



Borough of Douglas

**COUNCILLOR MRS NATALIE BYRON-TEARE, JP
MAYOR**

Town Hall,

Douglas,

8th June, 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS to be held on WEDNESDAY, the 14th day of JUNE, 2023, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER within the TOWN HALL, DOUGLAS for the transaction of the hereinafter mentioned business.

I am,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Teare'.

For the Town Clerk & Chief Executive

Order of Agenda

I - Election of a person to preside (if the Mayor is absent).

II - Any statutory business.

III - Approval as a correct record of the minutes of the last regular and any intermediate Meetings of the Council.

IV - Questions of which Notice has been given by Members of the Council, pursuant to Standing Order No. 39.

V - Consideration of the minutes of proceedings of the Council in Committee.

VI - Consideration of the minutes of proceedings of Committees of the Council in the following order:

- (i) The Executive Committee;
- (ii) The Housing and Property Committee;
- (iii) The Pensions Committee;
- (iv) The Standards Committee;
- (v) The Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee;
- (vi) Any other Joint Committee;
- (vii) The Regeneration and Community Committee;
- (viii) The Environmental Services Committee;

VIII - Consideration of such communications or petitions and memorials as the Mayor or Chief Executive may desire to lay before Council.

IX - Notices of Motion submitted by Members of the Council in order of their receipt by the Chief Executive.

X - Any Miscellaneous Business of which Notice has been given pursuant to Standing Orders.

The above Order of Agenda is in accordance with Standing Order No. 16(1); under Standing Order No. 16(2) it may be varied by the Council to give precedence to any business of a special urgency, but such variation shall not displace business under I and II.

AGENDA

III – Chief Executive to read minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd May, 2023 and the Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 10th May, 2023.

VI(i) - The proceedings of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 25th May, 2023.

Members Present: Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, Mr Councillor F. Horning.

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Miss K.J. Rice), Director of Finance (Mr A.J.T. Boyd), Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Director of Housing and Property (Mr D. Looney), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson) (for Clauses A8 to A11 and C23), Executive Officer (Mrs J.M. Keig) (taking minutes).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the scope of the Executive Committee's delegated authority

A1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

A2. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved, “That it be unanimously agreed that Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.”

A3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd March 2023 were approved and signed.

A5. Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

A6. Referrals from the Environmental Services Committee

There were no referrals from the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023.

A7. Referrals from the Housing and Property Committee

There were no referrals from the public minutes of the Housing and Property Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2023.

A8. Members' Attendances and Allowances 2022 / 2023

The Committee considered a written report by the Member Services Officer on the number of meetings of the Council and its Committees that had been held during the 2022 / 2023 municipal year, including details of the attendance of Members at those meetings and the total allowances paid to Members.

The Council was required under Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1985 to publish this information annually, with an obligation to send a copy of the report to the Department of Infrastructure with a certificate issued by the Council's auditors.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;

- (ii) That the schedule setting out Members' attendances at meetings and the allowances paid during the year ended 31st March 2023 also be noted;
- (iii) That approval be given for the submission of the schedule to the Council's auditors, and thence to the Department of Infrastructure; and
- (iv) That the schedule be made available to the public through the Council's website and at the Town Hall Reception desk.”

A9. Consultation Document – Isle of Man Electoral Commission

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) in relation to a consultation document received from the Cabinet Office.

A resolution of Tynwald had required the Electoral Commission to review the number and boundaries of constituencies across the Island and, as part of that review, to take into consideration and report on a number of other issues, including: accessibility of elections to voters; postal voting procedures, proxy voting procedures; ability to vote at any polling station across a constituency; and the feasibility of setting up one or more ‘all-Island’ polling stations.

The Electoral Commission was currently in the process of collecting and collating data from as many parties as possible, including local authorities, in order to inform their deliberations.

During discussion, a number of further suggestions were made:-

- That automatic voter registration should be explored;
- That pre-election meetings should be compulsory for national elections, but not so for local elections as it may act as a disincentive and deter potential candidates;
- That there should be some initiative for potential candidates to be able to benefit from the availability of a free letter drop to all voters;
- That consideration be given to whether there was a need to have polling stations available on multiple days or at weekends.

The closing date for submissions had been set as Friday 30th April 2023, however, due to the Council being in recess annually during April, an extension had been granted in order that Member participation could be obtained.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

- (ii) That the proposed response to the Electoral Commission as set out in the appendix to the written report be approved and submitted to the Cabinet Office as the Council’s response to the consultation, subject to the inclusion of the further points suggested during discussion.”

A10. Consultation Document – Morecambe Offshore Windfarm (“Mona”)

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) in relation to a statutory consultation being undertaken by Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited.

Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited had entered into an Agreement for Lease for the seabed from the Crown Estate for the Mona Offshore Wind Project in early 2023. The Mona Array Area – the area within which the offshore wind turbines would be located – was approximately 28.2 km / 15.2 nautical miles from the Anglesey coastline, 39.9km / 21.5 nautical miles from the northwest coast of England, and 42.6km / 23 nautical miles from the Isle of Man.

The Mona Offshore Wind Project would have a critical role to play in helping the UK achieve its net zero ambitions and, specifically, in reaching offshore wind generation goals; and it would bring clean, affordable, and secure power to millions of homes in the UK. However, at this stage, there did not appear to be any benefits for the Council specifically; and clarity was needed on whether the Island would benefit from any of the green energy generated, as there were no indications within the consultation document that it would.

Information contained within the consultation document stated that, as a result of the Mona Array Area, the impact on adverse weather routing for ferry services had been assessed as significant. During adverse weather conditions, vessels operating between Douglas and Liverpool would navigate through the footprint of the Mona Array Area and, with the wind turbines in place, vessels would be required to deviate to the southwest of the Area to maintain safe and comfortable vessel motions, which had the potential to increase transit durations and lead to some additional cancellations of services.

