Considerations: Adoption and Conversion of the K6 Telephone Kiosk to a Community Library/Book Swap

Pucklechurch Conservation Area

This report assesses the legal, planning, heritage, operational and financial considerations associated with the adoption of the K6 telephone kiosk in Pucklechurch and its conversion into a community library/book exchange. The report is intended to assist Pucklechurch Parish Council in determining whether to proceed with the scheme and to identify the steps required for successful implementation.

1. Introduction

The iconic K6 telephone kiosk, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935, is a recognised symbol of Britain's telecommunications heritage. Through BT's "Adopt a Kiosk" scheme, local authorities and community organisations may acquire redundant kiosks for community use.

A growing number of communities have successfully converted former telephone boxes into miniature libraries, defibrillator stations, information points and community hubs. The proposed use in Pucklechurch is the establishment of a free community book exchange that would encourage reading, support community cohesion and preserve an important heritage asset.

2. Legal and Ownership Arrangements

BT Adoption Scheme

Under BT's Adopt a Kiosk programme, ownership of the kiosk can be transferred to Pucklechurch Parish Council for a nominal fee of £1.

https://business.bt.com/public-sector/street-hubs/adopt-a-kiosk-scheme/

Upon transfer:

- BT removes the telephone apparatus and disconnects telecommunications services.
- Ownership of the kiosk structure transfers to the Parish Council.
- Responsibility for future maintenance, repair, public safety and insurance rests entirely with the Parish Council.
- The kiosk becomes a Parish Council asset and should be recorded accordingly.

Land Rights and Highway Considerations

Although the kiosk itself may be transferred, ownership of the land beneath it does not automatically transfer. The kiosk is situated within the public realm, and the Parish Council should:

- Confirm ownership of the land with South Gloucestershire Council.
- Establish whether the site forms part of the adopted highway.
- Seek confirmation from the Highway Authority regarding any licence, agreement or consent required for continued occupation.

Early discussions with South Gloucestershire Council are recommended to avoid any future land or access issues.

3. Planning and Heritage Considerations

Listed Building Status

The K6 kiosk is statutorily listed Grade II. Consequently, it is protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The legal protection applies to both the external and internal character of the structure.

Listed Building Consent

Any works that affect the character, appearance or significance of the kiosk may require Listed Building Consent (LBC). Particular considerations include:

- **Reversibility**

The key conservation principle is that alterations should be reversible.

Accordingly:

- Shelving should be free-standing wherever possible.
- Fixings should make use of existing holes or mounting points left by BT.
- New drilling into the cast-iron frame should be avoided.
- Original fabric should remain intact.

- **Paint and Finishes**

External restoration should employ historically appropriate materials and colours. This is likely to include:

- Removal of corrosion.
- Appropriate metal preparation.
- Repainting in the traditional kiosk colour specification.

Any proposed departure from the original appearance should be agreed with the Conservation Officer.

- **Glazing and Signage**

Heritage features that contribute to the kiosk's significance should be retained, including:

- Original glazing patterns.
- Crown-top lantern and "TELEPHONE" signs.
- Historic ironwork and mouldings.

Unauthorised replacement of heritage elements may require retrospective consent and could constitute a breach of listed building controls.

Conservation Area Considerations

The kiosk is located within the Pucklechurch Conservation Area, where there is a statutory duty to preserve or enhance the area's character and appearance.

To support this objective:

- Commercial advertising should be avoided.
- Additional signage should be minimal and discreet.
- Plastic panels and inappropriate modern materials should not be introduced.
- Any interpretation panels should be designed sympathetically.

A well-maintained library conversion would likely contribute positively to the character of the village.

4. Proposed Library Conversion

- **Internal Shelving**

Timber shelving provides the most appropriate solution from both practical and heritage perspectives.

Benefits include:

- Visual compatibility with the historic structure.
- Ease of future removal.
- Flexibility for storage and maintenance.

Natural timber or painted finishes would be suitable, provided they do not obscure original features.

- **Ventilation and Moisture Control**

Condensation is a common issue in former telephone kiosks. To minimise damage to books:

- Existing ventilation openings must remain unobstructed.
- Shelving should be raised clear of floor vents.
- Books should not be packed tightly against the glazing.
- Volunteers should undertake periodic inspections for damp or mould.

- **Lighting**

Once the BT electricity supply has been disconnected, low-energy alternatives are recommended. Suitable options include:

- Solar-powered LED lights.
- Rechargeable battery lighting.
- Motion-activated units.

These solutions avoid the cost and complexity of obtaining a new mains electricity connection.

5. Community Management

Experience elsewhere demonstrates that community ownership is critical to success.

Volunteer "Library Wardens" should be responsible for:

- Tidying shelves.
- Removing damaged books.
- Monitoring cleanliness and condition.
- Reporting maintenance issues.
- Rotating stock where necessary.

A rota involving two to three volunteers would normally be sufficient.

Simple guidance displayed inside the kiosk could explain:

> Take a Book, Leave a Book
> Please help keep the library tidy and suitable for all ages.

6. Financial Assessment

Estimated project costs are summarised below.

Item	Estimated Cost
BT Adoption Fee	£1
Restoration Works	£800 - £2,000
Timber Shelving	£150 - £350
Solar or Battery Lighting	£30 - £70
Annual Maintenance and Insurance	£100 - £200

Potential Funding Sources

The project may be suitable for:

- Parish Council community budgets.
- Local grant funding.
- Ward member allocations.
- Business sponsorship.
- Resident donations of materials or labour.

Given the modest scale of investment required, the project represents a relatively low-cost community asset.

7. Risk Assessment

Risk	Mitigation
Heritage consent difficulties	Early consultation with Conservation Officer
Vandalism or anti-social behaviour	Community stewardship and regular inspections
Damp and mould	Maintain ventilation and undertake routine checks
Volunteer shortages	Recruit multiple wardens and rotate duties
Cost escalation	Undertake condition survey and include contingency allowance
Excess book donations	Regular stock management

---

8. Implementation Plan

Stage 1 – Adoption

- Obtain Parish Council approval.
- Submit BT adoption application.
- Complete legal transfer.
- Confirm highway and land ownership arrangements.
- Arrange insurance cover.

Stage 2 – Heritage Approvals

- Undertake condition survey.
- Consult South Gloucestershire Council Conservation Officer.
- Determine whether Listed Building Consent is required.
- Obtain all necessary approvals before commencing works.

Stage 3 – Restoration

- Remove redundant telecommunications equipment.
- Repair and treat corrosion.
- Replace damaged glazing where approved.
- Repaint and restore historic features.

Stage 4 – Library Fit-Out

- Install heritage-sensitive shelving.
- Provide internal information notices.
- Install lighting if required.
- Ensure adequate ventilation.

Stage 5 – Launch

- Recruit volunteers.
- Stock the library.
- Publicise the scheme.
- Hold a community opening event.

Stage 6 – Ongoing Management

- Carry out monthly inspections.
- Maintain insurance.
- Monitor condition and usage.
- Budget for periodic repainting and repairs.

---

9. Conclusion

The adoption and conversion of the K6 telephone kiosk into a community library represents a practical and achievable community project that would preserve an important heritage asset while providing a valued public amenity.

Subject to confirmation of highway arrangements and any necessary heritage consents, the proposal is considered both feasible and beneficial.

Pucklechurch Parish Council draft three year budget 2027/28 - 2029/30										
TAX BASE anticipated 982										
All figures subject to adjustment										
INCOME	**2025/26**		**2026/27**			**2027/28**		**2028/29**		**2029/30**
	Actual	**Budget 2026/27**	**Actual at Q2 adjusted for I&E**	**Estimated year end 2026/27**		**Proposal For Precept**		**Proposal For Precept**		**Proposal For Precept**
Burial ground	£1,350.00	£800.00	£1,250.00	£1,500.00		£600.00		£600.00		£400.00
Allotments	£680.00	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00		£600.00		£600.00		£600.00
Football club	£470.00	£470.00	£470.00	£470.00		£470.00		£470.00		£470.00
Cricket club	£375.00	£375.00	£375.00	£375.00		£375.00		£375.00		£375.00
PCA ground rent	£5.00	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00		£5.00		£5.00		£5.00
Wayleave (Western power distribution)	£92.95	£92.95	£17.95	£92.95		£92.95		£92.95		£92.95
Bank Interest	£2,883.59	£1,000.00	£898.49	£1,000.00		£750.00		£500.00		£500.00
S106 draw down	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
CIL Payments	£1,856.61	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Donation	£627.52	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Suez grant	£40,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Hire of Rec	£150.00	£250.00	£200.00	£200.00		£250.00		£250.00		£250.00
Hire of Scout hut	£1,170.00	£600.00	£300.00	£600.00		£600.00		£600.00		£600.00
Total other income	**£49,660.67**	**£4,192.95**	**£4,611.44**	**£5,344.95**		**£3,742.95**		**£3,492.95**		**£3,292.95**
Expenditure	**Actual**	**Budget 2026/27**	**Actual as Q2 adjusted for I&E**	**Estimated year end 2026/27**		**Proposal For Precept**		**Proposal For Precept**		**Proposal For Precept**
Salaries (net)	£24,659.48	£26,750.00	£12,988.70	£26,500.00		£28,150.00		£29,000.00		£30,000.00
Mileage & home office allowance	£414.84	£420.00	£142.20	£420.00		£500.00		£500.00		£500.00
NI & tax (employee and employer)	£9,896.50	£9,300.00	£4,402.15	£9,300.00		£10,000.00		£11,000.00		£11,250.00
Pension (employee and employer)	£1,774.02	£0.00	£892.50	£1,900.00		£2,000.00		£2,100.00		£2,200.00
Payroll PATA Costs	£208.68	£220.00	£117.60	£250.00		£275.00		£250.00		£260.00
Rent Shortwood	£360.00	£360.00	£180.00	£360.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Insurance	£1,539.24	£2,000.00	£1,620.83	£1,620.83		£2,000.00		£2,150.00		£2,250.00
Electricity Defib	£531.49	£530.00	£181.11	£400.00		£450.00		£470.00		£490.00
Room rental	£0.00	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00		£100.00		£100.00		£100.00
Pucklechurch news	£1,435.52	£1,537.84	£768.92	£1,537.84		£1,750.00		£1,850.00		£1,850.00
Internet	£444.92	£480.00	£295.92	£591.84		£650.00		£670.00		£690.00
Phone	£135.69	£150.00	£73.50	£147.00		£180.00		£190.00		£200.00
Audit	£1,140.00	£1,250.00	£1,155.00	£1,155.00		£1,300.00		£1,300.00		£1,400.00
professional fees consultancy	£6,420.00	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00		£2,500.00		£5,000.00		£5,000.00
Membership/subscriptions	£1,584.73	£2,000.00	£2,059.37	£2,059.37		£2,100.00		£2,150.00		£2,200.00
Litter picking/ Rec Village waste /dog bins	£9,736.57	£8,000.00	£5,135.28	£10,270.56		£11,000.00		£11,100.00		£11,200.00
Grass cutting/gardening	£8,763.24	£8,700.00	£4,521.92	£8,700.00		£9,000.00		£9,000.00		£9,100.00
New - hedging maintenance	£0.00	£4,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00		£4,000.00		£4,000.00		£4,000.00
Tree survey	£850.00	£900.00	£0.00	£1,000.00		£1,000.00		£1,100.00		£1,200.00
Maintenance contract	£19,085.00	£22,000.00	£9,510.00	£19,020.00		£22,000.00		£22,500.00		£23,000.00
Bank charges	£119.15	£150.00	£67.75	£140.00		£150.00		£160.00		£170.00
Admin general stat post print	£280.56	£350.00	£117.73	£300.00		£350.00		£365.00		£380.00

