

24 August 2017

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community Services and Licensing Committee will be held on **THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2017** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud at **7.00 pm.**



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 for absence.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive declarations of interest.
- 3 MINUTES**
To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017.
- 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 4 SEPTEMBER 2017.
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.
- 5 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – ANNUAL REPORT**
To receive a verbal report from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- 6 SDYC DELEGATE PRESENTATION ON THE UN's COMMISSION OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN**
To receive a presentation from Rebecca Hunt, Chair of SDYC, and Lauren Davies, SDYC rep for Stroud High School.
- 7 WORK PROGRAMME**
To consider the work programme.
- 8 MEMBER REPORTS**
- a) The Subscription Rooms
 - b) Performance Monitoring
 - c) Arts and Culture Task and Finish Group
 - d) Police and Crime Panel
 - e) County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny
- 9 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2017/18 – REPORT 1**
To receive the 2017/18 forecast outturn position against the revenue budgets and Capital programme.
- 10 DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SCHEME**
To consider a report on the adoption of the scheme.
- 11 CAPITAL PROJECT MONITORING**
Community Buildings Investment
- a) Stroud Town Centre Assets
 - b) Kingshill House
 - c) Stratford Park Lido
- 12 MEMBER QUESTIONS**
See Item 4.

**Members of Community Services and Licensing Committee
2017/18**

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

Councillor Karen McKeown
Councillor Gill Oxley
Councillor Liz Peters
Councillor Nigel Prenter
Councillor Sue Reed
Councillor Penny Wride

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

27 June 2017

7.00 pm – 8.56 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership

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

P = Present A = Absent

Other Councillors Present

Councillor Steve Lydon

Officers Present

Strategic Head of Customer Services	Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator
Community & Facilities Manager	Democratic Services Officer
Principal Community & Facilities Officer	Accountant
Head of Environmental Health	Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator
Manager Dursley Pool	

CSLC.001

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Marjoram.

Agenda Item 7(a) was taken at this point in the meeting. This relates to Minute No. CSLC.007, which took place later in the meeting.

CSLC.007

MEMBER REPORTS

- (a) Subscription Rooms - Councillor Doina Cornell updated Committee on the work of the Task and Finish Group for Subscription Rooms and highlighted the following points:
- New staff had been appointed and were reviewing how events are managed and run.
 - Tourist information centre would be part of the project.
 - Bid packs are being sent out to gain interest from organisations.
 - Regular meetings are being held with Stroud Town Council.

- Recommendations will be made at the end of the year.
- Future meetings would be in the evenings to enable all Members to attend.

CSLC.002 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

CSLC.003 **MINUTES – 30 MARCH 2017**

Councillor Karen McKeown requested that amendments were made to Minute Nos:

CSLC.044 - Bullet point 'reviewing village agents' add 'involvement/engagement'.

CSLC.046 - The work programme should reflect that an update had been requested on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

CSLC.047 - Officers were asked to look at the Governance of the meeting.

RESOLVED **That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 March 2017 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

CSLC.004 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None received.

CSLC.005 **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH – UPDATE**

The Director of Public Health attended the meeting to present her annual report which gave an overview of health and wellbeing in Gloucestershire.

CSLC.006 **WORK PROGRAMME**

7 September 2017 – in his Annual Report the Police and Crime Commissioner would be asked to circulate information in advance and include in his presentation specific issues relating to Stroud.

CSLC.007 **MEMBER REPORTS**

(b) Performance Monitoring – Councillor John Jones presented his report and highlighted the following points:

- The seminars on safeguarding for taxi drivers has been successful.
- Members were encouraged to attend the Licensing Panel training.
- The Pulse is very successful and Members thanked the Manager and staff for all their hard work.

(c) Arts and Culture Task and Finish Group – Councillor John Jones was unable to continue on the group, at this current time there was no replacement.

(d) Police and Crime Panel – Councillor Karen McKeown gave an update on the Panel and highlighted the following points:

- The Panel had looked at the precept.
- Concerns in relation to taking control of the fire service and delivery of other services.

The Chair read out a statement regarding two reports on protecting vulnerable children in Gloucestershire, one from Ofsted, critical of the County Council Safeguarding Board and one from the HMIP critical of Gloucestershire Constabulary.

CSLC.008 **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING REVENUE BUDGETS 2017/18**

The Accountant presented the report and outlined the details of the General Fund Revenue Budgets. Members asked questions which the Accountant would check and distribute the information following the meeting.

RESOLVED **To note the report.**

CSLC.009 **CAPITAL PROJECTS MONITORING**

The Strategic Head of Community Services gave an update on the following projects:

- (a) Community Buildings Investment – Assets have been transferred to Stroud Town Council, the Chapel within the grounds of Stroud Cemetery will be put on the open market towards the end of July.
Kingshill House – officers are working closely with the Trust to enable them to take over the freehold interest of the building.
- (b) Stratford Park Lido – Investment of £200,000 to make it more useable for customers and extend the opening hours. A public consultation is taking place.

RESOLVED **To note the report.**

CSLC.010 **JOINT USE SPORTS CENTRES**

The Principal Community and Facilities Officer presented the report which outlined the implications of returning the joint use sports centres to the schools. He explained that Committee would need to make a decision on whether to gift the gym equipment to the schools.

When being put to the vote it was unanimously

- RESOLVED** **(a) To not enter in to a new agreement with Rednock and to give the required 12 months notice for termination in August 2018 at Thomas Keble and Maidenhill.**
- (b) To gift the gym equipment to the schools.**

CSLC.011 **REPORT OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP: OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chair of the group outlined the recommendations made by the group. It was agreed to add Homestart to this Committee's outside bodies.

RESOLVED **Approve the recommendation made by the Outside Bodies Task and Finish Group.**

CSLC.012 **APPOINTMENTS**

- (a) Performance Monitoring Representatives – Councillors John Jones and Karen McKeown.
- (b) Tourism Task and Finish Group – Councillors Gordon Craig, George Butcher and Nigel Prenter.
- (c) Appointments to Outside Bodies

Organisation	Representatives 2017/18
Cowle Trust (Museum in the Park)	Councillor John Marjoram
Kingshill House Charitable Trust	Councillor Doina Cornell
Stroud & Rodborough Educational Charity	Councillors Elizabeth Peters, Steve Robinson and Nigel Prenter
Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau	Councillors Penny Wride and Miranda Clifton
Stroud Festival Limited	Councillor Jonathan Edmunds
Stroud Road Safety Liaison Group	Councillors John Jones and Ken Tucker
Woodchester Park Mansion	Councillor George Butcher if evening meetings, Councillor Sue Reed if day time meetings
Community Safety Partnership	Councillor Steve Robinson
Homestart	Councillors Elizabeth Peters, Sue Reed
Older Peoples Forum	Shared between Councillors Penny Wride and Gordon Craig
Youth Council	Councillor Nigel Prenter
Stroud District Council Health and Wellbeing Partnership	Councillor Sue Reed and substitute Councillor Gordon Craig

CSLC.012 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.56 pm.

