

CHARITABLE STRUCTURES UPDATE

November 2023

We all recognise the need for change. It's happening at Headquarters, the ATC General Purposes Fund charity (ATC GPF) and with the Region, Wing and Squadron charities. This communication is to update you on the progress of the ongoing changes within the ATC GPF and the Civilian Committee arm of the organisation. These changes are necessary to establish a separation between the independent charities (ATC GPF, Region, Wing and Squadron charities) and the charities' beneficiaries (the ATC).

ALL OF THESE CHANGES WILL BETTER EQUIP THE ORGANISATION TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO OUR CADETS IN THE FUTURE.

RAF Air Cadets Astra Vision

'The Air Cadets will modernise and transform as an Air, Space and Cyber focussed uniformed youth organisation, providing innovative and inclusive life-enhancing experiences for young people, reflecting the needs of the Royal Air Force, education, industry and wider society.'

ATC GENERAL PURPOSES FUND UPDATE

- From 1 April 2024 the ATC GPF will rebrand as the Air Cadet Charity and will become an independent grant giving charity which will encourage grant requests from Regions, Wings and Squadrons as well as Headquarters.
- To emphasise that independence, the Commandant is no longer a Trustee of the ATC GPF and the Charity is in the process of securing a number of new Trustees who possess relevant skills that will enable the Charity to develop and progress going forward.
- The Charity is committed to working to a principle of spending all the income (in a financial year) that it receives and will prioritise the award of grants to the following areas :
 - ⇒ **Flying**
 - ⇒ **Adventure training**
 - ⇒ **Exploiting technology**
 - ⇒ **Immersive training**
 - ⇒ **Enhance education**
 - ⇒ **Improve employability**
 - ⇒ **Health and Wellbeing**
 - ⇒ **Welfare**

Ensuring that applications also align with the Air Cadet Charity's Vision and Mission of:

- ⇒ **Access for all**
- ⇒ **Enhance self-confidence and responsibility**
- ⇒ **Enhance inter-personal skills**

Details of the changes and how to apply for a grant from the Air Cadet Charity will be published in due course.

Given the need to maintain the separation of the two elements of the organisation and as it is not appropriate for public money to be spent supporting a charity, elements of the Civil Service previously involved in assisting with the management of non-public funds are no longer doing so and the ATC GPF have appointed a Charity Manager.

CIVILIAN/CHARITABLE PILLAR UPDATE

We have recognised that the scale of the project and challenges faced are significant and also acknowledge that communications so far haven't addressed the concerns out in the civilian community. We are working to address this as a matter of urgency.

- A fresh Working Group, under the Chair of Grant Stevens, Chair of Bristol and Gloucester Wing, and comprising members of all Regions has been established to explore the available options to best structure the civilian pillar (to address the removal of excepted charity status). Also working closely with the ATC GPF Charity Manager to define the future operating model, covering governance, processes, people and IT. A corresponding communication and change plan will be published soon.
- There is currently no intention to abolish or significantly change Squadron or Wing Committees or the Regional Councils as there is still a need and purpose for these important support structures. There are also no plans to sequester squadron funds.
- North Region are currently trialling the digitization of the Squadron, Wing and Region accounts, using a financial package called Xero, as well as moving to a cashless Squadron where feasible. More information will follow once the trial is further underway.
- To compensate for the loss of Bader accounts for CivCom members we are registering the Committees at Regional level for Microsoft Not for Profit 365 accounts for up to 310 users at nil cost. This will allow at least one CWC officer, if they do not have access to Bader, to be able to receive information and have access to a secure, versatile, suite of IT tools including Word, Excel, Outlook, Teams etc.

If you have relevant transformation, communication, project management, or IT skills and experience and would like to get involved with the charitable restructure project please get in touch with Grant Stevens.

Further updates on the ongoing transformations will be published on a regular basis. If you have any questions please get in touch.

ATC General Purposes Fund: Jess Gilbert (Charity Manager) jess.gilbert@atcgpf.org.uk

Civilian/Charitable pillar: Grant Stevens grant.stevens100@rafac.mod.gov.uk