



# VENTNOR LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT 26-25

9 JUNE 2025

## 1) BACKGROUND

- Ventnor Town Council have met some of the costs incurred by the Isle of Wight Council relating to keeping the library open since it was first under threat of closure.
- VTC agreed to fund the salary of one member of staff, at 22hrs/week, the utility costs (gas, water and electricity), and the cleaning costs by way of employing our own cleaner.
- There has been a Partnership Agreement in place since 2016. The Partnership Agreement technically expired in 2019, although as the agreement was not formally ceased VTC has continued to pay its share of the costs.
- We asked the Isle of Wight Council to draft a revised Partnership Agreement in order to re-establish VTC's role in the running of the library

## 2) FINANCES

- See below the table showing how VTC's contributions have developed since 2019/20:

<b>Ventnor Library Summary</b>							
	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25 YTD + estimated	25/26 estimated
Salary	12,427.15	13,718.28	13,767.11	15,068.71	16,359.52	19,609.73	23,353.00
Gas 5%	495.60	893.08	976.20	1,708.79	3,486.39	500.00	561.30
Electricity 5%	632.14	959.17	545.77	497.51	2,301.37	2,642.62	1,568.47
Gas 20%	- 258.55	412.55	1,080.97	931.58	- 114.92	1,267.94	-
Electricity 20%	-	-	-	-	358.54	-	-
Water and Sewerage	90.82	172.92	771.65	254.61	195.39	282.21	263.17
Premises Insurance (20%)	-	459.00	175.52	0			
Security of Building (20%)	290.00	465.00	909.00	407.62	686.45		
<b>Total before VAT</b>	<b>13,677.16</b>	<b>17,080.00</b>	<b>18,226.22</b>	<b>18,868.82</b>	<b>23,272.74</b>	<b>24,302.51</b>	<b>25,745.94</b>
<b>VAT</b>	<b>2,701.83</b>	<b>3,103.58</b>	<b>3,437.43</b>	<b>3,391.90</b>	<b>3,747.31</b>	<b>4,332.67</b>	<b>4,777.09</b>
<b>Total after VAT</b>	<b>16,378.99</b>	<b>20,183.58</b>	<b>21,663.65</b>	<b>22,260.72</b>	<b>27,020.05</b>	<b>28,635.17</b>	<b>30,523.02</b>

- These costs do not include the costs of cleaning, which are 10½ hours per week paid directly to our employee via PAYE.
- Although in previous years, VTC has paid for the insurance and security of the building, this was not supposed to be VTC's responsibility. The IW Council have conceded this point and will not be recharging us for this in future.
- Utility costs may vary from the estimations above depending on usage, and staff costs may vary based on National Pay Awards, but the figures above are what the Isle of Wight Council's budget expectations are.

## 3) NEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

- The Isle of Wight Council have drafted a new Partnership Agreement, which is attached to this paper for members' consideration

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- b) The new Partnership Agreement follows the exact same format as the previous one, with changes being: the dates throughout the document; and a simplification of the invoicing periods (paragraph 2 on page 12 – highlighted in the attached document).
  - c) At the Business and Community Committee meeting of 4 March 2025, it was unanimously agreed to:

*Invite the Isle of Wight Council officers to give a presentation at the May Town Meeting with a decision on negotiations to be made at the June Town Council Meeting.*

- d) A representative from the Isle of Wight Council gave a presentation at the May Town Meeting.

#### **4) FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- a) VTC's budget for 2025/26 allows for expenditure of £25,600, which is very close to the Isle of Wight Council's estimation of £25,745.94 for the year's expenses.
- b) Given the last few years' lack of interaction with the Library service on the part of Ventnor Town Council, the Committee members should consider whether continuing with the status quo of expenditure on this service is what they would like to continue with.

#### **5) RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that members consider the new Partnership Agreement, and whether they would like to attempt to negotiate any changes to Schedule 2 – Financial Contributions