

## Action Plan 2025-2026

Actions tracked & monitored in the Council Plan on a quarterly basis

New action for 2025-26.

	<b>I. Workforce Skills</b>	
	Key Action	Delivery lead(s)
I.1	Work with stakeholders to deliver training for the economically inactive.	GCC/DWP to lead Connect to Work programme for next year
I.2	Work with GCC on a local Get Britain Working again, Adult Education, Cotswold Plus LVEP, FODWVT, Colleges & independent training providers to deliver: AI, digital, green construction & sustainable tourism skills training.	<p>GCC – Adult Education – Basic Computer Skills</p> <p>GCC leading on a local Get Britain Working 10-year plan</p> <p>FODWVT/LVEP to deliver sustainable tourism training through Service Level Agreement</p> <p>FoDDC &amp; FVAF digital inclusion activity</p>
I.3	Work with school/college/university/Armed Forces Support Network/Active Gloucestershire and other stakeholders to promote apprenticeship, work placement & volunteering opportunities.	<p>FoDDC to fund apprenticeship staff training and promote GoVolunteerGlos employer supported best practice guide.</p> <p>FoDDC officers form part of the Armed Forces Support Network.</p> <p>FoDDC &amp; FEP to support GCC led Careers Hub and Connect to Work activity</p>
I.4	Continue to be an active and influencing partner on Forest Economic Partnership.	<p>FoDDC Sustainable Economy &amp; Climate Teams</p> <p>FEP Climate Action &amp; Net Zero Sub-Group to support Biosphere learning &amp; Green Skills.</p> <p>FEP Education &amp; Skills Sub-Group to continue leading the Inspiring Women of the Forest programme.</p>
I.5	Continue as a partner of the Gloucestershire Growth Hub Network to support local businesses, people and skills.	GCC led business support through Forest Growth Hub central team

		FoDDC UKSPF to fund business navigator services support 01.09.25-31.08.26.
1.6	Support implementation of the Local Skills Improvement Plan	<p>GCC led Get Gloucestershire Working Plan will collaborate with FoDDC/FEP to identify &amp; meet local skills needs and gaps identified by employers.</p> <p>Business West/Accxel targeted construction career pathway event Sep.</p> <p>Business West/GET Engineering career pathway event Jan 26.</p> <p>FoDDC Coleford Citizen Visioning recommendation to improve employment opportunities.</p>
<b>2. Infrastructure</b>		
	<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Delivery lead</b>
2.1	Deliver the Levelling Up The Forest programme (including the Five Acres project) to create modern leisure, community, education and business facilities for the area.	FoDDC, Hartpury University/College & Cinderford Town Council.
2.2	Progress the draft Local Plan 2043 to promote and achieve sustainable development.	FoDDC ongoing consultation and Officer input to the draft sustainable economy & transport planning policies.
2.3	Work with stakeholders to facilitate modern business workspace, commercial development, clean/resilient energy solutions and co-working opportunities.	<p>FoDDC to continue to be an active member of One Gloucestershire Estate.</p> <p>FoDDC to signpost investment enquiries to other public &amp; private sector owned vacant premises.</p> <p>FoDDC to signpost enquiries to grant funding to support improvement to premises and clean/resilient energy solutions.</p> <p>FoDDC office improvements to create lettable workspace using REPF funding.</p>
2.4	<p>Work with commercial stakeholders to explore new finance models to reduce installation costs and advance renewable energy installations.</p> <p>Alternative finance models identified by The Innovate UK Forest Fast Followers project to support renewable energy to be integrated into the new Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy.</p>	<p>Southwest Net Zero Hub (SWNZH) to consider feasibility support for FoDDC to consider energy generation &amp; demand options and future demand.</p> <p>FoDDC Climate Team &amp; Sustainable Economy officer input to the action plan and policies.</p>

2.5	Work with community stakeholders to support community/culture/heritage facilities to decarbonise, improve connectivity or conserve historic buildings.	FoDDC implement REPF Community Asset Grants scheme.
2.6	Work with GCC and key business sectors to encourage appropriate home grown and inward investment.	FoDDC/GCC to promote the Forest of Dean as being “Open for Business” to target high value sectors at specific business events. GCC to research opportunities for AI & digital investment.
2.7	Work with stakeholders to improve high speed broadband, wi-fi and mobile phone coverage.	FEP & GCC – Project Gigabit and full fibre.
2.8	Work with Historic England to review Conservation Areas and examine opportunities for heritage led regeneration	HE/FoDDC funded Conservation Area Review.
2.9	Work with Forestry England to develop a Recreation Plan for FoD within their West District operational area.	FoDDC/FoDWVT to support consultation process FE to lead expansion of Forest of Dean Cycle Centre
2.10	Complete the Council’s Active Travel Strategy & Action Plan to promote walking, wheeling & cycling.  Improve secure cycle facilities and real time passenger information bus stop at Lydney Railway Station	FoDDC to complete Active Travel Strategy. FoDDC to implement UKSPF/REPF funded Active Travel Grant scheme. FoDDC to contribute to planned GCC Active Travel strategy review.  GCC led proposals to carry out with work using REPF funding as FoDDC funding partner contribution
2.11	Work with stakeholders to promote bus, rail and demand responsive bus travel for residents and visitors.	GCC/ThinkTravel/Travel line South West GCC promote the Robin minibus service FoDWVT promote rail travel campaign
2.12	Support green travel options to local shops & services. Work with stakeholders to promote electrification of public/community and private/commercial transport.	GCC/FoDDC/Lydney Dial-A-Ride – funding approved. Following delivery and driver training EV minibus will be deployed on 777 bus route from Q4 25-26. FoDDC supporting Car Clubs to increase EV car use/access.
2.13	Continue to lobby Government, Local Highway Authorities, Network Rail, bus & train operators to improve rural transport connectivity.	FoDDC/GCC/FEP monitor policy & funding landscape.

2.14	Electric distribution and supply – liaise with Distribution Network Operator & National Energy System Operator (NESO)	Joint piece of work with FEP – Project Grid Kiss, Sustainable Economy and the Climate teams FoDDC leading on the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) to inform the Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESP)
<b>3. Circular Economy</b>		
	<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Delivery lead</b>
3.1	Invest time to research and develop a tailored methodology for relevant future Cabinet decision making to explore the principles of Doughnut Economics.	FoDDC to continue the Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) membership FoDDC to embed the Sustainability Impact Assessment Tool (SIAT) in decision making & training programme to build competencies across the organisation.
3.2	Embed the Council's approved social value statement in procurement and evaluation activity when proportionate and relevant to do so.	FoDDC Procurement & Contract Management Strategy updated Jan 25. Explore scope to agree social value metrics to monitor local supply chain & employment benefits.
3.3	Develop a shared social value toolkit to support inclusive and sustainable growth	GCC to lead collaboration with all county Local Authorities & private sector partners.
3.4	Encourage ethical & reliable supply chains.	FoDDC to continue working with Together Gloucestershire and link them with Listening to Business visits. GCC to continue Made in Gloucestershire campaign to support buying locally within food & drink sector.
3.5	Continue the 'shop local' campaign that rewards people for shopping locally and aims to reduce the distance residents have to travel to shop.	FoDDC/Town Councils to deliver Market Towns Regeneration Framework
3.6	Explore opportunities for community wealth building.	GCC and FoDDC activity linked to action 3.4
3.7	Promote the ForestCollab tool with businesses to build up users united in support of sustainable action.	FoDDC Low Carbon Business Advisor recruitment Q2 25-26. Links to action 4.1.

	<b>4. Business Support</b>	
	Key Action	Delivery lead
4.1	Continue the Listening to Business programme and launch Meet the Trader programme to gain insight and build relationships with local businesses.	FoDDC to visit new start-up and existing businesses. Market Town Officer to lead on the Meet the Trader monthly programme
4.2	Deliver direct grant award schemes to support business birth & survival.  Promote the new focus on youth enterprise within the Business Start-Up Grant scheme.  Support FEP's work with schools to encourage more participation in the Young Enterprise programme.	FoDDC Business Start-Up Grant  UKSPF or REPF not allocated to support business grants in 2025-26.  FoDDC/Business Navigator signposting to other direct funding or other non-financial business support.
4.3	Work with stakeholders to offer business information, advice & guidance.	FoDDC Sustainable Economy & Climate Teams to signpost enquiries to Forest Growth Hub – Business Navigator. Forest Growth Hub to host training & networking events. UKSPF funding will deliver business navigator services (Sep 25 - Aug 26)
4.4	Continue to support the Innovation Lab at Coleford Library	GCC to lead ongoing support for freelancers, creatives, students and makers.
4.5	Work collaboratively to promote the Forest of Dean as a TV & film location to harness the benefits of screen tourism	Creative England/FODWVT/GCC Highways/Forestry England – film friendly campaigns, working with influencers & location managers
	<b>5. Natural Capital Preservation</b>	
	Key Action	Delivery lead
5.1	Support the marketing & promotion of slow tourism to encourage more overnight/longer stays in destination & active travel modes.	FoDDC to promote through the Service Level Agreement with FODWVT
5.2	Support food and drink sector, agriculture/farming and land based businesses, working to support long term sustainability of our environment and economy.	GCC Made in Gloucestershire campaign
5.3	Explore the opportunities for helping to promote regenerative farming and forestry practices.	GCC/Gloucestershire Agri-Tech Partnership/Forestry England

5.4	Explore the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve concept as one way to protect the natural environment and support the nature tech sector.	FoDDC Environmental Research & Development Officer funded by UKSPF to lead this action.
5.5	Collaborate with farm businesses & other Local Authorities adjacent to the River Wye & River Severn to improve water quality, protect biodiversity and restore traditional fisheries.	Environment Agency lead – FoDDC to monitor progress and stay informed.
<b>6. Sustainable Towns</b>		
	<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Delivery lead</b>
6.1	Work with retailers, landlords, local property agents and town councils to reduce the number of high street vacancies and improve appearance of shop fronts, buildings, public realm and entrance point of the town centres.	Market Town Officer, Climate Team and Town Councils to deliver the Market Town Regeneration Framework and the REPF funded Town Centre Improvement Fund and Climate Adaptation Toolkit recommendations.  FoDDC work with Two Rivers Housing and Wyedean Housing Association on Project Bloom
6.2	Complete annual town centre audit reports informed by AI footfall data collection & analytics. Consider options for including climate & nature resilience measures.	FoDDC data reports published on website covering July 2024-July 2025 to include EV charging point locations.  FoDDC Local Area Energy Plan Data Repository being developed.
6.3	Work with local arts organisations and town/parish councils to promote cultural events and activities within the towns and larger villages.  Input to the planned FoDDC Arts, heritage and culture strategy	Arts Council England funded Arts Festival 2024-25 with FoDDC contribution – led by Canopy Creative Network from June 2024 to Dec 2025.  FoDDC Communities Team
6.4	Promote slow/sustainable tourism to increase dwell time in the towns and active modes of travel to explore the area.	FODWVT to promote slow tourism to visitors and lead training for sector businesses as featured in the Service Level Agreement (SLA)
6.5	UKSPF funding to progress the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Toolkit and related grant scheme for the towns.	FoDDC Climate Team