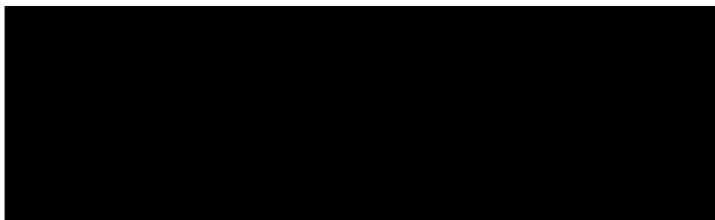


**Coonceil Valley Corpagh Doolish**

**Kathleen Rice BA (Hons), Solicitor  
Chief Executive**



KR/■

21<sup>st</sup> April 2016

Dear ■

**Re: Application for City Status for Douglas, Isle of Man**

I am writing on behalf of Douglas Borough Council on the Isle of Man to respectfully make application for you to recommend to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Lord of Mann, on the occasion of the celebrations of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, that Douglas, the capital of the Isle of Man, should be awarded city status.

Douglas is the capital and the largest town of the Isle of Man, with a population of nearly 30,000, which is just over a third of the Island's total population. It is located at the mouth of the Rivers Dhoo and Glass (Douglas), and on a sweeping bay of two miles wide. The River Douglas forms part of the Town's harbour and Douglas is the main commercial port of the Island. Douglas was not always the main town on the Island, but rapid growth in the Town occurred as a result of links with the United Kingdom port of Liverpool in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Further population growth in the following century resulted in the transfer of the High Courts, the Lieutenant Governor's residence (the monarch's representative on the Island), and the seat of the legislature and Manx Parliament, Tynwald, to Douglas, from the ancient capital Castletown.

Tynwald, at more than one-thousand years old, is the oldest continuous parliament in the world. It is also the only tri-cameral (three chambered) parliamentary system in the British Commonwealth, with the Tynwald, House of Keys, and Legislative Council Chambers all located in the Legislative Building in Douglas. The Isle of Man Government, headed by the Chief Minister, is also headquartered in Douglas, in Government Office.

Continued/.....

The Town serves as the Island's main centre for business, the financial services industry, legal services, shipping, transport, shopping, leisure, and entertainment. Douglas is also the start and finish point for the Isle of Man T.T. (Tourist Trophy), which is the biggest classic road-racing event in the world. The race has been a part of the FIM Motorcycle Grand Prix World Championship but is not a part of the series, due to the track being situated on public roads.

In 2011, Douglas hosted the Commonwealth Youth Games. Douglas is acknowledged as the centre of the Island's diverse economy, not just financial services but also e-gaming, world class aircraft and shipping registries, and a flourishing space industry.

Douglas is also the centre of higher education on the Island, with the Isle of Man College (affiliated to the University of Chester), and the Isle of Man International Business School. The College dates back to 1880, with the opening of the Douglas School of Arts, where Archibald Knox, the famous art nouveau artist and designer, was one of the first pupils.

In 1860, following the passing of the Douglas Town Act, Douglas Town Commissioners were elected and became responsible for the development of Douglas in one of the most important periods in its history, recognised in 1869 when the status of Capital was conferred. In 1896, the Municipal Borough of Douglas came into being by Act of Tynwald, becoming the forerunner to the present Douglas Borough Council, and having celebrated its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary earlier this year.

As the largest local authority on the Island, and the only Borough Council, Douglas Borough Council has a long history and an excellent record of good, forward-thinking local government, and it continues to evolve and move forward to match the highest standards of customer service, accountability, and good governance, including following good practice and modernisation in the United Kingdom voluntarily, even if not required to do so by Manx Statute (for example, like putting in place and Executive, a Constitution, and a Standards Committee). From the early pioneering achievements by the first Commissioners and Councillors who left their mark on the Capital and shaped its future, in such ways as the Douglas Water Company to collect water and distribute through pipes clean water to all households, and expunge diseases such as cholera; the provision of public transport; electricity; and libraries, to the present day, where the Council has one of the highest standards of social housing, and has led in the Island on recycling and the most effective methods of waste managements. The long-term Leader of the Council, Mr Councillor D W Christian, MBE, JP, was awarded the MBE for services to local government in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2013.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), of which the Queen is Patron, was founded in Douglas by Sir William Hillary, a resident of the Town, having watched a number of ships and their sailors lose their lives in the seas off Douglas Bay.

The first lifeboat was built and stationed in Douglas after the foundation of the charity, which was originally titled the "National Institution for the Preservation of Life From Shipwreck" in 1824, when Royal Patronage was received from His Majesty King George IV, before it became the Royal National Lifeboat Institution under the patronage of Queen Victoria in 1854. Douglas still retains a present-day lifeboat.

There are three memorials to Sir William Hillary in Douglas, as well as his legacy of the lifeboat, and in addition the Tower of Refuge, which is a small structure erected on a partially submerged reef in the bay, built by Sir William to offer shelter to shipwreck victims until help could arrive.

During World War I and World War II, the Isle of Man, because of its location, became home to internment camps for enemy aliens, with Douglas having seven out of the ten camps in World War II. Sections of Douglas Promenade were cordoned off and many guest houses were used for the purpose. The war dead of the Island are commemorated on the Douglas War Memorial on the Promenade, which is looked after and maintained for the Island by Douglas Borough Council.

The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, which has its headquarters in, and operates out of Douglas Port, is the oldest continuously operating passenger shipping company in the world, and celebrated its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. The Company provides freight, passenger, and vehicles services between the Isle of Man Sea Terminal in Douglas and five ports in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Vessels and crews of the Company were actively involved in both the First and Second World Wars. During the First World War, eleven out of the fleet of fifteen Steam Packet ships were requisitioned by the Admiralty. Four of them were lost. In the Second World War, ten out of the fleet of sixteen ships were commandeered for active duty, four of which were lost.

The Dunkirk evacuation was probably the Company's finest hour, with Mona's Isle (IV) being the first to leave Dover and the first to complete the round trip during the evacuation. Eight Company ships took part in this mission, rescuing a total of 24,699 British troops – one in fourteen of those evacuated from Dunkirk. Sadly, however, three of the Company's ships were lost, all on the same day, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1940.

For many centuries, the Stanley family (the Earls of Derby) were feudal Kings or Lords of Mann, but in 1765 the Island was purchased by the British Crown.

The Queen is therefore Lord Proprietor of the Island, and formally referred to on the Island as The Queen, Lord of Mann. Her Majesty is officially represented on the Island by the Lieutenant Governor, which, although now largely ceremonial, does retain some important constitutional duties.

The Lieutenant Governor is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the United Kingdom Home Secretary, and with the concurrence of the Government of the Isle of Man.

The Lieutenant Governor's formal residence is on the border of Douglas and the next much smaller area, Onchan, and his main constitutional and government functions are carried out in Tynwald, which is also in Douglas.

In respect of parliamentary matters, the Lieutenant Governor may dissolve the House of Keys and may, since 1981, grant Royal Assent on behalf of the Queen to designated Bills passed by Tynwald.

William Leveson-Gower, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl Granville, who was Lieutenant Governor of the Island from 1937 to 1945, was married to Lady Rose Bowes-Lyon, the elder sister of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Douglas during that time (1945 – at the end of the war) and were accompanied by Admiral and Lady Granville. This three-day visit was the first official visit that the King and Queen had made outside the British Isles since the end of the war, and they stayed at Government House. During that visit, King George VI became the first British Monarch to preside over Tynwald.

On the Queen Mother's second visit in 1973, Her Majesty became the first woman to preside over Tynwald. The Queen Mother made a further and final visit in 1984 when she opened the Commonwealth Conference in the Royal Hall at the Villa Marina in Douglas.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has visited Douglas on many occasions. In 1955, the Royal Yacht Britannia sailed into Douglas with the Queen on board, with the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, and Princess Anne.

Her Majesty also visited in 1972, when one of the Douglas Bay Horse Trams was named the "Royal Car" after carrying The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh along Douglas Promenade.

Further visits took place in 1979, to celebrate the millennium of Tynwald; in 1984 and 1989. Prince Charles visited Douglas in 1996, to mark the centenary of the Borough of Douglas, and was received by the Worshipful the Mayor of Douglas at the Town Hall.

The principal international sporting event held on the Island is the annual TT motorcycling event, which starts and finishes in Douglas, and brings approximately 36,00 to 40,000 visitors to the Island each year.

The Isle of Man hosted the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2011 at the National Sports Centre in Douglas, a large multi-sports centre and athletics stadium, with the closing ceremony held on the Promenade and the Villa Marina in Douglas.

The Isle of Man also started the Island Games in 1985, as part of the Isle of Man International Year of Sport, the main venue of which was the national Sports Centre in Douglas, and the games were officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. They took place in Douglas again in 2001, when the Island became host for the second time.

Douglas has a number of landmarks and items of interest and heritage:-

- The Tower of Refuge is a small castle-like shelter built upon Conister Rock in Douglas Bay as a sanctuary for shipwrecked sailors. Construction was instigated by Sir William Hillary, founder of the RNLi and resident of Douglas;
- Douglas Head is home to the Grand Union Camera Obscura, which has undergone restoration and is open to the public during the summer months. Other artefacts and remnants of Victorian tourism can still be found on walks around the area;
- The horse-drawn trams that run along the Promenade from the Sea Terminal to the Manx Electric Railway station from spring to early autumn. The Douglas Bay Horse Tramway is the oldest remaining horse-drawn tram service in the world, and will celebrate its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year;
- The Grandstand on Glencrutchery Road marks the start and finish of the annual TT Races, and various other motorsports;

- The Gaiety Theatre and the Villa Marina are the main venues on the Island for all manner of stage acts – from rock music to comedy to drama to ballet. The Gaiety Theatre is one of the best surviving examples of the work of Frank Matcham and dates from 1900. Both venues have recently undergone extensive renovations;
- The award-winning Manx Museum in Kingswood Grove is a treasure house which contains many of the most important cultural artefacts relating to the Manx nation. Some of the highlights include the Calf of Man Crucifixion Stone, the Pagan Lady's necklace from the Viking excavations at Peel Castle, and the largest collection of Archibald Knox (who became the primary designer at Liberty's in London at the height of their success) materials. It also houses the National Art Collection, and the National Archives; it receives many internationally important visiting exhibitions, including recently "The Lewis Chessmen" from Scotland, as well as loaning to other museums some of its own major artefacts, such as the Viking Voyagers Exhibition held in 2015 at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. Other lending partners included the British Museum, National Museum of Ireland and the National Museum of Denmark;
- The Jubilee Clock is a street clock built in 1887 in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign. It is located at the foot of Victoria Street and Loch Promenade. The location also marks one terminus of the Upper Douglas Cable Tramway;
- Other buildings of interest include Isola Restaurant, in John Street, and the Douglas Hotel, on the North Quay, both merchants' houses from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century; The Castle Mona, a magnificent seaside mansion built by John Murray, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Atholl in 1804, currently awaiting refurbishment; and the Loch Promenade, a magnificent curving terrace of former boarding houses dating from the 1870's. Douglas is becoming increasingly renowned as it saw the first architectural essays of the Arts and Crafts architect, Baillie Scott;
- The breakwater extension, which was completed in 1983, was opened by Princess Alexandra, and built outside the existing smaller one, which carried a rail-mounted crane; and
- The famous Marine Gardens on Loch Promenade were created as a result of the widening of the Promenade at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

/7.

I therefore respectfully submit, on behalf of the Council, that Douglas should be recommended for the conferment of city status for the following reasons:

- It is a town of the first rank in population, size, and importance, having a distinctive character and identity of its own, whilst being the centre of a wider area;
- It is the largest local authority on the Island, with a long history and record of good local government, and the highest standard of governance;
- It is the most ethnically diverse and most populated town on the Island; with communities from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, as well as English, Scottish, and Irish amongst the Manx residents;
- It is the main port of the Island, and has a long history of maritime connections, including being the birthplace of the RNLI, and the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company;
- It has a long association with the Crown, and is the seat of the Lieutenant Governor, the Monarch's representative on the Island;
- It is the legislative centre, and the home of the Island's Parliament (Tynwald);
- It is the centre of most of the Island's industries, as well as being the centre of education, leisure, entertainment, and sport; and
- It is the cultural and heritage centre of the Island, housing the National Museum and art gallery, as well as hosting the many international cultural events.

I hope the above information will assist you in considering this application, but if there is anything further that I can assist with, I would be happy to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

ack - Thursday 2nd June 2016.

CHIEF EXEC'S DEPT

02 JUN 2016 CEO



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Ms Kathleen Rice  
Douglas Borough Council  
PO Box No 2, Town Hall  
Ridgeway Street  
Douglas  
Isle of Man IM99 1AD

27 May 2016

Dear Ms Rice,

Re: City status for Douglas

Thank you for your letter dated 21st April 2016 to the [redacted] and [redacted] regarding city status for Douglas. Your enquiry has been passed to the Constitutional Policy Team in Cabinet Office.

City status is granted by Her Majesty The Queen under the Royal prerogative and conferred by letters patent. It does not confer any additional powers or functions. Competitions for city status and other civic honours are held at Her Majesty's pleasure, usually to mark important Royal anniversaries. The most recent civic honours competition took place during the Diamond Jubilee year when Chelmsford, Perth and St Asaph were granted city status and Armagh was granted Lord Mayoralty.

At present, there are no plans for a new civic honours competition but Cabinet Office officials will be happy to let you know when the next competition is due so that Douglas has the opportunity to be considered.

Yours sincerely

[redacted signature block]





**BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS**  
**Briefing Note**  
**Ref: 16/07-02**  
**Executive Committee**

<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	Chief Executive
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Status Application for Douglas
<b>REASON FOR BRIEFING NOTE</b>	To inform Members of the response by the Cabinet Office (UK) to the application.
<b>BRIEFING NOTE</b>	<p>1. Application was made to the Cabinet Office in London, to seek a recommendation to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Lord of Mann, on the occasion of the celebrations of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, that Douglas, the capital of the Isle of Man, should be awarded city status.</p> <p>2. City status is a rare honour, granted by the monarch on the advice of the UK Government by letters patent, normally on special royal occasions, at which time the UK Government will invite towns, through their local councils, to apply for city status in a competition.</p> <p>No such invitation had been extended for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, but as a Member of the Executive Committee had raised the issue, an application was submitted in the hope of obtaining some indication or guidance as to when the next competition was being considered.</p> <p>3. The response from the Constitutional Policy Team of the UK Cabinet Office, on behalf of the [REDACTED]</p>

and ██████████ was that competitions for city status and other civic honours are held at Her Majesty's pleasure, usually to mark important Royal Anniversaries. The most recent of which took place during the Diamond Jubilee Year.


They also stated that there are no plans for a new civic honours competition, but that Cabinet Office officials will let the Council know when the next competition is due, so that Douglas has the opportunity to be considered.

It should be appreciated that city status is rarely granted and difficult to achieve, and the competitions do not happen very often. In the last competition for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, twenty-six towns competed, with three being successful. This was unusual, as only one title was expected to be awarded, but the Government said at the time that the awards to towns in England, Scotland and Wales were made in recognition of the Jubilee Year.

5. It is obviously dependent on the size and the financial standing of each Council, but a bid for city status can take a great deal of time and resources, and be quite costly to the Council. This is often balanced with community and private sector involvement, because of the way that being involved in the competition can bring everyone in the Town together, and the enormous benefits for the Town that it can deliver, and create a lasting legacy.

6. There is no specific criteria with regard to application / granting of city status, although the history of towns that have been granted city status since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century does highlight some of the criteria that should be addressed. The research that was

	undertaken in respect of this is now with the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) for future reference, as this would be the most appropriate Department to take forward any future application.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	None.

<b>AUTHOR OF BRIEFING NOTE</b>	Chief Executive
<b>RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Chief Executive
<b>APPROVED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2016

<b>Circulation List</b>	The Worshipful the Mayor, Members of the Executive Committee, Chief Officers' Management Team, Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration), Democratic Services Officers
<b>Date of Circulation</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2016



# Douglas Borough Council

## Committee Report

<b>REPORT TO</b>	
Executive Committee	
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	
<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	
Chief Executive	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	
Application for City Status for Douglas	
<b>1</b>	<b>REASON FOR REPORT</b>
	To inform Members of an application for City Status.
<b>2</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
	That Members approve the Council making an application in the forthcoming Civic Honours Competition for city status.
<b>3</b>	<b>FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED</b>
	Council approval is also sought to support the application.
<b>4</b>	<b>SUPPORTING RATIONALE</b>
	<p>4.1 A Civic Honours Competition is taking place across the UK to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, to grant the prestigious and rare civic honour of city status to a select number of worthy towns in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>4.2 The city status competition is also open to applications from the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories for the first time.</p> <p>4.3 This will be the first time in ten years that a Civic Honours Competition has taken place. The competition provides local authorities with the chance to showcase their civic pride, interesting heritage, and record of innovation, putting their towns on the map and bringing greater prosperity of opportunity.</p> <p>4.4 Applications may only be made by a local authority, and entries must be submitted in a standard size and format by the closing date of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The standard format is intended to help local authorities minimise the expense of entering the</p>

competition, and to provide the UK Government with a fair basis for comparison and assessment of the entries received.

4.5 In their application, local authorities are being asked to give particular reference to their area's:-

- Distinct identity;
- Civic pride;
- Cultural infrastructure, interesting heritage, history and traditions;
- Vibrant and welcoming community;
- Record of innovation;
- Sound governance and administration;
- Associations with Royalty;
- Other particularly distinctive features, age, residents, or communities who have made widely-recognised significant contributions to society and cultural infrastructure.
- Profile of the area, including economic activity; public green spaces; sport and leisure facilities; shopping centres; and local authority support for the voluntary sector.

4.6 Contrary to popular perception, a large population is not a pre-requisite for city status, and neither is the presence of a cathedral.

4.7 Many new cities have seen benefits, and studies suggest that a successful bid could bring further investment and employment opportunities, as well as boosting tourism. Douglas has much to be proud of as a town, and this is a perfect opportunity to showcase it.

4.8 The Council made a previous application in 2016, to coincide with The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, as the competitions are usually held to mark important Royal occasions. The response from the Cabinet Office (UK) on behalf of the [REDACTED] was that there were no plans for a city status / civic honours competition at that time, but this recording of the Council's interest may be the reason for the inclusion now of Crown Dependencies.

4.9 It should be appreciated that city status is rarely granted and difficult to achieve, and the competitions do not happen very often. In the last competition, for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, twenty-six towns competed, with three being successful. This was unusual, as only one title was expected to be awarded, but the UK Government said at the time that the awards to towns in England, Scotland, and Wales at the same time, were made in recognition of the Jubilee Year.

4.10 Currently, there are sixty-nine cities in the UK – fifty-one in England, six in Wales, seven in Scotland, and five in Northern Ireland. There are currently none in the Crown Dependencies – officers believe that the Borough is uniquely placed to put in a bid.

<b>5</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT RECOMMENDED</b>
	To not put in an application, which would be a missed opportunity as the competitions are only held very rarely.
<b>6</b>	<b>IF PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL, DATE AND DECISION</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>7</b>	<b>CAPITAL COST AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	None.
<b>8</b>	<b>CHANGES TO REVENUE ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>9</b>	<b>STAFFING/HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS</b>
	The work is being done within existing resources.
<b>10</b>	<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>11</b>	<b>EQUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>12</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE PLAN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desirable place to live, work, and visit – focus on quality of life and promoting civic pride.</li> <li>• Positioning of Douglas to succeed in the global economy.</li> <li>• Sense of community.</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	<b>BUSINESS RISK IMPLICATIONS</b>
	To not put in an application on this occasion, when the Council has already registered an interest five years ago, could be seen negatively for any future applications.
<b>14</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>15</b>	<b>IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (of the Borough or Island)</b>
	Raising the profile of Douglas could have benefits even if this application is not successful.
<b>16</b>	<b>CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES</b>
	Officers from all Departments are giving input to the application.

<b>17</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
	None.
<b>18</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
	None.

REPORTING OFFICER	<b>Chief Executive</b>
RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER	<b>Chief Executive</b>
DATE	<b>19<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>

C15. **Application for City Status for Douglas**

The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive in relation to an application for City Status for Douglas.

Members were advised that a Civic Honours Competition was currently taking place across the United Kingdom (to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022) to grant the prestigious and rare civic honour of city status to a select number of worthy towns in the UK.

For the first time, the competition was also open to applications from the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. Applications, which could only be made by a local authority, were due to close on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

City status was rarely granted and the competitions did not happen very often, usually being held to mark important Royal occasions – the previous competition was held in 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee. The Council had made a previous application in 2016 (to coincide with The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations) however, the response from the Cabinet Office (UK) on behalf of the [REDACTED], was that there were no plans for a city status / civic honours competition at that time.

Many new cities had seen benefits, with studies suggesting that a successful bid could bring further investment and employment opportunities; as well as boosting tourism. Douglas had much to be proud of as a town, and this was a perfect opportunity to showcase it. As there were currently no cities in the Crown Dependencies, officers believed that the Borough was uniquely placed to put in a bid.

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

(ii) That it be recommended to Council that approval be given for the Council to make application in the forthcoming Civic Honours Competition for city status."



**10. Executive Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 – Clause C15**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C15 of report of meeting held on Friday, 26th November, 2021, be received, approved, and adopted by the Council."

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.



# Douglas Borough Council

## Committee Report

<b>REPORT TO</b>	
Executive Committee	
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	
26 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	
<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	
Director of Finance	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	
Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition – Douglas awarded City Status	
<b>1</b>	<b>REASON FOR REPORT</b>
	To formally advise Committee of the award of City Status and facilitate an early discussion of next steps for the Council ahead of officers bringing back a report to Committee in due course.
<b>2</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
	That Committee:  2.1 notes the conferment of the award of City Status to Douglas as part of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Honours Celebrations;  2.2 provides some initial direction of how it wishes to respond to the award;  2.3 requests that officers bring back a report to a future meeting of this Committee outlining next steps for the Council to take.
<b>3</b>	<b>FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED</b>
	A further report from officers back to this Committee is required with options for Members to consider.
<b>4</b>	<b>SUPPORTING RATIONALE</b>
	4.1 Following the submission of its application in December 2021 to be awarded City Status as part of the Queen’s Jubilee Civic Honours Competition, the Council was notified on Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 by Lord True CBE, Minister of State at the UK Cabinet Office, that its application had been successful (see letter attached at Appendix 1). There is now a process involving Government House for the preparation of the Letters Patent, which will confer the award formally to the Council. The Council is yet to be advised of the timings and details of this process.

- 4.2 A press release was promptly prepared on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 by the Council's Media Partners and the announcement in the media (both local and national UK) at midnight on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 has generated a high level of excellent publicity for the Island's capital, as well as both positive and (as anticipated) some typically negative responses in social media. At the time of writing, formal congratulations have come in from Government House (including, personally from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor), the Naval Regional Commander of the Royal Navy for the North of England and the Isle of Man, Cathedral Isle of Man, and Mr Simon Crowcroft, Connétable de St Hélier.
- 4.3 The Council's commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee has of course already begun. Back in February earlier this year, the Council already chose to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the planting of the 70 Queen's Green Canopy trees adjacent to the new cycleway at Pulrose.
- 4.4 Following a three year break, the Douglas Carnival is planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022. Fittingly, this year it is being launched with a "Queens" theme. This has enabled a £5,000 grant funding contribution from the Department of Enterprise's Platinum Jubilee Event Fund. The grant was applied for before the City Status award was known, though it is possible that the news had some impact upon the decision, which was communicated on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.
- 4.5 Thoughts must now turn to what the next steps should be by the Council in response to the City Status award. Some measures will be quick and straight forward to put into effect, at little or no cost using existing resources (e.g. digital branding such as email signatures and other digital communications including the website and social media profiles). Other items will require more in the way of planning and will inevitably require some funding to be allocated. Committee will no doubt appreciate the need to avoid unnecessary criticism from ratepayers at a time when the cost of living crisis will already be starting to adversely impact our residents, and so "vanity" projects should be avoided. This is particularly the case when there are a number of high priority and high profile projects that need to be delivered. Any rebranding of vehicles and letterhead stationery, etc., can happen as and when such items are due for replacement or stocks depleted.
- 4.6 Decisions will also need to be taken regarding branding, including whether or not there should be a renaming for this Council and its various municipal buildings and service operations, where this applies, together with new or replacement signage. The Borough Crest could also be added to in some way, and new artwork commissioned. It should be noted, however, that in the meantime, this Council is still by statute a Borough, and so the currently used title of Douglas Borough Council remains valid, and there is no cost or workload arising from keeping this.
- 4.7 Members will no doubt have their own ideas as to how the award should be celebrated and commemorated in a fitting and appropriate

	<p>way, and options for consideration will need to be brought back to Committee in due course. Depending upon the timing of the Letters Patent, there may be scope to commemorate the civic honours at one of the existing community events this year. The views of Members at the Full Meeting of Council in June 2022 will be important. Committee may also wish to consider the benefits of gathering suggestions from the wider community of the Borough, through engagement with residents and businesses in some way. There is the potential for Town Centre Management to assist with this.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT RECOMMENDED</b>
	To do nothing to mark the award, which would represent a lost opportunity for the town to make its mark having achieved its new status.
<b>6</b>	<b>IF PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL, DATE AND DECISION</b>
	<p><b>Executive Committee, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b></p> <p><b>C15. Application for City Status for Douglas</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive in relation to an application for City Status for Douglas.</p> <p>Members were advised that a Civic Honours Competition was currently taking place across the United Kingdom (to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022) to grant the prestigious and rare civic honour of city status to a select number of worthy towns in the UK.</p> <p>For the first time, the competition was also open to applications from the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. Applications, which could only be made by a local authority, were due to close on 8th December 2021.</p> <p>City status was rarely granted and the competitions did not happen very often, usually being held to mark important Royal occasions – the previous competition was held in 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee. The Council had made a previous application in 2016 (to coincide with The Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations) however, the response from the Cabinet Office (UK) on behalf of the ██████████, was that there were no plans for a city status / civic honours competition at that time.</p> <p>Many new cities had seen benefits, with studies suggesting that a successful bid could bring further investment and employment opportunities; as well as boosting tourism. Douglas had much to be proud of as a town, and this was a perfect opportunity to showcase it. As there were currently no cities in the Crown Dependencies, officers believed that the Borough was uniquely placed to put in a bid.</p> <p>Resolved, “(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and</p> <p>(ii) That it be recommended to Council that approval be given for the Council to make application in the forthcoming Civic Honours Competition for city status.”</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>CAPITAL COST AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	None directly from this report, though any capital projects arising in due

	course will require a funding source.
<b>8</b>	<b>CHANGES TO REVENUE ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	<p>None directly from this report, though any revenue projects, events or activities arising may require funding through reserves or could impact future years' rates.</p> <p>If existing community events are used to celebrate the civic honours, then the Council will be able to keep any existing costs down to a minimum, as opposed to setting up new events especially for this purpose.</p> <p>There is no additional funding given to the Council as a result of the Civic Honours award.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>STAFFING/HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS</b>
	None directly from this report.
<b>10</b>	<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
	<p>The award of City Status does not come with any additional powers for the Council. It is purely a matter of civic pride. It remains unclear if Government will seek to update the definitions referred to in legislation governing the local authorities.</p> <p>Once the process of Letters Patent has been concluded, it will be possible for the Council to be formally referred to as Douglas City Council, though it will also remain a Borough by statute. It is understood that no legislation will be required for a name change as, in effect, the Royal Assent has already been given through the Jubilee Honours.</p>
<b>11</b>	<b>EQUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE</b>
	No issues identified from this report.
<b>12</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE PLAN</b>
	<p>1 Desirable place to live, work and visit: 1.2 Support events to promote business, community, investment and enjoyment within the town.</p> <p>3 Sense of Community 3.1 Enable and support diverse community groups in local activities relating to heritage, culture and creativity.</p> <p>5. Good Governance: 5.2 Promote the Council and its constitution together with the benefits and importance of a democratic society.</p>
<b>13</b>	<b>BUSINESS RISK IMPLICATIONS</b>
	<p>13.1 If the Council does nothing in response to the award of City Status, it is likely to receive some criticism from the Island's community for not taking advantage of the opportunity to make its mark in some way.</p> <p>13.2 Conversely, if the Council is seen to unnecessarily incur an excessive</p>

	amount of ratepayers' funds on unnecessary and low priority initiatives, then it will inevitably attract criticism from its ratepayers, risking some public reputational damage.
<b>14</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>
	None directly from this report.
<b>15</b>	<b>IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (of the Borough or Island)</b>
	<p>The award of City Status has already helped to raise the profile of Douglas at the international level. The Council's Media Partner has outlined the following tangible benefits to Douglas being awarded City Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Douglas is more likely to attract more visitors, which in turn, will improve the tourism offer for local people generating more choice of things to do, where to eat and shop, and support local businesses.</li> <li>• Douglas is more likely to attract greater levels of economic investment, creating new jobs, and further redeveloping and regenerating the Borough.</li> <li>• Douglas is more likely to gather stronger momentum and wider backing for key projects.</li> <li>• Douglas is more likely to attract key conferences, festivals, and concerts, with nationally recognised artists and a richer programme of cultural events.</li> <li>• Douglas is more likely to create more skilled jobs, allowing more young people to stay, live and work in the area, rather than them moving away to other localities.</li> <li>• Douglas would gain a stronger voice in shaping both the local and national agenda to get more of what the Borough deserves and to support the delivery of residents' priorities.</li> </ul>
<b>16</b>	<b>CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES</b>
	The award of City Status has the potential to impact all areas of the Council's operations in some positive way.
<b>17</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 from Lord True CBE</li> <li>2. Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor</li> </ol>
<b>18</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
	This item needs to be in public.

REPORTING OFFICER	<b>Antony Boyd Director of Finance</b>
RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER	<b>Antony Boyd Director of Finance</b>
DATE	<b>26<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b>

Executive Committee minute, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022:

**A3. Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition - Douglas awarded City Status**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance formally advising of the award of City Status, and seeking to facilitate an early discussion of the next steps for the Council in order for officers to bring back a further report.

Members recalled that the application for City Status had been submitted in December 2021 as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition, which, for the first time, had been open to the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. The expert panel reviewing applications had made a favourable recommendation for Douglas to receive City Status, and this had subsequently been approved by Her Majesty The Queen. Notification that Douglas had been successful was received by letter from Lord True, CBE, Minister of State at the UK Cabinet Office dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, who stated that 'this is a rare honour granted by Her Majesty The Queen and, given the standard and number of applications was very high, you should be very proud.'

The announcement in the media had generated a high-level of excellent publicity for the Island's capital, with congratulations being received from a number of sources.

There would now need to be a process for the award to be formally conferred, including the preparation of the 'Letters Patent'. The Council would also need to make decisions on what its next steps should be. Some measures could be put into effect at little cost (for example, digital branding); while other items would require more planning and funding.

In the meantime, the Council was still, by statute, a Borough and also 'Douglas Corporation'; and the currently-used title of 'Douglas Borough Council' remained valid. The award of City Status did not come with any additional powers for the Council – but it could provide a boost to communities, to open up new opportunities for the people who lived and worked there. Once the process of Letters Patent had been concluded, it would be possible for the Council to be formally referred to as 'Douglas City Council', or even 'City of Douglas Corporation'. It was understood that no legislation would be required for a name change as, in effect, the Royal Assent had already been given through the Jubilee Honours.



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

(ii) That the conferment of the award of City Status to Douglas as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations also be noted;

(iii) That the thanks of the Committee be formally extended to all officers involved in the preparation and subsequent success of Douglas' bid for City Status;

(iv) That the timing for the implementation of any agreed measures be carefully considered, with cognisance being given to the impact on resources, both financial and staffing;

(v) That a Member / Chief Officer Working Group, led by the Chief Executive, be set up to come forward with longer-term recommendations, which could then be put before the whole Council for debate; and

(vi) That in the meantime, the Chief Executive be requested to report back to the next meeting of the Committee with proposals for short-term 'wins' that could be implemented at little or no cost."

**5. Executive Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 – Clauses A1 to A20**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A20 inclusive of report of meeting held on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, be received, by the Council, subject to correction of a clerical error in Clause A16, the vacancy in the Housing and Property Committee membership arose from the resignation of Mr Councillor Skinner, not the appointment of the Mayor."

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.



