



# ISLAND LAW CENTRE CORE FUNDING

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 114/18

10 DECEMBER 2018

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to consider the decision of the Isle of Wight Council to withdraw its annual core funding for the Island's Law Centre from June 2019.

## No. DETAILS

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### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Isle of Wight Law Centre was set up in September 2003 as a Company Limited by Guarantee and was registered as a charity in March 2004.
  - b) Its annual turnover recorded in its latest filed accounts – for the 2016/17 financial year – was £283,000 with a total staff of 14.
  - c) The Isle of Wight Council has provided its core funding at £70,000 a year and the Isle of Wight Council has informed the Law Centre that this will be withdrawn from June 2019 with consequent potential redundancy of 12 staff.
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### 2) RELEVANCE

- a) The range of services currently actively provided by the Centre free of charge to residents most in need of them include:  
*Mortgage repossessions, Rent Repossession, Eviction Warrants (both Mortgage and Rent), Homelessness reviews, Bankruptcies, Debt Relief Orders, Administration orders, and Welfare Benefit claims*
  - b) The Centre's Manager confirmed that there is significant demand for these services from Ventnor, as would be expected from a town where half of its residents are either within or on the margin of the 20% most deprived nationally.
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### 3) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to consider this development and determine how they might respond to it.

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