Members noted the proposed response to the consultation, which contained both positive and negative implications for the Island. Lengthy discussion took place on the proposals, it being noted that two further offshore windfarms were also being proposed which would have an impact, these being the Morgan and Morecambe fields (the Morgan Array Area would specifically impact on the Douglas to Heysham route).

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report and the consultation be noted on the minutes;

- (ii) That the proposed response as set out in the written report be approved for submission to Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited as the Council’s response, but with it being strongly emphasised that the view of the Council was that access to all historical shipping trade routes should be preserved without hindrance, including during adverse weather conditions; and

- (iii) That the finalised response also be submitted in respect of the other two windfarm projects, that was, the Morgan and Morecambe fields.”

A11. Vacancies on Committees

The Committee considered a written report by the Democratic Services Officer seeking to appoint Members to fill casual vacancies that had arisen on each of the three Standing Committees.

The Council had met on 3rd May 2023 to elect the Leader, Chairs, Members of the Executive Committee, and representatives on outside bodies. In line with Standing Order 81, the Council had adjourned whilst the Executive Committee met to appoint three Members to each of the Environmental Services Committee, the Regeneration and Community Committee, and the Housing and Property Committee.

Following the appointments, however, three casual vacancies had occurred as a result of Members resigning from their positions.

Resolved, (i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

(ii) That in line with Standing Order 86, the following appointments be made:

- That Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner be appointed as a Member of the Environmental Services Committee for the remainder of the two-year term to April 2025;
- That Mr Councillor S. Crellin be appointed as a Member of the Regeneration and Community Committee for the remainder of the two-year term to April 2025; and
- That Councillor Ms J. Thommeny be appointed as a Member of the Housing and Property Committee for the remainder of the two-year term to April 2025.”

A12. Chief Executive’s Department’s Service Plan Performance Report

The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive providing an update on performance compared against measures outlined in the Chief Executive’s Department’s Service Plans for 2022 - 2024.

In October 2021, the Council had adopted a new Corporate Plan for the years 2022 – 2026, and, following on from this, each Service had its own Service Plan to run for the financial years 2022 – 2024 and 2024 – 2026.

Service Plans were an important part of the process to ensure that performance and standards were addressed and delivered, and Members accordingly noted the actions from the Service Plans, together with an update on performance as at April 2023; and comment was made specifically on the amount of officer time that responses to Data Protection and Freedom of Information requests took up.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

(ii) That the progress against planned actions and performance indicators also be noted.”

A13. Monthly Financial Review – March 2023 (Year-End)

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance setting out the year-end position for the various financial items that had been received during the 2022 / 2023 financial year.

The report was required in order to monitor progress against the Finance Department’s Service Plan actions; and to meet the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2022 - 2026.

Members noted the figures reflecting the collection of housing rent during 2022 / 2023. Although the target had not been achieved, the Housing Team was working to reduce arrears whilst being cognisant of the challenges faced by social housing tenants, particularly the increases in the cost of living.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes, including specifically:-

- The 99.3% rates collection figure for the financial year April 2022 - March 2023, compared against the target figure of 99.25% for that period;
- The 99% sundry debtors collection figure for the financial year April 2022 – March 2023, which was in line with the target figure; and
- The total housing gross rent arrears position of £189,863, compared with £187,606 for March 2022.”

A14. Monthly Financial Review - April 2023

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance setting out details of progress made against Key Performance Indicators for Finance, together with other related key financial monitoring information.

The Director of Finance advised that the Council's external auditors had confirmed there would be a 10% increase on the cost of the previous year's audit fees. As a fixed fee for the duration of the contract had been assumed, no increase had been allowed for within the budget and an overspend on this item would therefore be generated both in 2022 / 2023 and in 2023 / 2024. The fees were agreed directly between the Isle of Man Treasury and the external auditor, however, Members requested that representation be made to The Treasury on behalf of the Council, expressing disappointment that, out of courtesy, there had been no prior notification of the increase.

Members were also advised that the renewal of insurance premiums for the new financial year had seen a significant increase, which would place an additional pressure on this year's budget. Based on past claims' history, officers had taken a number of steps in order to reduce down the impact.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes, including particularly -

- The rates collection figure of 14.5% compared against the target figure of 11.7% for the month of April 2023;
 - The estimated £4,500 budget shortfall in 2023 / 2024 arising from the external audit fees increase agreed by the Isle of Man Treasury;
 - The £15,000 rateborne budget shortfall in 2023 / 2024 arising from increases to insurance premiums; and
- (ii) That the Director of Finance make representation to the Isle of Man Treasury expressing disappointment that there had been no notification in respect of the increase in cost for the audit fees."

A15. Capital Out-turn Report 2022 / 2023

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) in relation to the financial year-end out-turn position on the Capital Programme.

Members noted the values spent on all Capital schemes in 2022 / 2023, and the variances to the revised estimates. In respect of the amounts recommended to be carried forward, formal approval of this expenditure was sought where schemes had progressed more quickly than budgeted for.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;

- (ii) That the 2022 / 2023 Capital spend of £5,937,200 - made up of public sector housing spend of £3,349,200 and General Rate Funded spend of £2,588,000 (representing 28% of the Original Estimate) - also be noted;
- (iii) That approval be given to carry forward £4,285,900 to 2023 / 2024 of all unspent balances on projects where work was on-going or retentions were payable; and
- (iv) That the early expenditure of £106,000 also be approved."

A16. Urgent Business Procedure – Bottleneck Car Park Pay Shelter and Railings Replacement

The Committee considered a written report by the Head of Electrical Services (with input from the Environment and Regeneration Projects Team) on the use of the Council's Urgent Business Procedure under Standing Order 125.

The Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee had approved the design and budget for the new pay shelter and railings at the Bottleneck Car Park. The works formed part of the programme of works on the Promenade for 2023 / 2024 as previously approved by the Executive Committee in June 2021, however, the information that was required had not been received until after the March 2023 meeting of the Executive Committee and, in order not to delay the project by two months, the Urgent Business Procedure had been invoked.

Members noted that two pay stations would be accommodated within the proposed new wheelchair-accessible shelter; and there was also allowance within the design for three CCTV cameras.

It was recalled that the installation of removable railings around the perimeter of the Car Park had been a previous requirement of the Committee. However, not to have removable railings produced a saving of £5,000, and it was proposed instead to install hooped railings which, aesthetically, would give a more open feel to the car park and allow for easy pedestrian access to the walkway.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

- (ii) That the resolution under the Urgent Business Procedure – to approve the design and estimated budget for the new pay shelter and railings at the Bottleneck Car Park - be noted and endorsed accordingly."

A17. Urgent Business Procedure – Pavement Café Licences: Exemption of Guidelines

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) on the use of the Council's Urgent Business Procedure under Standing Order 125.

The Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee had approved a recommendation that officers be authorised to exempt pavement café licensees from the restriction against placing and using loud speakers in pavement café areas when it was proposed that they be used appropriately as part of a specific event.

It was noted that a recent request from a pavement café licensee, to place and use loud speakers as part of an event to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, had been considered to be appropriate under the circumstances of the special occasion, and the request had been agreed to accordingly.

The condition, within the Pavement Café Guidelines, had been introduced to prevent noise nuisance being caused to residents living in the vicinity of pavement cafés from music being played outside during the evenings. However, events marking special occasions were likely to attract large numbers of people into the City Centre and the Leader and the Chair had therefore agreed to the recommendation that, on occasions when it was considered appropriate to allow the use of loud speakers outside, when additional noise was likely to be expected and accepted, officers be authorised to exempt the restriction.

The intention would be to limit exemptions to specific events; and for the placing and using of loud speakers in pavement café areas to be treated as exceptions rather than the rule.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

- (ii) That the resolution under the Urgent Business Procedure – that officers be authorised to exempt pavement café licensees from the restriction against placing and using loud speakers in Pavement Café areas when it was proposed to use them appropriately as part of a specific event - be noted and endorsed accordingly."

A18. Council's Carbon Footprint 2021 / 2022

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Environment and Regeneration (on behalf of the Net Zero Officer Working Group) in relation to the Council's progress towards reducing its carbon footprint in line with its Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan One.

The Isle of Man Government had pledged that the Island would be carbon net zero by 2050 and, as the largest local authority on the Island and one of the largest employers in Douglas, the Council would be expected to contribute towards this goal. In July 2019, the Council had embarked upon a journey to formally record and reduce its carbon footprint and to align itself with the Government's Net Zero by 2050 Agenda. This had been formalised in the adoption of a Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan One at the March 2022 Meeting of the Council.

In July 2019, the Council had agreed to engage the services of the Carbon Trust to calculate the Council's carbon footprint for the financial year 2018 / 2019 – which would be the baseline year from which all of the Council's carbon emissions would be measured. Since that time, updates had been provided to Members on the Council's progress towards reducing its carbon footprint, and details of the latest calculated carbon footprint for the financial year 2021 / 2022 were appended to the written report.

It was noted that the Council's carbon footprint for 2021 / 2022 showed a reduction of approximately 13% on the recalculated baseline year. However, as exact consumption data was not known for leased buildings (Scope 3 emissions), assumptions had been applied by the Carbon Trust for the likely energy usage for these buildings (based on size, type of energy, typical use, and average retail prices for gas and electricity).

The same assumptions would continue to be applied in future years unless actual consumption data could be obtained. As the use of assumptions and estimates was not ideal, it was the view of the Net Zero Officer Working Group that, over time, the Council should work to make its calculations of emissions in this area more scientific. To this end, the Working Group had engaged with an outside agency to determine how these emissions could be based on actuals rather than assumptions and estimates, and that work was ongoing.

It was essential that the Council received external validation of its assumptions, estimates, and calculations, to ensure no calculation errors had occurred which could impact the Council's reporting on its net zero journey, and the Net Zero Officer Working Group therefore remained of the view that the Council's carbon footprint should be externally calculated every five years to ensure assumptions continued to be valid and reasonable. The next external calculation, for the financial year 2023 / 2024, was programmed to be calculated by the end of August 2024.

The Climate Change (Public Bodies Reporting Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 had been approved by Tynwald in March 2023. Under these Regulations, the Council, as a Category A public

body, had a legal duty to submit an annual report to the Isle of Man Government, and the first annual report was due in September 2023, covering the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

It was noted that, presently, Scope 3 emissions were not legally required to be reported. However, given that these represented the largest source of Council emissions, the Council had, on embarking on its Net Zero journey, committed to calculating and reducing its Scope 3 emissions, and there would, therefore, be a need to continue to calculate them independently of the legal duty. It was also anticipated that Government would, in time, seek the submission of Scope 3 emissions data, as the Island matured in its Net Zero journey.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;

- (ii) That the approximate 13% reduction in the Councils’ carbon footprint from the baseline year of 2018 / 2019 also be noted;
- (iii) That approval be given for the Council’s carbon footprint to be calculated and validated externally every five years, to ensure assumptions remained current and in-house calculations remained as accurate as possible;
- (iv) That approval be given for the appointment of an external agency to calculate and validate the Council’s carbon footprint for 2023 / 2024 in 2024; and
- (v) That approval be given for £10,000 to be built into the 2024 / 2025 General Revenue Reserve budget for this purpose.”

A19. Fleet Services – Disposal of Equipment

The Committee considered a written report by the Head of Fleet Services and Stores detailing items that had been sold in the fourth quarter of the 2022 / 2023 financial year in accordance with Standing Order 161, ‘Disposal of Surplus Property, Materials, etc.’

Resolved, “That particulars of the report, including the Schedule of Vehicles and Plant sold at auction, be noted on the minutes.”

