

## COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2022.

### Coates Parish Council

#### **County Council Strategy 2022/26**

This strategy is our plan to build a greener, healthier, more prosperous Gloucestershire.

- **Tackling Climate Change**

- We want to give people options to make more suitable choices: whether that's driving electric vehicles and using one of our 1000 EV charging points or taking public transport thanks to our investment in the Arle Court transport hub or cycling along our 26-mile cycle spine.
- We will continue to tackle climate change by leading by example (GCC's net carbon output has already reduced by 80%) to achieve countywide carbon targets.

- **Securing Investment for Gloucestershire**

- Our strategy details our ambition to make Gloucestershire a magnet for innovation and investment in a way which rivals the likes of Bristol, Cardiff, and Swindon.
- We've also secured a billion pounds of investment into our county to complete transformative projects such as the A417 'Missing Link', Junction 10, Gloucester South-West bypass and the West of Cheltenham Transport improvement Scheme.
- We will work with partners across the Western Gateway to attract nationally important funding into our region – including the STEP nuclear reactor and essential travel corridors.

- **Levelling Up Our communities**

- We will level up our county by continuing to invest in our Market Towns and Highstreets, by investing in education and reskilling. Crucially, we will work alongside our communities to ensure our services work for them.
- We are investing long-term in our roads by continuing our resurfacing programme to reduce the number of reactive repairs and improve customer satisfaction.

## Customer Service

- We are putting customer service at the forefront of all we do to ensure we are providing the best possible services for Gloucestershir**2022/23 Budget**

This budget is a promise to Gloucestershire that we will build back better from the pandemic.

- Spending for the year ahead will reach £521 million, a rise of almost £38 million on 2021/22 levels
- Despite the extra investment, we still have one of the lowest council tax levels of any county council.
- The budget will to raise around £10.2 million to help fund services through a council tax increase of 1.99%. We will also apply the national social care precept at 1% to raise an additional £3.7 million to support the thousands of vulnerable adults we work with each year. Based on a band D property, this equates to a £3.50 monthly increase.
- We continue to challenge ourselves to work more efficiently and effectively and as a result £13 million in savings have been identified for next year, helping to meet increased demand and costs.

### Key headline investments:

- Extra £100 million for our **roads** (manifesto commitment)
- £150 million investment into **schools** in Gloucestershire (manifesto commitment)
- £14 million investment into **Children** and Young People's Services
- £1 million to tackle **climate change** (part of manifesto commitment for a Greener Gloucestershire)
- £20 million invested into **cycle routes** across the county (part of manifesto commitment for a Greener Gloucestershire)
- £9 million extra to support **vulnerable adults** and those living with a disability
- £300,000 will go into a Community **Speedwatch** Safety Fund to support communities where speed awareness activity, like a 20 is plenty campaign would make a real difference.
- £500,000 investment in our **market towns** and high streets and ongoing support and protection of the most vulnerable in our communities.
- £1.4 million is set aside for essential **drainage** highways maintenance.
- Nearly £3 million investment into our **Fire and Rescue Service**.