

The Clerk
Ryde Town Council
10 Lind Street
Ryde
Isle of Wight
PO33 2NQ

From
Chris Ashman
Floor 5, County Hall

Tel (01983) 821000 ext 6275
Email chris.ashman@iow.gov.uk
DX 56361 Newport (Isle of Wight)
Web www.iwight.com

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Dear Clerk

As a result of recent discussions with members and officers of the Council regarding the merits of developing a “Place Plan” for Ryde, including consideration of the topic at the Planning committee in August, I am writing to request Full Council support for the proposed production of a Ryde Place Plan.

The Isle of Wight Council is committed to working in partnership with town and parish councils, local businesses and the wider community to help develop and realise shared regeneration aims.

The “Inspiration Island regeneration strategy 2019-2030” sets out this commitment as part of a strategy theme entitled “Area Regeneration”. This aims to ensure a collective understanding of the different needs, challenges and opportunities each part of the Island faces in delivering a sustainable prosperous future for local communities.

A Place Plan is the tool the Council proposes to use to secure this collective understanding of key issues and ownership of solutions to tackle them.

A Place Plan does not have the statutory status in planning law of a Neighbourhood Plan but is quicker and less expensive to produce and can be afforded status of a “document to reference” in the new Island Plan. Its main purpose is to bring public, private and community sectors together to tackle what they all agree is important for a places future sustainable development.

As an example the Newport Place Plan “Shaping Newport” has been in existence for 18 months and has set of 15 actions that were developed following extensive collection of key data setting out the town’s strengths and weaknesses as well as widespread community consultation about what needs fixing in the town. The Place Plan was developed by a steering group comprised of the town council, the Newport Business Association and the Isle of Wight Council. This steering group subsequently became a constituted partnership which oversees progress in meeting the 15 key actions.

In February 2019 Ryde Town Council agreed to appoint two town councillors to join the newly formed Ryde Regeneration Working Group (RRWG).

Since the Regeneration Working group was established with equal representation from Ryde Business Association, Ryde Town Council, Isle of Wight Council and Ryde Society it has focused on seeking to provide oversight and direction for a range of regeneration projects.

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What has been lacking is the existence of a shared prioritised plan which uses up to date data and recent community consultations, against which any proposed regeneration proposals can be tested to ensure they are helping to address an evidenced priority.

The Isle of Wight Council therefore propose to commission a Place Plan for Ryde and is seeking the support of Ryde Town Council in doing so.

Given the recent consultation work undertaken in Ryde and the publication of the town council's position statement it is expected that the production of a Place Plan would cost in the region of £5,000 to £8,000 and Ryde Town Council support is sought for meeting 50% of this cost?

The Isle of Wight Council believe that in addition to providing a shared set of regeneration priorities the plan would also usefully act as supporting document for specific funding bids.

It is proposed the focus for the Ryde Place Plan would initially be on the High Street and Esplanade areas but would also identify the need for action on topics affecting the whole of the town eg, traffic and parking and highlight the need for any action connected with regeneration in other parts of the town.

It is also proposed that a three year action plan will form part of the Place Plan setting out specific responsibilities connected with project responses and detailing the agreed or potential funding sources to support project delivery.

At its meeting on 12th August the RRWG agreed to act as a steering group for the production of a Place Plan for Ryde and following its production and adoption by the Isle of Wight Council and Ryde Town Council help to keep all the relevant stakeholders represented via the group informed as to its content, help mobilise collective action and resources, and oversee progress against its key actions.

Oversight by the town council would be via the two RTC member representatives of the working group, quarterly reports by the group to Full Council and any projects requiring RTC commitment would of course need to be specifically considered in detail by the Council prior to any bids being submitted or projects getting underway.

Isle of Wight Council regeneration team have agreed to support the RRWG in commissioning the necessary support to prepare the plan and will also be contributing towards the cost of its production. With RTC agreement it is hoped this work can be completed by the end of September 2019.

I am happy to answer any questions Full Council might have in connection with the proposal and look forward to hearing from you soon regarding Ryde Town Council's support.

Yours sincerely



Chris Ashman
Director of Regeneration
Isle of Wight Council