A20. Isle of Man Municipal Association

The Committee had been circulated with a number of documents received from the Isle of Man Municipal Association.

Resolved, “That particulars of the documents be noted on the minutes.”

A21. Items for Future Report

The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive identifying those issues on which further reports had been requested or which were outstanding, so that Members and officers were aware of them and could monitor progress.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and that it be considered and monitored at each meeting of the Executive Committee.”

PART C –

Matters subject to Council approval

C22. Referrals from the Regeneration and Community Committee

The Committee considered the following referral from the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Committee meeting, which had been rescheduled to Monday 22nd May 2023:

Clause B/C1 – North Quay Pedestrianisation: the Committee had considered a report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) in relation to the summer pedestrianisation of North Quay and seeking approval of a longer-term approach to the initiative. Following discussion with the Department of Infrastructure, the approach that had been suggested by the Department was for the Council to seek a Traffic Regulation Order, which would be effective only when prohibition signs were being displayed.

Currently, each weekend, the road closure notice was effective from 11:00am on a Friday to 08:00am on a Monday. An operational policy had been recommended to the Regeneration and Community Committee, whereby, if the weather forecast for an entire weekend was predicted to be sufficiently inclement (and it was unlikely that patrons for hospitality would sit outside), then the road closure would not take place. The policy also proposed that if there was a will or a need to prohibit traffic at times outside of the periods stated, approval would be sought through the Regeneration and Community Committee and prior consultation with the businesses that would be affected would take place.

It had been resolved that a permanent Traffic Regulation Order be sought for the section of North Quay between its junctions with Ridgeway Street and Market Hill, which would prohibit vehicular traffic between 1st April and 30th September annually, whenever prohibition signs were displayed. Approval to

implement the prohibition in accordance with the operational policy - by the installation of socketed removable bollards - was accordingly sought.

Resolved, (i) That particulars of the referral be noted on the minutes; and

- (ii) That the resolution of the Regeneration and Community Committee be supported and that it be recommended to Council that a permanent Traffic Regulation Order be adopted for the section of North Quay between its junctions with Ridgeway Street and Market Hill, to prohibit vehicular traffic between 1st April and 30th September annually, whenever prohibition signs were displayed, by way of the installation of socketed removable bollards / prohibition signs at the North Quay junctions with Ridgeway Street, Market Hill, and the lane between the Market Hall and The British Hotel.”

C23. Draft CCTV and Surveillance Policy - Housing Department

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) in relation to a proposed policy in respect of the installation of CCTV and surveillance equipment in the Council’s social housing properties.

The ease of installation and use in home video security products meant they were an affordable security enhancement for many members of the public, including the Council’s tenants. However, it was also recognised that neighbours may find the erection of a CCTV camera on their neighbour’s home to be a breach of their own privacy.

At present, domestic CCTV in Council housing did not require permission for such installations, and it was therefore proposed that a formal policy be introduced in order to provide general guidance for tenants seeking permission to install CCTV or other video image-capturing devices at their home. The guidance would set out the legal requirements that tenants must follow to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations, and would also be used as a point of reference by Housing Department staff when assessing such applications.

During discussion, it was agreed that in the event of a tenant’s request to install CCTV or other video image-capturing devices at their home being refused, then an appeal process should be made available to the tenant.

It was noted, while any increase in security measures by tenants where appropriate was a positive move, that the operational responsibility would lie entirely with the tenant.

Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and

- (ii) That it be recommended to Council that the proposed CCTV and Surveillance Policy – Housing Department be adopted as guidance for Members and officers, subject to the inclusion of an appeal process within the Policy in the event of an application being refused.”

The Committee rose at 5.35pm.

VI(ii) – The proceedings of the HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE as follows:

HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 17th May, 2023.

Members Present: Mr Councillor D.R. Watson (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, Mr Councillor P.J. Washington.

In Attendance: Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) (Mr V. Zivave), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Housing and Property Operations Manager (Mr J. Chatwood), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Miss C. Cullen).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters delegated to the Committee

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by the Director of Housing and Property.

A2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

A3. Appointment of Vice-Chair 2023 – 2025

The Committee considered the election of a Vice-Chair for the Committee to act in the absence of the Chair for the municipal term 2023 to 2025.

Resolved unanimously, “That Mr Councillor P.J. Washington be elected Committee Vice-Chair for the municipal term 2023 to 2025.”

A4. Minutes – 15th March, 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 15th March, 2023, were approved and signed.

A5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

A6. Vacant Properties Update

The Committee considered the monthly report submitted by the Assistant Housing Manager (Maintenance) to update on the number of vacant social housing properties.

Appended to the officer’s report was the void properties schedule, which showed that as at the end of April 2023, there were thirty-four vacant properties receiving attention. The Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) advised that five properties from the schedule had been allocated and that a further two properties would be ready for allocation in the forthcoming weeks.

Members were presented with a summary chart showing the number of properties returned in each month, details of the category repair type for each property, together with the number of void properties in each estate.

Resolved, “That particulars of the discussion and the number of void properties be noted on the minutes.”

A7. Housing Rent Arrears

The Committee considered the monthly report submitted by the Housing and Property Operations Manager to monitor the progress made on rental income collection.

Members were presented with a table setting out the rent arrears statistics for February to April 2023. It was noted that as at the 30th April, 2023 the level of rent arrears was £75,942.80.

Members were particularly pleased to note that currently, there are no “at risk” tenants, where no payment plan was in place.

Appended to the officer’s report was statistical data prepared by the Housing Operations Manager setting out the rent arrears statistics by estate; property type and occupancy.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that the progress made on rental income collection be noted."

A8. Items for Future Consideration

The Committee noted the monthly report and schedule setting out items which will be brought forward for consideration to future meetings.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and schedule be noted on the minutes."

A9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Members were reminded that the next scheduled meeting was due to take place at 10.00am on Wednesday, 21st June, 2023.

