

# Tourism Review Working Party Work Programme

Tourism Review Working Party 24 August 2023

<b>Report Author</b>	Charles Hungwe, Deputy Committee Services Manager
<b>Status</b>	For Decision
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Ward:</b>	Thanet Wide

## Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide a framework for the Tourism 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.

## Corporate Implications

### Financial and Value for Money

There were no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### Legal

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.

### Risk Management

There are risks arising directly from this report.

### Corporate

The review of impact of tourism on Thanet would come up with recommendations for consideration by Cabinet. However any recommendations would need to be considered in the context of the limited resources available to the Council.

### Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the

decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -  
(Delete as appropriate)

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

No implications arise directly but the Council needs to retain a strong focus and understanding on issues of diversity amongst the local community and ensure service delivery matches these.

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.

## **Corporate Priorities**

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- Growth
- Environment
- Communities

## **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel set up the Tourism Review Working Party at its meeting on 20 July 2023 to investigate and report on the negative impact of tourism on Thanet and find ways to mitigate that impact. Areas of focus would include the impact on parking, AirBnB on rent levels in the district and costs for Street Cleansing services. It is hoped that from this review, the working party could come up with recommendations for mitigating this impact. These proposals would then be forwarded for consideration to the Panel and subsequently Cabinet.
- 1.2 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.

## **2.0 Collecting Evidence for the review**

- 2.1 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. Members agreed that the review would be conducted over a day. This would include members of the working party conducting site visits to different locations across the district to gather any evidence that could be used to produce the review report
- 2.2 Members could conduct a field visit round the district's different locations that could give a representative view of the issues being reviewed. This could then be followed up by a working session where Members pull together the main issues that would have been identified which would be included in the report. On the other hand, Members may feel that out of the field visit they need more information than it might be worth considering meeting with appropriate TDC officers and portfolio holders to gather more information in order to get a better view of the subject under review. A single session could be arranged for this purpose.
- 2.3 Members may also want to consider carrying out desktop research to find out what arrangements are in place in other districts. This is in order to determine how other similarly sized district councils manage tourism in their respective districts.

## **3.0 Options**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.

## **4.0 Next Steps**

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

September 2023 - field visit to different locations around the district;  
September 2023 - interview sessions with relevant witnesses;  
October 2023 - Review of information collected and drafting of initial report;  
October 2023 - Review of report by the working group, relevant senior officers and CMT;  
November 2023 - Presentation of Final report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Contact Officer: (Charles Hungwe, Deputy Committee Services Manager)  
Reporting to: (Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager)

### **Annex List**

None

**Background Papers**

None

**Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** *(Insert name and job title)*

**Legal:** *(Insert name and job title)*