



GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 22/18

12 MARCH 2018

The purpose of this Report is to assist Members in agreeing the Town Council's response to a letter in respect of the new Local Authority Grounds Maintenance Contract from 1 January 2019.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Town Council has been responsible for managing its own Grounds Maintenance Contract with John O'Conner Ltd since 1 April 2015 under a Partnership Arrangement with the Isle of Wight Council covering 13 sites but excluding Ventnor Park.
- b) The Isle of Wight Council's own Island-wide contract with John O'Conner Ltd is being re-tendered with a start date of the New Contract set for 1 January 2019.
- c) A letter from the Isle of Wight Council's Recreation and Public Services Manager Lee Matthews received by email on 5 February asks the Town Council to indicate no later than the end of March their preferred option for Grounds Maintenance from the date.
- d) A copy of that letter is attached to this Report for Members' information.

2) FUTURE OPTIONS

- a) The letter identifies a total of four options with two under each of two headings: Principle (sic) Park (Ventnor Park) and Community Open Space.
- b) In respect of Ventnor Park the two options on offer are:
 - Option 1: *Would Ventnor Town Council be prepared in principal (sic) to provide additional 'Top Up' funding to ensure the performance standard of the Park is maintained to the current level or better?*
 - Option 2: *Ventnor Town Council does not agree to provide additional funding and accepts a drop in performance standards of the Park.*
- c) For the future maintenance of the Community Open Space, the two options on offer are:
 - Option 1: *Would Ventnor Town Council wish to continue to manage its own local contractor extending the current agreement beyond 2019?*
 - Option 2: *Would Ventnor Town Council wish for these sites to be included in the new local authority contract and be recharged the costs subject to increases not exceeding 25% of your current costs?*

3) RESPONSE

The Town Council considered these options at its Meeting of 12 February 2018 and agreed to refer the matter to this meeting.

4) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to consider the Options above and determine a response to them.

From

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Recreation and Open Spaces Manager
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Mr David Bartlett - Clerk
Ventnor Town Council
Town Council Offices
Salisbury Gardens
Ventnor
Isle of Wight
PO38 1EJ

February 2018

Dear David

PROVISION OF NEW LOCAL AUTHORITY GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Ventnor Town Council currently has a maintenance agreement with Isle of Wight Council to support grounds maintenance services until March 2019. This has excluded Ventnor Park and Ventnor Cemetery which has been maintained directly by Isle of Wight Council.

Later this year the Isle of Wight Council will be retendering its grounds maintenance contract and will be looking to secure a new competitive price for all concerned.

To ensure we meet our proposed procurement timetable we are currently drafting contract specifications and creating digital maps for each of the sites for the new contract. This piece of work is due to be completed by June.

To help aid the development of our contract documentation I would like to seek the views of Ventnor Town Council:

		Yes	No	Comment
1	Principle Park (Ventnor Park) Option 1 Would Ventnor Town Council be prepared in principal to provide additional "Top Up" funding to ensure the performance standard of the Park is maintained to the current level or better?			
OR	Option 2 Ventnor Town Council does not agree to provide additional funding and accepts a drop in performance standards of the Park			

Cont ...

		Yes	No	Comment
2	Community Open Space. Option 1 Would Ventnor Town Council wish continue to manage its own local contractor extending the current agreement beyond 2019?			
OR	Option 2 Would Ventnor Town Council wish for these sites to be included in the new local authority contract and be recharged the costs subject to increases not exceeding 25% of your current costs?			

I do appreciate cost will be a key factor in your decision making so it is my intention that we work closely with you and to provide a full breakdown of all site costs in good time for any of your budget meetings later this year. There is no implications on contributions already agreed 2018/19.

To ensure our procurement timetable keeps on track I would appreciate a response from you by the end of March 2018.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the Town Council in supporting local services and If you do have any queries please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours faithfully



Lee Matthews

Recreation and Public Spaces Manager

Isle of Wight Council