

24 August 2016

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Community Services and Licensing Committee will be held on **THURSDAY, 08 SEPTEMBER 2016** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud at **19:00**.



David Hagg  
Chief Executive

**Please Note:** This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.stroud.gov.uk). By entering the Council Chamber you are consenting to being filmed. The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

### **AGENDA**

- 1        **APOLOGIES**  
To receive apologies of absence.
  
- 2        **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive declarations of interest.
  
- 3        **MINUTES - 29 JUNE 2016**  
To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2016.
  
- 4        **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
The Chair of the Committee will answer any questions from members of the public, submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures. **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS**  
Noon on Monday 5 September 2016. Questions must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive, Democratic Services, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud and sent by post or by Email: [democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk).
  
- 5        **WORK PROGRAMME - 8 SEPTEMBER 2016**  
To consider the Committee's work programme for the civic year 2016/17.

- 6**            **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL TAXI FARES**  
To receive a report on a proposal by Stroud Taxi Association to increase Taxi Fares.
- 7**            **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ANNUAL REPORT**  
To receive a verbal report from the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 8**            **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2016-17 Q1**  
To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital programme.
- 9**            **YOUTH WORK STRATEGY 2017 TO 2020**  
To receive an update on the Youth Strategy.
- 10**           **PERFORMANCE MONITORING**  
To receive an update on Performance Monitoring.
- 11**           **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES - UPDATE**  
To receive an update on Outside Bodies.
- 12**           **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**  
See Agenda Item 4 for deadline for submission.

#### **Members of Community Services and Licensing Committee**

Councillor Steve Robinson (Chair)  
Councillor Jonathan Edmunds (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor George Butcher  
Councillor Gordon Craig  
Councillor Alison Hayward  
Councillor John Jones

Councillor John Marjoram  
Councillor Karen McKeown  
Councillor Gill Oxley  
Councillor Liz Peters  
Councillor Nigel Prenter  
Councillor Penny Wride

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

29 June 2016

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

# 3

### Minutes

#### Membership

|  |   |                          |   |
|--|---|--------------------------|---|
| Councillor Steve Robinson (Chair)        | P | Councillor John Marjoram | P |
| Councillor Jonathan Edmunds (Vice-Chair) | P | Councillor Karen McKeown | P |
| Councillor George Butcher                | P | Councillor Gill Oxley    | A |
| Councillor Gordon Craig                  | P | Councillor Liz Peters    | A |
| Councillor Alison Hayward                | P | Councillor Nigel Prenter | P |
| Councillor John Jones                    | A | Councillor Penny Wride   | P |

P = Present    A = Absent

#### Other Councillors Present

Councillor Mattie Ross

#### Officers Present

Strategic Head of Customer Services  
 Community & Facilities Manager

Principal Policy Officer

#### Others Present

Members of the Youth Council

#### CSLC.001

#### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Jones, Gill Oxley and Liz Peters.

#### CSLC.002

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

#### CSLC.003

#### MINUTES

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 March 2016 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

**CSLC.004**                      **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None received.

**CSLC.005**                      **WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

There was a wide ranging discussion on topics the Committee could consider, including child safety & safeguarding; efficiency of the Council's various facilities; peer reviews; young people & local democracy; the health & wellbeing agenda (social isolation, self-harm; housing, mental health); tourism in the district; safety of fireworks & Chinese lanterns. The Strategic Head of Customer Services reiterated that only reports requiring a decision should be brought before Committee.

Cllr Mattie Ross requested that the Committee nominate 2 members to join the Older Persons Group, which will in future report back to this, as well as Housing Committee. She outlined the excellent work the group had been involved with, including a well attended Housing Seminar, which would be repeated this year.

Councillors agreed that the following matters should be included in the work programme.

- Representatives of the taxi trade to attend the September meeting to discuss potential increase in taxi fares.
- A review of the Taxi Policy be scheduled for December.
- That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Public Health (PH) presentations be scheduled for separate meetings – one in September - PCC, the other December - PH.

Additionally

- A member information sheet on tourism in the district be produced, including data on tourist hotspots.
- To circulate the outcome/report from Gold Standard peer review in Housing Allocations.
- Councillors Steve Robinson and Jonathan Edmunds meet with the Health and Wellbeing Development Co-ordinator to discuss which elements of the Health & Wellbeing Plan the Committee should focus on.
- Councillors Jonathan Edmunds and Penny Wride join the Older Persons Group.

**RESOLVED**                      **To update the work programme as set out above.**

**CSLC.006**                      **APPOINTMENT OF PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPRESENTATIVES**

**RESOLVED**                      **Councillors Karen McKeown and John Jones were appointed as performance monitoring representatives for the civic year 2016/17.**

**CSLC.007**                      **APPOINTMENTS OF OUTSIDE BODIES 2016/17**

The Committee considered the appointments to outside bodies and the Chairman requested that Councillors give an update on their work, on the outside body, to Committee members throughout the year.

| <b><u>Organisation</u></b>                                      | <b><u>Councillor(s) Appointed 2016/17</u></b>                         |
|---|---|
| Cowle Trust (Museum in the Park)                                | Councillor John Marjoram  |
| Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association                      | Councillor John Jones   |
| Kingshill House Charitable Trust                                | Councillor Doina Cornell  |
| PREMA Project Management Committee                              | Councillor Jim Dewey (tbc)  |
| SARA  | Councillor Gordon Craig   |
| Stinchcombe Hill Recreational Ground                            | Councillor George Butcher   |
| Stroud & Rodborough Educational Charity                         | Councillors Elizabeth Peters, Nigel Cooper, Steve Robinson            |
| Stroud & Tetbury District Scouts                                | Councillor Elizabeth Peters (tbc)                                     |
| Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau                                   | Councillor Penny Wride with Councillor Miranda Clifton as an observer |
| Stroud Festival Limited   | Councillors Nigel Prenter and Jonathan Edmunds                        |
| Stroud Road Safety Liaison Group                                | Councillors John Jones and Ken Tucker                                 |
| Supporting People Partnership Board                             | Councillor Chas Townley (tbc)   |
| The League of Friends of Stroud Hospital and Health Centre      | Councillor John Marjoram<br>Chas Townley (tbc)                        |
| Woodchester Mansion   | Vacant  |
| Community Safety Partnership                                    | Councillor Steve Robinson   |
| Older Peoples Forum   | Shared between Councillors Jonathan Edmunds and Penny Wride           |
| Youth Council   | Councillor Nigel Prenter  |
| Stroud District Council Health and Wellbeing Partnership        | Councillor Jonathan Edmunds<br>Substitute Cllr Alison Hayward         |
| Health and Wellbeing Second Tier/District Lead Officers meeting | Councillor Steve Lydon (tbc)<br>Substitute Cllr Alison Hayward        |

The Strategic Head Customer Services clarified the Council's process for allocating grants to voluntary and community groups, and agreed to circulate a briefing paper on the criteria.

The possibility of nominating a councillor to the Cotswold Tourist Board was raised and will be investigated. Members also requested a list of the organisations the Council is legally obliged to attend prior to a Member Task & Finish being set up to review the outside bodies allocation for this Committee for the civic year 2017/18.

### **CSLC.008**

### **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

None received

The meeting closed at 20.30 pm.

Chair

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**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING**  
**COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM NO**

**5**

**8 SEPTEMBER 2016**

| <b>Date of meeting</b>          | <b>Matter to be considered<br/>(ie insert report/project title)</b> | <b>Notes<br/>(eg lead member &amp; officer)</b>                                 |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>29/6/16</b>                  | 1. Work Programme 2016/17   | Chair/Strategic Head<br>Customer Services                                       |
|                                 | 2. Appointment of Performance Monitoring representatives            | Chair   |
|                                 | 3. Appointments to Outside Bodies                                   | Chair   |
| <b>8/9/16</b>                   | 1. Work Programme 2016/17   | Chair/Strategic Head<br>Customer Services                                       |
|                                 | 2. Stroud District Council Taxi Fares                               | Principal Licensing Officer   |
|                                 | 3. Police and Crime Commissioner annual report                      | PCC/Community and<br>Facilities Manager   |
|                                 | 4. Budget Monitoring Report   | Accountancy Manager   |
|                                 | 5. Youth Work Strategy 2017 to 2020                                 | Chair/Youth Services Officer  |
|                                 | 6. Performance Monitoring   | Lead member   |
|                                 | 7. Appointments to Outside Bodies update                            | Chair   |
| <b>8/12/16 (Budget meeting)</b> | 1. Work Programme 2016/17   | Chair/Strategic Head<br>Customer Services                                       |
|                                 | 2. Age Friendly Health and Housing Plan                             | Health & Wellbeing<br>Development Co-ordinator                                  |
|                                 | 3. Director of Public Health Annual Report                          | Director of Public<br>Health/Head of<br>Environmental Health                    |
|                                 | 4. Taxi Policy review   | Principal Licensing Officer   |
|                                 | 5. Revenue Estimates revised 2016/17 and Original 2017/18           | Accountancy Manager   |
|                                 | 6. Performance Monitoring   | Lead member   |
| <b>2/2/17</b>                   | 1. Work Programme 2016/17   | Chair/Strategic Head<br>Customer Services                                       |
|                                 | 2. Performance Monitoring   | Lead member   |
| <b>30/3/17</b>                  | 1. Performance Monitoring   | Lead member   |
|                                 | 2. Budget Monitoring  | Accountancy Manager   |
|                                 | 3. Health and Wellbeing Plan update                                 | Head of Environmental<br>Health, Health & Wellbeing<br>Development Co-ordinator |

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING**  
**COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM NO**

**5**

**8 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Information sheets sent to committee members**

| <b>Date sent (&amp; reference no)</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Notes<br/>(eg responsible officer)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 20 May 2016<br>C-2016/17-001          | Community Services and Customer Services Information Sheet | Strategic Head Customer Services          |
| 7 June 2016<br>C-2016/17-002          | Community Services and Licensing Committee                 | Strategic Head Customer Services          |
| 29 June 2016                          | Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)                       | Revenue and Benefits Manager              |
| 20 July 2016                          | Gloshomeseeker to Homeseekerplus                           | Housing Advice Manager                    |
|                                       |  |   |

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING**  
**COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM NO**

**6**

**8 SEPTEMBER 2016**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Report Title</b>              | <b>Stroud District Council Taxi Fares</b>   |
| <b>Purpose of Report</b>         | To consider a proposal by Stroud Taxi Association to increase Stroud District taxi fares  |
| <b>Decision(s)</b>               | <p><b>The Committee RESOLVE:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Stroud District Taxi Fares (as set out in Appendix A) be introduced SUBJECT TO compliance with (2) and (3) below;</li> <li>2. The said fares be advertised for at least 14 days;</li> <li>3. (a) If no objections are received within the consultation period or any objections are withdrawn, the revised fares be effective from 1 November 2016; or if later, the expiration of the period for consultation or withdrawal of the last objection (whichever is last);<br/> OR<br/> (b) If any objections are received during the consultation and not withdrawn, the Head of Environmental Health be authorised (in consultation with the Committee Chair and Vice Chair and the Principal Licensing Officer) to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) determine, following consideration of the objection(s) whether to approve the fare table with or without modifications; and</li> <li>(ii) set a date no later than 2 months of the expiration of the consultation period, being the date when the determined fares shall have effect.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
| <b>Consultation and Feedback</b> | The Stroud Taxi Association proposal has been circulated to all Stroud licensed taxi and private hire drivers for comment.  |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b></p> | <p>There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Appendix A shows the proposed Taxi Fare increases and Appendix B offers a comparison with other Gloucestershire Districts.</p> <p>David Stanley – Accountancy Manager<br/> Tel: 01453 754100<br/> Email: <a href="mailto:david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk">david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Risk Assessment</p>   |
| <p><b>Legal Implications</b></p>                         | <p>The Committee is requested to consider the changes proposed by the Stroud Taxi Association to taxi charges. Alternative recommendations to that set out in the Decision Box are outlined in the Options Box. The proposed resolution in the Decision Box proceeds on the basis that the Committee is content to approve the changes proposed by the Association.</p> <p>S65 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 makes provision for the local authority to fix in a table of fares, the rates or fares for time, distance and all other charges in connection with the hire of a hackney carriage. If the Committee decides to vary the existing charges it is required to place a notice in a local newspaper. The notice must set out the table and must specify a period of at least 14 days in which objections to the table or variations can be made. In addition a copy of the notice must be made available for inspection at the Council's offices for the same period.</p> <p>If no objections/variations are made to the table or all objections/variations are withdrawn, the new charges will come into operation on the date specified in the notice. If objections/variations are received and not withdrawn, the Council must consider the objections and decide whether the table is to come into force with or without modification no later than two months after the end of the consultation period.</p> <p>Karen Trickey, Legal Services Manager and<br/> Craig Hallett, Solicitor; Tel: 01453 754369</p> |
| <p><b>Report Author</b></p>                              | <p>Rachel Andrew Principal Licensing Officer<br/> Tel: 01453 754401<br/> licensing @stroud.gov.uk</p>  |

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Options</b>                       | <p>Alternative resolutions to the proposed decision could include:</p> <p>(a) (simply) not to make any changes to the current fares; (in this scenario, no public consultation will be required, although the Committee should provide some reasonable explanation for its decision); or</p> <p>(b) not to accept the current proposals but invite the applicant to submit alternative proposals for the Committee's consideration; (in this scenario the Committee should provide some feedback on its concerns about the rates currently proposed).</p> |
| <b>Background Papers/ Appendices</b> | <p>Appendix A – Stroud Taxi Association Proposed Fare Card</p> <p>Appendix B – Comparison Table for Gloucestershire at sample times</p>   |

## 1 Background

- 1.1 .All Stroud District taxis must have a taxi meter which is calibrated in accordance with the approved fare table and a copy of the fare table must be available in the vehicle to be viewed by the fare paying passengers.
- 1.2 Taxis can pick up fares from ranks within the district, be flagged down or can take telephone bookings. For any journeys that wholly take place within the district, a taxi may not charge more than the maximum fare set in the table. For journeys that wholly or in part take place outside the district, the driver must, before the journey starts, agree with the passenger whether to calculate the fare using the meter or to charge a set fare
- 1.3 There is no provision to control the fares charged by private hire operators.
- 1.4 At Stroud District Council it has been the practice that the taxi fare table is reviewed by Committee if a request to do so is submitted by the taxi trade.
- 1.5 The current fares have not been reviewed since July 2011

## 2 Proposal by Stroud Taxi Association

- 2.1 In June 2016 a request was made by Stroud Taxi Association to increase Stroud District taxi fares. The Association submitted a proposed revised version of the current fare card which is attached as **Appendix A**. The proposal shows both the current fares and times and the proposed changes.
- 2.2 The proposal was signed by 32 Stroud taxi drivers who are mainly drivers that use Stroud taxi ranks. The authority has 139 licensed taxi drivers operating in the district.
- 2.3 All taxi and private hire licence holders were notified in July 2016 of the proposal put forward and invited to make comment. The Principal Licensing Officer has received 3 verbal comments from Stroud District taxi drivers who felt that the fares should not be increased. One added that some drivers operating from the rank offer lower fares to undercut other drivers.
- 2.4 Stroud District Council's fare table is divided into 3 rates. In summary the current rate times are:

|        |           |  |
|--------|-----------|--|
| Rate 1 | Weekdays  | Daytime up to 18.00 hrs                            |
|        | Saturday  | Daytime up to 13.00 hrs                            |
| Rate 2 | Weekdays  | Evening up to 01.00 hrs the next morning           |
|        | Saturday  | Afternoon and Evening up to 01.00 the next morning |
|        | Sunday    | All day  |
|        | Bank Hols | All day  |
| Rate 3 | Everyday  | Night time from 01.00 up to 07.00 morning          |
|        | Xmas Day  | All day and night                                  |
|        | NY Day    | All day and night                                  |

- 2.5 Each rate has a starting rate that the meter will show when the journey starts.
- 2.6 Each rate has a distance increment in yards, known as yardage. When the vehicle is moving the meter adds an additional 30p to the fare at the end of each yardage distance. If the yardage is shorter the fare will go up quicker.
- 2.7 If the vehicle is driving slowly or comes to a stop the meter changes from distance increments to time increments known as waiting time. The meter adds an additional 30p and the end of each waiting time period. If the period of waiting time is shorter the fare to be paid will increase quicker.

