



The purpose of this Report is to expand on Report 80/20 for the Town Council meeting of 12 October to reinforce the extent of the threat to the Town from the combination of its already embedded deprivation and the current pandemic and identify the need for collaborative working with the Isle of Wight Council in response to it.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Isle of Wight Council’s adoption of its Covid-19 Recovery Plan, headed *A Better Way*, at its Cabinet meeting of 10 September and covering the period to March 2022 provides the context for considering Ventnor’s situation as it faces the consequences of the pandemic: the plan is available [here](#).
- b) Report 80/20 to the Town Council meeting of 12 October recorded the evidence that the Island is among the most vulnerable areas in the country to the impact of Covid-19.
 - o *The Geography of the Covid-19 Crisis in England* was published in June by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and found: *Torbay and the Isle of Wight ... are in the top 20% most vulnerable on the health, worker and families indices.*
 - o *Levelling up: where and how?* was published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Chapter 7 of its latest Green Budget states: *Blackpool, Great Yarmouth and the Isle of Wight appear to be both ‘left behind’ and particularly vulnerable to the immediate economic fallout from the pandemic.*
- c) The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 has established that half of Ventnor is among the most deprived areas both nationally and within this vulnerable Island.
- d) It is that deprivation that so severely exposes the town to the consequences of the pandemic and makes its exclusion from the Isle of Wight Council’s Recovery Plan a matter of such concern to the Town Council.

DEPRIVATION

- a) The Index divides England into 32,844 areas averaging 1,500 population, known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs); they are then ranked on the basis of information about each of them on a range of features with 1 being the most deprived and 32,844 the least.
- a) Rankings are based on aspects of life related to deprivation, referred to as *domains*, including income, employment, education, health, crime, living environment and income deprivation affecting children, all of which the research shows are seriously affected by the pandemic.
- b) It is precisely those elements that regeneration plans need to have as their focus.

2) VENTNOR: NATIONALLY

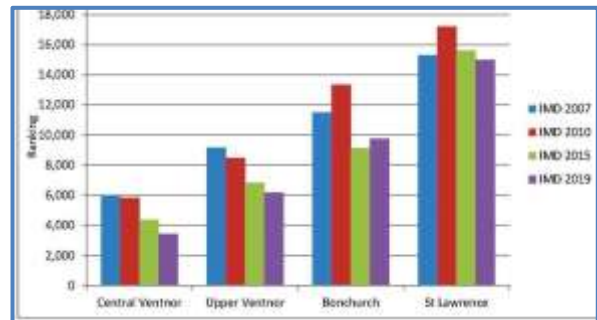
- a) Ventnor is divided into four LSOAs that closely coincide with the main areas of the town: Ventnor Central, Bonchurch, St Lawrence and Upper Ventnor, each of approximately 1,500 residents.

- b) Their ranking on each of the critical domains and their overall national ranking between 1 (the most deprived) and 32,844 (the least deprived) score’ is set out in the following table.

Domain	Central V	Upper V	Bonchurch	St Lawrence
Income	4,684	5,172	11,194	17,621
Employment	1,916	6,581	10,794	12,748
Education	5,654	2,735	12,033	15,456
Health	5,543	12,125	14,509	18,013
Environment	1,933	5,040	10,495	9,358
Children in Poverty	6,014	2,583	15,546	15,689
Overall	3,423	6,174	9,789	14,988

- c) Those coloured in red are in the 10% most deprived nationally and those in orange in the most deprived 20%.

- d) The Index of Multiple Deprivation now covers a long period of time with its production in 2007, 2010, 2015 and 2019 and the trends revealed across the span adds to the seriousness of the towns current situation.
- e) Ventnor's Central area has moved from the 5,972nd most deprived nationally to the 3,423rd with Upper Ventnor following a matching pattern from the 9,157th to the 6,174th.
- f) An additional feature is an increasingly divided community in terms of access to resources that will also inevitably be sharpened by Covid-19.



3) VENTNOR: ON THE ISLAND

- a) The Island as a whole ranks at 130 out of the 317 Local Authorities and has a total of 89 LSOAs, four of which make up Ventnor.
- b) This table shows the ranking of each of the four Ventnor areas on each of the critical domains with those coloured in red being in the 10% most deprived of the Island's 89 and those in orange in the most deprived 20%.

Domain	Central	Upper	Bonchurch	St Lawrence
Income	8	9	39	65
Employment	2	25	43	54
Education	14	5	47	63
Health	5	27	40	61
Environment	2	22	47	39
Children in poverty	13	4	51	53
Overall	4	11	28	57

4) RESPONSES

- a) As Members are aware, their discussion of these issues at the October meeting resulted in media coverage with articles in On the Wight, the County Press and Isle of Wight Radio.
- b) The Isle of Wight Council's Director of Regeneration responded to that in an email of 16 October in which he assured the Town Council that:
I've never hidden the fact that our regen resources are required to be concentrated on larger urban areas and developing assets we have prospects of realising much needed revenue from – however I've also always maintained we will do whatever we can to support your team in taking forward your plans for the town...perhaps we can identify some time to get the relationship back on track?
- c) Further encouragement came from the meeting the Mayor and I had with the County Councillor for Ventnor west, Gary Peace, on 21 October that concluded with his offer to arrange a meeting for us with the relevant senior Members and Officers in the near future.
- d) Responses were also provided from Councillors Stephen Cockett, Colm Watling, Jamie Macaulay and Delian Fry, some of which are already in progress and the staff team will undertake an initial appraisal as a basis for further discussion by Members of suggestions in connection with those around branding, events and retail.

5) AGENDA

- a) The major aspects of the Town Council's current regeneration plans that need assistance from the Isle of Wight Council include the following.
- b) The withdrawal of the proposed £5,900 a year charge for the four parking bays in the Central Car Park to accommodate the new public toilet given that replacing the central disability friendly toilet will require an additional of £9,500 a year to the Precept to service the required

loan to build it.

- c) A positive response to the submitted Business Plan for the Town Council to manage the other four car parks on similar terms to those used for its management of the current four.
 - d) To provide £1,000 match funding to add to the £1,000 agreed by the Town Council for an assessment of a possible new layout of the Central Car Park that could provide additional bays.
 - e) Detailed discussions of the future of Ventnor Haven given that the current contract for seaweed removal is one-third through its term.
 - f) The inclusion of Ventnor in any future updates of the Isle of Wight Council's Covid-19 Recovery Plan.
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6) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to:

- i) welcome the Isle of Wight Council's willingness to renew detailed discussions with the Town Council about its currently identified regeneration plans; and
 - ii) consider and complete the Agenda items listed in section 5 of this Report.
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