valley County Division into Hardwicke and Severn County Division:
 - a. BVF Hamfallow (North Ward)
 - b. BVG (Hinton, Sharpness)
7. The following polling districts to be moved from Hardwicke & Severn to Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division:
 - a. HE (Haresfield)
 - b. HF (Hunts Grove)
8. We have also identified an anomaly with the HH (Moreton Valence) polling district boundary in reference to Hiltmead Lane. We are currently seeking advise from the LGBCE on how this can be rectified and will update these Parishes accordingly. The boundary within the LGBCE final recommendations highlights the Hiltmead Lane area to be voting in the new County Division of Haresfield and Upton but the remaining Moreton Valence polling district in Hardwicke and Severn County Division (map 6).

HH anomaly – (map 6)



Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division NEW COUNTY
LGBCE final recommendation (map 7)



Note: Draft recommendation was to include Painswick (Edge Ward) under Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division (blue line in map), however at the final recommendations it was resorted back to be retained in Bisley & Painswick County Division.

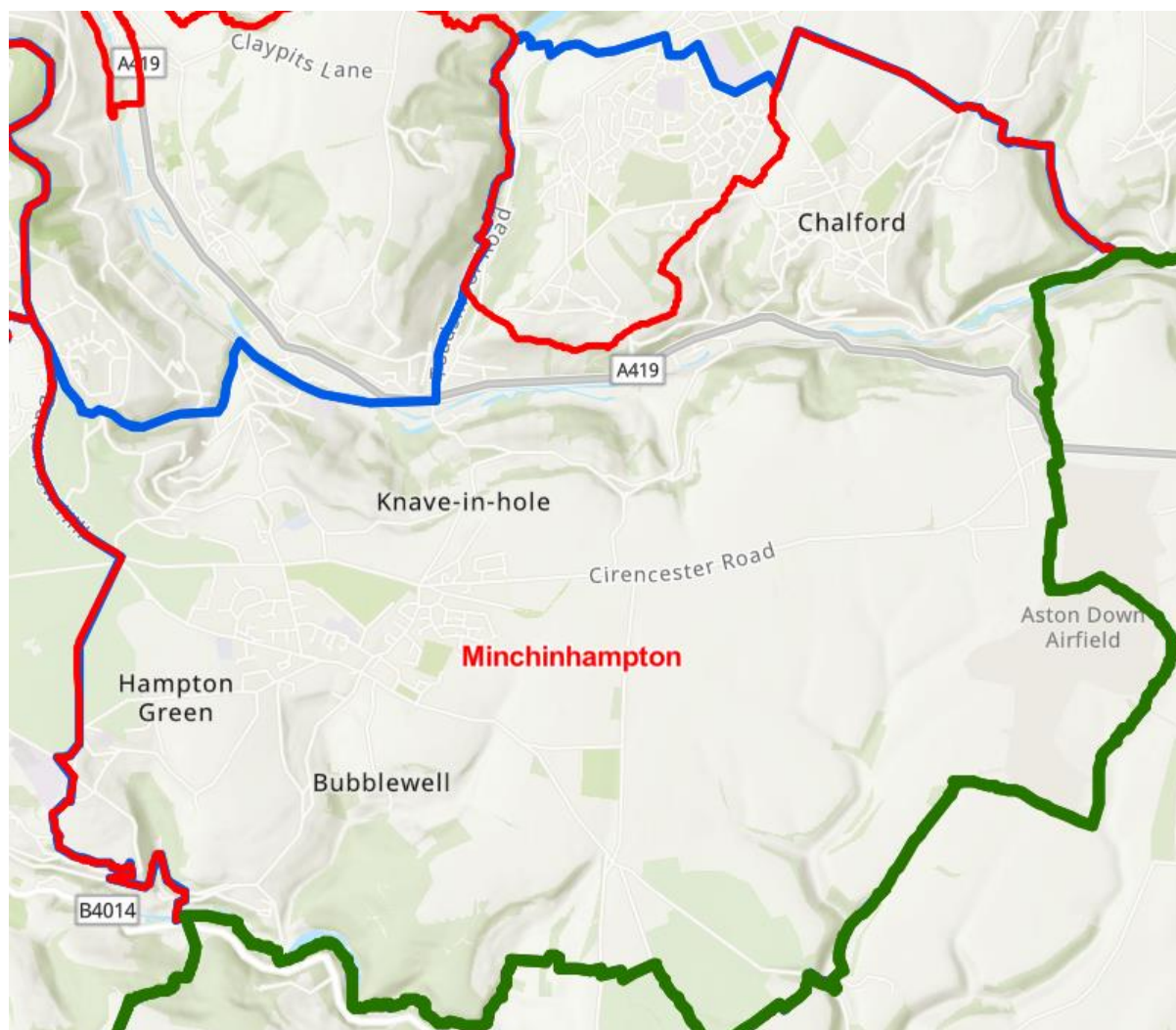
Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division will be made up of:

HA	Brookthorpe with Whaddon	Change, see below
HD	Harescombe	Change, see below
PUH	Upton St Leonards Div 1	Change, see below
PUI	Upton St Leonards Div 2	Change, see below
RWRB	Randwick (Randwick Ward)	Change, see below
RWRC	Whiteshill	Change, see below
HE	Haresfield	Change, see below
HF	Hunts Grove	Change, see below
HI	Standish	Change, see below

Outcomes:

1. The following polling districts to be moved from Bisley & Painswick County Division to Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division:
 - a. HA (Brookthorpe with Whaddon)
 - b. HD (Harescome)
 - c. PUH (Upton St Leonards Div 1)
 - d. PUI (Upton St Leonards Div 2)
 - e. RWRB (Randwick, Randwick Ward)
 - f. RWRC (Whiteshill)
2. The following polling districts to be moved from Hardwicke and Severn County Division to Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division:
 - a. HE (Haresfield)
 - b. HF (Hunts Grove)
3. HI (Standish) to be moved from Stonehouse County Division to Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division.

Minchinhampton County Division
 LGBC final recommendation (map 8)



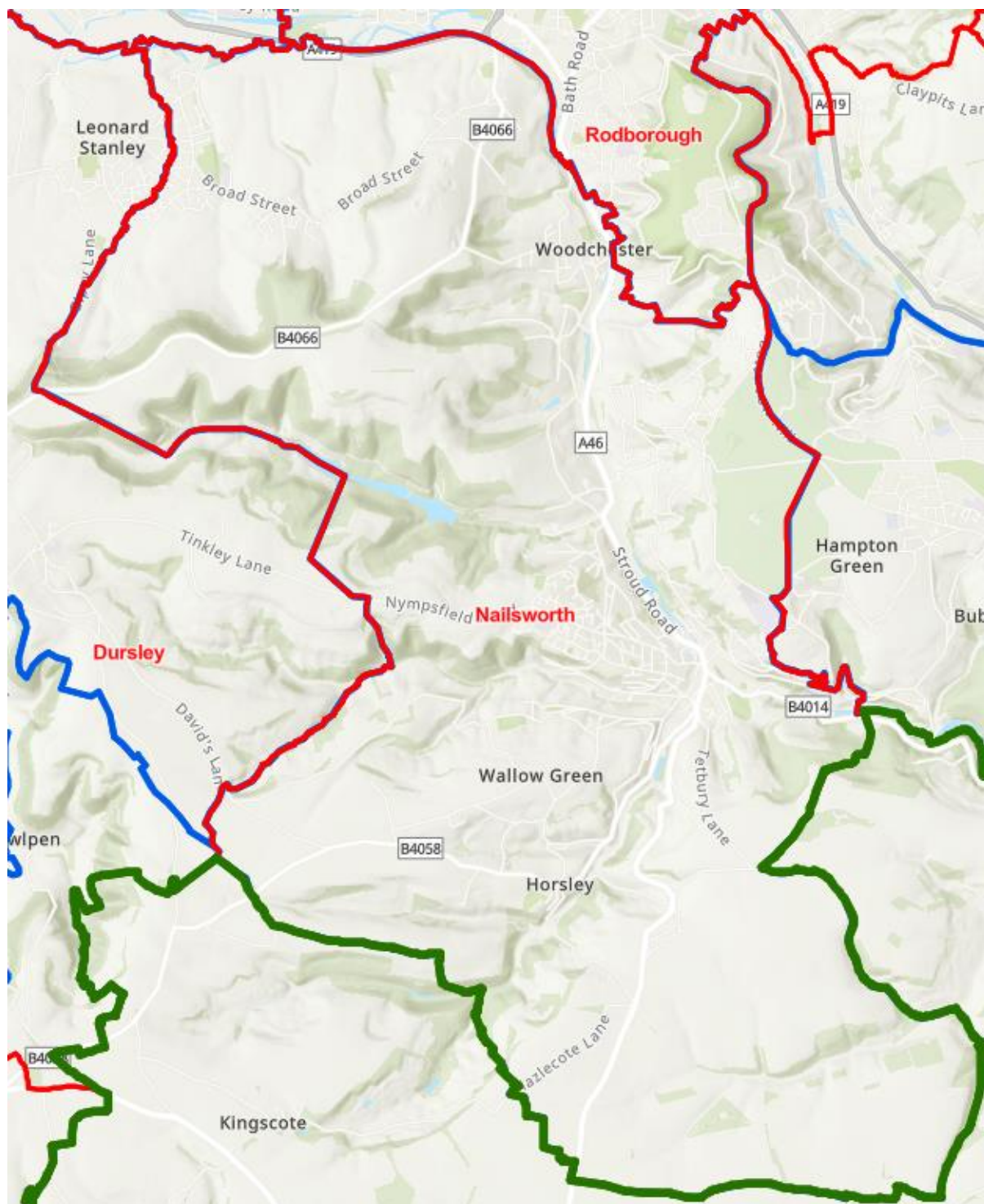
Minchinhampton County Division will be made up of:

CHC	Chalford (Hill Ward)	No change
CHD	Chalford (Valley Ward)	No change
CHE	Thrupp (Bourne Ward)	No change
MAA	Minchinhampton (Box Ward)	No change
MBB	Minchinhampton (Brimscombe Ward)	No change
MCC	Minchinhampton (North Ward)	No change
MDD	Minchinhampton (South Ward)	No change
MEE	Minchinhampton (Scar Hill)	No change
TA	Thrupp (Butterow Ward)	Change, see below
TB	Brimscombe & Thrupp Div 1	No change
TC	Brimscombe & Thrupp Div 2	No change

Outcomes:

1. The following polling districts to be moved from Minchinhampton County Division to Bisley & Painswick County Division:
 - a. CHA (Chalford, Bussage Div 1)
 - b. CHB (Chalford Bussage Div 2)
2. TA (Thrupp, Butterow Ward) to be added to Minchinhampton County Division from Rodborough County Division.

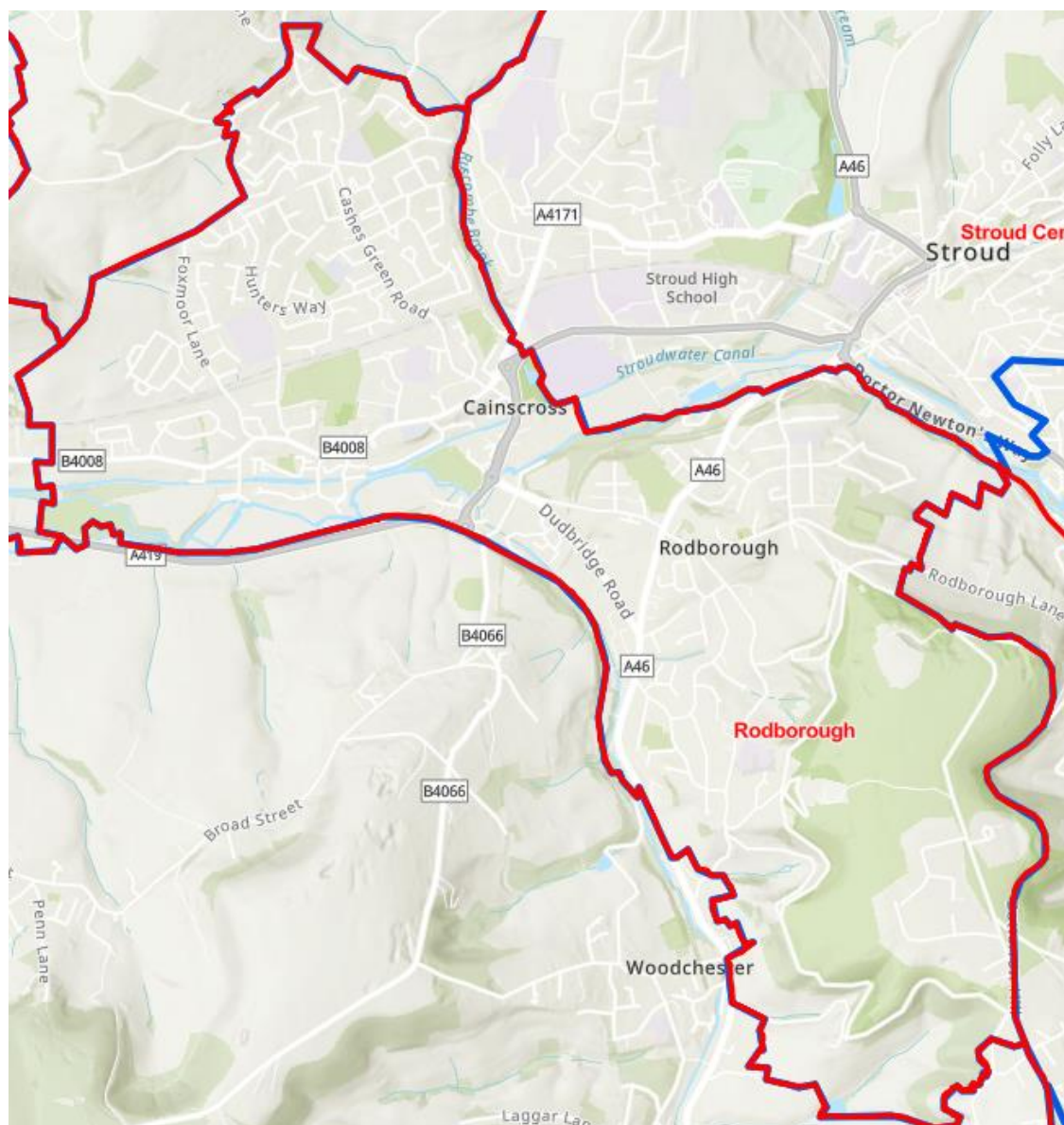
Nailsworth County Division
 LGBC final recommendations (map 9)



Nailsworth County Division will be made up of:

AWA	Amberley	No change
AWB	Woodchester	No change
NA	Horsley	No change
NB	Nailsworth Div 1	No change
NC	Nailsworth Forest Green Div 2	No change
ND	Nailsworth Forest Green Div 2	No change
TSB	Kings Stanley Div 1	No change
TSC	Kings Stanley Div 2	No change

Rodborough County Division
 LGBC final recommendations (map 10)



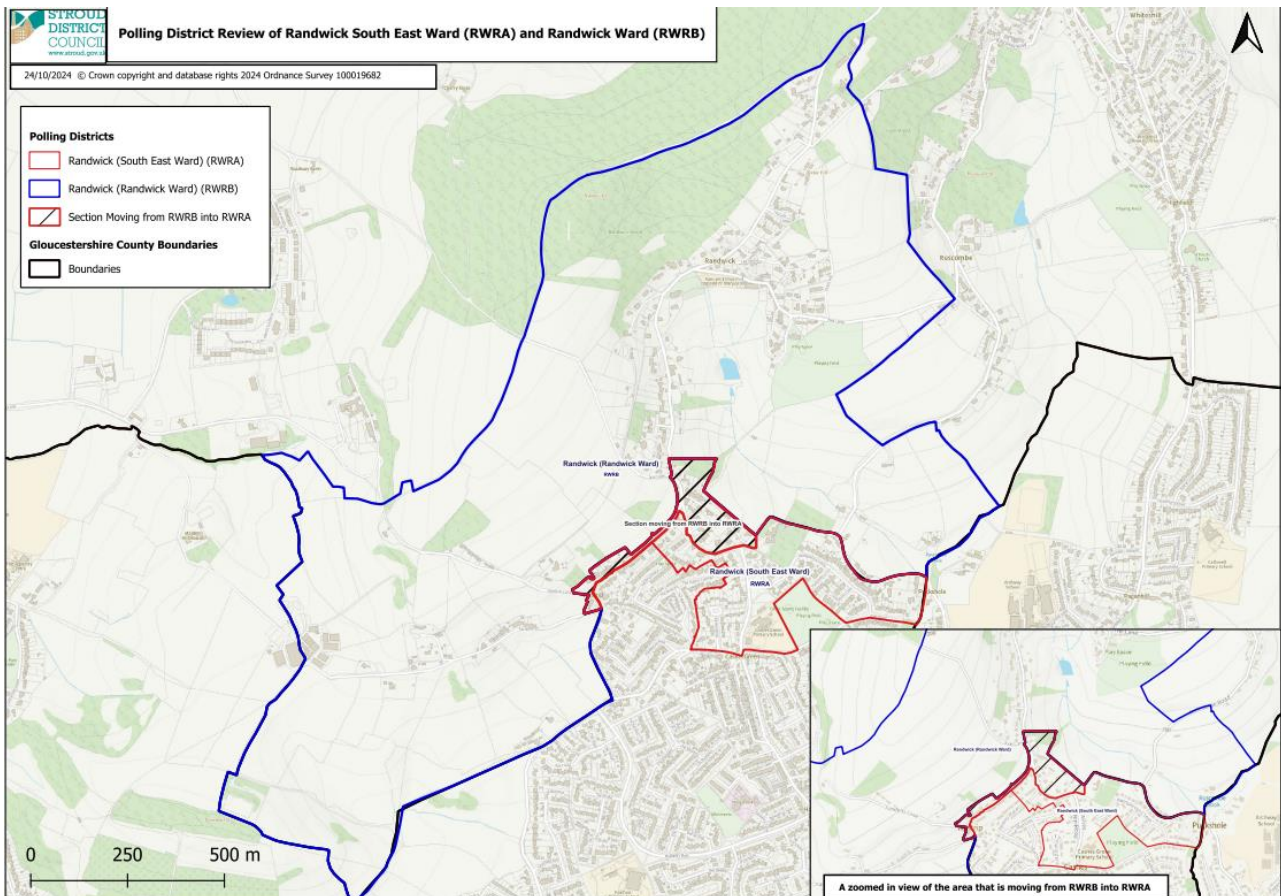
Rodborough County Division will be made up of:

