City of Douglas

MR COUNCILLOR S.R. CRELLIN, JP
MAYOR

City Hall,
Douglas,
6th November, 2026

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, 11th NOVEMBER 2026, 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

For: 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, 14th October, 2026.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 29th October, 2026.

Members Present: Mr Councillor D R Watson (Chair), the Mayor, Councillor Mrs N A Byron-Teare, Councillor Ms F T E Logan, Mr Councillor F Horning, Mr Councillor P J Washington.

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Miss K J Rice), Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mr I Jackson), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr E P Pierce), Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) (Mr V Zivave), 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**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Director of Finance and the Director of Housing and Property.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2026 were approved and signed.

A4. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Clause A4 – Local Economy Fund – Sea Defence Wall Artworks: Members were advised that the installation of the artworks may be tied in with Phase 2 of the Sea Wall Defence Scheme, which had not yet gone to the tender stage. The Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to determine the position and to advise the Committee accordingly.

A5. **Finance Department Service Plans – Quarterly Performance Monitoring**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance setting out an update on performance compared against measures outlined in the Finance Department's Service Plans for 2026 – 2028, together with other key financial updates.

The Council had adopted a new Corporate Plan for 2026 to 2030 and, following on from this, each Service had its own Service Plan to run for the financial years 2026 to 2028. The report would be presented to Committee after the end of each quarter, and set out the performance to date against the Financial Services and the Income Services Service Plans (the Library Service Plan monitoring being reported to the Regeneration and Community Committee; and the Pensions Service Plan being reported to the Pensions Committee).

Members were advised that costs associated with the recent visit to Douglas by the Lord Mayor of Dublin and his delegation had been accommodated from the Mayoralty Budget. It was likely, when taken together with all other costs arising during this Mayoral term, that there would be insufficient funds within the Mayoralty Budget and it was therefore proposed that, if required, a drawdown of a maximum of £2,500 be made from the General Revenue Reserve to cover any overspend. Members discussed the matter at length, requesting a full breakdown of costs for the visit. It was also suggested that, going forward, a budget line be reintroduced to cover incidental expenses incurred as a consequence of the Council's relationships with Dublin, Ballymoney, and HMS VIGILANT.

Members also noted an increase in costs for the disposal of green waste. The increases had been imposed with immediate effect by the contractor, with the financial impact being an estimated additional cost to the Council of almost £58,000 per year.

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

(ii) That progress against planned actions and performance indicators also be noted;

(iii) That approval be given for up to £2,500 maximum contingency drawdown from the General Revenue Reserve in order to provide a top-up of the 2026 / 2027 Mayoralty Budget, in the event that the approved Mayoralty Budget was exceeded as a result of the Lord Mayor of Dublin's visit to Douglas;

[*On a vote being taken in respect of resolution (iii) above, Members voted 4 For; 1 Against. Councillor Mrs N A Byron-Teare requested her vote against be noted on the minutes*]

(iv) That a growth item be put forward for consideration as part of the 2027 / 2028 rate setting process to reintroduce a budget to cover incidental expenses incurred as a result of the Council's relationships with Dublin, Ballymoney, and HMS VIGILANT;

(v) That in the meantime, the Committee be provided with a full breakdown of the costs incurred as a result of the recent visit to Douglas by the Lord Mayor of Dublin and his delegation; and

(vi) That the estimated increased £58,000 per annum cost impact to the Council arising from the uplift to green waste disposal charges levied by the contractor also be noted."

A6. **Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2026**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) in relation to the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2018 required local authorities to have their Statement of Accounts approved and certified by an external auditor by 31st October each year. The Director of Finance (as Responsible Financial Officer) had approved the issue of the accounts for audit on 21st August 2026 – this was three weeks later than stipulated in the Regulations due to some problems encountered in getting used to the new TechnologyOne (T1) financial information system.

Despite the late certification, the auditors had completed their work in time for the accounts to be presented to this meeting of the Committee, and approval of the Accounts was therefore now required in order to comply with the Regulations.

