

Stroud District Council Report November 2025

Council meetings

Link to meeting agenda and documents in the committee title.

Strategy and Resources Committee

- Approved the the Consultation & Engagement Framework and procurement of an online engagement tool to facilitate and streamline the council's consultation and engagement activity.
- Social value measures and measurement tool
- The Community Hub project GL13 (Berkeley Books) requires £22k to fund unforeseen building costs to accommodate changes in legislation. Worries that a precedent would be set were rejected and approved to the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) strategic project fund.
- Approve the Budget Strategy which is the first stage of the formal budget process for the council. Used to set out the draft budget and inform about known changes in the Medium Term Financial Plan and areas of uncertainty. Talk of a 7% reduction in central govt. funding coming down the track with the Fair Funding Review, however the council has built up reserves in recent years to mitigate cuts to services. Other councils may not be so lucky.
- **Key Point Summary – Member/Officer Reports**
 - **Housing & Skills**
 - Proposal for a Gloucestershire Housing Commission to drive affordable-housing investment and improve health outcomes.
 - County-wide skills vision identifies NEET youth, digital/tech, and construction skill gaps; calls for outreach and apprenticeship pathways.
 - **Regeneration & Investment Board (RIB)**
 - Draft Local Growth Plan 2025-2035 released, targeting secure tech, advanced engineering, agri-tech, green energy, plus five cross-cutting missions.
 - Market Towns Vitality Fund holds £55k unspent for projects such as lighting, signage, a textile trail, and community events.
 - **City Region Board**
 - Local Growth Plan timing pending draft examination outcome.
 - Local Area Energy Plan aligning with regional strategy; utility coordination needed.
 - Cotswold Canals Connected (Phase 1b) on track for Oct 2025 (canal restoration, nature reserve, community work).

- Additional £6.46m grant request to NLHF under review; £4m already secured with matched funding.
- **Operational Highlights**
 - Housing Commission stresses climate-friendly retrofits and health benefits.
 - Business Rates Pool may face a final year in 2025/26 due to rates reset.
 - Green Skills Strategy outlines three skill tiers and plans a summit in Q1 2026.
 - EV charging rollout: Phase 1 ≈ 95 % complete; Phase 2 planning underway.
- **Brimscombe Port Redevelopment**
 - Site de-risked (£2.4 m spent); Miller Homes withdrew. Soft-market testing now probing developer interest.
 - Project Board to reconvene; committee decision slated for Nov 2025.
- **Woodchester Mansion – Heritage Lottery Fund**
 - Secured NLHF grant of £154k plus £30k council match to build capacity and hire two part-time staff.
 - Timeline aims for completion by Dec 2026, focusing on resilience, skills development, and business modelling.
- **One Legal Partnership**
 - KPI dashboard under development; 2024/25 saw a 2.43 % increase in hours delivered to the council.
 - Customer satisfaction at ~85 %; 2025/26 priorities: staff well-being, training, and ICT integration.
- **Video recording**

Development Control Committee

- Land North East Of, Kingston Road, Slimbridge, S.25/1339/VAR
 - Variation of approved plans from S.23/1593/FUL (Installation & operation of a 36MW battery storage facility & ancillary equipment)
 - Less batteries and rotation of transformer. Changes to building but no higher. More technical guidance that needs to be complies with now, therefore some changes to planning conditions.
 - Parish council continues to object on multiple levels although officer recommends approval.
 - Approved with one abstention.
- Land At 3 To 4, Ferndale Road, Whiteshill, Stroud, S.25/0918/FUL

- Erection of 2 detached dwellings, officer recommendation approval.
- Ward councillor and parish councillors list many objections. Most importantly in their view BNG. Regs try to provide benefits on site but this site is small so gains off-site negotiated by condition. Planning lawyer confirms this is lawful.
- Approved - unanimous.
- [Video recording](#)

Full Council

- Community Services and Licensing Committee - Agreed to adopt policy that outlines the principles Stroud District Council will apply when exercising its functions under the Licensing Act 2003 for the period January 2026 to January 2031.
- Strategy and Resources Committee - Approved an updated Medium Term Financial Plan and the Strategy that will be used in setting the budget for the 2026/27 year.
- Adopted the Gloucestershire Tackling Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025–28 developed by Gloucestershire County Council. The strategy sets out the countywide vision, strategic priorities, and outcomes for addressing domestic abuse over the next three years.
- Approved a motion that the financial implications and implications for Local Government Reorganisation should be more clearly presented on council reports . The aim is to ensure all members clearly grasp the costs, funding sources, and possible financial effects of the decisions they take.
- [Video recording](#)

Other news

- Council tenants encouraged to test their heating before temperatures drop.
- All seven councils in Gloucestershire have now published two proposals for how local government could be organised in the future.
- Historic Brunel Goods Shed's future secured as a vibrant cultural venue at the heart of Stroud following its purchase by Stroud Valleys Artspace.
- Awaab's Law: what social housing tenants need to know
- Council acts to protect community from persistent anti-social behaviour