

To all Members of Stroud District Council

19 October 2016

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill on **Thursday 27 October 2016 at 7.00 pm.**



David Hagg, Chief Executive

**Please Note:** This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.stroud.gov.uk). By entering the Council Chamber you are consenting to being filmed. The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the 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 confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2016

**4 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive announcements from the Chair of Council, the Leader and the Chief Executive

**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, 24 October 2016

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

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**

### **AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 22 SEPTEMBER 2016**

#### **6a Changes to the Arrangements for Appointment of External Auditors (A&S Agenda Item 13)**

Having considered the above matter, the Committee has made the following recommendation to Council:

“The Council opts in to the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd as the Sector Led Body for the appointment of the Council’s External Auditors from 2018/19”.

### **STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 OCTOBER 2016**

#### **6b Fifth Report of the Constitution Working Group (S&R Agenda Item 6f)**

Having considered the above matter, the Committee has made the following recommendation to Council:

“Relevant amendments be made to the Council’s Constitution to ensure that as from 1 December 2016 the Housing Committee’s terms of reference comprise public and private housing issues affecting the Council’s housing authority role and housing policy”.

#### **6c Local Council Tax Support Scheme (S&R Agenda Item 7)**

Having considered the above matter, the Committee has made the following recommendation to Council:

“That it adopts the current local scheme as the scheme for Stroud District Council for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018”.

#### **6d Budget Strategy 2017/18 – 2020/21 (S&R Agenda Item 11)**

Having considered the above matter, the Committee has made the following recommendation to Council:

“That Stroud District Council remains in the Business Rates Pool from April 2017 if to do so maximises the retention of business rate income in Gloucestershire”.

## **7 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED TENANT MEMBERS TO HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Further to the resolution of Council on 21 July 2016 to extend the membership of the Housing Committee to include two co-opted tenant members, the Housing Committee’s interview panel met shortlisted applicants on 18 October. The Chair of the Housing Committee will provide a verbal report on the outcome of the interviews and make a recommendation to Council regarding the appointment(s) for a specified term of office.

## **8 STROUD TOWN CENTRE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

To consider a report on whether the Stroud Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan should be made part of the Development Plan, following the referendum.

**9 EASTINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

To consider a report on whether the Eastington Neighbourhood Plan should be made part of the Development Plan, following the referendum.

**10 WHITESHILL AND RUSCOMBE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

To consider a report on whether the Whiteshill and Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan should be made part of the Development Plan, following the referendum.

**11 NAILSWORTH COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUILD ORDER**

To consider a report on whether the Nailsworth Community Right to Build Order should be made, following the referendum.

**12 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

See Agenda Item 5 for the submission deadlines.

**13 NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**13a Motion proposed by Councillor Martin Baxendale and seconded by Councillor Paul Denney regarding the divestment of fossil fuels by the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Fund.**

“In line with this Council’s commitment in its Environmental Policy to mitigating the effects of climate change, Council recognises the serious risk to climate stability caused by the continued burning of fossil fuels and accepts that a rapid large-scale shift away from fossil fuels towards energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy is needed to avert catastrophic levels of future climate change.

Council accepts that trustees of pension funds and others responsible for investment decisions have a fiduciary duty to consider the environmental and social risks relating to their investments, including climate risks, and to adopt strategies to minimize those risks. Since the bulk of remaining fossil fuels must stay in the ground if major climate change is to be avoided, the reserves of the fossil fuel industry risk becoming ‘stranded assets’ with little or no value – representing a substantial financial risk for those that invest in them.

Last year data was published showing that UK local government pension schemes in total invest more than £14 billion in the fossil fuel industry. Council therefore calls on the Pension Committee of Gloucestershire County Council to implement as a matter of urgency a policy of divestment from fossil fuels for the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Fund, following the example of Waltham Forest Council whose Pension Fund Committee recently adopted such a policy.

Specifically, Council asks for an immediate freeze on new investments in fossil fuels and divestment from any business which is involved in the exploration or production of fossil fuels within 5 years.

Council will also actively lobby other councils whose staff pensions are within the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Fund to pass similar motions in favour of divestment from fossil fuels within the fund.”

**13b Motion proposed by Councillor Doina Cornell and seconded by Councillor John Marjoram regarding NHS trusts hospital and maternity services within the Stroud District.**

“This Council notes that the Gloucester Care Services NHS Trust now no longer operates an overnight service at the Stroud Minor Injuries & Illness Unit. This Council further notes the £11.1m deficit by the Gloucestershire Royal Hospitals NHS Trust. This Council also recognises the financial pressures on the NHS. Lastly, this Council recognises the valuable contribution made to the whole of the Stroud District by having Stroud Hospital and the Maternity Unit operating locally to serve local people.

The Council is asked to move that it is very concerned about the long term future of both institutions, and that a delegation of its group leaders meet with senior members of the trusts and the Clinical Commissioning Group, to seek guarantees about the future of the hospital and maternity unit.”

**13c Motion proposed by Councillor Steve Lydon and seconded by Councillor Doina Cornell regarding proposals for review of parliamentary constituencies across the Stroud District.**

“The Boundary Commission for England published its proposals for boundary changes to UK parliamentary constituencies on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016. A consultation period of 12 weeks will close on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Currently, the whole of the District (with the exception of the district wards of Minchinhampton, Kingswood and Wotton-under-Edge) is within the Stroud Constituency. The three district wards that are not in this constituency are part of the Cotswold Constituency.

The Commission proposes significant changes to constituencies in Gloucestershire based on its remit that constituencies have no fewer than 71,031 electors and no more than 78,507 electors. For the Stroud District this means the Stroud Constituency will:

- Gain Quedgeley Fieldcourt and Quedgeley Severn Vale from the Gloucester Constituency;
- Lose Minchinhampton and Nailsworth to the Cotswold Constituency; and
- Lose Berkeley, Cam East, Cam West, Dursley, Kingswood, Vale and Wotton-under-Edge to the proposed Dursley, Thornbury and Yate Constituency.

As a consequence, the Stroud District will have three Members of Parliament rather than the existing two, albeit for two of them the majority of electors will be in neighbouring council areas.

In view of the above, it is proposed that it be moved that:

The Council considers the Boundary Commission for England's proposals to be unsatisfactory from a democratic representation and accountability viewpoint and that it adds unnecessary complexity to election management arrangements. Consequently, the Council agrees to make a submission to the Boundary Commission for England setting out its views and with a strong demand that the proposed parliamentary boundaries be redrawn as follows:

**\*Stroud constituency** (all the following 2015 wards are currently in Stroud Constituency) for which the total electorate is 76,009:

Amberley & Woodchester	Dursley	Slade
Berkeley	Eastington & Standish	Stonehouse
Cainscross	Farmhill & Paganhill	The Stanleys
Cam East	Hardwicke	Thrupp
Cam West	Nailsworth	Trinity
Central	Randwick, Whiteshill & Ruscombe	Uplands
Chalford	Rodborough	Upton St Leonards
Coaley & Uley	Severn	Valley

**\*Cotswolds Constituency:**

Bisley (currently in the Stroud Constituency)
Minchinhampton
Painswick (currently in the Stroud Constituency)

**\*Thornbury, Yate and Tetbury Constituency:**

Kingswood (currently in the Cotswolds Constituency)
Vale (currently in the Stroud Constituency)
Wotton-under-Edge (currently in the Cotswolds Constituency)."

[\*Note: The Boundary Commission is using 2015 district wards not 2016 ones, hence the names of the wards used. Any proposals must be based on the 2015 wards not those now in place].