



City of Douglas

City Hall,
Douglas,
8th November, 2023

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the CITY OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 8th day of NOVEMBER, 2023, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the CITY HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

COUNCILLOR MRS NATALIE BYRON-TEARE, JP

Councillors

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Mr D.R. Watson

Mr S.R. Crellin

Mr F. Schuengel

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr F. Horning

Ms J. Thommeny

Mr P.J. Washington

The Director of Finance as Acting Chief Executive, Director of Environment and Regeneration and the Director of Housing and Property were in attendance.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts and the Chief Executive.

1. **Minutes – 11th October, 2023**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 11th October, 2023, were approved and signed.

2. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

What has been the total amount of outstanding rent arrears in respect of Council Housing in each month over the past two years to date?

Response by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

The figures in ‘Table 1’ show the complete amount of arrears in each month, it should be noted that although these are ‘moment in time’ snapshots, because of the varying payment options for tenants, there is a lot of fluctuation in relation to these monthly figures. This is the reason the Housing and Property Committee moved to a new method of reporting figures over £500, this is an amount that gives a better indication of tenants at risk, and puts the emphasis on how we can best support tenants to clear their arrears. For comparison the normal reporting data is included in table 2 for the same period (Arrears over £500).

There are a significant number of tenants who although are in arrears, are paying additional sums within their regular payments to bring down their arrears, we refer to this as an agreed payment plan, and although these tenants are in arrears we are comfortable that the arrears will be cleared in time. The additional payments are based upon the affordability and are reviewed by Officers when required.

Due to a higher number of people now paying by Direct Debit (which they do monthly and therefore over 52 weeks), there is a catch up period that resolves every January (as DD payers continue to pay through the two non-pay weeks), this can clearly be seen within the graphs, that show sharp drops after December.

Table 1 – Total arrears monthly

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Rent Arrears</u>	<u>Percentage of expected Rent</u>
Oct-21	£159,344.11	1.46%
Nov-21	£153,498.15	1.38%
Dec-21	£152,218.33	1.36%
Jan-22	£103,247.42	0.93%
Feb-22	£112,502.23	1.01%
Mar-22	£112,306.61	1.01%
Apr-22	£115,119.38	1.03%
May-22	£126,772.59	1.14%
Jun-22	£136,087.58	1.22%
Jul-22	£130,618.64	1.17%
Aug-22	£144,313.98	1.29%
Sep-22	£158,799.43	1.42%
Oct-22	£161,428.71	1.45%
Nov-22	£151,214.12	1.35%
Dec-22	£174,158.56	1.56%
Jan-23	£86,725.84	0.78%
Feb-23	£101,886.62	0.91%
Mar-23	£108,513.82	0.97%
Apr-23	£120,408.51	1.01%
May-23	£142,542.04	1.10%
Jun-23	£166,739.21	1.28%
Jul-23	£167,272.55	1.29%
Aug-23	£172,500.95	1.33%
Sep-23	£192,928.35	1.48%
Oct-23	£193,080.13	1.49%

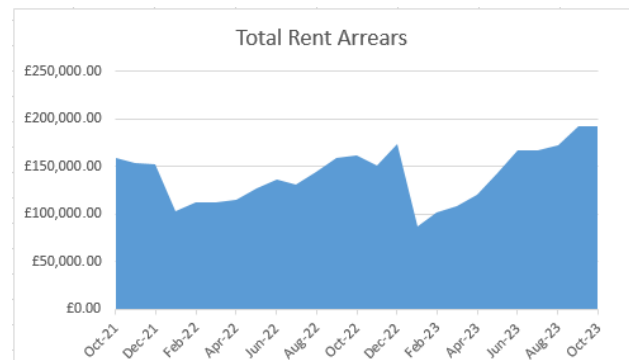
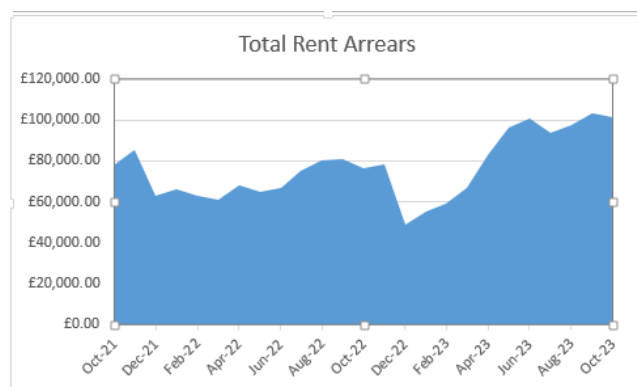