2.8 A breakdown of the Stroud Taxi Association proposal is as follows:

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Increase starting rate for rate 1 from £2.50 to £2.80  |
| 2  | Increase starting rate for rate 2 from £3.00 to £3.25  |
| 3  | No change to starting rate for rate 3  |
| 4  | Reduce the yardage on rate 1 from 264 yards to 240 yards   |
| 5  | Reduce the yardage on rate 2 from 225 yards to 185 yards   |
| 6  | Reduce the yardage on rate 3 from 195 yards and 175 yards  |
| 7  | Reduce the waiting time on rate 1 from 46 seconds to 40 seconds  |
| 8  | Reduce the waiting time on rate 2 from 35 seconds to 32 seconds  |
| 9  | Reduce the waiting time on rate 3 from 25 seconds to 22 seconds  |
| 10 | Increase the extra charge made for carrying additional passengers and for packages and bags by 5p                                  |
| 11 | Bring forward the time that rate 3 comes into force by 1 hour so that rate 3 starts at 24.00 rather than the current time of 01.00 |
| 12 | Alternatively no change to the start time for rate 3 but a greater reduction in the yardage for rate 3 from 195 yards to 160 yards |

2.9 The following tables show the effect of the proposals on journey cost.

| Rate 1               | Current | Proposed | % increase |
|----------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| First Full Mile      | £4.20   | £4.70    | 12%        |
| Every Following Mile | £2.00   | £2.20    | 10%        |
| Waiting One Minute   | 39p     | 45p      | 15%        |

| Rate 2               | Current | Proposed | % increase |
|----------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| First Full Mile      | £5.05   | £5.80    | 15%        |
| Every Following Mile | £2.35   | £2.85    | 21%        |
| Waiting One Minute   | 51p     | 56p      | 10%        |

| Rate 3 – Option 1    | Current | Proposed | % increase |
|----------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| First Full Mile      | £6.40   | £6.70    | 5%         |
| Every Following Mile | £2.70   | £3.00    | 11%        |
| Waiting One Minute   | 72p     | 81p      | 12%        |

| Rate 3 – Option 2    | Current | Proposed | % increase |
|----------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| First Full Mile      | £6.40   | £7.00    | 9%         |
| Every Following Mile | £2.70   | £3.30    | 22%        |
| Waiting One Minute   | 72p     | 81p      | 12%        |

2.10 It is difficult to accurately compare fares for different authorities as they all have different structures and the rates come into force at different times. A detailed comparison table of Stroud District current and proposed rates and those of the other Gloucestershire Authorities was emailed to the members of the Committee together with the taxi newsletter in July 2016 and is available on Stroud District Council's website <http://www.stroud.gov.uk/business/licensing-permits/taxis-and-private-hire/licensing/taxi-newsletters>

- 2.11 **Appendix B** is a comparison table showing the fare that would be charged using Stroud Taxi Association's proposal at a sample of different times compared with Stroud District Council's current rates and those of the other authorities within the Gloucestershire area

### **3 Issues to consider**

- 3.1 Since the last fare increase was made in July 2011, fuel prices have fallen. The average cost of diesel in the South West per litre in June 2011 was 140p and in June 2016 it was 112p which is a decrease of 20% (source: AA monthly fuel cost reports).
- 3.2 Inflation over the period June 2011 to 2016 has seen an increase in the general costs of good and services of approximately 11%. (Source: Bank of England Inflation Calculator)
- 3.3 The comparison table in Appendix B show that generally Stroud District's current fares are on a level or are higher than the fares charged by other Gloucestershire authorities although in some cases Stroud District is lower. The proposed fares generally will make Stroud District's fare higher than the rest of Gloucestershire. However most of the other authorities have not increased their fares for some years and both Gloucestershire and Cheltenham are reviewing fares this year and may increase them.
- 3.4 In particular the comparisons show that Stroud District's current waiting time rates are higher than the other authorities and the proposal would increase that difference, particularly for rates 2 and 3
- 3.5 It should also be noted that, although some of the other Gloucestershire authorities have a rate 3, only Stroud uses it daily over the night time period. The other authorities use rate 3 for holiday periods only
- 3.6 A taxi, by law, can only have the meter running from the point in the district that the fare is picked up to the point the fare is dropped off. Taxis operating in rural districts tend to undertake longer journeys and often have to go further distances empty to pick up or return than taxis in urban areas. It could therefore be argued that it is justifiable for fares in rural areas such as Stroud District to be higher than those in urban areas such as Cheltenham and Gloucester to cover the extra running costs for the empty leg of the journey.

### **4 Legal Procedure to increase Taxi Fares**

- 4.1 The legislation states that once a Local Authority has agreed to vary the table of fares it must then publish a notice in a local newspaper and display a notice at the Council offices and state a period of not less than 14 days during which objections can be made. If no objections

are made, or any objections made are withdrawn, the new table of fares comes into force at the end of that period.

- 4.2 The legislation further states that if objections are made, they must be considered by the local authority who must set a new date within 2 months of the original date to implement the fare table and the Authority can decide that either:
- The fare table as originally proposed will come into effect or
  - The fare table is modified in light of the objections and the modified table to come into effect.
- 4.3 In order to meet the requirements of the legislation, if Committee resolves to vary the fare table, it should also resolve to approve the process for giving notice of the new fares and for considering any objections as put forward in points 2 and 3 in the Decision Box at the beginning of this report

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 Stroud District Council's fare table for taxis has not been reviewed for 5 years. During that time fuel prices have dropped but the cost of living has increased.
- 5.2 An increase in the fare table to enable the taxi trade to run viable businesses must be balanced against the burden on the fare paying passengers who will have to pay increased fares.
- 5.3 Members need to consider whether they wish to resolve to approve the proposal put forward by Stroud Taxi Association or whether they wish to make any amendments to the proposal or retain the current fare table.
- 5.4 If a new fare table is agreed Stroud District Council must approve the process for giving notice of the new fares.

## Stroud District Council Current Taxi Fare Table Showing Fare Increases (Highlighted) Proposed By Stroud Taxi Association 2016

|   | Rate 1  | Rate 2  | Rate 3   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Times</b>  | <b>Mon - Fri</b><br>07:00 - 18:00<br><b>Sat</b><br>07:00 - 13:00  | <b>Mon - Fri</b><br>18:00 - 01.00 (24.00) the following day<br><b>Sat</b><br>13:00 - 01.00 (24.00) the following day<br><b>Sun</b><br>07:00 - 01.00 (24.00) the following day<br><b>Bank Holidays</b> 07.00 – 24.00 | <b>Mon – Sun</b> <b>Bank Holidays</b><br>01:00 (24.00) - 07:00    24.00 - 07.00<br><b>Xmas</b><br>12.00 24th Dec - 07.00 27th Dec<br><b>New Year</b><br>12.00 31st Dec - 07.00 2nd Jan |
| <b>Starting Rate</b>  | <b>£2.50 (£2.80)</b><br>For first 264 (240) yards or part thereof | <b>£3.00 (£3.25)</b><br>For first 225 (185) yards or part thereof   | <b>£4.00</b><br>For first 195 (175) yards or part thereof  |
| <b>Increments thereafter</b>  | <b>30p</b><br>For every following 264 (240) yards or part thereof | <b>30p</b><br>For every following 225 (185) yards or part thereof   | <b>30p</b><br>For every following 195(175) yards or part thereof   |
| <b>Waiting time</b>   | <b>30p</b> every 46 (40) seconds                                  | <b>30p</b> every 35 (32) seconds  | <b>30p</b> every 25 (22) seconds   |
| <b>Example Fare</b>   |   |   |  |
| First Full Mile   | £4.20 (£4.70)   | £5.05 (£5.80)   | £6.40 (£6.70)  |
| Every following Mile  | £2.00 (£2.20)   | £2.35 (£2.85)   | £2.70 (£3.00)  |
| Waiting one minute  | 39p (45p)   | 51p (56p)   | 72p (81p)  |
| <b>Extras</b>   |   |   |  |
| For each passenger over one per journey   | <b>20p</b> (25p)  | For each bicycle (carried at driver's discretion)   | <b>£1.20 (£1.25)</b>   |
| For each parcel or package  | <b>20p</b> (25p)  | Accepting cheque for payment of any fare under £10  | <b>£3.00</b>   |
| For each pram or pushchair  | <b>20p</b> (25p)  | Soiling charge  | <b>£75.00</b>  |
| Wheelchairs and guide, hearing or assistance dogs will be carried free of charge  |   |   |  |
| <b>Conditions of Hiring</b>   |   |   |  |
| The charges printed above are the maximum permitted to be charged for each journey within the District of Stroud  |   |   |  |
| 1. The carriage of packages, bicycles or pushchairs is at the driver's discretion.  |   |   |  |
| 2. Animals, intoxicated or troublesome persons carried at driver's discretion.  |   |   |  |
| 3. A driver must permit the carriage of guide and assistance dogs unless the driver has been issued an exemption certificate. No additional payment can be charged. |   |   |  |
| 4. At driver's discretion, a deposit may be required prior to journey commencing.   |   |   |  |

### Alternative Option for rate 3 (2nd preference)

Leaving start time as 01.00 but with higher increase in rate than 1<sup>st</sup> preference above

|                              | Rate 3   |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Times</b>                 | <b>Mon – Sun</b> <b>Bank Holidays</b><br>01:00 - 07:00    24.00 - 07.00<br><b>Xmas</b><br>12.00 24th Dec - 07.00 27th Dec<br><b>New Year</b><br>12.00 31st Dec - 07.00 2nd Jan |
| <b>Starting Rate</b>         | <b>£4.00</b><br>For first 195 (160) yards or part thereof  |
| <b>Increments thereafter</b> | <b>30p</b><br>For every following 195(160) yards or part thereof   |
| <b>Waiting time</b>          | <b>30p</b> every 25 (22) seconds   |
| <b>Example Fare</b>          |  |
| First Full Mile              | £6.40 (£7.00)  |
| Every following Mile         | £2.70 (£3.30)  |
| Waiting one minute           | 72p (81p)  |



# Proposal By Stroud Taxi Association For Taxi Fare Increase 2016

## Comparisons at Sample Times

### Appendix B

|   | <i>Weekday Midday</i> |                 |                      | <i>Saturday at 19.00*</i> |                 |                      | <i>Weekday at 24.00</i> |                 |                      | <i>Sunday at 02.00**</i> |                 |                      |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|   | <i>2 miles</i>        | <i>10 Miles</i> | <i>1 min waiting</i> | <i>2 miles</i>            | <i>10 Miles</i> | <i>1 min waiting</i> | <i>2 miles</i>          | <i>10 Miles</i> | <i>1 min waiting</i> | <i>2 miles</i>           | <i>10 Miles</i> | <i>1 min waiting</i> |
| <i>Stroud current</i>                           | £6.20                 | £22.20          | 39p                  | £7.40                     | £26.20          | 51p                  | £7.40                   | £26.20          | 51p                  | £9.12                    | £30.80          | 72p                  |
| <i>Stroud TA Proposal 1<sup>st</sup> Option</i> | <b>£6.90</b>          | <b>£24.50</b>   | <b>45p</b>           | <b>£8.65</b>              | <b>£31.45</b>   | <b>56p</b>           | <b>£9.72</b>            | <b>£33.72</b>   | <b>81p</b>           | <b>£9.72</b>             | <b>£33.72</b>   | <b>81p</b>           |
| <i>Stroud TA Proposal 2<sup>nd</sup> Option</i> | <b>£6.90</b>          | <b>£24.50</b>   | <b>45p</b>           | <b>£8.65</b>              | <b>£31.45</b>   | <b>56p</b>           | <b>£8.65</b>            | <b>£31.45</b>   | <b>56p</b>           | <b>£10.30</b>            | <b>£36.70</b>   | <b>81p</b>           |
| <i>Cotswold</i>                                 | £5.28                 | £22.88          | 25p                  | £5.28                     | £22.88          | 25p                  | £6.13                   | £26.93          | 25p                  | £6.13                    | £26.93          | 25p                  |
| <i>Tewkesbury</i>                               | £5.85                 | £21.85          | 35p                  | £5.85                     | £21.85          | 35p                  | £7.50                   | £26.70          | 35p                  | £7.50                    | £26.70          | 35p                  |
| <i>Gloucester</i>                               | £5.78                 | £20.98          | 32p                  | £5.78                     | £20.98          | 32p                  | £7.57                   | £27.25          | 42p                  | £7.57                    | £27.25          | 42p                  |
| <i>Forest</i>                                   | £6.27                 | £27.87          | 29p                  | £6.27                     | £27.87          | 29p                  | £7.15                   | £30.35          | 29p                  | £7.15                    | £30.35          | 29p                  |
| <i>Cheltenham</i>                               | £6.20                 | £22.20          | 33p                  | £6.20                     | £22.20          | 33p                  | £7.75                   | £27.75          | 50p                  | £7.75                    | £27.75          | 50p                  |
| <i>South Glos</i>                               | £6.22                 | £22.22          | 32p                  | £7.47                     | £23.47          | 32p                  | £7.47                   | £23.47          | 32p                  | £7.47                    | £23.47          | 32p                  |

|          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
| Rate 1   |  | <p>* Stroud Rate 2 comes into force at 18.00 Mon-Fri and 13.00 on Sat. Apart from South Glos the other Gloucestershire Authorities Rate 2 come into force later ( between 20.00 and 23.00 hours)</p> <p>**Stroud Rate 3 currently comes into force everyday from 01.00 to 07.00 and all day over Christmas and New Year. Tewkesbury and Forest do not have a rate 3. The other Gloucestershire Authorities have a rate 3 for Christmas, New Year and bank holidays only.</p> |
| Rate 2*  |  |  |
| Rate 3** |  |  |



**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING**  
**COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM NO**

**8**

**8 SEPTEMBER 2016**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Report Title</b>                               | <b>Budget Monitoring Report 2016/17 Q1</b>   |
| <b>Purpose of Report</b>                          | To present to the Committee a forecast of the outturn position against the revenue budget and capital programme for 2016/17.   |
| <b>Decision(s)</b>                                | <b>The Committee RESOLVES:</b><br><br>a) to note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital programme for this Committee   |
| <b>Consultation and Feedback</b>                  | Budget holders have been consulted about the budget issues in their service areas. The feedback has been incorporated in the report to explain differences between budgets and actual income and expenditure.  |
| <b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b> | <p>The outturn forecast for the committee's budget shows a net underspend of £95k. This will be included in the overall General Fund outturn forecast reported to Strategy and Resources committee in October 2016.</p> <p>The committee's Capital budgets are likely to underspend in the current year by around £389k, with capital slippage likely on the LA Social Housing scheme, and an underspend on Disabled Facilities Grants.</p> <p>David Stanley – Accountancy Manager<br/>         Tel: 01453 754100<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk">david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report author to comment on the Risk Assessment</p> <p>Paragraphs 6-7 highlight some risk around the outturn forecast.</p> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Legal Implications</b>               | The draft report as at 24 August which was available for comment, is provided for member information only and as such there are no legal implications.<br>Karen Trickey, Legal Services Manager<br>Tel: 01453 754369<br>Email: <a href="mailto:karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk">karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>Report Author</b>                    | Adele Rudkin, Accountant<br>Tel: 01453 754109<br>Email: <a href="mailto:adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk">adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk</a>  |
| <b>Options</b>                          | None  |
| <b>Performance Management Follow Up</b> | Budgets will continue to be monitored on a regular basis by budget holders supported by Finance. Further finance reports will update the committee in December 2016 and February 2017, with the outturn position reported to Strategy and Resources committee in June 2017                                  |
| <b>Background Papers/ Appendices</b>    | None  |

## Background

1. This report provides the first monitoring position statement for the financial year 2016/17. The purpose of this report is to notify members of any known significant variations to budgets for the current financial year, highlight any key issues, and to inform members of any action to be taken if required.
2. **Due to the volume of information contained in the report, it would be helpful where members have questions on matters of detail if they could be referred to the report author or the appropriate service manager before the meeting.**

## Revenue Budget position

3. The original net General Fund Revenue budget for 2016/17 was £16.103m as approved by Council at their meeting on 28 January 2016. This has now been revised to £16.714m after allowing for the increase to the Waste and Recycling budgets as approved by Strategy and Resources in April 2016 and carry forwards approved in June 2016.