Play area maintenance/ repairs & renewals	£8,318.91	£5,000.00	£125.00	£4,500.00		£5,000.00		£5,000.00		£5,000.00
Ground maintenance	£9,035.38	£6,000.00	£390.00	£6,000.00		£6,000.00		£6,150.00		£6,300.00
Training/conferences	£517.00	£1,000.00	£634.00	£850.00		£1,000.00		£1,000.00		£1,000.00
Heartstart Defib maintenance	£7,267.90	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00		£300.00		£500.00		£500.00
Office equipment & software included email hosting. .gov domain and website and remote hosting	£1,123.87	£1,500.00	£375.54	£2,000.00		£2,000.00		£2,100.00		£2,200.00
Grants	£2,450.00	£4,500.00	£0.00	£4,000.00		£4,500.00		£4,500.00		£4,500.00
Recruitment costs	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00		£500.00		£500.00		£500.00
Election costs	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00		£1,000.00		£1,000.00		£1,000.00
Donations	£759.60		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Legal	£750.00	£1,500.00	£0.00	£4,000.00		£3,000.00		£3,000.00		£3,000.00
sub total	**£119,602.29**	**£116,197.84**	**£45,755.02**	**£110,522.44**		**£122,755.00**		**£128,705.00**		**£131,440.00**
Play area s106	£58,455.56	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
CIL		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Open spaces s106		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Sports s106	£63,159.00	£0.00	£7,400.00	£15,000.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Woodland and tree work		£4,000.00	£0.00	£4,000.00		£4,000.00		£4,000.00		£4,000.00
Parkfield turning space		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£500.00		£500.00		£500.00
Reserves to refurbish play areas		£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00		£10,000.00		£10,000.00		£10,000.00
Neighbourhood plan consultancy fees		£0.00	£1,505.00	£1,505.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Local climate and nature action plan		£0.00	£140.00	£140.00		£500.00		£500.00		£500.00
Scout hut	£1,814.92	£15,000.00	£1,970.31	£4,000.00		£15,000.00		£15,000.00		£15,000.00
Community centre		£22,495.00	£0.00	£20,000.00		£25,000.00		£25,000.00		£25,000.00
New defibs		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£750.00		£1,000.00		£1,000.00
Metal fencing upkeep along Recreation ground		£5,000.00	£0.00	£1,500.00		£1,000.00		£1,500.00		£1,500.00
Burial ground landscape improvements		£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00		£1,000.00		£1,000.00		£1,000.00
BT phone box adoption and use		£1,500.00	£0.00	£500.00		£300.00		£100.00		£100.00
Accessing EGTC community bus		£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,500.00		£3,500.00		£4,000.00		£4,000.00
Local choices/special expenses						£15,000.00		£15,000.00		£0.00
Sub total	£123,429.48	£61,995.00	£11,015.31	£51,145.00		£76,550.00		£77,600.00		£62,600.00
Total	**£243,031.77**	**£178,192.84**	**£56,770.33**	**£161,667.44**		**£199,305.00**		**£206,305.00**		**£194,040.00**
PRECEPT REQUIREMENT	£146,960	£175,000	£175,000	£175,000		£195,562				
Income Precept	£146,960	£175,000	£175,000	£175,000		£195,562				
Total other Income	£49,661	£4,193	£4,611	£5,345		£3,743		£3,492.95		£3,292.95
Total expenditure	£243,032	£178,193	£56,770	£161,667		£199,305		£206,305.00		£194,040.00
DIFF	-£46,411	£1,000	£122,841	£18,678		£0		-£202,812.05		-£190,747.05
2027/28										
Precept agreed 26/27		£175,000.00		£175,000						
Precept 2027/28		£193,395		£195,562						
Increase for 2027/28		£18,395	10.51%	£20,562						

Band D tax base 982	982	£196.94		£199.15						
increase from previous year £		£15.59		£17.80						
Increase per week		£0.30		£0.34						
Minimum anticipated reserves at year end:										
CIL	£1,856.61									
Play equipment Reserve	£50,495.00									
Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00									
Village hall project reserve	£6,500.00	paid fire alarm								
Woodland/ tree/ash die back	£2,000.00	tree works								
Professional /legal fees	£1,000.00	lease and land registry costs								
Financial contingency	£55,000.00									
Parkfield turning circle	£12,000.00									
Recreation ground sports project S106	£22,072.71	may be less with spring works								
Environmental monies	£360.00									
Scouts hut	£15,000.00									
	£166,284.32									
General reserves	£0.00	tbc								
	£166,284.32									

Our budget 2027/28

South Gloucestershire Council

Delivering with you

Why we need to act

Like councils across the country, we are facing rising costs, increasing demand for essential services and funding that has not kept pace with the responsibilities we are required to meet. More people need support, particularly through adult and children's social care and temporary accommodation, and the cost of providing that support continues to increase.

We have worked hard over many years to improve services and become more efficient. We still need to go further.

This is an opportunity to continue to look at how we work and how we can become a better, more effective council. New technology, new ways of working and the experience of other councils give us opportunities to do things differently: simplifying how we work, making better use of our resources and achieving better outcomes for residents at lower cost. For example, we can make services easier to access, simplify forms and processes, use technology to reduce repetitive administrative work, join up information so residents do not have to tell us the same thing more than once, intervene earlier to prevent problems escalating, and work more closely with communities and partners. By learning from what works well here and in other councils, we can improve your experience, support our staff to focus on the work that adds most value and achieve better outcomes for residents at lower cost.

We should not assume that because something has always been done in a particular way, it must continue that way. We need to challenge ourselves to learn, improve and make the most of the opportunities now available to us.

Our priority is to protect people with the greatest needs, achieve the best possible outcomes for residents and make every pound work as effectively as possible.

This consultation explains where our money comes from, what we spend it on, the financial challenge we face and how we intend to respond. Most importantly, it gives residents, communities and service users the opportunity to help us understand how services can work better.

Where our money comes from

For 2027/28, we expect to have approximately **£362.1 million** available to fund council services.

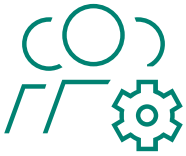
Most of this money is generated locally. Council tax is our largest single source of income, providing an expected £228.4 million. Business rates and the City Region Deal provide a further £76.5 million, while government funding and other sources make up the remainder of £57.1 million.

Our expected income for 2027/28

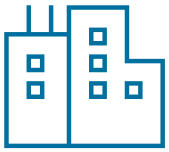
Total resources: **£362.1 Million**



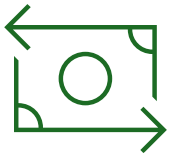
COUNCIL TAX
£228.4m | **63%**



BUSINESS RATES
£45.9m | **13%**



CITY REGION DEAL
£30.7m | **8%**



GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING
£57.1m | **16%**

Around **84% of the council's projected resources** will be linked to council tax, business rates and the City Region Deal. This shows how important locally generated income is to funding the services people use every day.

What we can and cannot control

There are limits to our ability to raise more money locally. Council tax bands and nationally determined discounts are outside the council's control, the council does not set business rates, and new local taxes would require government support and legislation.

Council tax will continue to be an important source of funding but residents cannot and should not be expected to meet the whole cost of rising demand and costs that are outside either their control or the council's.

We must also ensure that we have sufficient funding to deliver the statutory services we are legally required to provide.

Balancing the budget therefore cannot simply be about increasing income. We need to continue to make sure every pound is working as effectively as possible and focus our resources on the approaches that deliver the best outcomes for residents.

What we spend our money on

Our funding supports hundreds of services across South Gloucestershire. These range from services used by almost every household, such as waste and recycling, roads and libraries, to specialist care and protection for residents who need more intensive support.

Where our 2026/27 budget of £361.4 million has been spent

COUNCIL SERVICES SUMMARY	2026/27 £m
Supporting vulnerable adults	165.7
Supporting vulnerable children	59.2
Education and skills	17.8
Environment & Community Services	19.6
Planning	0.5
Waste & recycling	26.2
Libraries & safe communities	4.4
Public health	0.3
Housing benefit	2.6
Support services	31.0
Other (Treasury, levies, contingency budgets, City Region Deal & other fixed costs)	34.1
TOTAL	**361.4**

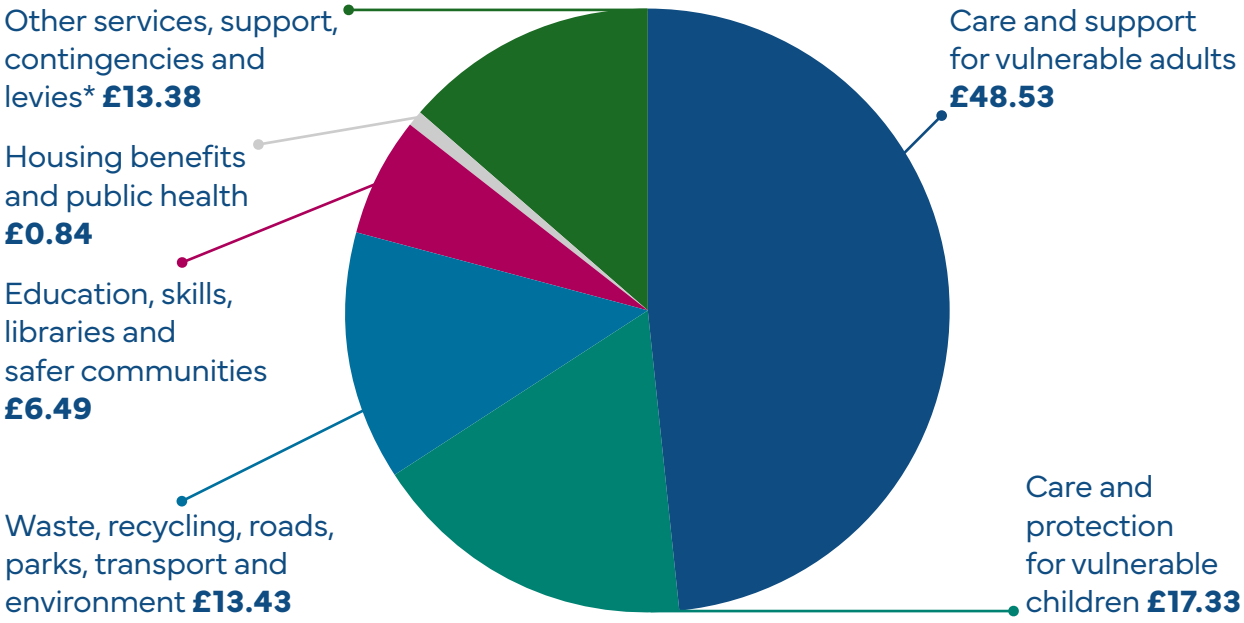
The largest share of our budget supports vulnerable adults and children. In 2026/27, approximately **£66 of every £100** of council spending supports these services.