Chair

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2017

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WORK PROGRAMME

Date of meeting	Matter to be considered (ie insert report/project title)	Notes (eg lead member & officer)
7.12.17	Work Programme – 2017/18	Chair/Strategic Head Customer Services
	2017/18 Revised Budget and 2018/19 Original Budget	Accountancy Manager
	Member Reports a) Performance Monitoring b) The Subscription Rooms c) Tourism Task and Finish Group d) Arts and Culture Task and Finish Group e) Police and Crime Panel	Cllrs J Jones, K McKeown Councillor Doina Cornell Councillor Gordon Craig Councillor John Marjoram Councillor Karen McKeown
	Capital Project Monitoring a) Stratford Park Lido b) Community Buildings Investment	Strategic Head Customer Services
1.2.18	Work Programme – 2017/18	Chair/Strategic Head Customer Services
	Member Reports a) Performance Monitoring b) The Subscription Rooms c) Tourism Task and Finish Group d) Arts and Culture Task and Finish Group e) Police and Crime Panel	Cllrs J Jones, K McKeown Councillor Doina Cornell Councillor Gordon Craig Councillor John Marjoram Councillor Karen McKeown
	Capital Project Monitoring a) Stratford Park Lido b) Community Buildings Investment	Strategic Head Customer Services
28.3.18 (Wed)	Work Programme – 2018/19	Chair/Strategic Head Customer Services
	Budget Monitoring	Accountancy Manager
	Update on Health and Wellbeing Plan, to include Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator
	Member Reports a) Performance Monitoring b) The Subscription Rooms c) County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee d) Tourism Task and Finish Group e) Arts and Culture Task and Finish Group f) Police and Crime Panel	Cllrs J Jones, K McKeown Councillor Doina Cornell Councillor Doina Cornell Councillor Gordon Craig Councillor John Marjoram Councillor Karen McKeown
	Capital Project Monitoring a) Stratford Park Lido b) Community Buildings Investment	Strategic Head Customer Services

Information sheets

Date sent (& reference no)	Topic	Notes (eg responsible officer)
C-2017/18-001 14.6.17	Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)	Revenue and Benefits Manager
C-2017/18-002 27.6.17	Community Services & Licensing Committee	Strategic Head Customer Services
C-2017/18-003 13.7.17	Universal Credit (UC)	Revenue and Benefits Manager
	Hospital Admissions for self harm and alcohol in under 18s.	To be prepared and circulated by the end of September 2017
	Safeguarding Awareness Training	To be prepared and circulated by the end of September 2017

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2017

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Report Title	BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2017/18 – REPORT 1
Purpose of Report	To present the 2017/18 forecast outturn position against the revenue budgets and Capital programme that the committee is responsible for
Decision(s)	<p>The Committee RECOMMENDS to Strategy and Resources Committee:</p> <p>a) the Capital Budget for Community Building Investment is reduced from £180,000 to £50,000</p> <p>The Committee RESOLVES:</p> <p>b) to note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital programme for this Committee.</p>
Consultation and Feedback	Budget holders have been consulted about the budget issues in their service areas. The feedback has been incorporated into to the report to explain difference between budgets and actual income and expenditure.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>The outturn forecast for the committee's budget shows a net underspend of £17k. This will be included in the overall General Fund outturn forecast reported to Strategy and Resources committee in October 2017.</p> <p>There has been no expenditure to date on the committee's Capital budgets, but assurances have been provided by the relevant budget holders that the 2017/18 budget allocations will be fully spent by the end of the year.</p> <p>David Stanley – Accountancy Manager Tel: 01453 754100 Email: david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	None to report. K Trickey, Legal Services Manager Tel: 01453 754369 Email: karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk
Report Author	Adele Rudkin - Accountant Tel: 01453 754109 Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk
Options	None
Performance Management Follow Up	Budgets will continue to be monitored on a regular basis during the year by budget holders supported by Finance. The next monitoring report is due in March 2018, with an updated budget report in December 2017/January 2018.

Background Papers/ Appendices	None
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Stroud District Council Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) position

1. The Committee has previously been advised that we are faced with a challenging financial climate.
 - Stroud will be the first council in Gloucestershire to lose all government Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and will pay more money back to government than other councils in Gloucestershire (£549,000 from our own resources will go to Whitehall in 2019/20. Cheltenham will pay £391,000 and Cotswold will pay £218,000. The other three districts - Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Forest of Dean will continue to receive small amounts of RSG.
 - The current MTFP has already built in council tax increases of £5 per annum – the maximum allowed under government rules before triggering the need for a referendum of council taxpayers
 - Potential changes to New Homes Bonus will mean further reduction to this 'reward' payment and, as a result, our income will fall regardless of performance
 - The Government has yet to decide on business rate retention by local government. The expected primary legislation has been abandoned.
2. **It is against this background that it is important that budgets are not overspent. In cases where an overspend is forecast, management action must be taken to minimise or mitigate the impact on the council's financial position of an overspend.**
3. The current MTFP, approved by Council in February 2017, anticipates that there will be a £3.5m gap between the Council's income and expenditure by 2020/21. At that point we will have used up all our reserves unless we take action before then.
4. **Generating income and creating even greater efficiencies remain as important as ever, but there are likely to be cuts to the committee's budgets to close the funding gap. The budget setting process during the autumn will need to focus on these, with the budget proposals being considered by Strategy and Resources Committee on 18th January 2018.**

Background

5. This report provides the first monitoring position statement for the financial year 2017/18. 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.

