



COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING PROJECTS

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 13/19

11 FEBRUARY 2019

The purpose of this paper is to report on developments with the Feasibility Studies for the two potential Community-led housing projects and identify the following stages.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) On 10 October last year the Town Council received confirmation that its application for two Stage 2 grants of £9,000 each from the Island's Community-led Housing Fund for Feasibility Studies had been successful following the Town Council's commitment in July to contribute £1,000 to each.
- b) Two Island-based consultants experienced in Feasibility Study production were invited to provide quotations for the work in response to Briefs in respect of the projects for the development of Ventnor Central and land in Upper Ventnor.
- c) ERMC were appointed to produce both Studies by Minute 131/18 of the Town Council meeting of 12 November 2018.

2) PROGRESS REPORT

- a) Councillor Jason Mack, Jim Toogood, Nick Cox and I met with ERMC's Daniel Long and Andy Humes on 24 January for a progress report.
- b) They provided short presentations on their work to date for both projects with the potential for Ventnor Central's development the more advanced as the Upper Ventnor Project is dependent on the outcome of the ground contamination survey.
- c) The Ventnor Central work had explored options for both retaining the existing building and its demolition and replacement with the latter providing the more attractive option for the Library space.
- d) The ground contamination work on the Upper Ventnor site in the form of bore holes every 25 metres across the site got underway on 4 February with laboratory analysis to follow.

3) NEXT STEPS

- a) Daniel Long and Andy Humes will provide a fuller presentation on both projects at the informal meeting of Members arranged for 18 February at 6pm.
- b) If the outcomes of either or both of the studies is positive, the Town Council meeting of 11 March will be recommended to approve a full Stage 3 application to the Island's Community-led Housing Fund by its next decision deadline of 30 June 2019.
- c) The Fund can provide grants of up to £50,000 per social housing unit provided or half the project cost; its guidance notes state that priority will be given to schemes that can be completed by February 2021.
- d) Discussions about total funding requirements will take place with partners – Vectis Housing and the Isle of Wight Council in due course.

4) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to note the contents of this Report and agree the next steps identified in it.
