



## City of Douglas

---

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

---

City Hall,  
Douglas,  
4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of the CITY OF DOUGLAS to be held on WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2025, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER within the CITY HALL, DOUGLAS for the transaction of the hereinafter mentioned business.

I am,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathleenie'.

Town Clerk & Chief Executive

# Order of Agenda

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

II - Any statutory business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# AGENDA

III – Chief Executive to read minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, the Special Council Meeting held on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2025, and the Special Council Meeting held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

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

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Miss K.J. Rice), Director of Finance (Mr A.J.T. Boyd), Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Director of Housing and Property (Mr D. Looney), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe) (Clauses C17 and C18), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman) (Clauses A10 and A11), Executive Officer (Mrs J.M. Keig) (taking minutes).

### REPORT

#### **PART A –**

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

##### **A1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

##### **A2. Declarations of Interest**

The Director of Housing and Property declared an interest in Clause A11.

##### **A3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were approved and signed.

##### **A4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Clause A10 – Isle of Man Municipal Association / Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023: a letter on behalf of the Council had been sent to the Honourable Minister for the Department of Infrastructure, expressing concern about the timescale given to local authorities to consider the proposed new Clause 2 and its implications. Whilst it was acknowledged that a period of six weeks would normally be a sufficient time to respond, given the forthcoming local authority general election on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the view had been expressed that it would be inappropriate for the outgoing Council to undertake the consultation exercise, and an extension to the consultation period had therefore been sought accordingly.

The Leader queried that she was not co-signatory to the letter.

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

##### **A5. Referrals from the Environmental Services Committee**

There were no referrals from the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

##### **A6. Referrals from the Regeneration and Community Committee**

There were no referrals from the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

##### **A7. Referrals from the Housing and Property Committee**

There were no referrals from the public minutes of the Housing and Property Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**A8. Urgent Business Procedure: Use of Standing Order 125 - Use of Bottleneck Car Park for the Island's First Drone Show**

The Committee considered a written report by the Democratic Services Officer advising on the use of the Council's Urgent Business Procedure under Standing Order 125.

In February 2025, the Regeneration and Community Committee had authorised officers to proceed with arrangements for the Island's first drone show to take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, to coincide with 'City Day'.

The Council had received an offer from a company to provide the show free of charge (albeit with some nominal costs associated with the event). Following discussion with the provider and the Department of Infrastructure and other authorities, the Bottleneck Car Park had been identified as the most suitable location for the launch of the drones.

As the date of the event was before the next Committee meeting and as use of the Bottleneck Car Park was essential for the event to proceed as planned, the Urgent Business Procedure had been invoked. The Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee had accordingly approved the allocation of twelve parking spaces to the drone show company on the day of the event for use as a set-up and launch area; and approval had also been given for the car park to be closed from 6.00pm until the end of the display at approximately 7.45pm, to ensure the required safety area could be maintained.

The Leader and Members expressed their congratulations to all officers involved in the arrangements for the drone show, which had been extremely well received by the public.

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

- (ii) That the resolution under the Urgent Business Procedure – to permit the use of twelve spaces at the Bottleneck Car Park on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 from 8.00am to 10.00pm for use as a set-up zone, together with the closure of the car park in its entirety from 6.00pm to 7.45pm on the same date to implement the safety zone required for the drone show - be endorsed."

**A9. Monthly Financial Review – February 2025**

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

The monthly report was required to monitor progress against the Finance Department's Service Plan actions, and to meet objectives set out in the 2022 – 2026 Corporate Plan.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes, including in particular -

- The rates collection figure of 99.1% for the first eleven months of the financial year, which compared well with a target figure of 98.5% and was almost in line with the previous year's equivalent of 99.2%."

**A10. Treasury Management Plan 2025 / 2026**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Income) detailing the Council's plans and related Prudential Indicators for 2025 / 2026.

As an annual report, the Plan was a key aspect of delivering the Treasury Management Strategy. It summarised planned treasury management activities in respect of long-term loans, short-term investments, and the Capital Strategy. It also outlined information in relation to the Prudential Indicators for 2025 / 2026, which it was noted showed that the level of existing and planned borrowing remained at a comfortable level and were affordable.

Members noted an approach from the Department of Infrastructure and the Isle of Man Treasury in respect of the Loans Pool administered by the Council. The Loans Pool was a method used to calculate interest payments, however, it had become very complicated and time-consuming to manage and, to simplify the process, it had been recommended that separate loans be taken out for each Housing Capital Scheme that had received petition approval.

In response to a Member's query, the Director of Finance advised that for each draw-down, the Treasury required assurance that agreed petition amounts were not being exceeded before allowing release of the monies.

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

- (ii) That the Treasury Management Plan 2025 / 2026 be approved; and

- (iii) That the move to separate the current Loans Pool process in order to identify individual Housing Capital Schemes be approved."

#### **A11. Internal Audit Contract**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Income) seeking approval to appoint a new internal auditor.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2018 required local authorities to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of their accounting records and system of financial control. The internal audit service was last tendered in 2014 for a five-year period with an option to extend for up to a further five years by mutual agreement. An extension of the contract had been agreed on an annual basis and the current contract was due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

Following an update of the service specification, expressions of interest had been invited in 2024. Five organisations had expressed an interest and, following assessment, four had been invited to tender. Members noted the annual contract sums quoted by each, the lowest of which was from Evolution Accounting Limited.