- 6. 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.**
7. Council approved the General Fund revenue budget at its meeting in February 2017 including the budget proposals of the administration for Youth Work (£60k per annum). This committee had previously considered the standstill revenue budget at its meeting in December 2016.
8. The latest budget for Community Services and Licensing Committee taking into account the carry forwards is £3.73m (Original Budget was £3.70m).
9. The monitoring position for the service at 30 June 2017 shows a projected net overspend of £17k against the latest budget. The overall position on the General Fund will be considered by Strategy and Resources committee at their meeting on 12th October 2017.
10. Table 1 below shows the overall projected outturn position for this Committee. Table 2 outlines the services with significant variations along with an explanation of why they have arisen. (a significant variation is defined as being +/- £20,000 on each reporting line. Appendix A (pages 6 to 7) provides a more detailed breakdown of the committee's budgets.
11. Table 3 shows the Capital spend and Projected outturn for Community Services and Licensing Committee for 2017/18.

Table 1 – Community Services and Licensing Revenue budgets 2017/18

Community Services Committee	Para Refs	2017/18 Original Budget (£'000)	2017/18 Revised Budget (£'000)	2017/18 Forecast Outturn (£'000)	2017/18 Outturn Variance (£'000)
Community Safety		382	393	376	(18)
Youth Services		99	99	99	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations		337	337	337	0
Licensing		(69)	(69)	(79)	(10)
Strategic Head (Customer Services)	13	132	132	190	58
Customer Services		386	386	384	(2)
Cultural Svcs - Arts and Culture		787	787	787	0
Cultural Svcs - Sport & Health Dev.		153	176	176	0
Cultural Svcs - Sports Centres		172	174	174	0
Public Spaces	14	1,037	1,037	1,067	30
Revenues and Benefits	15	284	284	242	(42)
Community Services TOTAL		3,701	3,737	3,754	17

12. The table below outlines the key variances for this Committee.

Table 2 - Headline Budget variances

Service	Para. Ref	Overspend / (Underspend) (£'000's)
Strategic Head (Customer Services)		
Subscription Rooms - Consultants fees	13	58
Public Spaces		
Grounds maintenance - Ubico Contract	14	30
Revenues and Benefits		
Housing Benefit / Council Tax - Salary underspend	15	(42)

13. Strategic Head Customer Services – £58k overspend

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

This overspend is directly related the appointment of the Business Projects Manager dealing with the ongoing options appraisal for the Subscription Rooms.

14. Public Spaces - £30k overspend

(Carlos Novoth xtn 4406, carlos.novoth@stroud.gov.uk)

Members will recall that the Grounds Maintenance service forms part of Stroud's new Multi Service Contract with Ubico. An overall budget overspend was identified in late 2016/17, with provision of £400k made in the Medium Term Financial Plan for this year to cover the estimated budget shortfall. Changes to budgets will be evaluated and reflected as part of the budget setting process later in the year.

15. Revenues and Benefits – (£42k) underspend

(Simon Killen xtn 4013, simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk)

The current forecast has identified salary savings within Revenue and Benefits. This is due to a number of vacancies arising within the team through retirement, general staff turnover and reduction of hours. Posts have not been filled permanently due to the work being absorbed within existing teams as well as utilising the CIVICA on-demand service, for off-site processing within Benefits. Salary savings will be addressed as part of a wider workforce plan exercise.

The future remains uncertain within benefits, particularly as we now head towards the Universal Credit full service in October 2017 and the impact that will have on demand and workload. The potential risk around workload is that there may be a decrease in the number of cases processed directly by the Revenues and Benefits team. However, the introduction of Universal Credit across the district may mean recipients move in/out of eligibility frequently during the year so the 'churn' within the system increases both in volume and complexity.