Resolved, "That the date and time of the next meeting be noted on the minutes."

The meeting ended at 11.30am.

VI(iii) – The proceedings of the PENSIONS COMMITTEE as follows:

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

PENSIONS COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 24th May, 2023.

Members Present: Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner (Chair), the Mayor (to 11.40am), Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, Mr Councillor F. Horning, Mr A. Thomas (Independent Member).

In Attendance: Director of Finance (Mr A.J.T. Boyd), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr E.P. Pierce), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson). Mr J. Glasgow (Hymans Robertson), Mr P. Ashby (Hymans Robertson, via video-link). Mr D. Long, Mr J. Penn and Mr M. Seaward (Capital International, Item A13 only).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the scope of the Committee’s delegated authority

A1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

A2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. Election of Vice-Chair

The Committee considered the election of a Vice-Chair for the Committee to act in the absence of the Chair for the municipal years 2023 to 2025.

Resolved unanimously, “That Mr Councillor F. Horning be elected Vice-Chair of the Pensions Committee for the municipal years 2023 to 2025.”

A4. Minutes – 22nd March 2023

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023, were approved and signed.

A5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising raised.

A6. Training – Capital Markets and Economic Cycles

The Committee received a training presentation by Hymans on capital markets and economic cycles.

The presentation covered what a capital market is, the impact that interest rates and inflation have on the pension scheme, and the four stages of the economic cycle and the potential impact on the pension scheme.

Resolved, “That the presentation be noted on the minutes.”

A7. Quarterly Review of Investment Managers’ Performance

The Committee considered a report submitted by Hymans Robertson to review the investment managers’ performance during quarter one of 2023.

The Scheme achieved a return of 3% over the quarter, in line with the benchmark. The largest outperformer was the Capital International Absolute Return Fund which outperformed its benchmark by 0.8%, and the Capital ESG Fixed Income Fund outperformance of 0.3%. The largest underperformer was the Canaccord Global Equities ETFs, which underperformed its benchmark by 0.7% though still finished up +4.6% in absolute terms. It was noted that UK Equities underperformed through valuation timings but remained within the expected tracking error ranges.

The report advised that the Scheme carried out a rebalancing exercise over the quarter which restored the fund weights in line with the strategic allocation.

Mr Ashby provided a market background and individual manager analysis during the quarter.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes.”

A8. Environmental, Social and Governance Considerations for the Scheme's Property and Absolute Return Portfolios

The Committee considered a report submitted by Hymans Robertson to assess the Scheme's investment managers' approaches to environmental, social and governance (ESG) integration within property and absolute return fund portfolios.

The report summarised the respective managers' approaches to four broad areas of ESG integration, culture/governance; integration; transparency and compliance with industry standards. The report used a red, amber, green colour coding system to represent weak to strong responses.

Based on the assessment of the investment managers, Hymans Robertson believe that both managers demonstrate an acceptable level of integration of ESG issues into their investment process. BlackRock were able to strongly evidence this, and their ability to consider and integrate ESG issues was considered strong.

Whilst Hymans Robertson were satisfied that Capital International have an acceptable level of integration of ESG, this was less well evidenced. The report recommended that it would be beneficial for the Committee to understand how the ESG policies and processes are practically implemented in Capital's absolute return strategy with some examples of where ESG considerations have influenced investment decisions. Further, while the ESG Policy notes that Capital will engage with investee companies with a view to reducing risk and improving returns, a practical understanding of their approach to stewardship and engagement, with examples from the absolute return fund strategy would be relevant. In addition, while the investment policy states that Capital measure the environmental impact of investments using carbon, water and waste intensity metrics, these are not reported on for the absolute return strategy and it was recommended that Capital be asked to provide this climate, and broader ESG, reporting for the scheme.

During the discussion, it was noted that an exercise had been undertaken to determine the level of fossil fuel exposure within the scheme's investments. The previous rate in December 2021 was 4.6%, this has now decreased to 1.7%. This evidences that the actions taken by the Committee such as tilting the fund with trackers with ESG credentials has positively impacted the level of exposure. The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) advised a briefing note on the findings will be circulated.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes, and Hymans Robertson engage with Capital to understand how their ESG policies and processes are implemented. Hymans to consider including more ESG narrative for each of the managers within the quarterly review of investment managers report going forwards."

A9. Items for Future Report

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Democratic Services Officer setting out items that are to be considered at future meetings and to review any future training requirements.

Resolved, "That particulars of the items for future report be noted on the minutes."

A10. Review of Investment Beliefs

The Committee considered a report prepared by Hymans Robertson to review the Committee's current investment beliefs.

Members had in front of them the current seven investment beliefs. The investment beliefs are reviewed annually, and were last updated in 2017 to add a Responsible Investment policy.

Members agreed that the investment beliefs remain relevant to the Scheme and no further changes are required at this time.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and as the seven investment beliefs remain relevant to the Scheme, no further changes be made during the 2023 annual review."

A11. Review of Investment Principles and the Governance Statement Including Adherence to Best Practice

The Committee considered a report submitted by Hymans Robertson to review the Scheme's Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) and the Governance Statement including Adherence to Best Practice.

The Committee is required to review the Scheme's SIP at least every three years and whenever material changes are made to the Scheme's assets. It was noted that the SIP was last updated in September 2020. The Governance Statement, including Adherence to Best Practice, is also periodically reviewed in order to ensure consistency and the decisions and actions taken by the Committee. The report proposed no changes to SIP, and the Governance Statement has been updated including the updating of investment manager information and details from the latest valuation results.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and there be no amendments to the Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme Statement of Investment

Principles and the Pensions Committee Chair and the Director of Finance be authorised to sign the document.”

A12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the date and time of the next meeting is Wednesday, 13th September, 2023.

A13. Manager Reporting: Capital

Mr D. Long, Mr J. Penn and Mr M. Seaward joined the meeting to present the Capital absolute returns and corporate bonds funds.

