

Cabinet – Thursday 11 July 2019

Written Question from East Cowes Town Council

Re: East Cowes Waterfront Site Acquisition.

1. The Report states at point 11 that consultation has taken place with the East Cowes Town Council Planning and General Purposes Committee and that they are supportive of the desire to secure the marine employment on the site. As the East Cowes Town Council does not have a Planning and General Purposes Committee can the IW Council Director of Regeneration confirm when and with whom the consultation took place and does he have written confirmation of the Town Council's subsequent approval.
2. Point 10 of the report states that the strategic objectives for the acquisition are to:
 - safeguard local marine sector jobs;
 - create an enabling project for the wider regeneration of East Cowes town centre;
 - provide and bring forward a viable local housing scheme

Will the Isle of Wight Council give East Cowes Town Council, as the local authority, written confirmation that the Town Council will be consulted at each stage of the development of these key objectives? As this has clearly been omitted in the past.

Response

Our Director of Regeneration has attended meetings of the East Cowes town council and its Facilities, Projects and Events Committee during 2019. A community walking tour of the Esplanade, which included members of the town council was also held in January 2019. While the question is right to imply there has been no formal consultation regarding our proposals to investigate acquiring the Homes England sites at Venture Quays, verbal updates and one to one conversations with local members have taken place. Support was expressed for the Isle of Wight Council progressing negotiations with Homes England in order to secure marine manufacturing jobs and our Director agreed to keep the council and members informed on progress - a presentation to East Cowes town council on the latest position is scheduled for 18th July.

We will provide written confirmation, as requested, of our commitment to consult the town council at each stage of our progress in meeting the objectives stated in the report, should we acquire the sites