Evolution Accounting Limited had wide experience of the local authority internal audit function and had provided all references as required. It was therefore recommended that they be chosen as the Council's Internal Auditor from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, the new contract being for a period of three years with an option to extend for a further two years.

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

(ii) That Evolution Accounting Limited be appointed to provide an internal audit service to the Council for three years (with the option to extend to five years) commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025."

#### **A12. Planning Application – PA 25/90262/B, Conversion of Tennis Courts to Six Padel Tennis Courts and Erection of Supporting Facilities, Noble's Park, Douglas**

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, the Director of Housing and Property declared an interest in this item and retired from the meeting whilst it was discussed.

The Committee considered a written report by the Dilapidation Enforcement Officer seeking approval of a response from the Council to the Planning Committee in relation to Planning Application PA 25/90262/B.

The application was for the creation of six padel tennis courts together with associated facilities (covered seating, a kiosk, and lighting). The proposed development would re-purpose the four existing tennis courts, which were currently under-utilised and vacant for most of the time, and would also improve the existing infrastructure, adding to the leisure offerings within Noble's Park at no cost to the Council.

Officers believed that it was beneficial to explore new initiatives to increase usage of the courts and thereby enhance the Park's recreational value. It was noted that the proposed development had already been considered twice by the Regeneration and Community Committee, and it was therefore recommended that the application be supported. However, due diligence would need to be undertaken, and some legal issues resolved.

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

(ii) That approval be given for a response to be submitted to the Planning Committee in support of Planning Application PA 25/90262/B, for the conversion of tennis courts to six padel tennis courts and the erection of supporting facilities at Noble's Park, Douglas."

#### **A13. Isle of Man Municipal Association**

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

Resolved, "That particulars of the documents received from the Isle of Man Municipal Association be noted on the minutes."

#### **A14. Items for Future Report**

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

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

#### **A15. Time and Date of Next Meetings**

The time and date of the next meeting were confirmed as 2.00pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

#### A16. Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair expressed her great pleasure at the achievements of the Committee during the previous four years, and extended thanks to the Committee Members and Officers for their support. She extended best wishes to those Members of Council who would form part of the new administration over the next four years and best wishes to those retiring; and thanked Chief Officers for their advice, guidance, and expertise.

#### **PART C –**

#### ***Matters subject to Council approval***

#### C17. Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – Representation

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) seeking determination of whether the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee should be the nominated representative on the Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee for the municipal years 2025 to 2027.

Currently, any nominated representative from the Environmental Services Committee could be the Council's representative on the Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, however, there was no provision for cover when that representative was absent. It was therefore recommended that Standing Order 81 be amended so that the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee also be the Council's representative on the Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, to ensure continuity and to allow for a deputy to be available should there be any planned or unplanned absence by the Council's representative.

As the largest financial contributor to the Eastern Civic Amenity Site, it was considered extremely important to ensure that the Council had representation at all meetings.

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

- (ii) That it be agreed that the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee shall be the representative for the Council on the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee;
- (iii) That it be agreed that the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Services Committee shall be the representative for the Council on the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee should the Chair be unavailable to attend; and
- (iv) That it be recommended to Council that Standing Order 81 be amended to read:

*'The Chair of the Environmental Services Committee to be the Council's representative on the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee and the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Services Committee to be the representative for the Council on the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee should the Chair be unavailable to attend.'*

[On a vote being taken, Members voted 4 For. 1 Against. Mr Councillor F. Horning requested his vote against the resolutions to be noted on the minutes.]

#### C18. Council's Membership of the Isle of Man Municipal Association

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) on the benefits of continued membership of the Isle of Man Municipal Association (the IOMMA).

It was recalled, in November 2024, that the Committee had been circulated with the minutes of the IOMMA meeting which had taken place in October. Concern had been expressed that the detail of some of the information being discussed was of a personal nature and should therefore be confidential and, given Members' concerns about the matters being discussed at the IOMMA meetings, the Committee had questioned whether the Council should continue with its membership, with Members requesting a report be brought forward for consideration accordingly.

Although only twelve out of the Island's twenty-one authorities were currently members of the IOMMA, it was acknowledged that membership provided an opportunity to network with members of other local authorities and it was therefore not recommended that the Council withdraw from membership. Additionally, the Council's current representatives had expressed the view that their exposure to Members of the House of Keys and the Legislative Council (as guest speakers at meetings) was of positive benefit.

Consideration did however need to be given as to how the nominated representatives fed back to Council on discussions, and it was suggested that this should be by way of a Briefing Note. Additionally, as the IOMMA minutes were already publicly available it was proposed that they be no longer be circulated as part of the Executive Committee agenda, as the Council would be publishing potentially personal information contrary to GDPR.

