



## Borough of Douglas

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**MR COUNCILLOR JONATHAN JOUGHIN, JP  
MAYOR**

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Town Hall,  
Douglas,  
8<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL to be held on WEDNESDAY, the 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2019, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER within the TOWN 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 Pensions Committee;
- (iii) The Standards Committee;
- (iv) The Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee;
- (v) Any other Joint Committee;
- (vi) The Housing 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, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 and the Special Council (Rate) Meeting held on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

Members Present: Mr Councillor D.W. Christian (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl.

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Miss K.J. Rice), Director of Finance (Mr A.J.T. Boyd), Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Executive Officer (Mrs J.M. Keig) (taking minutes).

### REPORT

#### **PART A –**

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

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

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Director of Housing and Property (Mrs S. Harrison).

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

No declarations of interest were submitted.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were approved and signed.

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

Minutes of Special Budget Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – Clause 3.1(a) – Spring Valley Changing Rooms and Club: notification had been received from the Football Foundation that the Council's bid for partial funding had been unsuccessful.

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

(ii) That options for the future of the building be considered by the Regeneration and Community Committee in the first instance."

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

There were no referrals from the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

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

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

The Committee considered the following referral from the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019:

Clause B1 – Noble's Park Bowls Festival – Green Hire Charges applied to the Department for Enterprise (Tourism): the Committee had considered a request from the Department for Enterprise seeking a reduction in the fees and charges applied to it in respect of its facilitation of the Isle of Man Bowls Festival. Members had noted the fixed fee made to the Department for the hire of three greens and the event kiosk, for two events held over five days, and, as a gesture of goodwill, had agreed to hold the fee for a period of five years commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 until 2023 / 2024 - at which point the fee would revert back to incurring inflationary increases as part of the Committee's annual review of Fees and Charges.

A Member of the Executive Committee highlighted that, if a fixed rate was agreed for a period of five years and then the event was discontinued before the end of that period, the Council would lose money. It was therefore agreed that a formal agreement should be put in place with the Department accordingly.

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

- (ii) That the resolution of the Regeneration and Community Committee be endorsed, and that it be agreed that a fixed fee amount be charged to the Department for Enterprise for a five-year period in respect of the Department’s facilitation of the Isle of Man Bowls Festival commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, with the fee charged then reverting to incurring inflationary increases with effect from 2023 / 2024; and
- (iii) That the Department for Enterprise be advised that their request had been approved, subject to a formal agreement being entered into with the Council accordingly.”

**A7. Monthly Financial Review**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance setting out details of progress made compared to key performance indicators in relation to strategic governance objectives; the percentage of rates collected; the increase in the number of non-cash / non-cheque payments; and the percentage of sundry debtors collected within three months.

Members noted that the Isle of Man Treasury had confirmed an extension to the existing loan facility for local authority borrowing, to which all participating local authorities were expected to have signed up before the end of the current financial year.

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

- (ii) That the Worshipful the Mayor, the Chief Executive, and the Director of Finance be authorised to sign the amendment agreement to the long-term loan facility with the Isle of Man Treasury and Local Authorities, subject to receipt and review by officers.”

**A8. Isle of Man Municipal Association**

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

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

**A9. 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.”

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

Members were reminded that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee was due to take place at 14:00 on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

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

***PART C –***

***Matters subject to Council approval***

There were no matters for Council approval.

The Committee rose at 3.15pm.

VI(iii) – The proceedings of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE as follows:

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2019.

Members Present: Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey (Chair), Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Mr D. Booth (Independent Member).

In Attendance: Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P.E. Cowin), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D.C. Atkinson).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

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

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

Councillor Mrs R. Chatel submitted apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of interest submitted. During consideration of this item, it was agreed that Mr Booth would circulate the Attorney General's explanation of declarations of interest which were redefined at a recent House of Keys meeting. Officers agreed to review in comparison to the Council's policy.

##### **A3. Minutes – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Minutes of the meeting held Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, were approved and signed.

##### **A4. Standards Committee Annual Report 201/19**

The Committee reviewed the draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2018/19. It was noted that there was a clerical error in the membership section of the report. Mr Booth requested an electronic copy of the report to review and Members agreed that any suggested changes to the report will be circulated electronically to the Committee.

Resolved, "That the amended Annual Report be approved and signed by the Chair for publication following review by Independent Member, Mr Booth."

##### **A5. Review Member Training**

The Committee reviewed two recent training presentations offered to all Council Members on the topics Equality Act 2016 and GDPR.

