



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on 7 March 2025

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Theme: Responsible Business

Present:

Russell Warner (Chair)	Gloucestershire Area Lead, Federation of Small Businesses	Georgia Spooner	Climate Engagement and Advocacy Officer, Stroud District Council
Alyssa Pearce	Chair, Stroud District Youth Council	James Hutchins	Stroud and Dursley Inspector, Gloucestershire Police
Alison Truphet	Amberley Shop & Café	James Beecher	Access Bike Project Manager, Creative Sustainability
Amy Beckett	Senior Economic Development Specialist, Stroud District Council	Lee Taylor	Stroud and Nailsworth Station Manager, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Barbara Piranty	Chief Executive, GRCC	Cllr Lindsey Green	Conservative Group Leader, Stroud District Council
Beth Whittaker	Third sector / community involvement	Margaret Greaves	Interim Chair, Stroud League of Friends
Chris Pockett	Head of Communications, Renishaw	Steve Olczak	Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions
Cllr Chloe Turner	Green Councillor for Minchinhampton, Stroud District Council	Dr Simon Opher (in part)	MP, Stroud
Dan Morris	Deputy Chairman, Howard Tenens	Tom Berry	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud & District
Dai Briley	NFU Mutual Agent at Gloucester		

Apologies received:

Anna Herbert	Chief Executive Officer, OPENhouse	Anna Bonallack	Chief Executive Officer, Creative Sustainability
Adrian Oldman	Director, Transition Stroud	Carole Stubbs	Job Centre Plus, Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire District
Cllr Catherine Braun	Leader, Stroud District Council	Chloe Warden	Senior Economic Officer, Gloucestershire County Council
Elizabeth Hall	Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswolds	Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

Indigo Redfern	Chief Executive, GL11 Community Hub	Ian Hunter	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud & District
Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council	Keith Gerrard	Strategic Director of Communities, Stroud District Council
Mark McShane	Head, Stroud High School	Max Comfort	Director, Stroud Commonwealth
Tanya de Leersnyder	Chair, Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Will Mansell (Vice Chair)	The Grace Network

Absent and apologies not received:

Kevin Hamblin	Group Chief Executive Principal, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS)	Clare Davis	CEO, Longfield
Chris Haine	Chief Officer, GAPTC	Roz Savage	MP, South Cotswolds
Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP, North Cotswolds	Sarah Scott	Executive Director Adult Social Care, Gloucestershire County Council

Guests and Support Officers

Emma Brown	Sustainability Manager, Renishaw	Emma Smith	LSP Coordinator
Greg Pilley	Managing Director & Founder, Stroud Brewery	Hannah Barton	LSP Coordinator
Ben Falconer	Corporate Communications Manager	Steve Miles	Youth Strategy and Safeguarding Manager, Stroud District Council

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone and noted the apologies.

2. Stroud Brewery - Responsible Business

Greg Pilley introduced himself to the LSP and provided background on his experience and career. Greg described the steps to how Stroud Brewery became an accredited B-Corp business. Stroud Brewery scored highly in the categories Environment and Community on the Overall B Impact Score. Greg explained that the brewery has taken a more refined view on their impact over the last four years, and he provided a summary of the Green House Gas Protocol Corporate Standard Reporting Framework and the emission increases and reductions from the 2023-24 fiscal year. Greg explained that being organic produces 20% less emissions than the conventional malt/barley. Plant, insect and bird life can increase by up to 50% when growing organic barley.

The ROI for small businesses isn't returned on new sustainable technology. Greg suggested that an exciting way to get around this could be combining budget between businesses to invest in sustainable community initiatives.

Greg explained how they champion the pub itself which brings in sales from other areas of the business. The brewery market in Gloucestershire has become increasingly competitive, Stroud Brewery began amongst six other breweries, and now there are 38.

Greg and the team are extremely passionate about sustainability, they could save a significant amount of money if they weren't organic, but it's this strategy that sets them apart from others.

3. Doing Business Responsibly - Renishaw

Chris Pockett introduced himself to the LSP and provided some background on who Renishaw are, and their locations throughout the district and wider Gloucestershire. Chris introduced the Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) Strategy, and provided further background on the various initiatives that make up this strategy. Chris explained how Renishaw have made great progress towards scope 1 and scope 2, and how they are 50% on their way to meet the target to be Net Zero by 2050.

Emma Brown discussed the types of renewable energy that Renishaw are using, including the usage of the various solar panels at the Wotton-under-Edge, Stonehouse, and Woodchester locations. Emma provided some background on the new Charfield train station that Renishaw are supporting with the development of, Emma explained that many of their employees reside in or near Charfield and will be utilising the station in order to get to work. Renishaw aim to support with reducing waste, providing a ULEZ vehicle scheme for their employees, and EV charging on various Renishaw sites.

Emma highlighted three of the Sustainable Development Goals that Renishaw has focused on:

- 8. Decent work and economic growth
- 12. Responsible consumption and production
- 13. Climate action.

Chris drew attention to Renishaw's social focus, this included support for students and young people in the district with developing a career at Renishaw through apprenticeships, degree level apprenticeships, as well as summer and industrial placements. Chris touched on various community engagement initiatives, including the Renishaw stage at Nibley Festival. Chris made a key point about the rise of national insurance contributions, and how this is affecting Renishaw but also many businesses in the UK.

Dr Simon Opher MP commented on how hugely impressed he is with the quality of amazing work both Renishaw and Stroud Brewery are undertaking. Dr Simon Opher mentioned that he understands the impact of national insurance contributions and how Renishaw and Stroud Brewery will be both be significantly affected because of this.

