



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 74/22

14 NOVEMBER 2022

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to launch a Community Support Fund as the next development in the Town Council's response to local poverty.

NO. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Town Council's response to the known poverty within the town is unique among the Island's Town and Parish Councils with its support for and development of Ventnor Community Food Bank, Baby Box Isle of Wight, Ventnor Community Pantry and the Ventnor Wellbeing Café.
- b) The recording of the experience of local residents facing the challenges of low income in the documentary Family Voice demonstrated the need for those organisations and the public viewing of it produced a wide range of suggested responses to the issues raised by it.
- c) One of those was a proposal for the Town Council to establish a fund as a single point for donations to those organisations and activities.
- d) A draft for a Community Support Fund to provide that function is attached to this Report.

2) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to:

- i. agree the framework for and launch of a Community Support Fund; and
- ii. authorise an initial contribution to it of the £5,000 received from the Living Well Project.



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This Fund was launched by Ventnor Town Council in response to suggestions for it at the public viewing of the Family Voice documentary at St Catherine's Church on 3 October 2022.

1) PURPOSE

- a) To provide financial support to the town's front line organisations and activities supported by the Town Council that are directly addressing the needs of residents in poverty including Ventnor Community Food Bank, Baby Box Isle of Wight and Ventnor Community Pantry.
- b) To provide food and energy metre top-up vouchers to households identified by those organisations as in need of additional support with either or both.

2) DONATIONS

- a) Donations to the Fund are invited from residents and businesses and can be made by:
 - o *Bank Transfer:* to Ventnor Town Council, Sort Code 40-45-09, A/c No. 41366998
 - o *Card:* phone 01983 853775 or at the office: Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road, Ventnor PO38 1EJ
 - o *Cheque:* post or deliver to Ventnor Town Council, Dudley Road, Ventnor PO38 1EJ
 - o *Cash:* deliver to Ventnor Town Council, Dudley Road, Ventnor PO38 1EJ
- b) All donations will be acknowledged in writing by email or letter to the donor and may be held anonymously at the request of the donor.
- c) The Town Council has contributed an initial sum of £5,000 to the Fund.

3) DISTRIBUTIONS

Decisions on the distribution of the Fund will be made by meetings of the Mayor with the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk and Community Development Officer.

4) TRANSPARENCY

Details of the Fund's receipts and distributions will be published at least quarterly in the Clerk's Column.