That's two-thirds of our spending on supporting adults and children who need care and protection. The remaining third must fund the wide range of other services residents and communities rely on, as well as the systems, buildings and staff needed to deliver them.

These are not simply figures on a spreadsheet. Behind every care package, placement and service is a person, family or community. Our responsibility is to provide that support effectively and compassionately, while making sure that the money available achieves the best possible outcome.

How every £100 of our budget is spent (2026/27)

Area of spending from every **£100**



*Excludes City Region Deal

The gap between our income and spending

At the heart of our financial challenge is a straightforward issue: **the cost of continuing to provide services is growing faster than the resources available to pay for them**.

For 2027/28, the council currently expects to have approximately **£362.1 million** available. Forecast spending is approximately **£380.8 million**, after taking account of the new savings proposals already identified. That creates an underlying gap of approximately **£18.7 million**.

The 2027/28 budget position

Expected resources **£362.1m**

Forecast spending **£380.8m**

Underlying gap **£18.7m**

COUNCIL SERVICES SUMMARY	2027/28 £m
Supporting vulnerable adults	171.9
Supporting vulnerable children	62.4
Education and skills	20.6
Environment & Community Services	21.5
Planning	0.6
Waste & recycling	27.3
Libraries & safe communities	5.4
Public health	0.3
Housing benefit	2.7
Support services	33.4
Other (Treasury, levies, contingency budgets, City Region Deal & other fixed costs)	34.7
TOTAL	**380.8**

We have financial reserves that can be used this year to give us time to improve and change services in a planned way but this is money that can only be spent once. Reserves do not provide a permanent answer to the continuing difference between our income and the cost of delivering services.

Without further action, over the next four years, the current financial plan shows funding gaps of approximately **£20.4 million in 2028/29, £22.9 million in 2029/30 and £20.3 million in 2030/31**.

The council is legally required to set a balanced budget each year. Acting now gives us the opportunity to improve how we work in a planned and considered way and build services that are more effective and financially sustainable for the future.

What is driving the gap?

There is no single cause. Several pressures are coming together at the same time.

Local government funding has changed

Changes to the way local government is funded have also affected South Gloucestershire.

One of the most significant changes is the reduction in business rates income following changes to how growth previously retained locally is treated. Although government grant funding appears to have increased, this reflects multiple funding streams being brought together and consolidated, rather than all of the increase being new money.

More people need care and support

A large and growing share of the council's budget supports children, families and adults who need care and support. These services are facing pressures from the number of people and the complexity of their support needs, as well as the rising cost of providing that support.

These services help people to live safely, independently and with dignity, but growing demand means that a larger share of the council's resources is needed to provide them.

The latest forecast illustrates the scale of the challenge and the significant pressures in adult social care and commissioned children's services.

Adult social care

Adult social care represents the largest of these pressures. The council's 2026/27 net adult social care budget is approximately **£155.7 million**, with spending currently forecast at around **£157 million**.

Our focus is on helping people maintain their independence wherever possible, strengthening local provision and intervening earlier to prevent or delay the need for more intensive support.

This can deliver better outcomes for people while helping us use our resources more effectively.

Children's social care

Commissioned children's services are forecast to spend around **£1.3 million** above budget, primarily driven by increasing demand for complex residential placements for children with high levels of need.

Our focus remains on finding the right support for each child, strengthening prevention and early help and developing more suitable local provision.

Better local provision and earlier support have the potential to improve outcomes while reducing reliance on more expensive external provision.

Special educational needs and disabilities

Demand is also increasing for support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), putting pressure on specialist education and services such as home-to-school travel.

Having the right support available locally is better for children and families and can reduce reliance on more expensive provision outside South Gloucestershire. Eight new inclusion bases are being developed in local mainstream schools, providing up to **160 additional local places**.

This is the kind of approach we want to explore more widely: improving outcomes while making more effective use of our resources.

Housing pressures and temporary accommodation

Housing pressures are also adding to the financial challenge. Rising rents, the cost of living and a shortage of affordable homes mean more households are approaching the council because they are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Our focus is on preventing homelessness wherever possible, helping people secure and sustain a home, and increasing access to suitable, good-quality accommodation.

Again, acting earlier can improve outcomes for residents while reducing the need for expensive emergency placements.

An opportunity to do things differently

The financial challenge means we need to accelerate our work to become a better and more effective council.

That starts with challenging ourselves.

We should not assume that because a service or process has always worked in a particular way, it remains the best way to achieve the outcome we want.

Technology is developing rapidly and creating new opportunities to simplify processes, automate routine activity, use information more effectively and make it easier for residents to access services. We need to explore those opportunities and understand where they can improve people's experience while reducing the cost of delivering services.

We can also learn from other councils. Where other authorities achieve similar or better outcomes at lower cost, we need to understand what they are doing differently and consider whether those approaches could work in South Gloucestershire.

Our focus will therefore be on continually improving how the council works. That includes:

- redesigning services around the outcomes we want to achieve;
- simplifying processes and removing unnecessary activity;
- making better use of technology and data;
- helping people earlier and preventing needs from escalating;
- supporting people to be more independent;
- working differently with communities, partners and other organisations;
- learning from councils that achieve better outcomes at lower cost; and
- ensuring the council's own management, administration and support arrangements are as efficient as possible.

The aim is straightforward: to achieve the best possible outcomes for residents while reducing the cost of delivering them wherever we can.

The principles that will guide our decisions

Achieve better outcomes at lower cost

We will focus on the outcomes that matter to residents and look for more effective and efficient ways of achieving them.

Protect people with the greatest needs

We will prioritise children, families, disabled people, working-age adults and older residents who rely on statutory care and support.

Challenge ourselves to improve

We will continually question whether the way we work today is the best way of achieving the outcomes residents need.

Embrace technology and innovation

We will explore how new technology, digital tools and better use of data can improve services, simplify processes and reduce costs.

Prioritise prevention and independence

Helping people earlier can improve lives and reduce the need for more intensive and expensive support later.

Learn from the best

Where other councils achieve similar or better outcomes more efficiently, we will understand what they do differently and consider what we can learn from them.

Work differently with communities and partners

We will explore how town and parish councils, schools, public services, community organisations and other providers can help us achieve better outcomes.

Make the council simpler and more effective

We will simplify processes, remove unnecessary activity and make sure our management, administrative, digital and professional support is focused on helping the council deliver effectively for residents.

Be open about change

We will explain what we are seeking to improve, why change is needed and what it could mean for residents and service users.

Listen and learn

The experiences of residents, service users, communities and our staff will help us understand what works, what could work better and how services could be improved.

Make sustainable decisions

We will look for changes that improve how we work for the long term, rather than short-term solutions that simply move costs into the future.

An ongoing conversation about improving services

This budget consultation is not the end of the conversation. It begins a continuing discussion about **how we can become a better, more effective council and deliver services sustainably for the future.**

As we develop proposals, we will explain:

- what we are trying to improve;
- why change is needed;
- what could work differently;
- what the potential benefits and risks are;
- what we can learn from elsewhere; and
- how residents and service users can contribute their experience and ideas.

Have your say

We know we need to change. We want your help to make sure that change makes services better.

The budget consultation is an opportunity to tell us what outcomes matter most to you, where services could work better, where processes could be simpler and what we need to consider as we develop new approaches.

We want to hear:

- which services and outcomes matter most to you;
- what currently works well and what could work better;
- how different ways of providing services could affect you, your family or your community;
- whether there are impacts or opportunities we have not fully understood;
- where services could be simpler or more efficient;
- how the council could work more effectively with communities and partners; and
- what we should consider as we redesign services.

Your feedback will help us understand what matters most to residents and shape the detailed proposals that come forward.

The financial challenge means we need to change, but it also gives us an opportunity to accelerate improvement. By making better use of technology, learning from others, challenging ourselves and focusing relentlessly on what works, we can become a more effective council.

Our ambition is to deliver the best possible outcomes for South Gloucestershire while making every pound work harder, so that our services are sustainable for the future.

Our ten areas of focus

South Gloucestershire Council
Delivering with you

We have identified ten areas where we think we can work differently, improve outcomes for residents and make every pound work as effectively as possible, while protecting people with the greatest needs.

The following sections explain each area in more detail.

AREA 1: MAKING SERVICES AND THE COUNCIL MORE EFFICIENT

We are looking for ways to improve how you access our services while also reducing the cost of delivering them. This includes making services simpler and easier to use, reducing unnecessary administration, improving the use of technology and finding more efficient ways of working. The aim is to improve residents' experiences while directing more resources towards frontline services.

Ideas under consideration include:

- improving online and digital services
- simplifying customer journeys and making it easier for people to get things done first time
- Ensuring systems and processes work better together, reducing duplication and unnecessary administration
- Finding more efficient ways to work across departments and teams
- Making better use of technology to deliver services and improve productivity

AREA 2: MAKING BETTER USE OF COUNCIL ASSETS

We are further exploring opportunities to make better use of the buildings, land, vehicles and financial resources owned or managed by the council. The aim is to reduce ongoing costs, generate savings and ensure public assets deliver the greatest possible benefit for residents and communities. Ideas under consideration include:

- Reviewing how council buildings and office space are used and whether they are still needed.
- Exploring opportunities for local community organisations to take on the management of community spaces and facilities.
- Making sure land, buildings and other assets are providing value for residents.
- Reviewing how council vehicles and equipment are used to identify efficiencies.
- Reducing energy use and running costs across council-owned buildings and facilities.
- Managing investments and financial resources effectively to support council priorities.
- Exploring opportunities to invest now to reduce costs in future years.

AREA 3: ENSURING BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY

We are exploring more opportunities to ensure council services provide the best possible value for residents and taxpayers. We will learn from other councils if they are able to deliver similar services at lower cost. We will redesign services if this maintains service levels at lower cost.

We will review the way we buy goods and services to find the best providers and suppliers while maintaining outcomes. We will consider whether there are different ways of delivering services, opportunities to reduce costs, and ways to make better use of resources so that funding can be focused on the services that matter most.

AREA 4: REVIEWING LOCAL SERVICES

We will consider how local road, grounds maintenance and street services could be delivered more efficiently, including potential changes to service levels and local delivery arrangements. Ideas under consideration include:

- ensuring local road, grounds maintenance and street services continue to provide good value for money. This includes exploring how highway maintenance, grounds maintenance, cleaning services and grit bins are delivered, and whether there are alternative ways of providing services while maintaining outcomes for residents.

- Keeping all Household Waste and Recycling Centres open and exploring opportunities to ensure they continue to provide good value for money and meet the needs of residents. This includes reviewing current opening hours, patterns of usage and operating costs to understand whether services could be delivered more efficiently while maintaining access for residents. Any changes would seek to balance convenience, demand and affordability as part of the council's wider approach to financial sustainability.

AREA 5: PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE AND PREVENTION IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE

We will explore ways to reduce demand for higher-cost care and support by helping people remain independent for longer. Ideas under consideration include:

- Expanding the use of equipment and technology that help people remain safe and independent at home

- Embarking on a falls prevention and practical support programme targeted at older and vulnerable people. By reducing the number and severity of falls, it is expected to reduce the need for costly care and support following a fall.

