



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 3rd March 2017
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Present:

Kevin Hamblin (Chair)	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)	David Hagg	CE, Stroud District Council
Les Haines MBE	Voluntary & Community Sector Forum	Cllr Steve Lydon	Leader, Stroud District Council
Chris Pockett	Renishaw Plc	Carol Stubbs	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
David Miller	Stroud Hospital League of Friends	Sergeant Kirk Harrison	Gloucestershire Constabulary
Dr Claire Mould	OPENhouse	Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG
Beth Whittaker	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Russell Warner	FSB
David Tate	Silverwood UK Ltd	Emily Gravestock	UK Space Agency
Andrew Fletcher	Longfield (Hospice Care for the Cotswolds)	Pamela Tawse	Gloucestershire Older Persons Association
Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire	Barbara Pond	GRCC
Eilis Cope	Cope Sales & Marketing	Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

Apologies and absent:

Dr Stuart Wilson	Stroud District Schools Partnership	Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Commerce, Stroud
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	David Nairn	Fluid Transfer
Cllr Neil Grecian	Mayor of Dursley	Dr Hein Le Roux	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Elin Tattersall	GRCC	William Frazer	National Farmers Union
Dr Claire Feehily	Healthwatch Gloucestershire	Margaret Willcox OBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Alison Robinson	GAPTC	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP for Cotswolds Constituency
Neil Carmichael	MP for Stroud Constituency	Brian Oosthuysen	Gloucestershire County Council
Oli King	Stroud District Youth Council	Tom Schaffner	Stroud District Youth Council

Guests & Support Officers:

Patrick McLeod, SGS College	Barry Wyatt, Stroud District Council	Jackie Godwin, Stroud District Council
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1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

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

2. Notes of the previous meeting, 2nd December, 2016

The accuracy of the notes previously circulated was agreed.

3. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) & Local Plan (LP) update

Barry Wyatt, SDC's Strategic Head (Development Services) delivered very comprehensive presentations on the above. The CIL, which comes into effect 1st April 2017, is a charge on new development to help fund supporting infrastructure across the District. Subsequent discussion points included:

- The CIL, a nationwide scheme for LAs with adopted Local Plans, is not mandatory: SDC resolved to adopt it on 9th February 2017
- Parish and Town Councils can only claim CIL funding once they have adopted a neighbourhood plan
- Unlike S.106 agreements, the CIL is non-negotiable but there are a few exemptions. However, the Government has already indicated that amendments are likely
- SDC will be monitoring the situation regarding any effect to the business community and affordable housing
- There is a shortage of affordable housing in the District, with a 1:10 ratio between average wage and cost of affordable housing: our LP offers a degree of protection from developers to provide this
- Adopted November 2015, the LP must be reviewed within 5 years for the period 2016-2036: businesses and Parishes are encouraged to contribute to this

Barry's PowerPoint presentations are available on the LSP web pages (under meetings)

<http://lsp.stroud.gov.uk/> and full details, including CIL faqs, can be found on the SDC website

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/community-infrastructure-levy>

and <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/stroud-district-local-plan>

4. Making Gloucestershire the best county in which to grow older

Rob Fountain, CEO Age UK Gloucestershire, provided a very informative overview of the findings of conversations held to determine what people feel is needed to make this the best county in the UK in which to grow older. Comments and discussion points included:

- We need to consider how to include housing for older people in our developments as people want the opportunity to live in mixed-generation, positive and active shared environments
- Many organisations are already working together to provide a coordinated approach but we need to strengthen partnerships more to support the homeless, victims of domestic abuse, people with disabilities and those with mental health issues
- People want to be treated with dignity and respect
- Over 700 people aged 50+ are currently enrolled on courses at SGS College

Rob's presentation is available on the LSP web pages.

