



The purpose of this paper is to record progress within the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Our Place programme since the last meeting as the basis for Members' consideration and comment.

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### **No. DETAIL**

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#### **1) DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN**

- a) The programme required each of the 120 areas nationally involved in the programme to submit a draft version of their Operational Plan for implementing the Our Place model by 21 November: the Ventnor plan was successfully submitted on that day as one of the 56 that complied with that requirement.
- b) The total has risen now to 90 submitted draft plans, all of which are accessible in the Forum section of the Just Act website at [www.justact.org.uk](http://www.justact.org.uk).

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#### **2) PEER REVIEW**

- a) The Mayor and our Economic Development Officer Nicky Cox attended a Peer Review Challenge Event organised by Locality at the Local Government Association's London office on Thursday 4 December where Ventnor's plan was one of 16 reviewed for an hour each during the day by an expert Panel and including questions from the audience.
- b) The Mayor will report further at this meeting on the experience of the event.
- c) The Peer Review process also includes detailed comment by us on the Plans of two other areas – Scarborough Borough Council and Communities for Kids, a project in Tameside, Greater Manchester – while ours is reviewed by both Scarborough Borough Council and Test Borough Council.

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#### **3) TIMELINE**

- a) The fact that less than half of the programme's areas met the initial deadline of 21 November for submission of Draft Operational Plans is indicative of the limitations imposed on progress by the always questionable timeline set by the funding requirements.
- b) Along with most other areas, we were accepted on to the programme in late February this year and on 1 April passed into what was branded as its Year 2!
- c) There remain just 82 days – including the holiday break - beyond the date of this Town Council meeting before the submission of the final version of the Operational Plan to Locality at the end of February and its formal approval by the DCLG before the end of March.
- d) In that limited working time, there is much to be done including input from Consultants, Resource Mapping, clarity about Governance, discussions with Agencies, project planning, Cost Benefit Analyses, development of our Breaking New Ground concept and adding the outcomes of all of that to the Operational Plan document itself.

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#### **4) CONSULTANTS**

- a) In addition to the five days support from our Relationship Manager David Newton, the programme also provides us with five days input from Consultants of our choice and a further five days for the Breaking New Ground element.
  - b) Only one of the Consultants we have identified has so far been signed up for a particular date. Professor Steve Fothergill of Sheffield Hallam University who is the national expert on the issues and challenges facing Coastal Towns. His many research publications include two recent benchmarking studies commissioned by the DCLG and he will share those findings during a day in Ventnor on Thursday 5 February.
  - c) A day has been booked, though not yet arranged, with David Alcock, a partner in Anthony
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Collins Solicitors, for advice on Governance frameworks and Memoranda of Understandings.

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**5) RESOURCE MAPPING**

- a) Resource mapping information has been requested from the Agencies supporting our programme and initial responses have been received from the Isle of Wight Council, Job Centre Plus, the Children's Centre and the Isle of Wight College.
  - b) Work now needs to be done both in encouraging the provision of relevant information from those that have not yet responded and in refining what we have already received.
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**6) FUNDING**

- a) 90% of the funding for the programme has now been received, as follows:
    - i) £3,000 for the Getting Ready Stage: already fully used and monitoring report completed.
    - ii) £9,000 for the Getting Going Stage: £1,969 used to date.
    - iii) £6,000 for the Going Further Stage: received 1 December.
    - iv) £12,000 for the Breaking New Group Stage: received 1 December.
  - b) £1,000 has been retained from each of the last three of these, subject to completion of the tasks for which the funding has been granted.
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**7) NEXT STEPS**

- a) A meeting of the Vision Group Co-ordinators and group members has been arranged for Tuesday 9 December.
  - b) Following decisions at the last Co-ordinators' meeting, this meeting will discuss a proposal to merge the five Groups into a single Programme Co-ordination Group charged with taking ownership of the Draft Plan and taking it through its final stages up to and including completion of the final Operational Plan.
  - c) In line with this, the meeting will also be recommended to propose Project Working Groups combining Vision Group Members and Town Councillors for adoption by the Town Council within its Working Groups framework.
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