- Sourcing and providing more suitable local housing for adults

- Simplifying the process of setting up and managing direct payments (cash payments the council makes to people with eligible social care needs), allowing them to arrange and purchase their own care and support and making it easier for people to access and use this option

AREA 6: DELIVERING ADULT SOCIAL CARE MORE EFFICIENTLY

We will improve the ways in which care and support services for adults are commissioned, delivered and purchased. Ideas under consideration include:

Identifying further opportunities to provide high-quality care and support for working-age adults in a more cost-effective way. This may include making better use of existing services, improving contract arrangements and choosing options that help people stay independent for longer.

Seeking improved procurement arrangements for live-in care, which is provided when an adult's needs require a carer to live with them. This would enable access to pre-approved providers, offering better value for money. This aims to strengthen consistency and quality of service, supporting people's independence or delivering cost-effective provision where live-in care is the most appropriate option.

AREA 7: ENSURING FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

We will review our funding arrangements to ensure they are applied consistently. We will further ensure that the council pays only for the support it is responsible for funding. Ideas under consideration include:

- Identifying areas where charging arrangements for services are not being applied fairly and consistently. This may result in charges being introduced or applied more consistently, where appropriate, while ensuring any changes remain lawful and proportionate. Charges for adult social care are statutorily regulated and significantly means-tested, which means that lower income clients are usually protected from any charging changes that may be applied.

AREA 8: PROVIDING EARLIER SUPPORT TO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

We will explore how earlier support and intervention can help children, young people and families get the right help sooner and prevent needs from escalating. This includes helping children remain safely with their families where possible and supporting children and young people with additional needs. The aim is to improve outcomes, promote independence and reduce the need for more intensive support later. Ideas under consideration include:

- Providing intensive, practical support to families facing complex difficulties so that children can safely remain with, or return to, their family network wherever possible.
- Ensuring appropriate access to short breaks and other financial support for children with disabilities and their families.
- Providing earlier intervention for children and young people with mental health, learning or developmental needs in schools and care settings
- Better understanding the journey of care users, so that we can identify where earlier support, investment and interventions are likely to achieve better outcomes.
- Providing better early intervention for children and young people with mental health needs or additional learning and developmental needs.

AREA 9: PROVIDING CARE, ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MORE EFFECTIVELY

We will explore how care, accommodation and support for children in care, care leavers and young people with complex needs can be delivered more effectively and sustainably. This includes improving accommodation and care arrangements, planning earlier for future needs and strengthening joint working and funding with partners. The aim is to improve outcomes while reducing reliance on higher-cost care and support where appropriate. Ideas under consideration include:

- Reviewing care arrangements, increasing the use of local and family-based options, reducing reliance on costly external provision
- Improving future planning to better predict and cater for future needs
- Sourcing better suited supported accommodation options for 16- and 17-year-old young people in care.

- Planning earlier for future accommodation, staffing and support needs of care leavers to avoid costly reactive interventions
- Supporting care leavers - young care recipients as they transition to adulthood - to develop their independence by helping them access the benefits they are entitled to.
- Seeking out alternative accommodation providers that could deliver cost savings when providing accommodation to children and young people seeking asylum.

AREA 10: REVIEWING TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS SO THEY ARE SUSTAINABLE AND AFFORDABLE

We are exploring opportunities to make transport arranged or funded by the council better value for money, so that it remains sustainable. This includes looking at how transport support is provided, how journeys are planned and whether there are different ways of meeting people's transport needs:

- Reviewing support provided for children and young people travelling to school.
- Looking at how transport is used and whether journeys can be planned and delivered more efficiently.
- Exploring different ways of meeting transport needs while continuing to support those who rely on these services.
- Considering opportunities to promote independent and sustainable travel where appropriate.
- Ensuring transport arrangements provide value for money while meeting legal and service requirements.

South Gloucestershire budget consultation 2027/28

Our budget: becoming a better, more effective council.

Like councils across the country, we face rising costs, growing demand for essential services and funding that has not kept pace. We want your help in deciding how we respond to our ongoing financial challenges.

We have worked hard to improve services and become more efficient, but we now need to go further. This is an opportunity to become a better, more effective council: using technology, simplifying how we work, supporting people earlier and learning from what works elsewhere. Our priority remains to protect people with the greatest needs, improve outcomes for residents and make every pound work as effectively as possible.

You can find out more about our financial position, including where our money comes from and where we spend it from our Commonplace site: https://councilbudget2728.commonplace.is/ or from the consultation team at consultation@southglos.gov.uk. Please read through this information before responding to this survey.

This survey asks about council spending, council tax and the adult social care precept, and areas where we could work differently. Your feedback will help us understand what matters.

Please return this survey to: South Gloucestershire Council, Insight and Engagement Team, PO Box 1953, Bristol, BS37 0DE, or any South Gloucestershire library or One Stop Shop.

Please return by 20 December 2026.

Section 1: Understanding the budget

Q1 Firstly, please tell us in what capacity you are providing feedback. (Please select one or more options).

- ☐ I live here
- ☐ I work here
- ☐ I study here
- ☐ I run a business here
- ☐ I am a member of a town or parish council
- ☐ I am an elected representative
- ☐ I represent a community group or voluntary sector organisation
- ☐ I am a member of council staff

Q2 Every year, the council has to decide how to spend the money it has. How well do you feel you understand how that budget is set? (Please select one option)

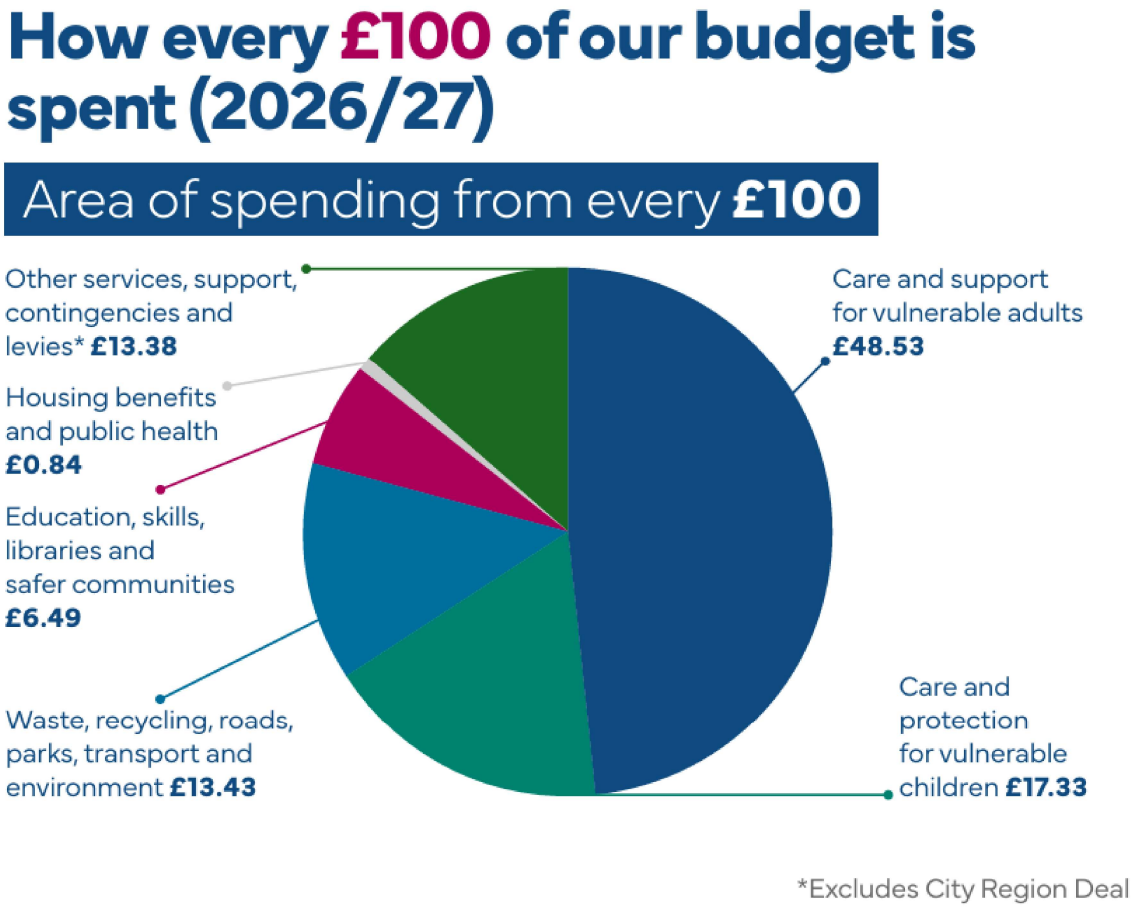
- ☐ I understand it well
- ☐ I understand some of it
- ☐ I only understand it a little
- ☐ I don't understand it at all

Q3 What information, if any, do you think is useful for residents to know about the council's budget? (Select one or more options)

- ☐ Nothing - I don't think residents need this information
- ☐ Where the council's money comes from
- ☐ How the council spends its money
- ☐ What services the council must legally provide
- ☐ What is causing financial pressures
- ☐ How the council is finding ways to save money
- ☐ How budget decisions are made
- ☐ Examples of the difficult choices the council has to make when money is limited?

Section 2: How would you prioritise our budget?

Deciding how to allocate the council's budget means balancing many different services and priorities. The chart below shows how every £100 of our budget is currently spent.



We would like to understand how you would prioritise that £100. In the question below, there is only £100 available; increasing spending in one area means reducing it somewhere else - try to ensure the options you select add up to £100. We are also legally required to provide services in each of these areas, so none of the areas can be allocated zero funding.
This will help us understand both the services you would prioritise and the areas where you think less could be spent.

Q4 How would you allocate £100 of our budget?

	£0 - £10	£11 - 20	£21 - 30	£31 - £40	£41 - £50	£51+	Don't know
Supporting vulnerable adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supporting vulnerable children	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waste, recycling, roads, parks, transport and environment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Education, skills, libraries and safer communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Housing benefits and public health	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q5 Is there anything else you would like to tell us about how we allocate our budget?

Section 3: Council tax and the adult social care precept

We are seeking your views on our proposed council tax increase for 2027/28.

The Government's funding system assumes that councils will increase council tax by the maximum amount allowed without holding a local vote. Our budget has been planned on this basis. If we increase council tax by less than this amount, the Government will not provide any extra funding to make up the shortfall, meaning we will have less money to spend on local services.

We are proposing an overall increase of 4.99%, comprising:
•2.99% for general council tax; and
•2.00% for the adult social care precept, to support the growing cost and demand for adult social care services.

Despite the proposed increase, council tax income alone will not be sufficient to balance our budget. We will therefore continue to transform how services are delivered, focusing on improving outcomes for residents, increasing efficiency, making better use of technology and resources, and ensuring services remain sustainable and affordable for the future.

We recognise that increasing council tax has a direct impact on household finances. We therefore want to understand residents' views on potential increases as part of this consultation. We have measures in place to support residents experiencing financial hardship, including the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which provides assistance with council tax liability for eligible low-income households, and the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which can offer additional support to residents facing exceptional financial difficulties.

Q6 Please use the box below to tell us how our proposed increase to council tax might impact you:

Section 4: The areas we would like your views

We need to make changes to become a better, more effective council and make our services financially sustainable for the future. We have identified ten areas where we think we can work differently, improve outcomes for residents and make every pound work as effectively as possible, while protecting people with the greatest needs.