# Douglas Borough Council

## Committee Report

<b>REPORT TO</b>	
Executive Committee	
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022	
<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	
Chief Executive	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	
City Status for Douglas	
<b>1</b>	<b>REASON FOR REPORT</b>
	At the request of Committee.
<b>2</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
	To note actions that have taken place and to approve the proposed renaming of the Council and consequential signage.
<b>3</b>	<b>FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED</b>
	Council approval for the change of name.
<b>4</b>	<b>SUPPORTING RATIONALE</b>
	<p>4.1 At the Council Meeting where the Letters Patent, conferring on Douglas the status of a city, are formally received, it is recommended that the name of Douglas Borough Council be formally changed to Douglas City Council, with effect from that date, on the basis that the town of Douglas would thereafter become the City of Douglas.</p> <p>4.2 The main signs on entering Douglas should be changed immediately after the above Council Meeting to "Welcome to the City of Douglas", instead of "Welcome to the Borough of Douglas". There are six large signs and four small signs, and the maximum cost of this would be £27,000 plus VAT. A grant for funding may be applied for from the Department for Enterprise, under the Town and Village Regeneration Scheme. Any unfunded balance can then be funded from General Revenue Reserve.</p> <p>4.3 City status involves the whole of Douglas, not just the Council, and there will be a number of things that it may be appropriate to do, which would come within the</p>

	<p>parameters of Government rather than the local authority, or on which we should be working in partnership. A meeting has been arranged with the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Council to share the achievement of attaining City Status, and to explore ways we can work together to build on this opportunity.</p> <p>4.4 Officers, Teams, and Media Services have come forward with a huge number of suggestions for ways in which we can celebrate and build on the honour (both short-term and long-term), and an Officers' Group has been set up to look at all these in detail and report through the Leader to Executive Committee. This Group will also build on the meeting with Government, to get input from them as well as local businesses, residents, and communities.</p> <p>4.5 Civic Sunday will be an opportunity to join with the community to publically celebrate the honour and give thanks to everyone who lives, works, and visits Douglas, and share it with the whole Island.</p> <p>4.6 Initial actions that have been put in place are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter of congratulations and thanks has been sent to all Members and staff;</li> <li>• An addition will be made to the Corporate Plan to reflect this major new objective;</li> <li>• The City Status Application will be published in full on the Council's website for everyone to appreciate and share in the civic pride which led to the Council successfully attaining the honour;</li> <li>• The Media Services Team is designing a City logo, which will be brought forward for Committee approval but, in the meantime, until the formal change of name, a new footer will be inserted beneath Council emails, announcing that the Council has been awarded City Status;</li> <li>• Button badges are being produced at a very low cost (and within existing budgets) to distribute widely to staff and members of the public (through the Carnival and Fun Day) to celebrate Douglas as a new city - this is to involve everyone and engender a sense of pride in the honour;</li> <li>• Discussions are also taking place with some outside organisations who have indicated they may wish to mark the honour of City Status in some way.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT RECOMMENDED</b>
	To not rename the Council, which would be a lost opportunity and would lessen the prestigious impact of the honour.
<b>6</b>	<b>IF PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL, DATE AND DECISION</b>
	<p><u>Executive Committee, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021:-</u></p> <p><b>Application for City Status for Douglas</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive in relation to an application for City Status for Douglas.</p>

Members were advised that a Civic Honours Competition was currently taking place across the United Kingdom (to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022) to grant the prestigious and rare civic honour of city status to a select number of worthy towns in the UK.

For the first time, the competition was also open to applications from the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. Applications, which could only be made by a local authority, were due to close on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

City status was rarely granted and the competitions did not happen very often, usually being held to mark important Royal occasions – the previous competition was held in 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee. The Council had made a previous application in 2016 (to coincide with The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations) however, the response from the Cabinet Office (UK) on behalf of the [REDACTED], was that there were no plans for a city status / civic honours competition at that time.

Many new cities had seen benefits, with studies suggesting that a successful bid could bring further investment and employment opportunities; as well as boosting tourism. Douglas had much to be proud of as a town, and this was a perfect opportunity to showcase it. As there were currently no cities in the Crown Dependencies, officers believed that the Borough was uniquely placed to put in a bid.

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

(ii) That it be recommended to Council that approval be given for the Council to make application in the forthcoming Civic Honours Competition for city status."

Executive Committee, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022:-

### **Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition - Douglas awarded City Status**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance formally advising of the award of City Status, and seeking to facilitate an early discussion of the next steps for the Council in order for officers to bring back a further report.

Members recalled that the application for City Status had been submitted in December 2021 as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition, which, for the first time, had been open to the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. The expert panel reviewing applications had made a favourable recommendation for Douglas to receive City Status, and this had subsequently been approved by Her Majesty The Queen. Notification that Douglas had been successful was received by letter from Lord True, CBE, Minister of State at the UK Cabinet Office dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, who stated that 'this is a rare honour granted by Her Majesty The Queen and, given the standard and number of applications was very high, you should be very proud.'

The announcement in the media had generated a high-level of excellent publicity for the Island's capital, with congratulations being received from a number of sources.

There would now need to be a process for the award to be formally conferred, including the preparation of the 'Letters Patent'. The Council would also need to make decisions on what its next steps should be. Some measures could be put into effect at little cost (for example, digital branding); while other items would require more planning and funding.

In the meantime, the Council was still, by statute, a Borough and also 'Douglas Corporation'; and the currently-used title of 'Douglas Borough Council' remained valid. The award of City Status did not come with any additional powers for the Council – but it could provide a boost to communities, to open up new opportunities for the people who lived and worked there. Once the process of Letters Patent had been concluded, it would be possible for the Council to be formally referred to as 'Douglas City Council', or even 'City of Douglas Corporation'. It was understood that no legislation would be required for a name change as, in effect, the Royal Assent had already been given

	<p>through the Jubilee Honours.</p> <p>Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;</p> <p>(ii) That the conferment of the award of City Status to Douglas as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations also be noted;</p> <p>(iii) That the thanks of the Committee be formally extended to all officers involved in the preparation and subsequent success of Douglas' bid for City Status;</p> <p>(iv) That the timing for the implementation of any agreed measures be carefully considered, with cognisance being given to the impact on resources, both financial and staffing;</p> <p>(v) That a Member / Chief Officer Working Group, led by the Chief Executive, be set up to come forward with longer-term recommendations, which could then be put before the whole Council for debate; and</p> <p>vi) That in the meantime, the Chief Executive be requested to report back to the next meeting of the Committee with proposals for short-term 'wins' that could be implemented at little or no cost."</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>CAPITAL COST AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	<p>The six large signs would be at a cost of £21,000 plus VAT; and the four small signs would be £6,000 plus VAT, making a maximum total of £27,000 plus VAT.</p> <p>A grant for funding may be applied for from the Department for Enterprise, under the Town and Village Regeneration Scheme. Any unfunded balance can then be funded from General Revenue Reserve.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>CHANGES TO REVENUE ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>9</b>	<b>STAFFING/HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS</b>
	It will involve some additional work for staff from most Services, in liaison with the Media Services Team, but all staff are embracing the opportunity to be involved in this historic achievement.
<b>10</b>	<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
	The change of name would require a formal resolution of Council.
<b>11</b>	<b>EQUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE</b>
	None identified.
<b>12</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE PLAN</b>
	<p>1 <u>Desirable place to live, work and visit:</u></p> <p>1.2 Support events to promote business, community, investment, and enjoyment within the town.</p> <p>3 <u>Sense of Community:</u></p> <p>3.1 Enable and support diverse community groups in local activities relating to heritage, culture and creativity.</p> <p>5. <u>Good Governance:</u></p>

	5.2 Promote the Council and its Constitution together with the benefits and importance of a democratic society.
<b>13</b>	<b>BUSINESS RISK IMPLICATIONS</b>
	It is important that the Council uses this opportunity to make a positive impact to the community, but without incurring unnecessary or excessive expenditure.
<b>14</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>15</b>	<b>IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (of the Borough or Island)</b>
	City Status will raise the profile of Douglas, and may lead to increased tourism and investment.
<b>16</b>	<b>CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES</b>
	The award of City Status involves all Members and officers.
<b>17</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
	None.
<b>18</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
	None.

<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	Chief Executive
<b>RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Chief Executive
<b>DATE</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

Executive Committee minute, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022:

**C13. City Status for Douglas**

The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive detailing actions taken since City Status had been conferred on Douglas, and seeking approval for the proposed renaming of the Council and consequential signage.

Members noted that initial actions already taken included a letter of congratulations that had been sent to all Members and staff; the preparation of the City Status Application for publication in full on the Council's website; the designing of a City logo (to come forward for Committee approval in due course); and the insertion of a new banner into the footer of all Council emails announcing that Douglas had been awarded City Status.

It was important that the Council used the opportunity of the awarding of this prestigious honour to make a positive impact to the community. City Status would raise the profile of Douglas and it may lead to increased tourism and investment, and officers had already come forward with a huge number of suggestions for ways in which the Council could celebrate and build on the honour. These included:-

- That it be recommended, at the Council Meeting at which the Letters Patent were to be formally received, that the name of Douglas Borough Council be formally changed to Douglas City Council (effective from the date of that meeting), on the basis that the Town of Douglas would thereafter become the City of Douglas; and
- That the main six large signs and four small signs on entering Douglas be changed after the above Council Meeting to 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' (instead of 'Welcome to the Borough of Douglas'). It was noted that a grant for funding for the expenditure involved in this initiative may be applied for from the Department for Enterprise under the Town and Village Regeneration Scheme (and that any unfunded balance could then be drawn from the General Revenue Reserve).

City status involved the whole of Douglas, not just the Council. There would be a number of initiatives that, while appropriate to undertake, came within the parameters of Central Government rather than the local authority, or on which the Council should be working in partnership. With that in



mind, a meeting had been arranged between the Isle of Man Government's Chief Minister and the Leader of the Council to explore ways in which the Government and the Council could work together to build on this opportunity.

It was also intended that input would be gathered from local businesses, residents, and communities.

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

(ii) That the proposed renaming of the Council as 'Douglas City Council' be unanimously recommended to Council; and

(iii) That it be resolved that the 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' signage be progressed, but that erection of the new signs only take place once the repair of the walls at the Marine Gardens on Douglas Promenade had been completed."

**7. Executive Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022 – Clause C15**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C15 of report of meeting held on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022, be received, approved, and adopted by the Council, subject to an amendment in resolution (ii) "That it be resolved that the 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' signage be progressed, but that erection of the new signs can only take place once the signage to advise of the repair of the walls at the Marine Gardens on Douglas Promenade has been installed."

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.



# Douglas Borough Council

## Committee Report

<b>REPORT TO</b>	
Executive Committee	
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	
<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	
Chief Executive	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	
City Status	
<b>1</b>	<b>REASON FOR REPORT</b>
	To advise Members of actions taking place to build on and celebrate the new status of Douglas as a City.
<b>2</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To note and give input to actions taking place.</li><li>2. To approve the amendment to the Corporate Plan, to reflect City Status.</li><li>3. To rename the Town Hall, City Hall, following the formal awarding of the Letters Patent.</li></ol>
<b>3</b>	<b>FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED</b>
	No further approval required.
<b>4</b>	<b>SUPPORTING RATIONALE</b>
	<p>4.1 It had been anticipated that the Letters Patent would have been received by now, and a date could be set for them to be formally awarded to the Council. However, we have been advised that with the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, this has delayed things somewhat, and several documents relating to the award of City Status have had to be recommissioned.</p> <p>The Council is in close liaison with the Crown Office in the UK, and Government House on the Island, and as soon as we are advised of the date, arrangements can be remade.</p> <p>4.2 It has already been approved by Council (13<sup>th</sup> July 2022) that the Council will be renamed Douglas City Council; and that "Welcome to the City of Douglas" signage will be put up following the formal change of name (Executive Committee meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup></p>

June 2022).

4.3 It is recommended that the Corporate Plan be amended with the insertion of point 1.2:-

1. Desirable Place to live, work, and visit –

1.1 Maintain a clean and safe place to live, work, and visit

1.2 Promote City Status to strengthen and transform Douglas

1.3 Support events to promote business, community, investment, and enjoyment within the Town

1.4 Provide a vibrant library service

1.5 Provide quality, efficient, and affordable homes to people in housing need.

#### 4.4 City Year

The Council has put together a calendar of events and activities throughout the year (commencing in November 2022 with the City Fireworks Display – this was to have tied in with the anticipated, but now delayed, presentation of the Letters Patent, so is still being used as the start date). All these events are designed to celebrate City Status and involve the community.

A draft calendar of events so far identified is attached at Appendix 1.

The Fireworks Display has a City theme, with all the music accompanying the fireworks relating to that theme.

If the presentation / formal Council Meeting for the Letters Patent had taken place at the beginning of November, the Business Breakfast would have been used as a forerunner and launch to the City Year but, due to it being postponed for the mourning period, this has not happened. Members need to consider whether they wish this to still take place, taking into account the fact that it is a 'new' event and the financial constraints which the Council is now under.

The 'launch' of City Year could take place instead through the media.

#### 4.5 City Celebration Fund

It would be good to be able to establish and launch a fund, to help local residents and groups celebrate our new City Status and support community ownership of the award.

A relatively small fund of £10,000 to £15,000 would be required, with set criteria as to how it would be applied. For example:

- Events would have to be held before November 2023 (the end of City Year);
- They would celebrate Douglas' heritage, culture and diversity, and our new city status;
- They would be accessible and open to all; and
- They would take place in Douglas.

This may not be something Members would wish to take forward in the current financial climate, but the Council could approach Government and the Department for Enterprise for some funding, as well as seeking sponsorship, with the assistance of our media partners. If Members do wish to consider this, it would more appropriately be

considered during the budget process.

#### 4.6 City Community Engagement Group

The City Team agreed to try and establish a City Community Engagement Group to gather ideas from members of the community to help foster civic pride in Douglas' new City Status and ways of improving Douglas for residents and visitors.

The Council would contact Groups who are already set up and schools (there is already an existing link to schools through the Library) to invite them to the Town Hall, to see the Letters Patent and explain what City Status means, and consult with them as to what they would like to see happen around City Status and any support they can be given for their own events (possibly through the Government's Domestic Events Fund).

#### 4.7 City Year rolling into RNLI Bicentenary (2024)

The City Year would end in November 2023, but Douglas is also due to celebrate the RNLI's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2024, beginning on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Events are being organised across the whole of the UK, and Douglas and the Isle of Man will be a central focus for this, as the birthplace of the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck (the forerunner of the RNLI), and founded by Sir William Hillary, who is commemorated by his statue on Douglas Head and who is buried in St George's Churchyard in Douglas.

Part of Douglas' application for City Status included its connections with the RNLI, and it would be fitting to continue the theme of celebrating Douglas into the next year (2024) with further actions and initiatives around the bicentenary.

#### 4.8 Action Plan

The Action Plan presently being worked on by the City Team is attached for information only. It covers many operational matters to be taken forward by officers, while anything that requires Committee or Council approval will be brought forward in due course.

#### 4.9 Working with Government

Officers have approached the Department of Infrastructure, who have stated it wishes to actively engage with the Council around City Status, although a suggested meeting has not yet taken place.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration wrote to the Department of Infrastructure in July 2022 in respect of a number of items within their remit, to promote City Status (e.g., Bus Vannin to say 'City Centre'; the railway station to be renamed 'Douglas City Station'.)

Despite being followed up, no response has yet been received, so items relating to the Steam Packet have now been addressed to its Chief Executive directly.

