



European Briefing Session

Speaker Profiles

Cllr. Jackie Hall

Councillor Jackie Hall is the Deputy Leader of Gloucestershire County Council and also has responsibility for schools and education.

During her previous four year term, Councillor Jackie Hall was the Lead Cabinet Member with overall responsibility for children and young people's services, including schools, youth service and social care.

She was first elected in 1997 as County Councillor for Quedgeley and previously served as a City Councillor for the area. She has lived in Quedgeley for over twenty eight years, and is married with one son. Councillor Jackie Hall has been a Governor at Severn Vale School and at various primary schools in Quedgeley. She is currently a Governor at Field Court Junior School. She is also a member of Equals Youth Centre Management Committee.

Cllr. Will Windsor Clive

Councillor Will Windsor Clive is a 49 year old farmer, born and brought up at Bury Court in Gloucestershire. Although a small farm, it is very diverse including storage and distribution holiday accommodation and an element of land filling, as well as fruit and vegetable production.

Will was a member of the Forest of Dean District Council for eight years and during that time was Chairman of its Executive and represented it on the Regional Assembly for the South West of England. He has been a member of Gloucestershire County Council for eight years and has been a Cabinet Member for the last two years. Will's responsibilities are Community Safety and Economy which includes European affairs.

He is married with three children between the ages of ten and eighteen. His interests are country sports, especially riding, bridge, theatre and gardening.

Elizabeth Holt

Elizabeth Holt has worked for the European Commission since 1981 and is a career Commission official. After 18 years as a Brussels-based specialist in European employment and social policy she was appointed Head of the Commission's office in Scotland in 1999 where she remained for six years. She then moved to the

Commission's Representation in Paris to take charge of relations with French regional media.

Elizabeth has been Head of Networks in the Commission's UK Representation since January 2008 and is responsible for UK-wide communication and information on EU policies of particular relevance to the UK. She is a graduate of the University of Oxford and speaks fluent French.

Phil McVey

Phil McVey is the Director of European Programmes in the South West of England Regional Development Agency, leading work on the development and delivery of European Structural Fund Programmes for 2007-2013. Before this, Phil McVey worked in the Government Office for the South West, as the Assistant Director with responsibility for European Structural Fund Programmes for 2007-2013 and Deputy Director for Sustainability and Rural Affairs.

Previously, Phil McVey has also worked as the Czech Republic Resident Twinning Adviser to the Czech government on its preparations for European Union membership – with a focus on structural funds. Prior to this he worked in the Government Office for the South West, as the Head of European Social Fund, and Acting Director for Skills.

Ashley Fox MEP

Ashley Fox is a Member of the European Parliament for the South West. He studied law at Bristol Polytechnic, before working for a year as an English assistant in France. He took his solicitors finals at Chester College of law, and after completing his articles, he qualified as a solicitor in 1994.

Ashley Fox now lives in Bristol with his wife and two children. He is an Associate of Morgan Cole, where he specialises in insurance litigation.

Ashley Fox fought the Parliamentary seat of Bath at the 2001 General Election. He has been the Councillor for Westbury-on-Trym on Bristol City council since 2002. Ashley Fox has chaired both the Council's Education scrutiny commission and the Planning committee. He now chairs the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission which oversees the scrutiny function of the authority.

Julie Girling MEP

Julie Girling was elected to the European Parliament in the June 2009 election. Julie Girling previously served on Gloucestershire County Council as Lead Cabinet Member for Environment and Community with an interest in waste, transport and roads and rural issues. It was in this role that she chaired the County Council Flood Recovery Task. Prior to this she was Leader of Cotswold District Council from 2003-2006.

With a degree in Politics and History and a background in corporate buying, Julie Girling has worked with a number of well known companies which include Ford, Argos, Dixons/Currys, Boots and Halfords.

At the European Parliament Julie Girling is a Member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee and sub on the Fisheries Committee.

Graham Watson MEP

Graham Watson was first elected to the European Parliament in 1994 but has been the sole Liberal member since the introduction of proportional representation in 1999. After serving on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and the Committee on Budgets during his first term, Graham Watson held the chair of the influential Committee on Citizens' Freedom and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs between 1999 and 2002. From 2004 to 2008 he was leader of the Alliance of Liberals and democrats in Europe (ALDE).

Graham Watson began his political career when he joined the International Federation of Liberal Youth, holding a number of offices and subsequently helping to found the European Communities' Youth Forum. Between 1983 and 1998 he also served as the head of the private office of the then leader of the British Liberal Party, Sir David Steel. Since the June election he has been appointed a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and a substitute on the Committee on Fisheries.

David Owen

David Owen is the recently appointed Chief Executive of Gloucestershire First, the countywide strategic Economic Partnership. Prior to this, he was Director of Enterprise and Innovation at the University of Gloucestershire, where he managed a 15-fold increase in the University's business engagement activity. Previously, he worked in similar roles as Enterprise Network Manager at the University of Bristol and Marketing Development Manager at Liverpool John Moores University. David Owen also spent a number of years as Managing Director of Liverpool Business Services Ltd a small, but rapidly growing, start-up, training and development SME.

David Owen currently Chairs the Gloucestershire Area Action Force, set up to monitor and alleviate the effects of recession on the County and has previously been Chair of Gloucestershire's Education Business Partnership, Chair of the South West Business Engagement Group and President of Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce.