CA	Cainscross (Cainscross Ward)	No change
CB	Cainscross (Cashes Green East Ward)	No change
CC	Cainscross (Cashes Green West Ward)	No change
CD	Cainscross (Ebley Ward)	No change
CE	Randwick (South West Ward)	No change
RA	Rodborough (North Ward Div 1)	No change
RB	Rodborough (North Ward Div 2)	No change
RC	Rodborough (South Ward Div 1)	No change
RD	Rodborough (South Ward Div 2)	No change
RE	Rodborough (West Ward Div 1)	No change
RF	Rodborough (West Ward Div 2)	No change
RG	Rodborough (West Ward Div 3)	No change
RWRA	Randwick (South East Ward)	Change, see below

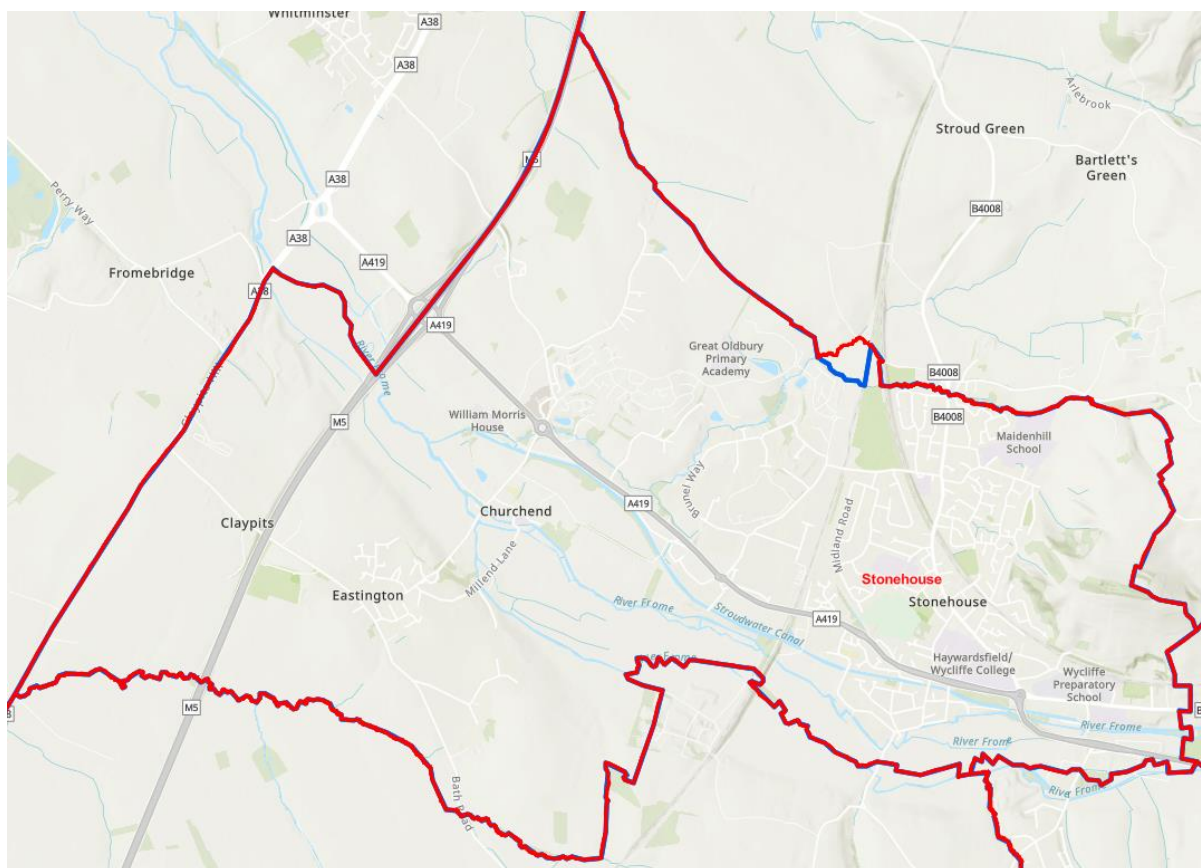
Outcomes:

1. TA (Thrupp, Butterow Ward) to be moved from Rodborough County Division and added to Minchinhampton County Division.
2. RWRA, Randwick (South East Ward) polling district has been amended so that the boundary includes the adjacent properties in Westrip, the Townsend estate and Ash Lane properties from RWRB, Randwick (Randwick Ward) to better reflect the community identities within Rodborough County Division instead of Harefield and Upton St Leonards County Division which RWRB falls under (map 11)
3. Councillors allocation changed from RWRA – 2, RWRB – 4, CE – 3 to as follows (still 9 but split):
 - a. RWRA - Randwick (South East Ward) – 3 Councillors
 - b. RWRB – Randwick (Randwick Ward) – 3 Councillors
 - c. CE – Randwick (South West Ward) – 3 Councillors

Properties being moved from RWRB to RWRA (Map 11)



Stonehouse County Division LGBCE final recommendations (map 12)



Note: Small blue triangle used to be in HI (Standish) however SDCs Community Governance Review (CGR) in 2023 changed the boundary to incorporate the land from HI (Standish) into SF (Great Oldbury). LGBCE amended their final recommendations to factor in CGR review to reflect the new parish boundary created in Great Oldbury.

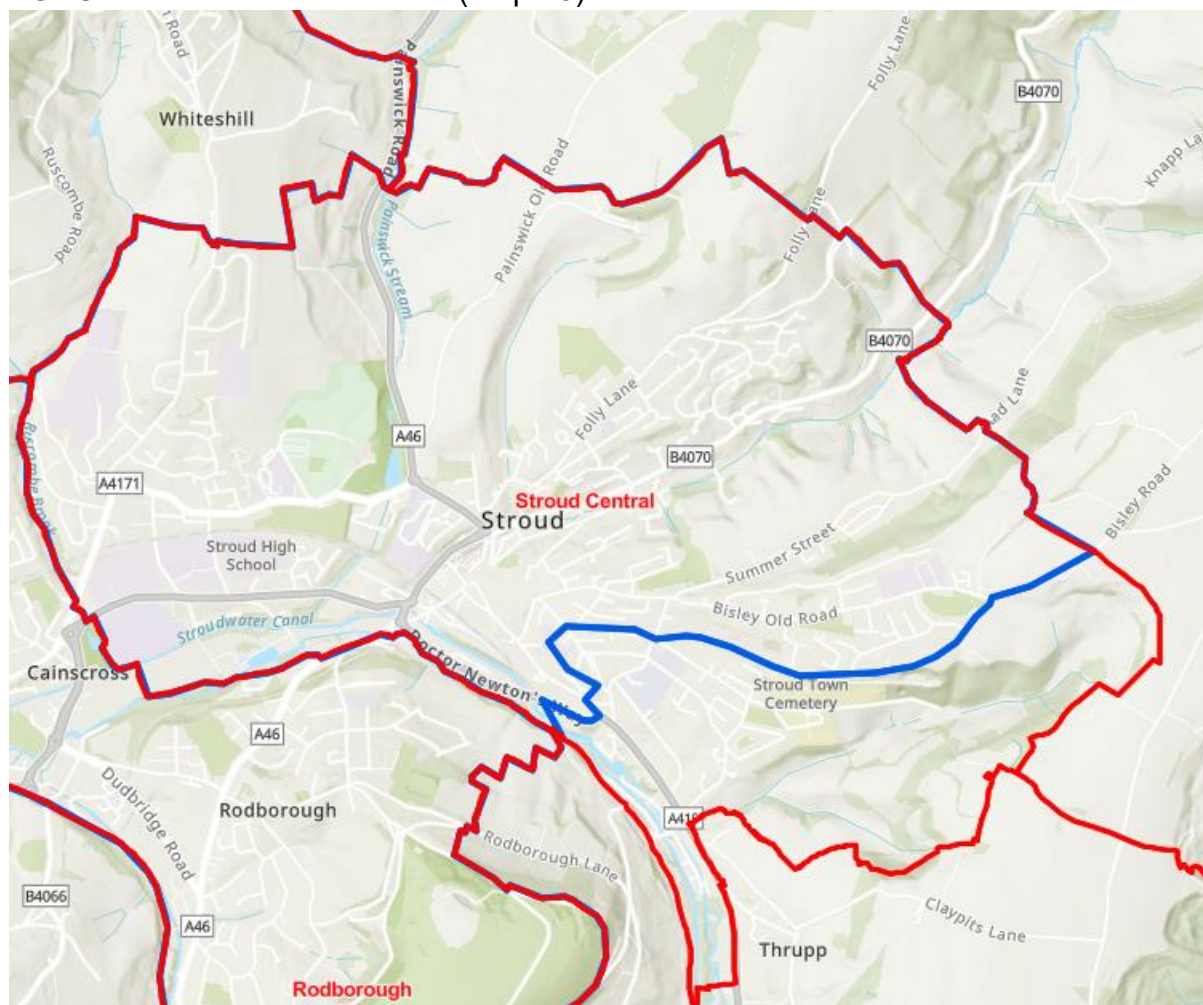
Stonehouse County Division will be made up of:

SE	Eastington	No change
SF	Great Oldbury	No change
STA	Stonehouse (North Ward)	No change
STB	Stonehouse (Central Ward)	No change
STC	Stonehouse (South Ward)	No change

Outcomes:

1. HI (Standish) removed from Stonehouse County Division and added to Haresfield and Upton St Leonards County Division.

Stroud Central County Division
LGBCE final recommendations (map 13)

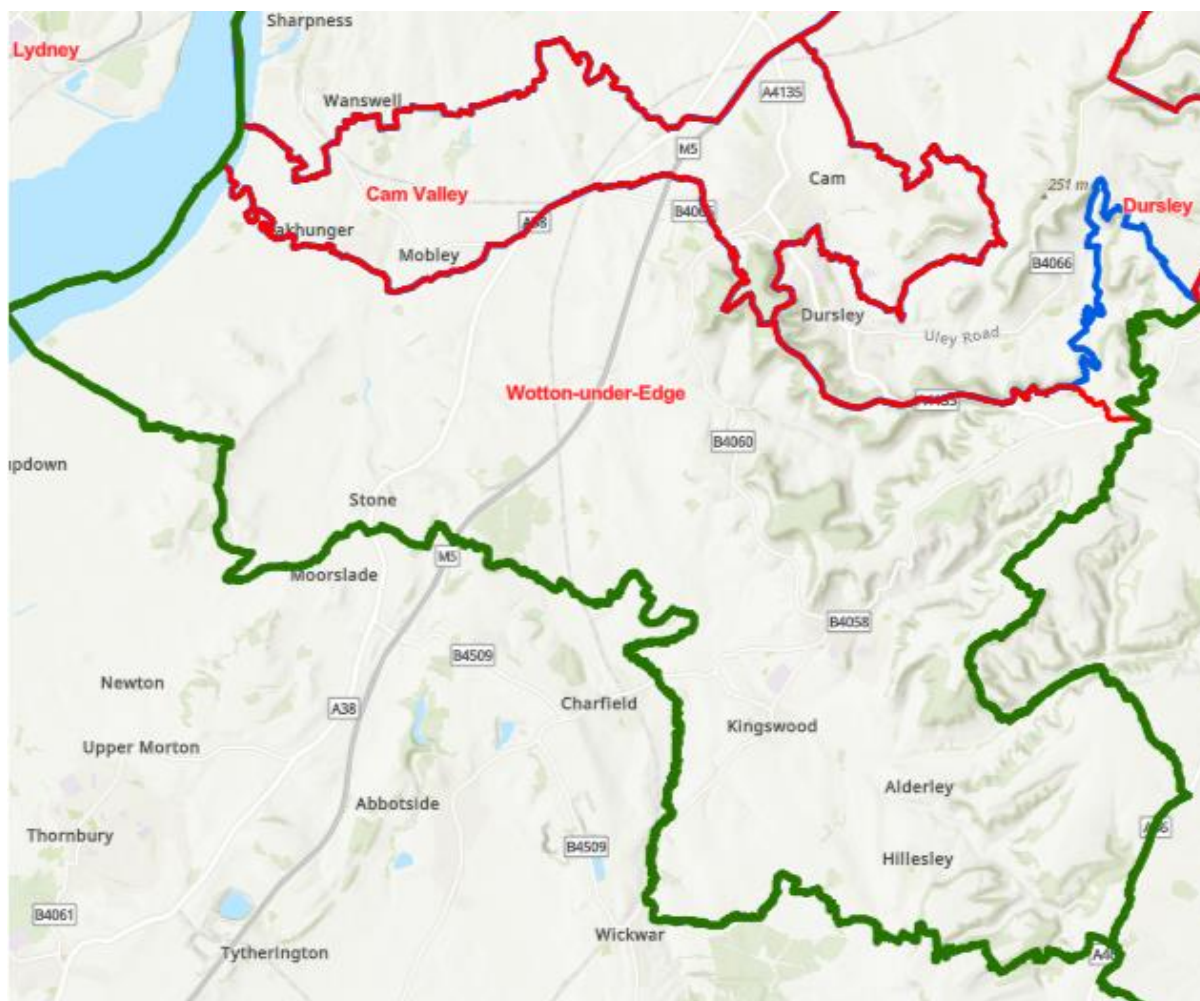


Note: Draft recommendation was to include STTA (Stroud Trinity) under Minchinhampton county division, however at the final recommendations it was resorted back to Stroud Central.

Stroud Central County Division will be made up of:

STCA	Stroud Central (Div 1)	No change
STCB	Stroud Central (Div 2)	No change
STCC	Stroud Central (Div 3)	No change
STFA	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	No change
STSA	Stroud Slade (Div 1)	No change
STCB	Stroud Slade (Div 2)	No change
STTA	Stroud Trinity	No change
STUA	Stroud Uplands	No change
STVA	Stroud Valley (Div 1)	No change
STVB	Stroud Valley (Div 2)	No change

Wotton-under-Edge County Division
 LGBCE final recommendation (map 14)



Note: Draft recommendation was to include Owlpen (CUC) in Wotton-under-Edge Division however the final recommendations concluded to retain it within Dursley (blue line in map).

Wotton-under-Edge County Division will be made up of:

BVA	Alkington	No change
BVC	Ham and Stone (Ham Ward)	No change
BVD	Ham and Stone (Stone Ward)	No change
KA	Alderley	No change
KB	Hillesley and Tresham (Hillesley)	No change
KC	Hillesley and Tresham (Tresham)	No change
KD	Kingswood	No change
WUEA	North Nibley	No change
WUEB	Stinchcombe	No change
WUEC	Wotton-under-Edge (Div 1)	No change
WUED	Wotton-under-Edge (Div 2)	No change

County Division Name	Polling Districts Ref	Polling Districts Name	Notes from County boundary review
Bisley & Painswick	BA	Bisley (Bisley Ward)	No change
	BB	Bisley (Eastcombe Ward)	No change
	BC	Bisley (Oakridge Ward)	No change
	HA	Brookthorpe with Whaddon	Moved to new Haresfield and Upton Division
	HD	Harescombe	Moved to new Haresfield and Upton Division
	PUA	Cranham	No change
	PUB	Miserden	No change
	PUC	Painswick (Edge Ward)	No change
	PUD	Painswick (Painswick Ward)	No change
	PUE	Painswick (Sheepscombe Ward)	No change
	PUF	Painswick (Slad Ward)	No change
	PUG	Pitchcombe	No change
	PUH	Upton St Leonards (Div 1)	Moved to new Haresfield and Upton Division
	PUI	Upton St Leonards (Div 2)	Moved to new Haresfield and Upton Division
RWRB	Randwick (Randwick Ward)	1. Moved to new Haresfield and Upton Division 2. Change of councillors from 4 to 3	
RWRC	Whiteshill	Moved to new Haresfield and Upton Division	
Cam Valley	BVB	Berkeley	No change
	BVE	Hamfallow Div 1	1. Majority remained in Cam Valley but small triange given to BVF (Hardwicke & Severn) and minor nothern boundary amendments to BVE 2. Parish ward now 3. Parish ward named Hamfallow South Ward 4. Councillors now allocated to ward as 4
	BVF	Hamfallow Div 2	1. Moved to Hardwicke & Severn 2. Incorporated small trainge from BE (Cam Valley) and minor southern amendments to BVF 3. Parish ward now 4. Parish ward named Hamfallow North Ward 5. Councillors now allocated to ward as 5
	BVG	Hinton, Sharpness	Moved to Hardwicke & Severn
	CEA	Cam East Div 1	No change
	CEB	Cam East Div 2	No change
	CWA	Cam West Div 1	No change
	CWB	Cam West Div 2	No change
	CUA	Coaley	No change
	CUB	Nympsfield	No change
Dursley	CUC	Owlpen	No change
	CUD	Uley	No change
	DA	Dursley (Central Ward)	No change
	DB	Dursley (Highfields Ward)	No change
	DC	Dursley (Kingshill Ward)	No change
	TSA	Frocester	No change
	TSD	Leonard Stanley	No change
	BVH	Slimbridge	No change

NEW County Division	Polling Districts Ref	Polling Districts Name
Bisley & Painswick	BA	Bisley (Bisley Ward)
	BB	Bisley (Eastcombe Ward)
	BC	Bisley (Oakridge Ward)
	CHA	Chalford (Bussage Div 1)
	CHB	Chalford (Bussage Div 2)
	PUA	Cranham
	PUB	Miserden
	PUC	Painswick (Edge Ward)
	PUD	Painswick (Painswick Ward)
	PUE	Painswick (Sheepscombe Ward)
	PUF	Painswick (Slad Ward)
	PUG	Pitchcombe
	BVB	Berkeley
	BVE	Hamfallow South Ward
Cam Valley	CEA	Cam East Div 1
	CEB	Cam East Div 2
	CWA	Cam West Div 1
	CWB	Cam West Div 2
	CUA	Coaley
Dursley	CUB	Nympsfield
	CUC	Owlpen
	CUD	Uley
	DA	Dursley (Central Ward)
	DB	Dursley (Highfields Ward)
	DC	Dursley (Kingshill Ward)
	TSA	Frocester
	TSD	Leonard Stanley
Hardwicke & Severn	BVF	Hamfallow North Ward
	BVG	Hinton, Sharpness
	BVH	Slimbridge
	HB	Elmore
	HC	Hardwicke
	HG	Longney
HH	Moreton Valence	

