



CAR PARKING IN VENTNOR

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT /13

21 JANUARY 2013

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on developments in the application of the Community Right to Challenge to the car parking service in Ventnor currently provided by the Isle of Wight Council following the decision of the November meeting to authorise the Town Clerk to submit an application for a pre-feasibility grant.

No. DETAIL

1) CAR PARKING IN VENTNOR

- a) Ventnor's 7 off-street car parks have a total of 436 spaces and provide a net-of-vat gross income of approximately £200,000.
 - b) The Esplanade is the only other area of charged parking, though time-restricted parking applies in the town's central area.
 - c) The arrangements in terms of timings, costs, charging and enforcement are a major concern of traders, shoppers, residents and visitors and have been clarified during the work with the town centre's shopkeepers by the Town Council's Economic Development Worker.
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2) COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE

- a) As Members are aware, the Community Right to Challenge allows the Town Council to challenge the Isle of Wight Council for the delivery of its current services within its agreed policy for the implementation of the Right as defined in the Localism Act 2011. A single page flow chart summary of the process for making a challenge is attached to this report.
 - b) Nationally, the government has provided support for organisations qualified to make a challenge in the form of two-stage funding available for those intending to do so. Grants of up to £10,000 are available for pre-feasibility studies and further grants of up to £100,000 can be applied for in order to develop the organisation's capacity to deliver the service.
 - c) Once given clearance to apply for a grant by Locality, a full application is then made to the holder and distributor of the funding, The Social Investment Business.
 - d) At its meeting of 12 November 2012 the Town Council authorised the Town Clerk to submit an application for a pre-feasibility grant to fund the employment of a consultant to advise on the feasibility of developing and delivering a separate Ventnor-based car parking service.
 - e) The application was submitted on 28 November 2012 in a total of £9,020 and confirmation of its acceptance was received on 2 January 2013
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3) CONSULTANCY

- a) The prime purpose of the Consultancy is to ensure that the Expression of Interest in bidding to take over the delivery of the car parking service in Ventnor from the Isle of Wight Council is sufficiently detailed and robust.
 - b) Andy Stafford of Parkspace Consulting has been commissioned for the task on the basis of a detailed and agreed project brief over 15 days' work.
 - c) That work started on Monday 14 January with a site visit that included an open meeting for the town's traders.
 - d) The Town Clerk has discussed the consultancy with the Isle of Wight Council's Strategic Manager responsible for the car parking service and co-operation is available for its progression.
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4) RESOLUTION

a) The terms of the grant – which has to be spent within the current financial year – require a formal acceptance by the Town Council including confirmation that it is qualified to receive it.

b) Consequently, the Town Council is asked to agree a resolution that:

The Town Council appreciates and accepts the offer of a pre-feasibility grant of £9,020 and confirms that it is qualified to do so.