#### 4.10 Miscellaneous

There are a number of other actions being taken forward by officers, and to inform Members, these are as follows:

- Isle of Man Post Office has offered to stamp all incoming and outgoing post to the Island with a City quote in the week leading up to receiving the Letters Patent;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City banners will replace the Jubilee banners (which have now been removed) in May 2023, at the entrances to Douglas.</li> <li>• The flags outside the Town Hall entrance have now reached the end of life, and the new flags will have Douglas City Council on them.</li> <li>• Pop-up banners have been made with Douglas City Council on, which reflect the iconic buildings and images of Douglas. They will be used at events to promote the new status, and images relating to the RNLI in Douglas have been included, so they can be used during 2024, and thereafter.</li> <li>• Heron &amp; Brearley have made a new ale in honour of City Status, and this is being launched in November 2022 in the presence of the Worshipful the Mayor.</li> <li>• The Letters Patent belong to the people of Douglas, and they will therefore be on public display in the Town Hall. Also, every opportunity will be given for the public to view them including Open Days, which are being planned in City Year, to showcase Douglas' heritage and what City Status means.</li> <li>• Media Services to look at commissioning a 'wrap-around' for the Isle of Man Courier newspaper (Douglas circulation only) for the week following the Letters Patent ceremony, with advertisements included by local businesses to celebrate City Status.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT RECOMMENDED</b>
	To take no further action in respect of the new status of Douglas, which would be a missed opportunity in respect of such a prestigious award, and raise interest and possible investment in the City and the Island as a whole.
<b>6</b>	<b>IF PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL, DATE AND DECISION</b>
	<p><b>Executive Committee, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021:</b></p> <p><b>Application for City Status for Douglas</b></p> <p>Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and  (ii) That it be recommended to Council that approval be given for the Council to make application in the forthcoming Civic Honours Competition for city status."</p> <p><b>Executive Committee, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022:</b></p> <p><b>Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition - Douglas awarded City Status</b></p> <p>Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;  (ii) That the conferment of the award of City Status to Douglas as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations also be noted;  (iii) That the thanks of the Committee be formally extended to all officers involved in the preparation and subsequent success of Douglas' bid for City Status;  (iv) That the timing for the implementation of any agreed measures be carefully considered, with cognisance being given to the impact on resources, both financial and staffing;  (v) That a Member / Chief Officer Working Group, led by the Chief Executive, be set up</p>

	<p>to come forward with longer-term recommendations, which could then be put before the whole Council for debate; and</p> <p>(vi) That in the meantime, the Chief Executive be requested to report back to the next meeting of the Committee with proposals for short-term 'wins' that could be implemented at little or no cost."</p> <p><b>Executive Committee, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022:</b></p> <p><b>City Status for Douglas</b></p> <p>Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;</p> <p>(ii) That the proposed renaming of the Council as 'Douglas City Council' be unanimously recommended to Council; and</p> <p>(iii) That it be resolved that the 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' signage be progressed, but that erection of the new signs only take place once the repair of the walls at the Marine Gardens on Douglas Promenade had been completed."</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>CAPITAL COST AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	None directly from this report, as any costs are being kept to an absolute minimum, and any that are required will be from existing budgets.
<b>8</b>	<b>CHANGES TO REVENUE ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	<p>Existing events are being used to celebrate City Status, in order to keep costs to a minimum wherever possible. If any additional funding is required, a report will be made to Committee.</p> <p>Costs incurred so far are £2,839.40.</p> <p>If consideration is to be given to a City Celebration Fund, this will be done through the budget process.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>STAFFING/HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS</b>
	A City Team, consisting of the Leader and Deputy Leader, as well as representatives from all Departments and the Media Services Team, are looking at short-term and long-term proposals. It will involve some additional work for staff from a number of Services, particularly Democratic Services, who are taking the lead on a number of things.
<b>10</b>	<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>11</b>	<b>EQUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>12</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE PLAN</b>
	<p>1 <u>Desirable place to live, work and visit:</u></p> <p>1.2 Support events to promote business, community, investment, and enjoyment within the town.</p> <p>3 <u>Sense of Community:</u></p> <p>3.1 Enable and support diverse community groups in local activities relating to</p>

	<p>heritage, culture and creativity.</p> <p>5. <u>Good Governance</u>:</p> <p>5.2 Promote the Council and its Constitution together with the benefits and importance of a democratic society.</p>
<b>13</b>	<b>BUSINESS RISK IMPLICATIONS</b>
	It is important that the Council uses this opportunity to make a positive impact to the community, but without incurring unnecessary or excessive expenditure.
<b>14</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>15</b>	<b>IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (of the Borough or Island)</b>
	Although becoming a city does not guarantee economic success, the new status creates many opportunities. Even getting involved in the competition brings publicity to all of the places involved, and it is often a catalyst for regeneration and future economic success, including tourism.
<b>16</b>	<b>CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES</b>
	The award of City Status involves all Members and officers.
<b>17</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
	Appendix 1 – City Year Calendar of Events (below) Appendix 2 – Action Plan (attached)
<b>18</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
	None.

<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	Chief Executive
<b>RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022





# Douglas Borough Council

## Committee Report

<b>REPORT TO</b>	
Executive Committee	
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	
27 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	
<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	
Director of Environment and Regeneration on behalf of the Chief Executive	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	
City Status - signage	
<b>1</b>	<b>REASON FOR REPORT</b>
	To obtain Executive Committee approval to an approach to update signage to reflect and celebrate Douglas' City Status.
<b>2</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
	<p>That Committee:</p> <p>2.1 Notes the content of this report;</p> <p>2.2 Endorses the current plan for updating or replacing signage as contained within 4.4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update CCTV signage as and when required;</li><li>• Update six city central street signs at a cost of £4,500 and update all other street signage as and when required;</li><li>• Update city centre car park signage as normal in early 2023;</li><li>• Update outlying car park signage as and when required;</li><li>• Consider updating allotment signage at a cost of £500;</li><li>• Update Cemetery and Crematorium signage as and when required;</li><li>• Consider updating Golf Course signage at a cost of £2,000;</li><li>• Investigate installation of a Welcome to the City of Douglas banner on the existing Heritage Trail sign at a cost of £500;</li><li>• Update monoliths as and when required.</li></ul> <p>2.3 Approves a maximum of £7,500 from General Revenue Reserves accordingly.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED</b>
	<p>None.</p> <p>Should Committee determine that a new sign along the Heritage Railway or indeed Marine Drive be installed, planning approval may be needed.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>SUPPORTING RATIONALE</b>
	<p>4.1 In May 2022, Douglas received City Status under the auspices of the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition. A report to Executive Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 advised that an officer working group had been established to consider how the accolade could be celebrated and sought political direction.</p> <p>4.2 A further report in June 2022, recommended that the Council change its name to Douglas City Council on receipt of the Letters Patent and that the nine 'Welcome to the Borough of Douglas' signs be changed to 'Welcome to the City of Douglas'. This was formally agreed by Council in July 2022.</p> <p>4.3 The change in name prompted consideration of changes to other signage, livery and work wear. This report deals solely with consideration of signage.</p> <p>4.4 The following signs have been considered:-</p> <p>4.4.1 Town Hall signage changed to City Hall – the current signage says 'Municipal Buildings AD 1899' and during the Council meeting in July 2022, it was resolved that this should not be changed.</p> <p>4.4.2 New signage for CCTV – it is recommended that these are updated as and when they need to be replaced at no additional cost. This will take a decade to complete. New CCTV signage can reflect the new name.</p> <p>4.4.3 Welcome to Douglas Road sign – agreed at Executive Committee in June 2022 that these be replaced to say 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' instead of the current 'Welcome to the Borough of Douglas'. The signs have been ordered and are due for delivery mid-November, to be erected to coincide with the receipt of the Letters Patent.</p> <p>4.4.4 Sign at the Sea Terminal changed to 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' – request forwarded to the Department of Infrastructure in July 2022. Reply awaited.</p> <p>4.4.5 Street signs – should be updated to state 'City of Douglas'. Replacing these as and when required at no extra cost will take several decades. It has been suggested that those street signs in the City Centre should be updated in the near future. Anticipated cost is approximately £3,000 to £4,500 depending on the number of signs and number of streets. The cost per street is £750, assuming three signs per street; it may be possible to reduce signage to two signs per street. The Streets suggested are Strand Street, Victoria Street, Duke Street and Castle Street with the possible addition of Regent Street and Ridgeway Street. This could be progressed now and monies would need to be secured from the General Revenue Reserve.</p> <p>4.4.6 City Centre Car Park signage – vinyls are applied to the whole sign when tariffs are changed therefore there will be no additional cost in</p>

applying the new Council name at the same time as the vinyls are updated in early 2023 to reflect the new tariffs.

- 4.4.7 Outlying Car Park signage – vinyls may not be possible in these exposed external locations. Replacing these signs would cost approximately £2,500 in total and it is therefore recommended that these be updated as and when they need to be replaced at no additional cost to the Council. Full replacement will take at least a decade.
- 4.4.8 Allotment signage, updated to reflect Douglas City Allotments – these could be updated with vinyl overlays at an approximate cost of £500. This could be progressed now and monies would need to be secured from the General Revenue Reserve.
- 4.4.9 Cemetery and Crematorium signage, updated to reflect Douglas City Cemetery and Crematorium – it is recommended that these should be updated in the future when the signs need to be changed. It is not feasible to use vinyls on these signs. This may take several decades. Costs to replace now would be £5,000 for two signs.
- 4.4.10 Golf Course signage, updated to reflect Douglas City Golf Course – there are a range of sign sizes, which could be overlaid with vinyl at approximately £500 per sign, so a likely total cost of £2,000. It is therefore recommended that these signs should be updated in the future when the signs need to be changed.
- 4.4.11 Road Directional signage updated to reflect City Centre – as this comes under the remit of the Department of Infrastructure, an email was sent to the interim CEO in July 2022. Reply awaited.
- 4.4.12 Installation of a new 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' sign along the Heritage Trail ahead of Quarterbridge – permission would be needed from the land owner, understood to be Kirby Estates. There may be a possibility of mounting a 'Welcome to Douglas' vinyl banner on the existing heritage trail sign at an anticipated cost of £500. Permission from the Isle of Man Government would be required. To install a completely new sign would cost approximately £3,000 and planning permission is likely to be needed. Mounting a banner on the existing heritage trail sign could be progressed now and monies would need to be secured from the General Revenue Reserve.
- 4.4.13 As this report was being finalised, a suggestion was received about installing a sign saying 'Welcome to Douglas' on Marine Drive. Officers will investigate the feasibility of placing a sign in this area and/or having vinyl banner on any sign that may already be in site.
- 4.4.14 Monoliths – are reviewed and updated periodically. It is recommended that these should be updated when they are next due for review. This will take a decade for replacement. Updating all monoliths now would cost approximately £30,000 + VAT.
- 4.4.15 The review and updating of Parks and Gardens signage is already subject of a capital programme item over a number of years. The Council's new name can be incorporated at the same time at no additional cost. Once this programme is complete, a review will be

	undertaken to determine if any further signage needs to be updated.
<b>5</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT RECOMMENDED</b>
	That all signs are replaced in the short term to celebrate City Status. Given the likely costs and current economic climate this is not recommended as it would not be a service priority and would likely attract public criticism and potential public relations damage.
<b>6</b>	<b>IF PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL, DATE AND DECISION</b>
	<p><b>Executive Committee, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021:</b></p> <p><b>Application for City Status for Douglas</b></p> <p>Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes; and  (ii) That it be recommended to Council that approval be given for the Council to make application in the forthcoming Civic Honours Competition for city status."</p> <p><b>Executive Committee, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022:</b></p> <p><b>Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition - Douglas awarded City Status</b></p> <p>Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;  (ii) That the conferment of the award of City Status to Douglas as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations also be noted;  (iii) That the thanks of the Committee be formally extended to all officers involved in the preparation and subsequent success of Douglas' bid for City Status;  (iv) That the timing for the implementation of any agreed measures be carefully considered, with cognisance being given to the impact on resources, both financial and staffing;  (v) That a Member / Chief Officer Working Group, led by the Chief Executive, be set up to come forward with longer-term recommendations, which could then be put before the whole Council for debate; and  (vi) That in the meantime, the Chief Executive be requested to report back to the next meeting of the Committee with proposals for short-term 'wins' that could be implemented at little or no cost."</p> <p><b>Executive Committee, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022:</b></p> <p><b>City Status for Douglas</b></p> <p>Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes;  (ii) That the proposed renaming of the Council as 'Douglas City Council' be unanimously recommended to Council; and  (iii) That it be resolved that the 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' signage be progressed, but that erection of the new signs only take place once the repair of the walls at the Marine Gardens on Douglas Promenade had been completed."</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>CAPITAL COST AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	None.

<b>8</b>	<b>CHANGES TO REVENUE ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SOURCE</b>
	<p>The only agreed expenditure to date is replacing the 'Welcome to Douglas' signs at an anticipated total cost of £27,000 + VAT. An application will be made to the Town and Village Regeneration Scheme, however, the expenditure is underwritten by the General Revenue Reserve (approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting of 23 June 2022).</p> <p>To replace all other signage now as listed in this report would cost an additional £7,500 and would need to be funded from the General Revenue Reserve.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>STAFFING/HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS</b>
	Replacement of signs as indicated in this report can be undertaken within existing resources.
<b>10</b>	<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
	Permission from the Isle of Man Government will be required to place a banner on the Heritage Trail sign, which could be subject of a licence agreement. Erection of a new sign in this area would necessitate agreement from the land owner, who may require a licence agreement. Similarly, permission from Braddan Commissioners would be required to place a banner on the Marine Drive sign, which could be subject of a licence agreement.
<b>11</b>	<b>EQUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE</b>
	Not applicable.
<b>12</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE PLAN</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Desirable place to live, work and visit</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.2 Support events to promote business, community, investment and enjoyment within the town;</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <u>Sense of Community</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Enable and support diverse community groups in local activities relating to heritage, culture and creativity.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <u>Good Governance</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.2 Promote the Council and its Constitution together with the benefits and importance of a democratic society.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>13</b>	<b>BUSINESS RISK IMPLICATIONS</b>
	It is important the Council uses this opportunity to make a positive impact to the community, but without incurring unnecessary or excessive expenditure. The recommendations of this report seek to minimise the risk of reputational damage to the Council.
<b>14</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>
	Not applicable.

<b>15</b>	<b>IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (of the Borough or Island)</b>
	City Status will raise the profile of Douglas, and may lead to increased tourism and investment.
<b>16</b>	<b>CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES</b>
	The award of City Status involves all Members and officers.
<b>17</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
	None.
<b>18</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
	None.

<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	Director of Environment & Regeneration on behalf of the Chief Executive
<b>RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Chief Executive
<b>DATE</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022

Executive Committee minutes, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022:

**A8. City Status**

The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive detailing actions taking place to build on and celebrate the new status of Douglas as a City.

Members were reminded that it had already been approved by Council (13<sup>th</sup> July 2022) that the Council would be renamed Douglas City Council; and that 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' signage would be put up following the formal change of name. Although it had been anticipated that the Letters Patent would by now have been received and a date set for them to be formally awarded to the Council, the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had delayed the process, and several documents relating to the award of City Status had had to be recommissioned.

Members noted a proposed calendar of events and activities drawn up to celebrate City Year, together with an Action Plan of proposed initiatives. It was also recommended that Paragraph 1 of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 – 2026, Paragraph 1 – 'Desirable Place to Live, Work, and Visit' – be amended, by the insertion of an additional point at 1.2 to read '*Promote City Status to strengthen and transform Douglas*'.

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

(ii) That the proposed activities and actions being taken to promote City Status be noted and endorsed;

(iii) That the proposed amendment to the Corporate Plan 2022 - 2026 to reflect City Status, be approved accordingly; and

(iv) That following the formal awarding of the Letters Patent, the Town Hall be renamed City Hall."

**A9. City Status – Signage**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Environment and Regeneration (on behalf of the Chief Executive) seeking approval to update signage to reflect and celebrate Douglas' City Status.

As in Clause A8 above, it had already been formally approved by Council in July 2022 that the Council change its name to Douglas City Council on receipt of the Letters Patent; and that the wording on the nine 'Welcome to Douglas' signs be changed to read 'Welcome to the City of Douglas'.

An officer working group had been established to consider how the accolade of City Status could be celebrated and, amongst other issues, had considered other signage for change. Members accordingly noted these together with the likely approximate costs.

Currently, the only agreed expenditure to date was for the replacing of the 'Welcome to Douglas' signs, for which an application for funding would be made to the Town and Village Regeneration Scheme to seek to cover the anticipated costs. While it was important for the Council to use the

opportunity to make a positive impact to the community, it was agreed that this should be without incurring unnecessary or excessive expenditure.

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

(ii) That the current plan for updating or replacing signage be agreed as follows:

- Update the six City Centre street signs at a cost of £4,500, and update all other street signage as and when required
- Update CCTV signage as and when required
- Update the City Centre car park signage as normal in early 2023
- Update the outlying car park signage as and when required
- Update the allotment signage as and when required
- Update the Cemetery and Crematorium signage as and when required
- Update the Douglas Golf Course signage as and when required
- Update monoliths as and when required;

(iii) That officers investigate the installation of a 'Welcome to the City of Douglas' banner on the existing Heritage Trail sign at a cost of £500; and

(iv) That approval be given for expenditure of a maximum of £5,000 from the General Revenue Reserves to replace the signage as agreed in resolutions (ii) and (iii) above."



**6. Executive Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 – Clauses A1 to A16 and Clause A1 sub-clause B16 of the private agenda**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A16 inclusive and Clause A1 sub-clause B16 of private report of meeting held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, be received by the Council."