County Division Name	Polling Districts Ref	Polling Districts Name	Notes from County boundary review
Hardwicke & Severn	HB	Elmore	No change
	HC	Hardwicke	No change
	HE	Haresfield	Moved to Haresfield and Upton St Leonards Division
	HF	Hunts Grove	Moved to Haresfield and Upton St Leonards Division
	HG	Longney	No change
	HH	Moreton Valence	Slight change - part of polling district now in HE (SDC seeking clarification from the LGBCE)
	SA	Arlingham	No change
	SB	Frampton-on-Severn	No change
	SC	Fretherne-with-Saul (Fretherne Ward)	No change
	SD	Fretherne-with-Saul (Saul Ward)	No change
SG	Whitminster	No change	
Minchinhampton	CHA	Chalford (Bussage Div 1)	Moved to Bisley & Painswick Division
	CHB	Chalford (Bussage Div 2)	Moved to Bisley & Painswick Division
	CHC	Chalford (Hill Ward)	No change
	CHD	Chalford (Valley Ward)	No change
	CHE	Thrupp (Bourne Ward)	No change
	MAA	Minchinhampton (Box Ward)	No change
	MBB	Minchinhampton (Brimscombe Ward)	No change
	MCC	Minchinhampton (North Ward)	No change
	MDD	Minchinhampton (South Ward)	No change
	MEE	Minchinhampton (Scar Hill)	No change
TB	Brimscombe & Thrupp Div 1	No change	
TC	Brimscombe & Thrupp Div 2	No change	
Nailsworth	AWA	Amberley	No change
	AWB	Woodchester	No change
	NA	Horsley	No change
	NB	Nailsworth Div 1	No change
	NC	Nailsworth Forest Green Div 2	No change
	ND	Nailsworth Forest Green Div 2	No change
TSB	Kings Stanley Div 1	No change	
TSC	Kings Stanley Div 2	No change	
Rodborough	CA	Cainscross (Cainscross Ward)	No change
	CB	Cainscross (Cashes Green East Ward)	No change
	CC	Cainscross (Cashes Green West Ward)	No change
	CD	Cainscross (Ebley Ward)	No change
	CE	Randwick (South West Ward)	No change
	RA	Rodborough (North Ward Div 1)	No change
	RB	Rodborough (North Ward Div 2)	No change
	RC	Rodborough (South Ward Div 1)	No change
	RD	Rodborough (South Ward Div 2)	No change
	RE	Rodborough (West Ward Div 1)	No change
RF	Rodborough (West Ward Div 2)	No change	
RG	Rodborough (West Ward Div 3)	No change	

NEW County Division	Polling Districts Ref	Polling Districts Name
	SA	Arlingham
	SB	Frampton-on-Severn
	SC	Fretherne-with-Saul (Fretherne Ward)
	SD	Fretherne-with-Saul (Saul Ward)
	SG	Whitminster
	Haresfield & Upon St Leonards	HA
HD		Harescombe
HE		Haresfield
HF		Hunts Grove
HI		Standish
PUH		Upton St Leonards (Div 1)
PUI		Upton St Leonards (Div 2)
RWRB	Randwick (Randwick Ward)	
RWRC	Whiteshill	
Minchinhampton	CHC	Chalford (Hill Ward)
	CHD	Chalford (Valley Ward)
	CHE	Thrupp (Bourne Ward)
	MAA	Minchinhampton (Box Ward)
	MBB	Minchinhampton (Brimscombe Ward)
	MCC	Minchinhampton (North Ward)
	MDD	Minchinhampton (South Ward)
	MEE	Minchinhampton (Scar Hill)
	TA	Rodborough (Butterow Ward)
	TB	Brimscombe & Thrupp Div 1
TC	Brimscombe & Thrupp Div 2	
Nailsworth	AWA	Amberley
	AWB	Woodchester
	NA	Horsley
	NB	Nailsworth Div 1
	NC	Nailsworth Forest Green Div 2
	ND	Nailsworth Forest Green Div 2
TSB	Kings Stanley Div 1	
TSC	Kings Stanley Div 2	
Rodborough	CA	Cainscross (Cainscross Ward)
	CB	Cainscross (Cashes Green East Ward)
	CC	Cainscross (Cashes Green West Ward)
	CD	Cainscross (Ebley Ward)
	CE	Randwick (South West Ward)
	RA	Rodborough (North Ward Div 1)
	RB	Rodborough (North Ward Div 2)
	RC	Rodborough (South Ward Div 1)
	RD	Rodborough (South Ward Div 2)
	RE	Rodborough (West Ward Div 1)

County Division Name	Polling Districts Ref	Polling Districts Name	Notes from County boundary review
	RWRA	Randwick (South East Ward)	1. Minor boundary changes to incorporate additional streets from southern boundary of RWRB
	TA	Rodborough (Butterow Ward)	2. Councillor allocation changed from 2 to 3 councillors
			Moved to Minchinhampton Division
Stonehouse	HI	Standish	Moved to Haresfield and Upton St Leonards Division
	SE	Eastington	No change
	SF	Great Oldbury	No change
	STA	Stonehouse (North Ward)	No change
	STB	Stonehouse (Central Ward)	No change
	STC	Stonehouse (South Ward)	No change
Stroud Central	STCA	Stroud Central (Div 1)	No change
	STCB	Stroud Central (Div 2)	No change
	STCC	Stroud Central (Div 3)	No change
	STFA	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	No change
	STSA	Stroud Slade (Div 1)	No change
	STSB	Stroud Slade (Div 2)	No change
	STTA	Stroud Trinity	No change
	STUA	Stroud Uplands	No change
	STVA	Stroud Valley (Div 1)	No change
	STVB	Stroud Valley (Div 2)	No change
Wotton-under-Edge	BVA	Alkington	No change
	BVC	Ham and Stone (Ham Ward)	No change
	BVD	Ham and Stone (Stone Ward)	No change
	KA	Alderley	No change
	KB	Hillesley and Tresham (Hillesley)	No change
	KC	Hillesley and Tresham (Tresham)	No change
	KD	Kingswood	No change
	WUEA	North Nibley	No change
	WUEB	Stinchcombe	No change
	WUEC	Wotton-under-Edge (Div 1)	No change
WUED	Wotton-under-Edge (Div 2)	No change	

NEW County Division	Polling Districts Ref	Polling Districts Name	
	RF	Rodborough (West Ward Div 2)	
	RG	Rodborough (West Ward Div 3)	
	RWRA	Randwick (South East Ward)	
Stonehouse	SE	Eastington	
	SF	Great Oldbury	
	STA	Stonehouse (North Ward)	
	STB	Stonehouse (Central Ward)	
	STC	Stonehouse (South Ward)	
Stroud Central	STCA	Stroud Central (Div 1)	
	STCB	Stroud Central (Div 2)	
	STCC	Stroud Central (Div 3)	
	STFA	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	
	STSA	Stroud Slade (Div 1)	
	STSB	Stroud Slade (Div 2)	
	STTA	Stroud Trinity	
	STUA	Stroud Uplands	
	STVA	Stroud Valley (Div 1)	
	STVB	Stroud Valley (Div 2)	
Wotton-under-Edge	BVA	Alkington	
	BVC	Ham and Stone (Ham Ward)	
	BVD	Ham and Stone (Stone Ward)	
	KA	Alderley	
	KB	Hillesley and Tresham (Hillesley)	
	KC	Hillesley and Tresham (Tresham)	
	KD	Kingswood	
	WUEA	North Nibley	
	WUEB	Stinchcombe	
	WUEC	Wotton-under-Edge (Div 1)	
WUED	Wotton-under-Edge (Div 2)		

Changes to Gloucestershire County Council division boundaries

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) completed a review of **Gloucestershire County Council** boundaries earlier this year. This review introduces some updates to county divisions in the Stroud district.

What's New?

- **More representation:** For Gloucestershire County Council elections on Thursday 1 May 2025 Stroud district will have 11 County Divisions and 11 County Councillors (up from 10), with a new division: Haresfield and Upton St Leonards
- **Boundary adjustments:** Changes have been made to several divisions, with new ward and parish arrangements impacting numerous polling districts.

What does this mean?

Every so often, county division boundaries are reviewed to ensure fair and balanced representation for all residents. In Gloucestershire, these updates mean your area might now fall within a different county division. This change can impact a few things:

- **Representation:** The changes to county division boundaries mean you could be voting in a different Gloucestershire County Council division at the elections on the 1st May 2025. Each County Councillor represents a different division across the county. Your elected County Councillor can be a point of contact if you have any concerns or ideas about services like education, highways, or social care.
- **Voting locations and districts:** Voting areas (polling districts) are tied to division boundaries, so you might be voting in a different location or be in a new district for upcoming elections. This is all to keep voting as fair and efficient as possible. Ahead of the County Council elections in May 2025 you will receive your poll card which will confirm the Gloucestershire County Council division you are voting in and your polling station.

Polling district review:

As a result of these changes, a review of polling districts is being conducted for **Hamfallow** and **Randwick and Westrip** parishes, with public consultation open until Sunday, 1 December. Final recommendations will be presented to the Full Council meeting on 19 December 2024.

Find out more:

[LGBCE's full recommendations and maps of new wards](#)

[More on the polling district review](#)

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025-26

2025	Day	Date
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	Mon	5 May
ANNUAL COUNCIL	Mon	12 May
Consultations & Highways	Mon	19 May
Environment	Tue	20 May
TOWN MEETING	Wed	21 May
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	Mon	26 May
Finance & Policy	Mon	2 Jun
Community	Mon	9 Jun
Consultations & Highways	Mon	16 Jun
Regeneration (daytime)	Thu	19 Jun
Free	Mon	23 Jun
Free	Mon	30 Jun
Free	Mon	7 Jul
Environment	Tue	8 Jul
COUNCIL	Mon	14 Jul
Regeneration (daytime)	Thu	17 Jul
Consultations & Highways	Mon	21 Jul
<i>School Holidays</i>	Mon	28 Jul
<i>School Holidays</i>	Mon	4 Aug
<i>School Holidays</i>	Mon	11 Aug
Consultations & Highways	Mon	18 Aug
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	Mon	25 Aug
Free	Mon	1 Sep
Community	Mon	8 Sep
Consultations & Highways	Mon	15 Sep
Environment	Tue	16 Sep
Finance & Policy	Mon	22 Sep
COUNCIL	Mon	29 Sep
Regeneration (daytime)	Thu	2 Oct
Free	Mon	6 Oct
Consultations & Highways	Mon	13 Oct
Personnel	Mon	20 Oct
<i>School Holidays</i>	Mon	27 Oct
Free	Mon	3 Nov
Environment	Tue	4 Nov
Consultations & Highways	Mon	10 Nov
Community	Mon	17 Nov
Regeneration (daytime)	Thu	20 Nov
Finance & Policy	Mon	24 Nov
Free	Mon	1 Dec
COUNCIL	Mon	8 Dec
Consultations & Highways	Mon	15 Dec
<i>School Holiday</i>	Mon	22 Dec
<i>School Holiday</i>	Mon	29 Dec

2026	Day	Date
Free	Mon	5 Jan

2026	Day	Date
Consultations & Highways	Mon	12 Jan
COUNCIL	Mon	19 Jan
Free	Mon	26 Jan
Environment	Tue	27 Jan
Free	Mon	2 Feb
Consultations & Highways	Mon	9 Feb
Regeneration (daytime)	Thu	12 Feb
<i>School Holidays</i>	Mon	16 Feb
Finance & Policy	Mon	23 Feb
Free	Mon	2 Mar
Consultations & Highways	Mon	9 Mar
COUNCIL	Mon	16 Mar
Community	Mon	23 Mar
<i>School Holiday</i>	Mon	30 Mar
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	Mon	6 Apr
Consultations & Highways	Mon	13 Apr
Environment	Tue	14 Apr
Free	Mon	20 Apr
COUNCIL	Mon	27 Apr
Regeneration (daytime)	Thu	30 May
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	Mon	4 May

2026-27	Day	Date
ANNUAL MEETING	Mon	11 May
Consultations & Highways	Mon	18 May
TOWN MEETING	Wed	20 May

Internal Audit 2023-24

Council is required to appoint a competent and independent internal auditor to conduct an annual audit of the council's accounts in order to comply with the The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Smaller authorities, are required each financial year, to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare an annual governance statement in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts.

To enable the Council to approve the following assertion Assertion 6 on the Annual Return:

6 Internal Audit

We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.

best practice¹ recommends that the council needs to

“undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes considering internal auditing guidance for smaller authorities.”

“ensure it has taken all necessary steps to facilitate the work of those conducting the internal audit, including making available all relevant documents and records and supplying any information or explanations required”.

GAPTC's service, which meets the legal requirements and follows best practice, is set out in the additional attached documents.

It is recommended that GAPTC are contracted to complete the 2023-24 Internal Audit.

Helen Bojaniwska
Town Clerk and RFO
20/10/2023

¹ JPAG, Practitioners' Guide 2023

Internal Audit Service (IAS)

Dear Members,

We are delighted to share the updated **GAPTC Internal Audit Service (IAS)**, designed to support your council with robust internal control and compliance. This service has been carefully reviewed and improved based on feedback from our auditors and member councils to ensure a smooth, effective experience.

Our team of trained auditors, regularly updated on local council regulations, is here to offer a professional seamless audit. This year, we've added new support options, including **drop-in sessions** for clerks to assist with audit preparation and document submission. These sessions are free and provide a helpful resource for any questions or advice you may need. Please also consult our website for useful resources, checklists, a downloadable **Letter of Appointment**. The service Terms of Reference are included below in Appendix I.

Once you appoint GAPTC as your Independent Auditor, which **MUST** be done online via this form submission <https://forms.office.com/e/qscAiyshNQ> you can then start preparing for your audit and the document submission. Once we have received your full submission an auditor will be appointed. Using our comprehensive audit template, the auditor will conduct a thorough review, after which you will receive the final report along with our invoice.

If you indicate that you will require additional support during the audit or wish to arrange a meeting with your auditor we will be in touch to discuss the additional fees. Please find the 2024-25 fee structure in Appendix II.

Our auditors will also assist with completing the **Annual Internal Audit Report** section of the AGAR with the Clerk/RFO.

We hope this enhanced service will offer valuable support to your council. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out or join one of our drop-in sessions.

Warm regards,

GAPTC
October 2024

Appendix I

Terms of Reference 2024–2025

Aim

To assist local councils to maintain and improve internal control in accordance with proper practices as set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Internal Audit Objectives and Responsibilities

The primary objective of the Internal Audit, which is a governance audit, is to review, appraise and report on the adequacy of internal control systems operating throughout the council; to achieve this the Internal Auditor will adopt a predominantly systems-based approach to audit.

The internal audit does not involve the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of an authority to detect error or fraud.

The council's internal control system comprises the whole network of systems established within the council to provide reasonable assurance that the council's objectives will be achieved, with reference to:

- The effectiveness of operations
- Compliance and applicable policies
- Procedures, laws and regulations
- The safeguarding of assets and interests from losses of all kinds, including those arising from fraud, irregularity and corruption.

Accordingly, during an audit the Internal Auditor may:

- Carry out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year to be able to complete the Annual Internal Audit Report of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return
- Review the means used to identify, measure, classify and report such information
- Review the means of safeguarding assets
- Review the established systems to ensure compliance with those policies, procedures, laws and regulations which could have a significant impact on operations and determine whether the council is compliant

The scope of Internal Audit activity

It is a matter for the council to determine the necessary scope and extent of its internal audit, which should be proportionate to the needs, size and the circumstances of the council.

Independence

The main determinant of the effectiveness of Internal Audit is that it is seen to be independent in its planning and operation. To ensure this, the Internal Audit Service will operate within a framework that allows:

- Unrestricted access to the officers of the council
- Reporting in its own name
- Segregation from the day-to-day operations of the council

Every effort will be made to preserve objectivity by ensuring that all Internal Auditors are free from any conflicts of interest and do not undertake any non-audit duties on behalf of the council.

The Council's Responsibilities

The members of the council have clearly defined responsibilities for Risk Management, Internal Control, Internal Audit and preventing fraud and corruption.

The existence of the Internal Audit does not diminish the responsibility of the council to establish systems of Internal Control to ensure that activities are conducted in a secure and well-ordered manner.

Reporting

The Internal Auditor will formally report the results of audits, and the recommendations made to council and, if a GAPTC Internal Auditor is appointed for subsequent years, will follow up to make sure that corrective actions are taken.

Review of terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed and updated as necessary every year.

Date of next review: September 2024

Appendix II

2024–2025 Internal Audit Service

To ensure the sustainability of this service, the fee structure has been revised. It is now more sensitive to the complexity and time required for different types of audits:

- **Basic audit with no issues (all documents submitted and correct):** This will cover standard document reviews and will have a set fee (see below).
- **Audits with document issues:** If additional time is required to follow up on missing or incorrect documents, there will be an additional hourly charge. GAPTC hosts an information session detailing the service review and outlining how Clerks can prepare for this service without incurring additional fees. We are also providing regular drop-in sessions where Clerks can join a free remote drop-in with an experienced auditor to ask questions and seek clarity in order to avoid unnecessary fees later on, and ensure a simple audit, for themselves, and the auditor. Please visit our website to book to join the information session, and view dates and joining links for the supportive drop-ins.
- **Audits requiring meetings:** For any face-to-face or Zoom meetings requested, there will be an additional flat fee for the first 1.5 hours, with extra time charged hourly thereafter if needed. Travel costs will also be charged to the council should the auditor need to travel to the clerk's office.

Base Fees (for standard audit, no issues with documentation)

- Band 1 (up to £5,000): £170
- Band 2 (£5,001 - £25,000): £210
- Band 3 (£25,001 - £50,000): £250
- Band 4 (£50,001 - £100,000): £285
- Band 5 (£100,001 - £200,000): £320
- Band 6 (£200,001 - £300,000): £400
- Band 7 (£300,001 - £400,000): £440
- Band 8+ (£400,001+): £480

The proposed increases reflect the time required to review documents and generate reports, ensuring that the service remains economically viable, and that audits are conducted by professional, experienced auditors. The higher fees for larger councils reflect the additional complexity of their accounts.

Additional charges

1. **Inadequate document submission:**

- If key documentation and references are 'missing' or inadequate, requiring the auditor to engage in lengthy toing and froing, a **£35 per hour** charge will be applied for the additional time needed to request, review, and follow up documents required to complete the audit. (Incurring additional fees for incomplete submissions is at the discretion of the auditor.)

2. Face-to-Face or Zoom meeting:

- If a council requests a face-to-face or Zoom meeting to discuss the audit in detail, a **£45 flat fee** per meeting (up to 1.5 hours) will be charged. Any additional time beyond this would be charged at **£35 per hour**. This allows for flexible communication while covering the auditor's additional time.

3. Mileage: Maintain the current mileage rate of **45p per mile** from the auditor's base. This will be charged from the Internal Auditor's base.

Helen Bojaniwska

From: Liz Dowie
Sent: 22 November 2024 11:36
To: Helen Bojaniwska
Cc: Kate Montgomery
Subject: Internal audit
Attachments: GAPTC IAS Model Appointment letter.doc; GAPTC IAS Introduction letter.doc

I have completed the GAPTC Appointment Letter for Full Council and attach this with the Introduction Letter. (I have advised them of the typo in the review date of Terms of Reference – presumably should be September 2025)

Now they have revised the fee structure the cost will be £480. Previously the fee was increased on a scale in line with income/expenditure above £440k and we therefore paid £705 plus mileage last year. You will see that I have added a comment about a face to face visit as this is in line with Chris Haine's response that a visit should not cost us extra.

Liz Dowie
Senior Finance Administrator
Stroud Town Council
www.stroudtown.gov.uk
01453 762817
Privacy Statement: <https://www.stroudtown.gov.uk/local-council-privacy-and-cookie.html>

Usual working day – Tuesday



Fee Structure: 2023 – 2024 Internal Audit Service

Band	Higher of expenditure and income (range) £		Charge to Council £
1	0	5000	140
2	5001	25000	180
3	25001	50000	215
4	50001	100000	245
5	100001	200000	275
6	200001	300000	360
7	300001	400000	390
For every additional 100,000 (or part)			45

In addition to the above, mileage will be charged at 45p per mile from the Internal Auditor's base.

Should the Internal Auditor incur additional work because required documentation has not been supplied, there will be further charges.

Consultation – Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings

Today (24 October), the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, announced in her speech to the Local Government Association Annual Conference and Exhibition 2024, [the launch of a government consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings](#).

This consultation seeks views on the detail and practical implications of allowing remote and hybrid attendance at council meetings. It also tests views on the possible introduction of proxy voting for those occasions when an elected member, due to personal circumstances, may be unable to attend even remotely. For example, during maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

The consultation will close on 19 December 2024.

For queries related to this consultation email remoteattendanceconsultation@communities.gov.uk

Helen Bojaniwska

From: Kerrin Wilkinson GAPTC
Sent: 19 November 2024 11:51
Subject: Consultation on Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting: Have Your Say
Attachments: MPs Lobby Letter.doc; Template responses for members.doc

Dear members,

We are pleased to inform you about an exciting development that could significantly impact how councils operate. The government has launched a **consultation on enabling remote and hybrid attendance at council meetings**, as well as introducing proxy voting for councillors who cannot attend meetings due to personal circumstances, such as maternity or paternity leave.

This consultation, open until **19 December 2024**, seeks to gather views on the practical implications of these proposals. This aligns with NALC's ongoing campaign to allow greater flexibility for councils, an issue brought to prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urge all parish and town councils to contribute to this vital consultation and demonstrate the sector's support for these measures.

Key Details:

- **Consultation Deadline:** 19 December 2024
- **For more information, and to respond to the consultation:**
<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-standards-and-conduct/remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting/>

To help you formulate your council's response to the consultation we have put together some template responses as well as a model letter to your MP voicing your council's support for remote/hybrid meetings.

Regards

Kerrin Wilkinson
Strategic Support Officer

Have you logged into our new website member portal?



Cranham House, Falcon Close,
Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 4LY

[01452 883388](tel:01452883388)

strategicsupport@gaptc.org.uk

Remote Meetings Consultation

You may have seen the government's recent announcement to introduce proposals enabling remote council meetings. SLCC welcomes the announcement, which marks a significant victory in our long-standing campaign for greater flexibility in local democracy.

The proposed reforms align with SLCC's long-held position that remote meeting options are essential for enabling participation from those with caring responsibilities; supporting councillors managing illness or disability; increasing diversity in local democracy; and enhancing accessibility to local decision-making.

The government has opened a consultation on these changes [which you can access here](#). The consultation runs until 19 December 2024. It is also possible to complete a response online at the [UK.Gov citizens' space](#).

Responses are invited from councils, individual councillors, members of the public and local government representative organisations. SLCC will be making its own response to the consultation under the last category and would welcome input from members, which can be submitted to Michael King, Head of Policy and External Communications, michael.king@slcc.co.uk by 5 December.

Engage with Your MP: Support for Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting

GAPTC encourages all councils to engage with their local MPs regarding the government consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings. To assist, we have provided a template letter and a list of Gloucestershire MPs with their contact details. This is a valuable opportunity to introduce your council to your MP, and advocate for greater inclusivity and modernisation in council operations, ensuring local voices are heard at a national level.

November 2024

Gloucestershire is represented by the following Members of Parliament (MPs):

Constituency	MP Name	Party	Contact Information
Cheltenham	Max Wilkinson	Liberal Democrat	max.wilkinson.mp@parliament.uk
Forest of Dean	Matt Bishop	Labour	matt.bishop.mp@parliament.uk
Gloucester	Alex McIntyre	Labour	alex.mcintyre.mp@parliament.uk
North Cotswolds	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	Conservative	cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk
South Cotswolds	Roz Savage	Liberal Democrat	roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
Stroud	Dr Simon Opher	Labour	simon.opher.mp@parliament.uk
Tewkesbury	Cameron Thomas	Liberal Democrat	cameron.thomas.mp@parliament.uk

For more detailed contact information, including postal addresses and social media profiles, please visit the UK Parliament's official website: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

[Council Letterhead]

[Date]

[MP's Name]

[House of Commons Address or Constituency Office Address]

[City]

[Postcode]

Subject: Support for Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting in Council Meetings

Dear [MP's Name],

Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils
Cranham House, Falcon Close, Quedgeley, Glos. GL2 4LY.
Tel: 01452 883388 · E-mail: info@gaptc.org.uk · www.gaptc.org.uk

I am writing on behalf of **[Council Name]**, a parish/town council within your constituency, to express our strong support for the government's consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings.

As the tier of local government closest to the community, we understand the importance of accessibility and inclusivity in ensuring effective representation. The proposed changes to allow remote and hybrid meetings, as well as proxy voting for councillors unable to attend meetings due to personal circumstances, would be transformative for local councils like ours.

Remote meetings, which proved essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, offered numerous benefits, including:

- Improved accessibility for councillors with caring responsibilities or health concerns.
- Increased attendance from residents, who could engage with local democracy more easily.
- Enhanced efficiency and reduced travel costs/emissions, especially in rural areas like ours.

Proxy voting would provide much-needed flexibility for councillors during times when attendance is challenging, such as maternity, paternity, or adoption leave. These measures would modernise council operations, making them more inclusive and resilient.

We urge you to support these proposals and advocate for their implementation. This is an opportunity to ensure that local councils can better serve their communities by removing barriers to participation and representation.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and share our experiences of how these changes could benefit **[Council Name]** and the wider community. Please do not hesitate to contact us at **[email address]** or **[phone number]** if you would like to arrange a meeting. Thank you for your time and for considering this vital issue. We look forward to your support in ensuring the future of accessible and inclusive local government.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]
[Title/Role]
[Council Name]
[Contact Information]

Template consultation responses

Section 2: Remote Attendance

The government proposes granting local authorities flexibility to allow remote attendance at council meetings. This would modernise operations, promote inclusivity, and improve resilience during emergencies.

Pros:

- Enhances accessibility for councillors with disabilities, caring responsibilities, or travel challenges.
- Reduces travel costs and time, particularly in rural areas.
- Encourages greater diversity in elected representatives.

Cons:

- Potential reduction in face-to-face interaction and relationship-building.
- Concerns over technology reliability and online meeting security.
- Risk of excluding those without access to suitable technology.

Do you agree with the broad principle of granting local authorities powers to allow remote attendance at formal meetings?

Yes.

Should there be specific limitations on remote attendance?

Councils should have full flexibility to set arrangements for remote attendance, up to and including full remote meetings.

Additional Comment: Remote attendance should be tailored to local circumstances, with councils empowered to decide on the format that works best for their community. Limitations should not impede inclusivity or flexibility.

Section 3: Hybrid and Fully Remote Meetings

This section addresses whether councils should have restrictions on the number of fully remote meetings they can hold.

Pros:

- Hybrid meetings offer the flexibility of both remote and in-person participation.
- Fully remote meetings can be essential during emergencies or for inclusive access.

Cons:

- Fully remote meetings might reduce in-person engagement and public attendance.
- Hybrid arrangements require investment in technology and training.

Should there be limitations placed on the number of fully remote meetings councils can hold?

Councils should only have the flexibility to change a meeting from in-person to online, or vice versa, due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances

Additional Comment: Any restrictions should consider the unique needs of rural and underserved areas, where travel challenges or weather conditions might justify fully remote meetings.

What procedural measures would help ensure a remote or hybrid attendance policy is workable and efficient?

Councils should be required to publish a list of attendees joining the meeting remotely and give notice if a meeting is being held with full remote attendance

Councils should ensure all constitutional arrangements and confidentiality protocols are followed in hybrid and remote meetings.

Do you think legislative change to allow councillors to attend local authority meetings remotely should or should not be considered for the following reasons?

Should be considered for all three reasons provided, and because:

- Legislative changes would bring local government in line with modern practices, increasing efficiency and accessibility while reducing barriers for underrepresented groups.
- Remote attendance ensures that councils remain operational during emergencies, protecting democratic processes and continuity of service.
- These changes support inclusivity by enabling participation from those with caring responsibilities, disabilities, or other commitments that make in-person attendance challenging.
- Safeguards should be in place to maintain accountability, prevent abuse of remote attendance provisions, and address technical barriers for councillors and the public.

Proxy Voting

The government is considering proxy voting, allowing councillors to delegate their vote to a colleague when unable to attend a meeting.

Pros:

- Ensures councillors' votes are counted despite unavoidable absences.
- Provides flexibility for councillors on parental leave or with medical needs.

Cons:

- Risks reducing direct engagement and accountability.
- May be misused for political or bloc voting.

10. Do you consider that it would be helpful to introduce proxy voting?

Yes.

11. For which reasons should proxy voting be appropriate?

Tick the following options:

- *Physical or medical conditions.*
- *Caring responsibilities.*
- *Parental leave.*

Add any other reasons

Include all types of statutory leave to ensure inclusivity, such as compassionate leave in exceptional circumstances.

Broadening the scope of recognised leave types is essential to ensure that councils accommodate the diverse needs of their councillors. By including compassionate leave councils demonstrate a commitment to inclusivity and support for councillors' personal and family responsibilities. This approach not only fosters a more equitable environment but also ensures that individuals facing unavoidable personal commitments can continue to participate in council governance. Recognising these various forms of leave reflects a modern and compassionate approach to local government, allowing councillors to fulfil their democratic roles without undue hardship.

12. Are there circumstances in which proxy voting would not be appropriate?

Proxy voting should not be used for councillors who fail to attend meetings without valid reasons, as it could undermine personal accountability.

13. What limitations should be placed on proxy voting?

Proxy voting should be time-limited and used only in exceptional circumstances. Proxy voters must be informed of the absent councillor's views to ensure consistent representation.

Council Plan Review

Public Consultation

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & NATURE

This section sets out how we will work towards making Stroud District net zero and nature friendly, with a sustainable economy and communities that are well prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.

AIM 1: TACKLE THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Objective	Actions
1A. Lead the transition to net zero carbon emissions and nature's recovery in the district	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revise and implement the Climate and Nature strategy and action plan, to include new policy and legislation, review targets, build in greater <u>adaptation</u> and ensure the strategy is aligned with the Council Plan 2. Develop and implement a climate and nature decision-making tool for use across the council 3. Develop <u>carbon accounting</u> to measure and reduce carbon emissions, including Scope 3 emissions generated by the goods and services procured for SDC operation
1B. Ensure the district is prepared for the changes expected from climate change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an Adaptation Plan for the district, using the results of the Gloucestershire wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment 2. Apply for funding in 2026 to retrofit <u>blue/green infrastructure</u> to reduce impacts of surface water flooding and heat 3. Continue Natural Flood Management in the catchment of the River Frome and apply for funding to continue and extend to all catchments in the district identified as high priority (revised EC2.2) 4. Develop a flood prevention and response framework that promotes community resilience
1C. Enable the development of regenerative farming and land management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with organisations including Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership to further promote <u>regenerative farming</u> and localised fruit and vegetable growing to increase resilience of food supply in ways that help mitigate and adapt to climate change 2. Engage with new tree initiatives in the district, including the new National Forest bid (revised EC2.3) 3. Prioritise the Detailed Assessment of the 1,700 potentially contaminated land sites in the district and identify the resource that would be required to facilitate remediation

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & NATURE



AIM 2: PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR ENVIRONMENT

Objective	Actions
2A. Build the district's <u>Nature Recovery Network</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work closely with Local Nature Partnership and Severn Vale Catchment Partnership in the delivery of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Wilder Frome Strategy (revised EC2.1)2. Lead on community engagement and education programmes to enable residents to facilitate the delivery of our ambition for nature recovery and wilder habitat creation (revised EC2.4)3. Support organisations such as Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to investigate the socio-economic, ecological and adaptation benefits and impacts of wild beaver release and reintroduction of other species if Government policy changes allow.
2B. Ensure Council-managed open spaces are increasing in <u>biodiversity</u> and contributing effectively to nature's recovery	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review herbicide use across all council activities and explore the use of non-chemical-based weed control, whilst also meeting the needs of each area2. Create and implement biodiversity and land management plans for Selsley Common and Stratford Park (development of EC1.5)3. Secure long term land management for biodiversity and nature recovery gain, to maximise nature recovery potential within the district and explore the use of climate and nature bonds in achieving this
2C. Reduce the impact of transport on the environment, by working in partnership and leading by example	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work with the County Council and Parish Councils to progress additional walking and cycling projects and promote the <u>Cycling Mayor</u> (development of EC4.1 and EC4.2)2. Increase the proportion of Council and partner fleet vehicles powered by zero or low carbon technologies (EC6.3)3. Develop an air quality improvement approach to help reduce pollution across the district and deliver the council's duties in respect of the Environment Act 2021



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & NATURE



AIM 3: ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Objective	Actions
3A. Reduce the quantity of resources discarded as waste and minimise its environmental impact (EC5.1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continue to increase recycling rates across the district (EC5.4)2. Support the phasing out of single use materials in the district (EC5.3)3. Encourage and support reduce, reuse and repair initiatives in the district4. Work with our partner Ubico to identify joint opportunities for carbon reduction projects in household collection and management of public spaces (EC4.3)
3B. Reduce the amount of litter and fly tipped waste across the district	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gather baseline data on fly tipping across the district, and explore initiatives to reduce fly tipping including the potential for free or lower cost bulky waste collection2. Develop and implement a Litter prevention action plan to tackle littering and fly-tipping

3 AIMS

8 OBJECTIVES

24 ACTIONS



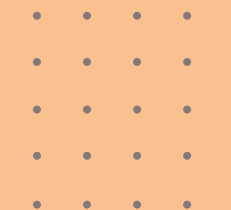
LOCAL ECONOMY

Partnership working is key to building a more sustainable and inclusive local economy, and whether the Council is leading or supporting regeneration projects, investment bids, training opportunities, or strategic plans, our focus will be on meeting the needs of local communities, businesses and residents, and working to secure the infrastructure that will enable our future net zero economy.

