



Date: **19 July 2024**  
Our Ref: **External Grant Funding Review Working Party/Agenda**  
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## **EXTERNAL GRANT FUNDING REVIEW WORKING PARTY**

**22 JULY 2024**

A meeting of the External Grant Funding Review Working Party will be held at **6.00 pm on Monday, 22 July 2024** via Online Only.

### **Membership:**

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

## **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. **GATHER EVIDENCE FROM INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUNDING ORGANISATIONS**  
(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 meeting with Infrastructure and Funding Organisations

<b>External Grant Funding Review Working Party</b>	22 July 2024
<b>By</b>	Charles Hungwe, Deputy Committee Services Manager
<b>Cabinet Portfolio Member</b>	Cllr Yates, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Decision classification</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Call in status</b>	N/A
<b>Ward:</b>	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 engage infrastructure bodies and potential funding organisations in Kent that could support the various work activities of the local voluntary community organisations working in Thanet.

### Recommendation(s):

Members could come up with additional questions to the ones that are detailed in this report.

### 1. Summary of Reasons

- 1.1 The purpose of this meeting is for the working party to engage infrastructure bodies and potential funding organisations in Thanet and those that operate at a Kent County level to gather evidence on how these organisations could support the various work activities of voluntary community organisations working in Thanet.
- 1.2 The working party is trying to address the following key question: “How can the Council maximise small-scale grant funding coming into Thanet?”
- 1.3 The above question could best be addressed through addressing the working party’s terms of reference which are:
  1. Report to focus on smaller external grants (under £100k);
  2. Focus primarily on small & medium voluntary & community organisations and look at how we can best help them to access funding;
  3. Ask them what information & skills they have and identify where the gaps are
  4. Ask how they’ve worked with TDC and canvass ideas for how else we might help;

5. Ask town & parish councils, infrastructure bodies & funders re: their experience of working with Thanet organisations & what might help improve success rates;
6. Outline what's worked, what hasn't and how we might tailor our support in future for greater impact without overburdening officers/ creating significant extra costs.

## **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 explore opportunities for increasing external grant funding opportunities for the benefit of Thanet District.
- 2.2 It is hoped that when the review is concluded, the working party would 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 gather all relevant information from representatives of infrastructure bodies and funding organisations how they could work with Thanet District Council to support local voluntary community organisations in the district. Some of the questions that could assist the working party discussion are as suggested below:
  1. What's your experience of working with TDC to help Thanet groups access funding/ build their skills to do so?
  2. What works well & what doesn't?
  3. How do you work with other Councils?
  4. Do they do things differently? What works well?
  5. How is your role developing?
  6. How can TDC help you maximise the support you offer?
  7. What other ideas do you have for how TDC might help you and local vol orgs to bring more grant funding into Thanet?
- 3.2 Responses to these questions above will provide information that should constitute part of the working party report and would assist in coming up with recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Members are being asked to consider the above questions for their engagement meeting with infrastructure and funding organisations.
- 4.2 Members could also come up with additional questions to the ones highlighted in para 3.1.

## Next Steps

- 4.3 There is another working party meeting with the local community organisations on 29 July. This will be followed by a working session by the working party to collate all information into a report. Once the report has been drafted it will then be shared with senior management before being presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in September. Below is an indicative timetable for completing the work of the sub group:

July 2024: meeting with infrastructure and funding organisations;

July 2024: Meeting with a select number of voluntary organisations

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

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

Aug 2024: draft report reviewed by CMT;

Sep 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 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

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