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

# PLATINUM JUBILEE CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION

## APPLICATION FORM

**Name of place applying :**

**Douglas (*Doolish*), Isle of Man**

**City status / Lord Mayor or Provost status :**

**Crown Dependency Application for City Status**

**Local Authority :**

**Douglas Borough Council**

**Contact details of applicant :**

**Kathleen Rice B,A, (Hons)  
Chief Executive  
Douglas Borough Council  
Town Hall,  
PO Box 2,  
Douglas,  
Isle of Man  
IM99 1AD**



e-mail - [REDACTED]

Phone - +44(0)1624 [REDACTED]

[www.douglas.gov.im](http://www.douglas.gov.im)

## a) Summary

I respectfully submit, on behalf of the Council, that Douglas should be recommended for the conferment of city status for the following reasons:

1. The Isle of Man Crown Dependency currently has no city;
2. As the capital of the Isle of Man since 1869 and the largest town by far, it would be fitting for Douglas to be granted city status;
3. Having grown significantly since becoming the Island's capital, this unique town is now of the first rank in population, size and importance, with a distinctive character and identity of its own;
4. The town has an importance to the Island, and on a national scale, that is disproportionate to its size compared with UK towns and cities;
5. It is home to the oldest and by far the largest local authority on the Island established in 1860 and now the only Borough Council (with a mayoralty), with a long history of innovation and service to the people of Douglas and the highest standards of governance;
6. The Borough, having been established in 1896, is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year;
7. It is the Island's administrative and legislative centre and seat of the Manx Parliament ([Tynwald](#)), the oldest continuous parliament in the world;
8. It enjoys a long association with the Crown, and is the official seat of the Lieutenant Governor, the Monarch's representative on the Island;
9. It is the Island's most ethnically diverse town, with communities from every part of the world living and working here;
10. It is the main port of the Island with a long history of maritime connections, including being the birthplace of the RNLI and the [Isle of Man Steam Packet Company](#), the oldest continuously operating passenger shipping company in the world;
11. Douglas is the central transport hub for the Island, with road, bus, sea, rail and the heritage transport infrastructure connections all starting and finishing here;
12. It is the centre of most of the Island's finance and commerce, offers the most diverse retail, leisure, and entertainment opportunities and is home to University College Isle of Man;
13. It is the cultural and heritage centre of the Island, housing the [Manx National Museum](#) and art gallery, the Villa Gaiety complex (which comprises the [Gaiety Theatre](#), the [Villa Marina](#) and Arcade) – the Island's premier venue for business, social and entertainment events, as well as hosting many international cultural and sporting events;
14. It passionately celebrates its folklore and cultural heritage, proudly displaying the Three Legs of Mann (triskelion) flag on its main buildings and landmarks and adopts Manx Gaelic, which belongs to the Celtic language family, for promulgation of the laws and many of its signposts, street and place names;
15. Douglas is the sporting and leisure capital of the Island, with all of the main national and international facilities located here;
16. Douglas is the Island's centre for places of worship for most faiths and denominations, including the Catholic Church with St Mary of the Isle being the largest parish on the Island and St George's Church, the seat of the Archdeacon of Sodor and Mann;
17. It is hoped that by being granted City Status, Douglas' international profile will be enhanced, with benefits in terms of greater inward investment and boosting visitor numbers; this particularly after the completion of a series of major regeneration projects in the town centre, most recently the Douglas Promenade.

## **b) Introduction**

### **Distinct Identity**

There is no other town like Douglas (*Doolish*) in the British Isles or anywhere else in the world. The name Douglas is from the Manx Gaelic *Doolish*, meaning dark water as it is located at the mouth of the Rivers *Dhoo* and *Glass*. While it is famous for flourishing during the late Victorian era as a seaside resort to rival Blackpool, it is so much more than a holiday destination and, in recent times, has thrived and successfully adapted to challenge and changes. As the Island's capital since 1874, Douglas is the seat of government and Manx parliament, Tynwald. Like the people of the Isle of Man, Tynwald is fiercely proud of its political independence from the United Kingdom, yet at the same time retains a very strong British allegiance to the Crown. There is a distinct beauty to this town, and it is so much more than the truly spectacular sunrises over Douglas Bay (once referred to as the "Naples of the North") witnessed all along its promenade on a clear still morning with views out to the iconic Tower of Refuge. Douglas is distinctly urban by nature and pays respectful homage to its late Victorian and Edwardian architectural heritage. Upper Douglas is a mix of delightful town square gardens, charming narrow back lanes and old Manx stone walls with well-preserved Victorian properties, some of which reflect design influences of Baillie-Scott and Archibald Knox, both of whom lived in Douglas.

The centre of commerce and retail, which is notable by its very close proximity to the sea, fuses well with a lively evening economy of bars and clubs, supported by a strong culinary presence. This ranges from premium dining destinations, a small-batch gin distillery, an artisan bakery, a thriving café culture and street food outlets; and yet, as the leisure capital of the Island, this urban town has its own contrasting sanctuaries of wellbeing and special traditions. These range from Douglas Head where, under the watch of Douglas Head Lighthouse, Port Skillion is used for open-water swimming, to the Promenade where multitudes of walkers, runners and parents pushing pushchairs and guiding children learning to ride their bicycles can be seen, and the National Sports Centre where Olympic champions Mark Cavendish and Peter Kennaugh laid the foundations of their successful cycling careers.

Another notable contrast is Douglas's link with transportation from the Heritage Steam Railway (on which Thomas the Tank Engine by Rev. W Audrey was based), Manx Electric Railway and Douglas Bay Horse Trams to the TT Races that start and finish in the capital.

In a nutshell, Douglas is full of contradictions that somehow come together to create a unique fusion of modern and tradition, commerce, politics and leisure, urban and escape. In short, Douglas is a vibrant, lively and wonderfully timeless and unique social and economic hub that is fit to be accorded the title "the Island's Sunrise City".

### **Civic Pride**

The people of Douglas are immensely proud of their town, particularly now it is nearing the end of an impressive programme of urban regeneration. The former industrial quayside area is now home to vibrant pubs, bars and restaurants with their outdoor areas overlooking the yacht haven in the inner harbour. The town centre retail area was given a major facelift between 2010 and 2019 and the Promenade Improvement scheme will be completed in 2022. These modernised environments do, however, respect the town's history and heritage with landmarks including the Prow sculpture on North Quay which celebrates Douglas' Norse origins and its evolution through the development of motorcycle racing to a modern finance centre. There are three memorials to Sir William Hillary, the founder of the Royal

National Lifeboat Institution. We are looking forward to the RNLI's bicentenary in 2024 in which Douglas is going to play a major part. The statue of the Bee Gees unveiled in 2021 celebrates the fact that the Gibb Brothers were born in Douglas and lived here during their early years. Other sites and characters of note are celebrated in statuary and interpreted on a network of interpretation signs and blue plaques.

The Douglas Community Partnership which comprises the Council, the Isle of Man Constabulary and various Government Departments, is committed to improving the quality of life for those who work, live and visit the town. In promoting a "cleaner, safer, greener environment, the Partnership's charter pledges to create quality spaces for a proud and positive Douglas and a "Love Where You Live" culture.

Douglas takes its image very seriously. In 2017 the Council won the Keep Britain Tidy's Quality Improvement Award for waste services and cleanliness. Each year, Douglas hosts its own Douglas in Bloom competition, with the awards hotly contested by town residents keen to show off their gardens (and allotments). When Douglas last entered the Britain in Bloom competition, the town won the Silver Award three years in a row in the Towns and Small Cities category, once being the Silver Gilt Award. It also won the Young People's Award for its youth projects. This reflects the sterling work undertaken by the Council's parks team in maintaining the municipal parks and gardens. The Council enjoys partnership status in the UNESCO Biosphere, reflecting the work that it does to maintain sustainable operations and to protect the natural environment.

The quality of the Douglas's beautifully maintained parks and gardens have been accredited with 9 green flags and the town's Victorian and Edwardian architecture is protected within 9 Conservation Areas. While the best of Douglas's historic architecture is protected, the townscape has also seen a good deal of investment in new modern architecture, examples of which include Pulrose Power Station with its fully glazed and illuminated generating hall; Microgaming's purpose-built headquarters opened in 2017 with a unique sky-bridge joining its two buildings; Villiers House - a landmark Promenade building now headquarters to Lloyds Bank International; and the new headquarters for Plan.com, a futuristic and high-tech design with natural materials and relaxed meeting spaces that is currently under construction in Victoria Street. These examples join the very distinctive mid-century Sea Terminal Building (shaped like the Three Legs of Mann national symbol), which marks the principal gateway to the Island.

The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour the Council can confer on an individual (or, in some cases, a military body) as an acknowledgement or appreciation of their outstanding contribution or service to the Borough and the Isle of Man. As the sole local authority in the Isle of Man with borough status, Douglas is the only one that can confer Freedom. The power to do so is contained in the Local Government Act 1985, an Act of Tynwald, but it had existed for many years in former legislation. The power was first exercised in 1924, when the Right Honourable the Earl of Derby was honoured in recognition of his war service and his part in creating the Douglas war memorial. Since then, the honour has been bestowed on 34 occasions. Among the Freemen are: Sir Thomas Hall Caine, Field Marshall the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Norman Wisdom, the Bee Gees, Mark Cavendish MBE, the 12th Regiment the Royal Artillery and Geoff Duke OBE (TT rider; car and motorcycling champion).

### **Cultural infrastructure, interesting heritage, history and traditions**

There can be no doubt that Douglas is the cultural capital of the Isle of Man, thanks in part to its wide variety of venues for hosting performing arts events, exhibitions and festivals.

The Gaiety Theatre opened in 1900, and now hosts a variety of productions by local and visiting theatre companies, with musicals being especially popular. The annual Easter Festival of Plays sees amateur dramatic groups from across Britain compete to win a coveted prize. As part of the theatre's major restoration in the 1990s to return it to its former glory, the stage's Corsican Trap was refurbished, the only remaining one in the world.

The theatre's neighbour, the Villa Marina, is sited on land purchased by the Council from the estate of local businessman and philanthropist Henry Bloom Noble in 1920, with the Royal Hall and Gardens opening in 1913. Before then, the site had been the home of Governor Francis Pigott who, when arriving in the Island in 1860, objected to the then Government House being part of Castle Rushen in Castletown, which was the capital at the time. Governor Pigott chose instead that the Governor's seat be in Douglas, which by this time had surpassed the ancient capital as the more dominant town.

Today, the Royal Hall part of the Villa Marina complex is home to the annual flagship concerts by the Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra, the Isle of Man Choral Society, and the Manx Last Night of the Proms. It also serves as the venue for visiting contemporary bands and artists from the UK. The annual Manx Music Festival (known locally as "The Guild"), which dates from 1892, is also held at the Villa Marina where amateur music and dance performers compete for the Cleveland Medal. The Villa Marina, with its ancillary suites and cinema, also serves as a conference and exhibition centre. It has hosted events such as IsleExpo, attracting the Island's entrepreneurs, start-ups and potential inward investors to come together to share experiences, learn from each other and network and, in 2017, the Celtic Media Festival. The festival's aim was to promote the languages, cultures and talent of the Celtic nations, and served as a valuable opportunity to promote, at an international level, the unique Gaelic traditions of the Island and its achievements in fostering that ambition. The Isle of Man Film Festival, which celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, is largely hosted at the Villa Marina's Cinema. The internationally renowned festival, attracts filmmakers from around the world and also provides a platform for local filmmakers.

The Villa Marina Gardens are also used for concerts and festivals. These include TT Festival entertainment when the gardens are alive with the sound of live music, the annual Food and Drink Festival, a culinary showcase for the Island's produce typically attracting 10,000 to 15,000 visitors; and for the first time in 2021, the Isle of Pride Festival, demonstrating the cultural inclusivity and diversity of this small nation's capital. Linking the Villa Marina and the Gaiety is the Villa Marina Arcade, home to the headquarters of the Isle of Man Arts Council which uses the Arcade facility as a venue for a wide range of events.

One of the town's great strengths is its variety of smaller venues whose proprietors are keen to promote the lively local cultural scene. In this way, local bars, clubs and coffee shops regularly host local bands, artists and mini-festivals. A local artisan bakery and coffee emporium opens its doors each July to *Yn Cruinnaght*, the Island's Celtic gathering, to host lunchtime Celtic folk sessions in the town centre, with local and visiting artists jamming together. Similarly, Manx Litfest, which brings together authors, poets and illustrators from across the Island and the British Isles, typically hosts a number of events in some of the town's smaller, more intimate venues. The current Manx Bard (who also happens to be a drag queen) lives and works in Douglas.

Another mini-festival to make good use of the capital's micro-venues is *Cooish*, an inter-Gaelic festival of language and culture organised by the Manx Gaelic Society. The festival aims to promote Gaelic and Manx identity and includes music, workshops, lectures and language classes for children and adults. This year two such language workshops were held in the Council's Henry Bloom Noble Library, a popular town centre venue for cultural events and children's themed educational workshops.

The Island's main radio station, Manx Radio, is based in Douglas. Manx Radio's status as the public sector broadcaster is now enshrined in Tynwald law, and the station takes its remit to promote the Manx language and culture seriously, with regular Manx Gaelic language broadcasts.

The Council's Henry Bloom Noble Library is the Island's premier public library. This vibrant library offers free membership to all residents of the Island, giving access to nearly 40,000 books and a wide selection of audiobooks, digital books, newspapers and magazines. The library's Manx Collection is the go-to place for reference books and sources of Manx history, literature and information. The Family Library, which supports the Island's schools and teachers with classroom materials is also based in Douglas and is open to the general public. It is the home of the Island's Mobile and Home Library service which serves those areas of the Island and residents that do not have easy access to a public library.

The Isle of Man's history and culture are well documented at the Manx Museum, the home of Manx National Heritage (MNH). The growth of Douglas as a leading tourist destination in the late Victorian and Edwardian era, and then its role as an internment camp destination during both World Wars are particularly well documented. The Museum houses the National Art Gallery, which includes paintings of the Douglas Harbour and Bay area during late Victorian times by John Miller Nicholson. The life and works of Douglas poet and scholar T E Brown and novelist Hall Caine are also well represented. The Archive Library for MNH is also based at the Manx Museum. Adjacent is the iMuseum, the home of the Island's digital archive.

Summerhill Glen is where the people of Douglas and the wider Island come to pay homage to the little fairy folk (*Mooijer Veggey*), who have now found sanctuary in their tiny homes in the woods next to the stream, away from the hustle and bustle of the town centre. The people of Douglas remain keenly aware of this unique cultural tradition and take care to keep the little people sweet for fear of trickery and spells. The Glen, which is beautifully illuminated and has been a popular attraction for children of all ages for many generations, perfectly encapsulates the Gaelic folklore aspect so beloved of the people of Douglas. These distinct Manx customs that are celebrated in Douglas include hunting the wren on St Stephen's Day and, *Hop-tu-Naa*, the Isle of Man's Celtic version of Halloween when children call from door to door singing the "Jinny the Witch" song in return for treats.

### **Vibrant and welcoming community**

The Isle of Man, being at the geographical centre of the British Isles and in the middle of the Irish Sea, has always welcomed visitors and newcomers to its shores and inevitably this has led to the introduction of new customs and ideas. Manx-born residents account for just under half of the Island's population and so the culture today is a unique mix of Manx, Celtic and British with new arrivals from across Europe and the world with sizable communities from countries including South Africa, Poland, the Philippines and the United States.

Douglas Carnival is one example of how the capital celebrates its diverse community – a day-long spectacle of floats, vintage vehicles, walking processions and live music along the full length of the Promenade. Celebrating its first birthday in the summer of 2021, POC (People of Colour) Isle of Man launched its Culture Fest in the grounds of the Nunnery Estate, celebrating the ethnic diversity of the Manx nation. This was an inclusive family event with educational and craft workshops, lots of live music and food trucks.

Without doubt, though, the biggest welcome of the year is reserved for the riders and fans who arrive from across the world for the TT Tourist Trophy motorcycle races every year at the end of May. The race, which starts and finishes at the grandstand alongside Noble's Park in Douglas, takes in the 37.73 miles of the mountain circuit at speeds of up to 200 mph.

The lap record for the Senior TT race is 16 minutes and 42.778 seconds at an average speed of 135.452 mph (217.989 km/h) set by Peter Hickman during the 2018 Senior TT Race. The race record of one hour, 43 minutes and 08.065 seconds is also held by Hickman, an average race speed of 131.700 mph (211.951 km/h) achieved during the same six-lap Senior TT race. Douglas town centre becomes a focus for evening entertainment and activities during the TT festival with restaurants, pubs and bars supplemented by pop-up venues including the famous Bushy's Beer Tent, which moved into its new home in the Villa Marina Gardens in 2018.

Douglas is the focus for many of the Isle of Man's largest community events with its Promenade the setting for the annual fireworks display, Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday in November and the starting point for the annual Tower of Refuge walk during which up to 5,000 participants are escorted to the tower in Douglas Bay at the lowest tide of the year.