It is also worth noting that legislative changes to the way in which Homeless Housing Benefit claims are funded through the subsidy system, there is an increased cost to authority in the current year of around £30,000 as the subsidy no longer covers all of the Council's expenditure. The overall number of homeless cases dealt with through Housing Benefit so far this year is 46, compared with 48 in total for the whole of 2016/17.

16. Table 3 below shows the Capital Outturn forecast for 2017/18 with a projected outturn of £208k.

Table 3 – Capital Outturn forecast

Community Services Capital Schemes	2017/18 Revised Budget (£'000)	2017/18 Spend to date (£'000)	2017/18 Projected Outturn (£'000)	2017/18 Outturn Variance (£'000)
Stratford Park Lido	20	0	20	0
Stratford Park Sensory Garden	8	0	8	0
Community Buildings Investment	180	0	50	(130)
TOTAL Capital	208	0	78	(130)

17. The Councils Capital programme for 2017/18 is reported and updated regularly throughout the year by the responsible officers and is covered in Agenda item 11.
18. The budget for the Community Building Investment will be reduced from £180,000 to £50,000 when the General Fund Capital Programme is considered by Strategy and Resources committee at their meeting in October 2017. This is because the £130,000 capital funding provided to Stroud Town Council following the transfer of assets on 31 March 2017 was financed in 2016/17.
19. The actual spend to date figure is currently nil, with budget holders providing assurance that the remaining relevant capital budgets are forecast to be spent in full this financial year.

Community Services Committee	Para Refs	2017/18 Budget (£'000)	2017/18 Revised Budget (£'000)	2017/18 Spend to date (£'000)	2017/18 Forecast Outturn (£'000)	2017/18 Outturn Variance (£'000)
Community Safety		65	70	11	70	0
Abandoned Vehicles		5	5	1	5	0
Careline Services		(31)	(31)	(122)	(31)	0
Neighbourhood Wardens		235	241	54	234	(7)
Car Parks Enforcement		68	68	9	57	(11)
Stroud and Dursley CCTV		41	41	(3)	41	0
Community Services		382	393	(50)	376	(18)
Hear by Right / Youth Services		99	99	(36)	99	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations		337	337	145	337	0
Licensing		(69)	(69)	(22)	(79)	(10)
Strategic Head (Customer Services)		132	132	32	190	58
Customer Service Centre		386	386	87	384	(2)
Museum in the Park		417	417	95	417	0
Subscription Rooms		223	223	104	223	0
Tourism		147	147	(23)	147	0
Cultural Services - Arts and Culture		787	787	176	787	0
Health and Wellbeing		35	39	9	39	0
Sport and Health Development		119	137	29	137	0
Cultural Services - Sports and Leisure		153	176	38	176	0
The Pulse Dursley		(6)	(6)	(63)	(6)	0
Joint Use Sports Centres		59	61	9	61	0
Stratford Park Leisure Centre		119	119	7	119	0
Cultural Services - Sports Centres		172	174	(48)	174	0

Community Services Committee	Para Refs	2017/18 Budget (£'000)	2017/18 Revised Budget (£'000)	2017/18 Spend to date (£'000)	2017/18 Forecast Outturn (£'000)	2017/18 Outturn Variance (£'000)
Public Space Service		300	300	70	300	0
Cemeteries		24	24	3	24	0
Amenity Areas		127	127	31	157	30
Commons and Woodlands		14	14	(1)	14	0
Stratford Park Grounds Maintenance		180	180	29	180	0
Grassed Areas Contribution to HRA		170	170	0	170	0
Public Conveniences		223	223	32	223	0
Public Spaces		1,037	1,037	165	1,067	30
Business Rate Collection		(109)	(109)	16	(110)	(1)
Council Tax Collection		256	256	79	253	(3)
Council Tax Support Admin		64	64	0	53	(11)
Rent Allowances and Rebates		(77)	(77)	(3,417)	(77)	0
Housing Benefit Administration		150	150	(104)	123	(27)
Revenues and Benefits		284	284	(3,426)	242	(42)
Community Services TOTAL		3,701	3,737	(2,937)	3,754	17

