City of Douglas

MR COUNCILLOR S.R. CRELLIN, JP
MAYOR

City Hall,
Douglas,
2nd April, 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, 8th APRIL 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

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, 11th March, 2026 and the Special Private Council Meeting on Thursday, 26th March, 2026.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 26th March, 2026.

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

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), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson) (Clauses A8, A9, and C18), 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 Councillor Ms F.T.E. Logan.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs N.A. Byron-Teare declared an interest in Clause C19.

A3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26th February 2026 were approved and signed.

A4. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

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

There were no referrals from the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on Monday 16th March 2026.

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

The meeting of the Regeneration and Community Committee, scheduled for Tuesday 17th March 2026, had been cancelled.

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 18th March 2026.

A8. **Consultation Document – Marine Infrastructure Post Consent Regulations 2026**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) on a consultation document issued by the Department of Infrastructure relating to Sections 42 to 49 of the Marine Infrastructure Management Act 2016.

The Marine Infrastructure Management Act had received Royal Assent in 2016 and made provision for a consenting process for certain activities in the Island's marine environment. It applied to the controlled marine area defined as the area between the mean high-water mark and the seaward boundary of the Isle of Man Territorial Sea (within the meaning of the Territorial Sea Act 1987).

It was noted that a limited number of provisions had already been enacted, and the Department of Infrastructure was now in the process of bringing the remaining part of the Act - Sections 42 to 49 (the Regulations) - into operation. The Regulations set out what happened once a consent had been granted, but where an applicant then determined that they wished to request amendments to that consent.

The consultation related to a specific number of controlled marine areas identified in the Marine Infrastructure Management Act – these being, offshore renewable energy generation; aggregate extraction; laying of submarine cables; laying of submarine pipelines; gas drilling; carbon capture and storage; and exploration for and exploitation of natural gas and petroleum.

The consultation had opened on 2nd March 2026, with a closing date of 13th April 2026. A draft response (prepared by the Director of Environment and Regeneration; the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration); and the Assistant Chief Officer (Environment)) had been reviewed by the Consultation Working Group and was before the Committee for further review.

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

(ii) That the proposed response, as set out in Appendix 2 to the written report, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly."

A9. **Consultation Document – Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders 2026**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) in relation to a consultation document issued by the Department of Infrastructure on proposed Traffic Regulation Orders.

<u>Speed Limits (Various Roads) (East Area) Order 2026</u>:

The effect of this Order would be to supersede a previous 20mph speed limit area-wide approach, reverting various roads to 30mph. The focus would be on the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on residential roads surrounding key educational establishments in central Douglas - namely, St Ninians High School, Ballakermeen High School, Henry Bloom Noble Primary School, St Mary's Primary School, and Scoill yn Jubilee.

<u>Reserved Parking Places (Various Roads) Designation Order 2026</u>:

The effect of this Order would be to consolidate the current reserved Parking Place restrictions and to revoke / introduce several reserved parking places (as listed in the proposed Order).

<u>Road Traffic Regulation (Weight and Width Restrictions) Order 2026</u>:

The effect of this Order would be to consolidate historic weight and width restrictions already located and in place throughout the Island's roads.

The consultation had opened on 13th March 2026, with a closing date of 27th March 2026. A draft response (prepared following feedback provided by the Chief Officers' Management Team) had been reviewed by the Consultation Working Group and was before the Committee for further review, it being noted specifically that there would be no operational impact on the Council as a result of the introduction of the Speed Limits Order.

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

(ii) That the proposed response, as set out in Appendix 4 to the written report, be approved as the Council's response, and submitted accordingly."

A10. **Monthly Financial Review – February 2026**

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.

It was noted, although there had been no change to the rate of the UK RPI since the previous month's update, it would inevitably increase in the coming months, as would the Manx CPI, due to the current situation in the Middle East. Fuel prices in particular would increase, which would place budgetary pressures on the Council.

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

(i) The rates collection figure of 95.7% for the first ten months of the financial year, compared with the target figure of 98%;

(ii) The Energy from Waste Plant domestic waste gate fee of £112.13 per tonne, applicable from 1st April 2026, representing an increase of 2.71%;

(iii) The favourable comparison of the Council's rate increase for 2026 / 2027, compared with the majority of the Island's local authorities; and

(iv) The approval received from the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture for the cremation fees and charges for 2026 / 2027."