The latest budget for Community Services and Licensing Committee taking into account the carry forwards is £6.613m (Original Budget was £6.564m).

4. The monitoring position for the service at 30 June 2016 shows a projected net underspend of **(£95k) (-1.44%)** against the latest budget, as summarised in Table 2. The overall position on the General Fund will be considered by Strategy and Resources committee at their meeting on 13 October 2016.

5. The outturn position is mainly attributable to the major items outlined in Table 2 with an explanation of the significant variances that have arisen. (a significant variation is defined as being +/- £20,000 on each reporting line). Appendix A (pages 7 to 8) provides a more detailed breakdown on the committee's budgets.

### **Summary of Report Headlines**

- **Major Variations**

The report sets out the forecast outturn position on the committee's budgets, with Appendix A providing more detailed explanations on the major variances. Whilst the overall position on the CS&L budget is positive, there remains some concern on the financial performance of the Subscription Rooms. The continued level of underspend in Revenues and Benefits (£92k forecast underspend) and other salary budgets will need consideration when the 2017/18 budget is proposed.

- **Salaries - Underspend**

Budget holders and Finance worked together to review the establishment and associated staffing budgets for 2016/17, and budgets were set in accordance with the agreed establishment. The current forecast has identified a number of savings within the following services, General Fund Housing, Arts & Culture (Subscription Rooms) Sports Centres (The Pulse –Dursley) and Revenue and Benefits. An assessment of these savings has identified some in year savings due to staff turnover, however there are a number of workforce planning savings that will be reviewed as part of the Budget setting process for 2017/18.

- **Additional Expenditure**

Expenditure forecast due to predicted pressures within Arts and Culture (Subscription Rooms), Sports Centres (The Pulse - Dursley) and Public Spaces – (Ground Maintenance Scheme).

### **Areas of Risk and Uncertainty**

6. The forecast outturn variance of a net **(£95k) underspend** highlighted in paragraph 4 of this report is based on known and estimated outcomes. However, there remains a degree of uncertainty with the forecast variance, either because;
  - There is insufficient data available at this stage of the financial year with which to estimate an outturn position.
  - There are a number of different outcomes that may occur and it is difficult to predict with a degree of certainty which outcome is more likely.
  - Seasonal factors affecting income from events and activities in specific budget areas (e.g. Subscription Rooms, Dursley Pool and Sports Centre), or the overall position of the local economy and the effect on income generation.

7. Listed below are the main area of risk and uncertainty associated with outturn forecast.

- **‘The Pulse’ Dursley**

Members will recall that Dursley Pool has undergone a major transformation over the past 12 months and has now been re-branded as the ‘The Pulse’ Dursley. It opened to the public on the 9th July 2016, after a £1.7m investment from SDC.

On the weekend of opening the centre hit 800 members which grew from 380 just 6 weeks prior to opening.

The Pulse now comprises of a state of the art gym, indoor cycling and fitness studio, dedicated changing and shower facilities along with the 25 metre pool and adapted change facility.

As with any new venture there maybe some risk and uncertainty

- **Public Spaces - – Grounds Maintenance service**

Members will recall Stroud’s new Multi Service Contract with Ubico commenced on the 02 July 2016. This comes ahead of the introduction of a new waste service from November which will see weekly food waste collections introduced and wheeled bins replacing black sacks for residual waste collections. The Grounds Maintenance service is part of this new contract. Historically budgets have been split between Community Services & Licensing and Environment Committee. The allocation of budgets within the service will be evaluated at budget setting time in order to reflect the current distribution of costs across the whole of the Multi Service Contract.

- **Revenues & Benefits**

Whilst the report highlights a variation on the Revenues and Benefit reporting line, this does not include any variation that may arise on Housing Benefit recovery. The continuation of the pilot scheme with HMRC using Real Time Information (RTI) data provides details of a claimant’s actual wages/pensions which often differs from what has been declared. Further investigation work is passed to the team by DWP via SFIS (Single Fraud Investigation Service). The recovery team with Revenues and Benefits have in prior years been successful in recovering overpaid Housing benefit payments, which the council retains in full outside of the HB Subsidy system. It is too soon to judge whether this will continue in 2016/17. An update will be provided in the Q3 budget monitoring report.

## **Capital Programme**

8. The Community Services and Licensing Capital Programme of £0.73m was approved by Council in January 2016. This has subsequently been revised to £1.5m following the approval of the carry forwards/slippage and profiling changes by Strategy and Resources Committee at their meeting in July 2016.

9. Table 1 below shows the Capital Outturn Forecast for 2016/17 with a projected outturn variance of £389k.

**Table 1 – Capital Outturn Forecast**

| <b>Community Services Capital Schemes</b> | <b>2016/17 Original Budget (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Revised Budget (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Spend to date (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Projected Outturn (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Outturn Variance (£'000)</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| LA Social Housing                         | 167                                    | 239                                   | 0                                    | 100                                      | (139)                                   |
| Private Sector Housing Strategy           | 350                                    | 350                                   | 83                                   | 100                                      | (250)                                   |
| Dursley Pool Fitness Extension            | 150                                    | 900                                   | 528                                  | 900                                      | 0                                       |
| Stratford Park Sensory Garden             | 0                                      | 8                                     | 0                                    | 8  | 0                                       |
| Walled Garden Project (MITP)              | 36                                     | 25                                    | 1                                    | 25                                       | 0                                       |
| <b>TOTAL Capital</b>                      | <b>703</b>                             | <b>1,522</b>                          | <b>612</b>                           | <b>1,133</b>                             | <b>(389)</b>                            |

10. The variation on capital schemes is attributable to 2 schemes around the provision of Social Housing and spend in relation to Disabled Facilities.

- The LA Social Housing capital budget, which supports the delivery of new affordable homes in the district, is forecast to underspend in the current financial year. Commitments of £100k have been made, with further expenditure wholly dependent on the timing of development on strategic sites that can support delivery of affordable housing. It is likely that some capital slippage will occur in 2016/17, as it is not always possible to predict when housing development will start.
- Disabled Facilities Grant funding is passed to the council through the Better Care Fund held by Gloucestershire County Council. Whilst the notional allocations for 2016/17 indicated that Stroud would receive around £572k. However, the County have only passed over £330k based on the 2015/16 allocation level, with an adjustment at year-end to fund any difference up to the 2016/17 level. It is unlikely that Stroud will spend its full allocation, which is in line with previous year spend on DFGs.

**Table2 – Revenue budget outturn forecast**

| <b>Community Services Committee</b> | <b>Para Refs</b> | <b>2016/17 Original Budget (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Revised Budget (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Spend to date (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Forecast Outturn (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Outturn Variance (£'000)</b> | <b>Salary Variations (£'000)</b> | <b>Expenditure Variations (£'000)</b> | <b>Income Variations (£'000)</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Community Safety                    |                  | 662                                    | 673                                   | 303                                  | 676                                     | 3                                       | (6)                              | 0                                     | 8                                |
| Youth Services                      |                  | 89                                     | 102                                   | (48)                                 | 103                                     | 1                                       | (0)                              | 1                                     | 0                                |
| Grants to Voluntary Organisations   | 8                | 370                                    | 370                                   | 180                                  | 340                                     | (30)                                    | 0                                | (30)                                  | 0                                |
| Housing (General Fund)              | 9                | 744                                    | 744                                   | 371                                  | 706                                     | (38)                                    | (36)                             | 3                                     | (4)                              |
| Licensing                           |                  | (30)                                   | (30)                                  | 10                                   | (36)                                    | (6)                                     | (1)                              | (2)                                   | (3)                              |
| Strategic Head (Customer Services)  |                  | 195                                    | 195                                   | 49                                   | 195                                     | 0                                       | 0                                | 0                                     | 0                                |
| Customer Services                   |                  | 504                                    | 504                                   | 226                                  | 516                                     | 12                                      | 0                                | 12                                    | 0                                |
| Cultural Svcs - Arts and Culture    | 10               | 966                                    | 966                                   | 302                                  | 971                                     | 6                                       | (22)                             | 33                                    | (5)                              |
| Cultural Svcs - Sport & Health Dev. |                  | 182                                    | 204                                   | 61                                   | 202                                     | (2)                                     | (0)                              | (2)                                   | 0                                |
| Cultural Svcs - Sports Centres      | 11               | 542                                    | 543                                   | 268                                  | 565                                     | 22                                      | (51)                             | 54                                    | 19                               |
| Public Spaces                       | 12               | 1,520                                  | 1,520                                 | 854                                  | 1,550                                   | 30                                      | 3                                | 26                                    | 0                                |
| Revenues and Benefits               | 13               | 821                                    | 821                                   | (4,074)                              | 729                                     | (92)                                    | (92)                             | 0                                     | 0                                |
| <b>Community Services TOTAL</b>     |                  | <b>6,564</b>                           | <b>6,613</b>                          | <b>(1,498)</b>                       | <b>6,517</b>                            | <b>(95)</b>                             | <b>(205)</b>                     | <b>94</b>                             | <b>15</b>                        |
| <b>Transfer to/from Reserves</b>    |                  |  |                                       |                                      |   | <b>0</b>                                |                                  |                                       |                                  |
| <b>Carry Forwards</b>               |                  |  |                                       |                                      |   | <b>0</b>                                |                                  |                                       |                                  |
| <b>Underlying Variation</b>         |                  |  |                                       |                                      |   | <b>(95)</b>                             |                                  |                                       |                                  |

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

### 11. Grants to Voluntary Organisations – (30k) Saving/Underspend

(Joanne Jordan 4005, joanne.jordan@stroud.gov.uk)

The Community Investment Grant (CIG) scheme helps to support voluntary and community sector organisations with their core costs e.g. salaries, volunteer costs, rent, utilities etc. An underspend of £30k has been identified as there are two organisations that are no longer funded (£27k Volunteer and Community Action – Stroud District ceased operating and £3k Gloucestershire Voices merged with another organisation).

### 12. Housing General Fund – (£38k) Saving/Underspend

(Jon Beckett xtn 4443, jon.beckett@stroud.gov.uk)

An in-year salary saving of (£38k) has been identified within Private Housing; there are two vacant Principal Environmental Health Officers and a trainee vacancy within the service. Recruitment is currently underway to fill these posts. Several member of staff are now working on part time basis and any potential savings will be reviewed as part of the budget setting process.

### 13. Cultural Svcs – Arts and Culture – £5k Overspend

(Paul Mclaughlin xtn1991, paul.mclaughlin@stroud.gov.uk)

Whilst the overall variance is insignificant, there are larger offsetting variances within the Subscription rooms.

#### Subscription Rooms - £10k Overspend

There is a combined salary saving of (£15k) following a member of contracted staff leaving post in January 2016 and not being replaced. Further, a second member of staff left on a STR5 salary at the end of April and was replaced at the beginning of June with a part time STR3 role. An overspend of £17k has been forecast, a proportion of this cost will be offset against the salary saving above as it concerns freelance staff being brought in to help develop the marketing role which was not replaced in January 2016. An Income shortfall of £8k has also been identified.

### 14. Cultural Services – Sports Centres - £22k Overspend

(Angela Gillingham xtn 01453 540995, angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk)

(Mike Hammond xtn 4447, mike.hammond@stroud.gov.uk)

The overall overspend is made up of several variances as detailed below.

#### The Pulse – Dursley

The material variances are listed below. The forecast has been based on historical data (previous 3 years performance) membership targets outlined in the original business plan and predicted increase in prices.

Salary saving (£48k) – (£17k) of the saving is due to Sports centre staff no longer contracted from July 2016, the Sports Centre opening hours have been reduced to reflect the current programme. The remaining



(£31k) has been identified at 'The Pulse' where a number of vacancies have not been filled while considering the options to evaluate what staff are needed once the centre has been up and running for 6 months. Vacancies are currently being filled by casual members on an adhoc basis.

An overspend of **£55k** has been forecast across the service and is largely attributable to the following: Rateable value of the centre has increased by £14k. IT upgrading, additional networking, IT licences, data line and telecommunications of £15k. Additional costs associated with IT equipment, Marketing and signage of £12k. Utilities are still an unknown quantity until we have a full year of CHP in operation, an additional £5k spend has been forecast There are also increased costs around freelance instructors, music licenses of £6k. The remaining **£3k** is attributable to small overspends within the service.

The remaining overspend of **£9k** is attributable to essential building works programmed for 2016/17 at Stratford Park Leisure Centre and **£4k** overspend on Joint Use Sports Centres.

#### **15. Public Spaces - £30k overspend**

(Carlos Novoth xtn 4406, [carlos.novoth@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:carlos.novoth@stroud.gov.uk))

This overspend directly relates to the new Grounds Maintenance Contract with Ubico. Whilst the council has signed off Ubico's budgeted proposal, there has been a minor redistribution of costs across services. This has resulted whilst the grounds maintenance service is showing an overspend, the street cleansing service (Environment Committee) is showing a projected underspend this year. These budgets will be reviewed during the budget review process later this year.

#### **16. Revenues and Benefits – (£92k) underspend**

(Simon Killen xtn 4013, [simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk))

A projected salary underspend of (**£92k**) is due to two new vacancies arising within the team through retirement and a job opportunity in a different service, as well as a reduction in hours for two further posts. The continued use of 'Civica on Demand' is allowing the service to continue managing fluctuations and operating effectively without replacing these posts. Funding has been awarded from the FERIS project, which has been used to cover costs associated with the use of 'Civica on Demand'. Salary budgets will be continued to be monitored and reviewed as part of the budget setting process.