These include opportunities to:
•Make council services and processes simpler and more efficient;
•Make better use of technology and resources;
•Provide support earlier and help people remain independent;
•Review how services are bought and delivered;
•Learn from councils achieving similar or better outcomes at lower cost;
•Work differently with communities, partners and other organisations.

The following sections explain each area in more detail; please click on the arrows to expand each section and learn more.

Please tell us what you think, how any changes could affect you or others, what could work better, and any ideas or alternatives you would like us to consider.

The ten areas of focus

Area 1: Making services and the council more efficient

We are looking for ways to improve how you access our services while also reducing the cost of delivering them. This includes making services simpler and easier to use, reducing unnecessary administration, improving the use of technology and finding more efficient ways of working. The aim is to improve residents' experiences while directing more resources towards frontline services.

Ideas under consideration include:

•Improving online and digital services simplifying customer journeys and making it easier for people to get things done first time;
•Ensuring systems and processes work better together, reducing duplication and unnecessary administration;
•Finding more efficient ways to work across departments and teams;
•Making better use of technology to deliver services and improve productivity.

Q7 Please tell us your views on area of focus 1, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Area 2: Making better use of council assets

We are further exploring opportunities to make better use of the buildings, land, vehicles and financial resources owned or managed by the council. The aim is to reduce ongoing costs, generate savings and ensure public assets deliver the greatest possible benefit for residents and communities.

Ideas under consideration include:

•Reviewing how council buildings and office space are used and whether they are still needed;
•Exploring opportunities for local community organisations to take on the management of community spaces and facilities;
•Making sure land, buildings and other assets are providing value for residents;
•Reviewing how council vehicles and equipment are used to identify efficiencies;
•Reducing energy use and running costs across council-owned buildings and facilities;
•Managing investments and financial resources effectively to support council priorities;
•Exploring opportunities to invest now to reduce costs in future years.

Q8 Please tell us your views on area of focus 2, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Area 3: Ensuring better value for money

We are exploring more opportunities to ensure council services provide the best possible value for residents and taxpayers. We will learn from other councils if they are able to deliver similar services at lower cost. We will redesign services if this maintains service levels at lower cost. We will review the way we buy goods and services to find the best providers and suppliers while maintaining outcomes. We will consider whether there are different ways of delivering services, opportunities to reduce costs, and ways to make better use of resources so that funding can be focused on the services that matter most.

Q9 Please tell us your views on area of focus 3, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Area 4: Reviewing local services

We will consider how local road, grounds maintenance and street services could be delivered more efficiently, including potential changes to service levels and local delivery arrangements.

Ideas under consideration include:

•Ensuring local road, grounds maintenance and street services continue to provide good value for money. This includes exploring how highway maintenance, grounds maintenance, cleaning services and grit bins are delivered, and whether there are alternative ways of providing services while maintaining outcomes for residents;
•Keeping all Household Waste and Recycling Centres open and exploring opportunities to ensure they continue to provide good value for money and meet the needs of residents. This includes reviewing current opening hours, patterns of usage and operating costs to understand whether services could be delivered more efficiently while maintaining access for residents. Any changes would seek to balance convenience, demand and affordability as part of the council's wider approach to financial sustainability.

Q10 Please tell us your views on area of focus 4, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Area 5: Promoting independence and prevention in adult social care

We will explore ways to reduce demand for higher-cost care and support by helping people remain independent for longer.

Ideas under consideration include:

•Expanding the use of equipment and technology that help people remain safe and independent at home;
•Embarking on a falls prevention and practical support programme targeted at older and vulnerable people. By reducing the number and severity of falls, it is expected to reduce the need for costly care and support following a fall;
•Sourcing and providing more suitable local housing for adults;
•Simplifying the process of setting up and managing direct payments (cash payments the council makes to people with eligible social care needs), allowing them to arrange and purchase their own care and support and making it easier for people to access and use this option

Q11 Please tell us your views on area of focus 5, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Area 6: Delivering adult social care more efficiently

We will improve the ways in which care and support services for adults are commissioned, delivered and purchased.

Ideas under consideration include:
•Identifying further opportunities to provide high-quality care and support for working-age adults in a more cost-effective way. This may include making better use of existing services, improving contract arrangements and choosing options that help people stay independent for longer.
•Seeking improved procurement arrangements for live-in care, which is provided when an adult's needs require a carer to live with them. This would enable access to pre-approved providers, offering better value for money. This aims to strengthen consistency and quality of service, supporting people's independence or delivering cost-effective provision where live-in care is the most appropriate option.

Q12 Please tell us your views on area of focus 6, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Area 7: Ensuring fair and sustainble funding for adult social care

We will review our funding arrangements to ensure they are applied consistently. We will further ensure that the council pays only for the support it is responsible for funding.

Ideas under consideration include:
•Identifying areas where charging arrangements for services are not being applied fairly and consistently. This may result in charges being introduced or applied more consistently, where appropriate, while ensuring any changes remain lawful and proportionate. Charges for adult social care are statutorily regulated and significantly means-tested, which means that lower income clients are usually protected from any charging changes that may be applied.

Q13 Please tell us your views on area of focus 7, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Area 8: Providing earlier support to children, young people and families

We will explore how earlier support and intervention can help children, young people and families get the right help sooner and prevent needs from escalating. This includes helping children remain safely with their families where possible and supporting children and young people with additional needs. The aim is to improve outcomes, promote independence and reduce the need for more intensive support later.

Ideas under consideration include:
•Providing intensive, practical support to families facing complex difficulties so that children can safely remain with, or return to, their family network wherever possible;
•Ensuring appropriate access to short breaks and other financial support for children with disabilities and their families;
•Providing earlier intervention for children and young people with mental health, learning or developmental needs in schools and care settings Better understanding the journey of care users, so that we can identify where earlier support, investment and interventions are likely to achieve better outcomes;
•Providing better early intervention for children and young people with mental health needs or additional learning and developmental needs.

Q14 Please tell us your views on area of focus 8, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Area 9: Providing care, accommodation and support for children and young people more effectively

We will explore how care, accommodation and support for children in care, care leavers and young people with complex needs can be delivered more effectively and sustainably. This includes improving accommodation and care arrangements, planning earlier for future needs and strengthening joint working and funding with partners. The aim is to improve outcomes while reducing reliance on higher-cost care and support where appropriate.

Ideas under consideration include:

•Reviewing care arrangements, increasing the use of local and family-based options, reducing reliance on costly external provision;
•Improving future planning to better predict and cater for future needs;
•Sourcing better suited supported accommodation options for 16- and 17-year-old young people in care;
•Planning earlier for future accommodation, staffing and support needs of care leavers to avoid costly reactive interventions;
•Supporting care leavers - young care recipients as they transition to adulthood - to develop their independence by helping them access the benefits they are entitled to;
•Seeking out alternative accommodation providers that could deliver cost savings when providing accommodation to children and young people seeking asylum.

Q15 Please tell us your views on area of focus 9, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Area 10: Reviewing transport arrangements so they are sustainable and affordable

We are exploring opportunities to make transport arranged or funded by the council better value for money, so that it remains sustainable . This includes looking at how transport support is provided, how journeys are planned and whether there are different ways of meeting people's transport needs:

•Reviewing support provided for children and young people travelling to school;
•Looking at how transport is used and whether journeys can be planned and delivered more efficiently;
•Exploring different ways of meeting transport needs while continuing to support those who rely on these services;
•Considering opportunities to promote independent and sustainable travel where appropriate;
•Ensuring transport arrangements provide value for money while meeting legal and service requirements.

Q16 Please tell us your views on area of focus 10, including any impacts on you or others, and any suggestions or alternatives.

Section 5: Cumulative impact

In the last eleven years, the council has delivered a wide-ranging programme of savings. Wherever possible, we've tried to do this in ways which minimise the impact on our residents and communities. However, the scale of the cuts has meant that we haven't always been able to maintain service delivery to the same level. We'd like to know what impact you think this has had for you and people like you.

Q17 Thinking about how we deliver council services, do you think the following aspects have improved, stayed the same, or got worse?

	Much worse	Slightly worse	No change	Slightly better	Much better	Not applicable to me
Availability/accessibility of services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Responsiveness to requests	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quality of services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cost of services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q18 And what has been the impact over the past five years for you and your community?

	Much worse	Slightly worse	No change	Slightly better	Much better	Not applicable to me
Condition of roads and paths	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cleanliness of streets	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maintenance of parks and open spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community cohesion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Levels of crime and antisocial behaviour	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ease of getting around	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Efficient running of the planning system (individual requests for planning permission)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Support for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improving outcomes for people facing poverty and financial hardship	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social care support for the elderly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Children's social care	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Teaching and education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of support to the voluntary and community sector	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q19 If you have any other comments on the budget please tell us here:

Section 6: About You

This section is really important. It's vital that we understand the experiences of a wide range of respondents in order to ensure that everyone is treated fairly. By understanding more about what people from diverse backgrounds tell us, we can ensure we act appropriately to meet needs.

All questions are optional and any responses to these questions will remain confidential. Individuals will not be identified and personal details will not be published.

Q20 Please tell us your postcode:

This is used for analysis purposes only.

Q21 What is your age?

- ☐ 18 or under
- ☐ 19 to 29
- ☐ 30 to 39
- ☐ 40 to 49
- ☐ 50 to 59
- ☐ 60 to 69
- ☐ 70 to 79
- ☐ 80 or over
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q22 Are you?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Intersex
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q23 Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] Yes - Physical impairment, such as difficulty using arms or mobility issues which may mean using a wheelchair or crutches
- [ ] Yes - Sensory impairment, such as being blind/having a serious visual impairment or being deaf/have a hearing impairment
- [ ] Yes - Mental health condition, such as depression, anxiety or schizophrenia
- [ ] Yes - Learning disability/difficulty (such as Down's Syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia) or cognitive impairment (such as autism spectrum condition)
- [ ] Yes - Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy
- [ ] Yes - Other (please state)

If other, please state

Q24 Please tell us your ethnic origin

- [ ] Arab/Arab British
- [ ] Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi
- [ ] Asian/Asian British - Chinese
- [ ] Asian/Asian British - Indian
- [ ] Asian/Asian British - Other
- [ ] Asian/Asian British - Pakistani
- [ ] Black/African/Caribbean/Black British - African
- [ ] Black/African/Caribbean/Black British - Caribbean
- [ ] Black/African/Caribbean/Black British - Other
- [ ] Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- [ ] Mixed/multiple ethnic group - Other
- [ ] Mixed/multiple ethnic group - White & Asian
- [ ] Mixed/multiple ethnic group - White & Black African
- [ ] Mixed/multiple ethnic group - White & Black Caribbean
- [ ] White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- [ ] White - Other (please state)
- [ ] White Irish
- [ ] White - Roma
- [ ] Other ethnic group
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q25 Which of the following best describes your usual employment status?

- [ ] Employed full-time
- [ ] Employed part-time
- [ ] Self-employed full-time
- [ ] Self-employed part-time
- [ ] Unemployed
- [ ] Student
- [ ] Looking after the family or home
- [ ] Long-term sick
- [ ] Temporary sick
- [ ] Retired
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q26 Which of the following best describes your household's current financial situation?