It was unanimously agreed that the content of both training presentations was very useful for Members however; the Committee felt that interactive presentations, similar to workshops, are still preferred and are more likely to keep the audience engaged.

In relation to the GDPR presentation, the Committee agreed that the Council's privacy policy is an excellent document; however Members still felt there was some uncertainty around how the policy applies to elected members.

Members discussed possible future training topics. Members of the Committee felt that protocol in Council Meetings still required some attention and training on public speaking and addressing the media would be beneficial and could improve public perception of the Council. Officers agreed to look into possible training options.

Resolved, "That particulars of the discussion be noted on the minutes and officers research possible training options for the topics contained within the body of the minute."

##### **A6. Items For Future Report**

There were no items for future report identified. The Chair thanked officers for circulating the structural charts of senior Council officers; however, several Members had expressed their disappointment that mobile numbers for those officers, despite being requested, were not included on the charts. It was noted Members were asking for work mobile numbers, not personal numbers.

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

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

Resolved, "That the next meeting of the Standards Committee be scheduled for Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at 10.30am."

***PART B –***

***Matters requiring Executive Committee approval***

There were no items requiring Executive Committee approval.

***PART C –***

***Matters requiring Council approval***

There were no items requiring Council approval.

The meeting ended at 11.26am.

VI(vi) – The proceedings of the HOUSING COMMITTEE as follows:

# HOUSING COMMITTEE

HOUSING COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

Members Present: Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells (Chair), the Mayor, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk.

In Attendance: Director of Housing and Property (Mrs S. Harrison), Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) (Mr G. Atkin), Housing Manager (Mr V. Zivave), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P. Cowin), Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Miss C. Cullen).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

#### ***Matters decided by the Committee***

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

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

##### **A3. Minutes – 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, were approved and signed.

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

No issues were raised as arising from the 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.

Members noted that as at the end of December, 2018 there were ten void properties awaiting attention.

Resolved, “That the number of void properties be noted on the minutes.”

##### **A6. Housing Request Refusals**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) advising on one housing refusal in the previous month.

Appended to the report were anonymised details of the case, together with a copy of the criteria for the allocation of properties.

A suggestion was made that in any similar case in future, where a property is refused for reasons of personal finance, officers could apply a five points deduction without reference to the Committee. That suggestion was not accepted, Members taking the view that all cases of refusals should be considered by the Committee.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that approval be given to the deduction of ten points in the one proposed housing request refusal as appended to the report, which complies with current Council policy and current Department of Infrastructure regulations and guidance.”

##### **A7. Periodic Housing Rent Reviews**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing & Property) on consultation by the Department of Infrastructure on potential changes to the process of fixing social housing rental values. Essentially the changes were:

- 1) To end the annual rental setting process and instead, to introduce a periodic rental policy, with the Department suggesting it should be five years;
- 2) To link the periodic rental setting process to a recognised inflationary index, with the Department proposing use of CPI;
- 3) To maintain Treasury approved deficiency limits by accelerating and decelerating the Capital Programme; and

- 4) Only under exceptional and previously agreed circumstances, such as a significant and unforeseen inflationary movement, revert to Local Authorities for their views.

Members expressed concern about the proposed mechanism to maintain the Government's Housing Deficiency commitments within fixed parameters by accelerating or decelerating the capital spending programme. It was felt that this could delay essential works.

There was also concern by Members that the periodic review should also take account of maintenance and management retention allowance percentages which were currently insufficient.

Appended to the report was the Department's questionnaire with the proposed responses, indicating agreement to the five-year periodic review, basing increases on CPI, and on the acceleration or deceleration of the capital programme as the fairest means of controlling the housing deficiency.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes and that the report and proposed response to the questionnaire be approved, with the addition to the latter of comment setting out the Committee's concerns over potential delays in capital projects, and over the percentages of retention allowances for maintenance and management."

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

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

#### **PART C –**

*This item has been approved at the Special Council (Rate) Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019*

#### C9. **Minor Works Capital Funding**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing & Property) in relation to the capital funding of minor works. This had been identified as a solution to the issue of larger works being required on a reactive basis taking significant amounts out of the Housing Maintenance budget. It was proposed to seek borrowing consent on an annual basis commencing in 2019/20 for a sum, initially up to £150,000, which would then be drawn down as necessary when maintenance work was required that was capital in nature. Each time work was identified as meeting the criteria, a form seeking consent to drawing down funds would be submitted to the Department for approval. This process would obviate the need to go through a separate formal borrowing petition process every time reactive capital works were required while protecting the Housing Maintenance budget from sudden unexpected demands.

Officers of the Department of Infrastructure had agreed the process in principle.