It was noted that officers had not identified any issues that might impact on the Council's ability to function as a going concern; and, similarly, no events had been identified as occurring since 31st March 2026 that would constitute a post-balance sheet event. A small typographical error was however noted on page 16 of the Statement of Accounts document, in respect of the responsibilities of the Pensions Committee – the line '*Includes two other Members, appointed by Council as required*'' should read '*three Members*'.

As in previous years, the Council's auditor required that a Letter of Representation, signed by the Authority, be issued alongside the financial statements. This provided added assurances to the auditor on the accuracy and integrity of the accounts (including the control systems that underpinned them) in order that certification could take place.

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

(ii) That the Council's Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026 be approved (subject to the amendment of the typographical error on page 16);

(iii) That the Letter of Representation to the Council's external auditor be approved and signed accordingly;

(iv) That the Audit Completion Letter from Baker Tilly (Isle of Man) Limited be noted; and

(v) That it be confirmed by the Committee that it was not aware of any issues that would impact the Council's going concern status, or of any post-balance sheet events."

A7. **Fleet Services – Disposal of Equipment**

The Committee considered a written report by the Head of Fleet Services and Stores detailing a number of used items of plant and equipment that had been sold in the second quarter of the 2026 / 2027 financial year in accordance with Standing Order 161(1), 'Disposal of Surplus Property, Materials, etc'.

The items sold on behalf of the Council had been included in two separate auctions on 27th July and 5th September 2026.

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

(ii) That the Schedule of Vehicles, Plant and Other Equipment sold and the income achieved at auction in the sum of £13,600.00 excluding VAT and less auctioneer's commission in the sum of £680.00, giving net income from the two auctions of £12,920.00 also be noted."

A8. **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."

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

The time and date of the next meeting were noted as 10:00am on Thursday 26th November 2026.

A10. **Referrals from the Regeneration and Community Committee**

The Committee considered the following referral from the public minutes of the Regeneration and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th October 2026:

Clause B1 – Play Area Improvement Programme following Public Consultation: the Committee had considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) in relation to the proposed Play Area Improvement Programme following public consultation on play provision throughout the City. The report detailed proposals for improvements at a number of play areas, it being noted that project briefs, budget estimates, and timescales would be developed for each site following approval of the overall approach.

The Westmoreland Road play area was the first site proposed for redevelopment and the report had recommended utilising Play Area Plant Renewal Fund contributions for 2026 / 2027 and 2027 / 2028, together with a commuted sum of £23,000 arising from the former Nurses' Home development to fund phase one of the scheme. It had been noted that this approach would avoid the need to seek petition loan approval, however, as it was unlikely that the entire site could be delivered from the funding available, the project had been divided into two phases.

The Regeneration and Community Committee had also agreed that approval for the allocation of £25,000 from General Revenue Reserves be sought to undertake topographical surveys at each proposed play area site (with the exception of Noble's Park), in order to provide detailed information regarding existing site conditions and opportunities for redevelopment.

As part of the consideration of this item, the Executive Committee discussed public toilet provision, particularly in Noble's Park – it was agreed that there was sufficient provision, but that it would be beneficial to install signage at the pavilion toilets indicating the next nearest facilities.

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

(ii) That the resolution of the Regeneration and Community Committee to approve the proposed Play Area Improvement Programme be endorsed;

(iii) That approval be given for the use of the Play Area Plant Renewal Fund contributions for 2026 / 2027 and 2027 / 2028 to fund Phase 1 of the Westmoreland Road Play Area Improvement project; and

(iv) That approval be given for £25,000 to be allocated from General Revenue Reserves in order for topographical surveys to be undertaken at each proposed play area site."

The Committee rose at 4.30pm.

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, 21st October, 2026.

Members Present: Mr Councillor P.J. Washington (Chair), Councillor Ms C. Traynor, Mr Councillor D.C. Cretney, Mr Councillor R. Sloane.

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 and Property Operations Manager (Mr J. Chatwood), Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Mrs C. Maddocks).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters delegated to the Committee

A1. **Apologies**

The Worshipful the Mayor, Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin submitted apologies for absence.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. **Minutes – 16th September, 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16th September, 2026 were approved and signed.

