



Briefing Note – Work Streams

Date 28 July 2025
Prepared by Town Clerk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The session focused agreeing, in principle, to propose the establishment of five working parties to address various community challenges, at the upcoming council meeting in July 2025.
- 1.2. The previous Council had four working parties Public Realm - Assets, Public Realm - Projects, Events, Public Engagement and Communications.
- 1.3. Public Realm – Assets focused on the management of the Council’s community assets. This would now sit under the finance committee as day-to-day business.
- 1.4. Public Realm – Projects had delivered a number of asset specific projects. However, due to devolution and levelling up, future projects would be more diverse and cross different disciplines.
- 1.5. Public Engagement and Communications focused on communications. However, this was a golden thread running through all the Council’s work.
- 1.6. Events, which was still required.

2. LEGISLATION

- 2.1. There is no legal definition of a working party. They consist of a small group of members of the Council and can include members of the public.
- 2.2. A working party conducts its business on a less formal basis than that of a committee. It:
 - Does not have any decision-making powers
 - Does not hold any money and has no authorisation to spend.
 - Does not need to meet in public and can hold remote or face-to-face meetings
 - Must report back to the parish council with recommendations.
- 2.3. The working parties must comply with Equality and Diversity legislation in its operation.
- 2.4. There are no Crime and Disorder implications from forming working parties.
- 2.5. There are no direct Biodiversity implications from forming working parties.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The working parties can make recommendations to council but do not spending authority unless allocated a specific budget for a specific project.
- 3.2. Working parties should give consideration to the efficient use of Council resources.

4. PROPOSAL

- 1.7. The working parties would make then recommendations to the full council, which will make final decisions, particularly regarding funding.
- 1.8. There should be a maximum of five Councillors on any working party. Non-members could be invited to provide expertise.
- 1.9. The flexibility of working party meetings, whether online or face-to-face, was also discussed.
- 1.10. The following work streams and corresponding parties were proposed:

Derelict Buildings Task Force

- 4.1. The Task Force will tackle issues related to specific buildings.
- 4.2. The following councillors have put themselves forward for membership

Alex Lightfoot (Chair)

Debbie Andre

Ian Boyd

Leon Girling

Paddy Lightfoot

Ian Ward

Young Futures

- 4.3. The working party would be purely focused on Youth and Young People including the Bay Youth Project, working with youth organisations, the Town Hall and engagement with Schools.
- 4.4. The following councillors have put themselves forward for membership

Alex Lightfoot (Chair)

Debbie Andre

Ian Boyd

Liam Cregg

Leon Girling (schools engagement only)

Tracy Mikich

Thriving Communities

- 4.5. The working party would addressing local challenges, tackling anti-social behaviour, HMO issues, and vandalism as well as working with community groups like Green Town Volunteers, TWG, Warm Spaces arts and cultural activities, Carnival, Police, Sandown Town Council Public Realm.
- 4.6. The following councillors have put themselves forward for membership

Paddy Lightfoot

Joan Solomon

Tracy Mikich

5. Town Centre Revival

5.1. The Working Party would be focused on the Highstreet and the seafront and economic and cultural regeneration of the Town Centre, not just the Highstreet. Christmas Funday, Sprint, Carnival, empty shops/Highstreet properties and performance spaces.

5.2. The following councillors have put themselves forward for membership

Ian Boyd

Leon Girling

Paddy Lightfoot

6. Events and Engagement

6.1. The workstreams would be Remembrance Day, Christmas events, civic events, school engagement with events, market,

6.2. The following councillors have put themselves forward for membership

Frank Baldry

Joan Solomon

Gary Young

Ian Ward