- [ ] Living very comfortably
- [ ] Living quite comfortably
- [ ] Neither comfortable nor finding it difficult
- [ ] Finding it quite difficult
- [ ] Finding it very difficult
- [ ] Don't know
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q27 Which of the following forms of financial support do you currently receive or are in the process of applying for?

- [ ] Income Support
- [ ] Housing Benefit
- [ ] Employment Support Allowance
- [ ] Working Tax Credit
- [ ] Pension Credit
- [ ] Universal Credit
- [ ] Job Seekers Allowance
- [ ] Council Tax Reduction
- [ ] None of the above
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q28 Which council tax band are you in?

- [ ] A
- [ ] B
- [ ] C
- [ ] D
- [ ] E
- [ ] F
- [ ] G
- [ ] H
- [ ] Don't know
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q29 Do you currently pay a lower level of council tax as part of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q30 Which of the following best describes your household?

- [ ] Single adult living alone
- [ ] Single parent household
- [ ] Couple living together
- [ ] Couple with dependent children
- [ ] Couple with adult children
- [ ] Multi-generational household (e.g. parents, children and grandparents)
- [ ] Shared accomodation with other adults where finances are kept seperate
- [ ] Other household arrangement
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q31 Do you have caring responsibilities (other than for your own children)?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don't know
- [ ] Prefer not to say

If other, please state:

Q32 What is your religion/belief?

- [ ] Buddhist
- [ ] Christian
- [ ] Hindu
- [ ] Jewish
- [ ] Muslim
- [ ] Sikh
- [ ] Any other religion
- [ ] No religion
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q33 Please tell us your sexual orientation?

- [ ] Straight or Heterosexual
- [ ] Gay or Lesbian
- [ ] Bisexual
- [ ] Pansexual / Omnisexual
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q34 Do you identify as a transgender person?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Q35 Are you currently, or have you previously, served in the UK Armed Forces?

- [ ] No
- [ ] Yes, I am currently/have previously served in the regular UK Armed Forces

Please return your completed questionnaire to South Gloucestershire Council, Insight and Engagement Team, PO Box 1953, Bristol, BS37 0DE, or hand in your paper copy to any South Gloucestershire Council library or One Stop Shop

Any personal information that you have supplied will be held by South Gloucestershire Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations (UKGDPR) 2021. This information will only be used as part of this exercise and personal information will not be published or passed onto any other organisation. Your personal information collected as part of this survey will be kept for two years to help us improve services before being securely destroyed.Our privacy notice, which explains how we will process your personal information, how long we will retain it and your rights as a data subject, is available at www.southglos.gov.uk/privacy-notice

South Gloucestershire

COMMUNITY AWARDS 2026-27

Your way to say **thank you**

Apply by **29 NOV 2026**



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR YOUR LOCAL HEROES

www.southglos.gov.uk/communityawards or communityawards@southglos.gov.uk

The Community Awards is your opportunity to nominate anyone in South Gloucestershire who volunteers for a good cause, such as those who help keep our parks clean and tidy, the befriending volunteers who brighten people's days, the helpful neighbours who support those in need, and many more deserving heroes of our community.

sgs
South Gloucestershire and Stroud College

South Gloucestershire Council
Delivering with you

Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Boyd Valley, Emersons and Lyde Green update

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT November 2026

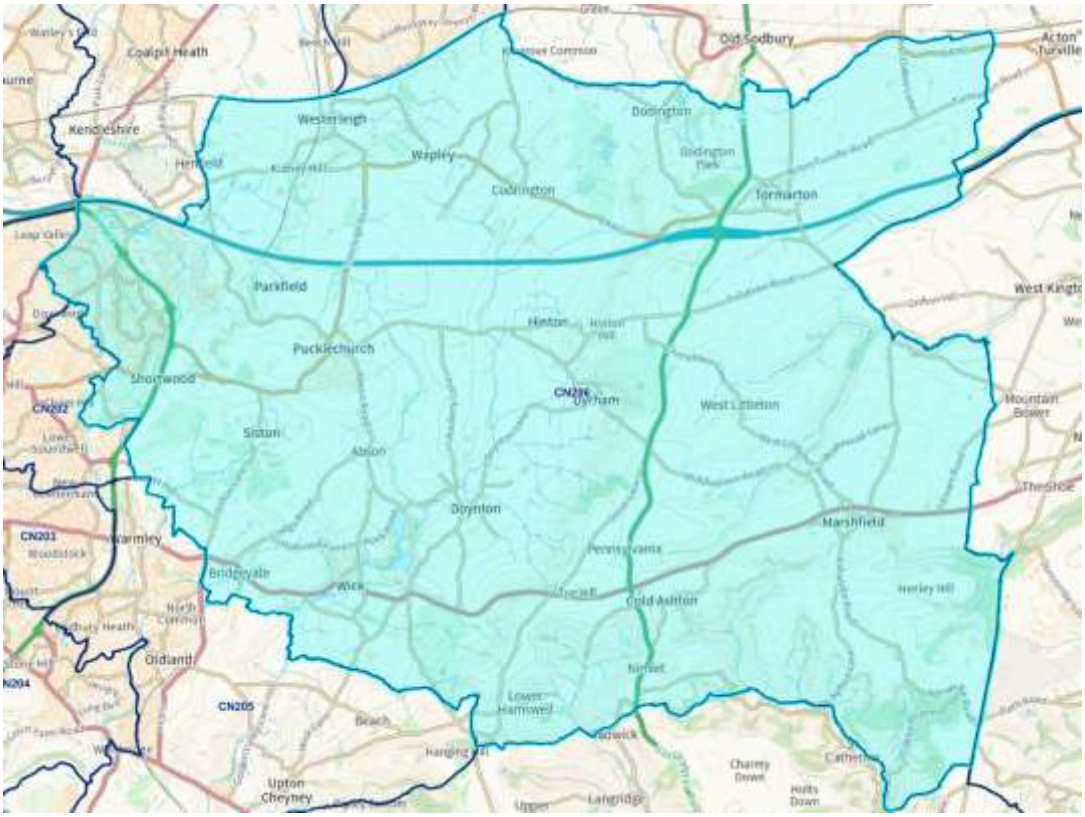
General Update

The Boyd Valley, Emersons and Lyde Green area is overseen by Neighbourhood Managers, PC Daniel Andrews, PC Nathan Chappell and PCSOs Sam Norster and Daniel Pop, operating from Staple Hill police station.






We cover a large area from Westerleigh and Tormarton down to Wick and Nimlet. This is predominantly rural but includes the urban areas of Emersons Green and Lyde Green.



Parish Council Reports

We have checked upcoming Council meetings where they are available on websites but unfortunately very few of them fall on our late shifts. If each council could confirm dates for the next few months we will ensure we attend as many different councils as we can.

We will continue to send a report to all councils as regularly as possible.

Community Engagement

We hold Talk to Us events every four weeks at Sainsburys, Emersons Green. These are received positively by shoppers who interact with us, talk about concerns and enjoy the freebies on offer. Future events are planned for Sunday 29th November and 24th January between 2 and 3pm.

We will be holding an additional Talk to Us Event on 19th November focussing on knife Crime. This will be held between 1 and 2:30pm at Sainsburys, Emersons Green.

We received several reports of anti-social behaviour in the Thistle Close area of Lyde Green. Following targeted, intelligence-led patrols in the area the number of reports has significantly reduced.

School patrols are carried out regularly throughout the academic year. This helps us to build positive relationships with children and their families. We will patrol the area around the school entrance to address issues with parking and unsafe driving. We currently cover 10 school sites in the area. In November we have offered knife crime talks to several schools.

We are happy to attend school or youth groups to talk about our jobs or safety related issues. Please contact us via 101 or online reporting to request this.

We appreciate that many communities have WhatsApp and Facebook groups that they report concerns and suspicious activity to. It is important that this information is reported to the Police too as we don't have access to the social media groups.

Rural Engagement

The number of rural burglaries has reduced recently but residents are asked to remain vigilant and ensure their properties are secure. If rural property owners require addition information about securing their property, please advise them to contact the neighbourhood policing team.

Recent burglaries across the region have involved the theft of high value cars with keys taken during the burglary. Residents are reminded that they need to keep the keys for high value cars in a secure place and their properties locked. Valuable belongings should not be left in sight within vehicles.

Patrols along the Bristol to Bath cycle path have been increased following recent incidents and we have recently joined the Community Safety Team from South Gloucestershire Council to engage with users of the path. Several illegal e-scooters and e-bikes have been seized in recent weeks and our efforts are continuing.

Business Engagement

Reports of anti-social behaviour at the Emersons retail park have reduced and we are attending monthly meetings with retailers and the South Gloucestershire Council Community Safety Team.

We are aware of car meets at Sainsburys, Emersons Green and subsequent racing along the A4174 and Emerson Green area. Unfortunately, it now appears that the ANPR system is not considered viable at the retail park so we are looking at other ways to address the car meets. With immediate effect, we will be reporting vehicles being used anti-socially through the Public Space Protection Order.

Local priorities

Disrupting prolific and high-impact shoplifting offenders
Neighbourhood officers will focus on identifying and targeting prolific shoplifters who are having the greatest impact on the community within Emersons Green Retail Park.

Addressing anti-social behaviour at Emerson Green and Lyde Green
There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour from youths in the Emersons Green retail park and Lyde Green. Working alongside local businesses, we are seeking to identify the youths involved and start anti-social behaviour proceedings to address their behaviour.

Investigating rural burglaries
We will assist in the investigation of rural burglaries by carrying out local enquiries, collating CCTV evidence and being available to offer support and reassurance to those impacted.

Crime Statistics

Unfortunately the crime statistics haven't been updated on the website.

Useful Contacts

Report every crime; every report helps us to help you. We can't solve an issue if we don't know it's happened.

- Scan the left for online reporting
- Scan the right to meet the Neighbourhood Policing team

Our Neighbourhood Policing team is based at Staple Hill police station and covers the parishes of Westerleigh and Coalpit Heath, Dodington, Tormarton, Emersons and Lyde Green, Pucklechurch, Dyrham and Hinton, Siston, Wick and Abson, Doynton, Cold Ashton and Marshfield.

Community is at the heart of our policing, and we want to know about any issues or problems that are taking place in our area, in order to be able to keep everyone safe. We are often out and about in the community, so please come and speak to us when you see us. Also, if you would like us to attend any community events, please do let us know in advance.

Keep up to date

Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. We do post about incidents that have taken place, the work we do in the area or any events will be attending.
Follow us on: **South Gloucestershire Neighbourhood Policing**

Street Safe

StreetSafe is a service that allows you to report safety concerns in public places anonymously. This includes issues like poorly lit streets, abandoned buildings, or vandalism, as well as instances where you feel unsafe due to someone following or verbally abusing you.

Please note: StreetSafe is not for reporting crimes or emergencies. If you witness a crime or emergency, please call the police on 101 or report a crime online. If you're unsure whether something is a crime or not, read our advice.

Examples of situations that should be reported to StreetSafe include a poorly lit alleyway that makes you feel unsafe or a park with broken equipment that poses a safety hazard.