AIM 1: CREATE A PEOPLE-CENTRED ECONOMY

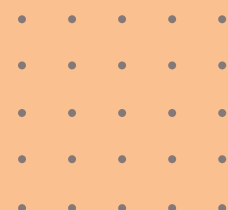
Objective	Actions
1A. Continue to build a more sustainable and inclusive local economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support a thriving and resilient climate conscious economy for businesses, communities and visitors by reviewing and updating the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and implementing the associated action plan (revised action ER1.1a) 2. Explore and bring forward further initiatives to promote the vitality of our High Streets and Market Towns 3. Work with partners to support the development of skills and training for all ages, including the unemployed, young people and apprentices, and across key sectors including the low carbon and regenerative agriculture sectors and visitor economy (ER4.4) 4. Work with education partners and businesses to help people of all ages to settle in the District and achieve their career aspirations with support, career guidance, job opportunities and housing that is affordable
1B. Support <u>community wealth building</u> and community ownership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a policy outlining the council's approach to supporting communities wishing to take ownership of local assets e.g. pubs and green spaces 2. Deliver recommendations on community wealth building and explore options for county-wide engagement and action 3. Promote initiatives which improve skills, celebrate diversity in the workplace and offer equal access to well paid jobs, voluntary sector opportunities, and wider opportunities for everyone (CW5.3)
1C. Support community and locally led <u>renewable energy</u> initiatives to accelerate the transition to a net zero district	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use Stroud District Council property and estate to generate renewable energy to reduce the council's emissions and provide guidance to town and parish councils who are trying to do the same 2. Provide support to developers of community energy schemes in the district to apply for funding and seek consent for their schemes 3. Research and report on the use of climate bonds and other funding mechanisms to finance council climate projects

LOCAL ECONOMY

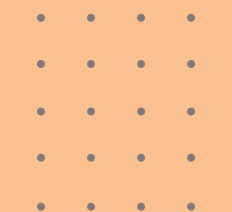


AIM 2: DEVELOP THE DISTRICT AS THE NATURAL PLACE FOR BUSINESS

Objective	Actions
2A. A flag bearer for climate conscious start-ups and existing businesses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support a thriving and resilient climate conscious economy by reviewing and updating the <u>Natural Place prospectus</u> that celebrates sustainable businesses and promotes high environmental business practices and supply chains 2. Actively engage with the business community, Gloucestershire County Council, other partners and service providers to access government and external funding to unlock economic investment and prosperity in the District 3. Support high street and other businesses to increase their digital and virtual visibility (ER1.2)
2B. Promote Stroud district as a sustainable tourism and visitor destination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partners to promote and support sustainable events and activities for residents and visitors across the district 2. Undertake an audit of public facilities and toilet provision across the district to inform whether destinations in the district have appropriate and accessible facilities and make recommendations for potential improvements 3. Promote the district's waterways to residents and visitors, by delivering physical enhancements and stronger links with our communities, aligned with biodiversity and heritage objectives (ER3.2a) 4. Secure a sustainable future for Woodchester Mansion and the park within it sits, enabling more people to access and enjoy this cultural and natural heritage
2C. Increase connectivity and mobility innovation across the district	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support a shift towards active modes of travel by working with the County Council, town and parish councils to increase use of an enhanced strategic and local walking and cycling network (EC4.1) 2. Encourage the expansion and improvement of public transport, sustainable transport access to local centres and links to walking and cycling routes, including supporting the case for improved public transport in line with the countywide UK:100 pledge (development of EC4.2) 3. Working with partners, expand the network of Electric Vehicle charging points and increase support for low carbon transport (EC4.3)



LOCAL ECONOMY



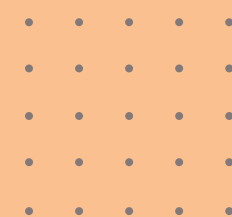
AIM 3: DEVELOP THE DISTRICT'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Objective	Actions
<p>3A. Deliver the council's strategic infrastructure projects to maximise benefits for current and future generations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop Brimscombe Port as a key strategic site to support a thriving community, in line with project milestones which include delivering infrastructure works (ER2.1) 2. Deliver Phase 1b of the Cotswold Canals Connected project, through the environment, community and engineering programmes, in line with National Lottery Heritage Fund requirements (development of ER2.2) 3. Leverage <u>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</u> and <u>S106 funds</u> to aid the timely delivery of community infrastructure to support sustainable communities
<p>3B. Support the delivery of key regeneration sites across the district by enabling and influencing significant infrastructure projects and investments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress 'hard to develop' brownfield sites across the district, while preserving and enhancing biodiversity (ER2.3) 2. Work with rail industry and other partners to develop and deliver a Stroud Station Quarter regeneration project, to include the creation of new homes, economic opportunities and improvement of the public realm 3. Work with partners including Western Gateway to promote the development of Severn Edge (Berkeley and Oldbury sites) to be a green energy hub, at the forefront of a low carbon and renewable energy revolution, to provide high quality jobs and skills opportunities for our local communities
<p>3C. Promote sustainable development by balancing new housing, transport and employment requirements with the necessary infrastructure and environmental protection for the district</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress the draft <u>Local Plan</u> through public examination and secure its adoption (ER5.1) 2. Commence development of a new Local Plan and local planning framework, in line with the revised policy, guidance and regulations 3. Actively encourage utility providers, such as water companies and National Grid, to ensure upgrades address local needs and support the deployment of renewable energy 4. Promote investment in national infrastructure in the district to secure long-term prosperity and help to meet current and future generations' housing and economic needs

3 AIMS

9 OBJECTIVES

30 ACTIONS



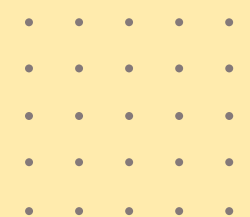
COMMUNITIES & WELLBEING



The health and wellbeing of people in our communities is a key priority, and the Council will work to reduce health inequalities, to support our district's network of community hubs, to enhance leisure services, cultural opportunities and work with young people, and to champion equality, diversity, inclusion and equity in all that we do.

AIM 1: SUPPORT HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Objective	Actions
1A. Reduce health inequalities in the district through a strategic and evidence-led approach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using data to identify need, develop and implement a Health Inequalities Strategy and Action Plan that sets out how we will work with partners to address specific areas of health inequality in the district and reduce inequalities that result from socio-economic disadvantage Work with partners to improve <u>food resilience</u>, access and equity (revised CW1.5) Support healthy ageing by working in partnership with the <u>Integrated Locality Partnership</u> to create interventions, and develop the Careline delivery model
1B. Develop the provision of accessible and high-quality leisure services across the district	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a Leisure Services Development Plan that considers the findings of the Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy and includes health and wellbeing programme development across the district Explore opportunities for new services Secure capital investment for Active Lifestyles Stroud, Active Lifestyles Dursley and Stroud Lido, and explore future developments
1C. Promote and encourage healthy and active lifestyles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a long-term Play Strategy and investment plan to support the development and repurposing of play areas where the need is greatest (development of CW4.2) Support sports clubs with funding applications to improve their playing pitches and facilities Increase physical activity and sports participation through the Healthy Lifestyles Scheme in partnership with the Gloucestershire We Can Move Programme (CW4.3)

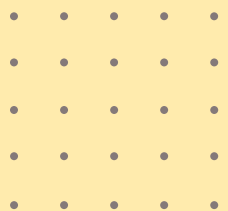


COMMUNITIES & WELLBEING



AIM 2: EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

Objective	Actions
2A. Support the development of stronger communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support the developing network of community hubs to help build stronger communities (revised CW1.1)2. Coproduce a partnership delivery plan to ensure residents and communities are supported with and prepared for economic change3. Support residents with community initiatives such as through the crowdfunding platform
2B. Support residents, communities and visitors throughout the district to be and feel safe	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop a Community Safety Plan which aligns with the Community Safety Partnership, Safer Gloucestershire, OPCC and the Home Office2. Reduce the impacts and causes of anti-social behaviour in the district (CW1.4)3. Work to make the district free of the intimidation and harassment of women and girls through partnership working, providing a clear process for how incidents should be reported and responded to and working with partners to provide briefing and education resources.
2C. Ensure the district is a place where children and young people are happy, healthy, safe, empowered and ready for the future	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In partnership, develop a Youth Strategy that sets out how young people can be happy, safe and empowered, and ready for the future2. Deliver effective and genuine participation of young people in the work of the council3. Develop health strategies and interventions as part of the Integrated Locality Partnership's Children and Young People workstream



COMMUNITIES & WELLBEING



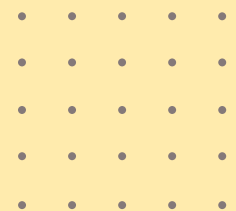
AIM 3: DEVELOP INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Objective	Actions
3A. Bring and keep communities together through supporting strong cultural opportunities that showcase the district as a welcoming, distinctive and attractive place	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Implement the <u>Culture</u> Strategy to help break down barriers to culture and provide <u>equitable access</u> across the district (development of CW4.5)2. Work to maintain and improve the Museum in the Park by commissioning and completing an options appraisal for museum storage and the redesign or redisplay of artefacts
3B. Champion equality, diversity, inclusion and equity in all that we do	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Deliver our annual Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Action Plan2. Provide appropriate support for groups such as carers, care leavers and former members of the armed forces, who may experience barriers to achieving a good quality of life3. Promote initiatives which improve skills, celebrate diversity in the workplace and offer equal access to well paid jobs and economic opportunities for everyone (CW5.3)

3 AIMS

8 OBJECTIVES

23 ACTIONS



HOUSING



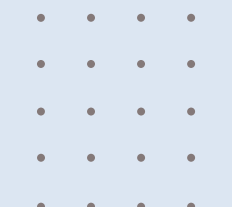
Good quality housing plays a vital role in ensuring our lives are lived well, and this priority outlines how the Council will play a full role in ensuring that the quality and quantity of homes in our district is enhanced, and that in the Council's role as a landlord our housing stock is good quality, energy efficient, safe, and fit for purpose.

AIM 1: DELIVER ADDITIONAL AFFORDABLE HOMES

Objective	Actions
1A. Deliver affordable homes through our own new homes programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Complete the 96 properties identified in our New Build Programme (development of CW2.1b)2. Further increase our own affordable homes by identifying opportunities, including new sites and buy-backs, and maximising sources of finance
1B. Encourage delivery of new affordable homes by partners	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure planning policy fully supports the provision of <u>affordable homes</u> and that developers deliver in line with planning policy (development of CW2.1a)2. Work with partners including housing associations and community-led housing groups to increase the delivery of affordable homes (development of CW2.1a)3. Improve the sustainability of rural communities by utilising rural exception sites where appropriate



HOUSING



AIM 2: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF HOMES IN STROUD DISTRICT

Objective	Actions
2A. Support residents living in privately owned and rented accommodation to live in safe, sustainable and good quality homes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage landlords to improve their housing stock 2. Build on Gloucestershire Warm and Well work to maximise its impact 3. Implement regulatory and policy changes as they arise to improve private sector housing standards 4. Explore opportunities to support private sector landlords to provide good quality rented accommodation
2B. Develop partnerships, provide advice and support local action to make homes in the district more sustainable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support households that are able and willing to pay to retrofit properties with energy efficiency and renewable energy measures (development of EC3.3) 2. Continue work on Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for private rental properties 3. Invest in Council homes to realise <u>optimum emissions reductions</u> and achieve an average rating of EPC-C or above (EC3.1) 4. Produce guidance and work with developers to enable all new buildings to achieve a net zero carbon standard (EC3.5a)
2C. Provide good quality, safe and fit for purpose council homes, ensuring tenants can live well	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest, maintain and repair our council homes to ensure they are safe, good quality, and fit for purpose places where tenants can live well (development of CW2.2) 2. Ensure our council homes and services meet new legislative and regulatory compliance standards (CW2.7) 3. Improve levels of tenant engagement to ensure structured and consistent mechanisms for tenants to be involved in decision making affecting their homes and the places they live (development of CW2.4) 4. Protect those most vulnerable to rising housing costs by maximising access to housing advice and support 5. Increase the provision of high quality, fit for purpose Independent Living Provision in line with the 2023-2027 Independent Living Strategy (CW2.5a)



HOUSING



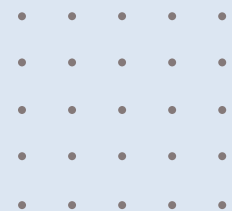
AIM 3: INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT

Objective	Actions
3A. Initiate and support innovative housing solutions in the district that are responsive to different needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partners to support people to live independently in their own homes and in communities (development of CW5.5) 2. Investigate opportunities to support the private sector to increase the efficiency of housing occupation
3B. Prioritise the prevention of homelessness and provide support for migrant households	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest in specialist support, including working with partners to develop specialist housing and support (CW2.3) 2. Deliver the Temporary Accommodation Strategy 3. Coordinate support services for migrants arriving in the district and link to other statutory and voluntary services to support the health and wellbeing of migrant households (CW2.6)
3C. Explore the delivery of more accessible homes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an Accessible Housing Register to enable disabled homeseekers to make informed choices about their housing, and more accurately identify properties that would meet their access needs 2. Review data and need for accessible homes to consider building to increased accessibility standards 3. Make best use of council housing stock including reviewing and refreshing the Downsizing Policy

3 AIMS

8 OBJECTIVES

26 ACTIONS



WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

We are always looking for ways to improve Council services and this priority sets out how we will achieve this through fuller community engagement, ensuring our finances remain strong, and continuing to invest in our workforce and technology.

AIM 1: IMPROVE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

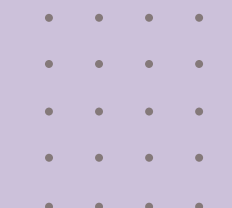
Objective	Actions
1A. Engage more effectively with our communities, residents, businesses and stakeholders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Communications Strategy to ensure external and internal communications are co-ordinated and consistent 2. Implement and embed the <u>Community Engagement Principles</u> across the organisation 3. Improve collaboration and engagement with Town and Parish Councils and further develop and embed the Town and Parish Charter 4. Develop a Consultation Strategy to ensure that any consultation we do is clear, consistent and co-ordinated and learning and data is shared
1B. Improve customer access and experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Embed a more consistent customer experience through deliver of the Customer Contact Strategy 2. Undertake a review of the council's main website to ensure that information is accessible and relevant 3. Increase the number of services available online, whilst maintaining face-to-face and telephone contact channels for those who need it most
1C. Report on feedback and performance against actions taken to improve the customer experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regularly promote '<u>Our Service Standards</u>' outlining service and response expectations and publish performance and compliance against the Standards 2. Embed customer feedback mechanisms across all high demand service areas to drive continuous service improvement, improving customer experience 3. Monitor and report on <u>channel shift</u> to understand contact demand and ensure our contact methods meet residents needs

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

AIM 2: DELIVER EFFICIENT SERVICES

Objective	Actions
2A. Maintain our financial resilience to support key services and the realisation of Council priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) remains solvent2. Work to automate manual processes to increase productivity and make our services more efficient3. Maximise commercial opportunities by undertaking a review of our fees and charges
2B. Maintain robust and resilient ICT infrastructure to protect the integrity of our data and digital systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continually improve our <u>cyber resilience</u> to reduce the risk of service interruption and/or data exfiltration2. Ensure our ICT infrastructure is resilient and supported to enable service delivery3. Develop a Digital Strategy to set out our ambitions and focus innovation activity on how we can transform the way we work
2C. Proactively use data and insight to inform decision-making and ensure equality and social value is embedded in the way we work	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop and implement a Data and Intelligence Strategy to inform decision making, improve efficiency and manage demand more effectively2. Introduce a toolkit to measure social value across procurement and projects that works with a climate and nature decision making-tool3. Enhance the approach to the completion of <u>Equality Impact Assessments</u> to ensure engagement and consultation takes place at an early stage to inform decision making

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES



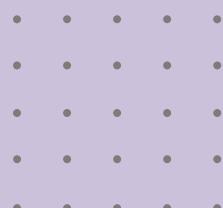
AIM 3: MAINTAIN A SUPPORTED & MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

Objective	Actions
3A. Ensure we are an Employer of Choice to enable us to attract, retain and grow talent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a plan for the Workforce to support talent management and succession planning 2. Undertake a review of HR Policies to ensure they are up to date and meet the needs of the organisation 3. Increase learning and development opportunities including skills development, training and career progression opportunities to ensure a skilled and resilient workforce
3B. Maintain a productive and supported workforce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote employee wellbeing initiatives and the Employee Assistance Programme 2. Complete the annual Staff Survey and deliver the Staff Survey Action Plan 3. Encourage diversity and champion equality within our workplace and support the Staff Network Groups 4. Conduct a <u>sustainability audit</u> of work practices
3C. Enhance reporting of key HR Metrics to set targets and improve diversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Embed the GPS (Grow, Perform, Succeed) Individual Performance Management approach and report on compliance 2. Benchmark and report on how the organisation is performing on key HR metrics 3. Improve equality monitoring in relation to the composition of our workforce, recruitment, development and retention of employees and identify areas for improvement

3 AIMS

9 OBJECTIVES

29 ACTIONS



Update on Locking Hill Relocation and Refurbishment

FOR MEETING

Council

DATE

9th December 2024

CONSULTEES

STC staff

Office Working Group

Extended Studio

OpenHouse

SDC Planners

Severn Trent

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Note progress
- Approve draft charges for room rental
- Approve a contract for Phase 1 works at Locking Hill
- Approve designs and work specifications for Phase 2 works at Locking Hill
- Note research into car parking options and consider our recommendation to defer a decision for the time being
- Resolve to opt to tax the building
- Delegate responsibilities under Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in relation to the Locking Hill to the Programme Manager should the CEO be absent.

REPORT

Progress report

Green Spaces team relocation

The Green Space team have created a new workshop area and started moving in. They have potential buyers for the welfare unit and fuel store at Locking Hill and have ordered a replacement fuel store to be located at the cemetery.

Two vehicle chargers have been installed at Locking Hill, which will enable the electric van to be charged overnight.

The rangers are painting the ground floor community rooms.

A contractor has completed some minor works in the workshop area.

Other works completed/in progress:

- Fire and security alarms
- Emergency lights
- CCTV

- Legionella – water tanks will need to be cleaned before occupation, so there is currently no drinking water on site.

Boundary wall with OpenHouse

There have been positive discussions with OpenHouse about repairs to the boundary wall. Stroud District Council planners take the view that it is listed, so buttresses and gabion baskets have been ruled out.

Planning and listed building permissions

A pre-application to Stroud District Council has been completed and followed up with further discussions about some elements. In summary:

- the siting of the bin store, storage container and vehicle store and the installation of the EV charger comply with the limitations of permitted development.
- replacing the two windows in the side elevations, with larger window units, would be classed as de minimis. This element of the scheme in isolation would not materially affect the appearance of the building and would not be classed as development.
- External insulation would require a planning application.

Sale of Thanet House

There have been several viewings by potential purchasers in recent weeks and the agent remains confident that a purchaser can be found. In order to stimulate interest, the price has been reduced, but I am confident that the building can be sold for the budgeted price.

Should a quick sale be needed, plans are being developed for the contents of Thanet House to be securely stored at Locking Hill, staff to work from home and a temporary desk set up at the Subscription Rooms.

Phase 1

Works at Locking Hill

The Council has now completed a closed tender exercise for a supplier to undertake Phase 1 works at Locking Hill: focused on construction of the Green Spaces vehicle store and bin store.

Five local suppliers were invited to tender for this work however due to suppliers' existing projects and limited capacity only one bid was received, at a total cost of £38,798 (excl. VAT) – see attached. This is a reduction of £1,200 (excl. VAT) against the original price following negotiation with the supplier regarding sourcing strategy. Extended Studios have benchmarked this quote against their own quantity-surveying software and advise it reflects value for money. The supplier has previously delivered work for the Council and we are confident that they have the requisite skills and experience to complete this project successfully.

