

Borough Councillor Report

The principal development since the last report has been the Government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Gloucestershire.

On 16 July 2026, the Government announced that Gloucestershire will move to a **single unitary authority**, replacing Gloucestershire County Council and the six existing district, borough and city councils. The new authority is expected to be established on **1 April 2028**, subject to the necessary legislation being approved by Parliament. The Government concluded that a single countywide authority offered the best option in terms of economic growth and housing, joined-up public services and community empowerment. ([Gloucestershire County Council](#))

The new authority will be called **Gloucestershire Council** and will have **110 councillors**. A Joint Committee involving elected members from the existing councils is being established to oversee preparations, supported by officers from all seven councils. Jo Walker, Chief Executive of Gloucestershire County Council, has been appointed Senior Responsible Officer for the transition. ([Gloucestershire County Council](#))

The next significant stage will be the creation of a shadow authority. Elections are currently scheduled for **6 May 2027**, replacing the Borough Council elections that would otherwise have taken place on that date. The shadow council will undertake preparatory work, including decisions on budgets, policies and governance, ahead of Gloucestershire Council formally assuming its responsibilities in April 2028. ([Gloucestershire County Council](#))

It is important to stress that there is **no immediate change to the services residents receive**. Until the new arrangements come into effect, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council and the other existing authorities remain responsible for delivering their current services. Work is, however, taking place behind the scenes to prepare for the transition and to ensure continuity of services. Tewkesbury Borough Council has established its own "Future Ready" programme to prepare its systems, processes, workforce and governance arrangements for the new authority. ([Tewkesbury Borough Council](#))

The Government's consultation on the future structure of local government in Gloucestershire has also now concluded. The published analysis indicated that **65% of respondents who expressed a preference supported a single unitary authority**, although the consultation responses represented a range of views and the final decision rested with Government. ([Gloucestershire County Council](#))

There are also matters of particular relevance to Parish Councils. Tewkesbury Borough Council is currently undertaking a **Community Governance Review (CGR)** covering parish arrangements across the borough. The review is considering whether existing parish boundaries, governance arrangements and councillor numbers remain appropriate in light of population changes, development and the forthcoming changes to local government. The current consultation on the draft recommendations runs from **3 September to 23 October 2026**. ([Tewkesbury Borough Council](#))

This is an important opportunity for Parish Councils and residents to ensure that local representation remains effective. Although Local Government Reorganisation will replace the county, city, district and borough authorities, it does **not** abolish Parish Councils. The Parish and Town Council elections scheduled for May 2027 are currently expected to proceed. ([Tewkesbury Borough Council](#))

Away from LGR, August has been a quieter period for formal Borough Council business, although casework has continued throughout the summer. Councillor Agg and I remain grateful to residents who continue to contact us with concerns or issues affecting them. We are always happy to investigate matters where we can and raise them with the relevant authority or organisation.

Nigel also attended the recent **Flood Risk Management Working Group** and the **CNL Nature Recovery Working Group**. Both areas remain particularly relevant locally, given the importance of flood resilience, drainage, biodiversity and the protection and enhancement of the local environment.

Tewkesbury Borough Council has also adopted its new **2026–28 Council Plan**, which retains its three broad priorities of caring for people, caring for the environment and caring for place. The Council has identified a number of actions to complete before LGR, including improving infrastructure and council assets, supporting drainage and flood-related work, progressing nature recovery and continuing work on the Strategic and Local Plan. ([Tewkesbury Borough Council](#))

The coming 18 months are therefore likely to be a period of considerable change for local government in Gloucestershire. While there will inevitably be uncertainty as the new arrangements are developed, it will be important to ensure that the voice of local communities and Parish Councils is maintained throughout the process.

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