Resolved unanimously, "That the report be noted on the minutes and that:

- (i) Approval be given to the new process for funding minor capital works and the Chief Executive be authorised to petition the Department of Infrastructure for borrowing powers to a maximum of £150,000 to fund minor works capital expenditure in 2019/20; and
- (ii) The Department of Infrastructure be advised that an assessment of the Council's housing reserve fund has been undertaken to establish if sufficient monies were available to fund the proposed scheme from that source."

The meeting ended at 11.40am.

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

# REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

Members Present: Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts (Chair), the Mayor, Councillor Mrs H. Callow, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Councillor Ms K. Angela.

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr E.P. Pierce), Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P.E. Cowin), Head of Parks (Mr D. Hewes), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson)

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

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

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

There were no apologies submitted.

##### **A3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

##### **A4. Minutes – 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, were approved and signed.

##### **A5. Matters Arising**

*Clause A8 – Douglas Borough Council Events* - Members were advised, in response to a query raised at the January Council Meeting, that all fireworks used at the November fireworks display were manufactured using environmentally friendly materials which are bio-degradable and will not pollute the marine environment.

*Clause A7 – Christmas Lights Ceremony* – Following a lengthy debate at the January Council Meeting, Members discussed the future of the Christmas Lights Ceremony. Members requested a further report with two options, the feasibility of relocating the event to North Quay and ceasing the event in its current format and using the budget to enhance the shopping street on the night of the switch on with smaller events as opposed to one focal point. Members expressed their disappointment that the event in its 2017 format would be unlikely to receive approval through the licensing courts.

##### **A6. Douglas Carnival 2019 – Proposed Relocation**

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) to advise on the implications of the Promenade Improvement Works on the usual Carnival parade route and to seek agreement to combine the parade with the Noble's Park Fun Day.

The Department of Infrastructure has confirmed that the programme for the Promenade Improvement works is likely to cause significant difficulties in the ability to hold the Douglas Carnival on the Promenade in 2019. Consequently, officers have been exploring alternatives and the preferred proposal is to combine the Noble's Park Fun Day and the Carnival Parade on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2019. Officers have visited the park and believe that it offers some distinct advantages and opportunities.

The proposed route would form up on the apron of the Grandstand and join Glencrutchery Road to follow the perimeter of the Park, turning left at St Ninian's traffic lights, left again onto Upper Dukes Road, left up Dukes Avenue (using the left hand lane in front of the Police Headquarters to prevent blocking emergency vehicles), then finally into Noble's Park. The parade, ground permitting, would continue onto the field next to the Fun Day.

Members noted that the route will provide excellent opportunities for spectators to watch the parade pass from within the park and from the land surrounding St. Ninian's Church. Combining the two events will likely boost numbers at both without causing any significant logistical issues and will be more economical than running the two events separately.

A suspension of parking will be required for some parts of the route; Members asked that local residents be offered suitable parking elsewhere on the day of the event.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that the 2019 Noble's Park Fun Day and Douglas Carnival be combined as a consequence of the disruption likely to be caused by the Promenade Improvement works."

#### **A7. Fireworks Tenders**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Democratic Services Officer to determine the 2019 fireworks event layout and to approve the fireworks supplier for the display.

Members agreed due to the tidal times on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2019, that a beach fired display be organised for this year. It was agreed to also arrange a bonfire and 'Best Guy' competition as part of the event.

The report advised that a tender exercise had been undertaken for the provision of the 2019 fireworks display. Six companies, both UK and local and all registered with the British Pyrotechnic Association, were invited to submit a tender for the 2019 display. Companies were asked to provide a cost for both a beach and barge fired display.

Of the six companies, two submitted proposals before by the closing date. The Council's previous supplier, Star Fireworks, submitted the lowest tender.

Members noted that Star Fireworks have offered an option to extend the contract to three years fixed at the tender price which can be secured at a later date. It was agreed to consider the request after the 2019 display.

Star Fireworks have confirmed that all fireworks to be used in the 2019 display will be manufactured using environmentally friendly materials which are bio-degradable and will not pollute the marine environment.

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

- (i) The 2019 fireworks display be fired from the beach based on the tide times;
- (ii) The lowest tender submitted by Star Fireworks for a beach fired display at be accepted;
- (iii) The beach contractor be approached to provide a bonfire as part of the event;
- (iv) Officers organise a 'Best Guy' competition similarly to previous years;
- (v) Officers seek sponsorship for the event."

