

Gloucestershire Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Strategic Partnership (Wellbeing)

Election Process

The VCSE Strategic Partnership membership

VCSE Strategic Partnership members must be employed or working in a voluntary capacity in a Gloucestershire VCSE organisation or group that is either directly concerned with wellbeing, health or social care or operates in an area which broadly impacts on citizens' wellbeing such as transport, housing, debt advice or community development.

When we talk about the VCSE, we mean voluntary organisations, community groups, the community work of faith groups, and those social enterprises where profits will be reinvested in their social purpose.

The VCSE Strategic Partnership is limited to 12 members to allow effective meetings. This may be reviewed by the VCSE Strategic Partnership at any time.

In order to reflect the diversity of the sector, VCSE Strategic Partnership membership is made up of:

- At least 3 people from grassroots organisations that are user or community led; by this we mean organisations that are led by the people they serve and are primarily accountable to them.
- At least 3 people from organisations with a turnover below £500,000 per year (on average over the previous 3 years).
- At least 3 people from organisations with a turnover in excess of £500,000 per year (on average over the previous 3 years).
- An additional 2 people from any of the above groups.
- A representative of the hosting organisation; this is currently the Gloucestershire VCS Alliance.

Up to 9 VCSE Strategic Partnership members are appointed by an election process, following self-nomination.

Once a core membership is established, the VCSE Strategic Partnership may appoint additional members to address the diversity of our communities or gaps in knowledge, geographical representation or communities of interest.

Process

- Candidates self-nominate and produce a short statement on why they want to become a member.
- These are circulated widely with a link to an on-line voting form. Circulation to include Glos VCS Alliance circulation list, accompanied by requests to circulate via Know Your Patch network hosts, currently: GRCC, FVAF, GL11, Treasure Seekers and CCP.

- Paper copies of the statements and voting form will be made available on request.
- One person may vote per organisation or group; it is the responsibility of the group or organisation to decide who votes on their behalf. The first vote cast on behalf of a group or organisation is the one which is counted.
- People may vote for themselves.
- In each category, there will be an option for people to say they don't want to vote for any of the candidates put forward.
- There are 9 places available so voters may vote for up to 9 people; i.e. up to 3 votes in each of 3 categories.
- People can give each candidate a maximum of one vote; multiple votes for the same candidate will not be counted.
- Successful candidates are the 3 people with the most votes in each category.

What happens if someone incorrectly completes their ballot?

If someone does not use all their votes, the votes they have used will still be counted.

If someone votes for more people than the process allows, their votes will not be counted in any category where they have voted for too many candidates. Their votes will still be counted in any category where they have voted correctly.

What happens if there aren't enough candidates?

First step is that we extend the submission date for self-nominations by one week and encourage individuals to put themselves forward.

If, after a push for additional candidates, there are 3 or less people in a category, there will still be an election. The ballot will include an option for people who do not want to support any candidate in the category. In this scenario, candidates will be deemed to be successful if 51% or more of the 'electorate' vote for them (bearing in mind that each voter has 3 votes per category).

This option ensures that strategic partnership members have a meaningful mandate from the VCSE sector, even if there are low numbers of candidates and 'first past the post' does not apply.

What would happen in the instance of a tie?

This is quite likely to happen if there is a low number of votes, but is only an issue if it results in more than 3 potentially successful candidates. In this instance, all candidates will be deemed to be successful if they have the following share of the vote in their category (i.e. grassroots, small or large organisation):

	Number of candidates	Share of the vote
Tied for second place	3	17%
Tied for third place	2	17%