A11. **Statement of Accounts**

The Committee considered a written report by Director of Finance in relation to the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025.

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. In accordance with those Regulations, the Director of Finance, as Responsible Financial Officer, had approved the issue of the Council's accounts for audit in July 2025. However, due to delays in the appointment of the auditor by the Tynwald Auditor General, the deadline in respect of the 2024 / 2025 accounts had been extended to 31st March 2026 and Committee approval of the Accounts was therefore now required in order to comply with the Regulations.

It was understood that the audit had now been completed and that no issues were anticipated. Members noted the main items arising from the accounts together with the Audit Completion Letter that had been received from the external auditors. A small typographical error was noted on the 'contents' page of the Audit Findings Report – under the heading 'Deficiencies in internal controls', the page numbers to read '13' instead of '133'; and '14' instead of '144'.

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 2025 be approved;

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

(iv) That the Audit Completion Letter from Baker Tilly (Isle of Man) Limited also be noted."

A12. **Treasury Management Plan 2026 / 2027**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Income) detailing the Council's plans and related Prudential Indicators for 2026 / 2027.

As an annual report, the Plan was a key aspect of delivering the Council's 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 2026 / 2027, which had been updated to align with those incorporated into the Council's Capital Strategy. These showed that the level of existing and planned borrowing remained at a comfortable level and was affordable.

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

(ii) That the Treasury Management Plan 2026 / 2027 be approved."

A13. **Change of Apprenticeship within Electrical Services**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) in relation to a planned change to the electrician's apprenticeship within Electrical Services.

The current apprentice electrician's agreement was due to finish in June 2026. Normally a replacement would have been requested via Human Resources, however, on this occasion, Electrical Services had proposed supporting a blacksmith / engineering apprentice instead of an apprentice electrician.

While the proposal would represent a change to the Council's approved apprenticeship programme (which had been reintroduced in October 2015), approval of a blacksmith / engineering apprenticeship would safeguard operational resilience and mitigate recruitment risks. The apprentice would receive targeted training to develop expertise in blacksmithing and engineering, ensuring long-term continuity and future-proofing of this essential service for the Council. Without proactive succession planning, there was a high likelihood of service disruption, as replacing a skilled blacksmith would be challenging.

It was suggested that an extension of the apprenticeship programme would be beneficial, and Members accordingly noted that Electrical Services intended to submit a bid in the 2027 / 2028 budget process for an increase in the approved number of apprentices. This would be for an apprentice electrician as part of the overall programme, while the blacksmith apprenticeship was utilising the electrician's apprenticeship. The additional approval would be for a three-year period, overlapping with the blacksmith apprenticeship, which was anticipated would be completed in 2029 / 2030.

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

(ii) That authority be given to utilise the electrician's apprenticeship as an apprentice blacksmith within Electrical Services."

A14. **Mooir Vannin Generation Project – Hearings for the Marine Infrastructure Consenting Process**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Environment and Regeneration setting out an update on the first set of hearings for the Marine Infrastructure Consenting Process, and seeking agreement to a draft response on behalf of the Council as a Principal Stakeholder.

As reported at the February 2026 meeting, Ørsted had made an application for the Mooir Vannin Generation Project in accordance with the Marine Infrastructure Management Act 2016 and, due to the national significance, the application was to be determined by the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers had formally referred the application to an Examining Body, which had accordingly begun its examination of the application.

Members recalled that the Executive Committee had previously endorsed responses to consultations regarding the Mooir Vannin Offshore Windfarm and, most recently, had approved the contents of the Local Authority Effects Statement (as sought by the Examining Body, and which had been submitted accordingly). To date, there had been a Preliminary Meeting, a public meeting, and three Specific Issues Hearings:

Preliminary Meeting (Tuesday 3rd March 2026): officers had virtually attended the meeting, where the procedure for the examination of the application had been set out. During the meeting, officers had become aware that the Applicant had submitted a non-material change request to remove Port Skillion and Douglas Head as a landfall location, preferring landfall locations in Groudle.

Specific Issue Hearing One (Wednesday 4th March 2026): the Council as a Principal Stakeholder had been specifically requested to attend, and a small delegation of officers physically attended the meeting to represent the Council. The Examining Body had encouraged the officer delegation to make representations regarding the adequacy of arrangements for the landfall location at Port Skillion and Douglas Head, however, as the Applicant had not engaged with the Council as landowner and no detail had been furnished, they had been unable to provide comment.

