

# Public Document Pack



Date: 19 October 2023  
Ask For: Tourism Working Party/Agenda  
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## TOURISM REVIEW WORKING PARTY

26 OCTOBER 2023

A meeting of the Tourism Review Working Party will be held at **5.30 pm on Thursday, 26 October 2023** via Online Only.

### Membership:

Councillor Britcher (Chair); Councillors: Austin, D Green, Kup and Packman

## AGENDA

Item  
No

Subject

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Pages 3 - 4)
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 5 - 6)
4. **EVIDENCE GATHERING SESSION**



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### **Do I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and if so what action should I take?**

Your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) are those interests that are, or should be, listed on your Register of Interest Form.

If you are at a meeting and the subject relating to one of your DPIs is to be discussed, in so far as you are aware of the DPI, you **must** declare the existence **and** explain the nature of the DPI during the declarations of interest agenda item, at the commencement of the item under discussion, or when the interest has become apparent

Once you have declared that you have a DPI (unless you have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee or the Monitoring Officer, for which you will have applied to the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting) you **must**:-

1. Not speak or vote on the matter;
2. Withdraw from the meeting room during the consideration of the matter;
3. Not seek to improperly influence the decision on the matter.

### **Do I have a significant interest and if so what action should I take?**

A significant interest is an interest (other than a DPI or an interest in an Authority Function) which:

1. Affects the financial position of yourself and/or an associated person; or  
Relates to the determination of your application for any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration made by, or on your behalf of, you and/or an associated person;
2. And which, in either case, a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest.

An associated person is defined as:

- A family member or any other person with whom you have a close association, including your spouse, civil partner, or somebody with whom you are living as a husband or wife, or as if you are civil partners; or
- Any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors; or
- Any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000;
- Any body of which you are in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Authority; or
- any body in respect of which you are in a position of general control or management and which:
  - exercises functions of a public nature; or
  - is directed to charitable purposes; or
  - has as its principal purpose or one of its principal purposes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

An Authority Function is defined as: -

- Housing - where you are a tenant of the Council provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease; or
- Any allowance, payment or indemnity given to members of the Council;
- Any ceremonial honour given to members of the Council
- Setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992



If you are at a meeting and you think that you have a significant interest then you **must** declare the existence **and** nature of the significant interest at the commencement of the matter, or when the interest has become apparent, or the declarations of interest agenda item.

Once you have declared that you have a significant interest (unless you have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee or the Monitoring Officer, for which you will have applied to the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting) you **must:-**

1. Not speak or vote (unless the public have speaking rights, or you are present to make representations, answer questions or to give evidence relating to the business being discussed in which case you can speak only)
2. Withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the matter or immediately after speaking.
3. Not seek to improperly influence the decision.

### **Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality**

Councillors must declare at meetings any gift, benefit or hospitality with an estimated value (or cumulative value if a series of gifts etc.) of £25 or more. You **must**, at the commencement of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, disclose the existence and nature of the gift, benefit or hospitality, the identity of the donor and how the business under consideration relates to that person or body. However you can stay in the meeting unless it constitutes a significant interest, in which case it should be declared as outlined above.

### **What if I am unsure?**

If you are in any doubt, Members are strongly advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or the Committee Services Manager well in advance of the meeting.

If you need to declare an interest then please complete the declaration of [interest form](#).

## **TOURISM REVIEW WORKING PARTY**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023 at 5.30 pm in the Virtual Meeting.**

**Present:** Councillor Leo Britcher (Chair); Councillors Austin, D Green and Packman

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Fellows.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

### **3. EVIDENCE GATHERING SESSION**

The Chair introduced Louise Askew (Head of Regeneration and Growth) to give a presentation to the committee and made the following points:

- The team operated through the Destination Management Framework, this was to help develop higher-value tourism to make sure Thanet stayed sustainable through tourism;
- Tourism was currently worth £212m to the local economy and supported approximately 5,831 jobs in the district;
- The Volume and Value Survey of Tourism was conducted every two years and used the Cambridge Economic Impact Model;
- 2019 figures showed that Thanet had 4.6 million visitors;
- The Kent Residents - Thanet Survey results showed that there wasn't much difference between the Summer Wave and Winter Wave responses to the question "Do you consider your local area to be a tourist destination?" and showed that coastal beaches were the biggest perceived main attractions in Thanet;
- 82% of residents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "I support Summer tourism in my local area"

Following the presentation, discussion raised the following questions and points:

- Members asked how different authorities handled issues regarding tourism and whether or not Thanet District Council would benefit from an official Tourism Strategy. Officers responded by saying that there wasn't a need for a Tourism Strategy as tourism was included in the Economic Development Strategy. The authority also worked with the sector via the destination management plan and elements could be managed via the Local Plan Process.
- It was raised that 191 responses were received from local people in the area and Members asked if these could be shown on a map to see how vocal different areas were. Officers said that they could ask for more detailed data gathering in the future, however there was only enough funding for the Cambridge model of surveying. Officers explained that there was a changing demographic of visitors to the district; this was partly due to an increase in the number of people visiting friends and families.
- Members asked if TDC could gather information from different areas around Kent and other coastal areas to ask how they handle parking issues. Officers responded by saying that it would be possible, but TDC would need to be clear what specific questions we would ask;

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- Members discussed the idea of making parking in the area cheaper during the weekends, in an attempt to encourage more people to support local businesses on those days. Officers said that it could be looked at when TDC reviewed their Parking Strategy;
- Members and officers expressed concerns over AirBNB and its impact on local holiday lets in Thanet, as it made a significant impact on the local Housing Market. Officers said AirBnB was a national issue that needed national solutions, but they hoped that the Council would ultimately be provided with the means to keep up standards and enforcement. Officers stated that TDC would support a national register of short term holiday lets.
- Members asked officers if generating a profit for the Council would be considered being included in its long term strategy in regards to parking. Officers replied that the parking service could not make a “profit” and charges could only be made to control traffic flow.
- Members expressed concern that high road charges and venue charges would raise the costs of different events, discouraging organisers from using Thanet; Officers explained to the Members that there was an event process that TDC followed, through a multi-agency approach where impacts on the area were taken into consideration.
- Members touched upon the subject of waste left behind from visitors to the area, especially in terms of the waste left behind on Thanet’s beaches. Members pointed out the improvement of waste management, thanks in part due to larger receptacles on different locations on the beaches. Officers told members that procedures were followed to make sure recycling was a priority and these bins had been successful in improving that, especially around the Summer months.

Meeting concluded: 6.28 pm