A4. **Minutes – 1st October, 2026**

The minutes of the special joint meeting of the Housing and Property Committee and Regeneration and Community Committee, held on Thursday 1st October, 2026 were approved and signed.

A5. **Matters Arising**

No matters were raised as arising from the previous minutes.

A6. **Housing Minor Capital**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) to determine the allocation of the Housing Minor Capital funding for 2026/27.

Members were reminded that the Housing Minor Capital Works funding process was initiated in 2019, and petition approval has been granted yearly since, although this is not guaranteed to be approved by the Department. There are several housing minor capital works to the Council's housing stock that are beyond the scope and financial constraints of the housing maintenance budget that require attention.

Members were advised that it is proposed to undertake works to replace railings at Quines Corner flats at an estimated cost of £50,000 and roof repair works to Lord Street / Coronation Terrace properties at an estimated cost of £100,000. Detailed within the officer's report were the proposed scope of works.

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

(i) That the allocation of £150,000 from the 2026/27 Housing Minor Capital Budget to undertake the proposed works be approved;
(ii) That the Chief Executive be authorised to petition the Department of Infrastructure for borrowing powers in the amount of £150,000 being the sum required to defray the project costs; and
(iii) That the Department of Infrastructure be advised that an assessment of the Council's Housing Reserves Fund has been undertaken to establish if monies are available to contribute towards the proposed scheme via that source."

A7. **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."

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

Members were advised that the next monthly meeting was scheduled to take place at 10.00am on Wednesday, 18th November, 2026.

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

The meeting ended at 12.15pm

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

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

PENSIONS COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 28th October, 2026.

Members Present: Mr Councillor F. Horning (Chair), Councillor Mrs N.A. Byron-Teare J.P., Mr Councillor A. Hall, Mr Councillor R. Sloane.

In Attendance: Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr E.P. Pierce), Payroll Manager (Mr E. Skinner), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson). Mr D. Beedall (Capita) in virtual attendance (Items A1 to A10 and B11).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the scope of the Committee's delegated authority

A1. **Apologies**

The Mayor and Ms A Christian (Independent Member) submitted apologies for absence.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. **Minutes – 9th September 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, 9th September, 2026, were approved and signed.

A4. **Matters Arising**

Members briefly discussed the proposal to change the date of the Pensions Committee meeting to the Wednesday immediately after the Council Meeting. The opportunity to amend the date is as a result of constitutional changes to merge two Committees. Members were supportive of the proposal which will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Resolved, "That the matter arising be noted on the minutes."

A5. **Training – Administering Authority Responsibilities**

The Committee received a training presentation from Mr Beedall, Capita, on the responsibilities and decision-making functions of the administering authority within the Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme (IOMLGSS). Mr Beedall explained that many of the responsibilities are delegated by the Administering Authority to Capita.

The presentation covered:

- The calculation and payment of pension benefits, including membership accrual rates, retirement options, lump sums, trivial commutation, and pension payment arrangements. It was noted that the scheme is a very beneficial scheme to employees.
- Statutory requirements for the production of annual benefit statements and the information that must be provided to active, deferred and pension credit members.
- The administering authority's obligations under its Communications Policy, including communications with members, prospective members, representatives and employing authorities.
- Data protection responsibilities under relevant legislation, including the principles governing the processing of personal data and the rights of data subjects.
- The Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP), including complaint handling, escalation processes and the role of the Pensions Ombudsman.
- Administering authority discretionary policies, including delegation of functions, funding strategy, communications policy and pension abatement provisions.
- The requirements relating to admitted bodies and admission agreements within the IOMLGSS.

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

A6. **Capita Quarterly Administration Report**

The Committee received Capita's administration report for the July to September 2026 quarter summarising Capita's performance in comparison to the agreed service levels. Appended to the report were the quarter one and quarter two performance reports.

Members noted that 100% of service queries were dealt with by Capita during the last two quarters within the specified timeframe. Details of the complaints were provided.

