



# DECISION RECORD

# Gloucester City Council

Publication Date 11 January 2024

**Decision Of**

Cabinet

**Date of Decision**

10 January 2024

**Item No.**

7

**Title**

Peer Challenge Progress Review

**Report Of**

Leader of the Council (Councillor Richard Cook)

**Report Author**

Tanya Davies, Policy and Governance Manager

**Wards Affected**

All Wards

**Key Decision**

No

**DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that the:

- (1) Corporate Peer Team Progress Review report is welcomed;
- (2) progress report is circulated to Members, officers and partners involved in the Corporate Peer Challenge and made available to the public via the Council's website;
- (3) Action Plan updates prepared for the Peer Team ahead of their October 2023 visit are noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

The Peer Team's findings and recommendations are welcomed. Publication of the report demonstrates the Council's desire to be open and transparent.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

The LGA expects councils to produce and publish the CPC progress review report and an Action Plan, therefore no alternative options are available.

**OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:**

None

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):**

None

**SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):**

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2024

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

**Decision Maker:**

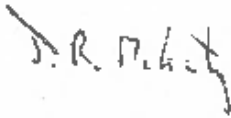
Councillor Richard Cook  
Leader of the Council



**Date:** 10 January 2024

**Proper Officer:**

Jon McGinty  
Managing Director



**Date:** 10 January 2024



# DECISION RECORD

# Gloucester City Council

Publication Date 11 January 2024

**Decision Of**

Cabinet

**Date of Decision**

10 January 2024

**Item No.**

8

**Title**

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Gloucester Urban Greening Completion Report

**Report Of**

Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Richard Cook)

**Report Author**

Nick Chadwick, Engineering & Environmental Consultant

**Wards Affected**

All Wards

**Key Decision**

No

**DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report and success of the project are noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

Cabinet are asked to note the contents of this report.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

Not applicable.

**OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:**

None

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):**

None

**SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):**

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2024

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

**Decision Maker:**

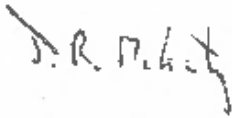
Councillor Richard Cook  
Leader of the Council



**Date:** 10 January 2024

**Proper Officer:**

Jon McGinty  
Managing Director



**Date:** 10 January 2024



# DECISION RECORD

# Gloucester City Council

Publication Date 11 January 2024

<b>Decision Of</b>	Cabinet		
<b>Date of Decision</b>	10 January 2024	<b>Item No.</b>	9
<b>Title</b>	Council Tax Discount for Care Leavers		
<b>Report Of</b>	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources (Councillor Hannah Norman)		
<b>Report Author</b>	Greg Maw, Head of Finance and Resources		
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All Wards	<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes

## DECISION:

### RESOLVED that:

- (1) the definition of a care leaver, for the purpose of the policy, is changed to the following:  
  
*a young person aged 18–24 who was formerly a child in the care of Gloucestershire County Council or other local authority in England and then became a ‘Former Relevant Child’ as defined by The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. The Care Leaver must be resident and liable for council tax on a property in the Gloucester City Council area*
- (2) eligibility criteria is changed to the following:  
  
*A Care Leaver must be aged 18–24 years old to qualify for a reduction under the Council Tax Discount Scheme for Care Leavers. A Care Leaver will cease to qualify for the discount from the date of their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday*
- (3) the changes approved at (1) and (2) above are implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

## REASON FOR DECISION:

The Council Tax Discount Scheme for Care Leavers provides for an exemption or discount from council tax for care leavers up to 21yrs. A change to the Scheme would see care leavers between the age of 22yrs to 24yrs also awarded an exemption or discount from council tax and will support them in making an effective social and financial transition from Local Authority care.

A change to the Council Tax Discount Scheme for Care Leavers will provide a better outcome for care leavers up to 24yrs and help to support a local offer that is consistent across the whole county.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

Not applicable.

**OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:**

None.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):**

None.

**SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):**

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2024

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

**Decision Maker:**

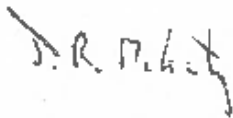
Councillor Richard Cook  
Leader of the Council



**Date:** 10 January 2024

**Proper Officer:**

Jon McGinty  
Managing Director



**Date:** 10 January 2024



# DECISION RECORD

# Gloucester City Council

**Publication Date** 11 January 2024

<b>Decision Of</b>	Cabinet		
<b>Date of Decision</b>	10 January 2024	<b>Item No.</b>	10
<b>Title</b>	Council Tax - Second Homes Premium and Amendments to the Empty Homes Premium		
<b>Report Of</b>	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources (Councillor Hannah Norman)		
<b>Report Author</b>	Greg Maw, Head of Finance and Resources		
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All Wards	<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes

## DECISION:

### RECOMMENDED that:

- (1) council tax be increased for all properties which are occupied periodically by 100% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 subject to any exemptions set out in subsequent Regulations and for implementation to be in accordance with those Regulations and guidance and
- (2) the council tax empty homes premium be increased to 100% for properties empty for between one and five years (currently between two and five years), from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 subject to any exemptions set out in subsequent Regulations and guidance.