Table 2 – Arrears amount for Tenants who have arrears over £500

Month	Total Rent Arrears	Percentage of expected Rent
Oct-21	£78,084.36	0.71%
Nov-21	£85,110.11	0.76%
Dec-21	£63,081.13	0.57%
Jan-22	£65,893.12	0.59%
Feb-22	£63,105.43	0.57%
Mar-22	£61,146.18	0.55%
Apr-22	£68,159.23	0.61%
May-22	£65,098.36	0.58%
Jun-22	£66,647.51	0.60%
Jul-22	£74,851.96	0.67%
Aug-22	£80,308.17	0.72%
Sep-22	£80,580.82	0.72%
Oct-22	£76,398.06	0.68%
Nov-22	£78,496.86	0.70%
Dec-22	£48,714.29	0.44%
Jan-23	£55,004.16	0.49%
Feb-23	£59,365.80	0.53%
Mar-23	£66,541.12	0.60%
Apr-23	£82,761.46	0.70%
May-23	£96,105.26	0.74%
Jun-23	£100,626.23	0.77%
Jul-23	£93,805.74	0.72%
Aug-23	£97,471.15	0.75%
Sep-23	£103,065.11	0.79%
Oct-23	£101,346.55	0.78%



3. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

The tender process for work carried out on the Loch Promenade Kiosk has been carried out seven times of late with no successful tenders being received. Have any tenders been received which have been considered unsuitable for some reason, or has there been no tenders returned?

With regard to the works required to be carried out on the Loch Promenade Kiosk would it not be better to carry out such work in conjunction with the children’s playground works rather than being scheduled to take place after the playground work has been completed?

Response by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

Tenders were received from a UK Company and were incomplete, they only priced for part of the works.

The current arrangement is to consider the Loch Promenade Kiosk within the design works for the children’s playground area. This will allow for options to be considered for the use of the kiosk that may better support the playground e.g. there may be the opportunity to further develop the Kiosk area providing a more complete solution for those visiting the area. Once the design works are complete then both projects will likely move forward at the same time, subject to necessary Committee agreement.

4. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

When is it now anticipated that any remedial works will take place in order to clean/tidy up Queen’s Park (Centenary Gardens)?

Response by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

2024/25 due to difficulties in securing contractors. The Project Officer is consulting with the Registered Buildings Officer in Government to determine possible options for the Council going forward.

5. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

Following this year's TT and MGP Races have all remedial works to reinstate Noble's Park back to its original condition now been carried out and completed to an acceptable standard and within the agreed sum deposited before the events and if not when is it anticipated that any remaining remedial works will be completed?

Response by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

All remedial works have been undertaken by the Council. Damaged grass areas have been rotovated and seeded and will take time to germinate and recover fully. An invoice has been issued to the DfE for reinstatement work. The only outstanding issue was removal of a medical unit trailer which suffered an electrical fault preventing an extendable side from being retracted. It cannot be removed from site until the retraction fault is rectified. It is not causing an issue with use of the Park and the Council continue to work with DfE on the matter.

6. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

What costs have been incurred to date by the Council in respect of the proposed new changing facility at Pulrose playing fields and when is it anticipated that a submission for funding from the Football Foundation will be made?

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

£38,694.25. It is proposed to apply for funding to the Football Foundation once the Regeneration and Community Committee has considered the tender returns in December 2023.

7. Executive Committee – 25th October, 2023 – Clauses A1 to A12

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 A12 inclusive of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 25th October, 2023, be received by the Council, subject to a correction at Clause A9, bullet point 3 to delete the word encouraging and replace with discouraging.”

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

8. Executive Committee – 25th October, 2023 – Clause C13

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 C13 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 25th October, 2023, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

9. Housing and Property Committee – 18th October, 2023

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 18th October, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

10. Pensions Committee – 25th October, 2023

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 25th October, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

11. Regeneration and Community Committee – 17th October, 2023

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 17th October, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

12. Environmental Services Committee – 16th October, 2023 – Clauses A1 to A7 and A9 to A11

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A7 and A9 to A11 inclusive of report of meeting held on Monday, 16th October, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

13. Chair of Meeting

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, the Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Mrs N.A. Byron-Teare declared an interest in the following item. The Acting Chief Executive called for nominations for a Member to take the Chair in order that she could retire from the meeting whilst the item was considered.

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin was nominated by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson.

Question put on Nomination, a vote was taken electronically, and Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, was unanimously elected to take the Chair.

The Mayor retired from the meeting.

14. Environmental Services Committee – 16th October, 2023 – Clause A8

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clause A8 of report of meeting held on Monday, 16th October, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, the Worshipful the Mayor declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

15. Adjournment and Resumption

The meeting adjourned at 3.10pm and resumed at 3.25pm with the same Members and officers present.

IN PRIVATE

16. Executive Committee – 25th October, 2023

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 private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 25th October, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

17. Housing and Property Committee – 18th October, 2023

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 18th October, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

18. Regeneration and Community Committee – 17th October, 2023

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 17th October, 2023, be received by the Council.”

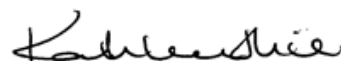
Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

19. Environmental Services Committee – 16th October, 2023

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Monday, 16th October, 2023, be received by the Council.”

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

The Council rose at 3.46pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive