



GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM

MEETING : Thursday, 30th January 2014

PRESENT : Councillors Brown, Bhaimia, Dee, Beeley, and Hansdot

Sally Pickering (Chair), Pauline Reynolds, Michael Teesdale, Sue Cunningham and Robin Agascar.

Ex-Officio Member

Cllr Jennie Dallimore

Officers in Attendance

Penny Williams – Democratic Services Manager

Pete Gillett – Director of Resources

Martin Shields – Director of Services and Neighbourhoods

Riki Moody – Business Improvement Officer

APOLOGIES : Councillor Randle, Anne Whitworth (Gloucester Law Centre) and Mike Harrison (Hucclecote Community Association)

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was acknowledged that all members of the Forum that represented a charitable body had an interest in the budget item.

Sally Pickering declared a personal interest in item 9 of the agenda.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

Andy Berry addressed the Forum as spoke in support of Shopmobility continuing to be run by the Council. He praised the service and the officers that delivered it.

Riaz Malia addressed the Forum and asked if greater detail could be given on the decision making processes that were behind the budget decisions, and those decisions were justified.

The Chair agreed that the responses to the points raised would be covered in the presentation on item 7 of the agenda.

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16. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions or deputations.

17. REVISED DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM

The Forum considered two proposed revisions to the draft Terms of Reference for the Forum. The Forum noted that word 'representative' had not been replaced in the document with the word 'member' and it was asked that this was done before it was submitted to the Constitutional and Electoral Working Group for adoption.

The Forum were also advised that the name of the Forum could not be changed as it was contained within the Council's constitution.

RESOLVED: That the revised draft Terms of Reference, as amended, be submitted to the Constitutional and Electoral Working Group for formal adoption by Council.

18. DRAFT MONEY PLAN 2014-19 AND BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION 2014/15 AND GAVCA'S RESPONSE

The Chair agreed to consider items 7 and 8 of the agenda together.

The Forum considered the Council's Draft Money Plan 2014-19 and Budget proposals for 2014-15 which were presented to the Forum for consultation. GAVCA had also provided the City Council with a response to the document expressing their concerns.

The Director of Resources outlined the content of the report and explained to the Forum the context and background to the savings and how savings and efficiencies were being delivered. In particular the Forum were advised of the financial pressures that the Council was under and the continuing need to look for savings and efficiencies. Moreover, that no final decisions had been made on the budget as it was yet to be considered by the Cabinet before being presented to Council at the end of February.

Members of the Forum were advised that the consultation process remained open and the online consultation could be completed or there were paper copies available.

The Director of Resources explained that he was pleased to hear how well received the Shopmobility service was, however he explained that it was currently running at a loss and all alternative ways of delivering this service had to be explored.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods reiterated the points raised and added how much the Council valued the voluntary and community sector. Further, that although Shopmobility would be reviewed it was a much loved and well used service.

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The Forum were advised that the Council was reviewing its spending and making sure that budgets were aligned with the Council Plan and the Council's priorities, although it was noted that the Council priorities were also being reviewed.

RESOLVED: That the Council's Draft Money Plan 2014-19 and Budget Proposals for 2014-15 be noted.

19. THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT TO THE VCS

The Forum considered a discussion paper prepared by the voluntary sector which asked the City Council to recognise the value of Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIOs).

RESOLVED: That the discussion paper be noted.

20. VCS GRANTS ROUND - PROCESS AND PRIORITIES

The Forum noted the grants round processes and priorities and agreed that these would be revisited at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the item be noted.

21. UPDATE FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

There were no further updates from the City Council.

22. VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE

There were no updates from the voluntary sector.

23. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

3 July 2014 at 18.00 hours.

Time of commencement: 18.00 hours

Time of conclusion: 20:00 hours

Chair