## REASON FOR DECISION:

The purpose of the Empty Homes Premium change is to encourage property owners of long-term empty properties to bring those properties back into use. There are negative effects on the community associated through long term empty properties which are likely to fall into disrepair and be subject to anti-social behaviour such as squatting or vandalism.

The rationale behind changing the 100% Empty Homes Premium for long-term empty properties, currently empty for more than two years but less than five years, to empty for more than one year but less than five years is to provide owners with a further incentive to bring empty homes back into use, thus supporting the aims of the Council's Long Term Empty Property Strategy as well as generating additional Council Tax income. A working group across service areas is currently reviewing the council's approach to empty homes, engaging with owners to understand their behaviours and what the council can do to incentivise getting empty properties back into use.

The purpose of the Second Home Premium is to close the loophole where furnishing an empty property negates the Empty Home Premium charge as well as generating additional Council Tax income.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

Not applicable.

**OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:**

None.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):**

None.

**SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):**

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2024

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

**Decision Maker:**

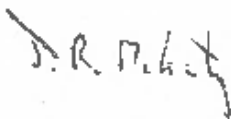
Councillor Richard Cook  
Leader of the Council



**Date:** 10 January 2024

**Proper Officer:**

Jon McGinty  
Managing Director



**Date:** 10 January 2024





# DECISION RECORD

# Gloucester City Council

**Publication Date** 11 January 2024

<b>Decision Of</b>	Cabinet		
<b>Date of Decision</b>	10 January 2024	<b>Item No.</b>	11
<b>Title</b>	Proposed Disposal of Land for Blackbridge Sports Hub		
<b>Report Of</b>	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources (Councillor Hannah Norman)		
<b>Report Author</b>	Melloney Smith, Asset Officer		
<b>Wards Affected</b>	Podsmead	<b>Key Decision</b>	No

**DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that:

- (1) the objection received in response to the S123 Public Notices for the disposal of open space is noted;
- (2) following the consideration of the objection, that authority is given for the grant of a 125-year lease to Blackbridge Charitable Community Benefit Society (CCBS) on terms to be determined by the Head of Finance and Resources in consultation with the Asset Management Team.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

It is recommended that the site is disposed of to permit the provision of a new community sports hub facility.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

1. Not to go ahead with this project - This would mean the loss of the opportunity to support the provision of a community sports hub
2. The Council undertakes the project itself. The Council does not have the resources to undertake this project. The Council would not be able to access same wide sources of grant funding that Blackbridge CCBS have accessed to meaning the project would not be financially viable.

**OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:**

None

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):**

None

**SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):**

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2024

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

**Decision Maker:**

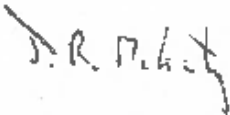
Councillor Richard Cook  
Leader of the Council



**Date:** 10 January 2024

**Proper Officer:**

Jon McGinty  
Managing Director



**Date:** 10 January 2024



# DECISION RECORD

# Gloucester City Council

Publication Date 11 January 2024

<b>Decision Of</b>	Cabinet		
<b>Date of Decision</b>	10 January 2024	<b>Item No.</b>	12
<b>Title</b>	Review of Gloucester Cemetery Rules and Regulations		
<b>Report Of</b>	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources (Councillor Hannah Norman)		
<b>Report Author</b>	Carly Hughes, Bereavement Services Manager		
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All Wards	<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>DECISION:</b>			
<b>RESOLVED</b> that:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) the proposed changes to the rules and regulations of Coney Hill and Tredworth Cemeteries in Appendix 2 of the report is noted;</li><li>(2) authority is delegated to the Head of Finance and Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance &amp; Resources to undertake a public consultation on the proposed changes;</li><li>(3) on conclusion of the consultation, a report will be brought to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation with recommendations, where appropriate, to change the rules and regulations for Coney Hill and Tredworth Cemeteries.</li></ul>			
<b>REASON FOR DECISION:</b>			
The Council decided to review the current rules and regulations. The recommendations propose that public consultation on proposed changes to the current rules and regulations is undertaken to ensure everybody has the option to have their say on the changes.			
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</b>			
The Council could continue with the current rules and regulations.			
<b>OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:</b>			
None			
<b>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):</b>			
None			

**SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):**

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2024

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

**Decision Maker:**

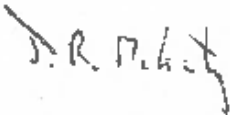
Councillor Richard Cook  
Leader of the Council



**Date:** 10 January 2024

**Proper Officer:**

Jon McGinty  
Managing Director



**Date:** 10 January 2024



# DECISION RECORD

# Gloucester City Council

Publication Date 11 January 2024

<b>Decision Of</b>	Cabinet		
<b>Date of Decision</b>	10 January 2024	<b>Item No.</b>	13
<b>Title</b>	Events and Festivals Report on 2023 & Plan for 2024-25		
<b>Report Of</b>	Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure (Councillor Andrew Lewis)		
<b>Report Author</b>	Philip Walker, Head of Culture		
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All Wards	<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes

## DECISION:

**RESOLVED** that the:

- (1) review of festivals and events activity 2023 is noted;
- (2) proposed events for 2024 subject to full Council approval of budget for 2024-25 are approved;
- (3) approach taken to funding festivals and events is noted;
- (4) funding allocation of the Outdoor Events Fund for 2024-25 is approved, subject to full Council approval of budget for 2024-25.

## REASON FOR DECISION:

This approach builds on the strengths of the festivals and programme in the city, whilst introducing new opportunities for the city to strengthen partnerships and continue to raise its profile in line with the ambitions of the Cultural Strategy.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

None.

## OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:

None.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):

None.

## SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2024

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

**Decision Maker:**

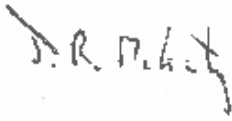
Councillor Richard Cook  
Leader of the Council



**Date:** 10 January 2024

**Proper Officer:**

Jon McGinty  
Managing Director



**Date:** 10 January 2024



# DECISION RECORD

# Gloucester City Council

Publication Date 11 January 2024

<b>Decision Of</b>	Cabinet		
<b>Date of Decision</b>	10 January 2024	<b>Item No.</b>	15
<b>Title</b>	Transfer of Sites in Podsmead to Enable the Regeneration of the Estate		
<b>Report Of</b>	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources (Councillor Hannah Norman), Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy (Councillor Stephanie Chambers)		
<b>Report Author</b>	David Evans, City Growth and Delivery Manager		
<b>Wards Affected</b>	Podsmead	<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>DECISION:</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that delegated authority is given to the Head of Finances and Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Performance & Resources and Planning & Housing Strategy, the Head of Communities and the Head of Place to:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) conclude and agree heads of terms with Gloucester City Homes (GCH) for the disposal of the freehold interest in the areas of sites shown edged Red on the Plan (“the sites”) whether by one or more transactions, and that a cost benefit analysis informs the final decision on disposal;</li><li>(2) take all necessary steps and undertake necessary procedures, including entering into any legal arrangements or other documentation as may be required to implement or facilitate estate regeneration in line with those heads of terms (save for regulator matters).</li></ul>			
<b>REASON FOR DECISION:</b> To authorise officers to proceed towards completion of the sale of the sites. The agreement of the Heads of Terms by the Council would give confidence to both GCH and to Homes England that the scheme is deliverable.			
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</b> The report to Cabinet in December 2022 considered alternative options that the Council might pursue in order to deliver the regeneration.			
<b>OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:</b> None			
<b>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):</b> None			

**SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):**

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2024

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

**Decision Maker:**

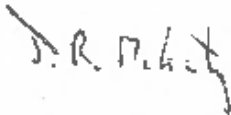
Councillor Richard Cook  
Leader of the Council



**Date:** 10 January 2024

**Proper Officer:**

Jon McGinty  
Managing Director



**Date:** 10 January 2024



## **CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

Call-in should only be used in exceptional circumstances, such as where Members have evidence which suggests that the Cabinet did not take the decision in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 (Decision Making) of the Council's Constitution.

Call-in of a decision must be requested within five working days of the publication of an executive decision. The request must be communicated in writing to the Corporate Director of Resources by at least five Members of the Council.

Implementation of a decision that has been called-in is suspended until such time as it has been considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and re-considered by the Cabinet in light of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's conclusions and any recommendations.

—

If you have any queries about the content of Decision Records please contact:

Tanya Davies  
Policy and Governance Manager  
[tanya.davies@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:tanya.davies@gloucester.gov.uk)  
01452 396125