

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 JANUARY 2026

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SPORT, CULTURE AND HEALTH

- A.2 To consider grant funding by the Council and others and its appropriateness given the needs of the District including where the Grants Policy is at and the progress made with adopting the Committee's recommendations.**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide the Committee with an overview of grant funding opportunities available in the district, and update in respect of a future Council grant funding policy.

SCOPE - THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

To consider the management of grant funding by the Council and others and its appropriateness given the needs of the District, including where the Grants Policy is at and the progress made with the adoption of the Committee's Recommendations

INVITEES

Portfolio Holder, Partnerships

Corporate Director (Finance & IT)

Corporate Director (Place & Wellbeing)

BACKGROUND

Cabinet approved an external funding review at their meeting on 20 September 2024 which reviewed the Council's funding of external organisations and provided for a protocol to follow for allocating funding.

As part of the recommendations an external funding policy was required to be written and a policy is in the process of being developed for adoption for use across the Council, which will be used in the management of future funds.

The proposed draft External Funding Policy will be approved by the Leader of the Council as Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder and will also be presented to a future Audit Committee for their support and assurance on the governance process.

The initial external funding review and subsequent draft policy will apply across all areas of the Council allocating grant funding and seeks to complement the provisions of the Constitution, which cover allocation of funding which must always be followed.

This report responds to the approved work programme for Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In terms of any budget proposals which may include allocation of any external funding these have not yet been considered by Cabinet for 2026/27 and so are not included here.

RELEVANT CORPORATE PLAN THEME/ANNUAL CABINET PRIORITY

The appropriate allocation of grant funding meets the Corporate Plan Key Theme of "Financial Sustainability and Openness: To continue to deliver effective services and get things done we must look after the public purse; that means carefully planning what we do, managing capacity, and prioritising what we focus our time, money and assets on. Tough decisions will not be shied away from, but will be taken transparently, be well-informed, and based upon engagement with our residents. We will give clarity on where the Council spends the money it is provided with.

DESIRED OUTCOME OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM

To inform the Committee about the allocation of funding and progress with the proposed Policy.

DETAILED INFORMATION

The Council receives funding from and provides funding to a wide variety of external partners and the proposed External Funding Policy will primarily be focussed on how the Council provides funding in the community as opposed to for example allocating funding to a major contracted service for which there are specific governance procedures.

Funding for distribution as grants is received from a wide variety of partners such as the Government, health partners and statutory bodies. In addition the Council allocates funding from its own resources to deliver work in accordance with strategic priorities. This may be directed to organisations, for example within the community and voluntary sector, but can also be allocated to businesses or even assist in delivering some of the core projects the Council wishes to invest in, for example the current shop front grant scheme which is enhancing town centres.

The amount of funding allocated varies from year to year depending on Council resources, or those of partners. For example the Council has previously allocated funding to a Tendring Community Fund scheme which is no longer in operation or funding from partners, such as those in health varies over time.

It is therefore not possible to identify a set of schemes which should be supported over time as particular activities, recipients and need varies over time. However it is important to have clear parameters for allocating funding to ensure there is a consistent approach in line with the Council's priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. In addition this will assist in developing a transparent allocation of resources which is achieved in an equitable way.

An initial External Funding High Level Framework was produced and approved by Cabinet in September 2024 which was to be followed by an External Funding Policy. The draft Policy is being developed and is based around the High Level Framework as no adverse comments were received in terms of the use of that Framework.

Grant Funding

The Council allocates a variety of funding opportunities through a grants based process.

Grants will routinely follow an open call process which allows for a variety of bidders to apply and therefore will ensure it is in accordance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 as economic advantage is not provided to one enterprise.

Allocation of funding includes the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as a recent example, which this year has been used widely and has included business support, shop front grants,

leisure grants and also funded some new internal posts to support corporate priorities that deliver benefit to the community.

A public health funding scheme is being developed which will align with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Sport and Activity Strategy and is proposed to support communities across the district.

Wider schemes include the allocation of funding to specific projects such as the Mental Health Hub which is delivered by Citizen's Advice Tendring and is funded in conjunction with the Integrated Care Board, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Essex County Council Public Health.

A procurement process has been undertaken for a provider to deliver advice and information for residents facing challenges which are often multiple in nature. This is being undertaken by Citizen's Advice Tendring and the contract is for an initial three year period.

Funding has also been provided alongside others to the Community Rail Partnership and the Harwich to Shotley foot ferry.

The Council has utilised health funding to deliver a number of projects including supporting voluntary sector partners, delivering work around Family Solutions and supporting families in need and to help address fuel poverty.

Police Fire and Crime Commissioner funding has also been used to address key concerns of the Community Safety Partnership and been utilised to support improved CCTV.

Funding is also allocated through discretionary rate relief, housing improvement through disabled facilities grants and support for addressing homelessness and rough sleeping and to address the quality of housing in Jaywick.

District Needs

The latest figures for the Index of Multiple Deprivation were released at the end of October and identified that Tendring is still facing significant challenges and in some cases a worsening, for example in central Clacton.

Poor mental health and its increasing prevalence is a significant contributor to poor health outcomes across Tendring and although there is a welcome reduction in the suicide rate it is still stubbornly high.

A significant contributor to poor mental health are high levels of social isolation and loneliness which whilst featuring strongly in the older generation is now increasingly impacting younger people.

Many families are facing multiple challenges which is requiring a more aligned response to be able to address all the challenges simultaneously.

There are significant issues with housing across the district which has a direct impact on health for example in relation to excessive damp and cold.

There are challenges in the area in relation to skills and attainment in young people with a major concern around school attendance.

In addition the district has high levels of obesity and correspondingly lower levels of

physical activity.

Factors such as housing, skills and employment, physical activity and social isolation, commonly referred to as the wider determinants of health, are the underlying drivers and causes of poor health.

The Council's Corporate Plan points to these as the Council seeks to work with partners to address issues around health or provide opportunity in relation to raising aspiration and creating opportunity or addressing issues around housing and the environment.

The funding the Council is allocating is in line with seeking to address these wider determinants and work in a partnership approach for example in relation to health partners who have provided significant funding, or the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner in terms of community safety or with Government who have provided funding to deliver work to support communities.

Draft External Funding Policy

The proposed Policy is to be approved by the Leader of the Council as Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder.

Key concepts to be included in the proposed Policy will include linking allocation of funding to the Council's priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan. Through the community leadership role this is proposed to help develop resilience in our communities and support local people, organisations and businesses who can assist in developing our communities.

The Policy will aim to deliver a consistent approach in receipt and provision of funding so as to support our community and area.

It is proposed that the Policy will seek to target need in the area, utilising a transparent and equitable process and seeking to support those people, organisations and businesses which are sustainable and resilient to ensure ongoing delivery.

Ensuring appropriate processes are in place is critical, ensuring compliance with the Council's Constitution and that any funding the Council receives is spent in accordance with any criteria given with the funding.

Any funding the Council gives out will also need to be in accordance with criteria and funding conditions provided and these will need to be monitored against to ensure effective use of funding. It is also proposed that the draft Policy will require that there are appropriate claw back provisions if there is not suitable delivery.

It is also proposed that the draft policy will describe the application process and assessment of those applications and highlight the need to comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

Timeline for Adoption

January 2026: First draft of the Policy completed

March 2026: Final Draft Completed and Policy Published

Committee Recommendations

The Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Meeting of 11 January 2025 reviewed grant funding and recommended the setting up of a task and finish group to consider

grants.

No task and finish group was set up because the reviewing of grants was subsequently undertaken by Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

Grant Funding considered by Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny pages [Minutes Template 2-8](#)

Grant Funding Review considered by Cabinet 19 April 2024 [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 19/04/2024 10:30](#) pages 119-132

External Funding Review considered by 20 Cabinet September 2024 [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 20/09/2024 10:30](#) pages 673-688

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

APPENDICES

None

REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Name	John Fox
Job Title	Head of Health and Culture
Email/Telephone	jfox@tendingdc.gov.uk 01255 686746