Our recommendation is that Councillors authorise officers to enter a contract with the identified supplier up the value of £38,798 (excl. VAT) to enable completion of this work – noting the risk outlined below re: the sewer.

Complications with Severn Trent sewer

Buried services surveys undertaken in preparation for Phase 1 works have identified that a section of Severn Trent's mains sewer is located beneath the proposed siting of the new vehicle store at Locking Hill. Our architects are currently liaising with Severn Trent to seek permission to construct our existing design: they advise that conversations have been positive, and that Severn Trent are entertaining the request since the structure is relatively lightweight.

There are two outcomes which include risks to Phase 1 works:

- (Likely) Permission to proceed with modifications to the design required to mitigate any additional load on the sewer structure. For example, by introducing more load-bearing frame or digging piles to a certain depth. This would pose a **financial risk** through increased cost. This could likely be met through the contingency budget for Locking Hill and delivered through a variation in the proposed supplier contract.
- (Possible) Denial of permission to build in the existing location, requiring us to rescope our existing design by changing location or reducing size. Options for modification are constrained by the exclusion zone around the culvert on Slad Road, and the minimum requirements for storage of the Green Spaces vehicle.

Phase 2

Please see detailed drawings and documents attached, which will form the basis for the brief to contractors for works to the first floor.

Drawings:

- Demolition plans
- Proposed floor plans
- Proposed finishes plans
- Proposed elevations and sections
- Electrical and lighting plan
- Detailed floor plans of the key spaces
- Internal elevations of key spaces
- Door schedule

Documents:

- Finishes schedule
- Updated Outline Schedule of Works

An updated cost estimate has been obtained, which was used to inform the draft budget for 2025-26.

Furniture

Discussions are ongoing about furniture for the office, chamber and reception.

Car park

The Programme Manager has investigated options for management of the car park at Locking Hill in future, to ensure that spaces remain available for staff, visitors and groups hiring the community space. The two main options are:

- contracting a private car park management firm using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras. This is zero-cost; provides the best-fit operational solution; and remains flexible to generate revenue through public parking out-of-hours in future. However, car park operators have a poor reputation and we would be contractually bound for at least three years.
- installation of an automated barrier and entry control system. These do not appear to present a feasible option due to high cost (between £7-10k) and limited options which deliver adequately against our operational requirements.

Given this, officers are recommending that we defer any decision regarding changes to car park management at Locking Hill. In the interim we will ensure the existing manual gate is unlocked during opening hours and when community spaces are booked; and monitor the extent to which this leads to issues.

Phase 3 proposals

Future works will focus on decarbonisation projects identified in the energy strategy previously circulated and/or refurbishment of the future community space on the Lower Ground Floor. For future sustainability improvements external insulation and replacement of the existing gas boiler with an air source heat pump being the most likely options. A heat loss survey and additional energy consumption information will be required to inform potential schemes

The new fundraising officer is actively researching grant opportunities for both sustainability improvements and/or community-space improvements to enable Phase 3 works to continue.

[Phase 4 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund](#), operated by SALIX is now closed for applications. Should further rounds become available the works identified above should have strong potential for grant funding.

[Phase 5 of the Public Sector Low Carbon Skills](#) grant programme is also now closed. If it resumes, we could apply for help to build business case for capital funding.

The CEO recently participated in a review of previous SALIX schemes and gave feedback on the difficulties we experienced when applying for funding for Thanet House. Hopefully the review will lead to more accessible funding in future.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Please see attached budget report on expenditure to date.

Charging for room rental

The potential income from renting the Chamber and meeting rooms has been estimated as shown in **Appendix A**.

VAT – opt to tax

Advice has been sought regarding the VAT implications of renting out rooms. Our accountant has advised as follows:

“The letting of property is, by default, an exempt activity for VAT purposes. Consequently a proportion of the VAT incurred on the refurbishment will count towards your Partial Exemption limit and is therefore potentially disallowable. Given

your expectation of letting income of about £25,000 p.a., I would therefore recommend that you Opt to Tax the building.

This Option to Tax should be resolved by Council to be:

- a. Before Income starts to be earned and
- b. Before commencement of the refurbishment works.”

Please see attached, the documents required to progress this.

Delegation to Programme Manager

Under Standing Orders and Financial Regulations if the CEO (Town Clerk/RFO) is unavailable, for example through illness or annual leave, their financial responsibilities are delegated to the Deputy CEO (Town Clerk/RFO). As the Deputy CEO is likely to have a conflict-of-interest Council are requested to delegate these responsibilities to the Programme Manager should an emergency arise relating to the Locking Hill relocation.

Staff matters

The Programme Manager is currently leading the Locking Hill project and it is taking 30-50% of their time. The relocation project impacts on all staff to some extent as it will have a big impact on all staff which requires careful consideration. Regular updates are provided at the weekly team meeting and staff are encouraged to feed into important design decisions.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has the General Power of Competence which is “the power to do anything that individuals generally may do” as long as they do not break other laws. This power allows the Council to own and manage property.

EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a legal public sector equality duty to prevent and eliminate discrimination, establish and promote equality and equal opportunities, and foster good relations between people with different protected characteristics. There are no human rights issues.

Best practice in accessible design is being included as far as possible within the limits of the site.

The flooring specifications have recently been reviewed in response to a question about their impact on people living with dementia. There is a classification system by the DSDC, who give the following grades:

- 1A – plain use indiscriminately – used in care homes or areas with specific needs
- 1B – semi-plain use throughout
- 2 – some pattern use with caution, intended for general public buildings
- Unclassified – anything with more pattern than above

The initial selections were all unclassified – too busy – so more samples of other types are being sought to see what would be best.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The Council has a duty to consider the impact of all its functions and decisions on crime and disorder in the local area, under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

CO2 AND BIODIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

See [Phase 3 proposals](#)

The Green Spaces team are looking at the opportunities to improve the small areas of green space on site to improve biodiversity through planting and habitat creation.

HB and BC 2/12/2024

Appendix A DRAFT Hiring fees from 1/4/2025

				Estimated weekly usage			Total income			Weekly income	annual income (50 weeks)
	Per hour	Half day/ evening - 4 hours	Per day 8 hours	Per hour	Half day/ evening - 4 hours	Per day 8 hours	Per hour	Half day/ evening - 4 hours	Per day 8 hours	TOTAL	
Council Chamber - 40 people?											
Council use	0	0	0	5	1	2	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Partner organisations	£5.00	£20.00	£40.00	3	3	0.5	£15.00	£60.00	£20.00	£95.00	£4,750.00
Other community Groups	£10.00	£40.00	£80.00	2	2	1	£20.00	£80.00	£80.00	£180.00	£9,000.00
Commercial	£20.00	£80.00	£150.00	0	1	0.25	£0.00	£80.00	£37.50	£117.50	£5,875.00
Community room larger											
Council use	0	0	0	0	0	1	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Partner organisations	0	0	0	0	2	1	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Other community Groups	£5.00	£20.00	£40.00	0	1	1	£0.00	£20.00	£40.00	£60.00	£3,000.00
Commercial	£10.00	£40.00	£80.00	0	1	0	£0.00	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00	£2,000.00
Community room smaller											
Council and community use only	0	0	0							0	£0.00
GRAND TOTAL										£24,625.00	

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

Note: Budget report 29 November 2024

		<u>2023/24</u>		<u>2024/25</u>				<u>2025/26</u>		
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
111	<u>RELOCATION</u>									
4017	HEALTH,SAFETY,SECURITY	0	0	0	5,887	0	1,954	0	0	0
4029	OFFICE EQUIPMT - NOT COMPUTER	0	0	4,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4033	COMPUTER/PHONE HARDWARE,MAINT	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4300	Relocation consultancy	0	0	0	24,148	0	13,304	0	0	0
4301	Relocation works	0	0	108,326	7,146	0	1,868	346,798	0	0
4302	Relocation fees	0	0	0	2,270	0	0	30,000	0	0
4303	Relocation legal fees	0	0	0	6,395	0	0	0	0	0
4304	Property purchase	0	0	0	530,310	0	0	0	0	0
4306	Removal costs	0	0	0	1,235	0	650	0	0	0
4308	Locking Hill bridging finance	0	0	0	380,000	0	0	0	0	0
4998	TF FROM OTHER FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	-376,798	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	0	0	117,326	957,390	0	17,776	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0	0	(117,326)	(957,390)	0		0		
112	<u>LOCKING HILL OPERATIONAL COSTS</u>									
4017	HEALTH,SAFETY,SECURITY	0	0	0	0	0	1,880	0	0	0
4036	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	0	0
4313	Locking Hill loan repayments	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,165	0	0
4411	LH Rates	0	0	0	1,452	0	0	7,631	0	0
4417	LH H&S costs	0	0	0	691	0	0	3,000	0	0
4418	LH Utilities	0	0	0	1,150	0	0	12,000	0	0
4426	LH Insurance	0	0	0	933	0	0	1,200	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	0	0	0	4,225	0	1,880	68,996	0	0

Continued on next page

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

Note: Budget report 29 November 2024

	<u>2023/24</u>		<u>2024/25</u>				<u>2025/26</u>		
	Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(4,225)</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>(68,996)</u>		
Total Budget Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	0	0	117,326	961,615	0	19,656	68,996	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(117,326)</u>	<u>(961,615)</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>(68,996)</u>		

Helen Bojaniwska

Subject: FW: RELOCATION AND VAT

From: Admin <admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2024 09:32

To: Helen Bojaniwska

Subject: RE: RELOCATION AND VAT

Hi Helen

In the absence of a response to my suggestion of a consultation visit in my last email, I can only advise as follows.

The letting of property is, by default, an exempt activity for VAT purposes. Consequently a proportion of the VAT incurred on the refurbishment will count towards your Partial Exemption limit and is therefore potentially disallowable. Given your expectation of letting income of about £25,000 p.a., I would therefore recommend that you Opt to Tax the building. This Option to Tax should be resolved by Council to be:

- a. Before Income starts to be earned and
- b. Before commencement of the refurbishment works.

The process can all be completed on line and, if you wish us to do so on your behalf we will let you have drafts of the relevant resolutions and other documentation required.

Regards and stay safe



Derek R Kemp

DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd

Tel: 01793 739110

Email: admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk

Website: www.dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk

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Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error.

From: Helen Bojaniwska

Sent: 18 November 2024 16:21

To: Admin <admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk>

Cc: Kate Montgomery; Ben Challis ; Liz Dowie

Subject: RE: RELOCATION AND VAT

Hello Derek

Please could you give me an update on this question as soon as possible? We are hoping to start the first phase of renovation work in the new year which is now looking more like £40,000.

regards

Helen Bojaniwska FSLCC
Chief Executive Officer (Town Clerk)

Stroud Town Council

www.stroudtown.gov.uk

01453 762817

Preferred pronouns: she/her

[Privacy Statement](#)

From: Helen Bojaniwska

Sent: 23 October 2024 17:55

To: Admin <admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk>

Cc: 'Kate Montgomery (kate.montgomery@stroudtown.gov.uk)' <kate.montgomery@stroudtown.gov.uk>; Ben Challis <Ben.Challis@stroudtown.gov.uk>; Liz Dowie <liz.dowie@stroudtown.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: RELOCATION AND VAT

Sorry Derek – I thought I had sent you everything.

We paid £515,000 for the property. Our refurbishment project is currently estimated at £400,000 excluding VAT.

We will be progressing an initial phase of works this financial year (est £15,500), but it's looking like the main expenditure will go into next year.

The purchase was funded by a PW loan. We are selling our current office to fund the refurbishment.

We have spent/committed about £77,000 so far on legal fees, stamp duty and works. See table below.

regards

Helen Bojaniwska FSLCC
Chief Executive Officer (Town Clerk)

Stroud Town Council

www.stroudtown.gov.uk

01453 762817

Preferred pronouns: she/her

[Privacy Statement](#)

From: Admin <admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk>

Sent: 23 October 2024 16:59

To: Helen Bojaniwska <Helen.Bojaniwska@stroudtown.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: RELOCATION AND VAT

Hi Helen

I can't really advise in the absence of a reply to my email of 1st October, because it all depends on:

1. VAT on Purchase (if any)
2. Timing and amount of any refurbishment costs

It is highly likely that you will need to Opt to Tax the new property but, as long as this is done before you incur any significant Input VAT, the recovery will not be jeopardised.

Regards and stay safe



Derek R Kemp
DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd

Tel: 01793 739110

Email: admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk

Website: www.dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk

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Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error.

From: Helen Bojaniwska

Sent: 23 October 2024 16:54

To: Admin <admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk>

Cc: Liz Dowie; Locking Hill Relocation; Adrian Oldman STC <adrian.oldman@stroudtown.gov.uk>; David Drew STC <david.drew@stroudtown.gov.uk>; Dee Nolson STC <dee.nolson@stroudtown.gov.uk>; Shyama Ananthan STC <shyama.ananthan@stroudtown.gov.uk>; Ben Challis <Ben.Challis@stroudtown.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: RELOCATION AND VAT

Hi Derek

Have you had chance to look at this yet please?

Regards

Helen Bojaniwska FSLCC

Chief Executive Officer (Town Clerk)

Stroud Town Council

www.stroudtown.gov.uk

01453 762817

Preferred pronouns: she/her

[Privacy Statement](#)

From: Helen Bojaniwska
Sent: 07 October 2024 11:22
To: Admin <admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk>
Cc: Liz Dowie <liz.dowie@stroudtown.gov.uk>; Locking Hill Relocation <LockingHillRelocation@stroudtown.gov.uk>;
Adrian Oldman STC <adrian.oldman@stroudtown.gov.uk>; David Drew STC <david.drew@stroudtown.gov.uk>; Dee
Nolson STC <dee.nolson@stroudtown.gov.uk>; Shyama Ananthan STC <shyama.ananthan@stroudtown.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: RELOCATION AND VAT

Hi Derek

I have done a quick estimate. I think we could potentially make about £25,000 a year from room hire – mostly the Council chamber. Probably not in the first year, but as a target to aim at. See attached. I have looked at comparable rates elsewhere in the town.

regards

Helen Bojaniwska FSLCC
Chief Executive Officer (Town Clerk)

Stroud Town Council
www.stroudtown.gov.uk

01453 762817

Preferred pronouns: she/her

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From: Admin <admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk>
Sent: 01 October 2024 15:29
To: Helen Bojaniwska <Helen.Bojaniwska@stroudtown.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: RELOCATION AND VAT

Good afternoon, Helen,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. I am afraid the answer is far from simple and straightforward.

Firstly, am I correct in assuming (being a former Doctors' surgery) that you were not actually charged VAT on the purchase price. If so, that buys us a little time.

Secondly, it is essential that the VAT implication of the project be examined BEFORE any significant VAT is incurred, as most decisions concerning VAT need to be taken before expenditure is incurred. Normally. In such circumstances, we recommend a review meeting to explore and discuss options and implications. Such visits are normally double-handed (to advise as well as record that advice, at a cost of £1,215 plus travel and VAT.

Please give me a call at your convenience (I am in the office for the rest of the week at least) to agree the next steps.

Regards and stay safe



Derek R Kemp
DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd

Tel: 01793 739110

Email: admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk

Website: www.dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk

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From: Helen Bojaniwska <Helen.Bojaniwska@stroudtown.gov.uk>

Sent: 17 September 2024 12:27

To: Admin <admin@dckaccountingsolutions.co.uk>

Cc: Kate Montgomery <kate.montgomery@stroudtown.gov.uk>; Liz Dowie <liz.dowie@stroudtown.gov.uk>

Subject: RELOCATION AND VAT

I am looking for some advice on the VAT position relating to our office relocation.

We have recently purchased a former GP surgery using a public works loan. We plan to sell our current office and use the proceeds to refurbish the new property.

When the new property is completed it will house both our office and green spaces workshops. We plan to rent out the new Council Chamber and some small meeting rooms.

Do you anticipate any VAT issues?

regards

Helen Bojaniwska FSLCC
Chief Executive Officer (Town Clerk)

Stroud Town Council

www.stroudtown.gov.uk

01453 762817

Preferred pronouns: she/her

[Privacy Statement](#)

**Locking Hill Yard Structures
Outline Schedule of Works**

1127

Description of works

The works involve the following works in the external car park of Locking Hill:
Construction of timber framed secure vehicles store and adjacent bin store
Small power and lighting to the enclosure

Schedule to be read in conjunction with Extended Studio drawings

1127_420

1127_421

and STRUCTURAL ENGINEER DRAWINGS

tbc

Contractor to include for all costs associated with temporary works, a secure site perimeter, storage of materials, removals of waste and protection of existing services and structures throughout.

All designs requiring input from Structural Engineer to be completed by the contractor as required to comply with Building Regulations, with proposals agreed by Employer prior to construction

The contract will be the JCT Minor Works Building Contract with Contractor's Design 2024, with recitals, articles and contract particulars as set out below.

