



# VENTNOR WEST COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 79/19

14 OCTOBER 2019

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The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to co-opt a representative for Town Council Ward of Ventnor West to fill a current vacancy.

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**No. DETAILS**

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**1) BACKGROUND**

- a) Councillor Leigh Geddes resigned from her role as a representative for the Town Council Ward of Ventnor West on 10 September 2019.
  - b) The vacancy was notified as required to the Isle of Wight Council's Elections Officer Clive Joynes on 10 September and the Notice of a Vacancy was published the following day providing the invitation to 10 residents of the Ward to notify the Elections Officer by 1 October that they wished for an election to be held.
  - c) The Town Council was informed on 2 October by the Elections Officer that as no requests for an election had been received it was now permitted to proceed to fill the vacancy by Co-option.
  - d) Although the Town Council has normally advertised an opportunity to express an interest in co-option when a vacancy has not been filled by election; but it is not obliged to do so.
  - e) The National Association of Local Council's legal advice about co-option states: *Before exercising the power of co-option the council does not have to give public notice of the vacancy or vacancies, although it may do so if it wishes.*
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**2) CO-OPTION**

- a) As a Town Councillor for Ventnor West Ward from 2010 to February this year and a resident who continued his work with the Town Council's buildings as a volunteer since then James Toogood is well placed to express an interest in re-joining the Council, which he has done.
  - b) The Town Council is asked to accept that expression of interest.
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**3) RECOMMENDATION**

The Town Council agrees to co-opt James Toogood to the vacancy in Ventnor West created by the resignation of Leigh Geddes.

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