



# WELCOME BACK FUND

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 60/21

12 JULY 2021

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to agree a submission to the Welcome Back Fund.

## NO. DETAILS

### 1) BACKGROUND

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- a) The national distribution of the government's £56m Welcome Back Fund resulted in an amount of £107,000 being available to the Isle of Wight Council.
- b) A letter from its Director of Regeneration Chris Ashman of 14 April invited all the Island's Town and Parish Councils to submit suggestions about how the funding could be deployed in their area.
- c) The circulation of that letter to Members produced five proposals that were submitted to the Isle of Wight Council on 1 May.
- d) The government guidance on the use of the fund came later and ruled out some of these proposals and it was not until the June Cabinet meeting that the Isle of Wight Council's plans for its distribution were agreed.

### 2) THE GRANT

- a) A letter of 29 June informed the Town Council of an allocation of £5,000 that was available to fund two of the proposals submitted on 1 May, these are:
  - i) Additional seating in Spring Hill Gardens, a green area at the centre of the High Street.
  - ii) Commissioned Street Theatre from Ventnor Fringe during its festival period of 21 July to 2 August.
- b) Following discussion with Councillor James Toogood about the first and Ventnor Fringe about the second it is proposed to allocate £1,000 for the production and installation of the bench in Spring Hill Gardens and the remainder to the Fringe's Street Theatre.
- c) An unusual element of the grant offer is the paragraph that states:  
*The Welcome Back Fund guidance does not allow us to provide you with a grant to do the works and so once we have confirmed your bid and amount we will be in contact to tell you how we will arrange delivery of the items.*
- d) The deadline for the submission of bids is 16 July.

### 3) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to agree the submission of a bid to the Welcome Back Fund of £5,000 distributed as set out in section 2(b) of Report 60/21 for this meeting.