



## City of Douglas

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City Hall,  
Douglas,  
13<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the CITY OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 2024, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the CITY HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

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

Councillors

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr D.R. Watson

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr F. Horning

Ms J. Thommeny

Mr P.J. Washington

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Environment and Regeneration, and the Director of Housing and Property were in attendance.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, MBE, Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts and Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin.

1. **Minutes – 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, were approved and signed.

2. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee:

*How many times has the new civic amenity site been closed to high winds since opening?*

Reply by the Chair of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee:

*13 occasions – 3 x full days, 5 x half days, 5 x 2-3 hours during the course of a day.*

3. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

3.1 *How many green bins are still outstanding and require delivering?*

3.2 *How many recycling boxes still require delivering?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

3.1 *Two*

3.2 *227. Replacement boxes delivered on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (ordered before Christmas) and will be delivered in the next 2-3 weeks. Households have been offered/given recycling bags as an alternative in the interim.*

4. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

4.1 *How many vehicles were purchased by fleet services for 2023/24?*

4.2 *What number of these vehicles were electric?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

4.1 *Five vehicles were purchased in 2023/24.*

4.2 *Two were electric one is due the end of March 2024 (tipper vehicle) and an electric teletruk was in service from October 2023.*

5. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*How many enforcement notices were issued in 2023/24 for overgrown hedges?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*2023 – 132 cases in total, only one notice was required.*

*2024 – 19 cases so far, no notices required to date.*

*The Community & Enforcement team aim to work with residents to overcome overgrown vegetation or tree/high hedge issues and will only use notices as a last resort.*

6. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

6.1 *How many tenants have been sent letters requesting them to vacate their homes because they exceeded the thresholds for social housing in the last 5 years?*

6.2 *How many tenants have had their rent increased in the last 5 years?*

6.3 *How many vacant properties do we currently have that have been empty for more than 12 months including decant properties?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

6.1 *Nine tenants have received letters explaining that their tenancy agreement will be ending, due to them no longer qualifying for local authority housing.*

6.2 *All tenants have had the rent element of their rent increased in line with the Isle of Man Government Department of Infrastructure in the last 5 years.*

6.3 *The information is provided vacant properties update report that is issued to the Housing and Property Committee monthly. The data on this month's report (March) shows that 15 properties have been vacant longer than one year. 14 of these properties are on the deferred list of properties. The reason for this is that the properties require significant refurbishment works that await a large amount of Capital investment.*

*15 of the 32 Decants have been void longer than 12 months. These properties are not available for general allocation as they are being used for the Willaston external refurbishment programme.*

**7. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

*When was the last time the play equipment was painted in Anagh Coar, Pulrose, Willaston and Governors Hill?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

*Anagh Coar – all equipment in 2016, next scheduled paint is spring 2024. Was due autumn 2023 but contractor did not commence.*

*Pulrose – three pieces of equipment in 2019, new equipment installed 2017, next scheduled paint is spring 2024. As above, due autumn 2023 but contractor did not commence.*

*Willaston – no record of painting since 2012.*

*Governor's Hill – three pieces of equipment in 2014, perimeter railings in 2015.*

**8. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

*How many pavement licences were issued in 2023/24?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

*Fifteen.*

**9. Executive Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 – Clauses A1 to A13**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A13 inclusive of report of meeting held on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council."

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

**10. Executive Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 – Clause C14**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C14 of report of meeting held on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, be received, approved and adopted by the Council."

Motion moved by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, seconded by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson "That the Council consider the motion in Committee."

Question put on Motion to move into Committee, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **6**

**Against** – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells – **2**

Further Motion moved by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, "That proceedings resume in Council."

Question put on Motion to move back into Council, a vote was taken electronically and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Question put on substantive Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, the Mayor – **5**

**Against**, Councillors: Mr D.R. Watson, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington – **3**

*Motion carried.*

11. **Housing and Property Committee – 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

12. **Pensions Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

13. **Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

Motion moved by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

14. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

15. **Environmental Services Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

16. **Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 3.17pm and resumed at 3.33pm with the same Members and officers present.

**IN PRIVATE**

17. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts**

Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee a private written question. The question and response was circulated to the Council.

18. **Housing and Property Committee – 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

19. **Pensions Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

20. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr P.J. Washington – **6**

**Against** – Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – 2

21. **Environmental Services Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

The Council rose at 3.50pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

For: Town Clerk & Chief Executive