The Leader of the Council advised that she had recently invited the Chairs of all the local authorities to meet, to discuss proposals for greater collaboration between authorities and better utilisation of the IOMMA. The meeting overall had been positive and, while it was felt that the IOMMA needed to be rejuvenated, ultimately it would be for the incoming administration to put in place any change for the future structure of the Association and to give it a clear mandate going forward – the proposals being put forward now were merely to try to steer it in the right direction.

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

(ii) That it be recommended to Council -

- (a) That the Council continue to be a member of the Isle of Man Municipal Association with two appointed representatives, those representatives to be the Leader of the Council together with one other Member of the Executive Committee (depending on the topics tabled for discussion at the meetings);
- (b) That Standing Order 81 (Election of Leader, Chairs and Members of Committees) be amended by the inclusion of an additional line under the heading of ‘The Council shall then proceed to the appointment of...’ to read:

*‘The Leader and relevant Member of the Executive Committee to the Isle of Man Municipal Association’; and*

(iii) That the following objectives be proposed for the future structure of the Isle of Man Municipal Association:

- That representatives at meetings be the Chairs of local authorities;
- To consider a name change to reflect the membership more appropriately;
- To establish structured formal meetings and increase standards;
- To support local government reform and push progress from within; and
- To encourage effective dialogue, collaboration and shared services with other local authorities.”

The Committee rose at 4.45pm.

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

# HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

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

In Attendance: Director of Housing and Property (Mr D. Looney), Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) (Mr V. Zivave), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Housing & Property Operations Manager (Mr J. Chatwood), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Mrs C. Maddocks).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

#### ***Matters delegated to the Committee***

##### **A1. Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

##### **A2. Declarations of Interest**

The Director of Housing and Property declared an interest in item A10.

##### **A3. Minutes – 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 were approved and signed.

##### **A4. Matters Arising**

No matters were raised as arising from the previous minutes.

##### **A5. Vacant Properties Update**

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

Appended to the officer's report was a summary chart showing the number of properties returned in each month, details of the category repair type for each property, together with the number of void properties in each estate.

The report advised that there are currently fifty-seven vacant properties, of which two are active. The remaining fifty-five properties are deferred as they require refurbishment works.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the number of vacant properties be noted on the minutes."

##### **A6. Voids Refurbishment Framework Contract**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Housing Manager (Maintenance) to appoint the contractor for the void refurbishment framework contract.

Works to void properties have been carried out by a contractor using a pre-determined and tendered schedule of rates since Committee approval in 2016. Members were advised that following adoption of this approach, the void rent loss account has reduced significantly.

Following the procurement process, two tenders were received by the closing date, following checks and analysis of the two tenders, it is proposed that the tender submitted by Maclo Construction Limited be accepted. Appended to the officer's report was a tender analysis and value for money report.

Members were advised that the tender amount reflects a maximum estimated cost, assuming all seventy void properties are refurbishment void type. However, as some properties need only minimal work, actual expenditure will be based on necessity. To expedite the return of vacant homes to the housing stock, a priority list has been developed, ensuring properties requiring less work are addressed first.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and that the void refurbishment framework contract tender submitted by Maclo Construction Limited, be accepted."



#### **A7. Housing development strategy and ten-year roadmap change control**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Housing and Property to review the updated housing development strategy and ten-year roadmap. The revised strategy updates the version approved by Committee in October 2022, incorporating changes driven by external economic factors over the past two years.

The strategy reflects challenges arising from the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, and the economic impact of the war in Ukraine. Rising interest rates and localised difficulties have also impacted the original plan's implementation. Members were advised that many of the business cases that had been submitted to the Department of Infrastructure (DOI) had stalled due to funding shortfalls, as the required deficiency arrangement funds were unavailable due to budget constraints.

It was noted that the principles of the strategy remain unchanged, it is the implementation phases, now showing to 2035, project details and the financial model that have been updated.

Following engagement with government departments, some business cases have started to progress. Additionally, as part of the 2025/26 budget, the Treasury announced it will assume control of deficiency payments from the DOI which is considered a positive move for future financial support.

The strategy focuses on two areas of development: increasing the number of homes and maintaining the existing housing stock. The officer's report included a summary of key updates, along with the revised strategy and supporting documents for review.

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

- (i) That the housing development strategy and ten-year roadmap changes as attached at appendix A of the report be approved and that officers be authorised to discuss the revised strategy with the Department of Infrastructure; and
- (ii) That the housing development and ten-year roadmap be submitted to the Department of Infrastructure in response to the request from the department for an updated list of priority projects and possible development sites."

#### **A8. Items for Future Consideration**

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

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

#### **A9. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Members were advised that the next monthly meeting was scheduled to take place at 10.00am on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

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

#### **A10. Noble's Park – padel tennis proposal update proposed heads of terms**

*Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, the Director of Housing and Property declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.*

The Committee considered a referral from the Regeneration and Community Committee in relation to the proposed new tenant for Noble's Park.

