



The purpose of this paper is to provide the latest information on progress with the Partnership basis for the management of Ventnor Library and ask the Town Council to appoint its representatives to the Partnership Board.

### No. DETAIL

#### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Town Council began its discussions of a new operating basis for the Library at its meeting of 9 November 2015 in response to the decision of the Isle of Wight Council's Executive of 27 October 2015 to move the Libraries of Cowes, Freshwater and Ventnor to a new basis of shared costs and management branded as Partnership Libraries from 1 April 2016.
- b) The meeting asked the Public Buildings Working Group to examine the proposals and report back in December.
- c) After discussion of that report at its meeting of 14 December, the Town Council resolved unanimously by Minute 158/15 to:
  - i) *confirm its commitment to full participation in a Partnership basis for the operation of Ventnor Library from 1 April 2016;*
  - ii) *agree to meet the running costs of the Library with the exception of maintenance and Business Rates and to fund an additional 22 hours of staff time;*
  - iii) *authorise the Town Clerk, advised by the Public Buildings Working Group, to continue discussions with the Isle of Wight Council in respect of both the detail of the Partnership agreement and the future location of the Library.*
- d) The formal Partnership Agreement and related Letter of Financial Commitment were adopted by the Town Council by Minute 41/16 of its meeting of 11 April.
- e) By Minute 76/15 of its meeting of 16 May the Town Council agreed a draft of the Governance Arrangements for the Library's future management.

#### 2) PARTNERSHIP BOARD

- a) The responsibility for delivering the aims and objectives of the Partnership Agreement sits with the Partnership Board consisting of two senior Officers of the Isle of Wight Council with service-related responsibilities and two Members and one Officer of Ventnor Town Council.
- b) The Board's responsibilities defined in the Partnership Agreement are to:
  - agree, overview and monitor the development, implementation and maintenance of the strategy;
  - ensure the delivery of Isle of Wight Council and Ventnor Town Council priorities;
  - agree and communicate Partnership recommendations that will lead to the delivery by partners of the aims and objectives set out in the partnership agreement;
  - provide support and guidance to officers and member organisations throughout the duration of the partnership agreement;
  - ensure that resources are available from their respective organisations to deliver the partnership strategy;
  - identify and highlight issues and risks associated with delivering the partnership strategy;
  - promote new ways of working; and
  - ensure that an annual report is made available to the Partners.
- c) The Board will also appoint a Steering Group and meet at least every six months.

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### 3) STEERING GROUP

- a) The Steering Group will consist of two Officers of the Isle of Wight Council with service-related experience, the Town Clerk and Mayor of Ventnor Town Council (or their representatives), two members of the Friends of Ventnor Library and one of the Library's staff.
  - b) Its terms of reference will be agreed at the first meeting of the Partnership Board.
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### 4) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to note the progress to date and appoint the Mayor and Councillor Ed Gouge as its members of the Partnership Board.

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