4. How we support Responsible Businesses – The Economic Development Team, Stroud District Council

Amy Beckett introduced herself to the LSP and explained how the economic development team support various businesses around the district. Amy described what a responsible business was, and the different economic, social, and environmental responsibilities, as well as good business practice for responsible businesses.

Amy described the work that has been undertaken at the Council so far, she highlighted the partnership with [The Growth Hub](#) based at SGS Stroud College, where businesses can get support and guidance, and overcome any barriers to growth.

Amy described the purpose of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which was launched by Government in 2022, where Stroud District Council could award £1,378,985 between the years of

2022-25. Throughout this period, 17 grants have been awarded; eight to various business organisations, and nine to community organisations. Stroud District Council was awarded £400,000 to distribute as part of the Rural England Prosperity Fund for 2023-25. The district has awarded 51 capital grants during this period; 28 to community organisations and 13 to businesses.

Amy then provided some background on how projects are awarded funding. Applications are submitted to Stroud District Council; different questions are asked to consider each of the applications and determine whether they are awarded funding. Amy listed some of the questions included in this assessment. Amy went on to explain the next steps for the Economic Development Team, including the renewal of the Economic Development Strategy and The Natural Place.

A question was proposed to the speakers about how they value and enable young people with disabilities or neurodivergence at their businesses, and how they are supported.

Renishaw explained how they are making their buildings more accessible, starting with wheelchair accessibility for the main building. Webinars are also being offered about how to support employees who are neurodiverse. They are considering the use of employee passports within the business, where neurodiverse people can use them rather than explaining their accessibility needs to others.

Stroud Brewery commented on the culture within their organisation, how they have a supportive team, offer work placements with Ruskin Mill and other businesses/organisations so they can both accommodate their team, but also learn how their team can learn how to accommodate people who have a disability or are neurodivergent.

A question was directed at Renishaw about how much energy they produce from their solar panels, if they store it, and whether it goes back to the grid. Renishaw explained that they utilise all their energy at the moment, and there are some challenges with feeding this energy back into the grid. A further comment was made about whether battery storage was an option, to which Renishaw are considering the idea but have no plans to implement them so far.

A discussion was had about how Howard Tenens are considering exporting their sustainable energy storage to third parties, by supplying electricity through the grid and charging for handling the cost. Another comment was made about how commercial premises generally need power during the daytime, and residential properties need it in the evening, therefore batteries can make more sense at residential properties rather than commercial properties.

The effect on businesses from the increase in national insurance contributions was discussed. Renishaw explained how they haven't made any official decisions on how they will adjust to these changes. There was mention of the early careers programme they offer and how people costs are around £300million per year. Although sales are growing 2-3% per year, the hit on national insurance contributions is substantial, so the early careers programme will continue but it may not include as many graduates as normal.

5. Recruitment of Vice Chair

The chair of the LSP highlighted that the LSP are looking for a new Vice Chair. As per the LSP Terms of Reference, the new Vice Chair must be one of the LSP members from the public sector, so if any members would like to be considered please get in touch with the LSP coordinators.

6. Future LSP meeting themes

The next LSP meeting will be about the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College Strategy 2025 – 2035. If anyone has any suggestions for future LSP themes, please let Emma know on emma.smith@stroud.gov.uk.

7. Partners' Updates

- **Alyssa Pearce, Chair, Stroud District Youth Council:**
 - SDYC are developing a programme for an intergenerational climate event, this will take place in the Autumn.
- **Cllr Chloe Turner, Green Group Leader, Stroud District Council:**
 - Lots of work going on in terms of Local Government Reorganisation and what is going to happen in Gloucestershire.
 - Information about the Local Growth Plan Engagement Event held by Gloucestershire County Council was circulated immediately after the meeting.
- **Beth Whittaker, Third sector / community involvement:**
 - [Read with Me](#) are looking for volunteers at the Orchard School in Gloucester.
- **Steve Olczak, Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions:**
 - DWP have teamed up with Gloucestershire County Council to support people into placements with local companies to further employment for young people. The programme is called [100 Futures](#) and is aimed at young people aged 16 – 24.
- **Lee Taylor, Stroud and Nailsworth Station Manager, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service:**
 - The Fire & Rescue Service will be conducting a public consultation soon about their main objectives for 2026-30.
 - Solar panels and batteries are an emerging threat, and if the fire is big enough, the fire service sometimes struggle to put it out.
 - Businesses should engage with the Fire Service if they have plans for solar panels, so the service can put things in place to ensure health and safety is covered.
- **James Hutchins, Stroud and Dursley Inspector, Gloucestershire Police:**
 - There is a temporary Chief Constable in place.
 - There will be a new plan for 2025-26 and lot of this will be around efficiency and doing more with less.
- **Margaret Greaves, Interim Chair, Stroud League of Friends:**
 - Breast screening hub at Stroud Hospital has been approved and will be opening soon.
- **Alison Truphet, Amberley Shop & Café:**
 - Second birthday party for the shop and café will be happening in June.
- **James Beecher, Creative Sustainability:**
 - Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group developed a feedback report for Gloucestershire County Council.
 - Stroud Library of Things will be launching at some point in the spring.
- **Georgia Spooner, Climate Engagement and Advocacy Officer, Stroud District Council:**
 - [Furbnow](#) is a scheme launched to help homes who have the money to retrofit their homes. This is for individual homeowners, including people that rent.
 - If anyone has an interest in supporting community energy, particularly if you have access to community buildings, e.g. village halls, there is an allocated £30,000 to give small grants to climate and nature activities in the district. The maximum grant

amount is £2,000 per lead organisation. Please see the circulated document for further information.

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

Next meeting

6 June 2025

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