

Governance of the Ideas Test Project

Principles:

Our core principles of inclusivity, high quality and responsiveness (adaptability) are embedded throughout the governance structure.

Governance structures are an illustration of our commitment to Aim 2: We will enable communities to take the lead. There is a direct role for community representation within our governance which complements other ways in which we will ensure community engagement.

We will be transparent in our activities, sharing information openly and publishing programme decisions and news regularly in our newsletter and elsewhere.

Structures:

There are four elements to our governance structure:

1. The Accountable body - Swale CVS - Legally responsible for the grant. Employs staff. Manages the funds.
1. The Consortium - strategic, ratifies decisions.
1. IdeasTesting forum - representative community network. Considers elements of the programme, tests processes and approach, generates ideas, challenges, raises issues, makes recommendations.
1. Staff team - operational team. Day to day decisions. Deliver activity designated within their role descriptions. Management of process. Works with community to deliver the aims of the scheme.

All individuals involved in any of these structures share accountability for delivery of the Ideas Test project and are covered by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed in accordance with the Code of Good Governance: A code for the Voluntary and Community Sector second edition 2011 and The Kent Partners Compact: an agreement between the Voluntary and Community Sector and the public sector for mutual benefit. All individuals will be expected to behave appropriately in their roles in accordance with the Nolan Principles. ([link](#))

Decision making - who does what?

Day to day decisions	Creative Enabler and staff team.
Programme decisions	Consortium
Grant decisions	Grant Decision Panel (existing TOR)
Commissioned projects	Community groups as appropriate, with support from Ideas Test staff
Financial decisions	Final responsibility lies with the Accountable Body (Swale CVS) who has the casting vote and veto on any decisions which impact on this role.