South Gloucestershire Council

Pucklechurch Parish Council
25 Parkfield Rank
Parkfield Road
Pucklechurch
South Gloucestershire
BS16 9NR

Please ask for: Customer Service Centre
Tel: 01454 868004
Our ref: P26/02394/PIP
(Please quote at all times)
Your ref:
Date: 26th October 2026

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE) ORDER 2017 (AMENDED)

Dear Ms Dunning

LOCATION: **Land At Westerleigh Road Pucklechurch South Gloucestershire BS16 9PY**
DESCRIPTION: **Permission in principle for the erection of 2no Dwellings.**
REFERENCE NO: **P26/02394/PIP**

I enclose details of an application(s) submitted in respect of the above proposal. Please note that the details and plans enclosed relate to the reference(s) stated on the attached letter(s). Additionally, the application documents may be viewed via the Planning web site at https://developments.southglos.gov.uk/online-applications/ free internet access is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries.

The Planning Authority has only a limited period of time within which to determine applications, and I should be grateful therefore, to receive any comments, which your Council may have on this proposal within 21 days of the date of this letter. Alternatively, any comments your Council may wish to make can be made online. In order to assist the Council in considering your response, I would be grateful if you could clearly state whether your response is either a formal objection to the proposal, no objection is raised, or you wish to make comments to be taken into account in determining the application. If no reply is received at this office within this period, the application will be considered by the Planning Authority on the assumption that your Council does not wish to make any comments.

Any comments received will be made available to members of the public and the applicant, including via the Council's website. If the application is referred to the Planning Committee, your comments will be summarised in the officer's report.

If this is a major application, you will find enclosed a Site Notice. In such a case I would be grateful if you could display the Notice on your Parish Notice Board.

If the documents enclosed within this letter consist of only a copy of the submitted application form and an O.S. Site Plan, this means that the applicant has declined to submit an extra copy of the application documents despite being requested to do so. In this case a full set of the application documents can be viewed on the web site as noted above. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please initially contact the Customer Services Centre on the above number. For your information, the Case Officer for this application is Chloe Summerill
Yours faithfully

Strategic Planning, South Gloucestershire Council, Department For Place, PO Box 1954, Bristol, BS37 0DD
Telephone: 01454 868004 Email: planningapplications@southglos.gov.uk

P26/02394/PIP Land at Westerleigh Road, Pucklechurch, BS16 9PY
Erection of two dwellings

Pucklechurch Parish Council formally objects to the Permission in Principle (PIP) application for the erection of two dwellings on land at Westerleigh Road. Under National Planning Practice Guidance, the scope of a PIP application is strictly limited to Location, Land Use, and the Amount of development. When assessed against these statutory considerations, national Green Belt policy, and the newly made Pucklechurch Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP, approved by referendum 22/10/26), this proposal is completely unacceptable in principle.

1. Inappropriate Location and Breach of Policy PUCKLE 6

- Breach of Settlement Boundary: The application site is an undeveloped greenfield parcel located 570m north of the defined Pucklechurch settlement boundary, placing it entirely within the open countryside.
- Conflict with Spatial Form: Policy PUCKLE 6 (Good Design and Development Form) requires all new development to respect established settlement boundaries, rural margins, and distinct local character.
- Harm to Rural Character: Introducing isolated residential development into this open countryside location directly violates the protected spatial pattern and landscape character of the village.

2. Inappropriate Housing Mix and Conflict with Policy PUCKLE 4 (Amount & Land Use)

- Failure to Meet Local Need: The proposal for two large, 4-bedroom executive dwellings fails to comply with the statutory housing mix requirements of the development plan.
- Violation of Housing Mandates: Policy PUCKLE 4 of the PNDP explicitly mandates that new residential schemes deliver a mix of housing sizes that reflects local demographics, specifically prioritising smaller, accessible homes for younger households and downsizers.
- The provision of two large market homes worsens the local imbalance toward executive properties. Citing a district-wide housing shortfall cannot justify breaching settlement boundaries for a scheme that offers zero public benefit toward meeting actual local housing needs.

3. Failure to Meet the "Grey Belt" Definition and Severe Highway Safety Risks The applicant relies on an adjacent approval to claim this site is "grey belt" land suitable for infill. This assertion fails the strict statutory tests set out in the August 2026 NPPF Glossary and Annex E:

- Strong Green Belt Performance: Under NPPF Policy GB2, land is only grey belt if it fails to strongly perform against Green Belt purposes. Situated 570m deep within the countryside, this parcel acts as a vital structural barrier preventing unrestricted, detached urban sprawl (Purpose a) and protecting the village from coalescence with northern settlements (Purpose b). It is therefore fully constrained Green Belt.
- Severe Pedestrian Safety Hazard: Even if grey belt status were established, the site fails the mandatory sustainability rules of Policy GB7. The site is physically severed from village infrastructure. Pedestrian connectivity along Westerleigh Road is unlit, lacks safe crossings, and features a substandard footway less than 2 feet wide heavily choked by hedgerows.

- Inaccessible and Isolated: This narrow path cannot accommodate pushchairs, wheelchairs, or mobility aids, failing inclusive design mandates. Forcing vulnerable pedestrians to walk on a substandard path immediately adjacent to 40mph traffic presents an unacceptable risk to life.
- Unsafe Public Transport Access: While bus stops sit nearby, there are no safe pedestrian crossing facilities. Forcing residents to step directly into a 40mph live carriageway to catch a bus creates a severe highways hazard, ensuring heavy reliance on the private car.

4. Adjacent Approvals Do Not Set a Precedent

- Under established planning law, each application must be evaluated strictly on its own individual planning merits (Lee Valley Regional Park Authority v Epping Forest DC). The approval on the opposite side of the road (P24/02049/O) does not alter the greenfield status or planning constraints of this site.
- Under the 2026 NPPF Annex E methodology, proximity to an approved scheme does not grant grey belt status. Because the opposite side of Westerleigh Road is now undergoing active construction, this remaining greenfield parcel becomes far more critical to serve as a line of defence against linear ribbon sprawl.
- Approving this scheme simply because a site was permitted opposite creates an unsustainable cycle of "leapfrog" development that would permanently dismantle the Green Belt boundary.

5. Housing Land Supply and the Location Hierarchy

- The district's 3.93-year housing land supply shortage does not force an automatic approval. Under August 2026 NPPF Policies S3 and S5, Green Belt asset protections override general housing supply routes.
- A housing deficit is an administrative calculation; it cannot transform a high-performing greenfield site into grey belt. Because this plot actively blocks sprawl, it fails the strict Annex E tests and remains full Green Belt.
- A district shortfall does not override Section 38(6) or cancel out local planning choices. The Pucklechurch Neighbourhood Development Plan is legally active, and its local protections under Policy PUCKLE 6 carry full statutory weight.
- The public benefit of adding just two market houses is negligible. Planning precedents confirm that housing supply weight scales directly with the number of units built. This minor contribution is heavily and decisively outweighed by the permanent visual and spatial harm caused to the Green Belt and the village boundary.

6. Location Suitability and Environmental Constraints

- The applicant's Planning Statement explicitly admits the presence of surface water flow paths and drainage defects affecting the site. While detailed engineering design is handled at the Technical Details Consent stage, the known existence of these critical flooding and drainage constraints directly impacts the initial PiP assessment of whether this location is suitable for housing in principle.
- Introducing permanent residential development onto an unallocated greenfield parcel actively affected by surface water risks introduces unnecessary environmental hazards, further proving the location is entirely unsuitable for residential development.

Conclusion

Permission in Principle is concerned entirely with the acceptability of the Location, Land Use, and Amount of development. This application proposes an unsuitable location outside the settlement boundary, an unacceptable land use within high-performing Green Belt, an unsafe pedestrian environment, and inappropriate executive housing that conflicts with the PNDP. Pucklechurch Parish Council strongly urges the South Gloucestershire Council to refuse this application.

7aii

Consultee Comments for Planning Application P26/02523/TCA

NR

no-reply@southglos.gov.uk
To clerk@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Consultee comments

Dear Clerk on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 07/11/2026 5:37 PM from Clerk on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council (Not Available) on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council.

Application Summary

Reference:	P26/02523/TCA
Address:	White Hart 1 Abson Road Pucklechurch South Gloucestershire BS16 9RH
Proposal:	Works to 1no. Yew to reduce by 8 meters high and 6 meters wide and 1no. Silver Birch to prune back to the original puruning point to reduce height by approximately 2 meters and width on each side by approximately 1.5 meters, all situated in the Pucklechurch Conservation Area.
Case Officer:	Samuel Lunn

Click for further information

Comments Details

Comments:	Pucklechurch Parish Council is happy to defer to the Tree Officer.

P26/02264/F Land Between Hillcrest and BT Exchange, Abson Road, Pucklechurch
Erection of 34 dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated access, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure works.

Pucklechurch Parish Council objects to planning application P26/02264/F.

Whilst the site falls within Wick and Abson Parish, it sits immediately adjacent to the settlement edge of Pucklechurch and would directly affect the character, landscape setting, transport network, community infrastructure and future growth pattern of the village.

The Parish Council considers that the proposal conflicts with the adopted spatial strategy for South Gloucestershire, fails to adequately address previous planning concerns regarding the site and would result in significant adverse impacts upon the character and rural setting of Pucklechurch. The application should therefore be refused.

Weight to be Given to the Pucklechurch Neighbourhood Plan
On 22 October 2026 the Pucklechurch Neighbourhood Plan was endorsed at referendum by 293 votes to 64. The Parish Council acknowledges that the legal status of the Plan depends upon the formal process undertaken by South Gloucestershire Council following the referendum. However, irrespective of whether the Plan has yet been formally made, national policy and guidance indicate that substantial weight should be afforded to a recently endorsed neighbourhood plan reflecting the clearly expressed wishes of the local community.

The Plan provides the most current articulation of local objectives concerning:

- protection of village character;
- preservation of settlement identity;
- appropriate location of development;
- design quality;
- protection of the countryside setting; and infrastructure-led growth.

The applicant's assessment gives insufficient regard to these recently endorsed planning objectives.

Conflict with the Local Plan Spatial Strategy
The application site lies beyond the established settlement boundary and constitutes open countryside. The proposal conflicts with the strategic approach established by:

- Core Strategy Policy CS5 (Location of Development); Core Strategy Policy CS34 (Rural Areas); and
- PSP40 (Residential Development in the Countryside).

These policies seek to direct growth towards appropriate and sustainable locations while protecting the countryside from unplanned encroachment. The proposed development is neither allocated nor required to meet any recognised rural exception policy and would introduce a substantial residential estate into an area presently characterised by open land and a clear distinction between settlement and countryside.

The proposal therefore represents development contrary to the established spatial strategy.

Previous Decisions and Planning History

Significant weight should be given to previous decisions affecting this site and the immediately surrounding area.

Appeal APP/P0119/W/21/3281438

The Planning Inspector previously identified the importance of the area's spacious and loose-knit character and recognised the contribution made by open land and green spaces to local distinctiveness. Those findings remain directly relevant to the current proposal.

The character of this locality has not materially changed since that decision. The proposed development would introduce a significantly more intensive pattern of residential development than currently exists along this section of Abson Road and would erode the transition between built form and countryside that was recognised by the Inspector as an important characteristic of the area.

Refusal of P26/01269/PIP

The earlier refusal of the Permission in Principle application is also a material consideration. That decision identified concerns regarding:

- sustainability of the location;
- accessibility to services and facilities; pedestrian connectivity; and the suitability of routes available to future residents.

Whilst the current application seeks to address some of these concerns through a proposed shared pedestrian and cycle connection to Back Lane and Public Footpath LPU/59/40, the fundamental characteristics of the site remain unchanged.