Members were advised that in February 2025, the Regeneration and Community Committee had agreed to the proposed Heads of Terms for Padel IOM Limited, following approval of their proposal to create four uncovered and two covered padel tennis courts in Noble's Park. The item was referred to the Housing and Property Committee seeking agreement to progress with the lease.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that the lease be approved on the following terms;

- (i) The tenant is to be Padel IOM Limited, and a guarantor be required as part of the lease;
- (ii) The lease be for a term of seven years with the option to renew for a further seven years;
- (iii) The annual rent be as stated in the report and increased annually in line with inflation;
- (iv) The permitted use be padel tennis courts incorporating a sports retail and hire kiosk with an office;
- (v) The tenant be responsible for all associated costs with the design, construction, and operation of the padel courts including outgoing repair and maintenance and out-goings for the business;

- (vi) The tenant as part of the lease agreement, has the option to extend the Demised Premises to incorporate Phase 2 to expand and improve the facilities. To invoke this option, it would be subject to a lease addendum, rent review, and approval of the proposed tenants' alterations to the demised premises. Phase 2 would also require planning consent; and
- (vii) No subletting be permitted;
- (viii) All terms and conditions be subject to the finalisation of the lease.”

**A11. Lester's Yard building replacement**

The Committee considered a referral from the Regeneration and Community Committee seeking approval to progress a lease following a proposal from Isle of Play.

Isle of Play opened Lester's Yard Adventure Playground in 2019 through a partnership with the Council, at Ballaughton Park. The initiative has been a resounding success for Douglas South children, and families further afield. As part of the partnership, the Council provided Isle of Play with a small timber lodge. The lodge is now starting to show wear and tear and is no longer fit for use or meets the requirements of the community.

Members were advised that in February 2025, the Regeneration and Community Committee had agreed in principle for Isle of Play to progress options for development of a new modular single storey building. The matter was accordingly referred to the Housing and Property Committee seeking approval to progress a twenty-one-year lease. Supporting a twenty-one-year lease would provide security for Isle of Play and the Council as the building is a more permanent and costly structure.

If approved in principle, the terms of the lease will be the subject of a further report to Committee.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that approval be given to progress a twenty-one-year lease for Isle of Play, the terms of which will be the subject of a further Committee report.”

The meeting ended at 11.40am.

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

# PENSIONS COMMITTEE

PENSIONS COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

Members Present: Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner (Chair), Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, Mr Councillor F. Horning, Mr A. Thomas (Independent Member) (Items A1 to A14).

In Attendance: Director of Finance (Mr A.J.T Boyd), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr M. Quayle), Payroll Manager (Mr E. Skinner) (Items A1 to A14), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson). Mr A. Beedall and Ms K. Gore (Capita) (Items A1 to A11).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

#### ***Matters within the scope of the Committee’s delegated authority***

##### **A1. Apologies**

The Mayor submitted apologies for absence.

##### **A2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

##### **A3. Minutes – 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 were approved and signed.

##### **A4. Matters Arising**

The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) confirmed that the rebalancing exercise is progressing.

##### **A5. Training – LGSS Scheme Specific Legislation**

The Committee received a training presentation from Mr Beedall, Capita on the scheme specific legislation. Mr Beedall explained the eligibility to enter the scheme, the responsibility of the authority to provide the scheme, and the option to admit bodies to the scheme.

Mr Beedall moved on to present the contribution rates, and the employee benefits.

During the discussion, a Member queried why the UK CPI is used to determine member benefit payments, and whether this could be switched to Manx CPI during the scheme reform. The Director of Finance suggested in the first instance the GUS scheme is reviewed.

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

##### **A6. Capita Quarterly Administration Report**

The Committee received Capita’s quarterly reports for quarter four of 2024. The report covered information on membership movements and casework during the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

It was noted that during the period 243 cases were actioned with 239 (98.35%) and processed within the time specified in the service level agreement (previous quarter 257 out of 259, 99.23%). A breakdown of the cases were provided. It was requested that in future quarterly reports further details be provided in the report for those cases that were not dealt with within the specified period.

The report confirmed three authorities made late employer payments. Mr Beedall confirmed that the employers were reminded of the payment date at the employer training in March, and he agreed to follow up with a written reminder to all authorities. The Committee suggested the correspondence be sent directly to the Clerk of the authorities.

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

##### **A7. Annual Review Risk Register**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Finance and Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) to review the Pensions Risk Register.

Members were reminded that the document is presented annually to the Committee to advise of any risks facing the scheme, and to ensure that the Council, as administering authority, and all of its partners, have effective strategies for the management of those risks. Officers confirmed a review had been conducted together with the investment consultant, actuary and contract administrator. A ‘changes

made' column was included in the document for Committee's benefit to highlight changes made in the version.

Members were presented with a table of forty risks. The risks were categorised and colour coded by low, moderate and high risks. The risks were re-calculated after chosen action(s) and colour coded accordingly using the red, amber, green model.

It was noted that there were no residual risk scores showing high risk (severe); however, there were seven risks showing high risk (major), an increase of two from 2024, this was due to the increased risk of salary increases being higher due to regulatory changes and rising inflation, and due to the economic volatility increasing due to political and trade policy changes.

It was noted that the introduction of the pension scheme reform was a mitigating factor for risk PF2.3. In response to query, the Director of Finance advised that the Minister for the Department of Infrastructure had verbally confirmed during a recent meeting that the legislative drafting required to progress the scheme would cost in the region of £100,000, which the Department could not afford to fund. A Member questioned whether the Scheme itself could fund the drafting costs, given the substantial long-term savings expected from its implementation. The Director of Finance advised this would be a most unusual approach given that it was the Department's rather than a local authority's responsibility to take legislation through Tynwald but agreed to explore potential options and report back to the Committee.

The Committee also requested that a further letter of concern be drafted to the Chief Minister, copying in the interim Chief Executive, Mr Lewin, along with a separate update letter to Local Authorities.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and the updated Pensions Risk Register be approved."

#### **A8. Superannuation Scheme Performance Monitoring**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Finance to update on the performance against measures outlined in the Superannuation Scheme Service Plan.

Members had in front of them the actions from the service plan together with an outcome on each. A red, amber and green status had been applied to determine progress in comparison to the action. Members noted that there were delays to the audit of the 2023/24 Pension fund annual report. This is a direct result of the late completion of the 2022/23 accounts audit. The delay to the progress of the scheme reform, as discussed in a previous item, was noted.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and progress made against the planned actions in the Superannuation Service Plan be noted."

#### **A9. The Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme (IOMLGSS) Pension Fund Annual Report for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Finance to seek approval to the pension scheme accounts, subject to audit.

Members were advised that the 2023/24 accounts were approved for submission to audit by the Director of Finance in February 2025. This process would usually be concluded before the end of July each year, but due to the lengthy delays in concluding the audit of the 2022/23 accounts, which were not signed off until November 2024, Capita's production of the 2023/24 accounts was necessarily delayed.

The Director of Finance explained it was hoped that the audit of the accounts could be completed in time for Committee approval in March 2025, but this has not been possible. To streamline the audit completion process, the Committee were asked to approve the accounts subject to audit. The accounts were appended to the report. In the event that there are no substantive changes to the accounts the new Committee should not be required to approve the accounts with no prior knowledge, however, if substantive changes are made, the new Committee would at least have assurances from the current Committee that the accounts, as far as it was aware, represented a true and fair view of the financial position.

It was agreed that the summary of the pensions increase awards be amended to include reference that the UK inflationary index that is used for such calculations.

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

- (i) The reason for the delay in submission to audit of the Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be noted;
- (ii) The Isle of Man Superannuation Scheme Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be approved, subject to audit;

- (iii) The Letter of Representation be signed by the Chair of the Pensions Committee and presented to the Council's external auditor, subject to audit."

**A10. Items for Future Report**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Democratic Services Officer setting out items that are to be considered at future meetings and to review any future training requirements. A report on the funding options for the pensions reform legislative drafting was added to the schedule.

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

**A11. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Committee noted that the date and time of the next meeting is Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

**A12. Tender Exercise: Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme External Audit**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Finance to approve the appointment of an external auditor to the pension scheme.

A tender exercise had been undertaken for the procurement of external audit services in conjunction with the Public Sector Pensions Authority (PSPA) who are currently out of contract with an external auditor. The Director of Finance advised that the exercise was project-led by the Tynwald Auditor General.

Six audit firms registered an interest, and five submitted tenders. Grant Thornton was recommended based on the evaluation outcome. It was noted that the PSPA applied a different scoring method and therefore appointed a different auditor.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and the appointment of Grant Thornton as external auditor for the Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme for a period of two years, with the option to extend for a further two years, be approved."

**A13. Chair's Closing Remarks**

As this meeting was the last meeting of the Committee under the current administration, the Chair thanked the Committee and officers for their support and contribution. He paid special thanks to Mr Andrew Thomas, who had served as Independent Member for 13 years.

**A14. Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 12.05pm and resumed at 2.15pm. Mr Andrew Thomas submitted his apologies for the remainder of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 3.30pm.

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

# EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE

EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

Members Present: Mr D. Quirk (Onchan) (Chair), Councillor Ms J. Thommeny (Douglas), Mr T. Kenyon (Garff), Mrs A. Davidson (Santon).

In Attendance: Mrs D. Eynon (Douglas), Mr J.C. Whiteway (Braddan), Mr A. Crook (Contractor, Item A4 only), Mr E. Skinner, (Finance Manager, Douglas), Mrs L. Radcliffe (Douglas, taking notes).

Apologies: Mr N. Mellon (Braddan), Mr R. Phillips (Onchan).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

#### ***Matters dealt with under delegated authority***

##### **A1. Minutes – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Approved unanimously and signed.

##### **A2. Matters Arising**

###### **A2.1 Isle of Man Creamery Update**

Following a request by Committee that the Vice-Chair and an officer meet with the Managing Director, Isle of Man Creameries, which took place on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 it was reported by the Director Environment and Regeneration that the Isle of Man Creamery are reluctant to move the tetrapak collection point from Tesco's to the Eastern Civic Amenity Site as Tesco is keen to keep it insitu. The Managing Director suggested the Committee contact Tesco Superstore direct to request if they are amenable for the tetrapak carton collection to be moved back to the Eastern Civic Amenity Site.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration further advised that the current arrangement is creating an inequality in that residents served by the Eastern Civic Amenity Site are having to pay £3,000 / year for a facility that all other residents do not have to pay for and that the Eastern site serves more than half the Island's population.

#### **It was agreed:**

That the Contract Administrator write to Tesco Superstore to request that the tetrapak collection point is moved from Tesco's Lake Road store to the Eastern Civic Amenity Site and in addition, the Committee would be willing to have a wider discussion around how the Eastern Civic Amenity Site and Tesco could work more closely together in their recycling offerings, especially given their proximity.

###### **A2.2 Men in Sheds (Douglas)**

The Douglas representative informed Committee that she has now found a contact to liaise with. The Contractor was requested by Committee at the last meeting to consider an alternative provider for Men in Sheds (Douglas) by expressions of interest. The Contractor has proposed a Repair shop procurement strategy for consideration as part of his report at Appendix C.

#### **It was agreed:**

1. That the Douglas representative continue discussion with Men in Sheds (Douglas) and
2. That the relevant Authorities have approved the request for a Repair shop concept and that the Committee Administrator advertises for Expressions of Interest;

###### **A2.3 Replacement Skip Programme**

It was confirmed by the Contract Administrator that the relevant Authorities have approved the request for the uplifted replacement skip programme ahead of the 2024/25 budget round.

#### **A2.4 Civic Amenity Site Paper Bring Bank to Local Authority and Civic Amenity Site Boards**

Following the Government's decision to cease collecting paper as part of the Bring Bank Contract, Douglas City Council is now collecting and processing the material at its Waste Transfer Station in the Isle of Man Business Park.

##### **It was agreed:**

That all Local Authorities approve that the paper recycling services continue and is funded.

#### **A2.5 Draft Revenue Budget – approval from each Local Authority**

It was noted that confirmation and approval has been received from each Local Authority.

#### **A3. Minutes of Special Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Approved unanimously and signed.

#### **A4. Matters Arising**

##### **A4.1 WEEE Contract Letter to Government**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration requested that Committee consider sending a letter of disappointment outlining the impact of the timeline of awarding the WEEE contract and the need for an executive decision on charging being made without Committee approval to the Chief Executive, Department of Infrastructure.

##### **It was agreed:**

That the Contract Administrator write to the Chief Executive, Department of Infrastructure to share the Committee's disappointment and appeal to them to consider the time of announcements going forward.

#### **A5. Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **A6. Operational Contractors Report**

Mr Crook joined the meeting to present the February operational contractor's report.

1.2 WEEE contract – The report was noted, and that Members of the public have had a mixed response to the additional charges, with the staff having to deal with a number of irate customers on occasions. Several customers have refused to pay and left the site, only to return later and attempt to put the dismantled items into skips. These partly dis-assembled items have been refused as they are not permitted in the metal or burnable skips, nor can they be sent as WEEE as the UK supplier does not accept part dis-assembled items.

It is worth noting that the charges levied by the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site are being replicated at the Southern site, whereas the Western site has retained the charges reported in late December. At the last meeting of the four sites, the Northern representative, suggested their Committee would likely be following the Western Sites charges.

A detailed report will be presented to Committee on completion of the trial of an additional member of staff who is employed on a 3-month trial basis to dis-assemble items in order to reduce weight and the associated costs of shipping to the UK.

1.7 Request from Ramsey Town Commissioners to provide a cost for the Northern Parishes to use the Eastern Civic Amenity Site. The Contractor, together with the Council's Finance Department has evaluated the request and has concluded that the Eastern Site does not have the capacity to open up the site to the Northern Parishes, which has more than 6800 households excluding Bride and would represent a 35% increase in vehicular traffic and the associated material streams.

Whilst parishes on the northwest are just as likely to attempt to use the western site, it is equally just as likely that the western site would seek to restrict this. The effect of an increase of this proportion is likely to lead to long queues at the entrance, up to ¼ mile long in some instances, an increased risk in commercial operators attempting to access the site and reduced capacity for Eastern household residents particularly at weekends when the Energy from Waste Plant is closed, resulting in the site needing to shut early.

Whilst there is nothing currently preventing households from the northern parishes using the site, making it their 'de facto' outlet, the contractor believes officially agreeing use of the site would be at the detriment to those households in the east who are also paying the capital costs of owning the site.

As an additional note, it was reported previously that the re-use shed had experienced some increased activity following the Northern site's decision to close their re-use facility. Staff have been monitoring the situation and have reported that there's been no noticeable changes in usage over the past few

months, nor has any resident from Bride used the site to the best of their knowledge, albeit this would only be revealed if they were bringing in excessive amounts.

It is therefore the Contractors recommendation not to facilitate the request from Ramsey.

**It was agreed:**

1. That the report and statistics be noted.
2. That a further media release is issued to the public explaining the increase in WEEE charges; and
3. That Committee does not allow other parishes to join and contribute to Eastern Civic Amenity Site.

**A5. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 2.30pm.

The meeting ended at 3.26pm.



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

# REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

Members Present: Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin.

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) (Mr V. Zivave) (Item A2 only), Head of Parks (Mrs S. Parkinson), Finance Manager (Mr E. Skinner), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson).

