



# HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2015-17

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 38/15

13 APRIL 2015

The purpose of this paper is to ask Members if they wish to contribute to the consultation on the recently circulated *Draft Strategy for the Isle of Wight 2015-17* published by the Island's Health and Wellbeing Board.

## No. DETAIL

### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) As with its predecessor for 2013-15, the document fails to measure up to the normal expectations of a Strategic Plan.
- b) The Wikipedia definition of strategic planning, for example, described it as: *setting goals, determining actions to achieve the goals, and mobilizing resources to execute the actions. A strategy describes how the ends (goals) will be achieved by the means (resources).*
- c) This document substitutes *we will* statements – 42 of them – for goals, without any sign of related measurable targets, and gives no indication of what resources are available – apart from the fact they are *limited, stretched and greatly reduced* – much less how they will be deployed.
- d) It does not even include any detail of who the *we* are. The Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board is not identified nor that of sub-boards or their powers and resources - *these are boards (consisting of representatives from a variety of organisations) that will focus on particular aspects of health and wellbeing on the Island* – of which it will have oversight.
- e) Information on this critical matter of the delivery structure for the plan is *(to be developed)*.
- f) There are many elements where the document states it will *ensure* developments – without indication of powers, resources or plans to deliver them and too many statements preceded by the *ensure* commitment where there is reason to doubt they are even within the Health and Wellbeing Board's powers and resources. For example:
  - *ensure* a mix of academic and vocational study options are available; providing choice and recognising the needs of different students.
  - *ensure* the demand on services is not unrealistic
  - *ensure* people feel safe.
  - *ensure* all criminals are dealt with effectively
  - *ensure* there are strong links between new employment opportunities and disadvantaged areas.
  - *ensure* that the skills of the workforce remain competitive
- g) Consequently, this Report restricts further comment to those areas which are specifically relevant to Ventnor Town Council at this time.

### 2) DEPRIVATION

- a) Ventnor is referred to in the document in one of the five challenges it identifies in its *Local Context* section on pages 3 and 4: *a range of health inequalities across the Island with those in the more deprived areas (eg parts of Ryde, East Cowes, Shanklin, Sandown, Lake, Ventnor and Newport) facing a shorter life expectancy than those in other areas.*
- b) There is no other specific reference to these *more deprived areas* elsewhere in the document, not even any data on the extent of the inequality on the basis of the one and only measure of deprivation in them.
- c) Of most concern here is the fact that there is no acknowledgement at all of the fact that addressing the inequality(ies) these areas experience requires resource allocation significantly greater than the average for the Island to be available in them.

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### 3) TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

- a) Although the Isle of Wight Council has been increasingly committed to devolution of services to Town and Parish Councils there is no reference at all to them – us – in this document.
- b) The document recognises that all the organisations involved in delivering the strategy *are facing unprecedented financial pressures* and that *It is clear that we cannot continue to work in the same way. We need to work together and work differently as individuals and communities if we are to address these challenges.*
- c) We need to know how Ventnor and its Town Council can contribute to and be involved in the delivery of the objectives set out in the document and look forward to the discussions that will make that possible.

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### 4) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to consider whether it wishes to contribute to the current consultation on the document in advance of the deadline of 28 April and, if so, what form a submission should take.

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