Specific Issue Hearing Two (Thursday 5th March 2026): the Council as a Principal Stakeholder had been specifically requested to attend, and a small delegation of officers physically attended the meeting to represent the Council. The Hearing had considered landfall locations and works, including how environmental matters had been assessed. The Applicant had been reminded to not discount Port Skillion in its presentation, despite the non-material change request having been submitted.

Specific Issue Hearing Three (Friday 6th March 2026): officers did not attend as this Hearing had been concerned with shipping navigation, aviation, fishing, port and harbour operations, and maritime safety.

The Examining Body (on 11th March 2026) had issued Written Question One seeking further information - mostly from the Applicant, but also from other organisations and individuals. Two of the questions were directed to the Council with a deadline of 31st March 2026 to reply by and Members accordingly considered the suggested response.

It was noted that there were likely to be further Specific Issue Hearings in May and August 2026, with the examination scheduled to close on 9th September 2026. At that point, the Examining Body would submit its findings and recommendation to the Council of Ministers. It was unlikely, however, that a decision would be made until after the Isle of Man General Election on 24th September 2026.

Members expressed their appreciation of the work undertaken by officers in the formulation of the proposed response.

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

(ii) That the draft response, as appended to the written report, be approved for submission to the Examining Body accordingly."

A15. **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."

A16. **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The time and date of the next meeting were confirmed as 10:00am on Thursday 28th May 2026.

A17. **Chair's Closing Remarks**

The Chair expressed his thanks to Members for their support and who, as a Committee, had achieved much throughout the municipal year, building on the work of previous Council administrations. He also extended thanks to Chief Officers for their advice, guidance, and input.

PART C –

Matters subject to Council approval

C18. **Setting up of a "Douglas Youth Council"**

The Committee considered a written report by the Democratic Services Officer in relation to the proposal to create a Douglas Youth Council.

Members recalled that a Motion had been submitted to the April 2025 Council Meeting by a former Member proposing the setting up and running of a Junior City Council, with the aim to give young people an opportunity to discuss and put forward their views on Council proposals in a Council setting.

As an alternative, it had been suggested that all Douglas primary and secondary schools be invited to observe Council Meetings and for an offer to be extended for school council meetings to be hosted in the Council Chamber. However, the Executive Committee had resolved that a report be brought forward on how a Youth Council might be established and to determine its terms of reference and costings.

The introduction of a Youth Council would be a major change to the way the Council would consider projects and ideas; and the resources required to implement it should not be underestimated - it was a major project that would require significant planning and training.

It was proposed that the Youth Council would report directly to the Executive Committee and have access of up to £20,000 funding annually - although, initially, £10,000 had been suggested for a one-year trial for the scheme. While it was hoped the project would commence in 2026, given the training required, it might not come to fruition until 2027.

Members accordingly considered the proposed terms of reference. There were several considerations in relation to training and safeguarding that would need to be undertaken, including enhanced DBS checks; risk assessments for meetings and events; a policy on the ratio of officers to pupils; and enquiries into the Council's insurance for working with children. In relation to the proposed age range for eligibility (15 to 18 years), it was suggested that this be revised to include that volunteers should join the Youth Council before the age of 18. It was also agreed that volunteers be not restricted to being residents of Douglas, however, all candidates must attend a Douglas High School or College.

Members expressed their appreciation of the work undertaken by the Democratic Services Team, agreeing that the initiative would be greatly beneficial in encouraging young people to become involved in local democracy.

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

(ii) That it be recommended to Council:

- (a) That a Douglas Youth Council be introduced for a one-year trial period;
- (b) That the terms of reference (subject to the age criterion being amended to clarify that volunteers should join before the age of 18) be accepted;
- (c) That arising from (b) above, officers prepare a further report on changes required to the Council's Constitution;
- (d) That the establishment of the Youth Council be included in the Democratic Services 2026 – 2028 Service Plan;
- (e) That a budget of £10,000 be set aside from the General Revenue Reserve in 2026 / 2027 for the one-year trial of the scheme; and
- (f) That an analysis of the Youth Council be undertaken after the one-year trial and reported back to the Executive Committee to consider the future of the scheme."

C19. **Manx Family Centre – Request for Funding**

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Councillor Mrs N.A. Byron-Teare declared an interest in this item and retired from the meeting whilst it was considered.

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance in relation to a request submitted by the Manx Family Centre for an annual contribution.

