

To all Members of Stroud District Council

2 October 2015

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 15 OCTOBER 2015.**



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 the meeting held on 16 July 2015.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive announcements from the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive.
5. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL**
To elect a Vice-Chair for the current Civic Year - 2015/16.

6. **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, 12 October 2015

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: democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk

7. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**
(reports attached)

7.a **Community Services & Licensing Committee – 3 September 2015**

Title	Agenda Item No	Chair of Community Services & Licensing Committee
Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005	10	Chris Brine
Community Services & Licensing Committee RECOMMENDS to Council: The adoption of the revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005.		

7.b **Community Services & Licensing Committee – 3 September 2015**

Title	Agenda Item No	Chair of Community Services & Licensing Committee
Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003	11	Chris Brine
Community Services & Licensing Committee RECOMMENDS to Council: The adoption of the revised Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003.		

7.c Strategy and Resources Committee – 1 October 2015

Title	Agenda Item No	Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee
Council Discount from April 2016 – Long Term Empty Properties Premium	7	Geoff Wheeler
Strategy and Resources Committee RECOMMENDS to Council: To increase the charge to 150% on properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over 2 years.		

7.d Strategy and Resources Committee – 1 October 2015

Title	Agenda Item No	Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee
Local Council Tax Support Scheme	8	Geoff Wheeler
Strategy and Resources Committee RECOMMENDS to Council: That it adopts the current Local Scheme as the scheme for Stroud District Council for the period 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.		

7.e Strategy and Resources Committee – 1 October 2015

Title	Agenda Item No	Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee
Budget Strategy 2016/17-2019/20	11	Geoff Wheeler
Strategy and Resources Committee RECOMMENDS to Council: That Stroud remain in the Business Rates Pool from April 2016 if to do so maximises the retention of business rate income in Gloucestershire.		

8. **DEVOLUTION – ‘WE ARE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BID’**

To provide the Council with an opportunity to consider the submission made in response to the Government’s invitation for groups of local authorities to submit proposals.

To ask the Council to approve key preparatory steps necessary for a ‘devolution deal’, recognising that any ‘devolution deal’ would need to be considered and agreed by the Council at a future date

9. **MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS**

See Agenda Item 5 for the submission deadlines.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Proposed by Councillor Martin Whiteside and seconded by Councillor Geoff Wheeler.

Stroud District will welcome and prepare for its share of Refugees.

The Middle-East, North Africa and southern Europe are seeing the movement of desperate people unprecedented since the end of the 2nd World War. The vast majority are being driven away from their homes by war and insecurity. It is important that efforts are made to address the root causes of the conflicts and also to support the many millions who have fled to their neighbouring countries, particularly to Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. Some of the most vulnerable also need to be transferred from these camps to places of safety, including the UK. In addition our common humanity compels us to assist those who have risked all to arrive within the EU.

Stroud District Council hereby affirms that we are willing to take on the effort of welcoming and providing support to our fair share of refugees and to work with others to do this. In particular SDC will:

1. Inform central Government and our MP of our willingness to welcome and help support a fair share of refugees, including making an application to the Home Office's SVPR Scheme for the District to host our share of Syrian refugee families and ask them to support the Local Government Association's call for government to provide full funding for five years.
2. Work with others, including the County Council, statutory and voluntary sectors to make plans as necessary to welcome and support refugees.
3. Plan in such a way that the effort of welcome is distributed across our population and does not fall disproportionately on our existing residents in greatest need (e.g. those on the housing waiting list).
4. Work with our local communities to enable them to share in providing a welcome through fundraising and other practical support, including offers of accommodation, enabling this to become a truly community undertaking.
5. Work with Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS) in seeking the resettlement of refugees in Stroud District and to make a grant to GARAS of £5000 from contingencies to help cover its additional workload.