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2017

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Report Title	DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SCHEME
Purpose of Report	To adopt a Discretionary Rate Relief scheme.
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme for the period 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2021; and 2. Authorise the Strategic Head (Customer Services) in consultation with the Committee Chair and Section 151 Officer, to make minor alterations to the scheme referred to in 2.4.
Consultation and Feedback	This is a county wide scheme in agreement with the other 5 Councils in Gloucestershire
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	This scheme is in line with the grant funding available from Government. Any remaining grant would need to be repaid and so cannot be used for another purpose. Lucy Clothier, Principal Accountant Tel: 01453 754343 Email: lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk
Legal Implications	No direct legal implications to report. Tel: 01453 754369 Email: karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk
Report Author	Simon Killen – Revenue and Benefit Manager Tel: 01453 754013 Email: simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk
Performance Management Follow Up	The scheme will be reviewed after year 1
Background Papers/ Appendices	Appendix A - Summary of Scheme

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Business Rates are charged on most non-domestic properties like shops, offices, pubs, warehouses, factories, holiday rental homes or guest houses. You will probably have to pay business rates if the building or part of a building is used for business purposes.
- 1.2 From 01 April 2017, all non-domestic properties have been given a new rateable value, used to calculate the amount of Business Rates that has to be paid. The process is known as revaluation and is controlled by the Government.
- 1.3 There are 4,080 businesses in the district with a collectable debit of £28,370,122. A number of these business are already being supported through various existing rate relief schemes

Relief Description	Value (£)	Number of accounts
Small Business Rate Relief	3,427,569	1,622
Mandatory Relief	2,243,654	302
Discretionary Relief	226,543	169
Community Amateur Sports Clubs	32,524	13
Other	64,929	62
	5,995,2019	2,168

1.4 In the Spring 2017 budget, the Government announced £300 million funding for local councils to finance Business Rates relief for revaluation support. The Government funding can only support relief schemes targeted at businesses facing an increase in their Business Rates bill following the 2017 revaluation.

1.5 The Government allocation for funding for Stroud District Council is:

Amount of discretionary pot awarded (£000s)			
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
252	123	50	7

2. PROPOSED SCHEME

2.1 Qualifying Conditions:

- Rateable Value below £200,000
- Increase due to revaluation of 10% and over on bills between 2016/17 and 2017/18 before reliefs
- Eligible ratepayer is the ratepayer on 31/03/2017 and continues to be eligible
- Anyone falling into an exception category will not be eligible

2.2 Exceptions:

- Empty Properties
- New occupiers on or after 01 April 2017
- Those in receipt of any other relief such as Mandatory, Community Amateur Sports Clubs, Small Business Rates Relief, excluding transitional relief
- National chains

2.3 Funding Award

Based on available funding, discretionary relief at the following percentages of the net increase for 2017/18 would be granted:

*Modelling figures may be subject to change when software fully developed and tested

Financial Year	Percentage %
2017/18	50
2018/19	25
2019/20	10
2020/21	1-5

Increase over 10%		
Number of Accounts	Increase in Charge (£)	50%
172	462,726	231,363

A fund of £20,000 will be retained for appeals and retrospective adjustments.

2.4 Review of the Scheme

The scheme will be reviewed after Year 1. The impact of any Rateable Value changes because of appeals, splits/mergers or businesses moving, is unknown.

Minor changes to the scheme along with the % awards may need to be made to maximise spending of the funding.

3. Other changes in Business Rates

Relief for Pubs

Spring budget also announced a £1,000 business rates discount for public houses with a rateable of up to £100,000 for one year from 1 April 2017. The council aims to use its discretionary powers under the local government finance act 1988 to grant relief to all qualifying ratepayers.

Support provided for 115 public houses in the district.

Supporting Small Business (SSB)

Spring budget also announced a scheme of relief ensuring that no business losing small business rates relief or rural relief as a result of the revaluation faces excessive increase in their bills. The council aims to use its discretionary powers under the local government finance act 1988 to grant relief to all qualifying ratepayers.

