

Gloucestershire's Local Growth Plan

Executive Summary



Our priorities for economic development (2025 to 2035)

Gloucestershire's Local Growth Plan (LGP) outlines an ambitious, collective vision for creating a fairer, greener, and more prosperous county.

Developed collaboratively by local authorities and shaped through extensive engagement with businesses, education providers, health partners and the voluntary sector, the plan provides a cohesive

framework to guide economic development and future investment across Gloucestershire.

It recognises the county's outstanding strengths - from cyber innovation and advanced engineering to world-class agri-tech, cultural richness and natural beauty while addressing long-standing challenges including skills shortages, pockets of deprivation, housing affordability, and climate resilience.

The LGP is intentionally pro-business, but it places equal emphasis on inclusion, environmental stewardship, and community wellbeing. Growth is only considered successful if it improves quality of life for all residents.

The plan's five missions provide a clear roadmap to strengthen the economy while ensuring that prosperity and opportunity are shared across every community.



Vision

“Gloucestershire: Ambitious for our people, our businesses and our planet - inspiring enterprise and innovation, leading to enhanced prosperity and wellbeing for all residents.”

This vision commits Gloucestershire to becoming a county where businesses can innovate and grow, people have the skills and confidence to succeed, and natural assets are protected as the foundation for future growth. It emphasises collaboration, sustainability, and innovation as the county's core competitive advantages.





Mission 1

Talent and future skills

Unlocking talent, unlocking tomorrow

Gloucestershire aims to build a future-ready workforce capable of meeting the demands of high-growth sectors such as cyber, green technologies, engineering, and advanced manufacturing.

The county has strong educational assets, however, disparities in educational attainment persist, and employers consistently report difficulties filling technical, digital and specialist roles.

The Plan focuses on expanding inclusive skills programmes, strengthening collaboration between industry and education, and positioning local institutions

as national centres of excellence. It also aims to boost youth enterprise, raise awareness of local career pathways, and deliver training aligned with emerging fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital security, and green construction. Businesses are encouraged to “grow their own” talent by investing in apprenticeships, training, and clear career pathways.



Mission 2

Supporting employment opportunities for all

Wellbeing without barriers

Although Gloucestershire performs well overall, pockets of deprivation remain concentrated in a small number of areas. Mission 2 responds to these challenges through targeted, multi agency support.

Key actions include expanding employment assistance for individuals facing health related barriers, strengthening the Careers Hub to improve outcomes for disadvantaged young people, and promoting inclusive, flexible and healthy workplace practices.

Digital inclusion is also a major priority, recognising the essential role digital literacy plays in

accessing employment, education, and public services.

Access to nature, active lifestyles and community-based services are recognised as important contributors to health and social mobility. The plan emphasises investing in green spaces, active travel routes and local services that bring people together, reduce isolation and improve wellbeing.



Mission 3

Thriving communities and culture

A sense of place and belonging

Gloucestershire's cultural identity is one of its greatest economic strengths. From festivals and sporting excellence to historic town centres and creative industries, culture generates pride, economic value, and social connection.

Yet many places face challenges such as high street decline, vacant buildings, and a lack of attainable housing.

Mission 3 focuses on regeneration and placemaking - creating vibrant, connected, and distinctive places where people want to live, work and invest. This includes delivering ambitious town and city centre

strategies, supporting local creative industries, and growing a sustainable, year-round visitor economy that is resilient to climate change.

Local procurement and community wealth-building approaches aim to keep more economic value circulating within Gloucestershire.



Mission 4

Environment, housing and infrastructure

Building in balance with nature

Long term spatial planning and infrastructure delivery are critical for supporting sustainable economic growth. Gloucestershire faces challenges such as rising house prices, an ageing transport network, pressures on natural landscapes and increasing climate-related risks.

Mission 4 sets out a strong commitment to sustainable, climate-aligned planning. This includes producing a county-wide Spatial Development Strategy, improving road, rail, bus, and active travel networks, and investing in infrastructure to support digital connectivity. Green and blue infrastructure is central to this mission - integrating

biodiversity, flood resilience, water management, and access to nature into development. The county also supports the Forest of Dean's aspiration for UNESCO Biosphere designation, recognising the economic and environmental benefits of nature-based investment.



Gloucestershire's high growth sectors

The plan identifies four sectors where Gloucestershire can lead nationally and compete globally: secure technologies and digital, agri-tech and regenerative agriculture, advanced engineering and aerospace, and energy transition and low-carbon innovation.

These sectors combine world-class expertise with strong local assets, providing a foundation for productivity and future investment.



Sector 1

Secure technologies and digital



Sector 2

Agri-tech



Sector 3

Advanced engineering and aerospace



Sector 4

Energy transition and low carbon innovation

Mission 5

Innovation, investment and enterprise

From vision to value

Gloucestershire's innovation ecosystem is one of the most dynamic in the UK, underpinned by globally significant assets such as GCHQ, Golden Valley, advanced engineering clusters, and agri-tech innovation at Hartpury and the Royal Agricultural Universities.

Mission 5 aims to strengthen this ecosystem and turn ideas into long-term prosperity.

Priorities include expanding support for start-ups and SMEs through the Growth Hub network, unlocking finance and sustainable investment, attracting global companies through the Invest in Gloucestershire brand, and

embedding environmental and social value in supply chains. Major projects such as Golden Valley and the Gloucester Forum will anchor future employment, research, and enterprise.



Delivery

The Local Growth Plan is a live, evolving framework that will be regularly monitored and updated to remain aligned with Gloucestershire's economic priorities.

As the county moves through Local Government Reorganisation and progresses on its devolution journey, the plan will need to mature in parallel, becoming more targeted, more detailed, and more closely tied to future funding opportunities as they

emerge. Its success will rely on strong governance, clear accountability and the strength of Gloucestershire's partnerships.

Public sector bodies, businesses, education providers, health partners, and the voluntary and community sector will all play a crucial role in turning the plan's ambitions into meaningful outcomes for residents.

As new powers, structures, and investment streams become available, these partnerships will

be essential in ensuring delivery is coordinated, inclusive and responsive to local needs.

Ultimately, the Local Growth Plan provides a comprehensive and collaborative blueprint for shaping Gloucestershire's next decade. By focusing on talent, inclusion, innovation, sustainability and place, the plan aims to ensure that economic growth improves lives across all communities and supports a thriving, resilient and forward-looking county.



Future→ Gloucestershire



Front cover image: Harris Stovell

V1: March 2026