Proposed start on site date: *T.B.C.*
Proposed duration (weeks): *8-10 Weeks.*
Proposed completion date: *T.B.C.*

Item	Description	Cost
0.0	Contract recitals, articles and particulars	
0.1	The Employer is: Stroud Town Council	
0.2	First recital: Construction of timber framed secure vehicle store and bin store at Locking Hill, Slad Road, GL5	
0.3	Second recital: Contractor's design portions: - design of timber framed and clad gates - design of electrical lighting <i>See Revisional Sum.</i>	
0.4	Third recital: - Extended Studio drawings 1127_420 & 421, Designers' Risk Assessment and this Schedule of Works, OBP drawing T6044-01	
0.5	Sixth recital: The contractor is to determine if the project is / is not notifiable, and is to complete all liaison with the HSE	
0.6	Article 4: The Architect / Contract Administrator is Tom Sykes of Extended Studio, Lower Street Atelier, 19a Lower Street, Stroud, GL5 2HT	
0.7	Article 5: The Principal Designer (CDM Regulations) is as Article 4 The Contractor will be the Principal Contractor	
0.8	Article 6: The Principal Designer (Building Regulations) is as Article 4 The Contractor will be the Principal Contractor	
0.9	Schedule 2: All Supplemental Provisions apply <i>(Tender based on Zee)</i>	
0.10	Liquidated damages: will be chargeable at the rate of £xx per calendar day	
0.11	Rectification period: 12 months from date of Practical Completion	

0.12	Fluctuations: no fluctuations provisions apply to this contract due to its short nature	
0.13	Public liability insurance: £5million	
0.14	Insurance of the works, Clause 5.5 applies, with insurance to cover the adjacent retaining walls	
1.0	Preliminaries	
1.1	Contractor to include all necessary insurance cover as required to insure the works, including public liability insurance of £5m as the site is adjacent to a public footpath and neighbouring properties	
1.2	Contractor takes responsibility for completing the design as required, including gate design, electrical supplies and lighting	
1.3	Contractor is responsible for ascertaining if the project is notifiable, and if required is to complete F10 form and notify the HSE in advance of the works in line with HSE timings.	
1.4	Contractor is to at all times comply with health and safety regulations, fulfill duties under CDM 2015 and provide appropriate supervision, instruction and information to all workers on site and ensure an up to date Health and Safety file is on site at all times.	
1.5	Services - the contractor may use water and electricity from the adjacent Locking Hill building. No building slurries or construction waste is to be allowed to leave the site boundary. Please note that there is no potable water available on the site, and that the contractor should make allowance for supplying this.	
1.6	Access - the site is accessed through the main gate off Slad Road	
1.7	Restrictions on working hours - Mon-Fri 0800-1800, Sat 1000-1300	
1.8	Site visit - the site is visible and accessible from the main highway	
1.9	Consents and fees - all consents and fees are the responsibility of the <i>Client</i> , contractor, including Building Control and any licences for access / road closures should these be required.	
1.10	Equivalent products - Contractor to make proposals to the employer / contract administrator for all proposed alternative products, and to ensure that proposed products are the equivalent of those specified in all respects.	
1.11	Setting out - All site setting out to be based on Extended Studio's drawings, with locations and setting out points to be confirmed on site.	
1.12	Accuracy - Inform the Employer when overall setting out is complete, and before commencing construction. Where there are deviations from the drawings, this is to be highlighted and agreed with the Employer / Contract Administrator.	
1.13	Making good defects - there will be a 12 month rectification period, and the Contractor will be expected to return and make good work that does not meet the requirements of the contract	
1.14	Security - the contractor is responsible for keeping the site safe and secure during the construction period	
1.15	Noise - Fit all compressors, percussion tools and vehicles with effective silencers of a type recommended by the manufacturer Do not use pneumatic drills and other noisy appliances outside of the permitted working hours Do not use radios or other audio equipment in ways or at times which may cause nuisance.	
1.16	Pollution - take all reasonable precautions to prevent pollution of the site or the sit surroundings, or the works or the general environment.	

1.17	Fire - Take all necessary precautions to prevent any damage by fire, this includes no smoking on site.	
1.18	Waste - Remove all rubbish, debris, surplus material and spoil regularly, and keep the site and Works clean and tidy. Allow for skips and the management and disposal of all waste as required by the works.	
1.19	Protect the following: - adjacent retaining walls - existing services - road and footpaths - gates and entry points - existing features including trees - manhole cover to on site below ground drainage (refer to plans for location)	
1.20	Facilities - Contractor to agree location of all site facilities, storage areas and temporary works with Employer / Contract Administrator All temporary accommodation is to be within the working area unless otherwise agreed. Upon completion all temporary accommodation is to be removed from the site. Contractor may use toilet facilities within the Locking Hill building.	
1.0	Section price	2,342.70
2.0 Demolition / site clearance / preparation		
2.1	Remove vegetation from site working area	} 1,663.20
2.2	Protect retaining walls as required	
2.3	Complete site setting out and agree with Employer / Contract Administrator	
2.4	Contractor to make trial pit against buff brick retaining wall to establish extent and dimensions of foundations to this wall. Contractor to prepare drawing and issue to SE and Employer / Contract Administrator	
2.0	Section price	1,663.20
3.0 Groundworks		
3.1	Excavate at locations of timber posts ready for foundations as SE requirements	} 3,557.84
3.2	Foundations for timber posts as SE requirements	
3.0	Section price	3,557.84
4.0 Structure		
4.1	Simpson Strongtie posts as SE requirements <i>or Sim.</i>	2,534.40
4.2	Timber frame as SE requirements, including all notching and fixing <i>In S.W.</i>	10,291.60

<i>or Sim.</i>	
4.3	<p>6" x 1" planed British Larch (from, e.g. Ruby Group), set out in Chevron pattern as shown on drawings. <i>to external face only</i>.</p> <p>All timber to be finished with: Osmo WR Base Coat (4001): First layer, 1 coat only. https://www.wood-finishes-direct.com/product/osmo-wr-base-coat Osmo UV Protection Oil Extra (420), Clear finish: Second layer, 2 thin coats. https://www.wood-finishes-direct.com/product/osmo-uv-protection-oil</p>
4.4	<p>Profiled steel sheet roofing 32x1000 profile, 0.7mm guage, Plastisol coated (colour TBC), laid at 5degree fall towards Slad Road <i>to store areas only</i></p> <p>Installation in accordance with manufacturers guidance, including overlaps, fixing centres and fixings. All fixings in valley of profile, aligned with purlins. Allow for 90degree edge flashing to three sides in matching colour.</p>
4.5	<p>125x100mm Aluminium Joggle Box gutter, colour to match roof covering, laid to fall towards western boundary (towards retaining wall) with matching aluminium downpipe terminating in water butt as item 5.5 below</p> <p>Outer edge of gutter to align with outside face of timber cladding (item 4.3)</p>
4.6	<p>Pregalvanised weld mesh panels to inside face of timber structure to vehicle store area only, 12G 50x50mm securely fixed to posts at 300mm centres.</p>
4.7	<p>Pair of outward opening timber framed ledged and braced gates to vehicle store each 2190 x 2290mm. <i>In Sw</i></p> <p>Detailed design, timber sizing and load bearing ironmongery to be completed by specialist gate manufacturer.</p> <p>Timber frame shown indicatively as 125 x 75mm (to be confirmed by manufacturer)</p> <p>Gates to be clad as rest of structure (see item 4.3)</p> <p>Allow for the following ironmongery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimum 3no heavy duty hinges to each leaf (sized by gate manufacturer to carry gate weight) - 2no galvanised monkey tail gate bolts, with straight handles (445mm length) and gate bolt sockets, to secondary leaf at top and bottom. Bottom gate bolt socket formed in concrete flush with ground surface. - 2no Galvanised heavy duty secure pattern hasp & staple. Hasp fitted to primary leaf. - 2no heavy duty gate wheels, one to each leaf
4.8	<p>Outward opening timber framed ledged and braced gate to bin store 1950 x 1200mm <i>In Sw</i></p> <p>Detailed design, timber sizing and load bearing ironmongery to be completed by specialist gate manufacturer.</p> <p>Timber frame shown indicatively as 125 x 75mm (to be confirmed by manufacturer. manufacturer)</p> <p>Gates to be clad as rest of structure (see item 4.3)</p> <p>Allow for the following ironmongery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimum 3no heavy duty hinges (sized by gate manufacturer to carry gate weight) - 1no Galvanised heavy duty gate padlock bolt, nom 225mm long

4.9	Outward opening timber framed ledged and braced gate to rear storage area 1465 x 2300mm Detailed design, timber sizing and load bearing ironmongery to be completed by specialist gate manufacturer. Timber frame shown indicatively as 125 x 75mm (to be confirmed by manufacturer). Gates to be clad as rest of structure (see item 4.3) Allow for the following ironmongery: - minimum 3no heavy duty hinges (sized by gate manufacturer to carry gate weight) - 1no Galvanised heavy duty gate padlock bolt, nom 225mm long	1,318.24
4.10	Employer will supply water butt, to be installed by Contractor and connected to downpipe. <i>See 4.50</i>	-
4.11	Make good tarmac and other surface finishes	317.60
4.0	Section price	30,934.22
5.0	Services	
5.1	Extend electrical supply to store from main building in galvanised conduit fixed to adjacent retaining wall.	
5.2	Lighting as shown on drawings: - 2no external rated LED batton lights with 1no switch to vehicle store (Contractor to propose fitting) - 2no external rated LED batton with 1no switch to binstore (Contractor to propose fitting) - 3no external rated bulkhead lights to exterior of store on PIR switch (Aleria Exterior Wall Lights or similar approved)	<i>Provisional.</i> 1,500.00
5.0	Section price	1,500.00
Total cost		39,998.00
+VAT		7,999.60
Total cost including VAT		47,997.60

Sub Total. Section 0.0 Contract Particulars

1.0 Preliminaries	2,342.74
2.0 Demolition	1,663.20
3.0 Groundworks	3,557.84
4.0 Structure	30,934.22
5.0 Services	1,500.00
	<u> </u>
	£ 39,998.00

Report on the refurbishment of Park Gardens play area

AUTHOR

Helen Bojaniwska, CEO (Town Clerk)

CONSULTEES

Green Spaces Manager
Green Spaces Team

FOR MEETING

Council 9th December 2024

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a contract for the installation of new play equipment and surfacing at Park Gardens with Outdoor Play at a total cost of £20,000 plus VAT.

REPORT

The refurbishment of the play area in Park Gardens is included in this year's work programme with a budget of £20,000 for replacement of play equipment. Given the limited budget for the project a fixed price approach was used.

The tender process has been completed which resulted in 5 tenders being submitted, which were narrowed down by the Environment Committee based on the criteria in the specification, to the two highest scoring bids.

The final two designs were then put out to public consultation. The designs and the results of the consultation are shown in the attached appendices. Outdoor Play's proposals were the most popular by a ratio of 77 to 8.

There are some interesting ideas in the survey, which could be progressed by additions to the design. The existing play house for example, which seems to be much loved, could either be refurbished and incorporated in the plans or replaced at an extra cost. Some of the other ideas, for example a slide, would need further research for future projects.

The fence surrounding the play area has already been moved slightly to allow for succession planting of trees.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council may exercise the powers to provide a wide range of recreational facilities provided by the Open Spaces Act 1906, section 9-10, and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 19 in relation to expenditure and actions relating to this report.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications

A budget of £20,000 is available for the play equipment and surfacing.

Staffing implications

GSM time to supervise contractors and ensure H&S and security requirements are met. Communications and Engagement to promote the project and share progress reports.

CRIME AND DISORDER

There are no crime and disorder issues.

EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The consultation initially elicited some concerns on social media about accessibility, so the final two bidders were asked to produce some commentary on how their equipment meets accessibility requirements. Their comments are below:

Greenfields

The item that we have chosen within our submission is very accessible. All featured items are low and have been designed to be accessible to wheelchair users. The rear carriage does not have a deck and allows wheelchair users access in and out with ease, again with all of the play features and a level designed for wheelchairs.

Outdoor Play

The Woodland Tower with Bridge has been designed with younger users in mind, therefore it has various access methods with different levels of challenge, it is visually appealing and has tactile panels.

We have also included a Nest Swing, which although not wheelchair accessible, is in my opinion the most inclusive piece of equipment in a park, it allows for children of all ages and abilities to play together. The fact that some of the comments mentioned nothing for children with mobility issues means they may not have fully reviewed our design.

I think the topography of the site is challenging for wheelchair users and I suspect the that inclines mean that none of the paths likely conform to DDA requirements, I'd suggest the Town Council may look at another more accessible site for items such as wheelchair accessible roundabouts or trampolines.

We could take out the trim trail elements we included and add in two interactive play panels, however, with the access, topography and restrictive budget, to make any significant changes would be very challenging.

The online comments suggest an expectation that all equipment must be wheelchair accessible, but that isn't best practice. Given the steep slope of the park, it is inherently challenging for wheelchair access. Best practice suggests a focus on inclusivity – enabling all children to play together.

“Whilst some time ago the emphasis was on providing special facilities and play areas for disabled children, modern thinking centres around the concept of INCLUSION. Instead of concentrating on the child's impairments, inclusion concentrates on the child's ABILITIES.” (ROSPA)

You can read more about accessibility on the [ROSPA website](#).

CO2 AND BIODIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a duty to conserve biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. There are no direct implications arising from this project, but the use of sustainable timber will be a factor in the scoring of bids.

HB

2/9/2024



Outdoor Play UK: Unit 2b,
Crosspark, Dainton Elms Cross, Marlton Road,
Ipplepen, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 5TY



Park Gardens

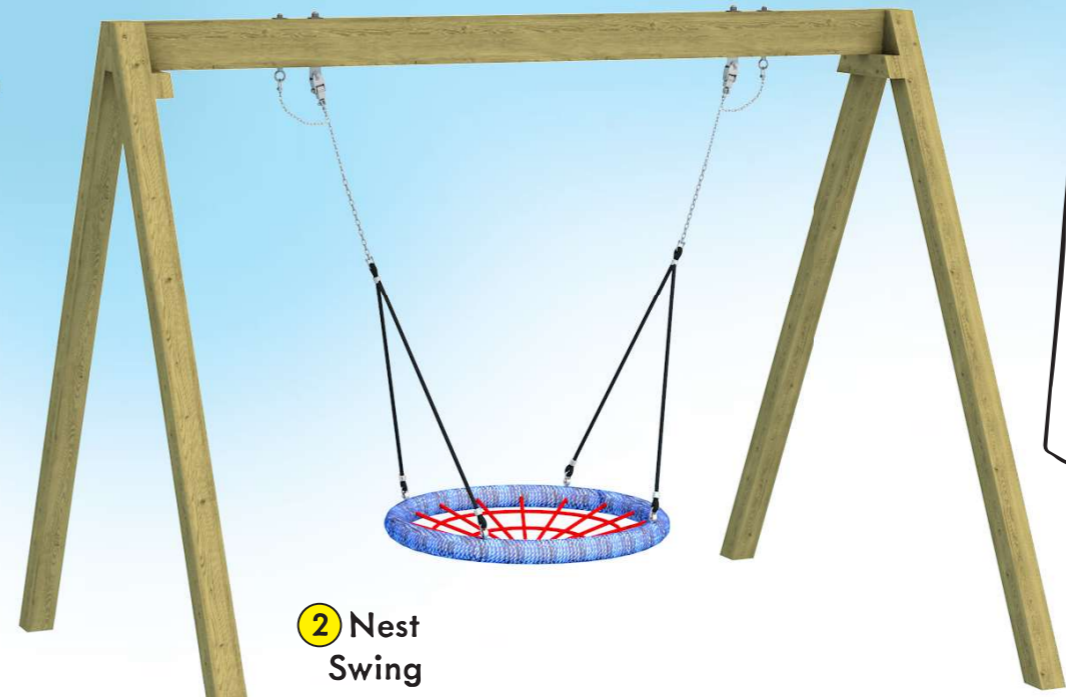
Quote no: SQ2003 - 0 | Designer: VG | Date: 09.10.24

ACTIVE PLAY SOCIAL PLAY SENSORY PLAY

PROPOSED EQUIPMENT



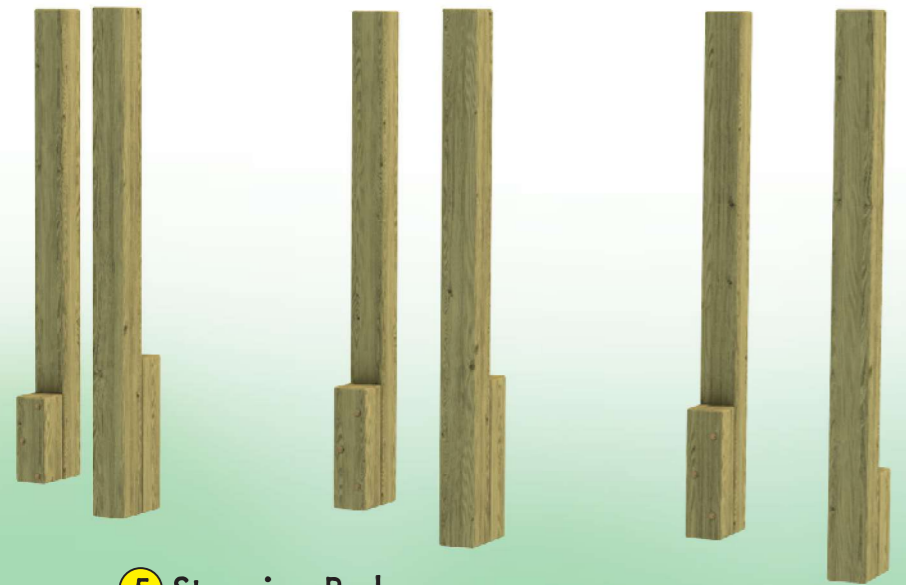
3 Flower Stepping Pods`



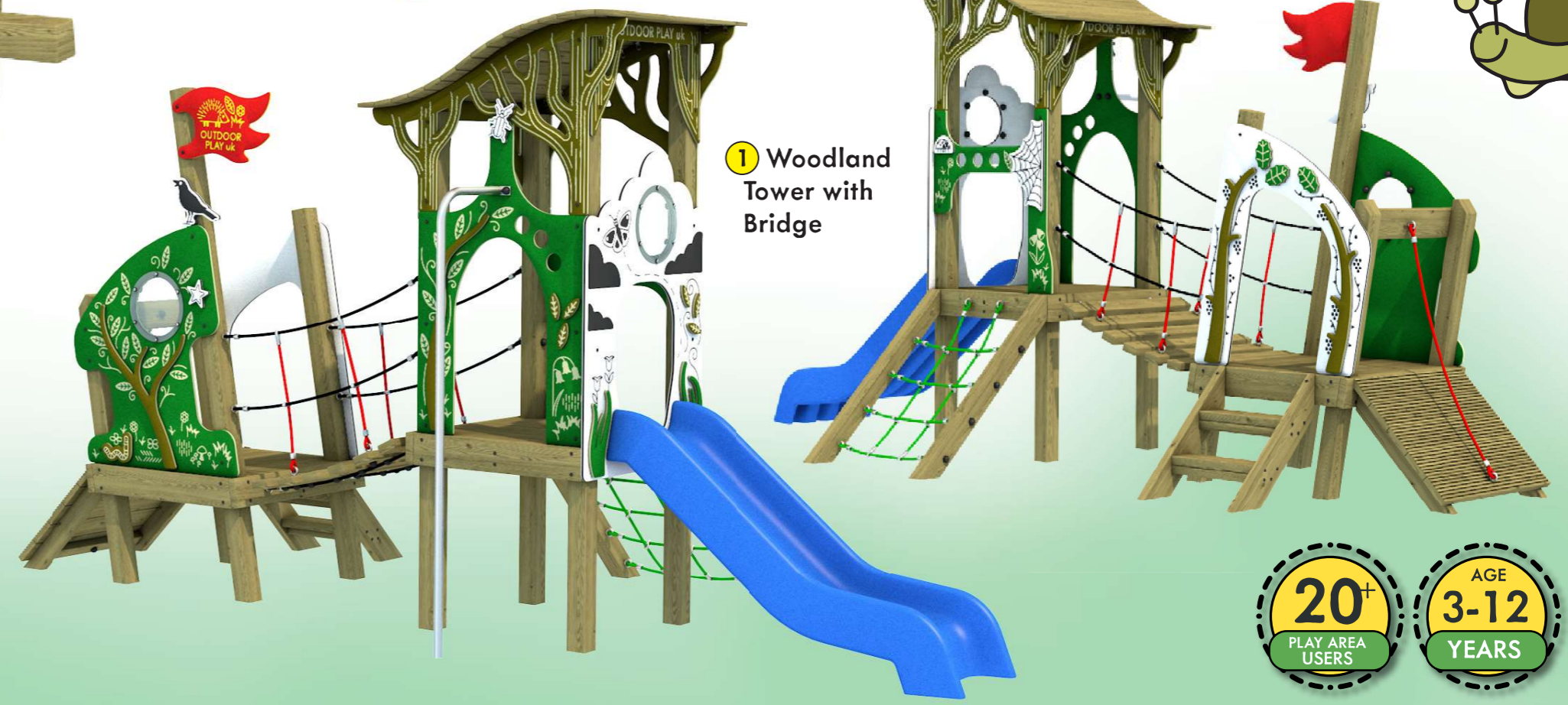
2 Nest Swing



4 Incline Weaver



5 Stepping Pods



1 Woodland Tower with Bridge



*Please note: Artist impression only. Final equipment specifications and positions to be confirmed with order.

