

Stroud District Councillor Report – June 2024

Report of meetings during May 2024

All Stroud District Council and Committee papers can be found here:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings>

Recordings of meetings are available via the Council's You Tube channel (Live recordings):

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg

Council Annual General meeting – 23 May

Following the local elections on May 2nd there was just one public meeting in May, the AGM. Councillors were confirmed as members of the various committees, along with appointments for representatives on the Gloucestershire Health & Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the Gloucestershire Police & Crime Panel.

Council leadership

The Greens will form a minority administration at the District Council, as the largest political group, which is reflected in the leadership roles as follows:

- Chair of Council: Kate Kay
- Vice Chair of Council: Matthew Sargeant
- Leader, and Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee: Catherine Braun
- Deputy Leader and Vice Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee: Pete Kennedy
- Community Services and Licensing Committee: Chair - Beki Aldam, Vice-Chair Marisa Godfrey
- Environment Committee: Chair - Chloe Turner, Vice-Chair Martin Brown
- Housing Committee: Chair: Gary Luff, Vice-Chair Lucas Schoemaker
- Development Control Committee: Chair - Martin Baxendale, Vice-Chair - Helen Fenton
- Audit and Standards Committee: Chair - Bob Hughes, Vice-Chair Martin Percy.

Appointments are confirmed in the [Council press release](#).

Appointment of Independent Persons & Parish and Town Council Representatives

Independent Persons must be appointed by the Council to assist the Council when making its decisions on an allegation that it has decided to investigate. The Council's Constitution specifies that the Standards Sub-Committee will consist of three councillors who are not leaders of political groups, one Independent Person, and where the allegation is against a Parish or Town Councillor, one Town or Parish Councillor representative.

Two of the three independent persons were reappointed: Phyllida Pyper and Adrian Stratton. The third has decided to stand down having served his term, so the council will now advertise this position online and in local newspapers.

The Council also appoints two Parish and Town Council Representatives to the Standards Sub-Committee. Following the local elections, the appointments of Muriel Bullock and deputy Steve Ponting will be reviewed and it was agreed to appoint three Town and Parish Council Representatives to ensure the Council maintains resilience and avoids potential conflicts of interest, as well as maintaining continuity and allowing for succession planning. The recruitment will be advertised through Parish and Town Clerks and GAPTC.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

Following two successful referendums, the Council agreed to include the Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Slimbridge Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Development Plan for Stroud District.

Opportunities for Council Tenants to become a representative at the Council

Stroud District Council is looking for two tenant representatives to ensure that tenants' voices are heard so that the housing services provided are equitable, deliver on tenants' priorities, and offer value for money. The voluntary role consists of speaking up on behalf of tenants at five SDC Housing Committee meetings per year at the council offices in Ebley Mill. The representatives will have the opportunity to influence committee decisions as well as help to have a positive impact for tenant communities.

The representatives will be able to get tenants' top priorities in focus as well as being able to scrutinise performance and policy. In the process, the representatives can expect to gain new skills, knowledge and expertise, and become a valued member of an award-winning team.

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/become-a-tenant-rep-and-help-shape-the-councils-housing-service/>

General Election – voting information

Stroud District Council is gearing up for the General Election on July 4 and all the information about voter registration, postal and proxy votes, and voter ID is available online:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/general-election-2024-writ-received-here-s-everything-you-need-to-know-about-voting/>