## REPORT

### ***PART C –***

#### ***Matters requiring Housing and Property and Council approval***

##### **C1. Lester’s Yard Building Replacement**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks to consider a proposal from Isle of Play to replace the existing timber lodge with a new modular single storey building at Ballaughton Park, and a request to use the adjacent paddock during Isle of Play opening hours.

Members were reminded that Isle of Play opened Lester’s Yard Adventure Playground in 2019 through a partnership with the Council, at Ballaughton Park. The initiative has been a resounding success for Douglas South children, and families further afield. As part of the partnership, the Council provided Isle of Play with a small timber lodge. The lodge is now starting to show wear and tear and is no longer fit for use or meets the requirements of the community.

Isle of Play has secured funding to construct a new indoor facility, and a local housing developer has offered to cover the planning and build costs. Isle of Play would like to extend the footprint of the new indoor facility to use around 16m<sup>2</sup> of the neighbouring paddock, and to extend the lease to incorporate use of the existing paddock during operational hours. The use of the paddock would be used for traditional types of activities such as games and picnics and would not be utilised for the Isle of Play building activities that take place in Lester’s Yard.

It was noted that the paddock would remain available for the Council to use as an outdoor event space as and when required.

The report recommended supporting a twenty-one-year lease to provide security for Isle of Play and the Council as the building is a more permanent and costly structure. A twenty-one-year lease will require petition approval from the Department of Infrastructure. Members were asked to approve the twenty-one-year lease in principle, a further report on the final lease agreement will be submitted following petition approval.

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

- (i) Officers work in principle with Isle of Play to progress options for development of a new modular single storey building protruding 4 metres into the paddock;
- (ii) The matter be referred to the Housing and Property Committee in March for lease approval;
- (iii) A twenty-one-year lease to Isle of Play be supported (which extends to the additional area required for the building development, and the use of the paddocks during operational hours of the charity) and that the Chief Executive be authorised to petition the Department of Infrastructure for a twenty-one-year lease under Section 25 of the Local Government Act;
- (iv) That heads of terms for the lease be granted.”

##### **C2. Noble’s Park – Padel Tennis Proposal Update Proposed Heads of Terms**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks to update on the Padel Tennis proposal and seek agreement to enter into a lease agreement with the proposed tenant.

Following approval in principle in January 2025, the applicant has confirmed they wish to proceed with the plans to create four uncovered, and two covered padel tennis courts in Noble’s Park, together with a

kiosk to provide sports equipment and vending machines and an office for supervisory site staff. Members were asked to support progressing the initiative to lease agreement, and heads of terms were provided for consideration. It was noted that the applicant will have to seek planning consent, and as the applicant will be a new company, a guarantor for the lease will be required.

It was noted that the Council's Finance Department will undertake due diligence checks on the applicant and guarantor, and if the checks return satisfactorily, a lease can be drawn up. It was noted as the lease was for seven years with an option to extend for an additional seven years, in line with the Local Government Act 1985, petition approval will be required.

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

- (i) The following Heads of Terms to form the lease agreement be agreed;
  - (a) The tenant is to be Padel IOM Limited, and a guarantor be required as part of the lease;
  - (b) The lease be for a term of seven years with the option to renew for a further seven years;
  - (c) The annual rent be as agreed in the report plus VAT per annum plus rates and insurance, and increased annually in line with inflation;
  - (d) The permitted use be padel tennis courts incorporating a sports retail and hire kiosk with an office;
  - (e) The tenant be responsible for all associated costs with the design, construction, and operation of the padel courts including outgoing repair and maintenance and out-goings for the business;
  - (f) The tenant as part of the lease agreement, has the option to extend the Demised Premises to incorporate Phase 2 to expand and improve the facilities. To invoke this option, it would be subject to a lease addendum, rent review, and approval of the proposed tenants' alterations to the demised premises. Phase 2 would also require planning consent;
  - (g) No subletting be permitted;
  - (h) All terms and conditions be subject to the finalisation of the lease.
- (ii) The matter be referred to the Housing and Property Committee in March for lease approval;
- (iii) If resolution (ii) is approved by the Housing and Property Committee, the Chief Executive be authorised to petition the Department of Infrastructure for a seven-year lease plus the option to extend for a further seven years under Section 25 of the Local Government Act."

The meeting ended at 12.30pm.

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

# REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

Members Present: Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin.

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr M. Quayle), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Head of Parks (Mrs S. Parkinson), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

#### ***Matters delegated to the Committee***

##### **A1. Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

##### **A2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

##### **A3. Election of Vice-Chair**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin was elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal term.

##### **A4. Public Open Space Asset Adoption Design Guidelines**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks to seek approval of the Public Open Space Asset Adoption Design Guidelines, as set out in the appendix of the report.

The guidelines provide guidance on the Council's expectations for the provision of public open spaces that the Council will be requested to adopt on completion as part of a Section 13 Agreement. The document provided guidance on soft landscaping and grassland, trees, hard landscaping and non-highway paths, street furniture, signage, consideration for vehicle access, eco-habits and formal play areas. The guidelines have been drafted to provide a written aid however Park Services will continue to encourage developers and landscapers to discuss ideas and concepts before plans are submitted.