The report had originally been intended for submission to the Regeneration and Community Committee in March 2026. However, as that meeting had been cancelled and in view of the forthcoming recess, it had been deemed that the report should be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration, this being more-timely than waiting for the next meeting of the Regeneration and Community Committee in May.

Following the closure of the Family Library in July 2025 due to funding concerns, the Manx Family Centre Association had taken over the Noble's Hall premises on Westmoreland Road, Douglas, and re-opened in October 2025 as a new community centre run by staff from the former Family Library. In January 2026, the Trustees of the Manx Family Centre had made an approach to all the Island's local authorities, seeking funding contributions to the charity in respect of the mobile library service. A contribution of £500 per annum had been requested regardless of the authority size.

Members were reminded that the pre-existing policy of the Council regarding funding contributions to the Family Library, was that no funding contributions be made. This position had been determined in August 2021 on the basis that there was a clear duplication of services with what was already offered by the Council through its own Library service.

It was noted that similar requests for funding had been received from the former Family Library in previous years, with the response consistently being given that the Council would not offer financial support. When the Family Library was facing imminent closure (unless new adequate sources of funding were made available), further calls had been made on local authorities (and in particular, the Council) to offer their support. It had been concluded, however, that the Council did not have the vires or the funds available to financially assist the Family Library with donations.

Members were advised that this most recent request was, however, different on two counts:

- Firstly, it was specifically in respect of the mobile library service. As mobile library services were provided to residential homes in Douglas it was relevant to a number of residents in the Capital and, as the Council did not offer any form of mobile library service, there was no duplication of service.
- Secondly, the sum of £500 was minimal and could be accommodated from within the existing Library Service Budget. Such a contribution clearly demonstrated the Council's compliance with its social infrastructure aims contained within the new Corporate Plan.

It was noted that the Council already supported the Manx Family Centre in a number of ways – including the donation of large-print books and audio books; lending of books to help the charity fulfil requests for items not in their own stock; and exemption from paying rates due to its charitable status application.

Members were also advised that, as an alternative to a funding contribution, the charity had suggested the Council consider support in the form of installing CCTV coverage for the Manx Family Centre / the Noble's Hall building. This was not, however, considered appropriate for a number of reasons.

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

(ii) That it be recommended to Council:

(a) That the Manx Family Centre's request for funding of £500 per annum in respect of the mobile library service be approved, on the condition that the monies were earmarked specifically for the mobile library service rather than the more general activities of the Manx Family Centre;

(b) That approval be given for the funding to be met from the existing Library Service budget;

(c) That in return, the Manx Family Centre be requested to incorporate the residents of the Council's sheltered housing complexes within the rounds of the mobile library service; and

(d) That the request for the Council to extend its CCTV coverage to cover the Noble's Hall building be not supported, as it would not be appropriate for the Council to do so in respect of any Government building."

C20. **Draft Friendship and Co-operation Agreement with Dublin City Council**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance seeking approval of the draft Friendship and Co-operation Agreement with Dublin City Council for formal adoption by the Council.

In December 2025, the Council had unanimously agreed that a Friendship Agreement with Dublin City Council be developed for formal adoption and, since that time, officers at Dublin had been working up a draft document. Members accordingly reviewed the draft Friendship and Co-operation Agreement which had recently been received from Dublin and were invited to suggest any further changes required.

Officers at Dublin City Council had suggested, in relation to Article 6 (Entry into Force and Duration), that rather than the Agreement being automatically renewed for five-year periods, a review process be undertaken every five years with approval to continue being accordingly agreed by both Douglas City Council and Dublin City Council.

The revised document would be presented to Dublin City Council's Protocol Committee. The next stage would then be the signing of the final document. It was noted that this was likely to be during the summer rather than in the current municipal year.

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

(ii) That the draft Friendship and Co-operation Agreement between the Municipality of Douglas and the Municipality of Dublin be noted;

(iii) That the following amendment to the Agreement, as requested by Dublin City Council, be approved:

(a) Article 6 (Entry into Force and Duration) to read:

This Friendship and Co-operation Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in effect for five (5) years.

It shall be renewed for additional five (5) year periods, dependent on approval of the same by both parties in accordance with their respective legal procedures.

Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving written notice to the other Party.;

(b) That the Agreement be translated into Manx and the final version be written in both English and Manx; and

(iv) That the finalised Agreement be referred to Council for formal approval and adoption and signing by the Worshipful the Mayor."

The Committee rose at 12.45pm.

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, 18th March, 2026.

Members Present: Mr Councillor P.J. Washington (Chair), Mr Councillor D.C. Cretney, Mr Councillor K. Ver Elst, Councillor Ms J. Thommeny.

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

Apologies for absence were submitted by the Worshipful the Mayor.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. **Minutes – 18th February, 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18th February, 2026 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 Housing and Property Operations Manager to update on the number of vacant social housing properties.

Appended to the officer's report was a summary chart outlining the number of properties returned in each month, details of the category repair type for each property and the number of void properties in each estate. In addition, trend data was provided illustrating the overall void patterns for 2024/25 and 2025/26, including a comparison of voids received against voids allocated.

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

A6. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Members were advised that the next monthly meeting was scheduled to take place at 10.00am on Wednesday, 20th May, 2026.

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

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."

The meeting ended at 11.15am.

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

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

PENSIONS COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th March, 2026.

Members Present: Mr Councillor F. Horning (Chair), the Mayor, Councillor Mrs N.A. Byron-Teare, Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, Ms A. Christian (Independent Member)

In Attendance: Director of Finance (Mr A.J.T Boyd), Payroll Manager (Mr E. Skinner), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson). Ms K. Gore and Mr D. Beedall (Capita).

REPORT

PART A –

Matters within the scope of the Committee's delegated authority

A1. **Apologies**

Mr Councillor K. Ver Elst, submitted apologies for absence.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. **Minutes – 25th February, 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, 25th February 2026 were approved and signed.

A4. **Training – General Pension Framework**

The Committee received a training presentation from Mr Beedall, Capita, on the general pension framework.

The training covered the main sources of income in retirement, state pension, occupational or personal pension arrangements, and savings and investments. Mr Beedall covered each income in detail.

Members considered the Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme (the Scheme) framework in detail including some of the relevant legislation and regulations that the Scheme must be compliant with.

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

A5. **IOMLGSS Baker Tilly Audit Findings Report for Year Ended 31st March 2024 – Significant Deficiencies Identified**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Finance to note the management responses to the significant deficiencies identified as part of the 2024 audit.

The 2023/24 pension scheme accounts were approved by the Committee at the February 2026 meeting, and certified by external audit the following day. Baker Tilly's Audit Findings Report was shared with the Committee at the same time. The report contained a number of deficiencies identified as part of the audit. The report was shared with Capita and an updated version which included Capita's responses was shared with the Committee.

It was noted that usual practice is for officers to review the findings and circulate to the Committee by briefing note, however, as Capita were attending the meeting it was considered a good opportunity for Members and Capita to discuss any of the findings and resolutions.

Ten control deficiencies were identified, all marked as significant. Some of the items relate to technical accounting matters, others related to the Administrator's systems and controls used by the team at Capita, and six identified had not changed since the previous year. There were four new deficiencies.

In relation to the payroll procedures, which identified that one team member was designated to the procedure, Capita assured there are team members trained that on occasion do operate and review the process. It was agreed that Capita will strengthen their response to reflect the process.

Capita assured that all deficiencies are being reviewed, and whilst some may still appear in the 2024/25 findings, going forward all will be rectified for future years.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and the list of significant deficiencies identified by Baker Tilly in its audit findings for the year ending 31st March 2024 be noted, together with the management responses provided by Capita."

A6. **Capita Quarterly Administration Report**

The Committee received Capita's administration report for quarter four of 2025 summarising Capita's performance in comparison to the agreed service levels.

Members noted that 99.18% of service queries were dealt with by Capita during quarter four within the specified timeframe. Three complaints had been received during the period, details of the complaints were provided, together with the number of calls processed.

It was noted that some employers continued to make late contributions to the Scheme. Ms Gore confirmed this was raised as part of recent employer training and is now being monitored on a monthly basis as recommended in the audit report.

Members were reminded of the previous discussion regarding scheme data. The report emphasised the importance of maintaining good scheme data which naturally degrades over time. The report proposed undertaking address-tracing for 36 records at a cost of £1,330 with the option for additional tracing at a total cost not exceeding £3,500. The Committee supported the proposed tracing work and requested that any additional tracing required above the initial £1,330 must be approved by the Director of Finance.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and Capita be authorised to undertake address tracing at a cost of £1,330 plus VAT, and the Director of Finance be authorised to approve any additional tracing required up to a total amount (including the £1,300) of £3,500."

A7. **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. Two reports were added to the schedule, the Pensions Scheme risk register which had been omitted from the March agenda, and a report on an Independent Local Authority Member to the Pensions Scheme.

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

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

The Committee noted that the date and time of the next meeting is Wednesday, 27th May, 2026.

A9. **Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme Reform Update**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Finance providing an update on the status of the Scheme reform.

In September 2026, it had been reported that progress being made by the Department in terms of the legislative drafting had effectively stalled due to the low priority being placed on this workstream.

Since that time, Members noted that three progress meetings had taken place with the Policy Review Group.

At the September meeting, the Department of Infrastructure representative advised that it had been hoped legislative drafting could commence in November/early December. Some initial drafting had taken place, however further development, technical input and the insertion of Transitional Provisions were required before a draft could be submitted to the Attorney General's for the next stage.

At the December meeting, the Department's Legislative Officer reported there had been no further progress due to higher priority work required on the Mooir Vannin windfarm application, though it was hoped this could resume in the New Year.

During the February meeting, the group was subsequently advised that, due to ongoing offshore and other legislative commitments, there would be little opportunity in the foreseeable future to continue work on the legislative drafting. This was due to the need for an additional legislative officer which would require funding.

It was noted that pressure from local authorities at political level had in the past resulted in some success, and so the report emphasised the need for this pressure to continue a repeated and ongoing basis particularly considering the general election in September. The Director of Finance had presented the Scheme reform proposals to the Municipal Association in February 2026 and explained the benefits that would arise if more political pressure was exerted by Local Authorities on the Council of Ministers and local MHKs. The report recommended further work to encourage Commissioners at other authorities to apply political pressure.

Members noted that the Public Sector Pensions Authority (PSPA) has also stated it would be unwilling to consider taking on the future management of the administration of the Scheme until reform had been complete, but that it would do so if directed by the PSPA board or Council of Ministers. This differs from what was previously understood, namely that the PSPA would be not be prepared to take on such a role under any circumstances.

Members expressed serious concerns regarding the continued delays and the potential loss of knowledgeable and experienced individuals involved in the reform process. Members concurred the next step was to continue with political lobbying and stakeholder education, and requested the following;

1. The Chair write to the Chief Minister copying in the DOI Minister, Tynwald Administrator and all MHKs, requesting a resolution to the legislative drafting issues, and advising that due to the significant savings involved that are effectively lost as a result of the halt, that the Pensions Committee intends to publicise the delays and implications ahead of the general election if no action is agreed. Members acknowledged they did not wish to jeopardise relationships with Central Government, but that going public appeared to be the only means of progressing the matter;
2. A letter be circulated to all Local Authorities providing an update and recommending that Commissioners raise the issue directly with their local MHKs;
3. Scheme members be updated on the delay;
4. The Municipal Association consider requesting an audience with the DOI Minister to discuss the matter;
5. A presentation take place to all Members, with MHKs and MLCs invited, to educate on the issue and benefit of the scheme reform.

During the presentation with the Municipal Association, it was observed that additional communication with local authorities regarding the IOMLGSS was required, and a question was raised about local authority representation on the Committee. It was agreed that a report exploring the possibility of a second Independent Member, restricted to a local authority member, be prepared for Committee consideration. The Committee also requested that the Pensions Committee training slides be circulated to all Local Authorities at the same time Council papers are publicised.

Resolved, (i) That particulars of the report, and in particular the continued lack of progress by the Department of Infrastructure to restart the pension scheme reform process due to low priority given and lack of legislative officer resources in the Department, be noted on the minutes; and

(ii) The actions contained within the minute to exert pressure and educate on the reform be implemented."

The meeting ended at 12.17pm.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 16th March, 2026.

Members Present: Mr Councillor F. Horning (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor A. Hall (from 10.10am), Mr Councillor D.C. Cretney, Councillor Ms J. Thommeny.

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 (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Dilapidation Enforcement Officer (Mr S. Salter) (Items A5 to A7), 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 – 16th February, 2026**

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

A4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matters were raised as arising from the previous minutes.

A5. **Planning Application 26/00008/MCH – 1, 1A and 2 Marina Road, Douglas**

The Committee considered an appraisal of planning application 26/00008/MCH for Minor Change to planning application 21/01119/B (erection of building with commercial/retail use at ground floor and 5 apartments above) for the omission of basement, revised bicycle and bin stores, revised lift and stair core, alteration to external finishes, doors and fenestration to all elevations, omission of third floor balcony and associated changes to the internal layout at 1, 1A and 2 Marina Road, Douglas.

Members were advised that the current application represents significant changes to the previously approved planning application (21/0119/B), which had been considered and supported by the Committee at its meeting held on 15th November 2021.

The previous planning permission included a condition requiring the approved bin and recycling storage to be implemented prior to the occupation of any apartments. The current application proposes a revised location for these facilities. It was noted that the Council's Waste Services Team has assessed the amended proposals and confirmed that both the size of the storage area and the number of receptacles comply with the Council's standards.

Members were further advised that the proposed external amendments are considered a significant change from the previously approved application. A further significant change is the increase in the number of bedrooms from six to eleven, achieved through internal reconfiguration and the creation of smaller bedrooms. It was noted that all units would be required to comply with the Housing Standards Regulations in order to obtain flat registration, as determined by Environmental Health.

Members expressed concern that a minor change application had been used to introduce what appeared to be substantial amendments.

Notwithstanding these changes, the development would provide additional housing in a sustainable location, with minimal impact on existing infrastructure, and would make a positive contribution to the Island's housing supply.

Given that the proposals include adequate provision for bicycle storage, as well as bin and recycling facilities, the report recommended that no objection be raised to the application.

It was proposed and seconded that support be given to planning application 26/00008/MCH, with an accompanying comment to the planning authority that the Council does not support the use of minor change applications to introduce significant amendments to an already approved planning application.

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

(i) that planning application 26/00008/MCH be supported for the following reasons;

a) The bicycle storage has now been increased to accommodate the increased number of bedrooms from 6 to 11. This now provides adequate bicycle parking as per the guidance within the Manual for Manx Roads and the Housing Standards Regulations 2017 – 13 *Additional storage facilities. Reasonable storage facilities for such items as baby carriages and bicycles must be provided.*

b) The bin and recycling storage has also been changed to meet the increased number of bedrooms and now meets the Council's minimum standards for a mixed-use development of this size and with this number of bedrooms. The proposed changes now comply with the Housing Standards Regulations 2017 for the storage of waste. *(2) Adequate provision must be made for the storage of such receptacles and for the disposal of refuse to the satisfaction of the local authority.*

(ii) Should the application be approved, it should be on the Condition that the bin/recycling and bicycle storage is implemented as per drawing 10-01."

3 For. 1 Against.

Councillor Ms J. Thommeny asked that her name be recorded as voting against the resolution.

A6. **Planning Application 26/00197/C – part of Summerland Site, King Edward Road**

The Committee considered an appraisal of planning application 26/00197/C in relation to part of the Summerland Site, King Edward Road, Douglas.

Members were advised that the proposed planning application is for part of the Summerland Site to be used as a temporary car park for a period of 18 months. Members were reminded that the site had previously been used as a temporary car park to assist with parking demand whilst the Douglas Promenade refurbishment works were being carried out.

The report advised that whilst every application is reviewed on its own merits, the vast majority of applications for temporary car parks have resulted in an objection being raised as they are contrary to the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016, General Policy (b) and (c), nor do they comply with the COMIN directive on temporary car parks.

It is also considered that the application does not comply with Strategic Policy 1, as temporary car parks do not optimise the best use of brownfield sites.

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

(i) that an objection be raised against planning application 26/00197/C as the application is contrary to the COMIN directive of land use for temporary carparks, and contrary to Isle of Man Strategic Plan Strategic Policy 1: Development should make the best use of resources by:

a) optimising the use of previously developed land, redundant buildings, unused and under-used land and buildings, and reusing scarce indigenous building materials;

b) ensuring efficient use of sites, taking into account the needs for access, landscaping, open space (1) and amenity standards.

(ii) that should the application be approved the Committee supports a requirement that the applicant undertakes additional works to significantly improve the appearance of the site, including but not limited to improvements to the timber fencing, improvements to the carpark surface and additional soft landscaping, and improvements to tidying up the aquadrome building."

3 For. 1 Against.

A7. **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; three properties had been removed because work had been completed; and a total of thirty-five properties remained on the list.

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."

A8. **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.”

A9. **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, 18th May, 2026.

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

The meeting ended at 10.47am.