



CAR PARKS

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 6/14

13 JANUARY 2014

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current situation in respect of the Community Right to Challenge over the management of the town's car parks.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Localism Act 2011 introduced the Community Right to Challenge under which Town & Parish Councils as well as other community based organisations can submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) to take over any service currently being delivered by the principal authority – in our case the Isle of Wight Council (IoWC).
 - b) After taking advice from Locality and securing external finance to employ a Car Parking Consultant, the Town Council submitted an EoI for the local management of the town's car parks on 24 September 2013.
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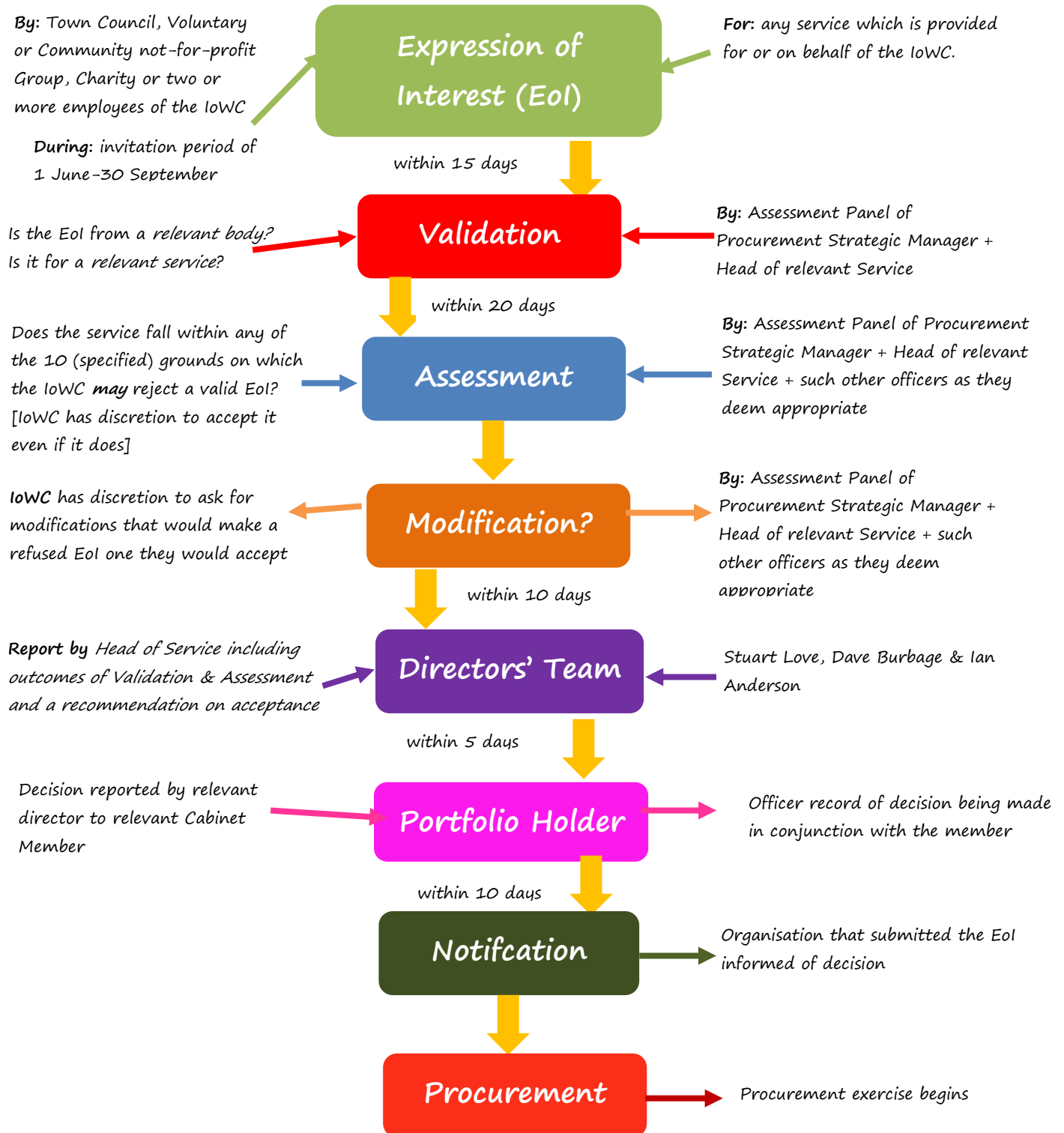
2) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL POLICY

- a) As with all principal authorities, the IoWC was required to agree a policy for the implementation of the Community Right to Challenge. It adopted an appropriate policy at the meeting of its Cabinet on 11 September 2012.
 - b) Under that policy, organisations choosing to exercise their Community Right to Challenge are invited to submit an EoI in the period between 1 June and 30 September each year.
 - c) The policy sets out a process for responding to any EoI submitted in that period and a flow chart summary of that process is attached to this report for Members' information.
 - d) Two initial stages – Validation and Assessment – are to be carried out by the Procurement Strategic Manager and Head of the relevant service within 35 days to decide whether the organisation submitting the EoI is qualified to do so and whether the service concerned falls within the 10 specified grounds on which it can be rejected.
 - e) The Directors' Team are then required to produce a report, including a recommendation on acceptance or rejection, to be submitted to the relevant Cabinet Member with an officer record of the resulting decision being made in conjunction with that Cabinet Member.
 - f) The organisation that submitted the EoI is then to be informed of the decision with 10 days of that.
 - g) The policy document states that the maximum time between an EoI being received and the organisation submitting it being informed of the decision will be 3 months.
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3) CURRENT POSITION

- a) The three months from the submission of the EoI expired on 20 December and there has been no formal communication with the Town Council in respect of any of the policy document's stages.
 - b) Clarification about the process of responding to the Town Council's EoI was requested on 8 January with a request that the information be available to the Town Council Meeting of the following Monday.
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COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE



Maximum Timescales:

Between an Eoi being received and notification of decision: 3 months

Between an Eoi being accepted and procurement exercise starting: 9 months