

Thanet District Council and Parish/Town Councils Collaboration Survey

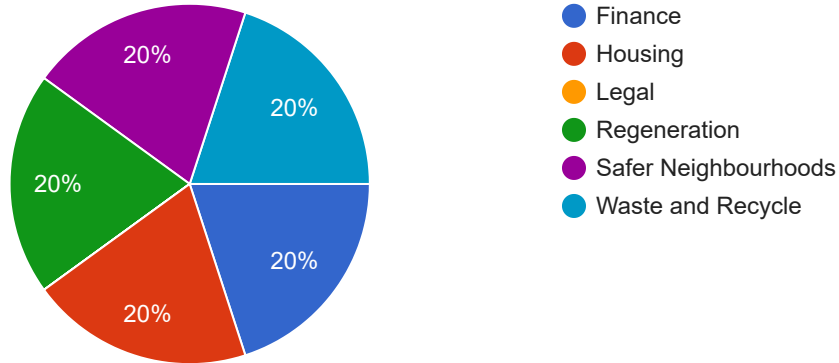
5 responses

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Which Council Department do you represent?

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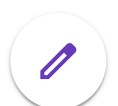
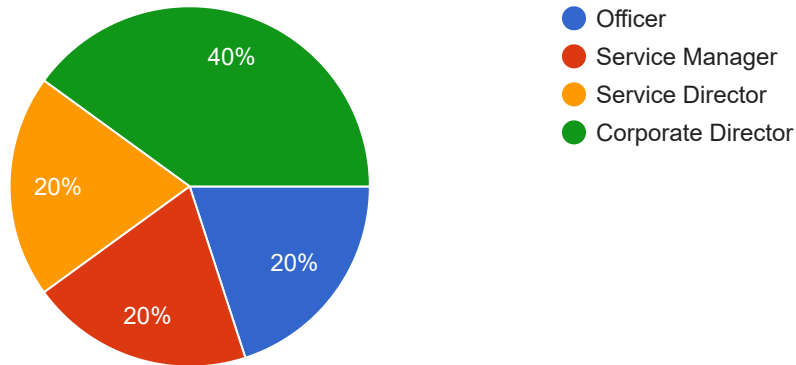
5 responses



What is your role at Thanet District Council?

 Copy

5 responses



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

5 responses

In terms of business support and regeneration work we have been linking more and ore closely with town and parish councils which has been beneficial to both tiers.

Non-collaborative

Relationships at the political level are well established and appear to work well, however this seems to be more prevalent through utilising the informal networks of twin hatters rather than a proscribed Governance process.

This seems to be most prevalent in our engagement with RTC and BTC.

There seems to have been recent improvements in the way officers are engaging with town and parish councils, most notably through the improvements made in the way the street cleansing team is now operating.

It fluctuates depending on department and council

Ok

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

5 responses

N/A

Leads to unproductive conflict and poorer outcomes than might otherwise be achieved

The political leadership and cross party working greatly aids decision making in this area. Despite recent improvements there remains potential for officers to continued to enhance our engagement with the town councils.

The absence of a town council in Margate can create tension and stymie the debate as how best TDC should engage with the parishes and town councils.

yes it can

Some town and parish councils offer more than others from their local who pay an amount as part of their council.



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?

5 responses

N/A

More regular dialogue, formal and informal

From a financial perspective, it is accepted that more work could be done around the budget setting cycle to consult on potential TDC budget changes with the town and parish council. However, resources are a limiting factor that have previously constricted this activity and a assesment would need to be undertaken to understand the potential for the breadth and scope of consultation.

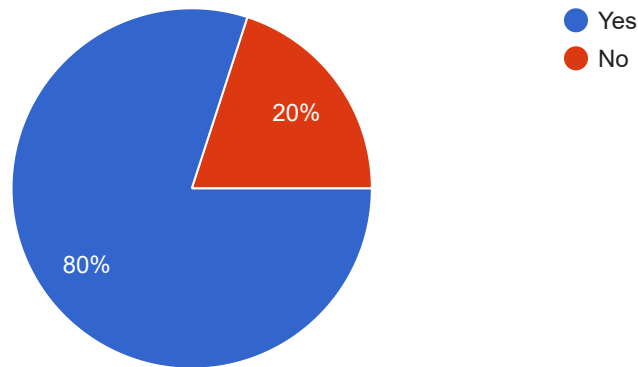
more regular and open dialogue with definitely assist

Town and Parish Councils could deliver more of the work which is relative their area instead of passing the responsibility of that to the district council.

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



5 responses



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

5 responses

Maintaining public spaces (watering etc, possibly by coordinating/working with community/voluntary groups)

Play areas, open spaces, toilets

Town and Parish councils are not subject to the same council tax restrictions as district councils. Consequently, discussions should be undertaken to consider whether the transfer of a range functions should be undertaken to allow for them to be sustainably funded at a local level.

Actives for consideration include but are not limited to:

Cemeteries

Parks and Playgrounds

Beach management

Tourism

Town centre CCTV

Litter bin emptying and litter picking

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

3 responses

I think these relationships are very important to help improve the services offered to the public, communities and businesses, We should absolutely be looking to improved joined up working and to avoid duplication and increase capacity to deliver within our towns.

Place based approach

Unless a Margate Town Council is introduced, a special expenses scheme should be introduced to ensure that residents are fairly charged for council tax.

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