COMPLIANT WITH BS EN: 1176/1177
EUROPEAN PLAY STANDARDS

Treated TIMBER
15 YEAR GUARANTEE

Made in United Kingdom

BESPOKE DESIGN SERVICE

tel:01803 814523
sales@outdoorplayuk.co.uk
web:www.outdoorplayuk.co.uk

API Member

OUTDOOR PLAY UK
CUSTOM WOODEN PLAYGROUNDS



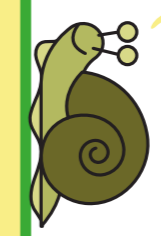
Please Note: Design layout where possible conforms to the relevant EN standards.
Exact positions & orientation of new items may be subject to a final site survey and setting out plan.

CUSTOMER:
Stroud Town Council

PROJECT:
Park Gardens

- 1 Woodland Tower with Bridge
- 2 Nest Swing
- 3 Flower Stepping Pods (Set of 3)
- 4 Incline Weaver
- 5 Stepping Poles

Scale 1:100 @A3



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Page 1 of 2 Designer: VG | Date: 09.10.24

Drawing Number: | SQ2003 | Revision 0



25+ PLAY AREA USERS

AGE 3-12 YEARS

*Please note: Final equipment specifications and positions to be confirmed with order.

Park Gardens Consultation Reponses 2/12/24

Date	equipment designs do you prefer?	Do you have any comments on the designs?	Please provide your Age	Please provide your Postcode
01/12/2024 13:08	Outdoor Play	design doesn't seem to have much for older children - both seem aimed more at toddlers but at least the Outdoor Play option has a slide and basket	35	GL5 1DL
30/11/2024 13:48	Outdoor Play	I like the climbing frame and the net swing. I also would like a sand pit and a big slide and some swings would be good. Thank you. ### aged 3.	3	GL5 1BS
28/11/2024 09:43	Outdoor Play	Maybe zipwire	42	GL10 3PQ
28/11/2024 09:40	Outdoor Play		30	GL5 1df
28/11/2024 09:07	Outdoor Play		34	GL5 1df
24/11/2024 12:39	Outdoor Play	Both nice options but on balance I think there is more to do in the second. Thanks for consulting us on this! Either way my two small children will love a bit of an upgrade	42	GL5 1TN
22/11/2024 21:22	Greenfields		41	GL5 2px
22/11/2024 16:38	Outdoor Play		23	GL6 0EG
21/11/2024 17:56	Outdoor Play	I'm so pleased that this particular park is being improved. However I think it's a shame that the slope on the site is not being used to its full potential. It would make a great area for a slide	36	GL51BN
21/11/2024 09:15	Outdoor Play	My grand-daughters love the ordinary swings, they prefer a tall frame to get height. Little ones love steering wheels to turn. Any little house with a roof is popular, they love the existing house in Park gardens.	66	GL5 1RP
20/11/2024 15:03	Greenfields Outdoor Play	Both look good. The climbing frame looks fun, and the swing which presumably could be used by children with disabilities too. Better access down to the play equipment will hopefully make it easier for buggies, walkers and wheelchairs.	39	GL5 1JT
20/11/2024 10:44	Outdoor Play	Could the existing long balance beams be kept with the outdoor play design?	42	GL5 4aa
20/11/2024 10:43	Outdoor Play		8	GL5 1hs
20/11/2024 10:38	Outdoor Play	Both a bit disappointing compared to what's already there. Is there any possibility of crowdfunding some extra cash to get something better? I'd be happy to donate	39	GL5 1PB
20/11/2024 10:18	Outdoor Play	I do like the existing under cover hut so would be good to have some covered area	4	GL5 1PP
20/11/2024 09:35	Outdoor Play	More swings would be good	31	GL5 1BA
20/11/2024 09:34	Outdoor Play		46	GL5 1qy
20/11/2024 09:31	Outdoor Play	Personally I prefer the outdoor play design as it would suit my own kids and we use this park a lot. But I do worry that there aren't really any inclusive elements for other less able children. I understand the first design does this very well but I think what this park is missing is a swing.	40	GL5 1BU
19/11/2024 13:57	Outdoor Play	It's a shame nit to have a playhouse. The existing one provides a context for imaginative play such as a shop, hospital, bus etc etc. I live next to the playground and hear chikdrens' imaginative play in the current little house.	73	GL5 1TN
19/11/2024 13:56	Outdoor Play	It's a shame nit to have a playhouse. The existing one provides a context for imaginative play such as a shop, hospital, bus etc etc. I live next to the playground and hear chikdrens' imaginative play in the current little house.	73	GL5 1TN
19/11/2024 13:38	Outdoor Play	The Greenfields one is not as good as what is there at the moment. Children really enjoy using the wooden house climbing structure that is there - please keep it! The swing and woodland tower bridge are a good addition. The existing stepping stones and log walks are popular and look better than those proposed by Outdoor Play. Neither design looks particularly accessible.	Parent of a toddler.	GL5 1TE.
19/11/2024 11:40	Outdoor Play	Outdoor play is much more vibrant and inviting	28	GL54qb
19/11/2024 10:18	Outdoor Play	I'd like to see it located on grass rather than bitumen (or suchlike)	54	GL5 1TN
19/11/2024 09:40	Outdoor Play	The current little house with sloped roof you can climb on is very popular. It would be good if this could be incorporated into new design or current one revamped. Net swing is good idea. The most popular piece of equipment that I know of that doesn't take up a lot of space is the ring currently at the top of the high street. I think this would work well in the Park Gardens space.	48	GL51DL
19/11/2024 08:57	Outdoor Play	The outdoor play design is more appropriate for children aged 5 and above, this is good for kids in the area and who attend the local primary school who will use this park often after school.	28	GL5 1TN
19/11/2024 08:42	Outdoor Play		75	GL5 1TN
19/11/2024 08:35	Outdoor Play	I think the outdoor design offers more options for kids of a variety of ages.	27	GL5 1TN
19/11/2024 08:32	Outdoor Play	Have a look at the park at daisy bank, the slide there going down the hill is so fun, can you think about how to incorporate the hill in the design? Doesn't feel like a huge step on from what is there now	33	GL5 1TG

Date	equipment designs do you prefer?	Do you have any comments on the designs?	Please provide your Age	Please provide your Postcode
19/11/2024 07:51	Outdoor Play	My grandchildren are under 5, they love sand play and roundabout. Horns Rd playground is excellent, can we copy that. Choice offered if not good	65	GL51TN
19/11/2024 07:18	Outdoor Play	My grandchildren would be prompted by the Outdoor play equipment, they'd be bemused by Greenfields what's this for?	67	GL51TN
19/11/2024 07:12	Outdoor Play		70	GL51TN
19/11/2024 07:12	Outdoor Play		70	GL51TN
19/11/2024 07:08	Outdoor Play		35	GL51re
19/11/2024 06:53	Outdoor Play	Outdoor Play design is more fun		GL51re
19/11/2024 02:06	Outdoor Play	I definitely feel that some sort of swing would be well used and appreciated, especially by slightly older children. Mine love the wooden house which is already there. Could this stay and be repaired?	43	GL5 1TB
18/11/2024 23:36	Outdoor Play		32	GL5 4BS
18/11/2024 22:35	Outdoor Play	Greenfields is dull and uninspiring, not a fan of fake grass but accessibility options should be considered. The design is very similar to what's there already which doesn't keep my 2 year old daughter entertained for long. Outdoor Play looks more fun and a lot more for our money. Could accessibility be incorporated? Is this as well as what's there or instead? Might be good to keep some elements that are still usable where possible to maximise equipment for kids to play on. Anything for older kids/teenagers? Shade and picnic benches would be useful	48	GL5 1TE
18/11/2024 22:06	Outdoor Play	To be honest both are pretty uninspiring and not an improvement on what's there or worth the money. We live round the corner and go to this park most days with our 3 and 2 year olds. Could you use the same people that did Daisy bank? Or can the hill be used to put a large slide against, the ideas don't lend to the space as the bright materials aren't in keeping with the look of the park at all.	36	GL5 1TH
18/11/2024 22:01	Greenfields	This our local park and it has always been very disappointing and the equipment very inaccessible to those with disabilities. My son has a physical disability, but he would love to play in our local park with his sisters. Please think about accessibility when choosing your design and give all children (including those with disabilities), the opportunity to play and be part of their local park	Child is 5 years	GL5 1SN
18/11/2024 21:25	Outdoor Play	More accessible as it includes a nest swing, as long as the nest swing is big enough for a parent to accompany a child with a disability who can't hold on to a standard swing.	40s	GL5
18/11/2024 21:03	Outdoor Play		41	GL51sq
18/11/2024 20:32	Outdoor Play	The Outdoor Play seems a little more suitable for older children too (the first very toddler orientated). A bigger slide that goes down the hill to utilise that space would be great as the children from the school use the park after school often so it makes it suitable for a wider age range.	41	GL5 1SP
18/11/2024 20:08	Greenfields	I prefer Greenfields overall, however I cannot tell if the area with the slide will be remaining? If it is then great, I think it is important to include a slide in the design especially as Park Gardens does not have a swing.	36	GL5 1DL
18/11/2024 19:41	Outdoor Play	any play equipment is good but you have to keep replacing it when the youths of today destroy it	40	GL5 4jq
18/11/2024 19:11	Outdoor Play	Greenfield just looks like a rehash of the existing. It does however look like it needs minimal maintenance. What is missing from both designs is a roofed space - the existing has a 'shelter' which younger kids can use in the rain and as a play house, and younger teens can use in the evenings. The main park shelter is often used by older kids, the 'shelter' in the existing playground is well used.	66	GL5 1UF
18/11/2024 19:10	Outdoor Play	Greenfield just looks like a rehash of the existing. It does however look like it needs minimal maintenance. What is missing from both designs is a roofed space - the existing has a 'shelter' which younger kids can use in the rain and as a play house, and younger teens can use in the evenings. The main park shelter is often used by older kids, the 'shelter' in the existing playground is well used.	66	GL5 1UF
18/11/2024 18:49	Outdoor Play	Better for a wider range of children - needs to keep kids right up to ten or so entertained in my opinion as I often see older children also at park gardens	50	GL51DF

Date	equipment designs do you prefer?	Do you have any comments on the designs?	Please provide your Age	Please provide your Postcode
18/11/2024 18:44	Outdoor Play		36	GL6 6dl
18/11/2024 18:41	Greenfields	We live just up the road. I'm a Landscape Architect who specifies play equipment. I don't think either is a good option and suggest replacing/making good existing equipment like for like would be much better received. Any funds left over put toward a swing as shown in option 2. I've only selected Option 1 as it includes part of the existing equipment, but would rather see no change than either of the current options presented. Benkirkby@outlook.com	41	GL5 1QU
18/11/2024 18:24	Outdoor Play	It would be best to have a mixture of the both	38	GL5 1tq
18/11/2024 18:16	Outdoor Play	Does the slide need to be blue? Quite an ugly colour. Something that blends with the environment would be nicer, dark green or even silver	34	GL5 1TG
18/11/2024 18:00	Outdoor Play		38	GL60PG
18/11/2024 17:55	Outdoor Play	I think the equipment is better in the Outdoor Play design, but I really like the inclusion of accessible considerations in the Greenfields design. Specifically, the wet pour pathway is excellent, as accessing the play area when it's wet is currently extremely slippery and dangerous.	37	GL5 1DJ
18/11/2024 17:51	Outdoor Play	The outdoor play design has more for all ages. And it has more things to do.	35	GL51sz
18/11/2024 17:50	Outdoor Play	There are only two options but none are accessible for children with disabilities	40	GL51LE
18/11/2024 17:07	Outdoor Play	Swing is essential. But greenfields is nice.	52	GL67QD
18/11/2024 17:01	Outdoor Play		36	GL5 1TH
18/11/2024 16:44	Outdoor Play		40+	GL4 1dl
18/11/2024 16:42	Outdoor Play		35	GL51sq
18/11/2024 16:41	Outdoor Play		35	GL51sq
18/11/2024 16:30	Outdoor Play		40	GL5 1TJ
18/11/2024 16:21	Outdoor Play	My children would love this and it's our closest part	30	GL51DL
18/11/2024 16:12	Outdoor Play	I think this is better design. Although both seem to be missing things. Like climbing wall. In general in stroud thing which is missing is a water supply on the playground for hot days. Something i would really like Stroud to consider as during the hot days we head to Cheltenham's playground	33	GL5 4DP
18/11/2024 16:08	Outdoor Play		27	GL68GD
18/11/2024 16:05	Outdoor Play	Outdoor Plat design looks more interesting to play on and more varied	62	GL51RP
18/11/2024 15:55	Outdoor Play	Outdoor play appears to offer more choice for the children to play on.	43	GL51us
18/11/2024 15:52	Outdoor Play		9	GL5 1DL
18/11/2024 15:48	Outdoor Play		35	GL53pp
18/11/2024 15:48	Outdoor Play		38	GL51HX
18/11/2024 15:26	Greenfields	Neither of the designs are accessible for children with disabilities. Children with mobility issues can't access at all. Very little offered for people who are blind (have the wooden walls as a full tactile area).	30	GL10 3fs
18/11/2024 15:16	Outdoor Play	Love the swing	3	GL5 1SR
18/11/2024 15:08	Greenfields	Neither of these designs are suitable for children with mobility challenges, despite Greenfields including buzz words. This is an opportunity to make a space accessible for all children. Please consider rethinking these designs.	30, my disabled son is 1	GL2 5FT but he spends a lot of time with his grandparents at GL5 2JL
18/11/2024 14:55	Outdoor Play		Parent of 4 year old and 1.5 year old	GL5 2JF
18/11/2024 14:51	Outdoor Play	A swing would be great!	39	GL51PY
18/11/2024 14:48	Outdoor Play		43	GL5 4LU
18/11/2024 14:46	Greenfields	Neither of these are accessible, and I cannot believe you've included photos of kids with mobility aids thinking that is enough. The only things they could access are being inside the 'house' or standing on the other side of the sensory ropes. Please do better! Inclusive play equipment is suitable for EVERYONE, this equipment is not.	34	GL5 2Ba
18/11/2024 14:15	Outdoor Play	The Outdoor Play design caters for a wider age range. The tower with bridge is suitable for toddlers, whereas the greenfield one doesn't seem to have a place for younger children who may be less steady on their feet.	27	GL10 2fl
18/11/2024 14:04	Outdoor Play	Nice mix of wooden balance play and traditional park equipment. My child would get bored of greenfields design very quickly	38	GL5 1up
18/11/2024 13:59	Outdoor Play	The slide is very small so would only be good for very young toddlers but the obstacle course is for older children. Both very small so maybe a focus on one age group, as individually not much for either age group	46	GL4 3jl
18/11/2024 13:52	Outdoor Play	The Greenfields design has a common issue with the current design as being useful for 2 and below only which means taking my 3yr old to other parks.	38	GL5 1XU
18/11/2024 13:45	Outdoor Play		45	GL51UF

Date	equipment designs do you prefer?	Do you have any comments on the designs?	Please provide your Age	Please provide your Postcode
18/11/2024 13:41	Outdoor Play		43	GL5 1RX
		<p>I live in Uplands and would be so happy if you updated this play equipment as my toddler and I have to drive to the playparks at Stratford Park or Cashes Green!! I like that the Greenfields design has utilised and updated some of the existing balance beams. It's fantastic that they have taken accessibility into consideration, but absolutely no-one in a wheelchair is going to be realistically going to be accessing the playpark via the steep slopes - its already a nightmare with a standard buggy! I think the age rage is too young, purely focusing on toddlers. The Outdoor play design just has more interesting elements and more imaginative play opportunities, and appeals to a larger age range, so I will be able to take my toddler there for years to come. The one thing that my toddler and his friends love about the v shaped climbing frame that is there already is the benches underneath and 'selling icecream' from it - it is naturally a shop to them. Just thought I'd mention the 1 thing they would miss from the current layout!</p>		
18/11/2024 13:26	Outdoor Play		39	GU5 1RX
18/11/2024 13:23	Outdoor Play		51	GL54EN
18/11/2024 12:51	Outdoor Play		67	GL10 3JN