

Update Cllr P McLain Mon 09/12/2024 11:33

Thanks Kate – apologies from me – so many clash meetings in the run up to Xmas.

Just by way of update, I continue to liaise with the project manager working on road safety improvements, which of course includes safety improvements to A48 where goes from Minsterworth to Westbury on Seven

He confirms that they have put together road safety package of works to try and deliver in the current financial year FY24/25 and he met with the primary contractor on site on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the works to Village gateway signage and road markings - and future proposed works also

As you know that have proposals drawn up to improve pedestrian facilities in Minsterworth area including improvements to traffic signage, road markings, ANPR systems and new crossing islands and refuges. I know most of these were detailed in the last update we provided to the Parish

I understand that the Parish have also been asked for response to 20Mph proposal they put forward to us to investigate. Oliver tells me that he is following up as to whether you “*could provide additional funding to support this (funds towards design work , TRO and delivery)*”

As mentioned at the last meeting, I am delighted that the new day-staffed community fire station in Cinderford has been confirmed. Adjustment to shift patterns will help the county meet its risk and demand profile, providing an increase of 14 firefighters (Including crew and watch managers).

The changes to cover in Cinderford has been modelled to improve attendance times to incidents by nearly two minutes, not only in Cinderford but importantly along the A48. The introduction of a new day-staffed community fire station will offer increased resilience in the area and ensure fire crews are immediately available during the day, which is when the majority of emergency calls are received in the area.

GCC budget has just gone out to public consultation. Worth noting that it is one of a minority of local councils across the UK which is able to propose a balanced budget and showing real terms growth rather than cuts. The proposed spending plans for 2025/26 will see spending rise by more than £32.7 million on 2024/25 levels, to almost £650 million.

The council is in a good financial position meaning it is able to continue support for existing services as well as make significant investments across the county.

The £649.6 million proposed budget includes significant investment into the council's priority areas of highways, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), adult services, infrastructure, and the environment.

A further £10 million is proposed to be put towards delivering on the council's £100 million four-year commitment to go on improving Gloucestershire roads, with a greater focus in 2025/26 on tackling rural roads.

A total of £12.8 million is set to go towards a new £16.5 million 200 place special school.

Young people with SEND and their families would be supported with an extra £2.1 million.

£7.5 million towards the future construction of three new adult care homes is being set aside, with further investment planned in future years.

The council plans to increase capacity and improve school buildings and facilities of other schools across the county with a £12.4 million investment.

Household Waste Recycling Centres across the county will see improvements with a £1.3 million injection.

The budget proposes raising £16.5 million to help fund services through a council tax increase of 2.99%. The proposals would also see £7.8 million raised specifically to support work with the most vulnerable adults in the county through a further 2% increase in the adult social care precept.

Despite this increase the council still expects to have one of the lowest council tax levels of any county council. Based on a band D property, residents would pay an additional £6.65 each month.