Software being developed during September and October before any detailed modelling can take place. Initial modelling shows the impact is minimal.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/22017-spring-budget-support-for-business>

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2017

11

Report Title	CAPITAL PROJECTS MONITORING
Purpose of Report	To provide an update on the capital projects for this committee.
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to note the report.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>Council approved the Capital budget proposals totalling £20.6m at their meeting in February 2017. This committee has oversight and responsibility for the capital projects outlined in the report.</p> <p>Whilst there are no financial implications arising directly from this report, members should ensure that delivery of the projects can be achieved and are progressing. The Capital programme assumed a funding position based on the budget profiles set out in the February 2017 MTFP. If projects are delayed or are not able to achieve the desired outcomes and do not progress, then the capital budget would remain unspent and not reallocated to additional projects without consideration by the council as part of the 2018/19 budget setting process.</p> <p>David Stanley – Accountancy Manager Tel: 01453 754100 Email: david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>This report is an update from the relevant strategic head on progress with the capital programme. As such there are no legal implications to report.</p> <p>K Trickey, Legal Service Manager Email: karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Joanne Jordan, Strategic Head Customer Services Tel: 01453 754005 Email: joanne.jordan@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Performance Management Follow Up	Updates will be provided to future meetings of this committee

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report gives an update on the capital projects that are included in the council's capital programme that was agreed at Strategy and Resources committee in January 2017. The capital projects that are being monitored by this committee are shown below:

Project	2017/18 £000's	2018/19 £000's	2019/20 £000's	2017/18 Spend to date
Community Buildings- Stroud Town Centre Assets	130	0	0	£130,000 completed
Community Buildings- Kingshill House	50	50	0	£1,730
Stratford Park Lido	20	80	100	£0

2. COMMUNITY BUILDINGS INVESTMENT – total £230,000 capital allocation

2.1 As part of the review of our property portfolio a number of community buildings that Stroud District Council own have been looked at with a view to potentially transferring the freehold interest in order to reduce Stroud District Council's future revenue commitments. The details are shown below and relate to Stroud Town Centre Assets and Kingshill House.

2.2 Stroud Town Centre Assets - £130,000 capital allocation 2017/18

The transfer of Stroud Cemetery, Bank Gardens and Sims Clock to Stroud Town Council was completed on 31 March 2017. An amount of £130,000 was paid on transfer to Stroud Town Council for the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of these assets.

2.3 Kingshill House - £100,000 capital allocation

2.4 Following a report to Strategy and Resources Committee in October 2016 discussions have taken place with Kingshill House Trust with a view to the Trust taking over the freehold interest from Stroud District Council. A capital budget provision of £50,000 in 2017/18 and £50,000 in 2018/19 has been made as part of a funding package to help assist the transfer. Discussions with the Trust are ongoing and the expectations are that the freehold transfer will take place by the end of 2018/19. Works to renovate the derelict cottage will begin in early September.

2.5 Stratford Park Lido (Outdoor Pool) - £200,000 capital allocation

2.6 A provision of £200,000 has been made in the capital programme to review and improve the outdoor swimming pool which is part of the Stratford Park Leisure Centre contract. Grant funding has been obtained to carry out a high level feasibility study to assess options for transforming and sustaining the outdoor pool. The initial grant funding has come from the Heritage Lottery Fund £10,000 and Stroud Town Council £2,248 for the feasibility study.

2.7 The project team has appointed Tricolor to carry out an appraisal including community consultation. The feasibility study report will be feedback on 30 September 2017 at a drop in event. Following this a business plan will be

developed to apply for a further Heritage Lottery Fund grant in the next bidding round in March 2018.

- 2.8 In the 2017/18 capital programme £20,000 has been allocated to this project which will assist in funding the development of the business plan.
- 2.9 If the project is successful then it is likely that the earliest any major changes can be implemented will be September 2018 after the summer opening period.

3 CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Further updates on these capital projects will be presented at future meetings of this committee.