



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
<http://lsp.stroud.gov.uk>

Meeting held on Friday 27 March 2026

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Theme: Youth Participation

Present:

Adrian Oldman	Director, Transition Stroud
Alan Inman-Ward	CEO, Age UK Gloucestershire
Annie Gould	Trust Relationships Manager, Longfield Hospice
Barbara Piranty	Chief Executive Officer, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Beth Whittaker	Third sector / community involvement
Cllr Chloe Turner	Leader of the Council
Cllr Elisabeth Newman	Randwick & Westrip Parish Council
Cllr Maggie Dutton on behalf of Cllr Katy Hoffman	Labour Group
David Withey (Vice Chair)	Chief Executive & Principal, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS)
Georgia Spooner	Climate Engagement and Advocacy Officer, Stroud District Council
Ian Hunter	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud
Maria Franchi on behalf of Elizabeth Hall	Training and Development Officer, Citizens Advice
Sue Eskins	Chair, Stroud Businesswomen's Network
Thomas Haines	Simon Opher, MP Office
Will Mansell (Chair)	Founder, The Grace Network

Apologies received:

Adrian Judge	Director, The Engine Room
Alyssa Pearce	Youth Council Chair, Stroud District Council
Angela Presdee	Principal Economic Officer, Gloucestershire County Council
Anna Bonallack	CEO, Creative Sustainability
Anna Herbert	Chief Executive Officer, OPENhouse
Ben Falconer	Corporate Communications Manager
Chloe Warden	Senior Economic Officer, Gloucestershire County Council
Chris Pockett	Head of Communications, Renishaw Plc
Chris Uttley	Climate Change and Sustainability Manager, Stroud District Council
Cllr Katy Hofmann	Leader of the Labour Group
Cllr Lindsey Green	Leader of Conservative Group
Dai Briley	NFU Mutual Agent at Gloucester
Dan Morris	Deputy Chairman, Howard Tenens
Dr Simon Opher	Member of Parliament - Stroud
Elizabeth Hall	Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Stroud
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP	Member of Parliament - North Cotswolds
Hattie Severinsen	Gloucestershire County Advisor, NFU

Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council
Keith Gerrard	Strategic Director of Communities, SDC
LaToya Howe	Youth Participation Officer
Lee Taylor	Stroud & Nailsworth Station Manager, Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue
Lisa Wilson	Chief Executive, GL11 Community Hub
Margaret Greaves	Stroud League of Friends
Mark McShane	Stroud High Head Teacher
Max Comfort	Director, Stroud Commonwealth
Roz Savage	Member of Parliament - South Cotswolds
Russell Warner	Russell Warner
Steve Olczak	Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions
Suzanne Booker	Lilian Faithfull Care

Guests and Support Officers

Emma Smith	LSP Coordinator
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1. Welcome, introductions, apologies.

The chair introduced the theme for the meeting and explained the background to the proposal paper that was circulated to LSP members.

2. Proposal to reshape the theme structure of LSP meetings

Making the Stroud district a place that engages, supports, and advocates young people through their journey to become adults

The Chair thanked members for completing the online survey and explained the renewed focus on one overarching topic; youth felt like the right topic so the LSP could give some agency to young people around the district.

The Chair pulled out some themes but welcomed the groups thoughts and ideas about what sub-themes they thought the LSP could focus on and any specific outcomes to consider.

The Vice Chair provided an update following the earlier consultation workshop with the LSP last year. The new strategy consists of four key themes: Community, Achievement, Readiness, and Enjoyment. There was a discussion about breaking down barriers to learning and employment, and the Vice Chair noted that work that will be taking place to incentivise students to consider apprenticeships. There are also plans to review and improve The Growth Hub.

The Chair asked everyone to talk in pairs to identify one sub-theme or area where the LSP can make an impact. Themes included:

Transport - Concerns around the availability, affordability and coverage of bus routes, alongside interest in sustainable options such as pedal power and non-combustion transport.

Volunteering - Plays a key role in building confidence, skills, and community, particularly for young people lacking work experience. While there are extensive volunteering opportunities locally, organisations struggle to attract younger volunteers.

Work experience and employment - Reduced access to traditional early work opportunities (e.g. Saturday jobs, roles for 14–15-year-olds). There is concern about workplace readiness, NEETs, and how young people are keener for paid employment rather than work experience.

Education – Lower literacy levels, inequitable access to after-school or extracurricular activities due to cost, and questions about whether education is effectively preparing young people for employment.

Collaborative working & access to opportunities - There is a perceived disconnect between schools, colleges, and businesses in the district. Is there an opportunity to create a register of businesses willing to support young people, particularly for families lacking confidence to engage employers.

Data & insights - There is a need for stronger data and ongoing measurement (e.g. employment outcomes, volunteering levels, transport access), including qualitative insights from young people themselves.

Engaging young people - Questions were raised about how the Stroud district is marketed and how it can attract, and retain, young people as a place to live, work and visit.

3. Future LSP meeting themes

The chair asked the members to discuss future themes and to email any suggestions to Emma Smith on emma.smith@stroud.gov.uk.

4. Partners' Updates

- **Thomas Haines, Dr Simon Opher MP Office**

Continuing to meet regularly with stagecoach, in the process of organising a meeting with key players to discuss rural bus transport routes. The work is ongoing, next meeting should include a positive update.

- **Annie Gould, Trust Relationships Manager, Longfield Hospice**

They now have a CEO and Director of Care; their strategy is just being reviewed and will be publicly available shortly.

- **Cllr Chloe Turner, Stroud District Council**

Stroud District Council will provide grants of up to **£2,000** to support **arts & culture activities** in the Stroud district, they focus on supporting future generations. Please find out more on the council website here: [Culture grants 2026](#).

The spring round of **Stroudfunding** has launched with the deadline of **6 May 2026**. Stroud Funding offers a launchpad for community-driven ideas to gain support and funding more easily. It enables those who care about their local area and community to get involved – contributing pledges from as little as £2 to help bring inspiring projects to life. **There is an opportunity to receive a pledge of up to 50% of your project target from Stroud District Council (SDC)** (up to a maximum of £10,000) through Stroud Funding, along with pledges from your local community. For example, a project of £3,000 could receive up to £1,500 from SDC. Please find out more on the website here: [Stroud Funding - About - Spacehive](#)

- **Alan Inman-Ward, CEO, Age UK Gloucestershire**

They are due to release a new strategy in May, includes partnership working, supporting families of older people, focusing on frailty rather than older age specifically.

- **Ian Hunter, Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud**

New literature has been placed around the whole district marketing Stroud.

- **Adrian Oldman, Director, Transition Stroud**

The **Facilitation Fund** is available to support the local community to take action on sustainability. They can offer small grants of up to **£500** per application (or up to £1,000 in exceptional circumstances) to help pump prime new ideas and get things started. Please find out more on how to apply here: transitionstroud.org/facilitation-fund/

- **Barbara Piranty, Chief Executive Officer, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council**

Village of the year has launched, and they are looking for volunteers aged 18+ to be flood wardens.

- **Georgia Spooner, Climate Engagement and Advocacy Officer, Stroud District Council**

About to commence the Climate and Nature Partnership, please contact Georgia if LSP members are interested in getting involved.

- **Will Mansell (Chair), Founder, The Grace Network**

There is a new climbing wall due to launch in Brimscombe called Climbing Commons.

Next meeting

Friday 19 June 2026

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