### **Record of innovation**

In 1824, Sir William Hillary, resident of Fort Anne in Douglas, having witnessed dozens of shipwrecks off the Manx coast, started lobbying for a national institution for the preservation of lives at sea and went on to become the founder of the RNLI.

The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company was established in Douglas in 1830 and is the oldest continuously operating passenger shipping company in the world. Victorian Douglas also catered for the influx of summer tourists by building a network of funiculars, as the oldest and longest narrow gauge vintage electric railway system in the British Isles, the world's last but one surviving horse-drawn tramway and a cable tram that reputedly became a model for the San Francisco cable tramway.

In 1881 the Manx parliament, Tynwald, became the first national parliament to give female householders the right to vote in a general election, 37 years earlier than in the UK. In 2006 the Isle of Man became the first country in Western Europe to lower the voting age to 16.

The TT and Zero [emissions] TT progressed the development of motorcycles and motorcycling. The TT was for many years at the forefront of motorcycle design and development and the TT Zero continued that drive for innovation.

Douglas was home to the first holiday camp in the British Isles, the all-male Cunningham's Camp on Victoria Road, opened in 1904, at the time the largest in the world. Where Douglas Head meets the sea, Port Skillion was reputed to be the first public open-air pool in Britain, reaching the height of its popularity in the mid-1890s.

Douglas is the heart of the Manx economy which has demonstrated remarkable innovation since the 1960s. With the onset of air travel to European holiday destinations and the growth in popularity of Mediterranean resorts, Douglas, enabled by supportive legislation, was able to evolve and diversify away from tourism into offshore finance. That evolution has continued and today the Isle of Man is one of the well-regulated jurisdictions in the world and with an economy that continues to diversify. Today the digital economy is 30% of the national economy. There is a resilient telecoms and electricity infrastructure and a network of new data-hosting centres. The e-gaming industry is well established with two of the international market leaders based in Douglas. Emerging industries include Fintech, blockchain, e-business, digital currency, and e-sports.

Manx Telecom was the world's first telecoms operator to launch a 3G network and introduced 4G technology in advance of it being available on most phones. Manx Radio, the national commercial radio station for the Isle of Man, began broadcasting on 29 June 1964,



almost 10 years before commercial radio was licensed in the United Kingdom. Much of the early work to develop radar took place at HMS Valkyrie on Douglas Head and consequently Douglas harbour was the first in the world to have radar.

### **Sound governance and administration**

In 1860, following the passing of the Douglas Town Act, Douglas Town Commissioners were elected and became responsible for the development of Douglas in one of the most important periods in its history, recognised in 1869 when the status of Capital was conferred. In 1896, the Municipal Borough of Douglas came into being by Act of Tynwald, becoming the forerunner to the present Douglas Borough Council, which celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2021.

As the largest local authority on the Island, and the only Borough (the other local authorities being town, village or parish authorities), the Council has a long history of sound forward-thinking and it continues to develop to match the highest standards of customer service, accountability and good governance. This includes following UK good practice and modernisation, even though it is not required to do so by Manx Statute (for example, putting in place an Executive, a Constitution, and a Standards Committee). From the early pioneering achievements by the first Commissioners and Councillors who left their mark on the Capital and shaped its future, in such ways as the Douglas Water Company collecting then piping clean water to all households, expunging diseases such as cholera; providing public transport, electricity, social housing and a library; and improving public health. Today the Council has one of the highest standards of social housing and has led in the Island on recycling and effective methods of waste management. The extent, variety and quality of the Council's pioneering achievements in these areas are a standing tribute about which the people of Douglas are justly proud. Douglas is the only town on the Island to have a Mayor (provided for in the Douglas Municipal Corporation Act of 1896). The Mayor, as First Citizen, takes precedence to all except the Lieutenant Governor.

Douglas is the home of the Island's government and parliament (Tynwald, or more formally, Tynwald Court). Tynwald, at more than 1,000 years old, is of Norse origin, and is the oldest continuous parliament in the world. It is also the only tri-cameral (three chambered) parliamentary system in the British Commonwealth, with the Tynwald Court, House of Keys, and Legislative Council Chambers all located in the Legislative Building in Douglas. The Isle of Man Government, headed by the Chief Minister, is also headquartered in Douglas, in Government Office. Procedure is controlled by the President of Tynwald in accordance with Standing Orders, on which their interpretation is authoritative.

There are 12 constituencies represented in the House of Keys, with two Members representing each constituency. Douglas has by far the largest number of Members of the House of Keys (MHKs) – eight in total; as there are four constituencies based in Douglas. All the other areas on the Island have just one constituency, with only two MHKs in each.

The Island's Bishop, the Bishop of Sodor and Mann, is an ex-officio member of the Legislative Council, as is the Attorney General, who is the Isle of Man Government's chief legal adviser.

The Isle of Man Courts of Justice are located in Douglas. These include the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction; the Court of General Gaol Delivery; the Civil Division of the High Court; the Staff of Government (Appeal Division); and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The General Registry is based in Douglas with the Land, Deed and Civil Registries, as well as the Tribunals Service; the Appointments Commission; the Information Commissioner's

Office; and the Isle of Man Public Record Office. The Isle of Man Ship Registry is also in Douglas, one of the world's leading registers of ships, and the flag of choice for ship owners and companies looking for quality and partnership from a flag administration. The Isle of Man Aircraft Registry was established in 2007. It is also based in Douglas.

Douglas is acknowledged to be one of the best regulated international financial centres, with the capital home to the Gambling Supervision Commission and the Financial Supervision Authority, regulating the private sector. The Isle of Man was included on the OECD's "White List" of co-operative jurisdictions in 2009. Its finance industry has received many international plaudits, including being voted Best International Financial Centre on several occasions by international financial magazines and associations.

### **Associations with Royalty**

Her Majesty the Queen is patron of the RNLI, founded in Douglas by Sir William Hillary, a resident of the town, having watched a number of ships and their crew lose their lives in the seas off Douglas Bay. The first lifeboat was built and stationed in Douglas after the foundation of the charity, which was originally titled the "National Institution for the Preservation of Life From Shipwreck" in 1824, when Royal Patronage was received from His Majesty King George IV, before it became the RNLI under the patronage of Queen Victoria in 1854. The station is identified as Station No.1.

The Stanley family (Earls of Derby) were feudal Kings or Lords of Mann. In 1765 the Island was purchased by the Crown. The Queen is therefore Lord Proprietor of the Island and formally referred to on the Island as The Queen, Lord of Mann. Her Majesty is officially represented on the Island by the Lieutenant Governor, whose role, although now largely ceremonial, retains important constitutional duties. The Lieutenant Governor's formal residence, the extensive gardens of which are maintained by the Council, is on the border of Douglas and the neighbouring, Onchan. William Leveson-Gower, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl Granville, Lieutenant Governor of the Island from 1937 to 1945, was married to Lady Rose Bowes-Lyon, sister of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Douglas in 1945 and were accompanied by Admiral and Lady Granville. The three-day visit was the first official tour that the King and Queen had made outside Britain since the end of the war. During that visit, King George VI became the first British monarch to preside over Tynwald. On the Queen Mother's second visit in 1973, Her Majesty became the first woman to preside over Tynwald. The Queen Mother made a further visit in 1984 when she opened the Commonwealth Conference in the Royal Hall at the Villa Marina.

Queen Elizabeth II has visited Douglas on many occasions. In 1955, the Royal Yacht Britannia sailed into Douglas with the Queen on board, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, and Princess Anne. Her Majesty also visited in 1972, when one of the Douglas Bay horse trams was named the "Royal Car" after carrying the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh along Douglas Promenade. Further visits took place in 1979, to celebrate the Millennium of Tynwald, then in 1984 and 1989. Prince Charles visited Douglas in 1996 to mark the centenary of the Borough of Douglas and was received by the Worshipful the Mayor of Douglas at the Town Hall.

More recent visits, since the Millennium: 2000 – visit of Prince Charles for the Tynwald Day Ceremony, and the first time the Duchess of Cornwall visited the Island; 2003 – visit of the Queen and Prince Philip for the Tynwald ceremony; 2012 – visit of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall as part of the Diamond Jubilee Tour, to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession; 2015 – visit by the Princess Royal who arrived at Noble's Park, Douglas by helicopter to be welcomed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Worshipful the Mayor of Douglas; and 2019 – visit of the Princess Royal for a tour of the Isle of Man and unveiling of a plaque at the official opening of the refurbished heritage Douglas Market Hall.

The Council is planting 70 trees along the Enterprise Way cycleway for the Platinum Jubilee, with species represented in the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

**Other particularly distinctive features, age, residents or communities who have made widely recognised significant contributions to society and cultural infrastructure**

**Arthur William Moore MA, CVO** - Manx historian and antiquary, his greatest legacy is his contribution to the preservation of Manx language, literature and cultural history. At a time when Manx Gaelic and its literature was despised by the educated classes and facing extinction, Moore almost single-handedly sought to preserve and promote the traditions. He founded the Manx Gaelic Society in 1899 with its motto *Gyn Chen, get, gyn cheer* (without tongue, without country), and became its first president. We can thank Moore for the fact that the language is maintained and taught at the Island's schools today.

**Edward Forbes FRS** - Distinguished naturalist, Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh University, and youngest ever President of the Geological Society (a plaque on the outside of the Town Hall commemorates the former site of his birthplace).

**Brown, (T E) Thomas Edward Brown** - The Manx National Poet; voted by the Manx public in 2003 as "the greatest Manxman of all time" and the first Manx Bard.

**Thomas Henry Hall Caine, CH, KBE** - Freeman of the Borough of Douglas, novelist, dramatist, poet, and critic. His popularity on both sides of the Atlantic was unprecedented.

**Mark Cavendish MBE** - The "Manx Missile" and Freeman is the greatest sprinter in the history of cycling and joint record holder with 34 stage wins at the Tour de France.

**The Bee Gees** - Brothers Barry, Maurice and Robin Gibb CBE were born in Douglas and went on to become one of the world's most famous popular vocal groups. Despite their global success and becoming one of the best-selling music artists of all time Barry, Maurice and Robin never forgot the land of their birth, the Isle of Man.

**Sir George Goldie, PC, KCMG, FRS** - Founder of Nigeria.

**Goulden, Sophia Jane Goulden** - Pioneer of Women's suffrage, and mother of Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst. There is a blue plaque erected to her memory.

**Bryan Kneale** - Sculptor, who like Archibald Knox, attended the Douglas School of Art. He taught at the Royal College of Art (London) between 1982 and 1990, and was master and professor of sculpture at the Royal Academy.

**Nigel Kneale** - Older brother to Bryan Kneale. A very successful screenwriter, best known for the "Quatermass" works.

**Archibald Knox** - Art nouveau artist and designer for Liberty & Co, London. In 2014 a blue plaque was erected in the Archibald Knox garden adjacent to his Douglas home, to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

**John Miller Nicholson** - Considered by his contemporaries and later generations (including Knox) to have been the Manx National Artist and one of the Island's most gifted sons. His work has been frequently compared with Turner's, and admired by John Ruskin.

**Henry Bloom Noble** - Property developer, philanthropist, and benefactor - responsible for providing Douglas and the Island with hospitals, educational institutions, and other charitable causes.

**Joseph William Swynnerton** - International stonemason and sculptor, based in his studio in Rome, but many examples of his statues, both religious and secular, can still be seen around the Island and the UK, as well as beyond.

**Haydn Wood** - one of the most popular English songwriters and composers, including "Roses of Picardy" (1916), which sold 1.25 million copies at first issue.

**Richard Cain** - Douglas-born founder in 1911 of the Manx World Association, uniting Manx people living abroad, all over the world.

## **c) Profile**

### **Demographic data**

The demographic figures for the whole of the Island's population are relevant to this submission because the whole of the Island is the catchment area for Douglas, the capital of the Island and only major urban area. The Isle of Man's population is almost 83,500 with Manx-born residents accounting for 49.8% of the Island's population. One third (32.4%) of the total population reside in Douglas. The closest other populations are Onchan (11%), Ramsey (9.4%), Peel (6.5%), Port Erin (4.2%) and Castletown (3.9%). 8.3% of the Island's residents were born outside the British Isles and the Republic of Ireland.

### **Economic Activity**

The Island's economically active population is 43,000 and 82% of the working age population are in employment. 58% (25,000) of that working population work in Douglas. Approximately 25% of the economically active working population works in the public sector. Almost all of the Isle of Man Government's Departments have their headquarters in Douglas, making it the administrative capital. This includes the Isle of Man Treasury and the Cabinet Office, based in Government Building on Prospect Hill. This means that the large majority of the Island's civil service is based in Douglas. The Police and Fire Authorities are both headquartered in Douglas

The town has a diverse economy, which includes banking, insurance, fiduciary services, shipping, yacht and aircraft management, construction, news and media and e-Commerce. All of the Island's banks have their headquarters and high street branches based in Douglas. The Manx Credit Union is also based here.

Douglas also boasts the centre of the Island's retail and hospitality industries. Most of the Island's larger hotels are located in Douglas, as well as many guesthouses. Douglas is the only town on the Island to have any UK hotel chains present, and the capital has two prominent names. The Island's finest dining restaurants, eateries and night-time economy including the Island's only casino, the first in the British Isles, opened by Sean Connery in 1966.

The Isle of Man Bank, with its headquarters on Athol Street, issues the Island's own Manx currency, on behalf of the Isle of Man Treasury.

Manufacturing includes a gin distillery (Seven Kingdoms), and a premium bakery, with its own café and events centre in the refurbished Old Market Hall, and the Island's main brewery (Heron & Brearley's Okell's). The Okell's draught ales regularly win awards at prestigious competitions in the UK. In 1874, Dr Okell persuaded Tynwald to pass legislation ensuring the purity of beer brewed on the Island. The Island continues to brew beer according to these "Purity Laws", which prohibit the use of anything other than the natural brewing ingredients of water, yeast, hops and malt. Today, all the Okell's beers are produced to these exacting standards and are showcased at the annual CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival held in the Villa Marina. Many of the pubs in Douglas are owned by this brewery, including the CAMRA award winning Woodbourne Hotel, which in 2020 celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and pints of the local beer were for one day sold for £1.25.

Douglas Harbour remains a working fishing port for the Island. The long established Devereaux family firm have their flagship fishmonger's shop on Douglas' high street with fish sourced from the harbour's boats. Manx Kippers can be purchased here and sent around the world.

Square seaside candy rock can be purchased in Douglas, a quirky throwback to the times when the town was a premier seaside resort destination for Britain. The rock used to be manufactured by a confectioner based in Castle Street, Douglas.

### **Public green spaces**

Douglas has a diverse landscape of coastal cliffs, sandy beaches, parkland, and both urban and suburban environments. The capital has around 4,000 mature and maintained trees including in parks and open spaces and street trees and a comprehensive annual planting and tree replenishment programme. The landscape features of the capital include:

- Douglas Beach spanning two miles in a crescent shape along the Capital's promenade, right next to the main shopping district;
- Parks and open spaces amounting to 120 hectares including Noble's Park;
- Ornamental floral displays throughout the capital numbering in excess of 500;
- Four town squares of formally laid gardens;
- Douglas allotments with 94 plots proudly maintained by the local community;
- Ornamental gardens including Marine Gardens;
- A creative play initiative developed in partnership with children's charity Isle of Play;
- Cemeteries and the Island's only crematorium;

Notable public spaces, parks, ornamental gardens within the capital include:

#### **Noble's Park**

Noble's Park is owned and operated by the Council. It is laid out to traditional amenity and ornamental parkland and covers an area of 18.8 hectares. It is the largest public open space in Douglas and the Headquarters to the world- famous TT motorcycle races.

#### **Douglas Head**

Douglas Head covers an area of 2.15 hectares and is laid out to amenity grassland, gorse, bracken and is situated on the headland towards the southern end of Douglas Bay. Views from the headland across the bay looking north and beyond are stunning with the majority of the capital visible from this point; other features include amenity grassland, herbaceous borders, picnic areas and a viewing platform. Douglas Head formed part of the Nunnery Estate but in 1870 Sir John Goldie-Taubman gave part of it to "the people of Douglas" through the (then) Douglas Town Commissioners. It became one of the focal points for entertainment and recreational activities.

The Grand Union Camera Obscura is located on Douglas Head. It was first opened in the 1890s and is one of only a very few still open in the British Isles. The lens and mirror are mounted in the turret of a darkened room, the image being projected onto a viewing table. The distance from the lens to the table would need to be adjusted to bring objects at different distances into focus but by mounting the camera on a hill there are no nearby objects thus a single setting suffices. The Camera Obscura was allegedly used in Victorian times by ladies to peep on the male-only bathers at Port Skillion Beach and open sea baths below Douglas Head.

