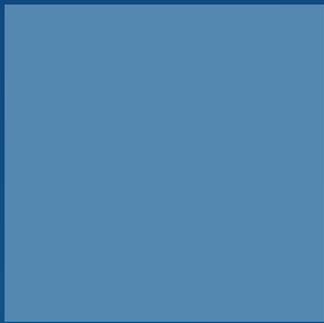


South Gloucestershire Council

COUNCIL PLAN 2020-2024



INTRODUCTION

South Gloucestershire has long been recognised as ‘**a great place to live and work**’. We have for many years worked to deliver this shared vision for our area, developed by the people and partners of South Gloucestershire. The vision is set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy 2036 which was developed as a central plan to influence and guide the work of partner organisations.

Our new Council Plan 2020 will build-on and deliver this vision. It will replace the existing 2016/20 plan by proposing **a new framework for what we will focus on and how we will work**. It will include an **Action Plan** which will set out what we plan to do, how we plan to do it, and how we will measure our performance over the next four years and beyond.

The basis of the Council Plan is four key priorities which will inform the council’s policies and decision-making. It will also reflect our aspirations to grow our recognition and contribution at a local and national level, working with our partners and neighbouring councils.

The key priorities and emerging commitments are based on what you, our residents, have told us are important and what our day-to-day evidence gathering suggests requires focus to improve outcomes for the people of South Gloucestershire. It is not a list, and does not seek to capture everything we do.



COVID-19 EMERGENCY

We have all faced the unprecedented challenge of the Coronavirus outbreak. This arrived at a time when the emerging Council Plan was to be released for public engagement and has drawn attention to the many roles and responsibilities of Local Authorities and our partners. The outbreak has challenged our everyday way of life, our health, our work, our social relationships and our well-being. We understand that it has brought great concern to many South Gloucestershire residents and businesses for many different reasons, and as we bring this Plan into the public realm we have reconsidered the identified commitments that will support our ongoing response to this emergency. We are also seeking to understand in more detail the **impact of COVID-19 on our communities** through a separate Viewpoint panel questionnaire to more than 2000 residents.

We are of course well underway with a **comprehensive emergency response** but as we identify our commitments for the next four years and beyond, we recognise that some of these will need additional resource and attention for at least the next 6-12 months and into a long-term economic and community recovery plan. This emergency has also led to increased partnership working, revived community spirit, and new innovative working practices; it will be equally important we capture and do not lose these benefits as we 'reset' into the 'new normal'. We firmly believe that with the help of our communities, we can work together to ensure the swiftest and most prosperous recovery phase in South Gloucestershire possible.



THE EVIDENCE

A great place to live and work

South Gloucestershire is 'a great place to live and work'. We value our extraordinarily diverse landscape with access to busy urban centres, historic market towns, beautiful countryside and areas of outstanding natural beauty and the extraordinary people who live and work here. South Gloucestershire has a **high quality natural environment** and we want to keep it that way, recognising the importance of maintaining what residents value most, particularly the area's heritage and access to green spaces. We want everyone to feel they belong and can put something back into their community, whilst ensuring communities have the services they need, offered in a way that encourages self-help and which reflects the diverse characters of our places and individuals.

Residents

Our population numbers have risen and this pattern will continue with **the biggest increase being in those aged 65** and over (and an even greater percentage increase in those aged over 85). This group has been particularly vulnerable to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and will continue to include a significant proportion of residents requiring some degree of support from the Authority. These residents will remain a priority and we want to provide every opportunity for them to retain independence and play a strong role in the community. **60% of our budget was spent on social care in 2018/19**. This spend will continue to rise as we support our older population, but almost 50% of that spend supports adults with learning disabilities.

We also have **6,000 local children living in poverty**. This means that 6,000 children, across South Gloucestershire, are living in low income households where the household wage does not take them above the poverty line. We want to ensure that people are supported and disadvantage is addressed and we recognise that access to **education, employment and an affordable home** are key factors in eliminating poverty. Our services will promote independence and be delivered in ways which give users greater say in shaping the services they need, while responding to problems quickly and safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.

South Gloucestershire is an affluent area, with a healthier than average population and good access to employment and healthcare, but this affluence is not evenly spread across the area. There are local areas that are deprived and which do not enjoy the opportunities our area has to offer. People living in these areas tend to access hospital services and mental health provision more and they generally experience poorer health. We want to reduce the inequalities that exist, support vulnerable communities and tackle deprivation.

In order to facilitate change there needs to be a joined up approach across the council and with our partners, rather than a range of actions or isolated approaches. **Closing the inequality gap** will therefore be a cross-cutting theme to be addressed through the Action Plan across all four priorities. We will develop a local approach to understanding and reacting to health inequalities, and the wider socio-economic inequalities that often cause them, ensuring that preventative and reactive services truly improve the health and wellbeing of everyone.

The COVID-19 response also demonstrated the power of community and the commitment residents have made to each other, supported by the provision of those frontline services that have kept us going. We want to **support the voluntary and community sectors** to take on new challenges and facilitate organic community events and activities once recovery allows these to re-emerge.

Climate

South Gloucestershire Council has declared a **Climate Emergency**, and our response to help meet this challenge was approved by our Cabinet recently. We have a 10-year window in which to act on climate change. We need to reduce global emissions by 45% by 2030 to prevent significant harm. Extensive areas of South Gloucestershire are subject to flood risk. Renewable energy currently generated in South Gloucestershire is equal to only 3.3% of the projected 2020 demand so this will need to grow significantly. We will take action to protect, enhance and enjoy our environment, encouraging people to live low carbon, sustainable and healthy lifestyles.

Economy

We are a pioneering population and are home to companies that are leaders in the field of innovation, digital engineering, robotics, healthcare and advanced manufacturing. The North Fringe (Emersons Green across to Filton) is increasingly recognised as a **'TEC ARC' innovation cluster** through these industry leaders. The area is also growing as **a new leisure and tourism destination** of international significance with venues such as Wildplace, The Wave and Aerospace Bristol, helping to make South Gloucestershire a destination of choice and inspiring other new venues such as the proposed YTL Arena.

We have successful companies and **three flourishing enterprise areas** in Emersons Green, Filton and Severnside. The buoyancy and well-being of the local economy is reflected in the exceptionally high employment rate: 82.7% of the working age population are in employment (January 2020). This is the highest level of employment in the West of England.

The economy has also been impacted heavily by the impacts of lockdown to mitigate the COVID-19 outbreak. We will be working with the Government to support the South Gloucestershire economy in recovery and to reinstate its position in driving the wider West of England economy. We believe local places will be a critical element of this recovery, including continued investment in our **regeneration** of high streets and town centres. It is important that this trend continues in order to sustain economic vibrancy and the provision of local jobs with a focus on increased productivity, digital connectivity to support flexible ways of working and ensuring all communities and all groups share the benefits of economic prosperity and growth.

Skills

We believe it is important to raise the level of skills in South Gloucestershire to meet the present and future needs of employers.

The majority of our primary schools are rated Good or Outstanding (88%) but our secondary schools are not as highly rated. **Improving educational outcomes** is a key priority and we will work alongside our education providers to maximise our influence and bring partners together in meeting this challenge. We want to raise young people's and their families' and communities' aspirations, achievements and outlook.

Place

Between 2006-2019, 13,980 homes were completed in South Gloucestershire. Over the next 15 years there is demand for **more than 30,000 additional homes** with the services and facilities they need to make them healthy and sustainable. We have enviable national and international connectivity but there are also congestion and air quality hotspots. We will plan positively for growth, carefully considering the location and quality of new development and ensuring the appropriate levels of infrastructure such as high quality schools, affordable housing and transport networks make it easier for people to cycle, walk and get around. Working with our partners, we strive to develop **new communities that are healthy, sustainable and integrate well with existing communities.**

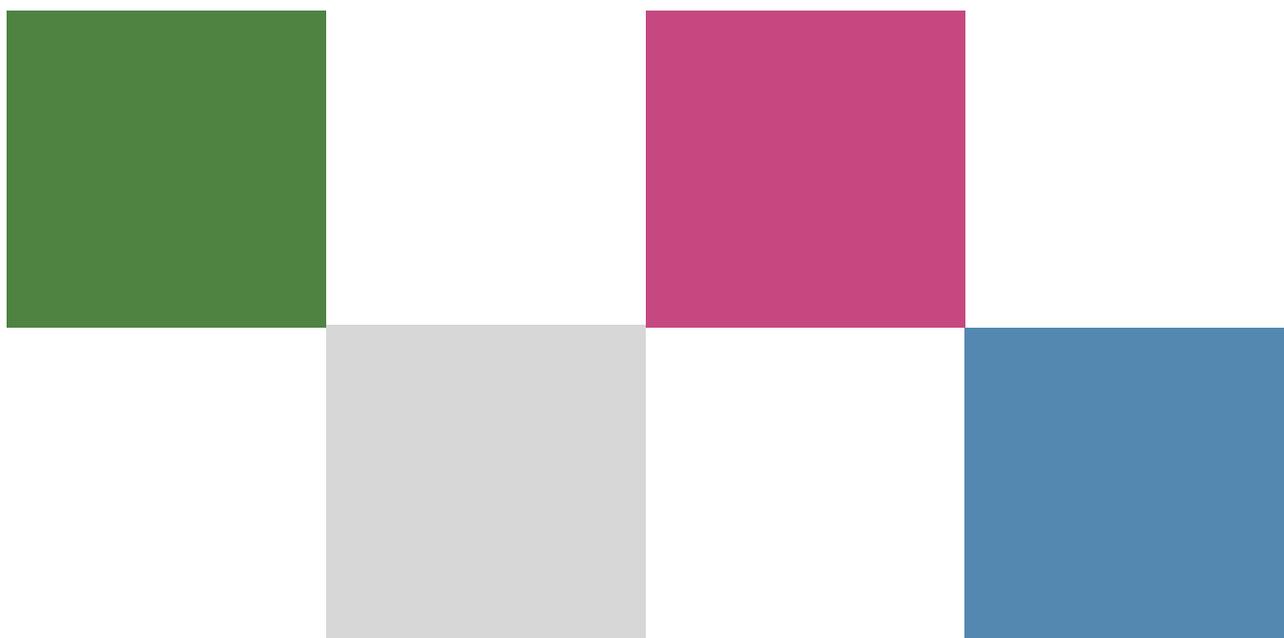
Resource pressure

By 2024 the council will have made over **£101m savings**. Resource constraints also extend to partners we rely on to support delivery of some of our key frontline services. 60% of the council's budget is spent on social care (£112m in 2018/19). 2020/21 will also bring us **new and urgent spending pressures**, particularly in social care and other departments, and in frontline services, as we combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

South Gloucestershire is currently the **lowest funded area nationally for secondary education** and is facing a growing demand for post-16 education provision requiring investment in new and existing facilities. We are committed to ensuring the services we enable, commission or provide, continue to be high quality and offer good value for money.

We are confident that by utilising the skills and expertise of our workforce and by working together with our partners, we can ensure South Gloucestershire will continue to be 'a great place to live and work'.

The following sections outline the informed priorities that have emerged and the commitments that will be made to deliver on those priorities. These commitments will inform the emerging Action Plan and the specific programmes of work to deliver **significantly improved outcomes for our residents**.



INFORMED PRIORITIES

Priority 1 – Creating the best start in life for our children and young people

Priority 2 – Helping people to help themselves

Priority 3 – Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure and growth

Priority 4 – Realising the full potential of our people and assets



PRIORITY 1

Creating the best start in life for our children and young people

Commitments

1. We will raise educational outcomes
2. We will ensure that children are properly supported in their early years
3. We will work to eliminate child poverty across South Gloucestershire
4. We will support all children and young people to achieve positive mental health and wellbeing
5. We will support children with learning disabilities to live an independent life
6. We will be an exemplar in corporate parenting



PRIORITY 2

Helping people to help themselves

Commitments

7. We will ensure people have access to the best possible information, advice and guidance to support themselves and their families
8. We will shift the balance of support more towards prevention
9. We will support the most vulnerable adults to maintain their independence
10. We will enable communities to work together to help improve their lives and address the problems that are important to them
11. We will ensure that people feel safeguarded and supported in our care, at home, and in their communities

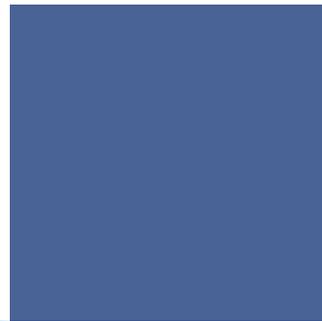


PRIORITY 3

Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure and growth

Commitments

12. We will clean streets and maintain roads effectively
13. We will lead the response to the climate emergency and deliver on our commitments
14. We will promote clean, high quality design of new and existing communities
15. We will plan to join up housing with appropriate infrastructure such as schools and transport networks that make it easier for people to get around
16. We will enable people and business to recover and thrive within cohesive communities that value diversity

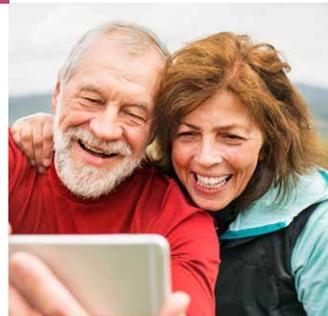
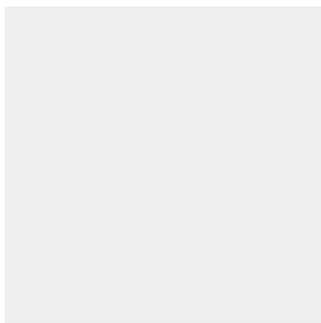


PRIORITY 4

Realising the full potential of our people and assets

Commitments

17. We will demonstrate how well we deliver value for money in the services we commission and provide
18. We will work as one council providing staff with the skills, tools and support to perform at their best and live our values
19. We will develop our digital infrastructure to support residents and staff in day-to-day life
20. We will increase our commercial operations and use assets for maximum benefit



WE CAN DELIVER TOGETHER

South Gloucestershire is an extraordinary place with extraordinary people working in partnership.

- We have geography and an environment that attracts talented people and we have built a partnership ethos that is ready to embrace a new revolution of digital technology.
- We have global leaders in innovation across South Gloucestershire and are becoming a destination for leisure and culture.
- We have an active population that engages in community activity and in the voluntary sector and a population that will support family and neighbours.
- We have strong relationships with our many partners and stakeholders across the public, private, voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors. Parish and Town Councils, community organisations, education establishments, health care providers, business, the West of England Combined Authority and neighbouring authorities are some of the partners we work with to enhance quality of life for the people of South Gloucestershire.

We will establish a comprehensive Action Plan that sets out how we will deliver our priorities and commitments and how we will measure our progress to maintain the 'extraordinary' status we believe this place merits.

NEXT STEPS

This consultation and engagement phase will run until 26 July 2020.

- During this period you are invited to complete a survey to tell us if you think the priorities and commitments are the right ones for South Gloucestershire.
- The survey can be accessed at www.southglos.gov.uk/CP2020 or you can contact the Consultation Team on **01454 868154** if you would like a questionnaire sent to you.
- Your feedback and comments will be taken into account and used to shape the final document which is planned for consideration by the council's Cabinet and full Council in the Autumn 2020.

We look forward to hearing and discussing your ideas and views.



