

Stroud District Council

Use of Artificial Intelligence

What is Artificial Intelligence?

The UK Government defines Artificial Intelligence (AI) as: 'The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.'

When AI is used responsibly and ethically it provides opportunities to improve effectiveness and efficiency, but there are challenges which must be managed.

In line with this the council has developed a policy to guide its use of AI technologies.

AI Policy Overview

The policy applies to everyone who works for and with the council including officers, members and contractors.

Policy Principles

The policy is based on the following principles:

- A human will always sense and fact-check AI outputs
- Environmental impacts will be considered
- Personal and sensitive data will be protected
- The council's use aligns with government guidance, the law, and its own ethics
- The council will publish a register of its AI use.

Permitted uses

Only certain uses are permitted including those that:

- Analyse large datasets to support decision making
- Assist research and development
- Automate repetitive processes to improve customer experience
- Generate reports, presentations, meeting summaries and correspondence to assist communications.

Role Accountabilities

In-line with the first policy principle, it is important to note that final decisions will be made by council members and officers, ensuring human judgement remains central to the councils' operations. The council will therefore establish clear role accountabilities

for AI oversight. Officers and members will be provided with training to ensure they can operate as required. A monitoring regime will be established to ensure compliance.

Links to further information

The council's AI policy can be accessed [via this link](#).

The council's AI Register documents where it uses AI to deliver services that impact those it serves. It excludes any uses relating to other matters such as how it manages the cyber security threat. The register may be accessed [via this link](#).

The Local Government Association (LGA) provides useful information about AI on its hub which can be accessed via this link [Artificial Intelligence Hub | Local Government Association](#).