



## City of Douglas

---

City Hall,  
Douglas,  
14<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the CITY OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2024, 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 S.R. Pitts

Mr F. Schuengel

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Ms J. Thommeny

Mr D.R. Watson

The Chief Executive, Director of Environment and Regeneration, Assistant Chief Officer (Income) and Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, Mr Councillor F. Horning and Mr Councillor P.J. Washington.

1. **Minutes – 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, 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 is the current number of Active Tenancies in Council owned domestic properties and how many of these are Fixed Term Tenancies, additionally how many tenants are there on Different Term Tenancies i.e. pay higher rent and of these how many are on Fixed Term Tenancies?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

*As of 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2024, there are currently 2150 Douglas public sector tenants who reside within general housing properties (this does not include sheltered housing tenants who are excluded from the fixed term tenancy policy). There are 1246 tenants on fixed term tenancies, equating to 58%. 85 tenants on fixed term tenancies are paying an uplift in rent due to their financial circumstances. An uplift in rent can only be applied to those tenants that are on fixed term tenancies and earn over a certain threshold.*

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

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

2.1 *What is the current policy regarding the launching of jet skis from the Douglas foreshore?*

2.2 *Is there an exclusion zone for jet skis and other motorised craft around the floating platforms in Douglas bay and if not, will consideration be given to applying one given that approval has been granted to a company seeking to operate a kayak and paddle board hire business in the area?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

2.1 *The Council does not presently have a policy or any byelaws specifically relating to Douglas foreshore. The last set of byelaws relating to the beach was 'General Pleasure Ground' last revised in 1981, which expired in 2001, and were replaced primarily by the Douglas General Byelaws and Douglas Dog Control Byelaws.*

*New legislation came into force in the UK on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (The Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order 2023) from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. This order puts the responsibility on users, operators and owners of powered watercraft to make sure they protect not just themselves but other water users from harm. No such legislation exists on the Isle of Man, but the UK legislation would be referred to for best practice.*

2.2 *Douglas Bay is defined as a designated bathing area within the IOM Harbours booklet 'Designated Bathing and No Wake Areas, Information for powered pleasure craft users.' This is a guideline booklet, Ref: SOP OPS 1.11, this booklet states no powered watercraft should enter bathing areas.*

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

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*Currently is there a cleaning programme in place for litter bins which are placed on the streets of Douglas?*

Reply by the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*Yes, all City Centre litter bins are checked and then cleaned if required early every morning. For litter bins outside the centre, Cleansing has a register which is completed by the crews after each empty, indicating whether the litter bin needs to be jet washed. Thereafter a crew is dispatched to jetwash/clean as appropriate.*

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

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

*Is there an inspection programme in place for non-domestic properties as part of a maintenance programme and if so, how often are such inspections carried out?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

*Non-domestic Council owned properties are inspected at no more than five-yearly intervals, but most are inspected more frequently depending on ongoing repair and maintenance matters and the current Lease status. Planned maintenance is undertaken of all services and installations in accordance with statutory requirements, the frequency is as set down in regulations.*

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

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*With regard to Planning Application 24/00358/C on what date did the “Two Chair” meeting to discuss this application take place, what was the response submitted to the Planning Department and on what date was the response submitted to the Planning Department?*

Reply by the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*Application 24/00358/C was for a food market within the grounds of St Ninians Church during TT. As Council was in recess, the Urgent Business Procedure was invoked. An email was sent to the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Environmental Services Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 attaching an appraisal and Urgent Business Procedure form for agreement and signature. A decision was made to object to the application on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and a letter sent to the planning department on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. All business was conducted over email. The response submitted was as follows:*

*After further consideration of the above, the Council now wishes to object to the planning application. The reason for the objection is based upon an assessment of the broader impact on the city centre. Whilst the Council is generally supportive of promoting local produce it is considered this proposal has the potential for taking footfall away from the centre negatively impacting year-round investors within the city centre.*

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

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*On what dates did the Urgent Business Procedure - Purchase of Equipment (Parks Services) for the purchase of an extra set of cutting units for the “Jacobson 305” fairways mower and the Urgent Replacement of Equipment (Bandit 90 Woodchipper) - Parks Services to replace urgently the Bandit 90 Woodchipper?*

Reply by the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*Requests to use the Plant Renewal Fund go to Executive Committee.*

*On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, Standing Order 125 was invoked to seek approval to purchase specialised equipment from Jacobsen due to the 14-week lead in time for the parts and to prevent operational issues had the units formed part of the normal Vehicle and Plant Renewal report to Committee in October 2024 or been placed on the Executive Committee’s normal committee date of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. The back-up machinery used for this operation was deemed beyond economical repair with parts obsolete.*

*The Bandit 90 Woodchipper report was submitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 Committee ahead of the normal Vehicle and Plant Renewal report to Committee in October 2024 as the machine could not be safely operated due to obsolete parts, and the service could not be without the equipment going into the Autumn and Winter months, given the lead-in time for such machinery. Hiring one locally was not feasible. This report was not subject of Standing Order 125.*

*Copies of the accompanying reports can be provided to the Member.*

8. **Executive Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

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 A11 inclusive of report of meeting held on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2024, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Schuengel – **3**

**Against**, Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr D.R. Watson, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **5**

Motion fell.

9. **Housing and Property Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – Clauses C1 to C8**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clauses C1 to C8 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Schuengel, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **7**

**Against**: Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner – **1**

*Motion carried.*

**10. Housing and Property Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – Clause C9**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause C9 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Schuengel, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **7**

**Against:** Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner – **1**

*Motion carried.*

**11. Regeneration and Community Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Ms J. Thommeny – **6**

**Against,** Councillors: Mr J.E. Skinner, the Mayor - **2**

*Motion carried.*

**12. Environmental Services Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Motion moved by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Schuengel, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **7**

**Against:** Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner – **1**

*Motion carried.*

**13. Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 3.55pm and resumed at 4.25pm with the same Members and officers present.

**IN PRIVATE**

**14. Executive Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

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 Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

**15. Housing and Property Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

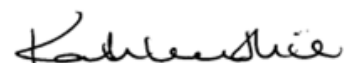
Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Schuengel, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **7**

**Against:** Mr S.R. Pitts – **1**

*Motion carried.*

The Council rose at 4.27pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive