



BEACH CLEANING

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 83/14

13 OCTOBER 2014

The purpose of this paper is to ask Members to consider and respond to the choices set out in a letter from the Isle of Wight Council's Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces Service for the future funding of beach cleaning from 1 April 2015.

No. DETAIL

1) CONTEXT

- a) The Isle of Council's Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces Strategic Manager, Alex Minns, has written to all Town and Parish Councils to ask them to indicate their preferred option for beach cleaning when the Isle of Wight Council ceases to fund it from 1 April 2015 by the end of October.
- b) As previously reported, the current reported contract cost of cleaning Ventnor's four beaches – inclusive of beach cleaning, litter clearing, bin emptying and slipway cleaning – is £23,416.
- c) This would be reduced to £8,068 if the option is adopted of recognising that, like Principal Parks, beaches have Island wide use and are essential for Island wide tourism trade, and thus funding the cleaning of them by contributions from all 33 Town and Parish councils with a higher weighting for those with beaches.
- d) The feasibility of this approach is being explored through Options F and G below.

2) OPTIONS

- a) The attached matrix, issued by Alex Minns, identifies seven options for funding these costs and asks the Town Council to complete the matrix with its choices by the end of October by returning the form attached to this Report.
- b) The listed options are:
 - A) Fund beach cleaning in a new Isle of Wight Council beach cleaning contract at current specification.
 - B) Fund beach cleaning in a new Isle of Wight Council beach cleaning contract at a reduced specification.
 - C) Make a % contribution to sites in a new Isle of Wight Council beach cleaning contract.
 - D) Maintain the beaches through the Town Council's own contractor.
 - E) Not make any contribution to the new beach cleaning contract or carry out maintenance.
 - F) To contribute to an all Island beach cleaning contract at the agreed formula.
 - G) Not to contribute to an all Island beach cleaning contract.

3) PUBLIC BUILDINGS WORKING GROUP

- a) The Town Council's consideration of the matter at its September meeting determined to: ask its Public Buildings Working Group to consider the matter in more detail and report to its meeting of 13 October.
- b) The Group has explored the Options at its meetings of 24 September and 7 October.
- c) Early indications from IWALC are that not enough Town and Parish Councils are willing to support the proposed Island wide option for continuing the funding of the existing contract to ensure its continuation at the current specification.
- d) Recent publicity indicating that the Isle of Wight Council has a statutory obligation for keeping beaches clear of litter has also not given the Group confidence that even if the Council does continue litter picking at some level there is no guarantee that current standards would be maintained.
- e) The only Option that would combine assurance of the current standards or better and local control over them is for the Town Council to take on responsibility for the service.
- f) Work is in progress to cost such a Town Council provided service. It is already clear from that

work that the staff costs for maintaining the present standards would be of the order of £5,000 a year.

- g) The other element is the removal and authorised dumping of the filled bags with the same regularity as is presently applied to the litter picking. The current specification for Ventnor's beaches is attached to this Report
- h) It is expected that cost guidance for this element will be available by the time of the meeting.

4) **RECOMMENDATION**

The Public Buildings Working Group unanimously recommends the Town Council to choose Option D and request a contribution to the cost from the Isle of Wight Council reflecting its statutory responsibility.



Bags are required to be removed from wire baskets, wire rings or waste bins with the frequency indicated for each of the four Ventnor beaches and transporting them to an authorised disposal point and paying Disposal Charges:

1) VENTNOR BEACH: 4 wire baskets of walls rings emptying & disposal

- a) 1 only between 20-24 December
- b) 1 daily between 1 March – 30 June
- c) 2 daily between 1 July – 31 August
- d) 1 daily during September
- e) 4 times from 1 October – 28 February

2) BONCHURCH BEACH 4 wire baskets of walls rings emptying & disposal

- a) 1 only between 20-24 December
- b) 1 daily between 1 March – 30 June
- c) 2 daily between 1 July – 31 August
- d) 1 daily during September
- e) 4 times from 1 October – 28 February

3) STEEPHILL COVE empty permanently sited waste bins & dispose

- a) 1 only between 20-24 December
- b) 1 only during second week prior to Good Friday
- c) 3 times a week from week before Good Friday to last Friday in September
- d) 4 times from 1 October – 28 February

4) ORCHARD BAY remove bags & dispose

- a) 1 only between 20-24 December
 - b) 1 only during second week prior to Good Friday
 - c) 1 a week from week before Good Friday to last Friday in September
 - d) 4 times from 1 October – 28 February
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Name of town/parish council	Ventnor Town Council	Population	5976
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Beach cleaning (Please mark your choice with an 'X' and include percentage under Option C)								
Area	Cost	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	Option G
		Fund the following elements in the new IWC beach cleaning contract at current specification	Fund the following elements in the new IWC beach cleaning contract at a reduced specification	Make a contribution to the cost of the following elements in the new IWC beach cleaning contract	Maintain the following areas through the town/parish councils own contractor	Not make any contribution to the new beach cleaning contract or carry out maintenance of the following areas	To contribute to an all island beach cleaning contract at the agreed formulae	Not to contribute to an all-island beach cleaning contract
Ventnor only	£23,416.00							
Cost if funded through all Island contribution	£8,067.60							