



# SKATEPARK LEASE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 39/15

13 APRIL 2015

The purpose of this paper is to ask Members to consider a request from the Skatepark Committee for the Town Council to take over responsibility for their lease.

---

**No.    DETAIL**

---

**1)    BACKGROUND**

- a) Both the Skatepark Committee and the Isle of Wight Council want to clarify the position in respect of the leasing of Part of the Eastern Esplanade to accommodate the Skatepark.
  - b) The Skatepark currently operates on the basis of a Licence from the Isle of Wight Council with a start date of 1 June 2008 and a 20-year term.
  - c) Both parties are keen for a formal leasing arrangement to be agreed on a basis that reflects developments since 2008 such as the inclusion of the storage facility and the additional space now used for the concreted extensions.
  - d) A draft lease for that purpose was drawn up by the Isle of Wight Council in 2013 with the two individuals that have taken on responsibility for ensuring the facility's continued existence, - Fred Woodworth and John Baldy – as the proposed tenants rather than a corporate entity.
  - e) A copy of that draft has been made available to the Town Clerk by the Isle of Wight Council.
- 

**2)    DEVELOPMENTS**

- a) The Town Council has been asked by both parties if it is willing to become the tenant for the purposes of the lease.
  - b) This has taken on increased significance as the inclusion of the Skatepark in the Town Council's Youth Offer programme has provided some funding for a concrete extension of the current provision and stimulated a commitment by the Exchange and others to a fundraising project with a target of £50,000 in 12 months based initially on the remarkable offer by the members of *The Undecided Art Collective* to donate works for auction.
  - c) The purpose of the funding is the replacement of the current wooden structure with a concrete one.
  - d) The current draft lease will require significant work to ensure it provides the basis for a long term future for the facility as it progresses.
- 

**3)    RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Town Council is recommended to commit to taking on the lease subject to an acceptable outcome of discussions with the Isle of Wight Council and the support of the Public Buildings Working Group.

---