

To all Members of Stroud District Council

04 May 2018

You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual General Meeting of the **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill on **THURSDAY 17 MAY 2018** 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 **CHAIR OF COUNCIL**  
To elect a Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2018/19
- 2 **VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL**  
To appoint a Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2018/19
- 3 **APOLOGIES**  
To receive apologies for absence
- 4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive declarations of interest
- 5 **MINUTES**  
To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 April 2018
- 6 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
To receive announcements from the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive
- 7 **APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES**  
To confirm the membership of each committee

In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the allocations are as per the relevant 2016 AGM report. The 2018/19 nominations received by the Monitoring Officer from Group Leaders will be reported to or otherwise made at the AGM.

## 8 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

To appoint the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the following committees:

- a. Audit & Standards Committee
- b. Community Services & Licensing Committee
- c. Development Control Committee
- d. Environment Committee
- e. Housing Committee
- f. Strategy & Resources Committee

Nominations received by the Monitoring Officer from Group Leaders will be reported to or otherwise made at the AGM.

## 9 OTHER APPOINTMENTS

- a. To appoint one lead and one substitute Member representative for the following bodies which are led by Gloucestershire County Council:
  - i. Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - ii. Police and Crime Panel
  - iii. Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee
- b. To appoint two Mental Health Champions (as per the Mental Health Challenge motion resolved by Council on 26 April 2018).

Nominations received by the Monitoring Officer from Group Leaders will be reported to or otherwise made at the AGM.

## 10 NOTICE OF MOTION

**Motion regarding Support of the 'Votes at 16' campaign is proposed by Cllr Cornell and seconded by Cllr Butcher.**

### **Background:**

As noted by the Cabinet Office as part of its promotion of National Democracy Week from 2 to 8 July 2018 (of which our authority is to be involved) "*regardless of who we are or where we are from, we must work together to ensure that every member of society has an equal chance to participate in our democracy and to have their say.*"

Consistent in part with such, 16 and 17 year olds already have the right to vote in local elections in Scotland and elections to the Scottish and Manx Parliaments. In Scotland, 16 and 17 year olds have been allowed to vote in all Scottish elections since May 2016. This step in the right direction was impacted hugely by the results of the Scottish referendum where by 75% of 16 and 17 year olds turned out to vote. This just goes to show that when young people are given the opportunity to influence a decision that shapes their future, they are eager to get involved.

Plans are also in place for the voting age in Wales to be lowered to 16 in 2022 for local authority elections.

However, despite being able to give full consent to medical treatment, pay income tax and National Insurance, obtain tax credits and welfare benefits in their own right, consent to sexual relationships, get married or enter a civil partnership with parental consent, change their name by deed poll, become a director of a company and serve in the armed forces; 16 and 17 years (of which there are 1.5 million in the country and approximately 3000 in our district) do not currently have the right to vote in UK elections nor at local elections in England. There is no justification for not linking the rights of 16 and 17 year olds with their responsibilities.

The Council should be aware that:

- There is an ongoing 'Votes at 16' campaign by the British Youth Council and the UK Youth Parliament and that the campaign to lower the voting age is supported by thousands of young people across the UK, as well as a wide range of youth and democracy organisations and hundreds of MPs and elected representatives across the UK; and
- Many 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen.

**Motion:**

The Council resolves that it:

1. Supports the extension of the right to vote in local government and devolved elections in England, to 16 and 17 year olds; and
2. Helps to promote the 'Votes at 16' by:
  - (a) Working with Stroud District Youth Council to raise awareness of the 'Votes at 16' campaign and consider ways to increase young people's voices in the Council's democratic process;
  - (b) Agreeing that on behalf of the Council, the Leader should write to the British Youth Council, the UK Youth Parliament, local MPs and the local media stating its support for the 'Votes at 16' campaign; and the British Prime Minister and the Minister for the Cabinet Office to request that they consider extending the voting age to 16 years for local government and referendum in England, and to review the wider franchise for all elections and referendums in the United Kingdom.