



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## COUNCIL

To all Members of Stroud District Council

Wednesday, 12 July 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend Meeting of **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud on **THURSDAY, 20 JULY 2023** at **7.00 pm**

Kathy O'Leary  
Chief Executive

**Please Note:** The meeting is being held in the Council Chamber at Stroud District Council and will be streamed live on the Council's [YouTube Channel](#). A recording of the meeting will be published onto the [Council's website](#). The whole of the meeting will be recorded except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of press and public.

If you wish to attend this meeting, please contact [democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk). This is to ensure adequate seating is available in the Council Chamber.

### AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**  
To receive apologies for absence.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**  
To receive declarations of interest.
3. **MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10)**  
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2023.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
To receive announcements from the Chair of Council, Leader of Council or Chief Executive.
5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
The Chair of the relevant Committee will answer questions from members of the public submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures laid out in Section 3, Paragraph 8, of the Constitution.

#### **Deadline for Receipt of Questions – Noon, Friday, 14 July 2023**

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

6. **MEMBER QUESTIONS**

See Agenda Item 5 deadlines for submissions.

7. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

7a **MOTION ON REGULATING AIR B&B - PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR KEITH PEARSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR LINDSEY GREEN (Pages 11 - 12)**

That Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the relevant Secretary of State:

- stating that the Council believes there is an urgent need for the registration and control of the increasing trend towards the offering of Air B&B's,
- requesting that all possible measures are taken to ensure that relevant Health and Safety requirements under the current national regulations for Health and Safety are in place, including but not limited to all relevant electrical and gas checks, fire escape requirements etc, as apply to all registered landlords are applied to Air B&B's; and
- confirming that Stroud District Council will fully support any legislation for mandatory registration of such properties.

7b **MOTION ON OPEN SPACES AND AMENITIES - PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MARK RYDER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR LINDSEY GREEN (Pages 13 - 16)**

Council asks the Chief Executive to work with officers and members to explore potential options and approaches concerning the management of open spaces and amenities on new residential developments.

The scope of work should explore, but not necessarily be limited to, the topics raised in the context section of this motion.

Findings and recommendations to be reported to the appropriate committee by no later than December 2023.

7c **MOTION ON CHAMPIONING NATURE - PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR CHLOE TURNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ROBIN LAYFIELD (Pages 17 - 20)**

Along with the other council members of Climate Leadership Gloucestershire, this Council has been invited by the Local Nature Partnership - conveners of the Biodiversity theme - to declare a national and international ecological emergency.

This Council has previously recognised the ecological emergency through the Natural Environment theme in its 2030 Strategy and Master Plan, through the motion passed on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 in relation to the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill, and through Council Plan Objectives and Key Projects & Activities under (in particular) EC1, EC2 and ER5.

This Council now resolves to:

- Join fellow Severn Vale Catchment Partnership members in the promotion and delivery of the 'Wilder Frome' project
- Partner with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on early work towards introducing unenclosed beavers to the county
- Pursue new opportunities to increase biodiversity on our own estate, including our parks and playgrounds, cemeteries and closed churchyards,

- verges and other green spaces and our social housing estate
- Investigate the introduction of particulates air quality monitoring above the statutory minimum required by the EA, including engaging in a possible partnership with a local academic institution
- Work with our fellow Gloucestershire councils to develop countywide guidelines for the implementation of the Biodiversity Net Gain rules by developers
- Continue our work to reduce pesticide use across the district, and to take part in the Pesticide Action Network UK *Pesticide-free Towns* initiative
- Continue our work to reduce the litter and other waste that ends up in our natural environment, including proactive work with supermarkets and other businesses, and through partnership with other local stakeholders
- Work with Climate Leadership Gloucestershire on the actions arising from the Biodiversity theme
- Ask our Chief Executive to write to the Gloucestershire MPs, requesting that they press the Government for targets and a delivery plan to deliver the commitment in the Environment Act to restore 30% of land for nature by 2030.
- Ask our Chief Executive to write to the Gloucestershire MPs, requesting that they press the Government for proper scrutiny of the 341 environmental EU laws that are due to be repealed at the end of this year under the EU Retained Law Act, and to introduce an equivalent or higher standard of environmental protection wherever required.
- Ask our Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executives of Severn Trent and Wessex Water to enquire as to
  - What measures the companies are taking to ensure there are no sewage discharges or other pollution incidents in those parts of the River Severn, its tributaries (in particular the Frome) and the coastal waters that lie within the area covered by Stroud District Council, and
  - How much the companies are investing in infrastructure improvements in the area covered by Stroud District Council and what measures they are taking to ensure this infrastructure is climate resilient.

**8. RECOMMENDATION FROM STRATEGY AND RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Community Services & Licensing Committee – 22 June 2023**

**Strategy and Resources Committee – 11 July 2023**

The Chair of Community Services and Licensing Committee will present this item.

**8a LEISURE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION (Pages 21 - 132)**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Council to bring Stratford Park Leisure Centre (SPLC) inhouse creating a Leisure Services Team with effect from 1st November 2024.

**9. RECOMMENDATION FROM AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Audit and Standards Committee – 18 July 2023**

The Chair / Vice-Chair of this Committee will present this item.

**9a TREASURY OUTTURN 2022/23 (Pages 133 - 150)**

To advise on the treasury management activities in 2022/2023, in accordance with the Council's Treasury Policy Statement. To report on actual 2022/2023 Prudential

Indicators in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**  
Appendix B for this item contains exempt information by virtue of Paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 and a resolution may be passed to exclude the public during consideration of this item.

10. **POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS (Pages 151 - 156)**  
To update the allocation of seats in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and appoint changes to membership of committees and appointments with effect from 20 July 2023.
11. **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023 - 2027 (Pages 157 - 194)**  
This report seeks approval for a new approach to member training and development and the launch of the Member Development Strategy.
12. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS (Pages 195 - 284)**  
To make final recommendations to parish arrangements in the district in relation to the Community Governance Review.
13. **ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF 2022/23 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & EQUITY ACTION PLAN AND PROPOSED 2023/24 ACTION PLAN (Pages 285 - 300)**  
To provide Council with an update on the Council's progress on its equality objectives for the period 2022-23 and approve the proposed 2023/24 Action Plan.