| <b>Community Services Committee</b>           | <b>Para Refs</b> | <b>2016/17 Original Budget (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Revised Budget (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Spend to date (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Forecast Outturn (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Outturn Variance (£'000)</b> |
|---|------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Abandoned Vehicles                            |                  | 32                                     | 32                                    | 30                                   | 31                                      | (0)                                     |
| Careline Services                             |                  | (9)                                    | (9)                                   | (64)                                 | (10)                                    | (1)                                     |
| Neighbourhood Wardens                         |                  | 220                                    | 221                                   | 50                                   | 220                                     | (1)                                     |
| Car Parks Enforcement                         |                  | 111                                    | 111                                   | 70                                   | 110                                     | (0)                                     |
| Stroud and Dursley CCTV                       |                  | 43                                     | 43                                    | 10                                   | 48                                      | 5                                       |
| <b>Community Services</b>                     |                  | <b>397</b>                             | <b>397</b>                            | <b>96</b>                            | <b>400</b>                              | <b>3</b>                                |
| <b>Hear by Right / Youth Services</b>         |                  | <b>89</b>                              | <b>102</b>                            | <b>(48)</b>                          | <b>103</b>                              | <b>1</b>                                |
| <b>Grants to Voluntary Organisations</b>      | 8                | <b>370</b>                             | <b>370</b>                            | <b>180</b>                           | <b>340</b>                              | <b>(30)</b>                             |
| Homelessness                                  |                  | 186                                    | 186                                   | 89                                   | 186                                     | 0                                       |
| Homelessness Prevention                       |                  | 136                                    | 136                                   | 50                                   | 136                                     | 0                                       |
| Housing Strategy                              |                  | 116                                    | 116                                   | 53                                   | 125                                     | 9                                       |
| Private Housing                               |                  | 306                                    | 306                                   | 179                                  | 260                                     | (46)                                    |
| <b>Housing - General fund</b>                 | 9                | <b>744</b>                             | <b>744</b>                            | <b>371</b>                           | <b>706</b>                              | <b>(38)</b>                             |
| <b>Licensing</b>                              |                  | <b>(30)</b>                            | <b>(30)</b>                           | <b>10</b>                            | <b>(36)</b>                             | <b>(6)</b>                              |
| <b>Strategic Head (Customer Services)</b>     |                  | <b>195</b>                             | <b>195</b>                            | <b>49</b>                            | <b>195</b>                              | <b>0</b>                                |
| <b>Customer Service Centre</b>                |                  | <b>504</b>                             | <b>504</b>                            | <b>226</b>                           | <b>516</b>                              | <b>12</b>                               |
| Museum in the Park                            |                  | 484                                    | 484                                   | 152                                  | 489                                     | 5                                       |
| Subscription Rooms                            |                  | 296                                    | 296                                   | 90                                   | 306                                     | 10                                      |
| Tourism                                       |                  | 186                                    | 186                                   | 60                                   | 176                                     | (10)                                    |
| <b>Cultural Services - Arts and Culture</b>   | 10               | <b>966</b>                             | <b>966</b>                            | <b>302</b>                           | <b>971</b>                              | <b>6</b>                                |
| Health and Wellbeing                          |                  | 33                                     | 38                                    | 9                                    | 36                                      | (2)                                     |
| Sport and Health Development                  |                  | 149                                    | 166                                   | 52                                   | 166                                     | 0                                       |
| <b>Cultural Services - Sports and Leisure</b> |                  | <b>182</b>                             | <b>204</b>                            | <b>61</b>                            | <b>202</b>                              | <b>(2)</b>                              |
| The Pulse Dursley                             |                  | 257                                    | 257                                   | 128                                  | 266                                     | 10                                      |
| Joint Use Sports Centres                      |                  | 124                                    | 125                                   | 83                                   | 128                                     | 4                                       |
| Stratford Park Leisure Centre                 |                  | 162                                    | 162                                   | 57                                   | 170                                     | 9                                       |
| <b>Cultural Services - Sports Centres</b>     | 11               | <b>542</b>                             | <b>543</b>                            | <b>268</b>                           | <b>565</b>                              | <b>22</b>                               |

| <b>Community Services Committee</b> | <b>Para Refs</b> | <b>2016/17 Original Budget (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Revised Budget (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Spend to date (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Forecast Outturn (£'000)</b> | <b>2016/17 Outturn Variance (£'000)</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Public Space Service                |                  | 537                                    | 537                                   | 611                                  | 537                                     | 1                                       |
| Cemeteries                          |                  | 133                                    | 133                                   | 61                                   | 134                                     | 1                                       |
| Amenity Areas                       |                  | 170                                    | 170                                   | 49                                   | 200                                     | 30                                      |
| Commons and Woodlands               |                  | 14                                     | 14                                    | 0                                    | 14                                      | 0                                       |
| Stratford Park Grounds Maintenance  |                  | 223                                    | 223                                   | 74                                   | 223                                     | 0                                       |
| Grassed Areas Contribution to HRA   |                  | 171                                    | 171                                   | 1                                    | 171                                     | 0                                       |
| Public Conveniences                 |                  | 273                                    | 273                                   | 59                                   | 272                                     | (1)                                     |
| <b>Public Spaces</b>                | <b>12</b>        | <b>1,520</b>                           | <b>1,520</b>                          | <b>854</b>                           | <b>1,550</b>                            | <b>30</b>                               |
| Business Rate Collection            |                  | (78)                                   | (78)                                  | 40                                   | (82)                                    | (5)                                     |
| Council Tax Collection              |                  | 518                                    | 518                                   | 314                                  | 474                                     | (44)                                    |
| Council Tax Support Admin           |                  | 74                                     | 74                                    | 0                                    | 61                                      | (13)                                    |
| Rent Allowances and Rebates         |                  | (73)                                   | (73)                                  | (4,707)                              | (73)                                    | 0                                       |
| Housing Benefit Administration      |                  | 380                                    | 380                                   | 278                                  | 349                                     | (31)                                    |
| <b>Revenues and Benefits</b>        | <b>13</b>        | <b>821</b>                             | <b>821</b>                            | <b>(4,074)</b>                       | <b>729</b>                              | <b>(92)</b>                             |
| <b>Community Services TOTAL</b>     |                  | <b>6,299</b>                           | <b>6,337</b>                          | <b>(1,704)</b>                       | <b>6,242</b>                            | <b>(95)</b>                             |

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING**  
**COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM NO**

**9**

**8 SEPTEMBER 2016**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Report Title</b>                               | <b>Youth Work Strategy 2017 to 2020</b>  |
| <b>Purpose of Report</b>                          | To present to members the draft youth work strategy for 2017 to 2020   |
| <b>Decision(s)</b>                                | (a) RESOLVES to approve the Youth Work Strategy 2017-2020; and<br>(b) RECOMMENDS to Strategy and Resources Committee that service delivery continues beyond March 2017 with an annual budget of £60,000 per year be considered as a budget proposal of the Community Services and Licensing Committee.   |
| <b>Consultation and Feedback</b>                  | Feedback from consultation including that of Parish and Town Council's and other Local Authorities plus service users and partner organisations can be found in <b>Background Paper F</b> .  |
| <b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b> | <u>Financial Implications</u><br>A Youth Work Strategy was approved in September 2012, with funding of £50,000 per annum for 3 years (2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15) being approved by Council in January 2012. Further funding for a 2 year period (£50,000 per annum 2015/16 to 2016/17) was agreed by Council in January 2015.<br><br>The Council is facing significant financial pressures over the medium term with a need to make significant savings in the region of £4-£5m by 2019/20. Any additional funding request needs to be reviewed in the light of the overall financial position of the authority.<br><br>David Stanley, Accountancy Manager<br>Tel: 01453 754100 Email: <a href="mailto:david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk">david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk</a> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment – Cont'd</b> | <p><u>Report author comment on the Risk Assessment:</u><br/>The risks in not recommending that service delivery and budget continues beyond March 2017, are;</p> <p>The Council and the Stroud district as a whole, not having a youth work strategy in which to direct its work. The progress in community based developmental work during the last five years, being lost - this will further the negative impact on those individuals and communities who feel marginalised. It will stop young people from having a voice locally, particularly in communities with issues around social exclusion, cultural diversity, democracy and mental health.</p> |
| <b>Legal Implications</b>                                  | <p>There are no material legal issues arising from this report.<br/>Alan Carr, Solicitor<br/>Tel: 01453754357      Email: <a href="mailto:alan.carr@stroud.gov.uk">alan.carr@stroud.gov.uk</a></p>   |
| <b>Report Author</b>                                       | <p>Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer<br/>Tel: 01453 754504 Email: <a href="mailto:steve.miles@stroud.gov.uk">steve.miles@stroud.gov.uk</a></p>   |
| <b>Options</b>   | <p>The Options are:<br/>1) In light of the aforementioned assessment of risk, the one proposed and recommend by the Youth Services Task &amp; Finish Group.<br/>Or;<br/>2) To not approve the strategy and/or recommend a budget to S&amp;R Committee (which will mean the service will cease 31/3/17).</p>  |
| <b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>                    | <p>The performance management system evolved during the last five years will continue to review and inform the work carried out by youth workers, enabling a reflective practical approach to be continued. It will track the active involvement and achievement of young people as volunteers.</p>  |
| <b>Background Papers/ Appendices</b>                       | <p>The following Background Papers are available via; <i>website address</i><br/>A – SDC <i>Draft Youth Work Strategy 2017-2020</i> (attached)<br/>B – Youth Voice Vehicle (System &amp; Structure)<br/>C – SDYC Consultation Report on Local Democracy<br/>D – CS&amp;L Committee Report, September 2014<br/>E - Youth Work Context Briefing &amp; Equalities and Diversity Statement<br/>F - Consultation Summary &amp; Testimonials</p>   |

### 1) Introduction

The Council's Community Services and Licensing Committee (through a Task and Finish Group) have overseen a review of the current youth work strategy and been directly involved in developing this draft strategy for 2017-2020 (**Background Paper A**). Having considered the strengths and outcomes of the previous strategies, this version principally continues with delivering established community based provision relating to youth participation – depicted on the diagram of our Youth Voice Vehicle (**Background Paper B**). It also looks to address specific issues raised by the SDYC Consultation Report on Local Democracy (**Background Paper C**).

## 2) Developing Communities Sustainably

This draft strategy requires a community development approach to be delivered through youth work practice. Previous outcomes have been achieved as a result of this work – evidence of these outcomes was presented to the CSL Committee in September 2014 (**Background Paper D**) with informal updates given to the Committee since.

This type of youth work is helping drive a more sustainable future for young people (**Background Paper E**). Whether it's young people being positive active citizens who are leading by example in their communities or collectively being active in giving advice to commissioners and service providers; the last five years has proven that young people in the district not only have a right to be heard (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) but have a huge role to play in social action to reshape better services for all. Consequently they are a huge asset to developing their communities more sustainably – those involved have become creators and not just consumers. Evidence of this has been seen as a catalyst in the creation of new youth centre buildings in four localities in the district; all have had young people actively involved through the local youth forum groups in designing building layout and services to be delivered from them.

## 3) Budget

The proposed budget of £60,000 per annum is based on market testing for the current contract and includes delivery of services in Hardwicke as a ninth locality, agreed by CS&L Committee in September 2014.

By agreeing a budget to deliver services through a revised strategy, it will help to address inequality and will continue to build an infrastructure to enable public and voluntary sector organisations to work in partnership.

## 4) Conclusion

The investment in youth work through the Council's previous strategies has been a hugely rewarding one for young people and their communities in this district. The stories from young people and testimonials from our partners, highlight the positive impact (**Background Paper F**).

We have redefined the baseline of what future youth work provision can and should be built upon; upholding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and enabling the active participation of young people in service design and delivery.

Continued investment into the future through this strategy, will bring further benefits to communities and services alike. Similarly it will enable young people to contribute towards the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and will help contribute to the current and future Corporate Delivery Plan. It will also contribute to the plans of other partnerships and organisations.

Above all, it will result in young people becoming even more active in their local communities thus creating a greater representative voice at district level and beyond, whilst increasing prospects for their futures.

# Youth Work Strategy

## 2017 – 2020



## **Introduction**

Whilst the youth sector continues to evolve regionally and nationally, a period of stability has been seen in Stroud district over the last 3 to 5 years. A number of town and parish communities generally responded well to the need for locally supported youth provision and whilst this has been more challenging for some than others, our consultation with them was fed into the creation of this strategy. The Council's previous youth work strategies and subsequent delivery of youth participation services has enabled the voice of young people to support such communities to plan, build and develop a range of provisions - the two tier format of local youth forum groups and Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC) acting as the recognised youth voice vehicle, has been at the hub of this development.

The Council's Community Services and Licensing Committee (through a Task and Finish Group) have overseen a review of the service and been directly involved in consultation programmes and developing this strategy for 2017-2020. Having considered the strengths of the previous strategies, this version principally continues with delivering established community based provision, but also looks to address issues raised by the SDYC Consultation Report on Local Democracy and gives consideration to developing an infrastructure tool for community organisations and clubs.

Essentially this strategy maintains consideration of the national Hear by Right standards (adopted by SDC in April 2008) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, with particular regard to Articles 12 and 15.

## **Youth Work in Context**

The key focus of youth work is to *'enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential'*. Youth Work National Occupational Standards (2014): [www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk)

## **Youth Participation in Context**

Whilst youth work seeks to promote young people's personal and social development through a wide range of activities, youth participation can be defined as their being actively involved in matters of concern to them. The following statement clarifies this type of youth work; *'Youth Participation is the process by which children and young people influence decision making which brings about change in them, others, their service and their communities'*. National Hear by Right Standards Framework: [www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk)

## **Youth Voice and Youth Voice Vehicle**

The term 'Youth Voice' is widely used in relation to Youth Participation. The Councils' delivery system and structure is referred to as the 'Youth Voice Vehicle'.

### **Aim**

The Council will:

- Demonstrate active leadership on the delivery of youth and community work in partnership with young people and their communities.
- Encourage communities to further develop quality educational and fun programmes for young people in their locality.
- Support and deliver professional youth and community work practice and interpret current and future national policies.
- Develop a framework for locally supported projects to grow, whilst encouraging young people to have a voice, volunteer and become active citizens in their community.

### **Objectives**

The Council will:

1. Ensure professional youth and community workers (and level three qualified youth support workers) deliver practice in larger youth populated areas of the district, referred to as 'localities'. This involves;
  - Leading the facilitation of local youth forum groups (acting as part of the recognised local youth voice vehicle)
  - Delivering youth and community work projects and programmes that have been informed and where possible, led by young people
  - Liaising and co-operating with local youth partnership groups, parish and town councils, youth centre management committees, youth groups and schools.
  - Ensuring projects and programmes link appropriately to district youth council based work (Objective 2)



2. Ensure professional youth and community workers (and level three qualified youth support workers) deliver practice for district youth council based participation work. This involves;
  - Continuation of current youth participation / youth voice programmes at local and district level
  - Facilitating specific issue based projects e.g. local democracy/political education, health and wellbeing, and employment and training
  - Ensuring projects and programmes link appropriately to locality based work (Objective 1)
3. Continue to facilitate a district youth work network for practitioners, providers and commissioners (inc. parish and town councils, management committees and local partnership groups) from all sectors.
4. Continue to develop practice within the Council with regards to the national Hear by Right standards, to support a culture of change towards greater youth participation across services. Undertake the Hear by Right Award programme.

### **How the service will be managed**

The service will be managed by the Community and Facilities Service with the Senior Youth Officer acting as lead officer for the work. This will enable efficient monitoring and flexibility of work to meet the various aspects of the strategy. We will engage a specialist youth work provider to help deliver the relevant services.

### **Input of Resources**

The Council will allocate a budget to support this strategy.

It is also noted that young people provide a resource as volunteers, particularly with regards to designing and delivering consultation work and issue based projects, linking with community organisations and partnerships. Such volunteer hours are calculated at a nominal £10 per hour (which) equates to approx £120,000 worth of volunteering carried out in just over four years.

## **Evaluation, Outputs and Outcomes**

Having previously developed systems to measure the outputs and outcomes of the service, the Council will continue to evaluate service delivery with regards to each of the following objectives:

**Objective 1** – Up to 9 local youth forums will have been facilitated to function as recognised diverse groups and respectively seen as the active voice for young people in each of the localities identified. Active representation to Stroud District Youth Council will be evident. Active relationships with local youth groups, schools and colleges will be evident.

Youth work programmes will have been planned delivered and then evaluated focusing on personal and social development using the national Outcomes Framework for guidance and work in accord with approaches common to youth and community work practice. The management and accountability of staff will have been monitored accordingly.

**Objective 2** – Similarly to Objective 1, the work in relation to the district youth council and its issue based projects will have focused on participants' personal and social development using the national Outcomes Framework – this will have typically included approaches common to youth and community work practice.

**Objective 3** – A district wide youth work network will have functioned for the benefit of all stakeholders. It will provide a cross sector support mechanism for various youth work projects and services in the district.

**Objective 4** – A new submission will be made to national Hear by Right Standards award programme in relation to actively involving young people in service design and delivery.

## **Sustainability**

The sustainability of long term local youth provision is vital, particularly at times of austerity and social economic change. Strong indications remain that positive activity projects will nowadays attract greater funding when young people participate in the service design and delivery process. This has been demonstrated by the outcomes of the last five years.

Young people will learn specific skills and become empowered enough to help and represent their peers through active involvement in decision-making on issues that effect them.

Complimentary to the main objectives and to support a more sustainable future for young people’s active involvement, the Council will explore over the period of this strategy the following;

If and how, an infrastructure tool could support the delivery and management of youth and community work by community based organisations within the district. It’s anticipated that additional budget would be required.

If and how, a youth development trust could enhance the Councils youth voice vehicle in the future.