The Chair suggested some changes to the order of the document, including a strengthened introduction and reference to the strategic plan with appendices on how to achieve this. Officers agreed to amend accordingly. It was also suggested that a broad statement be included to reference the Biodiversity Net Gain criteria Government intended to introduce which would be included within the Council's guidelines in due course.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and the design principles of the Public Open Space Asset Adoption Guidelines be approved subject to the amendments raised at the meeting."

##### **A5. Approach to Section 13 Commuted Sums**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks to seek approval to an increase in commuted sums for Section 13 Agreements.

A guidance document for developers on the Council's approach to the use of commuted sums received in lieu of open space provision under Section 13 agreements was appended to the report.

The Head of Parks advised that the commuted sum rates had not increased for several years. An independent island cost consultant reviewed the rates on behalf of the Council and recommended increasing the fees, which were included in the guidance and as follows:

<b>Public Open Space Type</b>	<b>£/m<sup>2</sup></b>
Formal parks and gardens	54.62
Children's – natural and semi-natural	232.24
Amenity	32.50

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and the Committee agrees to the revised commuted sum fees within the Approach to Section 13 Commuted Sums' guidance."

**A6. Items for Future Report**

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

Resolved, "That particulars of the matters for future consideration and discussions be noted on the minutes."

**A7. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting was due to take place on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

The meeting ended at 3.02pm.

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

# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

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

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) (Mr I. Jackson), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr M. Quayle) (Items A1 to A5), Dilapidation Enforcement Officer (Mr S. Salter) (Item A6), Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Mrs C. Maddocks).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

#### ***Matters delegated to the Committee***

##### **A1. Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

##### **A2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

##### **A3. Minutes – 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 were approved and signed.

##### **A4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matters were raised as arising from the previous minutes.

##### **A5. Wrap for new kerb-sort vehicle**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Waste Services in relation to the wrap design for the Council's new kerb-sort vehicle.

Following procurement of the Council's new kerb-sort vehicle in December 2023, the manufacturers had sought the Council's preferred design before delivery to the Island. Members were advised that the cost of the wrap was included in the vehicle purchase price.

Appended to the officer's report were 2 designs for the Committee's consideration. The proposed strapline 'Help us, to Help you' was the theme of the Council's most recent recycling video. It was considered that this will foster a collaborative relationship between the Council's customers and the collection crews, which is intended to ensure that recycling boxes are presented without contamination, properly separated and placed in acceptable containers.

A QR code linking to the Council's recycling video is intended to increase user engagement and provide useful information on how recycling should be separated.

During discussion of the proposed designs, it was agreed that the narrative underneath the strapline 'Lets get recycling, sorted!' be amended to read. *Please help us by checking your recycling is sorted correctly. Follow the QR code for more information.*

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

- (i) That design concept 1 be approved subject to inclusion of the amendment set out in the body of the minute; and
- (ii) That the strapline 'Help us, to Help you' for the kerbside recycling service be adopted."

##### **A6. Schedule of Dilapidated, Ruinous or Dangerous Properties**

The Committee considered a schedule of properties in a state of dilapidation or disrepair. Members noted that two properties had been added to the schedule since the last meeting; two properties had been removed because work had been completed; and a total of forty-nine properties remained on the list. This equates to 0.3% of the total number of properties in Douglas.

Resolved, “That the schedule of dilapidated properties be noted and approved and that the Director of Environment and Regeneration be authorised to progress improvements to the properties, and report back to Committee if service of Notice and/or legal action is required.”

**A7. Items for Future Report**

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

In response to concerns raised by a member about pollution caused by the introduction of 20mph zones, members discussed item 3 of the schedule, the PL sensor trial, noting that the sensor would have been useful for monitoring pollution levels following implementation of the speed limits.

In 2020 the Committee had approved the purchase and installation of a ‘Smart City Sensor’ with a view to presenting the data collected to the Department of Infrastructure. The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that after the sensor had been installed it was evidenced the supplier had sent the wrong sensor, and to date, the Council had repeatedly chased for the correct sensor.

It was agreed that council officers contact the supplier again to request either prompt installation or a refund. The Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) undertook to determine whether the Department of Infrastructure, as part of the original 20mph zone proposal, had committed to monitoring traffic and pollution.

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

**A8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Members were reminded that the next scheduled meeting of the Environmental Services Committee was due to take place at 10.00am on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

Resolved, “That the date and time of the next meeting be noted.”

The meeting ended at 10.57am.

IX – Motions, of which Notice has been given by Members of the Council pursuant to Standing Order 26:

## MOTIONS

1. Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner to move:

“After nominations for the 2025 Local Authority Elections closed many constituencies across the Island were uncontested and a number of seats remain vacant.

In order to generate more political interest particularly amongst young people will the Council and its officers investigate, instigate and facilitate the setting up and running of a Junior “City Council” (Local Authority) with one member elected from each Douglas school.

The aim being to give young people an opportunity to discuss and put forward their views on Council proposals in a Council setting.”

*Upon being moved and seconded, the Motion shall stand referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and report to the Council by 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2025.*