

To all Members of Stroud District Council

15 April 2019

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill on **THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2019 at 7.00pm.**



Kathy O'Leary  
Chief Executive

**Please Note:** This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site ([www.stroud.gov.uk](http://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 Council's meeting held on 21 February 2019.
- 4 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
To receive announcements from the Chair of Council.
- 5 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
The Chairs of Committees will answer questions from members of the public submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

### **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS**

Noon on Thursday, 18 April 2019

Questions must be submitted to the Chief Executive, Democratic Services,  
Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud and sent by post or email  
([democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk))

**6 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 7 MARCH AND 11 APRIL 2019**

*The relevant committee reports are available on the website page for this Council meeting.*

The Leader will present these items:

**Strategy and Resources Committee – 7 March 2019**

**6a Options for Providing Temporary Accommodation for Homeless Households in the Stroud District ([Agenda Item 10](#))**

That delegated authority is granted to the Head of Property Services in consultation with the Head of Finance and Chairs of Housing and Strategy and Resources Committee:

1. To purchase the former Salvation Army building in Stroud utilising the General Fund; and
2. To commission the conversion of this property into temporary accommodation; and
3. To commission the management of the completed property as temporary accommodation for homeless households.

Subject to a satisfactory business case being made and due diligence being undertaken.

**6ai CAPITAL BUDGET FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

To approve a £500k budget for the purchase of temporary accommodation.

**Strategy and Resources Committee – 11 April 2019**

**6b Support for the Foundation of Avon Mutual ([Agenda Item 5](#))**

1. To approve the use of £50k of the Business Rates Reserve for purchase of shares in Avon Mutual.
2. To delegate authority to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Head of Legal to conclude the share purchase.

**6c Repairs and Maintenance Service 2020 ([Agenda Item 8](#))**

To recommend to Council an additional revenue budget of £53k in 2019/20 and £132k in 2020/21 to cover the one-off implementation and set-up costs, and a new capital programme for HRA IT systems totalling £175k over 2019/20 and 2020/21.

**6d Recommendations from the Constitution Working Group ([Agenda Item 10](#))**

That the Role Profiles for Councillors section of the Council's Constitution be amended as shown in the Appendix to this Report, in accordance with the recommendations set out in this report.

## **7 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

1. Community Services and Licensing Committee - Councillor Tipper fills the vacancy.
2. Housing Committee – Councillor Skinner is replaced by Councillor Green and Councillor Dewey is replaced by Councillor Pickering.
3. Environment Committee – Councillors Haydn Jones and Mossman replace Councillors Skinner and Tipper.
4. Audit and Standards Committee – Councillor Binns fills the vacancy.

## **8 DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER**

To designate Patrick Arran, as Monitoring Officer of the Council until 26 September 2019.

## **9 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

See Agenda Item 5 for deadline for submission.

## **10 MOTIONS**

### **10a Motion regarding Modern the Slavery Charter is proposed by Councillor Doina Cornell and seconded by Councillor Norman Kay.**

#### **“This Council notes**

Though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.

There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. In 2017 the Home Office suggested that there may be at least **13,000** people living in Modern Slavery, however National Crime Agency officials have since asserted that it is far more likely to be in the **tens of thousands**.

Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

That in Gloucestershire, important work is already being done by the Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership which was founded in 2016 and brings together local authorities including Stroud District Council, the police, NGOs and other organisations, in a concerted effort to tackle trafficking and slavery across Gloucestershire.

#### **This Council believes**

That action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.

That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government.

That councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.

### **This Council resolves**

To adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery to ensure our procurement practices don't support slavery.

### **Stroud District Council will:**

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually."

### **10b Motion regarding Right to Work for People Seeking Asylum is proposed by Councillor George Butcher and seconded by Councillor Catherine Braun.**

#### **"This Council notes that:**

1. Since 2002, people seeking asylum have only been able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List;
2. Asylum decisions are getting slower with over half (53%) of asylum decisions taking more than 6 months in 2017. This situation is getting worse: it was 41% at the end of 2016 and 20% at the end of 2015. People seeking asylum are left to live on a government stipend of £5.39 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation;
3. This issue affects people in our District and County. The organisation Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS)<sup>1</sup> is currently working with over 900 people in the county, who are asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors and refugees. At any one time, they support around 150 asylum seekers who are not allowed to work. Across the country, the UK spends between £70 and £100 million per year housing and supporting asylum seekers who could be working, earning, and fending for themselves;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.garas.org.uk/>

4. This Council further notes the work of the Lift the Ban Coalition<sup>2</sup>, which includes more than 150 organisations from across the UK who have come together to call on the Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work.

**This Council believes that:**

1. People seeking asylum who are unable to work are unable to properly integrate with their local area, can't get to know their neighbours, and find it more difficult to learn English;
2. Restrictions on the right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Stroud District and the UK; and
3. We are right to campaign for people seeking asylum to be given the right to work unconstrained by the Shortage Occupation List after they have waited three months for a decision on their initial asylum claim.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Join the Lift the Ban Coalition; and
2. Call on the UK Government to change the law to give people seeking asylum the ability to seek work under the conditions outlined above.
3. Seek to ensure appropriate provision to support asylum seekers in Stroud District, including promotion of education and training to enable them to better integrate into the District and play an active role in the success of the local economy."

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<sup>2</sup> <http://lifttheban.co.uk/>