

I refer to the invitation provided by GCS Incorporated to provide information on my position concerning Community Centres. Before I continue, **I want to note my view that our community centres are of vital importance to our local communities, and their roles in supporting the community to flourish and create connection, belonging, and promoting citizenship are invaluable. I also value the diversity of management and offerings of all four centres.**

Please note my response to your questions as follows:

- 1. Are you in favour of increasing that proportion to target building a better community?**
- 2. Will you support equitable funding of all community centres?**

Yes to both questions 1 and 2 as simplistic stand-alone questions. Further comment is needed.

About your questions 1 and 2, I note the comments provided by the Board. It is worth noting that Council currently funds four community centres, which are undertaken with different management and operating models, largely dependent on community needs and demand. Each model has a different operational cost, noting that full cost attribution is not accounted for within the community centre budget line, with asset costs and internal service support costs accounted for separately.

If the budget requires adjusting to meet service and community outcomes, this is considered as part of the annual budget and business planning, and consultation and an opportunity to make requests and provide feedback are appropriate at this time. I have passed on your letter to the Administration to keep on record for the formation of the 2023/24 budget.

Council also funds several initiatives and programs that also contribute to 'building a better community' such as cultural and community development, public arts, maintenance of public and sporting grounds, parks and facilities, library and recreation services. Council also provides annual grant funding to support both community initiatives and events being undertaken by the community.

It is noted that the Goodwood Community Centre retains all income from bookings under the existing arrangement with the Board.

- 3. Would you support a policy that all Council owned buildings, particularly those used by community-based not-for-profits organisations will have solar installations installed at Council expense as a matter of ecological priority?**

Yes again with an explanation. Council is part way through a rollout of solar panel installation across Council-owned sites, including leased buildings. Currently, our Climate and Energy Plan includes an option for the Council to partner with not-for-profit lessees to improve the energy efficiency of facilities, which may include solar panels or other initiatives to achieve this outcome.

- 4. Will you support the provision of community notices and programs at no cost to the provider?**

Yes, we have already made a start. Council is currently developing a communications and marketing strategy and will give this due consideration. Council has a seasonal publication, Unley Life, and we welcome suggestions for articles that showcase our vibrant community life. You are more than welcome to suggest content for this publication.

Council also produces an annual community centre program guide, which highlights all of the activities and events the community can join at our Centres throughout the year. My understanding is that Goodwood Community Centre activities are already featured at no cost to GCS Inc.

- 5. Are you in favour of co-naming Council facilities with Kaurna naming as a priority?**

Yes, we have already made a start. Council is in the process of undertaking a Cultural Mapping initiative and developing a Reconciliation Action Plan and within this, Kaurna naming of significant and community sites will be a future consideration. 'Co-naming' of any site must be considered beyond an individual facility, with consideration given to the surrounding area and use, and consultation undertaken with all appropriate groups. Recognition should be appropriate and respectful, and in line with Council's policies.

**6. Do you support GCS Inc being given a long-term lease from the Council so that it can continue to operate as an independent community centre?**

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on this as I am aware that there is a formal procurement process currently underway.

I am looking forward to our AGM and continuing my membership of the Centre.

*With my best wishes,*

*Michael*

**Mayor Michael Hewitson AM**



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Meet the Mayor Thursdays from 3.00 -5.00 with a cuppa is postponed during the caretaker period. However, the Mayor will be available at 3.00 pm and will meet those wishing to see me.