



The purpose of this Report is to propose the use of the Town Council's Co-option Policy to fill the vacancies following the Local Elections on 6 May in each of Bonchurch & Ventnor East and Lowtherville Wards.

## **No. DETAILS**

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### **1) BACKGROUND**

- a) The revised Ward boundaries for Town Council elections provide for two Members in each of Bonchurch & Ventnor East and Lowtherville.
  - b) The Local Elections have only filled one of the vacancies in each of these two Wards.
  - c) Unlike Casual Vacancies that arise during the four year term of a Town Council, those left by the Election process itself are not filled through an advertised bye-election but straightforwardly through the use of the Co-option Policy
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### **2) CO-OPTION POLICY**

- a) Ventnor Town Council's Co-option policy sets out the following stages:
    - The vacancy will be advertised locally, requesting people to put their names forward for co-option by letter or email to the Town Clerk.
    - All replies will be circulated to members of the Town Council for consideration and the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor, will arrange a date for a special meeting open to all the then current Members and attended by at least a majority of them where candidates for co-option will be asked to make a short presentation.
    - An applicant endorsed by the special meeting will be recommended to the earliest full meeting of the Town Council for co-option to it.
  - b) Normal practice has taken 'presentation' to mean a verbal statement around the reasons why the applicant has expressed an interest in joining the Town Council
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### **3) RECOMMENDATION**

The Town Council is recommended to ask its Clerk to implement its Co-option Policy in respect of the current vacancies in Bonchurch & Ventnor East and Lowtherville.

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