

# Thanet District Council and Parish/Town Councils Collaboration Survey

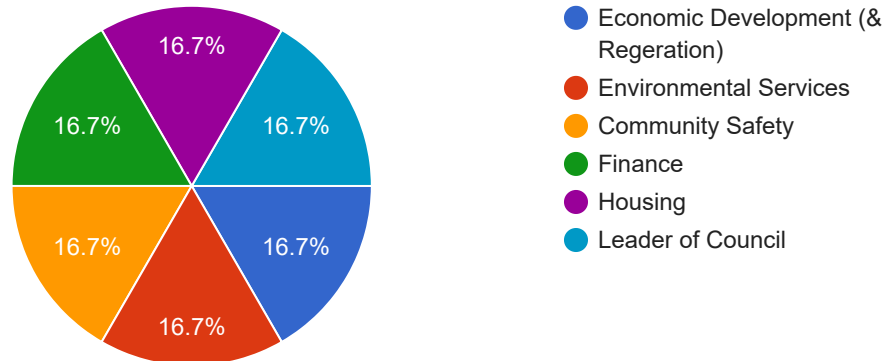
6 responses

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Which Cabinet Portfolio area(s) are you the lead Member?

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6 responses



How do you view the current working relationship between Thanet District Council and parish/town councils?

6 responses

I feel that TDC and BSPTC are wary of each other and would benefit from a closer, more cooperative relationship. I only feel confident to give views on my own town council

I believe that generally working relationships are very informal and rely on individual officers and members interacting on an ad hoc basis.

To my knowledge they are varied

Acceptable

I think it is reasonably good. But there may be some better opportunities to speak to them more

I feel we currently have a good working relationship as a Council. My ward includes 5 parish councils and I have at times struggled to sort out issues that the parishes have that require TDC assistance but by and large we get things resolved in the end.



How does this current working relationship affect the way services are delivered in the district?

6 responses

The town planning committee waste valuable time discussing and making recommendations on applications for invalid reasons. There is sometimes misinformation, eg relating to proposals for toilet provision, oil spills on the beach and parking, which bring about a lack of mutual respect and, again, wasted time.

I think that the casual nature of the relationships means that opportunities for greater efficiencies are missed. Also, at TDC, much officer time is wasted by twin-hatters pushing for more service for their particular town or parish.

They should not be affected

As a twin hatter (TDC/B & St.P TC) I am not aware that the TC officers have any major difficulties regarding the current arrangements - with the exception of Officer to Officer contact resulting from the current working arrangements

Sometimes means things can get miss reported or the Parish Council is not clear what's going on

I think we are slow to sort out issues with missed waste collections, particularly if there are repeated issues on a particular road in the rural areas of the district.

Do you have any suggestions for how collaborative working between Thanet District Council and parish/town councils could be improved; and if yes what are they?

6 responses

I think that meetings, perhaps bi-monthly and with Q/A sessions, between representatives of both councils, would be beneficial in clarifying issues and improving efficiency.

There should be more clearly defined service levels so that district and parishes know what can be expected of each other.

Better communications between the tiers

From the feedback that I receive from TC officers, it would be of assistance to the Broadstairs Town Clerk if her TDC contact list was regularly updated to reflect responsibility changes at TDC

Monthly meetings with the Chair of Town/Parish Councils.

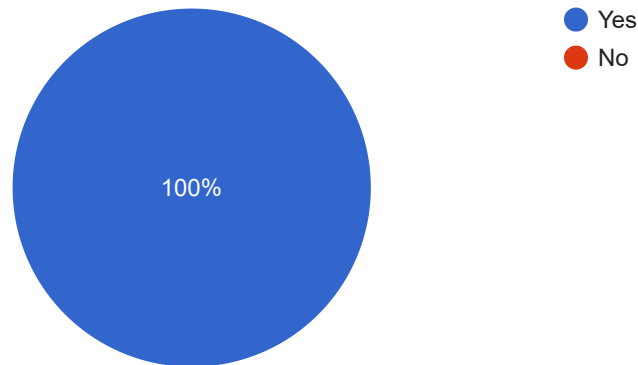
I think we need a designated officer for Parish and Town Councils. The parish and town councils are taking up more of the slack from TDC and we need to be able to support them and resolve issues they have quicker than we currently do.



From your experience working with parishes, do you think they have the capacity to take on additional roles on a long-term, sustained basis?



6 responses



If yes, what additional roles or responsibilities would you suggest?

6 responses

Planning decisions, following training, using local knowledge  
Taking on the management of toilets in the town.  
Managing other facilities, eg leisure facilities.

Parishes and towns could take over localised services such as toilets, parks and open spaces and agreed service enhancements.

Services such as parking and toilets

I believe that with precept flexibility and District support, the TC could take on public assets within the Town - Parks and Gardens for instance

Toilets. Some level of street cleaning

They can maintain and be responsible for our green spaces, including parks. St Nick Parish want to take over Bell Meadow but TDC want them to buy it from the council when we currently pay the Parish circa 8k a year to maintain it for us. The Parish would take it on and maintain it without anymore funding from TDC. Parish and Town Councils could also maintain public toilets in their areas, as Minster Parish currently does.



Is there anything else that you would like to add regarding the relationship between District and Parish councils?

5 responses

Only that there is a good deal of room for improvement. Town and district councils should complement each other, rather than compete.

Parishes and towns have the opportunity to raise precepts without government constraint so they can access cash in a way that the district cannot.

Joint working groups

Not at this point

We need a designated officer at TDC to liaise with Town and Parish Councils.

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