

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

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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Finance []