City of Douglas

MR COUNCILLOR S.R. CRELLIN, JP
MAYOR

City Hall,
Douglas,
9th January, 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, 14th JANUARY, 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, 10th December, 2025.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 17th December, 2025.

Members Present: Mr Councillor D.R. Watson (Chair), the Mayor, Councillor Mrs N.A. Byron-Teare, Councillor Ms F.T.E. Logan (from 2.15pm), 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), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe) (Clauses A8 to A10), 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**

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27th November 2025 were approved and signed.

A4. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Isle of Man Municipal Association: the Association had become a more collaborative forum, particularly recently in relation to discussions on the Local Government (Amendment) Bill, but also with a focus on housing, pension reform, and local government reform. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for the Municipal Association to be invited to the City Hall (in February / March 2026) for a presentation on the Isle of Man Local Government Pension Scheme.

Clause C18 – Independent Member on the Housing and Property Committee: in response to a Member's request that the suggestion for community focus groups be progressed, the Director of Housing and Property confirmed that the matter had been included on the Housing and Property Committee's schedule for future report.

Clause C19 – Proposed Friendship Agreement with Dublin City Council: it was suggested that a committee or working group, specifically set up to move the project forward, should be considered.

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

There were no referrals from the public minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on Monday 15th December 2025.

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

There were no referrals from the public minutes of the Regeneration and Community Committee meeting held on Thursday 11th December 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 Friday 12th December 2025.

A8. **Consultation Documents – Health and Safety Legislation**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) in relation to a number of consultation documents issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA).

DEFA was reviewing and updating specific Isle of Man Health and Safety legislation to align with UK best practice. The legislation reform aimed to ensure health and safety standards would apply consistently to both onshore and offshore activities and, in the process, support the safe development of future offshore energy projects.

The consultations had opened during October and November 2025, with closing dates between 24th December 2025 and 16th January 2026. The draft responses (prepared by the Council's Health and Safety Officer) had been reviewed by the Consultation Working Group and were before the Committee for further review.

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

(ii) That the proposed response in relation to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2A, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly;

(iii) That the proposed response in relation to the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2B, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly;

(iv) That the proposed response in relation to the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2C, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly;

(v) That the proposed response in relation to the Workplace (Health, Safety, and Welfare) Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2D, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly;

(vi) That the proposed response in relation to the Health and Safety Information for Employees Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2E, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly;

(vii) That the proposed response in relation to the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2F, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly;

(viii) That the proposed response in relation to the Consultation with Employees Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2G, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly;

(ix) That the proposed response in relation to the Construction (Design and Maintenance) Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2H, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly;

(x) That the proposed response in relation to the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2I, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly, subject to the deletion of the reference to 'planning supervisor' which was not relevant; and

(xi) That the proposed response in relation to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2025, appended to the written report as Appendix 2J, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly, subject to the deletion of the reference to 'planning supervisor' which was not relevant."

A9. **Consultation Document – Public Audit Reform**

The Committee considered a joint written report by the Director of Finance and the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) in relation to a consultation document issued by the Isle of Man Treasury.

The Treasury was seeking feedback from stakeholders on the recommendations made by the Tynwald Auditor General (the TAG) in his report 'Public Audit in the Isle of Man 2024.' The first ever TAG, on appointment in March 2023, had been initially tasked with reviewing the adequacy of Manx legislation relating to the functions of that role. That review had concluded with the publication of the report, which had been laid before Tynwald in July 2024. It included 93 recommendations and ten areas for consideration – many of which were subject to public consultation.

Public audit was an important feature of the regulatory system around public finances. It was currently governed by the Audit Act 2006 and, until the appointment of the TAG in 2023, public audit had been conducted by external auditors commissioned by the Isle of Man Treasury. Being subject to the current audit framework, any recommendations arising from the consultation would have a bearing on the Council.

The consultation had opened on 24th November 2025, with a closing date of 5th January 2026. A draft response (prepared by the Council's Director of Finance) 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 appended to the written report, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly."

A10. **Consultation Document – Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) (Amendment) Regulations 2026**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) in relation to a consultation document issued by the Cabinet Office.

The Crown and Elections Team was seeking views on the draft Elections Regulations 2026. This followed on from the public consultation in January 2025 on the Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) (Amendment) Bill 2024. If the Bill was passed by Tynwald and received Royal Assent, it would introduce a variety of changes to the Island's electoral system, resulting in the need for the Regulations to be updated to reflect those changes. Two such Regulations were for House of Keys elections - the Elections (Keys) Regulations 2021; and for Local Authority elections - the Elections (Local Authorities) Regulations 2021.

The consultation had opened on 1st December 2025, with a closing date of 12th January 2026. A draft response (prepared jointly by the Chief Executive, Chief Officers, the Council Advocate, and the Democratic Services Team) 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 appended to the written report, be approved as the Council's response and submitted accordingly."

A11. **Monthly Financial Review – November 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 particulars of the report be noted on the minutes, including in particular -

- the rates collection figure of 90.5% for the first eight months of the financial year, compared with the target figure of 93.1%."

A12. **CIPFA Public Finance Live Conference 2026**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance seeking approval for attendance at the CIPFA Public Finance Live Conference taking place in London on 15th and 16th July 2026.

The Director of Finance usually attended the conference on an annual basis - attendance providing useful continuing professional development and helping his formulation of strategic financial advice to Committee and Council.

An early booking discount rate of £595 plus VAT per delegate was being offered for bookings received by 30th January 2026. As in previous years and per policy, funding would be from the General Revenue Reserve.

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

(ii) That approval be given for the Director of Finance to attend the CIPFA Public Finance Live Conference in London in July 2026; and

(iii) That approval be given for funding of up to £900 to be made available from the General Revenue Reserve for the attendance."

A13. **Replacement Plant for the Parks Service**

The Committee considered a written report by the Head of Fleet Services and Stores seeking approval for the replacement of the skeletal hook loader trailer (P208) used by the Parks Service.

The skeletal trailer was a heavy-duty hook-lift trailer. With large tyres and high ground clearance, it was ideal for moving bulk materials such as soil and felled trees and was used across different Teams - for grass cutting in summer; leaf collection and disposal in autumn; and tree work in winter. It was additionally used for the transportation of other plant and for the Parks Service general waste collection, making it critical to the Parks operations.

The current trailer was seventeen years old and had reached a point where repair was no longer economically viable. A 'Bigab Skeletal' unit - on loan from the Department of Infrastructure at no cost to the Council - was currently being used, which had allowed a basic level of service to be maintained. However, this was very much a temporary arrangement and was not sustainable in the long term, and without an immediate replacement, services would be disrupted.

The amount requested (£22,000) was to purchase a new unit, however, if a suitable pre-used alternative was available, then this would result in a cost saving. In order that the pre-used market could be explored, an exemption from Standing Orders was accordingly requested.

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

(ii) That approval be given for the following:

(a) the purchase of a skeletal hook loader trailer at a total purchase amount of £22,000, to be funded from the Plant Renewals Fund;

(b) an exemption from Standing Orders under the aegis of Standing Order 146 – 'Exemptions from Tendering Requirements'; and

(c) an increase in the Capital Programme Revised Vehicle and Plant Estimate for 2025 / 2026 by £22,000."

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 Meeting**

The times and dates of the next meetings were confirmed as 10:00am on Thursday 15th January 2026 (Special Budget Meeting); and 2.00pm on Thursday 29th January 2026 (scheduled meeting).

PART C –

Matters subject to Council approval

C16. **Amendment to Standing Order 90, 'Meetings of Committees'**

The Committee considered a written report by the Democratic Services Officer seeking an amendment to Standing Order 90 - 'Meetings of Committees' - in order to facilitate an earlier commencement time for meetings of the Executive Committee.

At its November 2025 meeting, the Executive Committee had requested a report on a proposed amendment to the Constitution to allow the Committee to meet on the third Thursday following Council at 10:00am. This would bring the Executive Committee into line with the schedule of the other Standing Committees.

It was also noted, during the review of this matter, that a clerical error had been identified in the current Standing Orders – incorrectly stating that the Pensions Committee met on the fourth Wednesday after Council. This would be corrected to the second Wednesday after Council accordingly.

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

(ii) That it be recommended to Council that Standing Order 90 be amended to read -

'Meetings of Committees

Committees of the Council, other than the Standards Committee, shall meet for the transaction of regular business on the days following the Annual or regular Council Meeting and at the times specified below, except that no Committee meetings shall be held in the months of April or August unless convened on the specific instruction of the Committee at a previous meeting, that Committee meetings shall be convened in September as though a regular Council Meeting were to take place on the second Wednesday, and further, that from time to time a Committee may change the time of a future meeting, but for not more than six occasions in the municipal year without the prior consent of the Council:

Executive Committee: third Thursday at 10:00am;

Environmental Services Committee: first Monday at 10:00am;

Regeneration and Community Committee: first Tuesday at 10:00am;

Housing and Property Committee: first Wednesday at 10:00am;

Pensions Committee: second Wednesday in February, March, May, October and November at 10:00am; and in September the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00am.

Provided that the Chair of any Committee may authorise the Chief Executive in special circumstances to convene a meeting of that Committee at any time, and to alter the particular day or time for the holding of any regular Committee meeting'; and

(iii) That if approved by Council, the revised starting time for the Executive Committee be effective from February 2026."