## **Localities, Schools and Population**

| <u>Locality Area &amp; Youth Population 10 - 19 yrs*</u> |      | <u>Typically Related Secondary School</u> |
|--|------|---|
| Berkeley & Vale  | 611  | Various                                   |
| Chalford (inc Bisley)                                    | 1064 | Thomas Keble                              |
| Cainscross (inc Lower Randwick)                          | 927  | Archway and Maidenhill                    |

|   |      |                                |
|---|------|--------------------------------|
| Cam & Dursley (inc Coaley & Stinchcombe)    | 1810 | Rednock                        |
| Nailsworth (inc Minchinhampton & Horsley)   | 1211 | Sir William Romney             |
| Stonehouse (inc Eastington & The Stanley's) | 1695 | Maidenhill                     |
| Stroud Town and Valleys                     | 1727 | Marling and Stroud High School |
| Wotton under Edge (inc Kingswood)           | 935  | Katharine Lady Berkeley        |
| Hardwicke                                   | 598  | Maidenhill and Severn Vale     |

\* Gloucestershire County Council Parish Population Estimates Mid-2014 (Maiden)

### **Contribution to the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy**

This strategy positively contributes to the Council's legal duty as a public sector organization under the Equality Act 2010. It will enable the Council to consider the needs of young people when designing and delivering services, particularly in the context of them being a protected group. In direct relation to the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy, it will help foster good relations between people of different social and cultural backgrounds as well as contribute to cross generational liaisons with those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It will encourage young people to participate in public life or other activities, where their participation is disproportionately low. It will also help tackle prejudice through promotion of greater understanding among different communities.

Additionally, this strategy will help deliver the Council's vision of **"Leading a community that is making Stroud District a better place to live, work and visit for everyone"**

### **Summary**

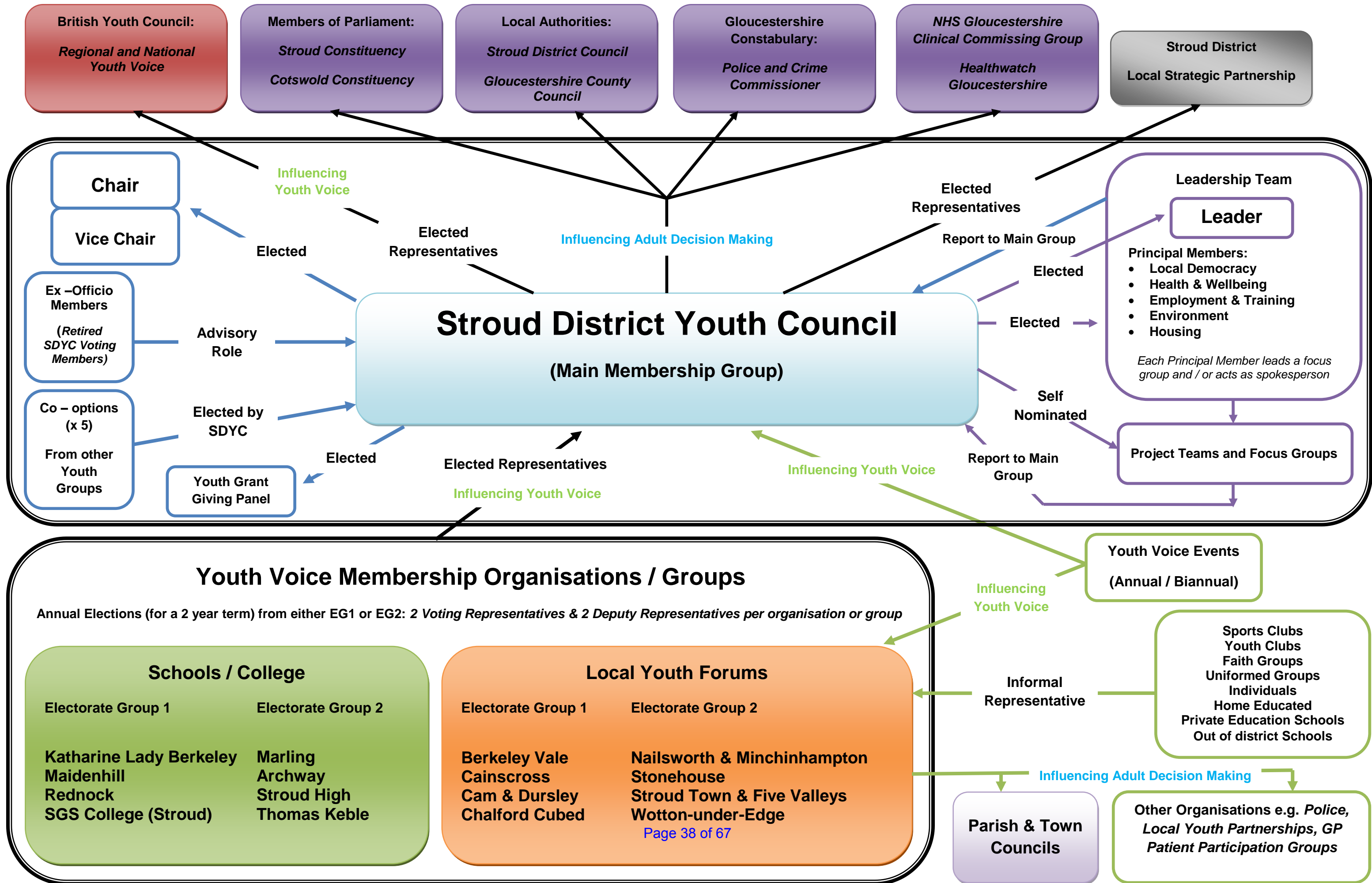
This is a comprehensive youth work strategy that relates to the diverse needs in the district, whilst also bringing a sense of cohesion, particularly for those who feel marginalised. It continues the Council's commitment to young people and delivery of good practice that has enabled them to have a voice and be heard.

The strategy objectives will support the need for both the public sector and the voluntary sector to work in partnership, thus designing and delivering longer term sustainable provision underpinned by what young people say they want and need.

Essentially this strategy recognises the input of others, namely young people and community organisations. It sets out a way in which the Council can work with them to achieve outcomes that are reflective of a modern forward thinking approach to youth and community work in a rural district. It will therefore help empower our communities towards a sustainable future and give young people opportunities to develop personally and socially.

*September 2016*

# Stroud District Youth Voice Vehicle (System & Structure) – Background Paper B



# Report on Local Democracy Issues for Young People

*A Consultation Project by:*



## ***STROUD DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL***

**FEBRUARY 2016**

**SUPPORTED BY:**

## Introduction

Young people's participation and empowerment is an integral aspect of the Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC). Built upon the fundamental principles set down in legislation under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, SDYC strives to be the active voice of young people in the Stroud district. Through membership of the British Youth Council (BYC) we sometimes align ourselves to their various campaigns – in this instance (and following initial project work which began in 2012) it was decided to carry out a formal consultation project to canvas the opinion of young people in the district on lowering the voting age to 16 years. It was important to gain a mandate from young people before responding to the BYC Campaign.

With a desire to influence change, the dedicated SDYC Local Democracy Focus Group designed the consultative e-survey. This consultation was to reach a wide range of young people and was therefore sent out to every secondary school in the district as well as Sir William Romney School and the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. It asked young people about whether they felt their voice was being heard, their views on voting and political education, and ultimately whether they would like the voting age reduced.

Alongside this work, the SDYC members also met with political group leaders within Stroud District Council and (at the time) prospective MP candidates. Supporting another BYC initiative, we also wanted to 'Adopt a Lord'. Taking it upon themselves, however, the young people contacted three local Members of the House of Lords. Lord Michael Bichard, Baron of Nailsworth, Baroness Jean Corston who lives in Wotton-under-Edge, and Lady Janet Royal, Baroness of Blaisdon each met with members of the Local Democracy Focus Group to discuss the issue. They shared their thoughts on politics, as well as their role and their time in the House of Lords and each was pleased that the young people were keen to explore the issues. These meetings, throughout 2014 and 2015 enabled the young people to gain an understanding of the political landscape regarding voting age, as well as gauge local political opinion.

Through participation on the aforementioned meetings, SDYC gained support for researching what factors were causing concerns around voting, political education, and the BYC Votes at 16 campaign. This is the final report of this work.

## Aim

*'To consult young people in the Stroud district regarding political education, their voice, their understanding and opinion of the political system, and the lowering of the voting age.'*



**George Gooch**, SDYC Principle Member for Local Democracy 2014/15

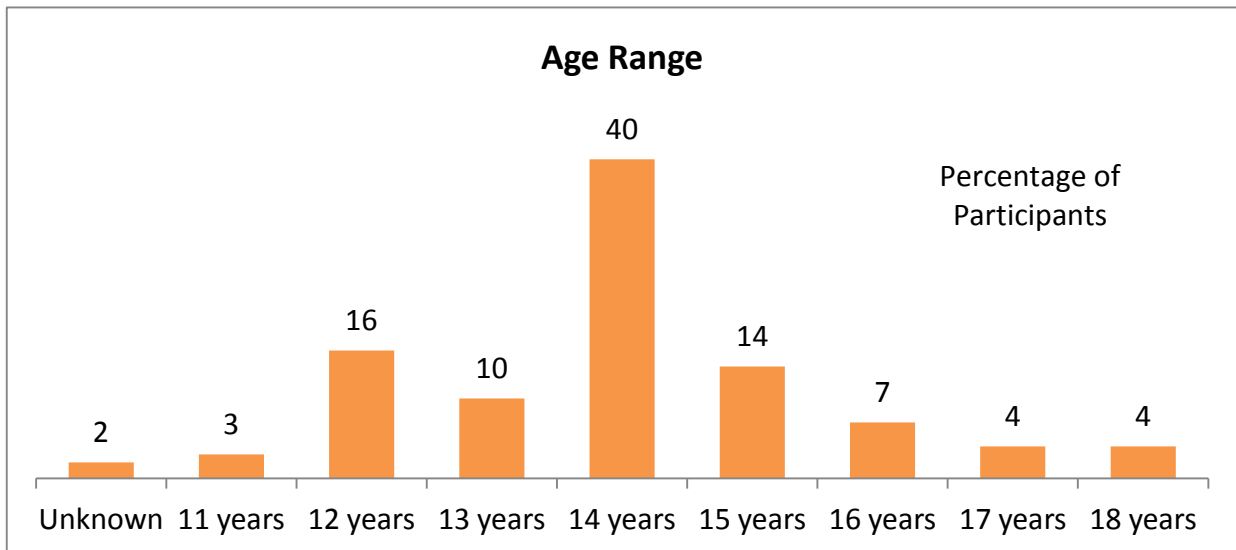


## The Results

The electronic survey was sent to 9 secondary schools in the area as well as SGS College (Stroud Campus).

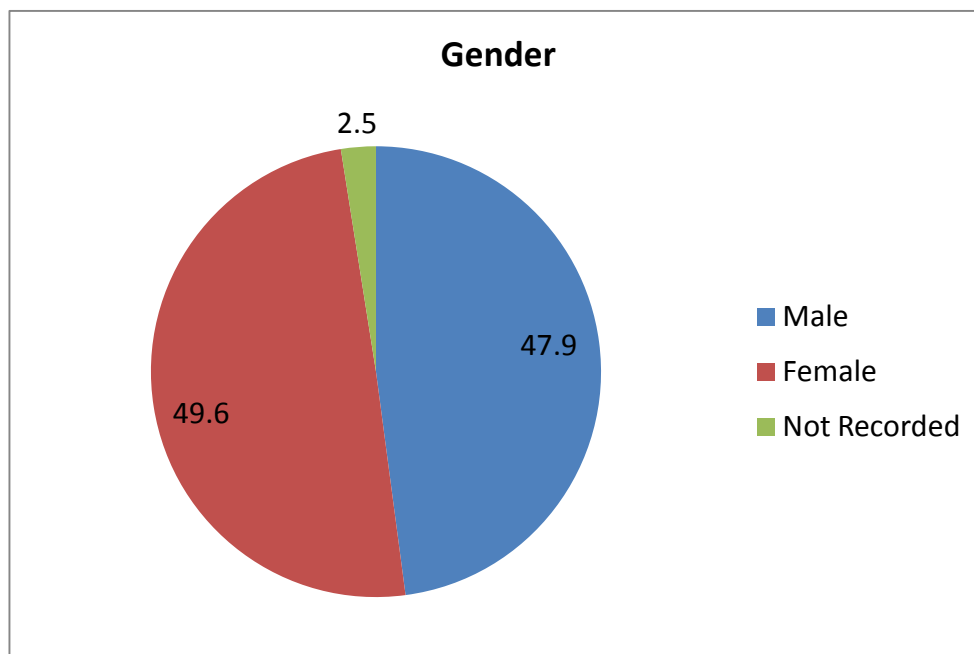
There were **413** respondents across a wide age range: 11 to 18 years, of which;

**69%** were 11 – 14 years and **29%** were 15 years and older

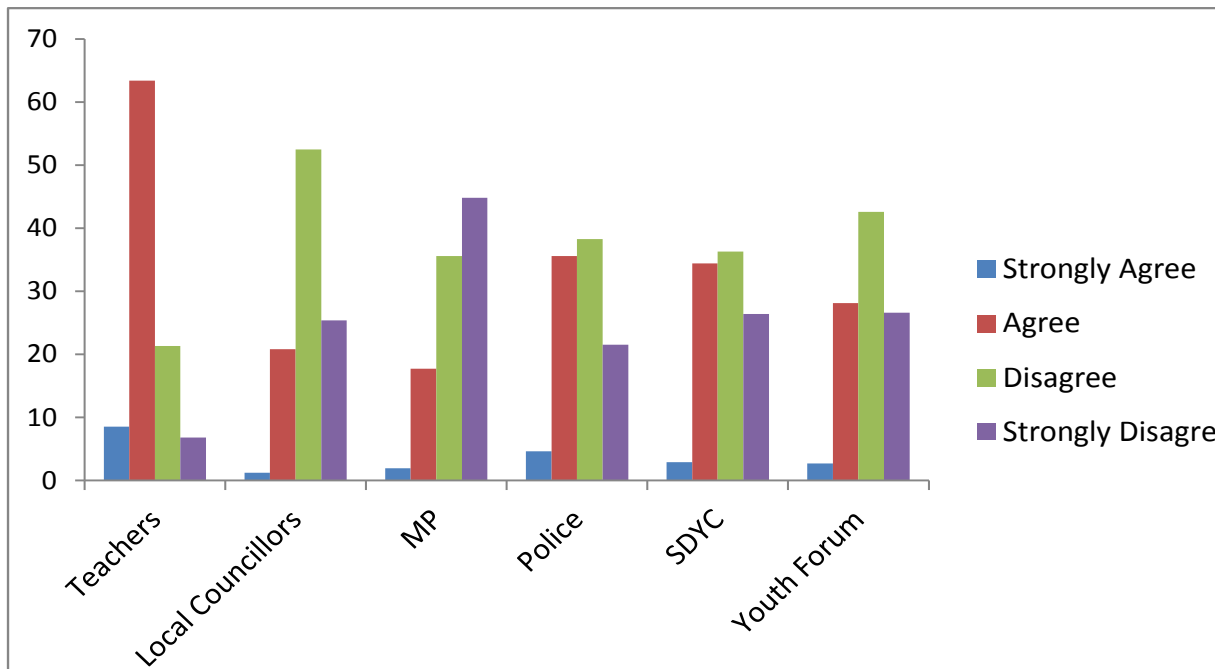


**Gender Balance: 198 - Male**

**205 - Female**







## Did the young people feel their voice was heard locally?



- Almost 72% felt their voice was heard by teachers.
- Over 52% disagreed that their voice was heard by local councilors and a further 25% strongly disagreed
- Less than 20% thought they were heard by their MP
- Almost 40% felt they were listened to by SDYC

## If young people had the vote at 16 years, would they use it?

|   |                   |   |        |
|---|-------------------|---|--------|
| 1 | Strongly Agree    |  | 37.05% |
| 2 | Agree             |  | 42.62% |
| 3 | Disagree          |  | 12.11% |
| 4 | Strongly Disagree |  | 8.23%  |

- Almost 80% of participants agreed they would have used their vote
- 81% of female participants would use their vote
- 75% of male participants would use their vote
- 84% of participants over 16 years would have voted (when they were 16 and 17)
- 80% of 11 – 15 year old participants would have voted

## Some reasons for the young people's responses (for disagreeing or strongly disagreeing)

- 15 people felt they did not possess sufficient knowledge/experience to vote
- 12 thought they were too young to vote
- 5 people stated they would not be bothered as they were too busy

"16 year olds are not aware of the world as a greater place. I feel it would be irresponsible to let people with such a narrow world view decide how our country should be run."

