



LOCAL ELECTIONS

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 22/17

13 MARCH 2017

The purpose of this paper is to ensure that Members and residents are aware of the arrangements for the forthcoming local elections

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Elections for both the Isle of Wight County Council and all the Island's Town and Parish Councils will be held on Thursday 4 May.
 - b) The elections will apply to all 40 seats on the Isle of Wight County Council .and the 11 on Ventnor Town Council.
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2) WARDS

- a) For County Council purposes Ventnor consists of two Wards, Ventnor East and Ventnor West each with one elected Member.
 - b) For Town Council purposes Ventnor consists of four Wards each with a specified number of elected Members as follows:
 - Bonchurch Ward: 1
 - Lowtherville Ward: 2
 - St Lawrence Ward: 2
 - Ventnor Parish East Ward: 3
 - Ventnor Parish West Ward: 3
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3) PURDAH

- a) From the 27 March – the date the elections are formally called - restrictions will be placed by law upon all Councils and their staff in relation to their activities and the material that they can send out to the public.
 - b) In particular, from that date until the conclusion of the elections, Councils must not:
 - issue any material which may be seen to affect public support for a political party or a particular election candidate;
 - undertake any activity, publicity or distribution of information which supports or provides publicity for an election candidate or political party. This includes obvious forms of publicity such as posters, leaflets, media releases and statements, interviews photo-calls, provision of images, appearing in images, on-line publishing and speeches, as well as the less obvious, such as sponsorship and advertisements;
 - express in any publication, report or form of communication a recommendation, opinion or comment which may be seen to support controversial issues or views which can be identified with a candidate or political party;
 - use any Council resources or equipment to provide assistance for an election candidate or political party. This includes publication or distribution of materials, telephones, internet access, e-mail, photocopying, printing, fax, stationery or supplies; or
 - Circulate, or put on display, any election campaign material within Council premises (this includes e-mails, posters and leaflets). This does not apply to any cars that are parked in Council owned public car parks, including the inner car park at County Hall (provided that the cars are parked in accordance with the relevant Car Park Orders).
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4) TIMETABLE

A copy of the detailed timetable for the elections is attached to this Report.

5) NOMINATIONS

- a) Anyone intending to stand for election is required to hand deliver completed copies of both a Nomination Paper and a Candidate's Consent to Nomination Form to the *Returning Officer, Civic Centre, Sandown PO36 9 EA* by *Tuesday 4 April 2017*.
- b) The Nomination Form needs to be signed by two *residents of the Ward for which the candidate is standing for election* whose names are included in the current Register of Electors.

6) INFORMATION

- a) Copies of the full Election Pack, including the relevant forms, are available from the Town Council's office, by email to townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk or from the Town Council's web site.
 - b) Electoral Register numbers – required for both candidates and nominators – are also available from the Town Council's officer or by email to Alison@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk.
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Isle of Wight Council & Local Elections

Timetable of Proceedings for Thursday 4 May 2017

Publication of Notice of Election	Monday 27 March 2017
Receipt of Nominations	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2017
Withdrawal of Candidate	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2017
Appointment of Election Agents	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2017
Publication of Notice of Election Agents	4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2017
Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated	4:00 pm Wednesday 5 April 2017
Last Date for Electoral Registration	Thursday 13 April 2017
Receipt of Postal Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 18 April 2017
Publication of Notice of Poll	Tuesday 25 April 2017
Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 25 April 2017
Appointment of Poll and Count Agents	Wednesday 26 April 2017
First Day to Issue Replacement Lost Postal Ballot Papers	Thursday 27 April 2017
Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2017
Last Day to Issue Replacement Spoilt or Lost Postal Ballot Papers	5:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2017
Day of Poll	7:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2017
Return of Election Expenses	Thursday 8 June 2017