Douglas Head forms part of the *Raad ny Foillan* (The Way of the Gull) coastal footpath which starts and finishes at the Millennium Bridge spanning Douglas Harbour. The path, which is 95 miles (153 km) in length, forms a complete loop around the Manx coast, waymarked with signs showing a gull on a blue background. The walk was created to mark the Island's "Heritage Year" celebrations in 1986 and generally follows the coast, passing

through terrain varying from shingle beaches at the Ayres to over 600 feet (180 m) high hills and cliffs.

There are three monuments at Douglas Head:

- Sir William Hillary - A statue of RNLI founder and Isle of Man resident who was the man behind the building of the Tower of Refuge on Conister Rock;
- Battle of Trafalgar - A large stone anchor is dedicated to the contribution and sacrifice made by Manx people during the Battle of Trafalgar and was placed on the headland marking the bicentenary of that event; and
- Millennium Stone – marking the turn of the last century. These stones were placed all over the Island to mark 2000.

### **Marine Gardens**

The Marine “Sunken” Gardens were originally claimed from the sea as part of a work creation scheme in the early 1930s They cover an area of 1.97 hectares and are laid out in an ornamental Victorian style with features including symmetrical gardens, lawn areas and the Bee Gees statue.

### **Hutchinson Square**

The square covers an area of 0.37 hectares and is laid out in an ornamental Victorian style with features including Manx stone walls and perimeter railings, annual beds, herbaceous and perennial borders, formal lawns, seating and a sundial.

During 1940 the gardens and surrounding properties of Hutchinson Square were compulsorily possessed by the British Crown and an internment camp was created. Hutchinson Internment Camp was particularly noted as “the artists’ camp” due to the thriving artistic and intellectual life of its internees. Internees included artist Kurt Schwitters, the concert pianist, Marjan Rawicz and the founding members of the Amadeus Quartet.

### **Summerhill Glen**

The glen is situated in the northern area of Douglas and is primarily laid to mature native and non-native woodland which covers an area of 3.31 hectares. Landscape features include mature woodland, a stream leading to a small dam area at the bottom of the site, seating, illuminations and features of Manx folklore.

### **Kaye Memorial Garden**

The garden which covers 0.06 hectares, is situated in the northern area of Douglas Promenade and is laid to ornamental annual and perennial borders with the central focal point being the Summerland Memorial. The garden is home to statues and memorials including:

- Sir Hall Caine, CH, KBE, MHK and Freeman of Douglas, 1853 – 1931;
- Original Summerland memorial created in 1998 to mark the 25th anniversary of the disaster;
- New Summerland memorial 2013 commissioned by the Council to mark the 40th anniversary of the disaster.

### **St. George’s Churchyard**

The churchyard, maintained by the Council, is situated in the centre of Douglas and with the landscape fabric being headstones, mature native and non-native trees and grassland. St George’s is the only church in Douglas to have a churchyard attached to it. It contains many interesting graves including that of Sir William Hillary. The Churchyard is a popular and peaceful spot for office workers in the town centre to spend their lunchtime.

### **Douglas Beach and Douglas Bay**

Douglas Beach is a sandy crescent, stretching two miles across the front of Douglas Bay, facing east from the beach, landmarks such as Conister Rock, the Tower of Refuge, Douglas Head and Douglas Harbour can be seen. It is a popular spot near to the town centre, shops, hotels, cafés and restaurants. Since 2018 Douglas Bay has been a designated Marine Nature Reserve the highest level of protection offered to the marine habitat by The Wildlife Act 1990. This provides important protection for the area and its biodiversity whilst enabling lower impact human activities to continue.

### **Douglas Borough Cemetery and Crematorium**

The Borough Cemetery and Crematorium is located in the north west of the Capital and covers an area of 5.89 hectares with site features including closed burial grounds, formal gardens, garden of remembrance, memorials private and of national significance, seating, chapel and crematorium, book of remembrance and offices.

The Douglas Borough Cemetery was dedicated and consecrated in 1899. The crematorium is the Island's only such service, and is operated by the Council on behalf of all of the Island's residents. Douglas Crematorium was formally opened and dedicated in 1961 by the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man.

### **Sport and leisure facilities – notable within the capital include:**

#### **The National Sports Centre (NSC)**

The National Sports Centre is situated in the capital 1.5 miles south west of the Promenade, with the site covering 9.31 hectares. The centre was constructed over two phases with phase one opened by Steve Ovett in September 1991. The site today consists of:

- Athletics stadium - a 400-metre, six lane (eight lane straight) fully floodlit synthetic running track with a current United Kingdom (UK) Athletics Certificate with a 500-seat grandstand;
- An 11-metre hammer/discus cage;
- Synthetic pitch - alongside the athletics stadium is a full size (7,000 sq. metres) floodlit all-weather synthetic pitch. The pitch was renewed by AstroTurf in 2002 with a water based playing surface. The pitch is used for various sports including Sunday league football and hockey; and
- Raceway - The other outdoor facility is an 800 metres fully lit tarmac raceway, which forms the perimeter of the outdoor provision and has a competition and training facility for Cycling Criterion racing, race-walking and road running;
- Swimming pool and leisure pool - the competition pool is a 25-metre state-of-the-art short course pool with two floating floors and a retractable boom to divide the pool lengthways. The leisure pool has flume rides and a flow pool with a separate shallow pool, a children's beach area and a spa pool;
- Sports halls - the NSC has a full-size sports hall with an electronic scoreboard and a PA system and a four-court secondary sports hall. The main hall can be divided into 10 badminton courts. The secondary sports hall can be divided into four badminton courts with facilities for cricket and archery practice;
- Fitness Zone gym and spa suite - the gym has a range of cardiovascular fitness and resistance equipment. The spa suite has sauna cabins, steam room and a whirlpool spa;
- Indoor Bowls Hall - the Bowls Hall has five rinks and a master scoreboard, electronic digital lane scoreboards and a spectator/refreshment area. Portable tiered seating units can be installed to house 100 spectators for special events. The centre is home to the Isle of Man Indoor Bowls Association; and

- Squash Centre - the Squash Centre has six squash courts. Four of the courts have glass backs, three of which are portable and can be moved to create two show courts. These can then accommodate 50 spectators for each court in portable tiered seating units.

The 2001 Island Games were held on the Isle of Man with the NSC being used for some of the sports and the closing ceremony. The centre also hosts the annual Manx Youth Games. The opening ceremony is held in the athletics stadium and there are 12 different sports staged throughout the venues in the centre with teams from all over the Island. The centre also hosts the annual Manx Gateway Games.

In March 2008 the NSC was announced as one of 73 sites earmarked as training venues in North West England for the 2012 Summer Olympics, with the NSC listed for Road cycling, Mountain biking, Handball and Shooting. In 2009 the Isle of Man Institute of Sport moved into a new purpose-built facility at the athletics stadium in the NSC.

The NSC was one of the venues for the 2011 Commonwealth Youth Games which were held on the Isle of Man. The athletics stadium staged the opening ceremony on 8 September 2011 (officially opened by Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex) as well as all the athletics events. The swimming pool staged the swimming events and the main sports hall badminton with seating for 1,000 spectators.

Each June at mid-summer the Parish Walk starts at the NSC athletics track, where competitors of all abilities set out from Douglas on an epic 85-mile walk to visit each of the Island's parish churches before reaching, within 24 hours, the finish line on Douglas Promenade. This is definitely one of the biggest sporting events on the Manx calendar, and to have the start and finish in Douglas speaks volumes.

### **The Bowl National Stadium**

The Bowl is situated adjacent to the NSC and is a sports multi-use stadium with a capacity of 3,000 which is primarily seating with some standing. The pitch is an all-weather 4G synthetic hosting football, hockey and rugby matches.

The site is home to the Manx Football Association, Isle of Man National Team and newly formed Isle of Man FC who are whipping up a buzz of excitement having just entered the lowest tier of the English National League – with some notable success in its first season. Locals have renamed the stadium “The Bernabowl”, allegedly placing it on a par with Barcelona FC's own Bernabeu Stadium.

### **Douglas Golf Course**

The municipal course was designed by the world famous course architect Dr Alistair Mackenzie responsible for a large portfolio of courses including the Augusta National in Atlanta, Georgia, venue of the US Masters. The course comprises 18 holes covering 45.5 hectares and is of parkland style. There is a large clubhouse with community room, professional shop (a golf course professional resides here) and club facilities. Douglas Golf Course offers first-class golfing facilities at an affordable rate to all residents of the Island. The annual Mayor's Golf Competition is hosted here.

### **Nobles Park**

Nobles Park also incorporates a range of sports and leisure facilities including football, tennis, netball, crown bowls, and which each year hosts the Island's main bowls tournament. The Island's only community Parkrun event is held here each Saturday morning. There are also children's play facilities including play area, a water play park (The Splash Zone), and a “free Little Library”.



### **Other sporting facilities available in Douglas**

Douglas is also home to:

- the Island's cricket scene at Cronkbourne Cricket Club;
- Douglas Rugby Club which competes with clubs in the North West of England and will host the UK's Rugby Sevens tournament in 2022;
- Douglas Bay Yacht Club, situated at the heart of the Douglas Marina;
- Two gymnastics centres;
- Two tennis clubs (one of which is owned by the Council);
- the start of the old Steam Railway Heritage Trail to Peel, which mountain bikers use as a superhighway to access the trails on the Manx Hills.
- St George's, St Mary's, Douglas Athletic and Pulrose United Football Clubs.

### **Shopping Centres**

Douglas is the main retail centre on the Isle of Man and serves the whole of the Island community. It is the only town where the familiar high street names can be found including Marks & Spencer, Boots, TK Maxx, Next, Sports Direct, JD Sports and WHSmith. In addition to the larger multiples are a wealth of locally owned independent retailers and hospitality businesses. As of November 2021 approximately 72% of the businesses are independents.

Strand Street is the main high street with a large department store at its southern end and the Strand Shopping Centre at the northern end. It is between these two anchors that most of the UK multiples will be found. To the north of the Strand Centre the high street changes to Castle Street and then Marina Road, occupied mainly by independents. The current regeneration of Harris Promenade has recently created a direct pedestrian link from Marina Road into the new cultural area in front of the Gaiety Theatre and Villa Marina complex. To the south of Strand Street, shopping continues into Duke Street and Victoria Street before ultimately crossing Lord Street and joining with the North Quay. This is one of the main hospitality areas in Douglas with bars, pubs and restaurants using the wide pavements to provide outdoor areas overlooking the inner harbour. A recent initiative has been the evening pedestrianisation of part of North Quay to further improve the alfresco experience. Outdoor drinking and dining have become increasingly popular in the town centre over the last decade and now provide a real buzz to the town centre throughout the day and evening. All pavement cafés are licensed to ensure that their design and management are of the highest quality.

From 2012 to 2019 the environs of the town centre were completely regenerated. The initial design project was led by Douglas Development Partnership, a partnership between Douglas Borough Council, the Isle of Man Government and the Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce. The design team developed a masterplan that aimed to build on the traditions and character of the wider Island whilst also delivering a modern, progressive, urban environment as sought by the Manx public who were consulted on their ambitions for the town centre. The masterplan included proposals for materials, public art, lighting and greenery to ensure a consistent and unified approach to the project. The regeneration scheme stimulated investment in the building stock and several new modern retail developments have followed with more currently on site or at the planning stage.

Douglas Town Centre Management (DTCM), a service provided by Douglas Borough Council, is responsible for licensing the pavement cafés as well as charitable collections, street trading and busking. All of the initiatives help to provide a vibrant atmosphere in the town centre and are welcomed by the businesses as well as the public. DTCM organises a varied programme of events, initiatives and activities in the town centre throughout the year. This includes the Christmas Lights Switch On, *Hop-tu-Naa* (Halloween) themed

events and farmers' and craft markets. 2021 saw the debut of Douglas Live, a wide range of artists including magicians, poets, rock bands, drag acts and folk musicians performing in established and new venues throughout the town centre over one weekend in July.

One of the most striking and unique features of Douglas town centre is its proximity to the Promenade and the beach. From Strand Street one can see the sea along the various side streets linking the retail area to Loch Promenade, the southernmost of the Promenades. The full Promenade is currently in the latter stages of a major regeneration project which will see improved pedestrian environments and better links across the road between the town centre and the beach when it completes in 2022.

In addition to the main Strand Street retail area, there are a number of other smaller retail centres around the town.

### **Links with the Voluntary Sector**

The Council has very close links with the voluntary and third sectors, undertaking joint projects and regularly providing opportunities for charities to promote their services.

An example of joint working is the Lester's Yard Adventure Playground. Through efficiencies at Ballaughton Nursery, where the Council's Parks Service grows its own plant stock, an area of redundant land was identified and made available for the local charity Isle of Play for use as an Adventure Playground for children in the local communities. The Council and Isle of Play now have a symbiotic relationship where the Parks Service provide the charity with waste materials such as earth, timber and old pallets and these are used by Isle of Play and the children to make play features, dens and other structures.

The Council is proud to support Parkrun, through facilitating the use of Nobles Park for its free weekly community event, which is run entirely by volunteers. Parkrun is a not-for-profit organisation, with the Nobles Park event funded by the Manx Lottery Trust.

Nobles Park also facilitates the home of the Rob Vine Fund and Hogg Motorsport Association, which has its headquarters there, close to the TT Grandstand. The Rob Vine Fund provides medical and rescue services, equipment and medical training for paramedics, marshals and officials, essential for the hosting of the TT and other motorsport events.

Cross referral with the voluntary sector happens regularly in the Housing and Property Department where:

- Community Service is used to help maintain the gardens for Council tenants who are disabled, vulnerable, or elderly in receipt of income support;
- The Council refers tenants to Manx charity Housing Matters and The Salvation Army in order to provide supports/advice/food bank, etc;
- Manx Housing Trust guides potential tenants through the housing application process, with advice, support and temporary accommodation;
- Tenants are referred to the Manx Credit Union and Douglas Coal Fund for assistance as required.

The Community and Enforcement Service works with charities such as Manx Wild Bird Aid and the Manx Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) for reports of injured animals and wildlife.

Douglas Town Centre Management works closely with St John Ambulance (with the headquarters of the recently created Isle of Man Chapter based in Douglas) to provide first aid cover at events and supports local charity events by providing free media coverage on their social media channels. Events include Children In Need, Breast Cancer Awareness, the annual Bra Dash for Breast Cancer Now and the annual Santa Dash.

One of Douglas Town Centre Management's most popular events of the year is the Tower of Refuge Walk. With sponsorship from a local insurance company and assistance by the Isle of Man Coastguard, people are invited to participate in a mass walk to the Tower of Refuge in Douglas Bay when it can be reached on foot at the lowest tide of the year. Because the Tower of Refuge was instigated by Sir William Hillary the RNLI is always present to receive the generous donations from participants.

Douglas Town Centre Management also coordinates the programme of flag days and charitable collections in the town centre. Every November the Island's charities are invited to submit proposals for collections, flag days and similar town centre events and these are co-ordinated to ensure they are spread throughout the year. Special collection events are also permitted in order to seek donations in support of disasters.

The Council's Henry Bloom Noble Library works closely with charitable organisations such as the Manx charity Sight Matters (formerly Manx Blind Welfare) to ensure that there is an adequate supply of large-print materials and audiobooks, and Macmillan Nurses for whom an annual coffee morning is held, a great promotional and awareness opportunity for the charity on the Island, and with Noble's Hospital Macmillan Cancer information and Support service.

The Council has close links with Manx mental health awareness Charity Isle Listen. In this way, all employees working at the Council have been offered training and support to recognise the early signs of mental health issues, and to signpost workplace mental health and wellbeing strategies for both employer and employee.

The Mayor of Douglas undertakes numerous charity events during their year in office. Each Mayor will choose a list of charities to support over their tenure and funds are distributed accordingly. This includes the Manx charity Children of Chernobyl, for whom the Mayor and Mayoress host a reception each year, with visiting children from Belarus.

### **Douglas as a religious centre for the Island**

Douglas boasts the Catholic Church's main place of worship for the Island. St Mary of the Isle in the centre of Douglas was built in 1869 forming part of the Roman Catholic Pastoral Area of St Maughold, in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, and is the largest parish of any church on the Isle of Man. The Monsignor there was the last Council Mayor's Chaplain.

