

15 February 2016

To all Members of Stroud District Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL** at **7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill on **Thursday, 25 February 2016**.



David Hagg
Chief Executive

AGENDA



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.

- 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 Meetings held on 15 October 2015, Extraordinary Council meeting held on 19 November 2015 and the Budget Meeting 28 January 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, 22 February 2016**

**Questions must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive,
Democratic Services, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud and sent by
post, by fax (01453 754957) or by Email:**

6 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES: REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

To consider the recommendations made by the IRP.

7 STANDARDS PANEL: APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

To appoint to the Standards Panel a parish / town councillor.

8 REVISED GENERAL FUND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2015/16-2019/20 (Report to follow)

To provide Members with an updated Medium Term Financial Plan, following the publication of the final Local Government Finance Settlement on 8 February 2016.

9 SETTING THE AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX FOR 2016/17 (Report to follow)

The Council Tax rates for 2016/17 cannot be finalised until Gloucestershire County Council and the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner give notification of their precepts for 2016/17.

The Police and Crime Panel accepted the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed precept at their meeting on 5 February 2016.

The County Council meeting is on 17 February 2016, formal notification of the precepts will be circulated as soon as they are received.

The Council Tax must be set by 11 March 2016. The time-scale from the date the tax is set to the date the bills are posted is extremely tight. If the deadlines are not met then the Council Tax cannot legally be collected from 1 April 2016.

A Recorded Vote must be taken on this item.

10 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

See Agenda Item 5 for the submission deadline.

11 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Proposed by Councillor Martin Whiteside and seconded by Councillor Doina Cornell.

11a Motion Concerning the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Act

The Stroud District Council notes that the EU and USA launched negotiations in July 2013 on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Negotiations are underway to determine which goods and services TTIP will apply to and if new rules can be agreed to protect investors, harmonise standards, reduce tariffs and open new markets throughout the EU and USA. Throughout the process of negotiations, there has been no impact assessment about the potential impact on local authorities, there has been no scrutiny of the negotiating texts by local government and no consultation with local government representatives. In addition, MPs are also unable to scrutinise the negotiating documents.

The Stroud District Council notes that:

1. TTIP could have a detrimental impact on local services, employment, suppliers and decision-making.
2. A thorough impact assessment of TTIP on local authorities must be undertaken before the negotiations can be concluded.
3. The proposed Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism has been used by corporations to overturn democratic decisions by all levels of governments at significant public cost. Local democratic decision-making must be protected from ISDS.
4. The EU's food, environmental and labour standards are generally better than those in the US and TTIP negotiations must raise and not lower these standards across the EU and USA.
5. Sourcing supplies and employment locally is important to strengthening local economies and meeting local needs. TTIP must not impact on local authorities' ability to act in the best interests its communities.

This council resolves:

To request the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, our two local MPs, all Southwest MEPs and the Local Government Association (LGA) raising our serious concerns about:

- The secrecy of the negotiating process, making it impossible to judge the potential impact of TTIP on Stroud District Council operations and on our public services, social and environmental protection; thereby preventing Stroud District citizens and elected members from contributing to the decision making process.
- Requesting an impact assessment of TTIP on local authorities, including our own, before negotiations can be included.

Further to this, Council requests assurances from the Secretary of State that the Government will:

- Seek full openness to TTIP position texts and ensure access to TTIP documentation and debate by the UK public, including concerned residents of Stroud District.
- Assure Stroud District Council that our local levels of democratic accountability, labour and environmental standards will not be lowered by the adoption of TTIP.
- Assure Stroud District Council that our corporate key priorities of 'helping local people and businesses grow the local economy and increase employment' and to 'provide value for money to our taxpayers and high quality services to our customers' will not be restricted by accession to TTIP."

11b Motion concerning the Trade Union Bill

Proposed by Councillor Steve Lydon and seconded by Councillor Chas Townley.

“That this Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our workplaces across Gloucestershire. This Council values the constructive relationship that we have with our trade unions and we recognise their commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of outstanding quality public services.

This Council notes with concern that the Trade Union Bill, which is currently being proposed by the Government, would affect this Council's relationship with our trade unions and our workforce as a whole. This Council rejects this Bill's attack on local democracy and the attack on our right to manage our own affairs.

This Council believes that trade unions have a positive role to play in the creation of good quality and responsive local services and, as a consequence, wishes to encourage active trade union involvement within the workplace, supported by the provision of adequate facility time, negotiated and agreed by us and our trade unions locally. Facility time should not be determined or controlled by Government in London.

This Council is happy with the arrangements we currently have in place for deducting trade union membership subscriptions through our payroll. We see this as an important part of our positive industrial relations; it is both cost neutral and easy to administer system whilst providing critical support to our staff. This system is an administrative matter for the Council and should not be interfered with by the UK Government.

This Council resolves:

- (a) To seek to continue its own locally agreed industrial relations strategy and will take every measure possible to maintain its autonomy with regard to facility time and the management of union subscription fees.
- (b) To support the campaign against the unnecessary, anti-democratic and bureaucratic Trade Union Bill and will write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid and both of the District's MPs to express this Council's motion.”

Date of next meeting

14 April 2016