



GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM

Meeting: Thursday, 29th January 2015 at 18.00 hours
in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

ADDENDUM

The following item although provided for on the agenda front sheet was not available at the time of dispatch:

7.	FUTURE OF GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM (PAGES 5 - 8) To receive a report from the Senior Engagement and Partnerships Officer which outlines options for changes to the Grants and Community Services Forum to ensure that there is appropriate engagement in place with the voluntary and community sector.
----	--

Yours sincerely

.....
Martin Shields
Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Prescribed description</u>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area. For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and

- (b) either –
- i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, “securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

Access to Information

Agendas and reports can be viewed on the Gloucester City Council website: www.gloucester.gov.uk and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For further details and enquiries about this meeting please contact Tanya Davies, 01452 396125, tanya.davies@gloucester.gov.uk.

For general enquiries about Gloucester City Council’s meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

If you, or someone you know cannot understand English and need help with this information, or if you would like a large print, Braille, or audio version of this information please call 01452 396396.

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.

This page is intentionally left blank

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	SMT	Date:
	Constitutional and Electoral Working Group	
Subject:	Future of the Grants and Community Services Forum	
Report Of:	Martin Shields, Corporate Director Services and Neighbourhoods	
Wards Affected:	All	
Key Decision:	Yes	Budget/Policy Framework: No
Contact Officer:	Gareth Hooper, Senior Partnership and Engagement Officer	
	Email: gareth.hooper@gloucester.co.uk	Tel: 396266
Appendices:	1.	

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline options for changes to the Grants and Community Services Forum to ensure that there is appropriate engagement in place with the voluntary and community sector.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 SMT is asked to **RECOMMEND** that the

- (1) The Grants and Community Services Forum is disbanded and replaced with a new group, centred on our commitment to Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) with terms and reference agreed between the council and the voluntary and community sector. This new group should report directly into the Gloucester Partnership. This would better reflect our commitment to support communities through strengths and supports than traditional grants and outcomes.

- 2.2 Constitutional and Electoral Working Group is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- (2) The Grants and Community Services Forum is disbanded and replaced with a new group, centred on our commitment to Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) with terms and reference agreed between the council and the voluntary and community sector. This new group should report directly into the Gloucester Partnership. This would better reflect our commitment to support communities through strengths and supports than traditional grants and outcomes.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.13 At the Grants and Community Services Forum meeting held on 3 July 2014, it was noted that the forum was not working in its current format but that regular dialogue is required. The city council structure has changed, as has the voluntary sector landscape. The formality of the forum can discourage people from attending and it was felt that informal round table discussions would be more useful and better attended.
- 3.14 It is proposed that the Grants and Community Services Forum is disbanded and the constitution updated to reflect this change but still include a commitment from the council to ensure the continuation of engagement and two way communication between itself and the voluntary and community sector. A different form of the group will be set up with terms of reference agreed between the city council and the voluntary and community sector.
- 3.15 A recent launch of the pilot of the Social Prescribing project between the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Gloucester City Council illustrates the greater reliance on the voluntary and community sector to achieve outcomes. The
- 3.16 A reduction in grants to the VCS means that a forum almost wholly about grants is superfluous to requirement. However, future partnerships with the VCS on more mainstream projects, such as Community Building, mean that they should be represented on a more strategic level, the Gloucester Partnership for example.
- 3.17 The Grants and Community Services Forum meets too infrequently for it to be relevant to projects, such as Social Prescribing. Therefore it meets only to collect the views of some of the VCS twice annually.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The alternative options is to continue with the Grants and Community Services Forum in its current form. However, this forum has been poorly attended in recent months and doesn't engage sufficiently with the VCS organisations in Gloucester as a result.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The VCS holds a valuable amount of knowledge and skills that can benefit the wider community. However, to be able to work effectively with the VCS and even commission their services, representatives of the VCS would be better represented in a forum with commissioners, such as the Gloucester Partnership.
- 5.2 Following a conversation with GAVCA, it was agreed that a more appropriate meeting for communication should be developed with an emphasis on function rather than form.
- 5.3 Following the principles of ABCD, support from institutions is not simply about providing funds, but about allowing ideas from communities to be supported. By seeking to align this forum around ABCD it will bring a more positive emphasis to supporting our communities in an asset-based manner.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 6.1 A simple but effective tool for determining whether grants or the commissioning of the VCS are both effective and value for money. This could be done with established models such as Social Return On Investment (SROI).

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1

(Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 9.1

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

10.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, there a full PIA was not required.

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

- 11.1 Working with the VCS presents queries around safeguarding. Many community groups operate on an informal level, that is not to say without due regard to safeguarding. But may not hold the level of policies the City Council and other organisations are used to.

The VCS Alliance is developing a 'kite mark' scheme for community groups and this may be a useful balance.

Sustainability

- 11.2 Commissioning voluntary and community groups does have issues around sustainability. It is difficult to expect the same level of business continuity from a community group than it is from a more corporate institution. However, the VCS Alliance is seeking to support this to mitigate the risk and ensure that the value of the VCS is not lost in some of the risk.

Staffing & Trade Union

- 11.3 Not applicable

This page is intentionally left blank