



## Grants and Community Services Forum

**Meeting: Thursday, 29th January 2015 at 6.00 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP**

<b>Membership:</b>	Councillor Jim Beeley, Councillor Usman Bhaimia, Councillor David Brown, Councillor Kathy Williams, Councillor Gerald Dee, Councillor Terry Pullen, Councillor Jennie Dallimore (Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods), Pauline Reynolds (Gloucestershire African and Caribbean Association), Anne Whitworth (Gloucester Law Centre), Mike Harrison (Hucclecote Community Association), Michael Teesdale (Abbeydale Community Association), Robin Agascar (Gay- Glos) and Helen Black (GAVCA)
<b>Contact:</b>	Lucy Hamilton Democratic Services Officer 01452 396192 lucyh@gloucester.gov.uk

## AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>ELECTION OF CHAIR</b>  To appoint a chair from the voluntary sector for the remainder of the municipal year. (Following the departure of Sally Pickering).
<b>2.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>  To receive any apologies for absence.
<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non-pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes.
<b>4.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b> (Pages 5 - 8)  To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2014.
<b>5.</b>	<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)</b>  The opportunity is given to members of the public to put questions to Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs provided that a question does not relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings, or</li> <li>• Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council Officers</li> </ul>

6.	<p><b>PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)</b></p> <p>To receive any petitions and deputations provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or</li> <li>• Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>FUTURE OF GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: This report will be published as a supplement to the agenda when it is available.</p>
8.	<p><b>VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE</b></p> <p>To receive updates from the voluntary sector.</p>
9.	<p><b>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 18:00 hours.</p>

*M. Shields*

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

**Date of Publication: Wednesday, 21 January 2015**

## 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.

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For further details and enquiries about this meeting please contact Lucy Hamilton, 01452 396192, [lucyh@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:lucyh@gloucester.gov.uk)

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

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- 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.



## GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM

**MEETING** : Thursday, 3rd July 2014

**PRESENT** : Robin Agascar, GayGlos  
Councillor Jim Beeley  
Sally Pickering, Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and  
Community Action (GAVCA)  
Councillor Terry Pullen  
Michael Teesdale, Abbeydale Community Association

**Ex-Officio Member**

Councillor Jennie Dallimore, Cabinet Member for Communities and  
Neighbourhoods

**Officers in Attendance**

Edward Pomfret, Health, Partnerships & Engagement Manager  
Tony Wisdom, Democratic Services Officer

**APOLOGIES** : Councillor Usman Bhaimia, Councillor David Brown and Anne  
Whitworth (Gloucester Law Centre)

Sue Cunningham, GL Communities

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Sally Pickering was appointed Chair for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made on this occasion.

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2014 were confirmed as a correct record. Members expressed concern that the notes had not captured the detail of the discussions and it was requested that the GAVCA response to the City Council budget proposals be recirculated.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM**  
**03.07.14**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

There were no petitions or deputations.

**6. AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Chair believed that it was necessary to clarify the purpose of the forum.

Ed Pomfret referred to paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of the report. The Chair said that, for the last three years, funding priorities had changed and that there was no funding available for supporting the election of representatives of the voluntary sector to the forum.

Councillor Pullen believed that there were communities of interest. The Chair noted that GAVCA would be pleased to help but that work would require resourcing.

Robin Agascar noted that the City Council structure had changed as had the voluntary sector landscape.

The Chair believed that the formality of the forum tended to discourage people from participating and she recalled the informal round table sessions previously held.

Councillor Pullen noted that two-way communication was required.

Councillor Dallimore, Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, noted that the forum would have to abide by the Council Constitution.

The Chair noted that the forum was not working and it was suggested that another form of regular dialogue could be used. There were concerns, however, that communication would fail if this was not in the Council structure.

Councillor Dallimore gave a commitment that this would not happen. She noted that the Council wanted engagement with the voluntary sector and noted the number of non-cabinet Councillors appointed to outside bodies in the sector.

Robin Agascar believed that an event could be held which would provide a useful information exchange. He believed that the degree of formality should be mutually acceptable to the voluntary sector, councillors and officers.

Members agreed that the forum was not working in its current format and a larger networking event was required. She advised that GAVCA could help to organise if the event if it was resourced. They had run a successful volunteer fair in the shopping mall.

Councillor Dallimore asked the voluntary sector to detail what they required so that it could be considered. Ed Pomfret undertook to liaise and suggested that some form of evaluation questionnaire should be developed.

**GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM**  
**03.07.14**

Members agreed that the forum should until an event had been held where views would be sought on how the forum, or a different form of the group, could operate in the future. There was a preference for an autumn event to be held in September or October.

**7. UPDATE FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

Ed Pomfret reported that the Health, Partnerships and Engagement Team comprising himself, Gareth Hooper, Isobel Edwards and Verona Vidal was now in place.

He noted that the Voluntary and Community Sector grants for 2014/15 had been allocated together with a substantial part of the 2015/16 allocation. He noted that priority had been given to developing and providing opportunities for Gloucester residents to help form a strong and diverse community with an emphasis on health and well being. The Community Grants had been greatly over-subscribed.

The second round of Youth grants had closed on 30 June with the decision panel meeting on 10 July.

Robin Agascar noted that a number of youth groups had not met the grant criteria.

Councillor Dallimore, Cabinet Member for communities and Neighbourhoods noted that the Council had to allocate funds to groups that served Gloucester City. Whilst this did not rule out County-wide groups, it was more difficult for such groups to prove that City taxpayers' money benefited the people of Gloucester.

Ed Pomfret noted that the Asset Based Community Development Fund (ABCD) was available and Officers were working on how this could be distributed to appropriate projects and causes in a simple and efficient manner.

The Chair noted that ABCD did not have to be geographically based. Robin Agascar noted that groups varied.

The City Council update was noted.

**8. VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE**

Robin Agascar reported that the Gay Glos Youth Group was progressing well with funding secured until 2017. He noted that youngsters loved trips and that attending Birmingham Gay Pride was an expensive day. Gay Glos was working with schools but having to charge them.

The group no longer had an office and relied on GAVCA to host a telephone line. He noted that the future looked difficult.

The Chair reported that Jane Jarman was working to set up new groups but some of the more established groups were suffering especially in respect of overhead costs as County Council Active Together funding could not be used for payment of salaries.

**GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM**  
**03.07.14**

Councillor Pullen noted that there was a danger that new groups would duplicate work already undertaken by others.

The Chair believed that had always been the case as voluntary organisations were driven by people's passions.

She noted that Jane Jarman did a lot of work to bring people together. She noted the new Community Champions training aimed at grass roots and the master class for larger organisations run by Amey covering issues such as bidding for contracts and services. She noted that GAVCA had received the Equalities Gold Award from Equalities North East (as Equalities South West no longer existed) which was an externally accredited standard.

Councillor Beeley enquired about events run by Gloucester City Homes and the Chair advised that they did not clash with GAVCA work. Some joint work was undertaken on social proscribing although the two organisations had different roles. GAVCA supported community groups and charities. Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council performed a similar role in rural areas.

The Chair asked who was currently the City Council Compact Champion and noted that a talk about the compact with Gloucester City Council would attract people to attend the proposed voluntary sector event. She noted that the compact was a County Council led initiative. Robin Agascar believed that all districts were involved in developing the compact.

The voluntary sector update was noted.

**9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting was Wednesday, 29 January 2015 although it was noted that an additional meeting may be required before that date.

**Time of commencement: 18:00 hours**

**Time of conclusion: 19:00 hours**

**Chair**