The site remains physically detached from the village core and continues to rely upon routes which do not provide the level of convenience, accessibility and year-round usability expected of a sustainable location. The Parish Council does not consider that the application demonstrates a sufficient change in circumstances to justify a different conclusion from that reached previously.

Design, Character and Landscape Impact

The proposal would replace open countryside and a landscaped settlement edge with a suburban housing estate comprising roads, parking areas, built form, engineering works and associated infrastructure. The applicant characterises the proposal as a natural extension of existing development. The Parish Council disagrees.

The eastern approach to Pucklechurch is characterised by:

- spacious plots;
- strong hedgerow structure;
- visual openness;
- rural transition landscapes; and
- a loose-knit pattern of development.

These characteristics contribute significantly to local distinctiveness and are recognised within previous planning decisions and landscape evidence. The proposed density, layout and built form would urbanise this rural edge and fundamentally alter its character. The required removal of sections of established roadside vegetation and the creation of a new engineered access would further diminish the rural appearance of the site.

Sustainability, Walking and Cycling Infrastructure

A principal argument advanced by the applicant is that the proposed shared pedestrian and cycle link would make the site sustainably connected. The Parish Council remains unconvinced. Although the proposed path represents an improvement over previous proposals, it does not remove the underlying locational disadvantages of the site.

Future residents would continue to rely heavily upon:

- Back Lane;
- Public Footpath LPU/59/40;
- rural rights of way; and
- indirect routes to facilities and services.

These routes remain fundamentally different from conventional footway provision within the village.

Concerns remain regarding:

- accessibility during winter conditions;
- provision for less mobile users;
- convenience for families with young children; use during hours of darkness; and overall attractiveness as everyday walking routes.

Furthermore, concerns previously identified regarding pedestrian movement along Abson Road have not been fully overcome. The Parish Council therefore disputes the contention that the site should be regarded as a highly sustainable location.

Public Open Space, Play Provision and Community Facilities Play Provision

The application includes provision of a Local Area for Play (LAP). While the proposed area may satisfy minimum LAP size requirements, planning policy requires consideration not only of quantity but also functionality, accessibility and integration within the development.

The proposed LAP is located in the north-western corner of the site rather than at its centre. This location raises concerns regarding:

- accessibility;
- visibility;
- passive supervision;
- integration with community activity; and overall quality of the play environment.

The Parish Council questions whether the proposed provision for young children only adequately reflects the needs likely to arise from a development of 34 dwellings.

Allotments and Food Growing

The application proposes no on-site allotment provision and instead relies upon a future off-site contribution through a Section 106 agreement. No specific allotment site has been identified and no clear delivery mechanism has been presented. The Parish Council considers this approach insufficiently certain to demonstrate that the recreational and community needs generated by the development will be adequately addressed.

Housing Need and Planning Balance

The Parish Council recognises the importance of delivering both market and affordable housing. However, housing need is not the sole consideration in the planning balance. The existence of housing demand does not automatically outweigh:

- conflict with adopted planning policy;
- countryside protection objectives;
- landscape harm;
- settlement boundary considerations;
- design concerns; or
- sustainability deficiencies.

The key issue is whether this site is an appropriate location for development. For the reasons set out in this objection, the Parish Council considers that it is not.

<u>Green Belt and Grey Belt Considerations</u>

The application places reliance upon national policy relating to Grey Belt land. However, the site continues to perform an important role in maintaining openness at the rural edge of Pucklechurch and in preserving the transition between village and countryside. Development would result in a permanent loss of openness and would extend built form further into currently undeveloped land. The Parish Council considers that the applicant has not convincingly demonstrated that the policy tests required to justify release of the site have been met.

In conclusion the Parish Council considers that application P26/02264/F:

- conflicts with the spatial strategy of South Gloucestershire;
- conflicts with countryside protection policies;
- fails to give adequate regard to the recently endorsed Pucklechurch Neighbourhood Plan;
- fails to overcome concerns identified in previous planning decisions and appeal findings;
- harms the character and appearance of the rural edge of Pucklechurch;
- raises continuing concerns regarding sustainability and accessibility;
- provides insufficient justification regarding play, allotment and community infrastructure provision;
- fails to demonstrate compliance with the policy objectives relating to Green Belt/Grey Belt land.

For all of the above reasons, Pucklechurch Parish Council respectfully requests that South Gloucestershire Council REFUSE planning application P26/02264/F.

7avi

Consultee Comments for Planning Application P26/02172/F

NR

no-reply@southglos.gov.uk
To clerk@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Consultee comments

Dear Clerk on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 26/10/2026 5:18 PM from Clerk on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council (Not Available) on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council.

Application Summary

Reference:	P26/02172/F
Address:	Land At Westerleigh Road Pucklechurch BS16 9PY
Proposal:	Change of use of land to residential curtilage. Erection of detached single storey garage/store ancillary to main dwelling.
Case Officer:	Chloe Summerill

Click for further information

Comments Details

Comments:	No objections.

7av

Consultee Comments for Planning Application P26/02288/LB

NR

no-reply@southglos.gov.uk
To clerk@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Consultee comments

Dear Clerk on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council,

You have been sent this email because you or somebody else has submitted a consultee comment on a Planning Application to your local authority using your email address. A summary of your comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 26/10/2026 5:17 PM from Clerk on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council (Not Available) on behalf of Pucklechurch Parish Council.

Application Summary

Reference:	P26/02288/LB
Address:	15 Westerleigh Road Pucklechurch South Gloucestershire BS16 9RB
Proposal:	External alterations with the installation of solar PV panels to a section of the rear facing pitched roof.
Case Officer:	Thomas Servini

Click for further information

Comments Details

Comments:	The parish council is happy to defer to the Conservation Officer.

Balance per bank statements as at 01/10/26	£
Unity Bank current	£149,314.11
Unity Instant access savings	£92,575.09
Hinckley and Rugby BS	£76,206.99
Unity Bank current	
Less: payments for October 2026	£13,601.09
Plus: Unity income for October 2026	£140.00
Internal transfer from savings	£75,000.00
Internal transfer to savings	£150,000.00
Balance as at 31/10/26	**£60,853.02**
Unity Bank instant access savings	
Less: payments for October 2026	£0.00
Plus: Income for October 2026	£0.00
Internal transfer to current	£75,000.00
Internal transfer from current	£150,000.00
Balance as at 31/10/26	**£167,575.09**
Hinckley and Rugby BS savings account	
Less: payments for October 2026	£0.00
Plus: income for October 2026	£0.00
Balance as at 31/10/26	**£76,206.99**
Balance as at 31/10/26	**£304,635.10**

Printscreen of October 2026 accounts

Balance c/fwd	**76,206.99**	**167,575.09**	**60,853.02**				
	A	B	C				
Combined balance	D	**304,635.10**		**Bank rec at 31 10 26**			
				Hinckley and Rugby 90 day	76206.99		
				Unity instant access savings	167575.09		
Balance as at 1st April 2026		**181,833.93**		Unity	60,853.02		
Plus: receipts in year to date		196,878.39			**304,635.10**		
Less Payments in year to date		74,077.22					
Balance as at 31st October 2026	E	**304,635.10**		**F should equal D & E**	**304,635.10**	***Diff***	***0.00***

Print screen October 2026 balance Unity bank account

Account Statement

01 October 2026 to 31 October 2026

Account Name: Pucklechurch Parish Council
Sort Code: 608301
Account Number: [redacted]
Swift Code (BIC): NWBKGB2L
IBAN: GB93NWBK60023571418024

Summary**

Start balance	Paid out	Paid in	End balance
£149,314.11	£163,601.09	£75,140.00	£60,853.02

Print screen October 2026 balance Unity bank Savings account

Account Statement

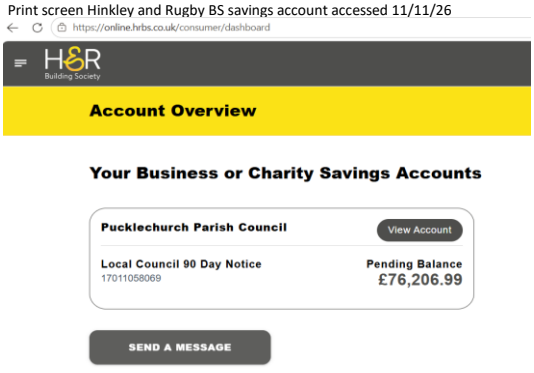
01 October 2026 to 31 October 2026

Account Name: Pucklechurch Parish Council
Sort Code: 608301
Account Number: [redacted]
Swift Code (BIC): NWBKGB2L
IBAN: GB93NWBK60023571418024

Summary**

Start balance	Paid out	Paid in	End balance
£92,575.09	£75,000.00	£150,000.00	£167,575.09

Print screen Hinkley and Rugby BS savings account accessed 11/11/26



Pucklechurch Parish Council

Community Infrastructure Levy Statement 2024/25

Details	Note No*	£
CIL Receipts for reported year		
Cash	1	£1,856.61
Total CIL receipts for reported year	1	£1,856.61
Details of any notices received in accordance with regulation 59E, including-		
The total value of CIL receipts subject to the aforementioned notices during the reported year	2	£0
The total value of CIL receipts subject to the aforementioned notices in any year that has not been paid to the relevant charging authority by the end of the reported year.	2	£0
Total value of CIL receipts subject to aforementioned notices for reported year		£0
Total CIL receipts for reported year retained at end of year	3	£0
CIL receipts from previous years retained	3	£0
Total Amount of CIL receipts retained for reported year		£0
Expenditure on infrastructure	4	£3023.95
Total CIL expenditure for reported year		
Summary of CIL expenditure during the reported year including:		
The amount of CIL to which an infrastructure payment relates (Please list each payment individually)	5	£3023.95
The item of infrastructure to which the above payment relates	5	INSERT DETAILS IN BOX BELOW

£2000 football goal at Parkfield play area
£1023.95 new rocker at Recreation ground play area

***See Notes Over**

Notes

1 Regulation 62A 2(a) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a local council to report the total CIL receipts for the reported year

2 Regulation 62A 2(d) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a local council to report details of any notices received in accordance with regulation 59E[1], including

(i) The total value of CIL receipts subject to notices served in accordance with regulation 59E during the reported year

(ii) The total value of CIL receipts subject to a notice served in accordance with regulation 59E in any year that has not been paid to the relevant charging authority by the end of the reported year. (See below).

3 Regulation 62A 2(e) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a local council to report details of the total amount of:

(i) CIL receipts for the reported year retained at the end of the reported year; and

(ii) CIL receipts from previous years retained at the end of the reported year.

4 Regulation 62A 2(b) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a local council to report the total CIL expenditure for the reported year

5 Regulation 62A 2(c) of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a local council to provide a summary of CIL expenditure during the reported year including

(i) The items to which CIL has been applied; and

(ii) The amount of CIL expenditure on each item.

Regulation 59E

(1) This regulation applies to CIL receipts received by a local council in accordance with regulation 59A or 59B that the local council—

(a) has not applied to support the development of its area within 5 years of receipt; or

(b) has applied otherwise than in accordance with regulation 59C.

(2) The charging authority may serve a notice on the local council requiring it to repay some or all of the CIL receipts that this regulation applies to.