There are 13 churches operating in Douglas. The Chaplain to the House of Keys and the Council is the Archdeacon of Man (senior cleric second only to the Bishop). The Archdeacon is based in Douglas, at St George's Church. The church was consecrated in 1761, and contains the oldest organ on the Island, sourced from Dublin Assembly Hall for the sum of £100. It is the same organ on which Handel conducted the first performance of the Messiah, which took place in Dublin in 1742.

Other Church of England churches include the Victorian gothic style St Thomas' Church which has the largest organ on the Island (which used to be powered by water bellows), unique murals painted by John Miller Nicholson and a war memorial designed by Archibald Knox. The high Anglo-Catholic St Matthew's Church, which is situated on the North Quay, has a long association with brass bands, also with an Archibald Knox war memorial.

St Ninian's Church stands next to Nobles Park, built in 1913 on land and with funds from the Henry Bloom Noble estate. The Church's tower is 85 feet, and the nave is 100 ft. long. The aim at the time was for St Ninian's to be the new Cathedral church for the Island, but the Diocese could not afford that. The tower of St Ninian's dominates the landscape overlooking the capital.

Most other Christian denominations are represented with places of worship in Douglas, including Methodists (who have a very strong tradition on the Island), the United Reform Church, the Baptist Church, Quakers, Salvation Army, the evangelical Living Hope Church, Seventh Day Adventists, Latter Day Saints, Christian Scientists and the Spiritualist Church.

The Isle of Man Islamic Association has the only mosque on the Island in the capital and plans to build a new Islamic Centre in the centre of town.

There is a small Jewish community (the Manx Hebrew Congregation) maintaining the Jewish faith on the Island, and Douglas' Borough Cemetery contains the Island's only Jewish Cemetery. As there is no synagogue or rabbi, the Jewish community, which mostly lives in Douglas, usually meets up in each-other's houses. There is an annual Jewish Holocaust Memorial Day service, which is held at St Georges Church in Douglas.

### **Douglas Borough's Crest and Logo**



The Corporate Common Seal of the Borough, which is the Borough Arms, was adopted and approved at the first Statutory meeting of the Town Council on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1896. The design was prepared by T G Taylor, the then-Borough Surveyor, and is in the form of a shield, the four quarters of which are designed as follows:-

In what is known and described in heraldry as the dexter chief corner, the old Viking Ship is placed; in the adjoining quarter, the Eagle and the Child, representing the Arms of the Derby family (who were rulers of the Isle of Man for four centuries); immediately under the Viking Ship is placed a Lion Rampant, representing the Arms of the Athol family (successors to the Derby family); and in the quarter adjoining, The Three Legs of Man, unquartered; the whole being surmounted by the Monarchical Crown of Her Majesty The Queen, as Lord of Man.

Underneath is a scroll with the words "Borough of Douglas", and another scroll containing the words in Manx "*Kiannoortys cheusthie jeh Kiannoortys*", which, in English, means "Government within a Government", the Latin being "*Imperium in Imperio*".

A tile featuring the Douglas Borough's Crest alongside the 3 Legs of Mann was recently noticed to be built into the wall of the Little White Chapel in Guernsey. The Chapel features donations of mosaic tiles from around the world, and this tile is testament to close links between the two crown dependencies and Douglas in particular, enhanced since the

opening of the “airbridge” between the two virus-free Islands during the 2020 coronavirus lockdown.



A Douglas “logo”, or emblem, to be used in conjunction with the Borough Arms, was approved by the Council in 1993 in preparation for the Douglas Corporation Centenary. This emblem is sometimes used on street furniture, letterheads, and other applications where a symbol less formal than the Common Seal is appropriate.

### **Douglas: In conclusion**

Douglas has the infrastructure and credentials to become a city. From transport links to the Island’s economic, tourist, sporting, cultural religious and ethnic communities’ hub, Douglas has it all. The Council historically played a significant role in the development of the Island through its initiation of a public water supply, public health, fire services, public transport and the generating of electricity. The Council is proud in having played such a significant role in the development of the Island and has continued through the years to work very closely in partnership with Government to provide services of the highest standard to meet the needs of not just this important capital town and seat of Government, but the whole Island. The latest of which is the most major project undertaken in recent years of the regeneration of Douglas and the famous Promenade, which despite difficult times during the pandemic, is against all the odds, set for completion in early 2022. A fitting time for the proud town of Douglas to be reborn as a city, and lead into the international bicentenary celebrations in 2024 of the founding of the RNLI by Sir William Hillary, another major innovation that has brought safety and help to communities through its work, and continues to do so, across the world.

Douglas feels like a capital (and is the capital). Douglas feels like a city (and would be proud to become a city).

#### d) Photographs



Douglas and the Manx mountains beyond from Douglas Head. The Council has a programme for sowing native wildflowers as part of its “Plan Bee” pollinator plan.



The historic Grand Union Camera Obscura is one of the Victorian attractions on Douglas Head.



Douglas Town Hall



The Council Chamber, Douglas Town Hall with the portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and banners celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council.



The Jubilee Clock at the eastern (Promenade end) of Victoria Street. It was built in 1887 in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign.



The statue of Queen Victoria watches over Victoria Street, one of Douglas's main town centre streets.





Strand Street is Douglas's main shopping street. A large and successful M&S store is the anchor at the southern end of the street with the Strand Shopping centre at the northern end as Strand Street changes to Castle Street.



Strand Street is occupied by many well-known high street names as well as a wide range of local independent businesses.



The former Top Shop store is currently occupied by a pop-up gallery displaying “Douglas in Passing” an exhibition of paintings of Douglas by local artist Ian Coulson.



The magnificent Isle of Man Bank on the corner of Athol Street and Prospect Hill.



At its northern end the retail area turns into Castle Street and then Marina Road, occupied by local independent businesses, including the world-famous Devereaux fishmongers, before joining the Promenade and the new Cultural Area outside the Gaiety Theatre and Villa Marina.



The Manx Museum and National Art Gallery sits atop the cliff overlooking the retail area and Promenade.



The Villa Marina dressed up for the inaugural Isle of Man Pride, June 2021



The Villa Marina Royal Hall



The Gaiety Theatre by architect Frank Matcham



The magnificent interior of the Gaiety Theatre



The “A to Y of Manx” is an artwork in the paving in Regent Street. It finishes at ‘Y’ because the Manx language does not use the letter ‘Z’.



The War Memorial on Loch Promenade. Strand Street and Loch Promenade run parallel to each other with short streets, like Regent Street above, linking them.



Douglas's Inner Harbour used to be the town's main industrial port but is now a haven for leisure craft abounded by pubs, bars and restaurants.



“The Prow” on the North Quay is located near the former Market Hall (now an artisan bakery and cycle shop). It is in the form of the ceremonial Viking prow but rather than displaying images from Norse mythology it is decorated with images from Douglas past and present including netted fish, a Viking vessel, motorcycles and international currency symbols. It was commissioned from CAMM Design by Douglas Development Partnership in 2002.



The iconic Sea Terminal building is the main landmark of Douglas Port with its crown shaped tower and three-legged footprint.



The Council recently restored a cable wheel from the historic cable tramway. This and other sites of cultural and historic interest are interpreted on a suite of information panels.





The Tower of Refuge atop the Conister Rock in Douglas Bay. In the background are the Cumbrian Mountains. Every year at the lowest spring tide the community are led out on a walk to the Tower.





Legislative Buildings on Prospect Hill are the seat of Government where the House of Keys, Legislative Council and Tynwald meet. The main Government offices are next door.



Nearby are the Isle of Man Law Courts and the General Registry.



In addition to the wealth of Victorian Architecture are numerous examples of modern architecture such as the Microgaming headquarters on Circular Road.



The new offices for Plan.com currently under construction on Victoria Street.



“The Wreck of the St George” by renowned Manx sculptor Michael Sandie RA shows Sir William Hillary and his crew saving survivors from the shipwreck and honours the courage of lifeboat crews down through the ages. The piece was commissioned by the Isle of Man Arts Council and the Henry Moore Foundation in 2002.



Nearby, the Bee Gees strut back into the town of their birth. The statue, unveiled by the Mayor of Douglas in 2021 was commissioned by Douglas Borough Council and sculpted by Liverpool artist Andrew Edwards.



The Marine Gardens on Loch Promenade are one of Douglas's nine Green Flag sites.





St Mary's of the Isle



St George's Church



Athol Street is considered the heart of the Island's business community.



At the south western end of Athol Street is the Isle of Man Steam Railway.



The TT Grandstand. Glencrutchery Road is one of the main roads into Douglas from the north for most of the year but during the road races becomes the start and finish line of the TT Mountain Course.



Douglas Crematorium across Glencrutchery Road serves the whole of the Isle of Man.





Douglas Bay from the Sea Terminal looking north



The Douglas Bay Horse Tramway on the Promenade prior to its current regeneration scheme.



Formal planting in Hutchinson Square



Sir William Hillary looks out from Douglas Head over Douglas Bay with the Grand Union Camera Obscura in the background.



The work of renowned designer Archibald Knox is referenced in street furniture in Nelson Street.



Regent Street at night. The street lighting in the town centre is controllable remotely and is often turned to a specific colour in support of local charities and other good causes.



Spectacular illuminations in Summerhill Glen



St Mathew's Church on North Quay is one of numerous buildings illuminated in the evening.



The Ian Clague MBE Centenary Bandstand in Noble's Park.



The new Splash Zone in Noble's Park.

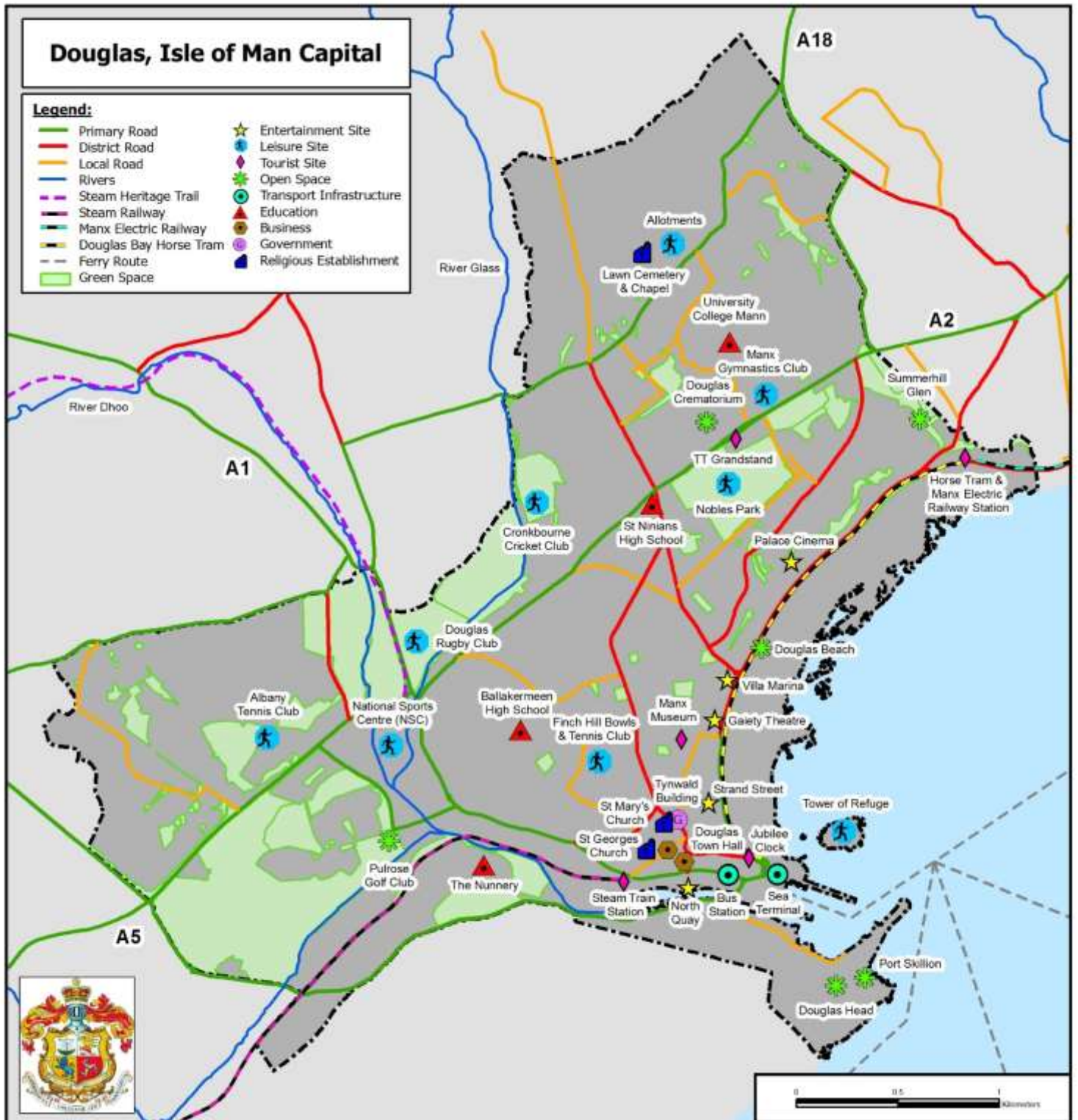


Loch Promenade and Victoria Street from above the Sea Terminal.



Fireworks over Douglas Bay.

e) Map



## Accompanying Document to Map -Transport Network

Douglas is the hub of the Isle of Man's transport network. The map shows the primary, district and main local roads within the Borough. The A1 is the main road from Douglas to St John's and Peel in the west of the Island. The A2 links Douglas to Laxey and Ramsey and the A18 travels over the central mountains direct to Ramsey. This main road doubles as part of the TT Mountain Course. The A5 travels south from Douglas to Castletown and the south, including the Airport. The airport has daily links to numerous major airports in the UK and Republic of Ireland for onward international travel, in addition to seasonal direct international flights. There is also a private jet centre.

The Island's bus depot is situated in Lake Road, Douglas and the main bus terminus is located on Lord Street with a second hub on Loch Promenade. Bus services are available from these two locations to the whole of the Island with frequencies ranging from every 15 minutes upwards. The full timetable can be found at [www.iombusandrail.im](http://www.iombusandrail.im).

The Isle of Man's sea link arrives at the Douglas Sea Terminal. There are twice daily sailings throughout the year to Heysham Port in Lancashire carrying the Island's freight and passengers on the *Ben-my-Chree* roll on-roll off ferry. During the summer there are also twice daily fastcraft sailings to Liverpool and regular sailings to Belfast and Dublin. The normal sailings are supplemented during the busy TT period to accommodate the additional demand.

Douglas is also the hub of the Island's network of heritage transport. The Isle of Man Steam Railway opened in 1874 and travels 15.5 miles from Douglas to Port Erin with 11 halts, including the Isle of Man Airport. In addition to the summer timetable of four daily departures, the steam railway also hosts special events during the year including the internationally renowned dining car experience.

The Manx Electric Railway (MER), opened in 1893, travels the 17.5 miles north from Douglas to Ramsey via Laxey, where it links with the Snaefell Mountain Railway. The summer timetable provides for nine daily departures from the Douglas terminus located at the northern end of the Promenade.


Linking the Manx Electric Railway and the Isle of Man Steam Railway is the Douglas Bay Horse Tramway. The tramway operates daily throughout the summer carrying passengers for the length of the Promenade from the Sea Terminal to the MER station.

Active travel is becoming increasingly important and Douglas is the main focus for the Island's active travel network. The Council recently collaborated with the Department of Infrastructure to construct a new cycleway around part of Douglas Golf Course and there is a proposal being developed to create a link northwards to Onchan. The former railway line to the west is now a major walking and cycling route.





DOUGLAS CITY COUNCIL  
Briefing Note  
Ref: 23/12-03  
All Council Members

<b>REPORTING OFFICER</b>	Assistant Chief Officer (Finance)
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Response to Query raised at Council on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>
<b>REASON FOR BRIEFING NOTE</b>	To provide response to query raised at Council on 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
<b>BRIEFING NOTE</b>	<p><u>City Status Costs</u></p> <p><b>A Member queried the costs of what has been spent on City Status.</b></p> <p>The total costs spent to date on City Status amounts to £30,206, however a grant was received in relation to some of the costs for £18,176. This means there is a net spend of £12,030.</p> <p>Members should note that the figures above do not include the £4,500 funding already approved for allocation from General Revenue Reserve for the replacement of the City Centre street signs, which if fully spent would bring the total gross cost to £34,726 (excluding the Government grant income offset).</p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	None
<b>AUTHOR OF BRIEFING NOTE</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Officer (Finance)</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
<b>APPROVED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> December 2023</b>

<b>Circulation List</b>	All Council Members, Chief Officers, Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) Democratic Services
<b>Date of Circulation</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023