



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

<http://community.stroud.gov.uk/lsp>

Meeting held on Friday 11th September 2015
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Present:

Les Haines (Chair)	Voluntary & Community Sector Forum	David Hagg	CE, Stroud District Council
David Miller	Stroud Hospital League of Friends	Dr Claire Mould	OPENhouse
Russell Warner	FSB	Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire	David Tate	Silverwood UK Ltd
Kevin Hamblin (Vice Chair)	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)	Cllr Geoff Wheeler	Leader, Stroud District Council
Alison Robinson	GAPTC	Barbara Pond	GRCC
Beth Whittaker	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG
Acting Chief Inspector Andy Poole	Gloucestershire Constabulary	Claire Nelmes	Mayor of Dursley
Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Commerce, Stroud		

Apologies and absent:

Margaret Willcox	Gloucestershire County Council	Martin James	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
Dr Stuart Wilson	Stroud District Schools Partnership	Charlotte Bignall	Stroud District Youth Council
Catherine Green	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Libby Powell	Stroud District Youth Council
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Dr Hein Le Roux	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Elin Tattersall	GRCC	Martin Wright	National Farmers Union
Dr Claire Feehily	Healthwatch Gloucestershire	Geoffrey Head,	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
David Nairn	Fluid Transfer	Brian Oosthuysen	Gloucestershire County Council
Sir David McMurtry	Renishaw Plc	Neil Carmichael	MP for Stroud Constituency
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP for Cotswolds Constituency	Pamela Tawse	Gloucestershire Older Persons Association

Guests & Support Officers:

Carole Stubbs, JCP Employer Advisor	Sam Silsby, Gloucestershire County Council	Alan Barrett, Gloucestershire County Council
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Will Streatfield, Work Experience (undergraduate), Stroud District Council	John Walker, SGS College	Steve Miles, Stroud District Council
Jackie Godwin, Stroud District Council		

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. A number of apologies had been received.

2. Notes of the previous meeting

Following a request for a minor amendment, accuracy of these was agreed.

3. Devolution Statement of Intent for Gloucestershire

- Cllr Geoff Wheeler and David Hagg provided a brief outline of Gloucestershire's devolution bid to Government, submitted on Friday 4th September. With the Government looking to devolve more powers and transfer additional budgets to a local level, eleven of the County's public sector partners have come together with an aim to drive economic growth and public sector reform. A dedicated website has been set up which contains full details of the bid <http://weareglos.com/>

Subsequent discussion included:

- Greater Manchester and Cornwall have already signed devolution deals
- The Government will select and negotiate on bids in time for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to announce further devolution deals in his Public Spending Review Statement, 25th November
- Leadership Gloucestershire has agreed a small team to negotiate with Government civil servants/ministers. This team will be Pete Bungard (GCC Chief Executive), Mary Hutton (Accountable Officer, Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group), David Owen (Chief Executive, GFirst LEP) and Richard Bradley (Deputy Chief Executive, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner). Political accountability is built into this and all eleven organisations would have to be consulted with and agree any devolution deal
- Devolution deals will be top-sliced: those that go for devolution may get more funding. This will affect those areas without an agreement
- Devolution would not replace existing organisations but would have representation from them. A new legal body which is democratic, accountable and effective would be established
- The boundaries of key organisations in Gloucestershire already match – a huge advantage
- There is local concern that the voluntary and community sector has not been represented in the bid. It is essential that this sector is included going forward
- There was no consultation on post-16 education funding for the devolution bid. A sustainable workforce strategy is needed following appropriate consultation with the right people - it being very difficult to deliver a long-term strategic plan when you have to react to year-on-year changes
- Adult education funding has been reduced by 35% to date and Colleges have had to discontinue some courses offered to students due. This has serious implications for young people who need access to a wide variety of learning opportunities to develop their employability skills
- There is a danger that devolution could lead to a postcode lottery and a compensating mechanism is necessary

Please send your views on Gloucestershire's bid for devolution to David Hagg david.hagg@stroud.gov.uk and Cllr Geoff Wheeler Cllr.geoff.wheeler@stroud.gov.uk who will forward to the negotiating team.

4. Total Transport Pilot Project

- Sam Silsby, Interim Project Manager and Alan Barrett, Passenger Transport Manager delivered an informative PowerPoint presentation on Gloucestershire County Council's Total Transport

Pilot Project (TTPP). The project's purpose is to integrate transport services currently commissioned by different central and local government agencies and provided by different operators. This will allow existing resources to be allocated and co-ordinated more efficiently, resulting in services to passengers that are more effective at meeting their needs. Stroud is the main area of focus – the pilot project will then lead to integration across the county where interventions work.

Comments and points of discussion included:

- Although acknowledged that a key local problem is the rail service from Stroud to Bristol, major infrastructure is not included in this project
- Specific guidance is for the TTPP to focus on raising awareness of what transport is available now and to support health needs
- The TTPP is looking into homeless people being able to use bus passes during peak travelling times: OPENhouse would be pleased to help with engagement
- Stroud is a challenging topographical transport area, with steep hills, narrow roads and small communities
- The Buses Bill (Queen's Speech 2015) would provide the option for combined LA areas with directly-elected Mayors to be responsible for the running of their local bus services
- The bus service from Dursley to central Bristol has improved since Stagecoach took over the connection
- Cost of public transport for young people remains an issue: 16-18 year olds pay adult fares when still in full-time education
- TTPP Officers are keen to engage with young people regarding transport issues and are already liaising with the JCP to assist with travel to interviews
- Increased use of Smart cards is being looked into, with an aim for one card that is accepted by every public transport operator
- Bus routes at the new Hunts Grove estate are being discussed: Stagecoach is actively involved in developing links to Gloucester, Cam, Dursley, Stroud and Bristol

The PowerPoint is available on the LSP website:

<http://community.stroud.gov.uk/lsp/new/meetings.html#meeting>

The Chair asked that a TTPP progress update be on the December 2015 or March 2016 agenda.

