



BEACH SAFETY

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

11 APRIL 2011

The purpose of this report is request Members' approval for an application to the Isle of Wight Council for a one quarter share of the £25,000 allocation for this financial year to support beach safety.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) As Members are aware, in an email of 16 March 2011 the Deputy Director Economy, Tourism and Leisure, John Metcalfe, outlined the process for accessing the £25,000 the Isle of Wight Council has allocated the current financial year to facilitate beach safety in the four beach areas that had previously had a full Lifeguarding service: Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor.
- b) The email indicated that the share of any area(s) not applying for funding would be distributed among this that did.
- c) Following a meeting arranged by Councillor Jim Toogood for Friday 25 March with County Councillor Susan Scoccia and me, an expression of interest on behalf of Ventnor Town Council in advance of the 31 March deadline.
- d) A full application needs to be presented before the end of this month.

2) OUTLINE PROPOSAL

- a) The outline proposal from the meeting is to seek funding for a combination of suitable safety equipment a paid post to co-ordinate volunteer staffing of the Lifeguard hut providing information, leaflets and advice for as much as possible of the peak period.
- b) Jim Toogood's research resulted in his recommendation that the equipment consist of six throw-buoys contained in accessible containers at three points along the beach. The cost of these, with the provision of two spares as replacements, is of the order of £2,000 with a further £700 for their installation.
- c) Assuming the grant of a full quarter share, at £6,250, that would leave £3,550 for the co-ordinator role. If that appointment was made on the basis of a 30-hour week – six hours a day for five days a week – with the co-ordinator committed to being present on the beach 10am-4pm for five days including weekends and any statutory holidays – and arranging volunteer support for the other two days, cover could be provided from mid-May to mid-September.

3) RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to support this proposal, or some variant of it, and to authorise the Town Clerk, in consultation with Councillor Jim Toogood, to progress an appropriate application and, if that application is successful, to implement the agreed proposal.