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Date: **07 May 2024**
Ask For: **External Grant Funding Review Working Party/Agenda**
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EXTERNAL GRANT FUNDING REVIEW WORKING PARTY

13 MAY 2024

A meeting of the External Grant Funding Review Working Party will be held at **5.30 pm on Monday, 13 May 2024** via Online Only.

Membership:

Councillor Austin (Chair); Councillors: Davis, Fellows, Manners and Pope

AGENDA

Item
No

Subject

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** (Pages 3 - 4)
To receive any declarations of interest. Members are advised to consider the advice contained within the Declaration of Interest advice attached to this Agenda. If a Member declares an interest, they should complete the [Declaration of Interest Form](#)
3. **EXTERNAL GRANT FUNDING REVIEW WORKING PARTY WORK PROGRAMME**
(Pages 5 - 8)



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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](#).

External Grant Funding Review Working Party Work Programme

External Grant Funding Review Working Party	13 May 2024
By	Charles Hungwe, Deputy Committee Services Manager
Cabinet Portfolio Member	Cllr Yates, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Key Decision	No
Decision classification	Unrestricted
Call in status	N/A
Ward:	Thanet Wide

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a framework for the External Grant Funding Review Working Party to consider and agree its work activities for conducting the review as assigned by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Recommendation(s):

Members' views are sought on the activities for conducting the scrutiny review.

1. Summary of Reasons

- 1.1 The purpose of this meeting is for the working party to agree their work programme for carrying out this scrutiny review. Members may also wish to set out timelines for concluding different activities of this review project, leading to the production of the review report.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel set up the External Grant Funding Review Working Party at its meeting on 16 April 2024 to investigate and report on the potential for Thanet District Council to access additional external grant funding opportunities for the benefit of Thanet District.
- 1.2 It is hoped that from this review, the working party could come up with recommendations for consideration by the Panel and subsequently Cabinet.

3. Relevant Issues - Collecting evidence for the review

- 3.1 Members need to identify the activities to undertake as part of evidence gathering. These would lead to the production of a report with recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel at the end of the scrutiny review project.
- 3.2 The working party could consider discussing with officers from different service areas across the various council departments to gather any information based on officer experiences. These would be officers whose job roles include sourcing for external grants for their various work activities. The working party would need to determine how many sessions they need in order for Members to gather adequate information for producing the report.
- 3.3 Members may also want to individually consider carrying out desktop research to identify various organisations that could potentially provide grant funding to council activities and share such information with the rest of the working party. The working party may also opt to engage Cabinet Members to get their views on this subject before summing up their findings and recommendations.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Members would need to agree an approach for the review and a timeline of activities for conducting the review. This could be listing out the key activities and when these should be done by. This information would be used to send out appointments to the members and officers as is appropriate.
- 4.2 Members could simply agree on the approach for conducting the scrutiny review and assign officers in Democratic Services to liaise with officers in the appropriate service areas to arrange meetings and activities for the review.

Next Steps

- 4.3 The following is a proposed generic and indicative timetable which Members can review and amend at the first meeting.

June 2024: meeting with officers from different TDC service areas with experience in managing external grant funding;

June 2024: review of information and drafting the working party report;

July 2024: review of draft report by the working party;

July 2024: draft report reviewed by CMT

Aug 2024: presentation of Final report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There is no requirement to conduct a consultation on this matter. However as part of the investigations by the working party, if Members feel the need to engage the public they could conduct witnesses sessions as part of evidence gathering exercise before writing up their report.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Finance and Resources

6.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However any funding sources that are identified would contribute to additional funding sources for Council activities.

6.2 Legal and Constitutional

6.2.1 The role of scrutiny is set out in section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000. The council must also have regard to the statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny from the ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government when exercising its functions.

6.3 Council Policies and Priorities

6.3.1 This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- To create a thriving place
- To work efficiently for you

6.4 Risk

6.4.1 There are risks arising directly from this report.

6.5 Climate Change and Biodiversity

6.5.1 There are no climate change and biodiversity implications arising directly from this report.

7. Equality, Equity and Diversity Implications

7.1 There are no equity, equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report. However the Council needs to retain a strong focus and understanding on issues of diversity amongst the local community and ensure service delivery matches these.

7.2 It was important to be aware of the Council's responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and show evidence that due consideration has been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.

8. Crime and Disorder Implications and Community impact

8.1 There are no crime and disorder implications and community impact arising directly from this report.

9. Subject History

9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel identified a number of scrutiny topics in the 2023/24 municipal year. They prioritised these topics in order to tackle one review at a time. Any topics from the priority list that were not investigated in 2023/24 would be

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brought forward to 2024/25 subject to the new Panel agreeing the work programme after the Annual Council.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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Report Sign Off

Legal []

Finance []