"There is not enough political education."

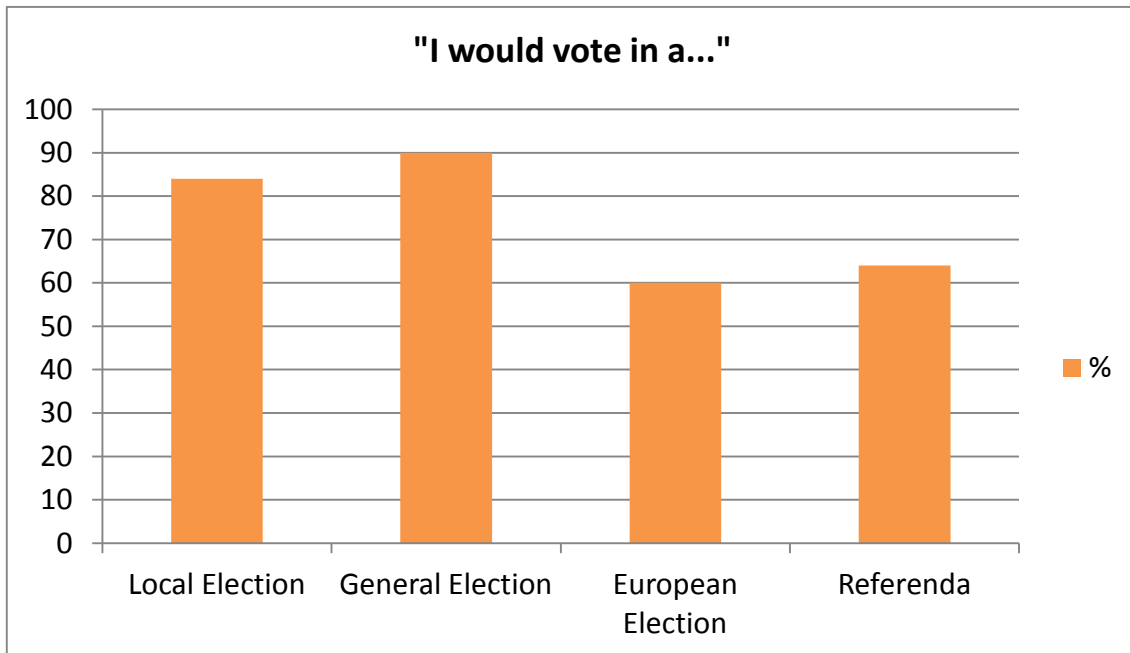
"I would not know who to vote for."

"Politics does not interest me, and to be quite frank I do not believe I have enough information to make an educated decision on the matter."

"I would like to be informed enough to have a vote, but realistically I would be contributing an uninformed view which is dangerous to society."

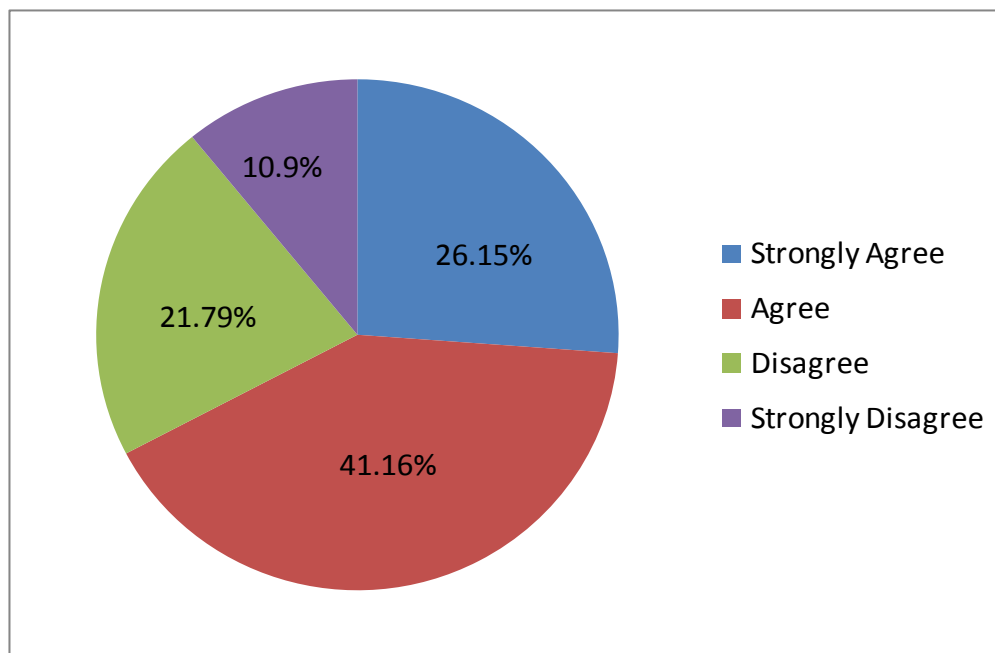
### In terms of how their vote would be used:

- Over 80% would vote in the local elections
- Over 90% would vote in a General Election
- Almost two thirds would vote in a European Election or Referendum



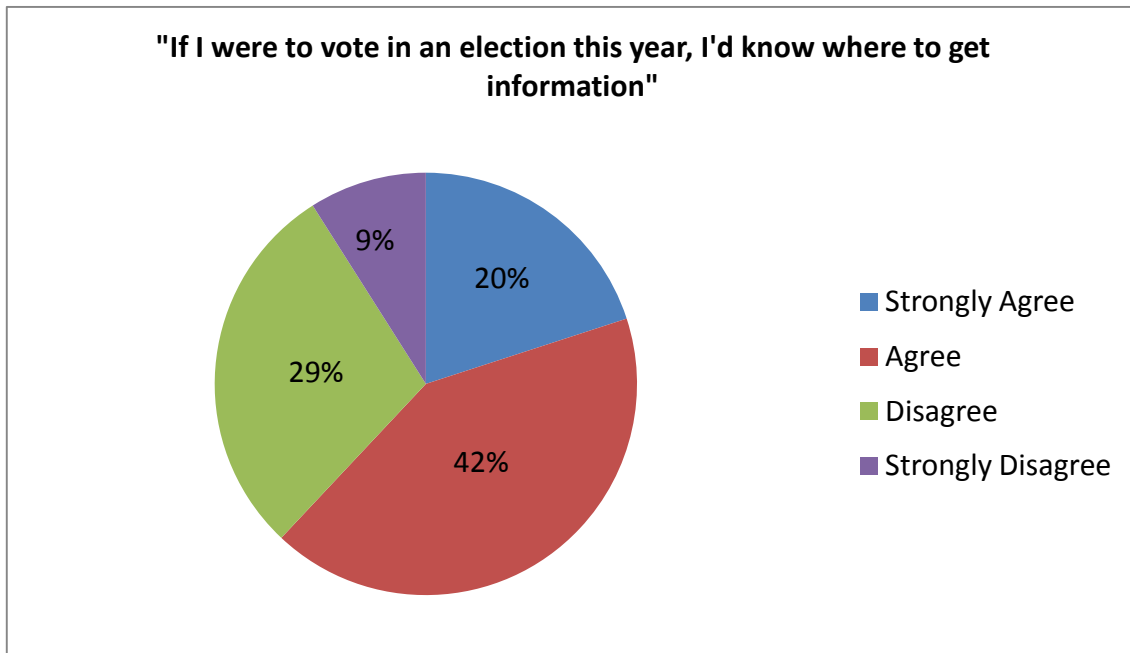
### Would participants know who to vote for?

- 67% agreed or strongly agreed that they would know who to vote for
- Almost 1/3 of participants disagreed that they would know which candidate to vote for



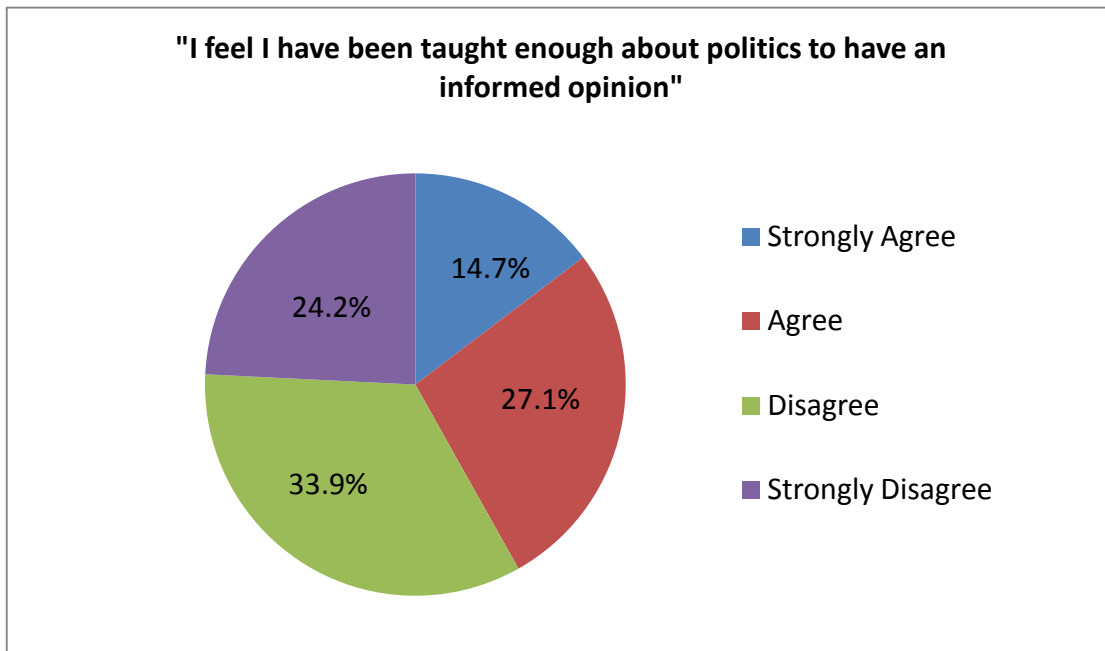
## Would participants know where to get information?

- Only 20% strongly agreed that they would know where to go for information
- But, over 40% agreed that they know where to go for information
- Almost 10% strongly disagreed that they would know where to get information



## Political education and young people making informed decisions

- Almost 60% of respondents stated they were not taught enough about politics.







## Lowering the Voting Age

Ultimately the survey aimed to gain an insight into whether the young people of the Stroud district thought the voting age should be lowered to 16 years. This would give a mandate to SDYC to represent this opinion at a local, regional and national level.

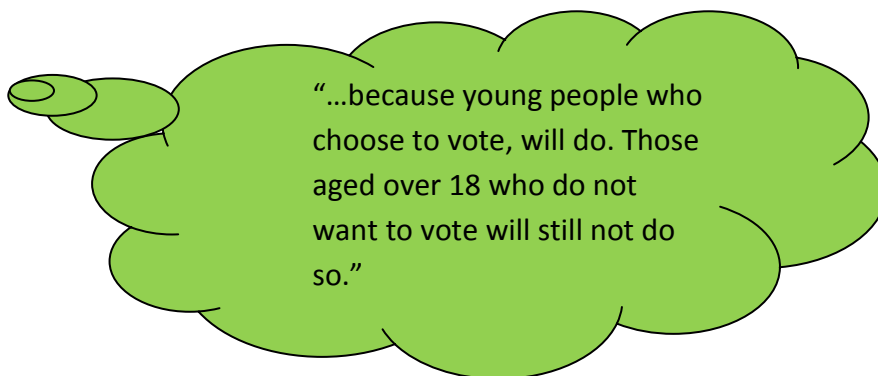
The respondents were therefore asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the following statement;

**“I think the voting age should be lowered to 16 year olds.”**

- Over 70% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed that 16 year olds should get the vote.
- Less than 10% strongly disagreed.
- Almost 5% gave the reason for their opinion due to the fact ‘Teachers don’t teach about politics.’
- Almost 10% stated that they felt 16 year olds were not mature enough.

|   |                   |   |        |
|---|-------------------|---|--------|
| 1 | Strongly Agree    |    | 31.23% |
| 2 | Agree             |  | 39.71% |
| 3 | Disagree          |  | 19.13% |
| 4 | Strongly Disagree |  | 9.93%  |

Why do you think this?



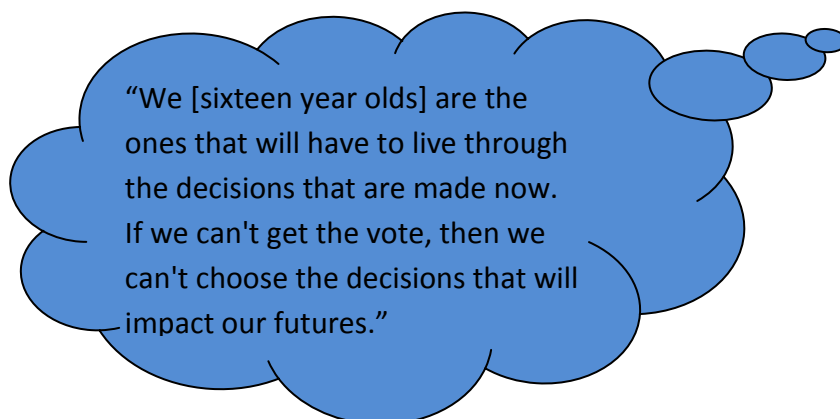
There were over **160** individual comments regarding political education and lowering the voting age to 16 years.

**78%** of the comments were positive and these can be categorized into separate groups.

**21%** of the comments mentioned the widening of the reach of politics and greater involvement. For instance, some suggested that the earlier people vote the more chance they will continue to vote.

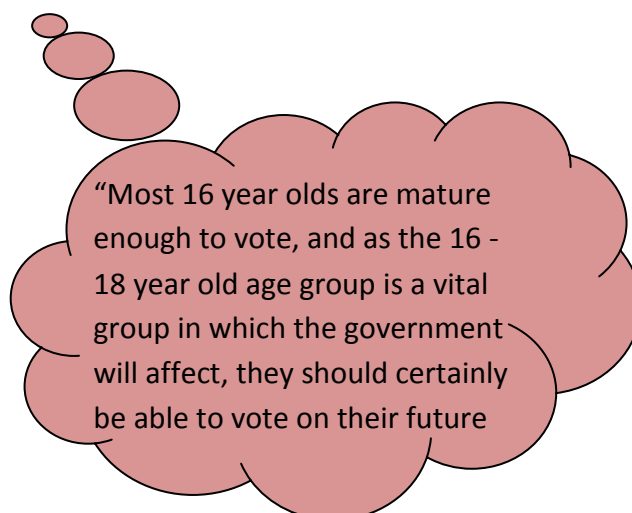
Others commented that greater numbers would add to the political process.

**17%** of the comments stated that the government's decisions affected young people and so they needed to be part of the discussion, as well as the fact that MPs needed to address young people's issues.

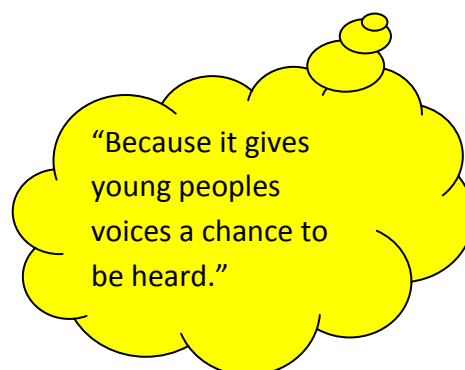


**31%** of the respondents commented on the need for young people to have a voice and become actively engaged in politics.

