



Grants and Community Services Forum

Meeting: Thursday, 16th July 2015 at 6.00 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester

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| Membership: | Councillor Usman Bhaimia, Councillor Kathy Williams, Councillor David Brown, Councillor Gerald Dee, Councillor Terry Pullen, Councillor Hannah Norman, 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) |
| Contact: | Lucy Hamilton Democratic Services Officer 01452 396192 lucyh@gloucester.gov.uk |

AGENDA

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| 1. | APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR To confirm the appointment of a member of the Voluntary Sector to act as Chair for the Municipal Year 2015/16. |
| 2. | APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence. |
| 3. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 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. |
| 4. | MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8) To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 29 th January 2015. |
| 5. | PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) 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"> • Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings, or • Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council Officers |

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| 6. | PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES) To receive any petitions and deputations provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or • Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings |
| 7. | WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS) IN GLOUCESTER (Pages 9 - 10) To receive an update on the work undertaken since the last Forum meeting exploring options to support future working together between Gloucester City Council and the VCS in Gloucester. |
| 8. | VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE To receive updates from the voluntary sector. |
| 9. | DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Thursday 21 st January 2016 at 18:00 hours. |

M. Shields

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Martin Shields
Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods

Date of Publication: Date Not Specified

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 Lucy Hamilton, 01452 396192, lucyh@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.

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Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the Public and Press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

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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, 29th January 2015

PRESENT : Councillor Jim Beeley
Councillor Usman Bhaimia
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Terry Pullen
Anne Whitworth, Gloucester Law Centre
Robin Agascar, Gay- Glos

Ex-Officio Member

Cllr. Councillor Jennie Dallimore, Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods

Officers in Attendance

Gareth Hooper, Senior Engagement and Partnerships Officer

APOLOGIES : Councillor Kathy Williams, Councillor Gerald Dee, Pauline Reynolds (Gloucestershire African and Caribbean Association), Mike Harrison (Hucclecote Community Association) and Michael Teesdale (Abbeydale Community Association)

10. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Ms Helen Black (representing GAVCA) was appointed Chair for the remainder of the municipal year 2014/15.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 July 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM
29.01.15

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no questions from members of the public.

14. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions or deputations.

15. FUTURE OF GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM

The Forum considered the report of the Senior Engagement and Partnerships Officer which outlined options for changes to the Grants and Community Services Forum. He advised the Forum that the report was in its early stages and that he was eager to receive the feedback of the Forum.

The Chair circulated a handout that illustrated how the voluntary and community sector is commonly structured and questioned how the Forum could better engage with the voluntary sector.

Councillor Dallimore stated that the illustration failed to highlight the role individuals play within the voluntary sector.

The Chair questioned whether there was a Community Legacy Group within Gloucester. She was advised by Councillor Dallimore that there was a group within Gloucester and that this was often the only place where voluntary organisations were able to network.

Councillor Dallimore stated that the Forum had been part of the Council's Constitution for a long time and since its introduction there had been significant change within the voluntary sector. She advised the Forum that she felt the report was a positive starting point for adding value to the Forum meetings. The Chair agreed with Councillor Dallimore and also suggested that there were better ways for the Council to engage with the Voluntary Sector.

Robin Agascar questioned the value of the Forum in its current format and suggested that it was no longer valid given the changes within the voluntary sector.

Councillor Dallimore believed the group would be more relevant after an appointment had been made to the Joint Managing Director and Commissioning Director post for Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucester City Council. She expected an appointment to be made by April.

The Chair made reference to Section 11.1 of the report and expressed concern at the impact safeguarding policies can have on small community groups. She requested that safeguarding be added as a future agenda item.

Members of the Forum also expressed concern that safeguarding policies were often barriers to supporting people and also discouraged individuals from volunteering.

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM
29.01.15

The Chair drew attention to the Terms of Reference for the Forum and questioned whether elected representatives from the voluntary sector should be replaced with voluntary sector advocates.

Members agreed that the report needed further work before recommendations could be made as to the future of the Forum. It was suggested that members should meet informally to offer further comments.

16. VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE

Robin Agascar reported that Gay Glos were still operating but had encountered many difficulties in the current climate.

Anne Whitworth advised the Forum that Gloucester Law Centre had experienced difficulties due to a lack of resources that had hindered their ability to fundraise.

The Chair advised the Forum that she had replaced Sally Pickering as Chief Executive of GAVCA in September 2014. She advised the Forum of a number of projects that GAVCA was involved in and stated that GAVCA would be completing a voluntary sector survey which would look at ways of improving the sector in the future. She encouraged representatives of the voluntary sector to complete the survey and also expressed the desire to meet with individuals informally to further discuss the future of the Forum.

Councillor Dallimore informed the group that she was involved in a ten year social investment study and advised the group that she would be willing to share the research with those who were interested.

17. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16th July 2015 at 18:00 hours.

Time of commencement: 18:05 hours

Time of conclusion: 19:35 hours

Chair

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Gloucester City Council

Grants Forum

Report: Working together with the VCS in Gloucester

16th July 2015

Purpose

1 The purpose of this report is to provide the members of the Grants Forum with an update about work which has been undertaken since the last Forum meeting to explore options to support future working together between the City Council and the VCS in Gloucester.

Background

2 At the Grants Forum meeting in January, the future of the Forum was discussed and it was agreed that further meetings would be held with to discuss the best way to capture a view from the wider VCS in Gloucester about the best approaches to working together with the City Council in the future.

Progress to date

3 Since January, Gloucester City Council, Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, Senior Engagement and Partnership Officer and the GAVCA CEO, have met to discuss options going forward.

4 These meetings resulted in two meetings organised by GAVCA with the VCS in Gloucester in May and June.

5 The meetings provided the opportunity for colleagues from the VCS in Gloucester to come together to explore how they would like to work with colleagues at the City Council in the future, potential areas of common concern and to consider the best approaches to working together in the future.

6 A meeting has been organised with the new Managing Director Jon McGinty and colleagues from the City Council and the VCS which is to be held on Thursday 23rd July 2 – 5pm.

7 The aim of this meeting is explore and begin to develop common areas to work together on and to consider the best approaches to working together in the future.

Report on Progress

8 A further report on progress to date will be provided at the Grants Forum meeting including the programme for the event with Jon McGinty providing an

opportunity for members of the Grants Forum to consider and comment on progress to date.

Next steps for the Grants Forum

9 It is envisaged that this work will provide the foundations for the City Council and the VCS to develop opportunities to work together on key areas of concern and this will provide a framework for engagement going forward.

Helen Black

Chief Executive

GAVCA

6th July 2015