

Borough Councillor Annual Report 2025

This year has seen many ups and downs throughout the year for many local Councils.

Due to the English Devolution White Paper, released by the central Government in January, all two-tier authorities, such as Gloucestershire, will become one-tier, and the County Council and the six district and Borough Councils will be combined.

TBC wanted this change to occur next year and to become one Unitary council, but the Government has told us we are in the second phase of the reorganisation and we wouldn't move over until 27/28. There is still ongoing discussions as to whether we would become one or two Unitary councils. I will continue to update the Parish Councils in my Monthly reports.

The Name Change anticipated, making TBC into North Gloucestershire, will not be occurring, due to our Council merging in the future, and it would be confusing for parishioners if we were to change twice.

This year has seen the formation of a proactive Flood Management Group. TBC alongside GCC has a Winter Flood response and recovery Strategy, and a lessons learned report will be written following every major flooding event. This enables the Council to be more proactive and improve provision in future occurrences.

Planning continues to be a large part of the Borough Councillors' work. The dept continues to be stretched, and changes have been made to try to reduce their workload. Fewer applications go to the planning committee now, and applications of 50 or more houses are viewed at the committee now, not 10. TBC is still seen to not have a five year land supply so a majority of applications are being passed.

The budget for this year is OK. It will be harder in subsequent years. The smaller Boroughs have received less financial support from central Government this year, and so TBC have had to look at more effective ways of working, and raise Council Taxes to make up this deficit, to maintain the current level of service.

Ubico maintains a very good waste collection service. Part of the green working is to encourage more recycling. Tins and jars need to be washed out before recycling, and people are to be encouraged to use the food waste bins. The Council gets money for their recycling, and the quality affects the payment.

Your Parish Council works hard on behalf of the villages they serve. The Borough and County Councillors attend as many meetings as practicable, to provide any support and advice needed. An update report is provided, monthly.bi-monthly for the meetings. This highlights the activities of TBC and is available for anyone to read.

8/4/2025 JKS