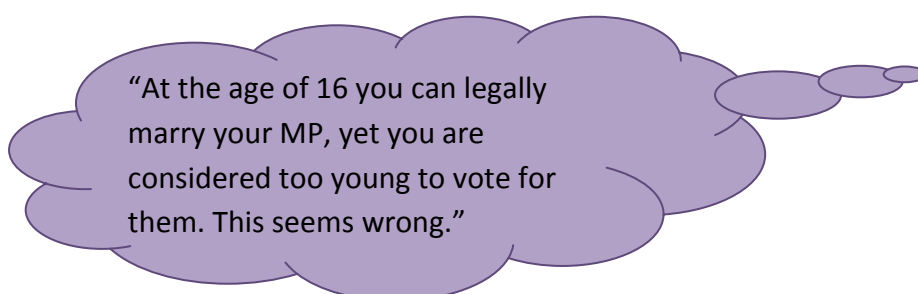
**21%** of the comments that were in favour of lowering the voting age mentioned the future as being their primary concern.



Over **14%** of the positive comments stated the rights of young people to have a voice and be heard in the decisions that affect them.

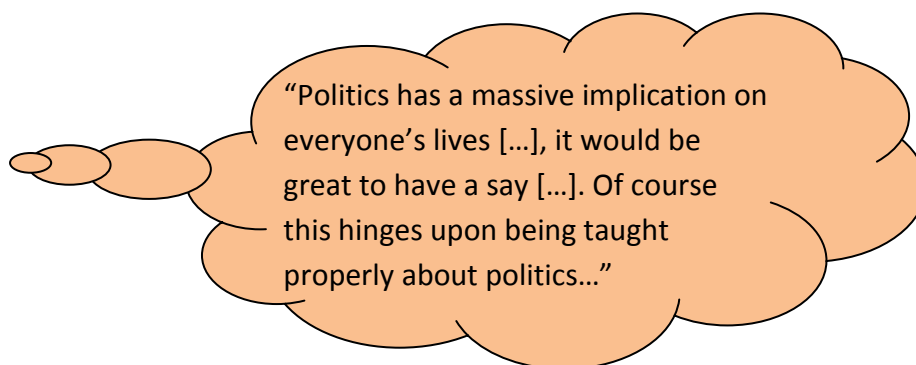


Other comments included the discrepancy between: being able to smoke; play the lottery; marry; fight for the country; drive; but not being able to vote.



However, almost **21%** of the comments were not supportive of lowering the voting age and commented on age, maturity, being influenced and exams as the main reasons.

Over **12%** of all comments mentioned political education and knowledge being an important element to the debate.





## Conclusion

This report highlights a number of important issues of interest for organisations and agencies involved with young peoples' engagement in the political process.

The Stroud District Youth Council, as *the active voice for young people in the Stroud district*, through the SDYC Local Democracy Focus Group, have acted as the project team for this consultation. They have concluded the following;

Whilst not all young people were able to participate in this survey, it was found that of those that did, there was an overwhelming support for an improvement to political education alongside the lowering of the voting age.

Many young people would like further opportunity to become engaged in the decision making processes that affect them because they have a right and a responsibility to impact positively on the future.

Therefore the survey highlights a number of key recommendations;

- The consultation grants a mandate for SDYC to continue to support the BYC in its campaign to reduce the voting age to 16 years.
- The results indicate the need to improve political education in schools and beyond.
- The survey illustrates an awareness of the political process, the rights of young people to have their voice heard, and the desire to engage actively with politicians and decision-makers.

## Next Steps

- SDYC will continue to represent the voice of young people across the Stroud district.
- SDYC will explore setting up an event to raise the political awareness of young people in the district.
- SDYC will formally support the British Youth Council's work around political action, including their Votes at 16 campaign and the Adopt-a-Lord initiative.
- SDYC will engage with local political stakeholders by presenting the report and supporting an open discussion to explore ideas stemming from this project.

## Acknowledgements

**This report was compiled by SDYC Local Democracy Focus Group members:**

George Gooch

Charlotte Bignell

Holly Abbott

Thomas Schaffner

Oliver King

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Nyima Trawally

### **With support from:**

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer for Stroud District Council

Simon Gillings, CEO of Youth and Community Services

## STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA  
ITEM NOCommunity Services &  
Licensing Committee

7

2 September 2014

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Report Title</b>                               | <b>Youth Work Strategy Update</b>   |
| <b>Purpose of Report</b>                          | To update members on the progress of the youth work strategy.   |
| <b>Decision(s)</b>                                | (a) RESOLVES to note the report; and<br>(b) RECOMMENDS to Council that service delivery continues for a further three years beyond March 2015 and a budget of £150,000 (£50,000 per year) be allocated for the three years from 2015/16 to 2017/18.   |
| <b>Consultation and Feedback</b>                  | Feedback from service users and partner organisations can be found in <b>Background Paper C</b> .   |
| <b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b> | <p>The Youth Work Strategy was approved by the Executive in September 2012, with funding of £50,000 per annum for 3 years (2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15) being approved by Council in January 2012 to support the strategy. This report provides an update on the strategy and recommends to council to continue the funding for a further 3 year period (£50,000 per annum 2015/16 to 2017/18), as part of the budget setting round in January 2015.</p> <p>Since 2010/11, Gloucestershire County Council has provided a £50,000 per annum contribution which is used to grant fund activities across the district through bids that are assessed by Stroud District Youth Council. This funding is separate and distinct from the funding that Stroud District Council provides and does not support the council's Youth Work Strategy directly. The County Council's contribution has been made in each of the past 4 years, but has not been confirmed for 2015/16 and beyond.</p> <p>David Stanley – Accountancy Manager<br/>Tel: 01453 754100; Email: <a href="mailto:david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk">david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk</a></p> <p><u>Report author comment on the Risk Assessment:</u><br/>There is no risk in not resolving to note this report. However the risks in not recommending that service delivery and budget continues beyond March 2015, are;</p> <p>The Council and the Stroud district as a whole, not having a youth work strategy in which to direct its work. The progress in community based developmental work during the last two years, being lost - this will further the negative impact on those</p> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>individuals and communities who feel marginalised from austerity measures in recent years. It will stop young people from having a voice locally, particularly in communities with issues around social exclusion and cultural diversity.</p> <p>By continuing the budget and service delivery through a similar strategy, it will help to address inequality and will continue to build an infrastructure to enable public and voluntary sector organisations to work in partnership.</p>  |
| <b>Legal Implications</b>               | <p>There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.<br/>                 Zoe Lash, Solicitor<br/>                 Tel: 01453 754362 Email: <a href="mailto:zoe.lash@stroud.gov.uk">zoe.lash@stroud.gov.uk</a></p>   |
| <b>Report Author</b>                    | <p>Steve Miles – Senior Youth Officer (Hear by Right)<br/>                 Tel: 01453 754504 Email: <a href="mailto:steve.miles@stroud.gov.uk">steve.miles@stroud.gov.uk</a></p>   |
| <b>Chair of Committee</b>               | <p><b>Note: This is only to be completed for reports that are going to meetings of the full Council.</b><br/>                 Councillor Chris Brine<br/>                 Chair of Community Services and Licensing Committee<br/>                 Tel: 01453 825917<br/>                 Email: <a href="mailto:cllr.chris.brine@stroud.gov.uk">cllr.chris.brine@stroud.gov.uk</a></p>  |
| <b>Options</b>                          | <p>In light of the aforementioned assessment of risk, there is no other option than the one proposed.</p>  |
| <b>Performance Management Follow Up</b> | <p>The performance management system developed during the last two years will continue to review and inform the work carried out by youth workers, enabling a reflective practical approach to be continued. It will track the active involvement and achievement of young people as volunteers.</p>   |
| <b>Background Papers/ Appendices</b>    | <p>The following Background Papers are available via;<br/> <a href="http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/community/youth_work.asp#p=background">http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/community/youth_work.asp#p=background</a><br/>                 A – Youth Work Context Briefing &amp; Equalities Statement<br/>                 B – YCS Report 2012/13<br/>                 C – SDYC Annual Review 2013<br/>                 D – Feedback &amp; Testimonials<br/>                 E - Community Stakeholders List<br/>                 F – SDYC Work Experience Project Report</p> |

**1) Introduction**

SDC Executive Committee approved the current youth work strategy in September 2012. Since this date, services have been delivered according to the objectives set out and in partnership with a contracted service provider, community stakeholders and young people. This report highlights the outcomes and achievements during this period to June 2014. There are five objectives detailed in the strategy; three directly relate to community based delivery, one with regards to workforce development and one focus's on a range of Council services whose function relates to young people in a wider context.

2) **Outcomes / Achievements**

In accordance with the national Hear by Right standards we have used a range of methods to deliver the services. In the case of Objectives One and Two, we have gauged social impact on the communities and organizations concerned, as well as the young people involved. The Young Peoples Outcomes Framework (referred to in the strategy) was also used to help reach the following outcomes;

**Objective One – Creation of Local Youth Forum’s in eight localities:** Within the first 12 months, we created local youth forum groups in each of the eight localities defined. Whilst all were developed using slightly different youth and community work approaches, they have each worked (from a needs perspective) on issues of concern to those young people from the local area.

The purpose of each local youth forum is detailed in **Background Paper A**.

Approximately 100 young people aged thirteen to nineteen years have been actively involved across the eight local youth forums. Young people’s active involvement in this type of youth work provision, enables their voluntary engagement in community based work to be considered as ‘volunteering’; as such the number of hours of voluntary work should be (and in this case, have been) recorded.

Across the district, between November 2012 and December 2013, approximately 3160 volunteer hours were recorded. From January 2014 to June 2014 our new performance management system has recorded 1514 volunteer hours.

The issues of concern in respective communities and subsequent projects worked upon were identified – they included: *drug use and smoking, litter, skate park development, improvements to general youth provision, creation of new youth centres, fundraising, increasing positive profile of young people / combating stereotyping, improvements to bus shelters and rural transport, anti-social driving, community lighting, building a positive relationship with the Police, self harm, mental health, sexual health*. Much of this work has involved both formal and informal consultation work, all designed and carried out by young people from the forums. More details on this can be found in **Background Paper B**.

The strategy required a community development approach to service delivery. Subsequently much of the work has seen young people engage with adult led organizations to build significant relationships. Most prominent is the Police and Policing Neighbourhood Management Panels, where young people have typically been in the past, either unrepresented or misrepresented. Relationships with parish and town

council's are also growing with one parish introducing the role of 'young advisor' on their council.

A list of the partner organisations that we have worked with, are listed in **Background Paper E**.

**Objective Two – Further develop district led project work and training:** With the increased facilitation time from youth workers we have seen an increase in the active involvement of young people as members of Stroud District Youth Council's (SDYC), through the further development of the projects teams and focus groups. The issue led sub-groups have thrived with greater representation from local youth forums. Issues worked upon have ranged from; *consultation into the quality of work experience programmes (the report features as **Background Paper F**)*, *safe and social driving, political education (including the possibility of lowering the voting age to 16)*, to; *young peoples health* – the latter making much impact on the Councils Corporate Delivery Plan and that of partners.

A greater insight into the impact of the aforementioned projects can be found in **Background Paper C**.

As mentioned previously, we have monitored the number of volunteering hours undertaken by young people; in the case of this objective, 35 SDYC members have totalled 1720 hours between October 2012 and September 2013. The current year to July 2014 is; 1381 hours.

**Objective Three – Establish a District Youth Work Network:**

We have established a district youth work network for youth work practitioners and commissioners/providers from all sectors. Through our facilitation, we have enabled those concerned to have a forum for discussion, informal collateral support, the sharing of good practice and information on local and national issues. Twice yearly network meetings have been complimented by attendance from the South West Regional Youth Work Unit, the National Youth Agency and the County Council – membership of the Institute of Youth Work will further increase the opportunities for those working in the district and subsequently help improve services for young people. Whilst still in its infancy, this network has the potential to help with creating a local sustainable infrastructure around youth work delivery in the district.

**Objective Four – Workforce development and training:**

We have earmarked part of the budget for youth work training and workforce development. By promoting this as a bursary to the aforementioned district youth work network, colleagues have benefitted from the training offered by a number of providers from across the region. This has enabled both enthusiastic volunteers to receive youth



work related training, as well as seasoned professionals to continue their development as practitioners.

**Objective Five – Hear by Right standards assessment programme:**

Whilst the aforementioned objectives (one to four) have taken precedent over the last two years, officers from across the Council have agreed to work together to undertake the Hear by Right (HBR) standards assessment programme. Respective services are being included to capture the active involvement of young people in past and present service design and delivery – further more, future services will be delivered more effectively as a result. Led by the National Youth Agency, this programme looks to award organisations with bronze, silver or gold status for their efforts. The next six months will see efforts made to complete the initial process.

**3) Developing Communities Sustainably**

The strategy required a community development approach to be delivered through youth work practice. The aforementioned outcomes have been achieved as a result of this work and can be considered as ‘ground-breaking’ for the county, if not further afield – this is further evidenced in **Background Paper D**. Whilst there are a number of cost benefit calculators now being used, a specific one for this type of youth work has not yet been ratified. Despite this, volunteer hours calculated at a nominal £10 per hour equates to approx £77,000 worth of volunteering carried out in less than two years.

This type of youth work is helping drive a more sustainable future for young people. Whether it’s young people being positive active citizens who are leading by example in their communities or collectively being active in giving advice to commissioners and service providers; the last two years has proven that young people in the district not only have a right to be heard (United Nations on the Rights of the Child) but have a huge role to play in social action to reshape better services for all. Consequently they are a huge asset to developing their communities more sustainably – those involved have become creators and not just consumers. Evidence of this has been seen as a catalyst in the creation of new youth centre buildings in three localities in the district; all have had young people actively involved through the local youth forum groups in designing building layout and services to be delivered from them.

**4) Conclusion**

The aforementioned information and range of documents regarding this report, clearly demonstrates that the investment in youth work through the Council’s current strategy has been a hugely rewarding one for young people and their communities in this district. The stories from young people and testimonials from our partners, demonstrate the positive impact of this investment.

Through this investment and strategy we have begun redeveloping an infrastructure for the delivery of future youth provision in the district. We have redefined the baseline of what future youth work provision can and should be built upon; upholding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and enabling the active participation of young people in service design and delivery.

Continued investment into the future through a similar strategy, will bring further benefits to communities and services alike. Similarly it will enable young people to contribute towards the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and will help contribute to the current and future Corporate Delivery Plan. It will also contribute to the plans of other partnerships and organisations.

Above all, it will result in young people becoming even more active in their local communities thus creating a greater representative voice at district level and beyond, whilst increasing prospects for their futures.



## Youth Work Context Briefing and Equalities and Diversity Statement

### Background Paper E

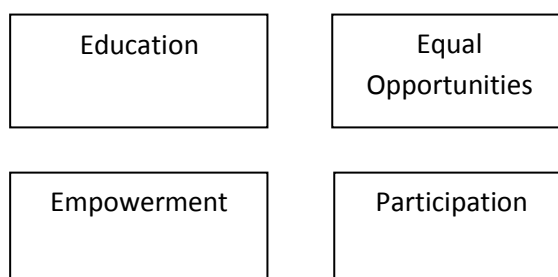
#### Youth Work in Context

The key focus of youth work is to: *'enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential'*.

Youth Work National Occupational Standards (2014): [www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk)

#### The Four Corners of Youth Work

Whilst local and national policy rarely refers to the 'four corners of youth work' when discussing youth work nowadays, it is very much still part of practice and therefore should be understood by local decision-makers.



All youth work practice should relate to all 'four corners', to varying degrees.

