

Michael Hill statement to Council 21st July 2016

Vice Chair should be drawn from the co-opted membership

I would like to provide the following statement to councillors in advance of the meeting.

I am a co-opted member of the Bath City Forum, I volunteered to be part of a Task and Finish Group which had the remit of reviewing, changing and updating the Forum constitution and terms of reference. One change, which I proposed, was to make the Vice-Chair of the Forum a co-opted member, reasons for this being:

1. In the spirit of transparency and equal opportunities for all
2. Making the position non-political e.g. not influenced by any political party - a level playing field
3. enabling the running of the Forum to be inclusive to all members (and not exclusive)
4. Many co-opted members have a lot of business experience and knowledge of chairing/coordinating large meetings/forums etc. and might actually be able to enhance and/or improve Forum meetings
5. Provides the public with some reassurance that the Bath City Forum is not just another councillor led 'talking shop'

At the time as far as I am aware all those who were part of this Task and Finish Group approved of this change and so subsequently did the Forum as a whole. I have now subsequently learnt that this change has been challenged which I find frankly ridiculous and definitely not in the spirit of the Bath City Forum.