It was noted that some employers had made late contributions to the Scheme. Mr Beedall explained conversations have been ongoing with the relevant officers of the employers. Members asked that an additional column be added to the late payment table to advise how often in the past three years employers had paid late to understand if the late payment was a one-off or regular occurrence.

The report finished with an update on the previously agreed member tracing exercise. 31 records had been submitted for verification, 15 were successfully verified, 2 were partially completed, 3 were wrong addresses and 11 did not respond. Former employers were notified of the 11 non respondents, 2 further were identified by this process. There are 9 outstanding. The report presented the option of forensic testing for the 9 remaining members. There were concerns that the Scheme could pay £255 per member to trace the deferred member before pension age, and then they lose contact again.

Members discussed the option for forensic tracing and agreed a sensible approach would be to automatically trace members at the age of 68, one year after state retirement age, on the basis that it is more likely the deferred member will contact the scheme upon retiring to receive their benefits. There were concerns that the Scheme could pay for forensic testing now only to lose contact with the member again and have to pay out to find them again.

Members discussed the UK database that is being created to store member information, and asked Capita to confirm if the IOMLGSS could access this platform.

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

(i) Forensic tracing for members with no contact details take place when the member reaches age 68;

(ii) Capita investigate if the Scheme can access the UK database scheme to assist with tracing members."

A7. **Communication Policy**

The Committee were presented with the communication policy for review. The communication policy sets out how the Scheme will communicate with members and employers.

The policy was last reviewed in 2023. Council officers and Capita reviewed the policy and presented an updated version of the document. It was noted there were no tracked changes to highlight any changes. The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) advised there were no substantive changes to the document, grammatical changes only.

Resolved, "That the updated communication policy be adopted."

A8. **Plan of Activities**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) to plan the matters to be considered by the Committee during the forthcoming year.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) explained that in 2017 a governance review undertaken identified that the Council had shortcomings in relation to training plans, individual training needs analyses and a training log. As a result, a training log was created to determine the training needs of the Committee, and had been presented annually to the Committee together with the plan of activities based on the training needs. It was noted a similar plan for the investment Committee meetings will be presented in November.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and the two-year training plan, and the 2027 administration plan of activities be approved."

A9. **Items for Future Report**

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

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

A10. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Committee noted that the date and time of the next meeting is Wednesday, 25th November, 2026.

PART B –

Matters requiring Executive Committee approval

B11. **Independent Member Report**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Finance seeking support for the creation of a second Independent Member position on the Pensions Committee to represent Scheme employers other than the Administering Authority.

Members noted that feedback received from Scheme employers highlighted a desire for greater involvement in Scheme governance, oversight and communication.

The Committee discussed the overall size and composition of the Pensions Committee, including whether the number of Council representatives could be reduced to accommodate the additional Independent Member. Whilst acknowledging the merits of a smaller committee structure, Members agreed that the appointment of a second Independent Member should be trialled in the first instance. It was considered appropriate to assess the effectiveness of the revised arrangements before considering any future reduction in the number of Douglas City Council representatives serving on the Committee.

Members further noted that the proposal would not replace the existing Independent Member role but would create a second position specifically intended for a representative of a Scheme employer at either political or officer level.

Whilst the suggestion originated from the Municipal Association, Members agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Association to have an automatic right of nomination. The Association would, however, be welcome to put forward a candidate for the Committee's consideration.

It was noted that the proposal would require approval by the Executive Committee as it necessitated an amendment to the Council's Constitution.

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

(i) The matter be referred to the Executive Committee to recommend a change in the Council's Constitution to create the role of a second Independent Member for the Pensions Committee, representing the Scheme employers other than the Administering Authority;

(ii) The change be brought in with effect from the start of the 2027/28 Municipal Year."

The Committee rose at 12.17pm.

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, 20th October, 2026.

Members Present: Councillor Mrs N.A. Byron-Teare (Chair), Councillor Miss S. Kewin, Councillor Ms C. Traynor, Mr Councillor D.C. Cretney.

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mr I. Jackson), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Deputy City Librarian (Mrs S. Goodwin) (Item A5 only), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters delegated to the Committee

A1. **Apologies**

The Mayor submitted apologies for the meeting.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

A3. **Minutes – 15th September, 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 15th September, 2026 were approved and signed.

A4. **Matters Arising**

Dog Byelaws

In response to question, the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) advised that the dog byelaw trials permitting dogs on the entirety of Douglas Beach and Glen Falcon are intended to run until July 2028 at which time the new Byelaws will be enforced. It was confirmed any complaints would be logged to review as part of the drafting for the revised byelaws. To date no complaints have been received since the implementation of the trial, however some complaints were received following the announcement of the trial.

The Committee asked that officers consider other open spaces that could also be trialled to assist with getting a better overall view on the impact of allowing dogs in open spaces.

Resolved, “That the matters arising be noted on the minutes and officers consider other viable open spaces to extend the permission of dogs.”

A5. **Quarterly Service Monitoring – City Library**

The Committee considered a report by the City Librarian providing an update on performance against the measures contained within the Library Service Plan.

Members noted the progress against the actions set out in the Service Plan for quarter two of 2026/27. All actions had been completed and were recorded as green, with the exception of the library refurbishment objective, which remains paused pending resolution of ongoing water ingress issues.

The Committee received user statistics for the quarter and compared these with the corresponding period in the previous year. It was noted that library app usage had increased, while PC usage had declined. Members were advised that these trends had been anticipated following the introduction of the Wi-Fi printing service and the increasing use of personal mobile devices and tablets.

Members expressed their appreciation to Library staff for their continued efforts in maintaining a well-used and valued community facility. The Chair requested that the Library's self-service machine be promoted to users.

Resolved, “That particulars of the Douglas City Library Service Plan and user statistics for quarter one of 2026/27 be noted.”

A6. **Items for Future Report**

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

Members were advised of shipping issues currently being experienced with fireworks transport to the Island, and the possibility that the event may need to be postponed or cancelled.

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

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

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee was Tuesday, 17th November at 10.00am.

PART B –

Matters Referred to Executive Committee

B8. **Play Area Improvement Programme following Public Consultations**

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) regarding the proposed Play Area Improvement Programme following public consultation on play provision throughout the City.

The report outlined the outcomes of consultations undertaken during spring and summer 2026, including school workshops, an online survey, engagement activities at the Noble's Park Fun Day and site visits. The findings had subsequently informed a feasibility study and proposed programme of improvements for play facilities across a number of Council sites.

Members were advised that the programme grouped play areas according to priority and proposed delivery methods. The report detailed proposals for improvements at Westmoreland Road, Governor's Hill, Centenary Gardens, Cooil Road/Ballavagher, Reayrt y Sheear, Pulrose, Anagh Coar and Noble's Park. The Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) provided a brief overview of the proposed phases of delivery and advised that detailed project briefs, budget estimates and timescales would be developed for each site following approval of the overall approach.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) further advised that, following attendance at a recent Association of Town and City Management (ATCM) conference, additional ideas and best practice examples had been identified which could be incorporated into the programme. It was suggested that, by combining the consultation outcomes with innovative approaches adopted elsewhere in the United Kingdom, the Council could develop play facilities which exceeded public expectations and the aspirations identified through the consultation process. Members supported the principle of each play area providing a distinct style of play reflective of its location and surroundings.

Members noted that Westmoreland Road was the first site proposed for redevelopment. Consultation responses indicated that, in addition to a children's play area, residents wished to see improved seating and social spaces, enhanced landscaping and greenery, an updated Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), facilities for outdoor games, and potential provision of a scooter pump track. Improvements to surfacing, signage and shelters were also identified as priorities.

The report recommended utilising Play Area Plant Renewal Fund contributions for 2026/27 and 2027/28, together with a commuted sum of £23,000 arising from the former Nurse's Home development, to fund Phase One of the scheme. Members noted that this approach would avoid the need to seek petition loan approval. Given the scale of the proposed improvements, it was considered unlikely that the entire site could be delivered from the funding available and, therefore, the project had been divided into two phases. Subject to approval, works could commence in May 2027. It was further noted that additional commuted sums may become available during the lifetime of the project.

