



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 6 June 2025

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Theme: SGS College; Strategy 2025-2035

Present:

Anna Reeves	Creative Sustainability
Cllr Chloe Turner	Leader, Stroud District Council
Cllr Katy Hofmann	Leader of the Labour Group, Stroud District Council
Dan Morris	Deputy Chairman, Howard Tenens
David Withey	Chief Executive & Principal, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS)
Ian Hunter	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud & District
Lee Taylor	Stroud and Nailsworth Station Manager, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Margaret Greaves	Interim Chair, Stroud League of Friends
Mark McShane	Head, Stroud High School
Russell Warner	Gloucestershire Area Lead, Federation of Small Businesses
Sue Eskins	Chair, Stroud Businesswomen's Network
Will Mansell (Chair)	The Grace Network
Thomas Haines	Dr Simon Opher MP's Office

Apologies received:

Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council	Elizabeth Hall	Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswolds
Barbara Piranty	Chief Executive, GRCC	Clare Davis	CEO, Longfield
Chris Pockett	Head of Communications, Renishaw	Hattie Severinsen	Gloucestershire County Adviser, NFU
Chloe Warden	Senior Economic Officer, Gloucestershire County Council	Steve Olczak	Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions
Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP, North Cotswolds	Alan Inman-Ward	CEO, Age UK Gloucestershire
Beth Whittaker	Third sector / community involvement	Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Alison Truphet	Amberley Shop & Café	Dai Briley	NFU Mutual Agent at Gloucester
Suzanne Booker	Deputy Director of Care Operations, Lilian Faithfull Care	Roz Savage	MP, South Cotswolds

Alyssa Pearce	Chair, Stroud District Youth Council	Simon Ellson	Gloucestershire Police, Stroud and Dursley Inspector
Adrian Oldman	Director, Transition Stroud	Max Comfort	Director, Stroud Commonwealth
Cllr Lindsey Green	Conservative Group Leader, Stroud District Council	Dr Simon Opher	MP, Stroud
Lisa Wilson	Chief Executive, GL11 Community Hub	Keith Gerrard	Strategic Director of Communities, Stroud District Council
Anna Herbert	Chief Executive Officer, OPENhouse	Anna Bonallack	CEO, Creative Sustainability

Guests and Support Officers

Emma Smith	LSP Coordinator	Hannah Barton	LSP Coordinator
Debra Burton	Assistant Principal SEND & Equality of Opportunity, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS)	Kelly Gillett	Executive Director of People & Organisational Culture, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS)
Ben Falconer	Corporate Communications Manager	Steve Miles	Youth Strategy and Safeguarding Officer
Chris Uttley	Climate Change and Sustainability Manager, Stroud District Council	Georgia Spooner	Climate Engagement and Advocacy Officer, Stroud District Council

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone and noted the apologies.

2. SGS College: Strategy 2025-2035 – Interactive session

David Withey introduced himself and shared his background in the education sector, he introduced his colleagues Kelly Gillett and Debra Burton, who described their roles at SGS College.

David emphasised that he wants all the SGS campuses to work collectively with a strong shared sense of identity. He noted that the current SGS strategy was not effectively guiding college activities and that new initiatives needed clearer positioning.

David invited LSP members to share what SGS College means to them. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, particularly about the art courses provided at SGS Stroud and how they are fondly known throughout the district. Other feedback included comments about apprenticeship offerings, alternative courses and options to university, and post-16 opportunities. LSP members described SGS as a very diverse organisation and a key educational anchor in the district.

David outlined what SGS intend to do with the strategy framework and highlighted the need for the strategy to be shaped by multiple stakeholders in the district to ensure it resonates with the wider community. Debra discussed some of the key priority areas at SGS and described the provision for learners, including support for those with specialist learning requirements and mental health and wellbeing support.

Debra explained that the Stroud School of Art has 160-year heritage and is led with a dynamic head of department driving the ambition forwards. She also touched on the 14-16 provision,

otherwise known as Create, that supports over 150 learners. Debra highlighted the skills development opportunities for those students in vocational subjects. David presented the learner statistics since 2020/21; he used the data to outline where SGS thrives in their course offering and what sectors they are looking to improve.

