



CINNAMON  
NETWORK

# THE CINNAMON CIVIC LEADERSHIP FORUM



# OPPORTUNITY

**This Civic Leaders Forum is here to help you in your journey of civic engagement.**

Having a vision for the whole village, town or city necessitates the building of relationships, not just with the local council, but with all seven sectors of society – business, health, education, media, government, police and community.

**New partnerships are emerging and new opportunities are being presented.**



In recent years the relationship between local churches and their civic authorities has improved. Churches have been modeling community transformation and diverse forms of engagement that are increasingly being recognised by those in authority.

But church leaders tell us that they still feel under-prepared for what lies ahead. There is no modern blueprint for this. No handbook. Yet God seems to be speaking into this whole area.

## **The seven sectors**

- Business & Finance
- Health & Wellbeing
- Education & Learning
- Media, Arts & Entertainment
- Politics & Government
- Policing & Security
- Family & Community

# THE FORUM

Discover models of transformation as you share and learn with other leaders.

- A faculty of experienced leaders steer the topics and season the conversations.
- Share the challenges you face and find wisdom from others.
- Hear about progress elsewhere and unpack the story.
- Connect online, on the phone or in person with other leaders.

## Example topics

- How to build relationships with the police.
- What we need to know about public health provision.
- The opportunity within local authority budget cuts.
- What recent research is showing us.
- How to secure additional funding for your work.



Our calling to ‘sit at the city gates’ isn’t just for a few. We believe that every Christian in the marketplace has a role in civic society. We recognise that releasing people into a calling for their sector is also an important part of your leadership.

## A case in point

“Earlier this year Pray Haringey shared their disappointment that the only mention of faith groups in the borough’s community strategy was in relation to preventing extremism. Citing the Cinnamon Network’s audit report for Haringey, I reminded both the Leader and the Chief Executive of the strength of contribution and investment made by the Church in the borough. This led to having two meetings with the local authority exploring how to strengthen the relationship between the Christian community in Haringey and the Council”. **Cherron Inko-Tariah, Haringey**

# OPPORTUNITIES IN 2016:



## Conference call

Get encouragement without needing to travel. Dial in for 30 minutes of insight and questions.

## Visits & buddies

There is an opportunity to find a buddy who is at a similar stage to you. Visit another town and spend time with a leader who is happy to host visits from others seeking to see and learn more.



## Event

Attend an invitation-only event with plenty of opportunity to connect with and quiz fellow leaders.

## A closer look – the story so far from a church leader

Read the story of developing a relationship with the leaders of Lincoln City Council and how this is impacting the churches of the city.



## Civic Prayer Event – free resource booklet

This autumn is a great time to organise a civic prayer event. Following best practice, get your free copy of our booklet that will help you join nearly 200 other local church networks expected to be hosting these significant events.

## Recommended reading

Take a look at the books that are shaping the thinking of fellow leaders in the Forum: Nominate yours online here.

[cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/forum](http://cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/forum)



## Membership

**Cost:** £395 per annum.

OR

**Free** for leaders who have conducted a Cinnamon Faith Action Audit or who organise and register a forthcoming Civic Prayer Event.

**“What is the best thing you have done recently to enhance your relationship with local civic leaders?”**

“Expressing my interest for the local issues civic leaders are interested in. I’ve participated in meetings they organised and showed my commitment to see the local community flourish.”

**Girma Bishaw, Islington**

**“What is the biggest challenge you are facing or the question you are currently asking?”**

“The biggest challenge is getting senior executives in the Council to think outside the box, and to not always come up with procurement rules as a reason not to be innovative and forward thinking.”

**Andy Street, Bristol**

“Probably being on the Local Strategic Partnership. It keeps you in touch, keeps your face in the public eye and enables you to have corridor conversations which can lead to more fruitful engagement.”

**Martyn Relf, Eastbourne**

“Seeking to engage the church in all the opportunities that the city offers – especially as austerity bites.”

**Chris Clewer, Plymouth**

“The Cinnamon Faith Action Audit was probably the best thing we have done to enhance our relationship with the Civic leaders – before that it was the introduction of Street Pastors.”

**Jonathan McGill, Bromley**

“The assumption that the only interest of the church is to preach and convert people. We are asking, or rather trying to find a practical way, to demonstrate our holistic interest.”

**Girma Bishaw, Islington**

“Serve on boards, found creative ways of addressing their agendas and presented the Cinnamon Faith Action Audit.”

**Philip Fell, St Helens**

“Ensuring no one particular organisation drives things, and that all share ownership.”

**Ian Mayer, Doncaster**



## About Cinnamon:

Cinnamon Network began at the end of 2010 in response to growing social need, public sector reform, the economic cuts and an increasing recognition of the role of voluntary organisations.

The Cinnamon Faith Action Audits have helped 87 locations evidence the work of the local church to civic authorities. In 2016, we are supporting Civic Prayer Events across the UK bringing together civic leaders from the seven sectors to further the relationship with the local church.

Our aim is to help the 50,000 branches of the local church across the UK to serve individuals, families and communities to help them thrive and flourish. We believe that when local churches work with local agencies, such as government, police, health, education and business, then our cities, towns and villages will be transformed.

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To serve the nation

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