#### **A8. 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 be noted on the minutes."

#### ***PART B –***

#### ***Matters requiring Executive Committee approval***

#### **B9. Noble's Park Bowls Festivals – Green Hire Charges Applied to the Department for Enterprise (Tourism)**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks, following a request from the Department of Enterprise (the Department), to seek a reduction in the fees and charges applied to them for facilitating the Isle of Man Bowls Festival in Noble's Park.

Within the correspondence a comparison was made between the fees which Douglas charged and other on and off-island greens. The Department felt that the fees charged by the Council were higher than other comparable facilities elsewhere.

Members were advised of the fixed fee made to the Department for the hire of three greens and the event kiosk (over 5 days for 2 events). Unfortunately, the Council were unable to confirm the fees provided by the Department for the other greens, however, Noble's Park offers greater facilities for hosting the competition in comparison.

The report recommended as gesture of goodwill to hold the fee for 5 years commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. It was noted that the fee for the 2019/20 year has already been set and will therefore not affect the forthcoming budget. It was estimated that inflationary rises would have generated an additional income of £1,380 over the five year period.

Members noted that the fixed fee charged to the Department for the hire of the greens is already discounted in comparison to the hourly fee charge per bowler.

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

- (i) The fee for the bowls festivals be fixed at the 2019/20 charge from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 for five years until 2023/24 at which point the fee will revert back to inflationary increases during the annual fees and charges review;
- (ii) The item be referred to Executive Committee for ratification of the fee.”

For: 3 Against: 2

Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts and Councillor Ms K. Angela requested their names be recorded as voting against the resolution.

***PART C –***

***Matters requiring Council approval***

There were no items requiring Council approval.

The meeting ended at 11.12am.

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

# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

Members Present: Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl (Chair), the Mayor (from 10.05am), Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, Mr Councillor F. Horning, Councillor Ms J. Thommeny.

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P. Cowin), Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) (Mr A. Donnelly), Accountancy Manager (Mr M. Quayle), Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager (Mr A. Crook) (Item A5), Community & Enforcement Manager (Mr A. Gordon) (Items A8 & A9), Dilapidation Enforcement Officer (Mr S. Salter) (Items A8 & A9), Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Miss C. Cullen).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

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

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

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

##### **A3. Minutes – 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 were approved and signed.

##### **A4. Matters Arising – Clause A5 – Extension of Wayleave for Discharge of Whey into Douglas Bay**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that it is anticipated for Council to receive a presentation from the Isle of Man Creamery at the February Council meeting, however the previous Committee resolution also sought a presentation by DEFA and the MUA. It was noted they had previously indicated the results of their studies into bathing water quality on the Island would not be finalised until November 2019.

Members recalled that it had been concluded at the previous interim presentation attended by the Leader of the Council and the Chair of Environmental Services Committee that whey and waste water discharge was not harming marine ecology or contributing to the poor water bathing quality and that the visual impact of the whey plume could easily be addressed through repair of an inoperable diffuser.

Members were reminded that should the extension to the existing wayleave arrangement not be approved the Isle of Man Creamery would be required to completely change their mode of operation.

Members were advised that a meeting between the Isle of Man Creamery, DEFA and MUA is scheduled to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that she would follow up on the outcome of the meeting. It was agreed that officers write to the MUA asking for a timeframe on when the diffuser is expected to be repaired and for any plans to extend the existing pipeline.

##### **A5. Douglas Beach Management Contract**

The Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager joined the meeting for discussion of the item.

The Committee considered a written report submitted by the Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager providing further information on the issues raised at the December Environmental Services Committee meeting in regard to the beach cleaning contract.

Set out within the officer's report were the considerations given to the main areas of concern, namely, for more frequent winter re-profiling, the introduction of a sand level marker, the transportation of sand elsewhere on the beach with a view to reducing mechanical operation and the budgetary impact of re-introducing the works.

Members were reminded that under the current arrangement there is no condition in the contract to maintain sand to a prescribed level. The report recommended an assessment based approach, to allow

more flexibility in terms of managing the budget. Officers proposed that the sand is retained at an acceptable height at the sea wall, with a target of 600mm (2ft) drop.

In response to the suggestion of exporting sand, Members were advised that although there is merit in this approach a balance against the scale of mechanical activity needed to achieve this objective must be considered. As there is less evidence of long or cross-shore movement in the area adjacent to Loch Promenade it is recommended that larger material is placed on the windward (south-west) side of the groyne formation. It was noted that provisional discussions have been held with the contractor and costs have been sought for suitable plant to achieve this.