The Committee noted the proposed funding strategy for each play area as detailed within the report. In response to questions, the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) provided further background information regarding the calculation and use of commuted sums.

Members also considered a request to seek Executive Committee approval for the allocation of £25,000 from General Revenue Reserves to undertake topographical surveys at each proposed play area site, with the exception of Noble's Park. It was noted that the surveys would provide detailed information regarding existing site conditions, including the location and condition of existing equipment and opportunities for redevelopment.

In response to questions, the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) advised that undertaking the surveys concurrently would achieve economies of scale and that the information gathered would remain relevant as the programme progressed through its various phases. Members further requested officers observe how the play areas are used at different times and on different days, to ensure that facilities reflected the needs of users.

The Chair requested that consideration be given to the use of mobile CCTV units both to enhance user safety and protect Council assets.

Whilst Willaston Park was not currently included within the proposed improvement programme, Members requested that consideration be given to the installation of CCTV and the undertaking of minor improvement works at the site. It was noted that the newly established revenue budget for play equipment improvements could also be utilised to repair or replace equipment at parks not currently included within the redevelopment programme.

The Committee requested that its thanks and appreciation be recorded to all officers involved in developing the Play Area Improvement Programme.

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

(i) The outcome of the public consultation exercise in relation to play generally and to the specific sites contained in the play area improvement programme be noted;

(ii) The proposed approaches for the following sites be approved:

1. Westmoreland Road;
2. Governor's Hill;
3. Centenary Gardens;
4. Cooil Road/Ballavagher;
5. Reayrt y Sheear;
6. Pulrose;
7. Anagh Coar; and
8. Noble's Park;

(iii) The proposed programme funding strategy as set out in section four of the report be agreed;

(iv) The matter be referred to the Executive Committee to request use of the Plant Renewal Fund play area contributions for the 2026/27 and 2027/28 to fund Phase 1 of the Westmoreland Road Play Area Improvement; and

(v) A request for £25,000 from General Revenue Reserves be referred to the Executive Committee to undertake topographical surveys of all play sites."

The meeting ended at 12.30pm

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 19th October, 2026.

Members Present: Mr Councillor F. Horning (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor A. Hall, Mr Councillor D.C. Cretney, Mr Councillor R. Sloane.

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mr I. Jackson), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr E.P. Pierce) (Items A1 to A5 and A7) Finance Manager (Mr E. Skinner) (Items A1 to A5 and A7), Community and Enforcement Manager (Mr A. Gordon) (Item A6 only), Dilapidations Enforcement Officer, (Miss H. Dunne) (Item A6 only), 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 – 14th September, 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 14th September, 2026 were approved and signed.

A4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matters were raised as arising from the previous minutes.

A5. **Attendance at the Keep Britain Tidy Network Conference and Awards 2027**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Waste Services seeking approval for a delegation of up to three, to attend the Keep Britain Tidy Conference and Awards to be held in Brighton on 21st January 2027.

Members were advised that although the full agenda has not yet been published, early information indicates that significant focus will be given to the changing litter and waste management landscape, including the implementation and operational impacts of Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), tackling waste crime and fly-tipping, innovation in service delivery and collaborative approaches to environmental improvement. These are all matters that have strategic relevance to Douglas City Council and its environmental ambitions.

It was noted that the majority of costs associated with attendance were already covered through the Council's annual Keep Britain Tidy membership subscription. Accordingly, approval was sought for a delegation of up to three attendees, comprising the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee and/or relevant officers from Waste Services and Community and Enforcement, with the final composition of the delegation to be determined by the Director of Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Head of Waste Services.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and that a delegation of up to three representatives be authorised to attend the Keep Britain Tidy Network Conference and Awards on 21st January 2027 as part of the Council's membership for 2026/27."

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 17 properties had been added to the schedule since the last meeting; eight properties had been removed; and a total of 50 properties remained on the list.

Resolved, "That the schedule of dilapidated properties be noted 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.

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, 16th November, 2026.

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

The meeting ended at 10.55am