Mr Penn presented the absolute fund returns for quarter one of 2023. He advised that the portfolio had a good quarter, rising 2.4% and ahead of benchmark, even with the rising Bank of England base rate. During the quarter the fund’s allocation to European and UK equity drove positive returns, while the fund also benefitted from significant positive returns from fixed income as well as US equities.

Mr Penn advised that the corporate bonds fund outperformed its benchmark and has outperformed since inception. The key driver of the fund’s outperformance has been its shorter duration relative to benchmark, as interest rates increased significantly over the previous 12 months. He advised that although the fund has outperformed, due to high UK inflation bonds, have not performed particularly well.

Mr Penn provided a market background to demonstrate the current volatility that has been experienced and finished with Capital’s outlook for the next few quarters.

Resolved, “That particulars of the presentation be noted on the minutes.”

The Committee rose at 1.05pm.

VI(v) – The proceedings of the EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE as follows:

EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE

EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 19th April, 2023.

Members Present: Councillor Miss N.A. Byron (Douglas) (Chair), Mr T. Kenyon (Garff), Ms F. Logan (Onchan), Mr N. Mellon (Braddan).

Apologies: Mrs A. Davidson (Santon), Mrs L. Radcliffe (Secretary).

In Attendance: Mrs D. Eynon (Douglas), Mr I. Jackson (Douglas), Mr P. Pierce (Douglas), Mr M. Quayle (Douglas), Mr R. Philips (Onchan), Mr J.C. Whiteway (Braddan), Mrs D Atkinson (Douglas, taking notes), Mr J. Quayle (Department of Infrastructure Representative).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters dealt with under delegated authority

A1. Minutes – 14th February, 2023

Approved unanimously.

A2. Planned Move to the New Eastern Civic Amenity Site

The Committee considered a report submitted by Mr I. Jackson to approve an opening date for the new Site and the closure of the current Site three days prior to the move.

Dandara had indicated that the new Site will be ready to handover around Friday, 26th May, 2023. As TT fortnight commences on Monday, 29th May, finishing Saturday, 10th June, the report proposed arranging the move after this period. The proposed date to open the new Site was Thursday, 29th June and to close the current Site at close of business on Sunday, 25th June to enable the move of essential items. Closing mid-week on quieter days will limit the disruption to users.

Mr I. Jackson advised that a discussion has taken place with the Council's Media Partner, and it has been suggested that an initial publication notifying of the closure and new Site opening be released before TT week, and immediately after TT week, a campaign including radio and newspaper can be arranged. The Committee agreed to this suggestion subject to the cost and funding which was to be confirmed.

Members also had in front of them the proposed highways signage directing to the Site. The Committee asked that consideration be given to changing the positioning of one sign. It was also resolved that the views of Highways be sought in relation to the current speed limit of the roads leading to the Energy from Waste facility, and the give way sign on exit of the road where the new CA site is located, and whether this should be a 'stop' sign. The Chair advised that representation on the matter had been received by a business in the area.

There was a discussion surrounding an official opening of the Site. It was suggested that a handover ceremony would be more suitable. Braddan also advised of a potential visit and agreed to share the details as and when available.

It was agreed:

1. That the opening of the new Eastern District Civic Amenity Site be Thursday, 29th June, 2023;
2. That the current Eastern District Civic Amenity Site close at close of business on Sunday, 25th June, 2023 (three days prior to the opening of the new Site);
3. That a completion/handover ceremony be organised with the Committee;
4. That a press statement advising of the new Site opening and the temporary closure of the facilities be released ahead of TT week;
5. That the cost and funding for a promotional campaign be explored and reported back to the relevant authorities for consideration, as applicable.

A3. Contractor Specification

Mr R. Phillips presented the draft specification for the operational contractor of the new Site. The Committee considered the specification in detail, and provided information and suggested amendments.

Mr Phillips agreed to update the specification accordingly. It was noted the next step was to tender for the contract. It is intended that the tender returns would be received in August/September to allow a six month period ahead of commencing the new contract.

A4. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday, 18th July, 2023.

The meeting ended at 4.45pm.

VI(vii) – The proceedings of the REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE as follows:

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 22nd May, 2023.

Members Present: Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley (Chair), the Mayor (until 10.40am), Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Mr Councillor F. Schuengel.

In Attendance: Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters delegated to the Committee

A1. Apologies

The Director of Environment and Regeneration submitted her apologies for the meeting.

A2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. Election of Vice-Chair

The Committee considered the election of a Vice-Chair for the Committee to act in the absence of the Chair for the municipal years 2023 to 2025.

Resolved unanimously, “That Mr Councillor F. Schuengel be elected Vice-Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee for the municipal years 2023 to 2025.”

A4. Minutes – 14th March, 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14th March, 2023 were approved and signed.

A5. Media Partner for 2023 Public Events

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Democratic Services Officer to consider the appointment of a media partner for the promotion of the 2023 public events.

The report reminded that the Council has historically appointed a media partner to enhance the promotion of public events. An advert had been circulated to local radio stations inviting proposals to promote the Beach Event, the Noble’s Park Fun Day and the Fireworks Display. Two submissions were received with a similar media offering which included radio advertising, social media posts, website presence and corporate attendance at the event.

The report advised that officers annually review the requirement for radio advertising. This year, the Noble’s Park Fun Day does not have a sponsor, and the Democratic Services Officer suggested it was an opportunity to trial the promotion of the event without a media partner. This will assist with the budget impact due to the loss of sponsorship income, and gauge the necessity of such media arrangements for future years.

The report explained that as the Beach Event is a new event, a media partner is recommended. The Fireworks Display has a long-term sponsor and as part of the sponsorship package, radio advertising is offered.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and;

- (i) Manx Radio be appointed media partner for the 2023 Beach Festival and Fireworks Display;
- (ii) A media partner not be appointed for the Noble’s Park Fun Day.”