In light of the concern raised over the presence of mechanical plant during the summer season, the report recommended that re-profiling be carried out at higher intensity, lower frequency, with levelling occurring one or two weeks every two months as opposed to monthly. It was noted that this would be continually reviewed with re-profiling being carried out if necessary. In terms of winter activity, it is proposed to carry out re-profiling prior to the spring season and at the end of the summer season and as required in the intervening months.

The Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager advised that he anticipated that the additional works could be contained within the existing budget.

There was discussion on the groynes. The Chair opined that deterioration of the groynes had adversely affected sand movement. The Director of Environment and Regeneration reminded members that, as per a previous resolution, one set of groynes had been repaired, this was subject to a 12 month review and a follow up report to determine whether the effect of the action was positive, negative or neutral would be presented to Committee accordingly.

In response to question, the Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that it would cost approximately £50,000 for all six sets of groynes to be repaired.

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

- (i) Summer re-profiling be carried out at no greater frequency than bi-monthly, subject to an on-going assessment and additional re-profiling to be undertaken as necessary;
- (ii) Where possible, larger stones/pebbles to be exported to the area adjacent to Loch Promenade, with additional focus on placing the material on the south-west side of the groynes, and monitor its effectiveness; and
- (iii) Extensive re-profiling be carried out immediately before spring and immediately after the summer season, together with periodic works in the intervening winter months as required."

For: 4 – Against: 1

Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl asked that his name be recorded as voting against the resolution.

The Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

#### **A6. Works for Public Lighting Planned Maintenance – Column Painting 2018-2019**

The Committee considered a written report submitted by the Electrical Services Manager to advise on the tenders received for the painting of public lighting columns as part of the planned maintenance works.

The report advised that of the thirteen companies invited to tender two submissions were received by the closing date. The report recommended that approval be given to the lowest tender submitted by Buchanan and Pitts Ltd., which represents best value for money.

Members noted that the scheme is for a total of four hundred and ninety one public lighting columns. Attached to the officer's report was a list of locations to be included in the scheme.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that the tender received from Buchannan and Pitts Ltd., be accepted."

#### **A7. Adjournment & Resumption of Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 11.10 and resumed at 11.20 a.m. with the same Members and officers present.

#### **A8. Planning Application – 18/01311/B – 43 – 59 Athol Street, Douglas**

The Community & Enforcement Manager and the Dilapidation Enforcement Officer joined the meeting for discussion of the following two items.

The Committee considered planning application 18/01311/B for the alterations to 43 – 59 Athol Street, Douglas to include the replacement of external windows and doors, the alteration of the ground floor entrance to accommodate disabled access, the addition of roof plant with screening and external redecoration.

Set out within the officer's report were the detailed proposals. Plans for the site were circulated and reviewed by the Committee.

The report recommended that no objection be raised.

Having discussed the particulars of the application Members concluded that the Council's support should be given to the application on the grounds that the proposal was deemed to make the building more desirable to future tenants, potentially generating a number of new businesses to the Town Centre and will make good use of a currently vacant property.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that the Council support the application on the grounds that the proposal will make the building more commercially viable and support economic growth for the Town Centre."

#### **A9. Schedule of Neglected, Dilapidated, Ruinous and Dangerous Properties**

The Committee considered the schedule of neglected, dilapidated, ruinous and dangerous properties being dealt with on behalf of the Council.

The Dilapidation Enforcement Officer provided the Committee with an update on a number of properties. Of particular note, the Imperial Hotel site, it was noted that demolition of the building had highlighted a number of issues with the surrounding properties it was noted that the site and surrounds would continue to be monitored by officers.

Westmoreland Road Car Park, the owners had advised of a schedule of planned works for the forthcoming twelve months.

Resolved, "That the schedule and discussion be noted on the minutes."

The Community & Enforcement Manager and Dilapidation Enforcement Manager were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

#### **A10. Items for Future Consideration**

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

The Director of Environment and Regeneration suggested that item ten of the schedule; kerbside collection service had been superseded by the Notice of Motion to increase the recycling percentage.

During discussion, the Chair suggested that a review of the scheme of delegated powers for the consideration of planning applications should be carried out. The Director of Environment and Regeneration, in response to question, advised that the scheme been implemented approximately nine years ago.

She advised that a review of the scheme of delegated powers was matter for the Executive Committee. However, if deemed appropriate, a Joint Committee meeting could be scheduled.

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

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

Members were reminded that the next scheduled meeting was due to take place at 10.00am on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

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

#### ***PART B –***

##### ***Matters requiring Executive Committee approval***

There were no matters requiring Executive Committee approval.

#### ***PART C –***

##### ***Matters requiring Council approval***

There were no matters requiring Council approval.

The meeting ended at 12.23pm.