David reiterated that SGS should be a positive place of choice for students and staff, an attractive place to work and recognised as a place that provides quality services, accredited by the [BSI Kitemark](#). This also includes the physical space that SGS takes up and the future modern digital environment. David questioned how SGS could become more community-driven and initiated a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis. LSP members split into two groups and recorded their feedback on A2 boards. David and Cllr Katy Hofmann presented the group findings.

Kelly Gillett described the stakeholder involvement in shaping the new strategy and why it is important. Kelly shared a poster of SGS priorities and asked the group to identify the three most important and one least important priority using colour-coded stickers. Kelly summarised the group's feedback for use in strategy development.

A question was raised about the role of SGS Berkeley Green UTC in the strategy. David clarified that the focus was on the SGS Stroud College strategy, though collaboration with Berkeley Green UTC remained possible. Another question addressed ownership of the new green skills centre, which David confirmed belongs to SGS. This led to further discussion about the SGS green site and transport challenges in Gloucestershire affecting student access.

The chair then concluded the meeting and thanked David, Kelly and Debra for their interactive session. The chair took the opportunity to request suggestions from the LSP for themes of future meetings. Suggestions included:

- Transport
- Access to public services
- Social needs of the district
- Purpose of the LSP and how it adds value in local government reorganisation (LGR)
- Impact of LGR and opportunities
- Cyber centre in Cheltenham and transport links
- Community wealth building
- Building on a Stroud brand and identity
- How to be climate focused and greener

3. Future LSP meeting themes

The theme of the next LSP meeting will be Climate and Nature. If anyone has any suggestions for future LSP themes, please let Emma know on emma.smith@stroud.gov.uk.

4. Partners' Updates

Please send any requests for future agenda items or suggestions for future meeting themes to Emma Smith, emma.smith@stroud.gov.uk.

- **Georgia Spooner, Climate Engagement and Advocacy Officer, Stroud District Council:**
 - Stroud District Council have published their [carbon data and targets summary](#).
 - 16 community grants have been issued throughout the district for climate and nature projects.
 - The next LSP will include a consultation with members about the new Climate and Nature Strategy.
- **Mark McShane, Head Teacher, Stroud High School:**

- Stroud High hosted a multi-school exchange which included numerous meetings with South Korea.
- **Cllr Chloe Turner, Leader of the Council, Stroud District Council:**
 - [Stroud Funding](#) has 14 live projects available, there are opportunities to fund those projects and more with another round of crowdfunding later in the summer.
 - The [Rural Prosperity Fund](#) is open for applications, the deadline is 23rd June.
 - Five new apprenticeship opportunities are going live in September, with two open evenings on 14th and 18th June at Ebley Mill.
- **Lee Taylor, Stroud and Nailsworth Station Manager, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service:**
 - There has been an increase in deliberate fires, young people playing with aerosol cans and BBQs.
 - Solar panels and battery energy storage have been fitted at Dursley and Stroud stations, along with a refurbishment of the Stroud fire station.
- **Sue Eskins, Chair, Stroud Businesswomen's Network:**
 - The network is going through a review, and they are recruiting more members.
- **Anna Reeves, Creative Sustainability:**
 - CS will be reviewing the delivery of the [3rd Space](#) initiative.
- **Ian Hunter, Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud & District:**
 - Graffiti has been removed and litter collected in the Stroud town centre, along with new bunting flags added to the high street to give it some extra colour.
- **Dan Morris, Deputy Chairman, Howard Tenens:**
 - Through renewable energy they have breached 8meg of PV, producing 50% more energy than they need for their own uses.
- **Margaret Greeves, Stroud League of Friends:**
 - Stroud General Hospital's 150th year celebration church service will take place Sunday 6th July, 3pm, at Holy Trinity Church, Stroud.
- **David Withey, Chief Executive & Principal, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS):**
 - SGS Stroud School of Art summer exhibition is open until Friday 13th June.
 - Attendance has been positive for English and maths GCSEs, SGS are working hard to ensure learners are in the room.

Next meeting
Friday 12 September

The meetings are 9:00am for a 9:15am start, with meeting end by 11:30am.