Haylea Fryer

Haylea graduated with a BA Hons in Modern History, Economic History & Politics in 2002. From there, she joined the World's most famous department store and retail institution Harrods as a Graduate Executive on their prestigious international scheme and completed a PG DIP in Retail Futures & Economics. In the autumn of 2003, she joined major British retailer and the UK's largest clothing retailer Marks and Spencer at an exciting time of strategic and organisational change.

In 2005, inspired by her experience within the private sector, she decided to pursue a career within local government leading on organisational performance improvement and efficiency at Salisbury District Council. In May 2008, she joined

Wiltshire County Council as Economic Development Manager. Most recently, Haylea was appointed Interim Head of Economic Development for the new Wiltshire Council in February and is currently nearing completion of a part-time MSC Public Policy at the University of Bristol.

Alex Minshull

Alex Minshull leads Bristol's Sustainable City Group whose responsibilities include air and water quality, climate change and community engagement in sustainability. The Group also leads the Green Capital Initiative for the city, on behalf of the Local Strategic Partnership. The initiative is engaging organisations across the city to help make Bristol a low carbon city with a high quality of life. Bristol entered the Green Capital competition in 2008, after already having launched its Green Capital Initiative. The city was shortlisted to the final with seven other northern European cities. The winners were Stockholm 2010 and Hamburg - 2011.

With a degree in Environmental Science and a Masters in Environmental Architecture Alex Minshull has worked in a range of environmental planning and management roles in consultancy and the Environment Agency.

Stephen Cirell

Stephen Cirell is qualified as a solicitor and has worked in local government for nearly thirty years. He was articled in Stockport MBC, before moving to Dudley MBC in the Midlands, as an assistant and senior solicitor; in 1988 he moved to Leeds City Council, latterly as the Assistant Chief Legal Officer. Having written several leading books on compulsory competitive tendering, Stephen joined private law firm Eversheds in 1993 as Head of Local Government. He subsequently built up its local government business to be the premier firm in the country, as recognised by Legal 500 and Chambers Directories.

Over the past three years he has specialised in climate change work and in August 2009, Stephen joined Cornwall Council as Programme Director for Green Cornwall. This is a role to co ordinate all of the various climate change and sustainability work across the Council, and to lead the Council's work with its community partners.

Chris Hedges

Chris Hedges is a career civil servant who has undertaken a range of roles in the Home Office, including posts in the fields of criminal justice, immigration and management development. He is currently a Policy Manager in the UK Border Agency's Immigration Policy Unit and has been involved in the development of integration and social cohesion policies for about six years. He was part of the team that drafted the White Paper "Secure Borders; Safe Haven" and the citizenship provisions of the UK's Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act, including the English language requirement for citizenship introduced on 28 July 2004. He is currently working on new "active citizenship" proposals and helped to draft the recent consultation document on a points-based system for citizenship.

In developing UK integration initiatives, Chris Hedges worked closely with – and has been inspired by - the late Professor Sir Bernard Crick, the Home Office Advisor on Citizenship. Chris Hedges is the Chair of the Council of Europe Migration Committee and is a member of European Commission expert groups on integration and intercultural dialogue. He has a keen interest in volunteering and is a Trustee of the British Red Cross.

Charles Dorr

Charles Dorr is one of two project workers at Equality South West (ESW) responsible for delivering the South West RDA funded ESW Migrant Workers Project. The project aims to map trends in migration, inform regional policy-making, support migrant community groups and promote good practice among employers.

Charles Dorr has formally worked at the South West Regional Assembly and Longhurst Housing Association. He was educated at the London School of Economics and the University of Birmingham.

Kevin Poulton

A Chartered Town Planner by first qualification and background. Kevin has been employed exclusively for over 30 years within the public sector, principally in District Council's in southern England. For the last two decades he has held senior posts at East Dorset District Council. In 2000 he was given the challenge of establishing an Economic Development function.

Since that time he has successfully managed 5 European Social Fund contracts across the sub region. These include the exemplar A3 Workforce Development Programme that was influential in the development of the national Train to Gain Service and the current Care Ambassadors programme. This programme trains employees to raise the profile of the sector and promote the range of career opportunities. He also helped develop and manages DORMEN, the Dorset Mentoring programme where volunteer business people with proven credentials mentor less experienced business owners to aid survival and growth.

He represents the Dorset area on the Regional Employment and Skills Partnership and its Age Management Standing Group. This combination of expertise and interest has led him being approached to manage the new Ageless@Work ESF Innovations contract on behalf of Skills for Care.

Eleni Marianou

Eleni Marianou is the Director of the South West UK Brussels Office (SWUKBO) and has been since 2001. Within SWUKBO Eleni has overall strategic responsibility for the Office, human resources, budget and managing relations with the Partnership, South West MEPs, Committee of the Regions representatives, UKREP, other EU Brussels Offices and EU networks (such as AER, CPMR and EURADA). Eleni takes the lead in promoting the South West in Brussels and ensuring regional input into European policymaking and legislative processes, in all of the key priority areas of the office.

She leads on Cohesion Policy, including support to the 2007-2013 Convergence and Regional Competitiveness & Employment Programmes.

Eleni is a qualified lawyer, registered in the Bar of Athens. Previously Eleni was also the Director for Policy in Eurocities, an Association of major metropolitan areas in Europe, for almost seven years. Prior to her post in Eurocities Eleni worked as a Senior Policy officer in the Council of European Municipalities and Regions in Paris, with overall responsibility for European interregional co-operation networks. Eleni has also worked for European Commission's LEADER I programme and LEDA network, and in the European Parliament's legal service in Luxembourg.