5. Sector-Based Work Academies

Carole Stubbs, Employer Advisor, Stroud and Cirencester, provided an overview of the Department of Work and Pensions' (DWP) new Sector-Based Work Academies. They are designed to assist those ready for work and receiving benefits to secure employment while helping employers to recruit a workforce with the right skills to help grow their business.

For further information, please contact Carole directly via CAROLE.STUBBS@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK

6. Stroud Ambitions 2015

John Walker, Head of Schools Engagement SGS College, advised that Stroud Ambitions 2015 will take place at Stratford Park Leisure Centre on Wed 11th November. This unique 2-part careers event is organised by SDC's Policy Team and John. Covering nearly 30 major employment sectors, 1,100 year 9 students (13-14 year olds) from District schools will participate in interactive workshops provided by 50 businesses and organisations during the daytime. The aim is to help the students explore the excitement and challenges of working life and the relevance that their school education has for reaching their aspirations.

The evening event is open to students of all ages, parents and interested adults perhaps looking for a new job or career change. Independent careers advisers, apprenticeship providers, and representatives from the JCP, National Careers Service and Universities and Colleges will also be available to offer a comprehensive guide to future employment and further study/skill development for all.

Now in its third year, Stroud Ambitions is fully-supported by LSP Members and is a key focus in SDC'S Jobs and Growth Plan. For further information about the event please contact Jackie Godwin via email: Jackie.godwin@stroud.gov.uk or tel: 01453 754296 or visit the website www.stroudambitions.gov.uk

John's PowerPoint presentation is available on the LSP website <http://community.stroud.gov.uk/lsp/new/meetings.html#meeting>

7. Partners' Update

- Social Prescribing is now available in all GP Practices throughout the Stroud District bar one
- St Luke's Practice closes at the end of September. The CCG is responsible for ensuring all patients are re-registered
- The Prime Minister's Challenge Fund will help improve access to general practice and stimulate innovative ways of providing primary care services
- Stroud Businesswomen's Network is delighted that David Hagg is guest speaker at the Sep 24th meeting. The 2-way conversation will involve David providing information on SDC'S Jobs & Growth Agenda and the work being done to support business and employment in the area while offering an opportunity for SBN members to voice their concerns regarding barriers to growth
- The former Standish Hospital Site is about to be marketed by the HCA for either a private purchaser or a developer. Stroud Commonwealth has developed a proposal - the site would be secured in perpetuity for benefit of the community which, in return, will support a unique initiative aimed at the growing problem of caring for people requiring supported living and their carers (for example those with early-stage dementia or chronic health conditions)
- SDYC members attended a recent British Youth Council meeting, debating and voting on 11 topical issues
- Gloucestershire's Police & Crime Commissioner Martin Surl recently attended a SDYC meeting, which involved a very good q&a session
- Parish and Town Councils are being encouraged to apply for a local award scheme
- There has been a tremendous response from Stroud residents to the current refugee situation: coordination is necessary and SDC is working closely with Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS)
- Glos. Constabulary is concerned that considerable budget cuts will be announced in the Government's autumn statement
- Glos. Constabulary's new custody suite is fully operational. New mobile devices are in use by Officers, which streamline police processes and reduce paperwork
- Although crime levels remain low in the District, acquisitive crimes are rising and cyber fraud is an increasing area of concern
- SGS College has seen funding cuts of 24% which has resulted in 54 redundancies
- The contract has been signed to build the Renewable Energy, Engineering & Nuclear (GREEN) College on the decommissioned Berkeley Power Station site. It will open September 2016
- Extension work for a new gym and dance studio at Dursley Pool has commenced
- A new business group, Dursley Traders, has been established
- Long-term parking, transport links and the Littlecombe site are being considered in Dursley's Neighbourhood Plan
- Stroud Chamber of Commerce is planning a Growth Accelerator Programme open meeting
- Sponsors to light up trees in Stroud (not just at Christmas time) are being looked for by Stroud Chamber of Commerce
- The Rough Traders Challenge takes place on Thursday 5th November. Please contact OPENhouse Stroud if you would like to be involved
- OPENhouse Stroud is helping provide transitional housing for those who still need secure housing
- The new Stroud GP Out of Hours Service is being run by South West Ambulance Trust
- A new digital x-ray machine is being installed at Stroud General Hospital
- Local voluntary organisations are facing difficult times financially, with many amalgamating

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England published its final recommendations in June 2015: Stroud will have all-out elections (District, Town and Parish) May 2016

The Chair thanked all for their contributions to a very informative meeting and asked that suggestions for future agenda items be forwarded to Jackie.

Future meeting dates

2015

Friday 4th December

Conference Room, SGS College, Stroud

2016

Friday 4th March

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 10th June

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 9th September

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 2nd December

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill