



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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To all Members of Stroud District Council

09 December 2020

You are hereby summoned to attend a remote meeting of **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL** on **THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2020 at 7.00 pm.**

Kathy O'Leary
Chief Executive

This is a remote meeting in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Venue

This meeting will be conducted using Zoom and a separate invitation with the link to access the meeting will be sent to Members, relevant officers and members of the public who have submitted a question.

Public Access

Members of the public, who have not submitted a question, are invited to access the meeting streamed live via Stroud District Council's [YouTube channel](#).

Recording of Proceedings

A recording of the meeting will be published onto the Council's website (www.stroud.gov.uk). The whole of the meeting will be recorded except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of press and public.

A G E N D A

- 1 **APOLOGIES**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive declarations of interest.
- 3 **MINUTES**
To approve the Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 22 October 2020
- 4 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive announcements from the Chair of Council.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairs of Committees will answer questions from members of the public submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS

Noon on Monday, 14 December 2020

Questions must be submitted to the Chief Executive, Democratic Services, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud and can be sent by email to democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk

6 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Housing Committee – 8 December 2020

The relevant Committee reports are available on the Committee's website page for this Council meeting.

The Chair of Housing Committee will present these items.

6a COUNCIL HOUSING – HOUSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION (Agenda Item 8 – 9 December 2020)

To put recommendations from Housing Committee to Council for consideration and, if appropriate, approval.

7 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

See Agenda Item 5 for deadline for submission.

8 MOTIONS

8a Motion regarding Supporting Universal Basic Income is proposed by Councillor Catherine Braun and Seconded by Councillor Trevor Hall

A Universal Basic Income is a non-means-tested sum paid by the state to cover the basic cost of living, which is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status, which has been widely debated in recent months. Advocates argue it is the fairest, most effective way to mitigate the effects of coronavirus on people's incomes. A network of Universal Basic Income Labs has been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address problems such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in parliament, our local MPs, and to Gloucestershire County Council to express the following:

- 1) That the current benefit system is failing citizens, with Universal Credit causing hardship to many communities in Stroud District;
- 2) There is a danger of increasing numbers of people facing poverty as a result of the coronavirus crisis;
- 3) Testing a UBI is needed, as a UBI has the potential to help address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, loss of community, and breach of planetary boundaries through:

- i) Giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their jobs;
 - ii) Valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
 - iii) Removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality;
 - iv) Giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society;
 - v) Breaking the link between work and consumption, thus helping reduce strain on the environment; and
 - vi) Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy.
- 4) The success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by impact upon take-up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them; and
 - 5) Given its history of social innovation, wealth of expertise, and active networks across community, business and public services, Stroud District is ideally placed to pilot a UBI.

8b Motion regarding Food Poverty is proposed by Councillor Steve Lydon and Seconded by Councillor Simon Pickering

This Council notes:

1. That Trussell Trust research shows 3m children are at risk of hunger during school holidays.
2. Foodbank use has dramatically increased, the Independent Food Aid Network recorded a 59% increase in demand for emergency food support between February and March.
3. That the government has committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 “To End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture “. The first target under Goal 2 being – “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round”
4. In the UK WRAP estimate 9.6 million tonnes of food is wasted of which 4.5 million tonnes of that is edible food - products that could have been eaten. Unless treated safely this food waste has the potential to generate 25m t of Greenhouse gasses
5. The COVID – 19 pandemic has highlighted the risk of long supply chains on both the supply and cost of food

This Council believes:

6. No one in the UK should go hungry, not least the vulnerable, elderly and children. Food justice is about taking action on the causes of hunger such as affordability and availability of good nutritious food.
7. Local Councils, local businesses and communities have played and continue to play a key role during the COVID -19 pandemic and that should be recognised.

This Council resolves to:

8. Appoint food justice champions who will work with partners to tackle food justice locally and make a local contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2.
9. That the food justice champions will work with partners to set up a food partnership and to develop a food action plan to address the causes of food poverty and promote food justice

References

WRAP January 2020 - <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Food-surplus-and-waste-in-the-UK-key-facts-Jan-2020.pdf>

United Nations - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

GfirstLEP Recovery Plan July 2020