5. The Apprenticeship Levy

Pat McLeod, Director of Work-based Learning, SGS College, provided a comprehensive summary of the major changes to the delivery of apprenticeships being introduced April 2017. Subsequent comments and discussion points included:

- The scheme is designed to encourage employers to support apprenticeships, is open to people of all ages as well as to existing employees
- Every apprentice must spend at least 20% of their time on directly relevant off-the-job training, which may prove difficult to manage
- Many feel that the Levy will unfairly hit the finances of education establishments, as there is no exclusion for them
- SDC has offered apprenticeships for a number of years (and currently employs 10 apprentices in various services). However, changes to some existing frameworks mean that we will need to operate quite differently going forward, including offering higher level apprenticeships and in more areas of our business
- The Levy offers an opportunity to employers to work together to devise their own apprenticeships
- The Levy can be used to train existing staff, so many businesses may choose not to recruit new apprentices
- Many employers feel that the Levy is another tax on businesses
- SGS College is working with a number of employers regarding training provision to help facilitate the scheme

Pat's PowerPoint is available on the LSP web pages and further information is available via

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work>

6. Partners' updates

- The DWP has introduced an employer toolkit designed to help them recruit and retain more people from disadvantaged groups
- Universal Credit is due to be rolled out in Stroud October 2017
- Funds are available for training and skills provision from the European Social Fund (ESF)
- Stroud Businesswomen's Network remains very active, attracting excellent speakers to its monthly meetings
- G First LEP would welcome more volunteers from the business sector becoming Enterprise Advisors in local secondary schools and colleges to support careers education
- Volunteer stewards for Stroud Fringe Festival 2017 (August 25th -27th) are needed
- Transport in rural areas, including Stroud, for people with dementia is problematic
- Uplands Care Service organises the Older Persons Community Hub newsletter
- The consultation on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for Health and Care in Gloucestershire has just concluded
- Of the 18 GP practices in the District, 12 will be investing in clinical pharmacists (3 posts) and the remaining 6 will be implementing a repeat prescription hub
- The Glos. CCG contract for the provision of home care is out to tender: Longfield currently provides this and is involved in putting together a joint bid with other providers
- The FSB are supporting and hosting several forthcoming business events, including SDC's 'Future Local' 23rd March; Crowd funding for small businesses at Egypt Mill, 28th March and a breakfast event at Renishaw, 9th May
- Planning for Stroud Ambitions 2017 (8th November) is underway, with several businesses and organisations already committed
- Inspector Andy Poole is moving to a new role in Royal Household Protection. He sent his thanks to LSP members for all their support during the years he has been part of the group and in turn the Chair asked for appreciation of his commitment to be noted. Inspector Brian Clifford will now be representing Glos. Constabulary
- A dangerous drugs network has been operating in the area. Safeguarding remains a priority for the Constabulary: homelessness numbers are rising, domestic violence and child sexual violence are also issues of concern. There has been a spate of dwelling burglaries in the north of the District but a number of recent arrests have been made

- Renishaw plc is on target for a record turnover: but having recruited heavily, profits may be slightly down. With business cyclical, fixed-term contracts only are being offered at the Woodchester site (and as it has been difficult to recruit locally, employees are being sourced from S Wales)
- Renishaw plc will be appointing 45 apprentices this year, most are from the locality and some will be degree-level students
- Renishaw plc run a very successful work experience programme and will provide 108 opportunities for students aged between 15 and 17 years over 2 weeks in the summer
- Renishaw plc offers charitable support and further information is available via <https://resources.renishaw.com/en/search/charity>
- Stroud Hospital League of Friends (SHLF) has recently purchased a new portable ultra-sound machine for the maternity unit
- SGS College students provide artwork for the walls of Stroud Hospital
- SHLF is working with Glos. Care Services NHS Trust to improve the minor injury unit. And a Reminiscence Room is now available at Stroud Hospital
- SDC's level of Council Tax for 2017-18 was set on 23rd February. There is extreme pressure on our revenue budget but there will be investments made. Findings from our annual Business and Residents surveys remain extremely useful: provision of affordable housing remains a priority and we will be investing £8m in this over the next few years. We will also be investing £3m in the Cotswold Canals Restoration Project

The Chair thanked the presenters and all attendees for their excellent contributions to a vibrant, very informative meeting.

Please send any requests for future agenda items to Jackie.

Future meeting dates

2017

Friday 9th June	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill
Friday 8th September	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill
Friday 1st December	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

All meetings are 9am for a 9.15am start, with due finish 11.30am