A6. Henry Bloom Noble Library Service Plan Monitoring – Quarter Four 2022/23

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Borough Librarian to update on the performance against measures outlined in the Library Service Plan.

Appended to the report were the actions as outlined in the Library’s Service Plan, together with an update on performance as at the end of quarter four 2023/24. A red, amber, green or black status had

been applied to each measure. All measures were either on target or not applicable to this quarter. Members were also provided with the user statistics during the quarter.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and the progress made against performance indicators in the Library Service Plan be noted on the minutes."

A7. Quarter Four Service Plan Performance Monitoring – 2022/23

Members considered a report submitted by the Director of Environment and Regeneration to update on the performance made against measures outlined in the Environment and Regeneration Department Service Plans as relevant to the Regeneration and Community Committee.

Appended to the report were the measures as outlined for the Parks Service, and Douglas City Centre Management. A red, amber, green and black status had been applied to each measure.

City Centre Management had completed seven actions, and one measure had not been achieved.

It was noted that within Parks Services, several projects had been deferred due to the economic climate. Four actions had been completed. Several actions are behind schedule due to staff resource and management capacity issues within the service or caused by outside agencies.

The Committee, in light of the sad passing of Mr David Hewes, Head of Parks, requested that their recognition to him for his outstanding service to Douglas, be noted on the minutes.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and the progress made against performance indicators in the Environment and Regeneration Department Service Plans as relevant to the Regeneration and Community Committee be noted on the minutes."

A8. Alternatives to Douglas in Bloom

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration), in response to a resolution in December 2022 on suggested alternatives to the Douglas in Bloom competition.

The Committee had asked that alternative initiatives, inclusive to schools and community groups that support planting ecology and wildlife more in tune with the Council's Biosphere Partner status, be recommended.

The report recommended launching an annual competition called the 'Douglas Community Biosphere Challenge' for schools, community groups, charities or organisations of a similar nature to bid for support in delivering projects under four categories – community pollinators, community sequestrators, community bio-diversifiers and community beautifiers. As part of the competition, groups would be invited to bid each year for the Parks Services to help them deliver the project in one or more of the four categories. The winner of the category would be given a grant or materials, the loan of tools and expert supervision of the Parks staff to help deliver the project.

The Committee, whilst in agreement with the proposal and categories in principle, agreed to defer the item to allow conversations to take place with appropriate third parties such as the Manx Wildlife Trust and UNESCO biosphere Isle of Man, to gauge their views on the format.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the matter be deferred whilst officers open discussions regarding the proposal with relevant organisations."

A9. Items for Future Report

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Democratic Services Officer regarding reports for future consideration by the Committee.

The Committee requested that a joint meeting of the Environmental Services and Regeneration and Community Committees be arranged to reconsider the Police parking at Noble's Park.

Resolved, "That particulars of the matters for future consideration and discussions be noted on the minutes and a joint meeting of the Environmental Services and Regeneration and Community Committees to reconsider Police parking in Noble's Park be arranged."

A10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next scheduled meeting was due to take place on Tuesday, 20th June, 2023.

Resolved, "That the date and time of the next meeting be noted on the minutes."

PART B & C –

Matters requiring Executive Committee and Council approval

B/C11. North Quay Pedestrianisation

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) to update the Committee on progress in relation to the summer pedestrianisation of North Quay and seek approval of the longer term approach to the initiative.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) advised that following the Committee’s resolution at the February meeting, a meeting had taken place with the Department of Infrastructure (DoI) regarding a suitable mechanism for physically closing North Quay. During the meeting, the DoI officers suggested an alternative approach which had been trialled with success in Castletown. The approach involves the making of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which applies 24 hours, seven days per week, during the summer months whereby vehicular traffic is prohibited from using the roads when the prohibition sign is displayed.

The advice from the DoI was that the Council seek an order identical to that applied in Castletown, whereby the order applies from April until October, but would only take effect when the signs indicating the prohibition of traffic are being displayed. This will allow the Council to determine the days and hours it felt appropriate to close the road to vehicular traffic. In physical terms, this could be implemented using a removable socketed bollard at each closure point displaying the appropriate traffic sign that could be inserted and removed by the Wardens in order to close or open the road, rather than the need for a full gate.

The current road closure notice covers the period from 5.00pm on Thursday, 6th April, 2023 until 8.00am on Tuesday, 11th April 2023, and between Friday 14th April 2023 to Monday, 2nd October, 2023 between each weekend 11am on Friday to 8.00am on Monday, and all public holidays.

The report recommended adopting an operational policy that will ensure the TRO is implemented in accordance with the current approach, however if the weather forecast for the whole weekend is predicted to be sufficiently inclement, and it is unlikely that patrons for hospitality will sit outside, the closure would not be implemented.

The policy sets out that if there is a will or need to prohibit traffic at times outside of the periods stated (for example TT week), approval will be sought through the Regeneration and Community Committee by way of report to the Committee. As part of the report, prior consultation with the businesses that are affected would take place.

The Committee had a lengthy debate regarding the proposal, and it was accepted that there is not a solution to the initiative that suits all, and Members had different views on the implementation of the order. It was noted that both the opticians located in the area, and St Matthews’ Church, continue to raise concerns particularly about accessibility to their buildings and disabled parking. A letter from the opticians setting out their concerns was appended to the report. The report advised that to mitigate the issues surrounding the disabled parking, the current road closure notice included a suspension of resident parking for five spaces on the east side of Ridgeway Street from James Street to North Quay. This means that residents will be required to abide by the 30 minutes maximum stay between 8.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Saturday in those spaces, with an aim to ensure the spaces are turned over regularly for public use such as dropping off at the church and opticians.

With regards to the loss of disabled spaces for the church congregation on Sunday mornings, during the current road closure an exemption has been provided for the church to allow up to three vehicles displaying valid blue badges to park in the disabled spaces in North Quay between 8.30am and 12.30pm on Sundays. North Quay is unlikely to be busy with pedestrians at this time. The report advised that longer term the DoI propose moving one or more of the disabled spaces from North Quay to Ridgeway Street, and plan to create more disabled spaces adjacent to Barbary Coast.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and;

- (i) A permanent Traffic Regulation Order for the section of North Quay between the junctions with Ridgeway Street and Market Hill that prohibits vehicular traffic annually between 1st April and 30th September whenever the prohibition signs are displayed be sought;
- (ii) That the implementation of the prohibition in accordance with the operational policy set out in the report by installation of socketed removable bollards displaying signs at the North Quay junctions with Ridgeway Street, Market Hill and the lane between the Market Hall and the British Hotel to be funded as previously agreed from the General Revenue Reserve using the remaining residual funds from the closure of Douglas Development Partnership be referred to Executive Committee and Council for adoption;
- (iii) A permanent Traffic Regulation Order be sought for the installation of at least two disabled parking spaces at the junction of Ridgeway Street and North Quay and for the removal of the

exemption from disc zone requirement for A zone resident permit holders from the remaining parking spaces on Ridgeway Street between James Street and North Quay from 1st April until 30th September each year.”

For: 2 Against: 1 Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked that his name be recorded as voting against the resolutions.

The meeting ended at 11.25am.

VI(viii) – The proceedings of the ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 15th May, 2023.

Members Present: Mr Councillor F. Horning (Chair), the Mayor, Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, Mr Councillor P.J. Washington.

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) (Mr I. Jackson), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Finance Manager (Mr M. Quayle), Community and Enforcement Manager (Mr A. Gordon) (Items A1 to A5 and A7), Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Miss C. Cullen).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters delegated to the Committee

A1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence. Members noted the one casual vacancy on the Committee which would be filled by the Executive Committee at the next monthly meeting.

A2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

A3. Appointment of Vice-Chair 2023 - 2025

The Committee considered the election of a Vice-Chair for the Committee to act in the absence of the Chair for the municipal term 2023 to 2025.

Resolved unanimously, “That Councillor Ms J. Thommeny be elected Committee Vice-Chair for the municipal term 2023 to 2025.”

A4. Minutes –13th March, 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 13th March, 2023 were approved and signed.

A5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item A4 – Planning Application 22/0113/B – Gloccamorra, Douglas Head; Following debate at the April 2023 Council meeting, the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) clarified the Council’s approach for neither supporting nor objecting to planning applications. Members concurred with this approach, noting that there are some instances where it would only be appropriate for the Council to neither support nor object to the application and asked that, for future applications, it be clearly recorded in the minutes the Committee’s rationale for neither supporting nor objecting.

A6. Quarter Four Service Plan Performance Monitoring 2022/23

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Environment and Regeneration to update on the performance made against measures as outlined in the Environment and Regeneration Service Plans as relevant to the Environmental Services Committee.

Appended to the officer’s report were the measures as outlined in each Service Plan together with an update on the performance as at the end of quarter four 2022/23. A red, amber, green and black status had been applied to each measure.

Members noted that for quarter four:

- One measure in Building Control was not met in quarter four or for the year due to a temporary reduction in resources. All other measures were achieved;
- In Electrical Services, three measures (structural testing of columns, electrical compliance testing and painting of columns) were not met due to resourcing issues. All other measures were met;
- In Fleet Services, targets around publicising low carbon vehicle alternatives and ordering low carbon vehicle alternatives are behind due to inaction by others, and timing of both ordering vehicles and long lead times. Some targets are behind due to the delay in bringing the Fleet Management System on line. All other targets were met;

- In Community & Enforcement, nine measures were either not met or slightly behind schedule due to resourcing issues within the team and within other teams upon whom information was awaited. The remaining eleven measures and all Key Performance Indicators were met; and
- In Waste Services, six measures were not met due to the office team concentrating on the change in service and due to vacancies. All other measures were met. Operational sickness was particularly high in quarter four.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and that the progress made against performance indicators in Service Plans for Quarter four 2022/23 be noted.”

A7. Schedule of Dilapidated, Ruinous or Dangerous Properties

The Committee considered a schedule of properties in a state of dilapidation or disrepair. Members noted that four properties had been added to the schedule since the last meeting; three properties had been removed because work had been completed; and a total of sixty properties remained on the list.

Resolved, “That the schedule of dilapidated properties be noted and approved and that the Director of Environment and Regeneration be authorised to progress improvements to the properties, by service of Notice and legal action where necessary.”

A8. Items for Future Report

The Committee noted a report submitted by the Assistant Democratic Services Officer with an appendix setting out a number of reports that would be brought forward for consideration by the Committee in due course.

Members discussed the Council’s current recycling facility at Ballacottier Service Centre and requested that a report be forthcoming to the Committee to consider alternative options for the site.

Due to the appointment of new Members on the Committee for the Municipal term 2023 – 2025, the Director of Environment and Regeneration offered a tour of the Council’s sites for Members of the Committee. The Director also offered a presentation from the Building Control Manger and a site visit to the new Celtic House on Victoria Road. It was agreed that all Members of Council be offered the opportunity for the Building Control presentation and site visit.

In response to question raised by the Director of Environment and Regeneration, Members agreed to attend a special joint meeting of the Environmental Services and Regeneration and Community Committees to reconsider police parking in Noble’s park.

Resolved, “That particulars of the matters for future consideration be noted on the minutes.”

A9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Members were reminded that the next scheduled meeting of the Environmental Services Committee was due to take place at 10.00am on Monday, 19th June, 2023.

The meeting ended at 11.10am.

X – MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, of which Notice has been given as follows:

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Election of a Member to be the Council's representative on the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee for the Municipal Years 2023-2025.

The vacancy has arisen through the resignation from the position of Mr Councillor F. Horning.