#### Different types of youth work provision

Youth work can sometimes be difficult to define as a practice. However it is best to outline the different types of youth work provision before considering what type would be most suitable for a community. The general differences are;

- **Centre based / drop in** (young people come and go as they wish)
- **Outreach** (linked to centre based work, ideal for recruitment)
- **Street based / detached** (no venue)
- **Issue based project work** (using a venue but focusing on specific projects only)
- **Youth Participation** (in Stroud district: local youth forum groups and Stroud District Youth Council exist to provide a system and structure for all other types of youth provision to feed into). This is also referred to as 'Youth Voice Vehicle'.

## **Youth Participation in Context**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 12 is the basis for youth participation; it defines how young people have the right to be actively involved in matters of concern to them.

*'Youth participation is the process by which children and young people influence decision making which brings about change in themselves, others, the services they receive and their communities'.*

National Hear by Right Framework; [www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk)

## **Equality and Diversity Statement regarding Youth Participation**

The young people involved with our respective groups and referred to in this report (CSL Committee, 8 Sept 2016), have a diverse range of abilities and are from differing social and cultural backgrounds. This may not be apparent to adult stakeholders (including elected adult decision-makers) when they meet young people.

The nature of youth work will mean practitioners (youth workers) will have knowledge and experience of a range of factors about an individual young person or groups, which reflects their social demographic. Providing all aspects of safeguarding are followed, youth workers are bound by a code of ethics to uphold the trust of that young person and therefore not divulge personal or social information unless it is offered by the young person to those it is intended for.

A stereotypical image of a young person involved in youth voice groups is:

*'Being confident, articulate and high performing at school and; will be aspiring to attend university'.*

Often this is not true. Many young people will not display the stereotypical image of their 'background or ability' and neither should they, particularly if (as adolescents) they choose not to. However we must as a Council, embrace such diversity and ability by the young person(s) to support them in becoming positive active citizens.

Through the nature of this type of youth work practice we will see young people change and develop both personally and socially in a range of different ways. Subsequent evidence of this includes examples of:

- a) *Increased confidence;*
- b) *Speaking out on behalf of those they represent;*

- c) *A growing ability to articulate views and opinions (of them and others) in front of adults;*
- d) *Expressing knowledge of social factors and political perspectives;*
- e) *Making changes to physical appearance (which may also be dependent on the group or environment at the time).*

Such evidence is likely to increase the longer a young person stays involved with the group or project. Supporting evidence is commonly a result of sustained engagement in youth participation based programmes.

### **Impact Risk Assessment**

Having carried out an impact risk assessment the following risk factors have been identified;

- The Council and the Stroud district not having a youth work strategic plan to follow, could negatively impact on its services.
- Further negative impact for individuals and communities who are, or feel they are, already marginalised due to issues of austerity and social exclusion.
- Young people will be inhibited from having a voice locally, particularly in communities with issues around social exclusion and cultural diversity.
- The established district youth council will become less representative and less able to voice the issues affecting young people, including those from diverse social backgrounds.

This strategy will help to address inequality and will help build an infrastructure to enable public and voluntary sector organisations to work in partnership.

### **What is a Local Youth Forum in Stroud district?**

Each local youth forum group is made up of young people looking make positive contributions and be active citizens in their local community. Through group work, the personal and social development of young people can lead to them designing and carry out peer led consultation work and acting as youth advisors to adult organisations. Whilst giving a positive profile of young people they embrace equality and diversity among young people and adults. They can also campaign for change, locally. This enables their respective communities in nine defined localities, to gain an insight into what young people's needs and wants are, in terms of provision for the future. Each local youth forum group has the opportunity to elect direct representatives to Stroud District Youth Council and provide a representational aspect to their work locally with adult organisations e.g. Police Neighbourhood Management Panels, Parish or Town Council, and GP Patient Participation Groups.

## **Discussions on the way forward for towns and parishes**

Wide ranging discussions have taken place on a way forward for towns and parishes in the district; conclusions can be drawn from the universal need for adults to know what young peoples needs are, as equal members of their communities.

As a result of the ongoing investment and commitment by Stroud District Council, this district is currently in a strong position to gain the views and opinions of young people. A culture of youth participation has been developed and evolved over the last 16 years which results in towns and parishes having a reliable and informed view in relation to the 'needs' and 'wants' of young people in their communities. Primarily this has been done by developing Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC) as *the active voice for young people in the district* and more recently, the creation of local youth forums as recognised groups in the nine most populated areas of the district.

Compiled by: Steve Miles Senior Youth Officer, Stroud District Council

## Consultation Summary & Testimonials - Background Paper F

### Consultation Summary

#### **Parish and Town Councils**

All 49 Parish and Town Councils within the district were asked to complete a survey regarding youth work provision in their respective area. Questions were set by the CSL Committee Task and Finish Group and focussed on; *budgeting, type of provision, management, staffing, policies and aspirations for the future.*

- Responses came from 7 Parish Councils and 4 Town Councils
- 7 Councils stated that youth work provision existed in their area, of which 5 of them said they were involved in supporting the provision and allocated funds through their Precept.
- Budgets allocated to youth work covered the following ranges: £3001 - £6000, to £35001 - £50000. 3 Councils sought funding from other sources.
- All 5 Councils that support youth work, commission a service provider to deliver the services, Although only 4 Councils said policies were dealt with by their service provider
- Only 2 Councils operated a tendering process to obtain a provider. 1 Council has a long term partnership with a local charitable organisation.
- 3 Councils require qualified youth work staff to deliver services, but none request evidence of the qualifications from the provider.
- From the Councils that do not currently support youth work, many of them said that there was an aspiration to do so locally but practical support was needed.
- Although the majority of Councils didn't reply, it is known that at least 6 are involved with delivering and supporting youth work provision.

## **Bench Marking other Local Authorities**

Through a Freedom of Information Request, we surveyed 37 Local Authorities that were considered to be in our 'family' of similar authorities, plus our neighbouring Councils and those that are also in Gloucestershire. Questions were set by the CSL Committee Task and Finish Group and focussed on; *budgeting, strategy, type of provision, and management.*

- Positive responses came from 64% of Local Authorities (LA's) surveyed. However, only 26% of LA's had a budget for youth services.
- 1 LA had a specific strategy (although it is known through other sources that a few others were working on one).
- There was a mixture of responses in relation to the various types of youth work provision, however half of them said they delivered youth participation/youth voice based provision.
- 11% of LA's said they delivered service with 'in-house/employed staff'; Only 1 LA (2.8%) said they commissioned services.

Whilst the Task and Finish Group noted the relatively low response, it was acknowledged that this was a select group of LA's surveyed and didn't reflect the general understanding in the youth sector, that an increase in youth participation/youth voice based services were on the increase.

However, it did demonstrate that Stroud District Council's (SDC) long term commitment to young people was an excellent example and demonstrated very good practice; thus making SDC a leader in this sector, particularly in rural areas of the country.

## **Testimonials from Young People**

### **Kieran Chadwick, Former SDYC Member**

*"I was a member of SDYC for 5 years until I finished school. As my time at SDYC progressed I gained more confidence and took on more responsibility. I was taught a great deal about leadership and teamwork, which not only has aided me through university but also has put me in good stead for the post university 'job hunt'. However, in my opinion, the most important thing that I gained from SDYC was the ability to make friends and empathise with people from all ages and walks of life. A skill I have found invaluable entering adulthood."*

**Charlotte Bignell, current SDYC Member (and former Chair)**

*“I have been involved with SDYC for close to five years, and since becoming a youth council member I have experienced fantastic range of opportunities; from lobbying MPs in Parliament to producing leaflets to raise awareness on the issue of self harm. These opportunities have led me to develop and improve my communication and public speaking skills, giving me the confidence to take opportunities which I otherwise never would have. This has been made possible by the work done by youth workers who encourage and support young people. Away from this I have also grown as a person, developing social skills and confidence from working closely with others.”*

**Lindsey Driver, Former SDYC Member**

*“My 3 years as a member of SDYC (2008 – 2011) was nothing short of invaluable to my personal development. Being a member of SDYC has helped me become the person I am today & has helped me achieve good promotions very early on in my career. I learnt to be my own person, to feel confident in myself and my abilities and get stuck in and try to tackle the issues affecting me and/or those I represented. I developed strong presentational and interpersonal skills which have helped my professional life immensely, leadership skills and communications all played a huge part and are all strong skills that I’ve now obtained for life.*

*The precious partnership between Stroud District Council and SDYC was for me, and continues to be, invaluable. Enabling SDYC and young people to have a voice and for young people to feel that their voice not only can be heard, but should be heard as young people have as much right to have a say in the decisions shaping their future as the adults casting their votes.*

*I don’t think that I could truly ever say enough how much SDYC has helped shape my development but I will be forever grateful for the opportunities I had, the relationships I formed and the education I gained during my time as a member. I will remain a strong advocate for youth participation in the Stroud district and the partnership between SDYC and SDC. “*

**Holly Abbott, Former SDYC Member**

*“SDYC is inarguably successful in improving young people’s confidence, allowing them to not only believe in their ideas but to not be afraid of sharing them. Just four years ago, I was too afraid to say a word in the first meeting I attended. Since then, I’ve been a long-standing*

*member of the Youth Grant Funding Panel, which allocates large sums of money to youth work applications of our choice, been elected as the Principal Member of Local Democracy and in March this year I gave a speech at the UN headquarters in New York. Young people are becoming increasingly marginalised in society; having an institution specifically designed to develop and channel their ideas is more important now than ever.”*

**George Gooch, Former SDYC Member**

*“I am very proud of the work that I completed with SDYC, both discussions and community involvements, and the larger democratic engagement project that I led at the end of my tenure. Personally, I think the best aspect of the council is interaction between groups that would otherwise not have happened; meeting other, very different young people at regional youth voice conventions; and also the facilitation of youth voice in decision making bodies, such as the NHS. For example, of this is the mental health leaflet produced by the council, helping the wider population of young people in the Stroud District. Having spent time with new members and watched them grow to replace the members who left I am confident that this will continue. Young people have a right to have their voices heard by all decision makers at all levels which would not happen without SDYC.”*

**Kirsty Driver, Former SDYC Member**

*“As a Stroud District Youth Councillor I have grown and blossomed as a person. I was lucky enough to have been welcomed into the group and given the chance to make a difference and have a voice.*

*When I joined SDYC I had no confidence, I couldn't speak in front of people and I certainly didn't like meeting new peers. This very quickly changed, with the help of the youth workers and the amazing group of your people already members, I was made to feel like a part of the team. I was given the chance to gain awards, go on training weekends and go along to our general meetings every three weeks. The youth council is made up of charming and caring young people who all want to make a difference, all from different schools & youth forums and all from different walks of life.*

*In my fourth year as a youth council member I put myself forward and was elected as chairperson. This was beyond what I thought I was capable of, but I knew that all of my hard work with SDYC had paid off. I really put my all into the youth council and it never failed me, everything that Steve & the rest of the team have done for me and all of the experiences I have been involved in, have made me the successful young adult that I am today.”*



## **Testimonials from Partner Organisations**

### **Stroud District Local Strategic Partnership**

*“As chair for the past three years of Stroud District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) I greatly value the verbal participation of the young members of the Youth Council in our quarterly meetings and for conducting various pieces of research relevant to young people locally and reporting back. For example, work done by them was instrumental in persuading LSP members to support an annual event known as Ambitions which is aimed at providing quality and timely advice about career options and skill requirements in the workplace. I know I can speak for our members when I say that verbal input from YC is invariably refreshing, honest and well thought-out. We see it also as an opportunity for them to develop their own presentation skills and being prepared to answer any questions that may arise. As they represent the future, it is imperative that young people are engaged in the decision making process as it affects them.”*

**Les Haines, Chair Stroud District LSP**

### **NHS Gloucestershire CCG**

*“NHS Gloucestershire CCG has continued to build a really positive working relationship with Stroud District Youth Council this year. During the last year they have been involved in helping to shape our Transformation Plan for mental health services for young people across the county. Of particular note was the day that they spent with us in February, evaluating grant applications for additional counselling services – seven SDYC members spent the day receiving presentations from organisations who had applied for funding. They were then given the opportunity to question each organisation about their proposal and then scored the applications and agreed a preferred bidder. Their comments, questions and ultimate recommendation were hugely valued by our internal panel that were responsible for awarding the grant and all of the grant applicants commented on the young people’s professional approach and probing questions. SDYC members have continued to be involved as we have begun to implement key actions from the Transformation Plan. They joined peers from other areas of the county to develop artwork/design and layout of our new On Your Mind website, which will be formally launched in September 2016. I continue to be impressed by the maturity and commitment of the SDYC members and really value their ability to help us share messages and hear the views of young people in the Stroud locality. We look forward to continuing to build on our very productive relationship with the SDYC in the coming year.”*

**Caroline Smith, Senior Manager Engagement & Inclusion, Gloucestershire CCG**

## **Healthwatch Gloucestershire**

*“Both Healthwatch Gloucestershire and its predecessor Gloucestershire LINK (Local Involvement Network) have had good, constructive relationships with Stroud District Youth Council and their Health Focus Group, visiting a number of times to discuss issues of concern for young people in the area. Nationally, Healthwatch sees children and young people as a seldom heard group and therefore a priority. Healthwatch Gloucestershire is committed to ensuring that their views and experiences of health and social care are heard and passed on to the commissioners and providers of local services.*

*In our discussions and work with the youth council, we have found the group to be bright, confident and articulate, sharing their views and ideas openly and with an enthusiasm that is so refreshing. They have expressed a desire to get more involved with Healthwatch activity and we are actively engaging them in work around the production of a leaflet and other information aimed at children and young people. They are also becoming involved in the development and set up of district youth health representatives in the county, mirroring our adult representatives. This will hopefully begin to engage children and young people at a local level with their peers and act as a conduit into the Healthwatch board. Stroud should be proud to be able to showcase such an impressive group of young people and we look forward to working closely with them as we progress our work plan for the year.”*

### **Barbara Piranty, Chief Executive of Healthwatch Gloucestershire**

*“I would endorse all that's been said by Barbara, and add my observation of the lead members of Stroud District Youth Council and their input to the Stroud District Local Strategic Partnership. There I have seen how the representative role clearly enables young people to network effectively with community leaders and to ensure that local initiatives are properly open to and influenced by young people's perspectives. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this year's representatives.”*

### **Claire Feehily, Chair of Healthwatch Gloucestershire**

## **Fizzypig Ltd**

*“In my opinion, Wotton Youth Forum is invaluable in helping bridge the gap between younger and older residents of our town. Like many places, it seems that there are often tensions and misunderstandings between the generations here and this is often as a result of poor or non-existent communication. The Youth Forum's role in helping to address that by representing young people from the town, working with the Youth Liaison Group, and acting as a first point of contact for those, like me, who want to consult with young people, is really helpful. My contact with the Youth Forum has been extremely positive. I have been given excellent advice and insights by its members and they have kindly offered to help me run*

*some consultations with young Wotton residents over the next couple of months. I very much appreciate the welcome I have received, both from Jess (the youth worker) and the Forum members, when I have attended their meetings. I look forward to working with them much more in the future.”*

**Katie Elliott - Director, Fizzypig Ltd**

### **Gloucestershire Police**

*“As the senior police officer for Stroud District I have regularly worked with members of the Stroud District Youth Council and sought their advice to bench mark police decisions that affect the younger members of our communities. Recent examples of this are where members of the youth council have worked with my officers to introduce a scheme where the good work of under 18 year olds is acknowledged; the Positive Ticket Scheme. The work of the youth council enabled the police to ensure what they believed was a good idea, as adults would indeed be appreciated and of value to those under 18. Members of the youth council have also acted as advisors on a training package that was designed to address sexual images that are sent from teenager’s mobile phones or ‘Sexting as this practise has become known. I have also seen members of the youth council give presentations in high profile meetings such as the Local Strategic Partnership meetings, which have a varied audience including Members of Parliament and Local business leads. I have also been challenged and questioned on a broad range of topics by members of the Youth Council, who I believe play a vital role in holding me and therefore the police to account for decisions and actions that reflect youth in our communities, a section of our community which is often under represented, or not represented at all!”*

**Inspector Andy Poole, Neighbourhood Policing Stroud LPA**