



COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 41/13

20 MAY 2013

The purpose of this report is to set out for Members the circumstances that led to the submission by the Town Clerk of an application to this year's round of the Coastal Communities Fund.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Ventnor Town Council submitted a Stage one application to the first year of this then new funding stream at the end of April 2012 in a total of £70,000.
 - b) That application was successful in that on 7 June 2012 an invitation to submit a Stage two application was issued with a closing date of 21 September.
 - c) For reasons which don't need to be rehearsed here, it was not possible to progress the application in view of the refusal of the then County Council leaders to release the building to Ventnor Town Council either through lease or purchase.
 - d) Following the changes of County Council leadership as a consequence of the Elections of 3 May we have been given to understand that a quite different approach to the sale of public buildings will now apply and that negotiations between the Isle of Wight Council and Ventnor Town Council about the future of the building will now be welcomed and constructive.
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2) THE RENEWED APPLICATION

- a) This critical change of approach opened up the possibility of a new application to the Coastal Communities Fund which had opened for applications in England with a total of £21.7M and a closing date for Stage one applications of noon on 13 May 2013.
 - b) After discussions with the Mayor and Councillor Jason Mack – both of whom had been central to the development of the original application – it was agreed that in view of the new circumstances it would be sensible to revise the application in the context of the new guidance from the Big Fund.
 - c) A completed new application form, in a total of £85,000, was submitted on the morning of 13 May and its receipt acknowledged. A copy has been circulated to Members.
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3) CAVEATS

- a) It cannot be assumed that success at Stage one last year will necessarily mean the same this year. Not only have the expected outcomes changed but it is bound to be very substantially more competitive this year with many more applications – and it was oversubscribed last year!
 - b) However, the central aim of the funding remains. As stated in the Guidance Notes: *The CCF aims to support the economic development of coastal communities by promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs, so that people are better able to respond to the changing economic needs and opportunities of their area.*
 - c) Equally it cannot be assumed, of course, that Stage one success would necessarily result in success at Stage two when a much more detailed application is required.
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4) TIMESCALES

- a) Decisions on Stage one applications are expected in early July 2013.
 - b) The deadline for Stage two applications will be a date in October 2013.
 - c) Final decisions are expected in January 2014.
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5) RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to endorse the application as submitted.