The Committee rose at 5.55pm.

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 Friday, 12th December, 2025.

Members Present: Mr Councillor P.J. Washington (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor D.C. Cretney, 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 (Finance) (Mr M. Quayle), 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 Mr Councillor K. Ver Elst.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. **Minutes – 24th November, 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 24th November, 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 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.

The Housing and Property Operations Manager advised that there were currently 44 vacant properties, noting that this equates to 1.9% of the Council's total social housing stock.

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. **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.

It was agreed that a report be forthcoming on tenant engagement. It was further agreed that a briefing note be circulated to the Committee outlining the steps and communication taken in relation to the Marathon Drive properties.

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

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

Members were advised that the next monthly meeting was scheduled to take place at 10.00am on Wednesday, 21st January, 2026.

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

The meeting ended at 11.00am.

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 Thursday, 11th December, 2025.

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

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr M. Quayle), Head of Parks (Mrs S. Parkinson), Bereavement Services Officer (Items A1 to A10) Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson)

REPORT

PART A –

Matters delegated to the Committee

A1. **Apologies**

There were no apologies submitted.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

A3. **Minutes – Tuesday, 18th November, 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18th November, 2025, were approved and signed.

A4. **Matters Arising**

The Committee discussed several matters raised at the December Council Meeting, no actions arising.

A5. **Bereavement Services Strategy**

The Committee considered a report seeking approval for the adoption of a Bereavement Services Strategy.

The strategy had been developed in response to critical challenges that posed risk to both the scale and quality of service delivery. It outlined current and future challenges and set out a structured plan to mitigate these risks through proactive investment, operational efficiency and service innovation. Appended to the report was the draft strategy and the bereavement services action plan.

In response to a request, officers agreed to discuss the embalming process for natural burials with funeral directors.

It was confirmed that the action plan would feed into the new service plans due for publication in April 2026.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the Bereavement Services Strategy be approved to ensure the sustainable, compliant and compassionate delivery of burial and cremation services for the next five years."

A6. **Bereavement Services Music and Streaming System Upgrade**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks seeking approval to provide a consolidated music playback and live-streaming system for the crematorium.

The Head of Parks explained that, at present, there are multiple platforms used to source and play music at funeral services which is inefficient, increases the risk of technical difficulties, and places additional pressure on staff. In addition, outdated processes are currently used for signalling the start and stop of music. To address the issues, Bereavement Services sought quotations from specialist suppliers capable of providing a unified digital music, streaming and visual system.

Two quotations were received. The lowest quotation, Wesley Media offered integration with the Crematorium's existing hardware and sound system, whereas the alternative submission required the installation of new equipment, significantly increases costs. It was noted the installation of a visual tribute system was included in the advert for quotation, and Wesley Media had two options to provide this.

The Bereavement Services Manager advised that she is familiar with the Wesley Media system from a previous role.

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

(i) The procurement of the Wesley basic music and streaming package be approved at a cost of £7,610 (inclusive of VAT) and an annual fee of £6,700 (reduced to £3,350 per year for the first two years as an introductory offer)

(ii) A screen be provided for funeral directors/families to supply a USB stick for visual tributes;

(iii) The cost of package be funded from cremation revenue income."

A7. **St George's Church Maintenance Agreement, Section 15 of the Burials Act 1986**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks seeking approval to give 12 months' notice to terminate the existing 1987 agreement and invite the Churchwardens to negotiate a new agreement to commence on 1st January 2027.

Members were advised that the Burials Act 1986 states that the Council shall pay to the churchwardens of the parish of Saint George and All Saints the expense reasonably incurred by them in maintaining the churchyard of the parish church or alternatively enter into an agreement for the maintenance of the said churchyard by the Council on behalf of the churchwardens.

The report explained this clause was included in the Act as, prior to the establishment of the Borough Cemetery, residents had the right to be buried in the Parish churchyard. It was noted that the burial ground at St George's is now closed to new burials, but its maintenance is funded through Douglas Rates.

The current maintenance agreement between the Council and the Churchwardens is 38 years old and consists of only one concise clause with no operational detail regarding the scope of maintenance, obligations, standards and allocation of liability. Since the signing of the agreement in 1987, expectations and regulations have changed significantly, which could expose both the Council and the Church to disputes, claims and legal challenges.

The report recommended terminating the current agreement and negotiating a new agreement that meets current standards and clearly defines the Council's obligations.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and a 12 months' notice be served to the Vicar and Wardens of St George's Church, effective from 31st December, 2025 to terminate the existing 1987 maintenance agreement made in accordance with Section 15 of the Burials Act 1986 and officers commence negotiations with the Archdeacon and Churchwardens with a new agreement to commence on 1st January 2027."

A8. **Proposed Isle of Man Racquet Centre**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) advising of a proposal received to develop a racquet centre in Pulrose.

The Council was approached to explore potential sites that might be suitable for the development of a tennis and racquets sports centre. Two sites were identified: Springfield Road sports pitches and the corner of Cooil Road. The Pulrose site was most favoured by the potential developer.

Following a site meeting with the developer, a high-level proposal document was submitted setting out the project concept, which Members had in front of them for consideration. Prior to the developer investing in more detailed proposals, the concept was presented to the Committee for consideration in principle.

The report confirmed the proposed site is owned by the Council, but there are likely to be planning-related obstacles. If progressed, there will be a requirement for a lengthy lease of the site which would be subject to Council and Department of Infrastructure approval. It was noted the project intended to create changing facilities for the adjacent football pitches, and Members requested that consideration be given to providing a space for the local community within the facility.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the project concept to develop an Isle of Man racquets centre in Pulrose in supported in principle, and the developer be authorised to develop the proposal in greater detail for further consideration by the Committee prior to a planning application being submitted."

A9. **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."

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

The next scheduled meeting was due to take place on Tuesday, 20th January, 2026.

A11. **Low-Noise Fireworks Display**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Democratic Services Officer presenting further information following the previous decision to poll the public regarding the switch to a low-noise fireworks display in 2026.

Members had resolved in July 2025 to consider switching to a low-noise display. The current provider confirmed this could be undertaken at no extra cost but strongly recommended that the Council does not revert to this type of display. The Committee subsequently resolved to seek public opinion through a poll.

During the 2025 fireworks display, the provider requested an opportunity to discuss the proposal before the poll was issued. A written submission was shared with the Chair of the Committee who requested that it be put before Members for consideration.

The Committee agreed, based on the detailed information and evidence provided by the current provider on low-noise displays, not to progress this type of display. Members concurred that private displays in residential estates cause the most disruption to residents and pets, and that the Douglas main display is intended to discourage such private displays.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the current firework provider be thanked for their submission to the Committee, and a low-noise firework display not be progressed for 2026, and the Council organise a traditional display."

The meeting ended at 12.21pm.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 15th December, 2025.

Members Present: Mr Councillor F. Horning (Chair), the Mayor, 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 (Finance) (Mr M. Quayle) (Items A1 to A5 and A7), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Community and Enforcement Manager (Mr A. Gordon) (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**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor A. Hall.

A2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

A3. **Minutes – 17th November, 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 17th November 2025 were approved and signed.

A4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matters were raised as arising from the previous minutes.

A5. **Anagh Coar shops car park – issuing permits to the business operators**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Community and Enforcement Manager seeking approval to issue a limited number of parking permits to personnel working in businesses located adjacent to Anagh Coar Car Park.

Members were advised that the car park at Anagh Coar shops is currently subject to restrictions limiting parking to a maximum stay of two hours per visit within any 24-hour period. These restrictions are intended to ensure turnover of spaces for customers visiting the shops and the doctor’s surgery.

It was noted that these parking restrictions create a logistical problem for personnel employed at the Spar shop and the doctor’s surgery, as staff are required to move their vehicles regularly to avoid the risk of receiving an Additional Parking Charge (APC) for exceeding the permitted two-hour parking limit. This issue is particularly problematic for surgery personnel who may be in the middle of consultations or running behind schedule.

Members were further advised that during enforcement initiatives at the car park, there is a high likelihood that APCs are issued to doctors, nurses, paramedics, and shop staff. This frequently results in complaints and, in many cases, the subsequent cancellation of some or all of the APCs issued.

It was recommended that a register be maintained of authorised personnel at the shops and surgery with a limited number of parking permits issued to allow those personnel to park all day (restricted to business hours) within the car park. Each permit issued by the Council would be linked to the registration of a vehicle and the permit would have to be displayed in the vehicle when using the car park.

In response to a question, the Community and Enforcement Manager advised that if approved, he would engage with each business to determine the number of staff likely to be on shift at any one time. He further advised that the day-to-day management of permit use would be the responsibility of the businesses, with compliance monitored by the Council through routine patrols of the car park. It was noted that no parking spaces would be reserved, rather permits would simply authorise parking within the car park on a first come, first served basis.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that the request to issue a limited number of parking permits for use of the car park by personnel at the Anagh Coar Shops and Doctor's Surgery be approved."

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 three properties had been added to the schedule since the last meeting; four properties had been removed because work had been completed; and a total of thirty-six properties remained on the list. This equates to 0.24% 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.

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, 19th January 2026.

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

The meeting ended at 11.20am.