

Gloucester City Council

COUNCIL PLAN 2017 -2020 2020-2021 EXTENSION



Council Plan 2017-2020 2020-2021 Extension

A new Council Plan was due to be developed following the local elections in May 2020, however, the elections have been postponed to May 2021 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has disrupted the usual Council Plan cycle, meaning there is a need for a one year extension to the 2017-2020 Council Plan to cover the period up to autumn 2021.

With this in mind, a set of priorities and actions has been developed. This includes initiatives that are ongoing and outstanding from the existing Council Plan. These initiatives are fundamental in providing a smooth and continuous service to the people of Gloucester, based on the four priorities listed below, during such an unpredictable time.

It also includes new initiatives and priorities that are deemed appropriate to be introduced at this time, as they will form the basis of future work and upcoming council projects.

These priorities and actions do not include a specific action on 'recovery' from the COVID-19 crisis, as this will be a core objective central to all of the council's actions over the coming months, and is still evolving. Therefore, the priorities and actions set out in this document are focused on continuous and new service delivery going forward.

This one year Council Plan extension is intended to serve only as an interim plan, to ensure continuity of services and the delivery of major initiatives until the local elections can be held in 2021. After the 2021 elections, a process will be undertaken to develop a new Council Plan.

Priority 1: Working to create a vibrant and prosperous City

1. Develop a Major Projects Programme to programme and project manage the delivery of priority activity in the city. This includes the Kings Square/Quarter redevelopment, the sale and redevelopment of the Council's former offices (HKP), the redevelopment of the Fleece, St. Oswald's, and the development of the Barbican and Wessex House sites. All schemes to maximise the use of low carbon construction methods and energy production and minimise lifetime carbon costs.
2. Work with housing developers and Registered Providers to minimise the risk of not achieving our 2020/21 target of 718 new homes (180 affordable) as a result of COVID-19.
3. Develop sustainable programme for Kings Square, and improved coordination of a low- carbon impact festivals and events programme across the City that is diverse, inclusive and innovative.

4. Seek clarity on the process and timescales for City of Culture and explore whether future candidate city status would complement and help drive the City's wider ambitions for culture, events and festivals, history and heritage, social and capital investment, digital and climate action.
5. Develop a clear vision for the Guildhall, Museum and Blackfriars; and a Gloucester Museums Development Plan to access funding streams and create a resilient service
6. Start implementing the digital strategy for the City, including proposals to repurpose the former UK:DRIC
7. Set up a new Place Marketing function

Priority 2: Working to maintain a safe and attractive City

8. Agree a climate change strategy and an action plan and commence its implementation
9. Open the new Robinswood Hill Visitor Centre

Priority 3: Working to build strong and resilient communities

10. Reduce homelessness (including street homelessness) through better prevention and more housing supply to generate more and better-quality temporary accommodation
11. Working with the Gloucester Community Building Collective CIC, further strengthen community building activity across all parts of the City
12. Adopt and implement a Social Value Policy
13. Work with partners to improve the health and wellbeing of our population, in particular through the development of the Blackbridge site
14. Develop ways and structures to harness and sustain the cross-city partnership working evident during the COVID-19 Pandemic to offer systemic accountability for the "State of the City"
15. Work with Gloucestershire County Council to improve facilities in Gloucester for pedestrians and cyclists, with the aim of encouraging a modal shift towards active travel, namely cycling and walking.

Priority 4: Working to provide great services that ensure value for money

16. Continue with our 'channel shift' programme, enabling our transactional services to be accessible via the website and turning off the face to face channels where we can so that customers can access our services in a modern and efficient manner.

17. Identify commercial opportunities within the city's Shopmobility service to ensure that the service remains accessible to residents and visitors but also more financially sustainable.
18. Develop a commissioning programme for our larger contracts (2020 -2024/5), including the redesign of the waste and recycling service; our IT service; our Business Processing (Revenues and Benefits) service; and Leisure