

Record of Officer's Decision

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of Decision:	9 th March 2026
Decision Maker (Officer):	Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Place & Wellbeing
Authority for Delegated Decision (Cabinet/Committee Decision or Scheme of Delegation – provide reference):	4.4.1(1) All Corporate Directors have the authority to incur expenditure (with the exception of external legal resources) in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework, Financial Procedure Rules and Procurement Procedure Rules
Identify which Portfolio Holder(s)/Committee Chairman consulted?	Approval sought and received from Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism and Portfolio Holder for the Environment & ICT
Ward Member(s) consulted?	Ward Members for Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley aware and supportive: Cllr Bensilum Cllr Barrett Cllr Guglielmi
Is it a Key Decision?	No
Is it subject to call-in?	No
Decision Made:	To allocate the sum of £500 towards the running of the annual Manningtree Earth Festival from a Marketing Tourism budget, after consideration that the Festival meets the aims of both TDC's promotion of the District as a Tourism destination, and that it aligns with TDC's Climate Action Strategy.
Reason for Decision (if a report was produced to support the Decision, refer to or attach it):	The allocation of £500 from the Tourism Marketing budget to support the Manningtree Earth Festival 2026 is recommended as the event directly contributes to two key strategic aims of the Council. Firstly, the festival aligns with the Council's Climate Strategy, promoting environmental awareness,

	sustainable living, and community participation in climate-positive initiatives. Secondly, the festival offers benefits for tourism and destination promotion within the district. As a well-established, family-friendly event that attracts residents and visitors from across Essex and beyond, the Festival contributes to the local visitor economy, increases footfall to Manningtree town centre, and enhances the profile of Tendring as an attractive place to visit. The contribution represents good value for money, providing positive community, environmental, and economic outcomes while supporting a locally organised event that reflects the Council's wider strategic priorities. The allocation of £500 will support the Festival alongside a number of partner public sector organisations including ECC and town/parish Councils locally.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	The contribution constitutes a discretionary grant and does not create any contractual obligations for the Council. Standard requirements regarding the proper use of Council funds and adherence to relevant legislation (e.g. equality impact, health and safety, licensing, safeguarding) remain the responsibility of the event organisers. The Festival is an established event with a strong track record of delivery. The £500 contribution will be met from within the existing Tourism and Marketing budget for the 2025/26 financial year and does not result in any additional budgetary pressure.
NEW: Details of Local Government Reorganisation and/or Devolution considerations	This is a one-off payment for 2026 and does not commit TDC or any future unitary authority to continued financial support of the Festival.
Details of any Alternative Options Considered and rejected (together with reasons):	1) Provide no financial support. The festival delivers community, environmental, and tourism benefits that align with the Council's strategic priorities. Refusing support could have reduced the festival's capacity to deliver activities that promote both climate action and Tendring's visitor offer. 2) Provide support at a higher or lower level. This option was discounted as £500 is considered an appropriate and proportionate amount within the existing Tourism and Marketing budget, offering good value for money.

	3) Support the festival through non-financial means only. The option of offering only promotional assistance or in-kind support was considered. While non-financial support remains available, it was assessed that a financial contribution would meaningfully enhance the festival's delivery and outcomes, and therefore better achieves the Council's objectives.																						
Details of any declarations of interest (by Portfolio Holder/Committee Chairman who was consulted by the officer, which related to the decision) If relevant, a note of the dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer:	Not applicable																						
Reason Decision, or supporting Report, is not published: <i>Tick one or more of the specific exemptions,</i> <u>and</u> <i>Give more information in the final box with regards to why the exemption applies and outweighs the public interest test (which is in favour of disclosure).</i>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>X</td><td>Not applicable – Decision [and report] to be published</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">If Report is not to be published – tick one of the following boxes:</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>The report supporting the Decision contains confidential information</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>The Report supporting the Decision falls within an exemption pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information:</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Relates to an individual</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Likely to reveal the identity of an individual</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Relating to financial or business affairs of a person or organisation</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Relates to a claim for legal professional privilege in legal proceedings</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Reveals that the Council proposes to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or to make an order or direction under any enactment</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>And</u> is exempt if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the</td></tr> </table>	X	Not applicable – Decision [and report] to be published	If Report is not to be published – tick one of the following boxes:		☐	The report supporting the Decision contains confidential information	☐	The Report supporting the Decision falls within an exemption pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information:	☐	• Relates to an individual	☐	• Likely to reveal the identity of an individual	☐	• Relating to financial or business affairs of a person or organisation	☐	• Relates to a claim for legal professional privilege in legal proceedings	☐	• Reveals that the Council proposes to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or to make an order or direction under any enactment	☐	• Relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	<u>And</u> is exempt if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the	
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	exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information Reasons: N/A
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Officers

Signed: (approval retained on file)

Title: Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Place & Wellbeing

In consultation with:

Signed: (approval retained on file)

Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Tourism and Portfolio Holder for the Environment & ICT

Dated: