



## **Borough of Douglas**

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**MRS RAINA CHATEL, JP  
MAYOR**

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Town Hall,

Douglas,

8<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS to be held on WEDNESDAY, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2022, 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

For the 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, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, and the Special Private Council Meeting held on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Members Present: Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, Mr Councillor F. Horning, Councillor Ms J. Thommeny.

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), 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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 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 minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

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

The Committee considered the following referral from the minutes of the rescheduled Regeneration and Community Committee meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022:

Clause A3 – Douglas Carnival: the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) had submitted proposals for a redesigned and reformatted Douglas Carnival 2022 event, in line with the Regeneration and Community Committee's previous resolution. The proposals included a change in route; and a recommendation that the event be held on a Saturday rather than on a Sunday (as in previous years) in order to maximise economic benefit.

The Regeneration and Community Committee had agreed the proposals as the basis for further detailed planning, including the date for the event as Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022, and a budget was sought to progress arrangements accordingly.

The Executive Committee Members debated a number of concerns in relation to the proposed reformatted event:

- Proposed route: the Regeneration and Community Committee had agreed that participants should form up in the Bottleneck Car Park, and that the carnival procession should be limited to the Loch Promenade. Floats would then turn at one of the new 'roundels' (either the one at the northern end of Loch Promenade or the one in front of the Villa Marina), and return to the Bottleneck Car Park to discharge passengers.

The Executive Committee suggested that floats should be able to naturally disperse along the remainder of the Promenades; and that it should be for individual drivers of vehicles to take

responsibility for discharging their passengers at a safe place, rather than having to return to the Bottleneck Car Park for this purpose.

- Size of floats: the Regeneration and Community Committee had agreed that floats should be limited to no larger than small- to medium-sized vehicles (plus motorcycles, scooters, etc), with large vehicles, such as lorries, buses, and tractors, being excluded.

The Executive Committee, while agreeing this would allow the Bottleneck Car Park to be used as a muster point and final destination for vehicles, suggested that the exclusion of large vehicles could reduce the spectacle of the carnival parade.

- Number of entrants: it was agreed, in order to create an interesting and colourful spectacle, that there would need to be a sufficient number of entrants, and the Executive Committee queried at what point a decision would be taken to cancel the carnival parade in the event that numbers were considered too low.

While it was confirmed that officers would report back to Committee if it appeared that the number of entrants was too low to proceed with the parade, the Executive Committee suggested that contingency plans should be put in place for an alternative event.

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

- (ii) That the resolution of the Regeneration and Community Committee be noted and that approval be given for a budget of £20,000 from the General Revenue Reserve to progress arrangements for the Douglas Carnival 2022;
- (iii) That a review of the Regeneration and Community Committee’s decision to not permit large vehicles to participate in the carnival parade be undertaken, subject to officers’ health and safety advice;
- (iv) That an approach be made to the Department of Infrastructure to determine if the car park in front of the Sea Terminal might be made available as the muster point for the carnival parade (as an alternative to the Bottleneck Car Park) as this would more easily accommodate large vehicles;
- (v) That if, following a review, large vehicles were permitted to participate but were larger than could be accommodated in the Bottleneck Car Park (if this was used as the muster area), then they be permitted to form up on the Loch Promenade and there be no requirement for them to return to the muster area, instead they be permitted to naturally disperse along the remainder of the Promenades and that it be for individual drivers of vehicles to take responsibility for discharging their passengers at a safe place, rather than return to the Bottleneck Car Park for this purpose; and
- (vi) That officers be requested to have contingency plans in place for an alternative event if it became apparent there was an insufficient number of entrants for the carnival parade to proceed.”

#### **A7. Referrals from the Housing and Property Committee**

The Committee considered the following referral from the public minutes of the Housing and Property Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022:

Clause B9 - Funding of Housing Maintenance Repairs from the Housing Reserve Fund: the Director of Housing and Property had reported on an overspend of the Housing Maintenance Budget for the 2021 / 2022 financial year. A number of different issues had adversely impacted the Budget, most notably, an increase in labour, material, and shipping costs, a rise in inflation, and a backlog of outstanding jobs at the end of the 2020 / 2021 financial year due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

It would not be possible to report the full costs until the end of the current financial year, but early agreement was accordingly sought for additional funding from the Housing Repairs Fund.

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

- (ii) That the request for additional funding from the Housing Repairs Fund be approved, with the total excess figure to be reported to Committee in May 2022.”

#### **A8. Community Award Scheme**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Housing and Property setting out further details in relation to the proposed introduction of a Community Award Scheme.

It was recalled that a Notice of Motion had been submitted to the Council Meeting in June 2021 by Councillor Miss N A Byron, proposing that the Council instigate an award scheme for residents who had made a significant voluntary contribution to the local or wider community or to charity. The Executive Committee, at its October 2021 meeting, had resolved not to approve the Motion as submitted, and instead it had been agreed (subject to further examination of feasibility and costs) that the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, should be offered the opportunity to progress the award scheme.

This suggestion would also better fit with current legislation surrounding the Council's authority to commence such schemes.

It was now proposed that two awards be supported by the Mayor to recognise individuals who had committed significantly to the community – the 'Community Champion Award' for a significant commitment over a period of time (although short-term commitments would not be excluded); and the 'Young Hero Award' for a person aged fifteen years and younger (which was more likely focus on short-term commitments).

Members of the public would be encouraged to nominate individuals, with a requirement being that nominees must live within the Borough. A panel - consisting of the Mayor together with one Member of Council and one independent person - would then shortlist entries, with winners being announced at one of the Council's larger community events, and presented with a small gift funded from the Mayoral budget or via sponsorship.

The Mayor of the day would, however, have discretion to decide if the awards went ahead during their term of office.

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

(ii) That the proposed Community Award Scheme be introduced accordingly; and

(iii) That an approach be made annually to the Worshipful the Mayor with an offer to progress a Community Award Scheme during their term of office."

#### **A9. Monthly Financial Review – February 2022**

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.

Members were advised that the cost pressures on the Council's finances continued to mount with rising inflationary pressures, unprecedented increases in energy tariffs, and increases to the cost of borrowing. The Bank of England had increased its base rate (the third increase in just four months) and, overall, the Isle of Man Consumer Price Index (CPI) for February 2022 had risen from 6.4% to 6.5%.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes, including specifically:-

- The 98.9% rates collection figure for the eleven months to February 2022, compared against the target figure of 98.5% for that period; and
- The cost pressures linked with the increased Bank of England base rate and the ongoing inflationary increases - most notably in terms of energy prices with the increase in electricity costs alone generating an estimated rate-borne budget shortfall in 2022 / 2023 of up to £70,000."

#### **A10. Treasury Management Plan**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Income) detailing the Council's plans and related Prudential Indicators for 2022 / 2023.

As an annual report, the Plan was a key aspect of delivering the Treasury Management Strategy. It outlined information in relation to the Prudential Indicators in respect of affordability for 2022 / 2023; and summarised planned treasury management activities in respect of long-term loans, short-term investments, and the Capital Strategy (Members recalled that the Capital Strategy had been approved by the Executive Committee in September 2021, and set out the over-arching principles and processes by which the capital investment decisions for the Council would be prioritised against the Corporate Plan).

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

(ii) That the Treasury Management Plan 2022 / 2023 be approved."

#### **A11. Urgent Business Procedure - Commemorative Tree Planting at Hutchinson Square, Douglas**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Environment and Regeneration on the use of the Council's Urgent Business Procedure under Standing Order 125.

In late 2021, an approach had been received from the Association of Jewish Refugees enquiring into the possibility of planting an oak tree in Hutchinson Square as part of the '80 Trees for 80 Years' Project. The Head of Parks had advised the Association that Committee approval would be required, however, the formal request had been received too late for consideration during the February cycle of Committee meetings. As it had been indicated that the ceremony had been arranged for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and participants' travel arrangements needed to be made, there would not have been sufficient time for the normal decision-making process to be followed by taking the matter to the March meetings.

The Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee had therefore approved the recommendation that the planting of a commemorative oak tree in Hutchinson Square be permitted as part of the nation-wide project to plant eighty native oak trees around Britain.

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

- (ii) That the resolution made under the Urgent Business Procedure – to permit the planting of an oak tree in Hutchinson Square as part of the ‘80 Trees for 80 Years’ Project – be noted and endorsed accordingly.”

#### **A12. Wellbeing Forum – Budget**

The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive seeking funding for the Council’s Wellbeing Forum.

While workplace health and safety policies were statutory to keep employees safe from physical dangers, there was no statutory requirement to have a wellbeing policy in place. Notwithstanding this, the Council had set up a Workplace Wellbeing Forum in September 2021, the purpose of which was to encourage a culture of health and wellness within the Council, and to support and promote employee wellbeing.

To be a workplace where wellbeing was at the centre of the culture made the Council, as an organisation, an employer of choice and able to attract committed and quality staff; and having a wellbeing programme in place would help to improve employee retention and productivity which, in turn, would help to build and sustain the Island economy.

In order for the Wellbeing Forum to be successful there needed to be a commitment from management and Members and it needed to have adequate resources. Many activities and initiatives could be done without significant cost, but it was important that the Forum had its own budget to take forward any agreed actions or initiatives in a timely manner.

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

- (ii) That approval be given for funding in the sum of £7,800 (initially from vacancy savings) for the Wellbeing Forum for 2022 / 2023.”

#### **A13. Cyber Insurance**

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) seeking approval to extend the Council’s insurance cover to include cyber risk cover.

The Council already had extensive security measures in place to protect its information and communication technology infrastructure from cyber attacks. However, as technology progressed, bringing greater operational opportunities and efficiencies, it also brought challenges that required risk management, and current world events had led to the National Cyber Security Centre issuing advice to raise awareness of potential threats.

Cyber insurance was an important tool for managing potential cyber security events and, if called on, would provide funds to deal with the consequences of an attack and a return to normal operations.

It was therefore proposed that the Council’s insurance cover be extended to specifically cover cyber risks, and the cost was noted accordingly. For future years, the increased costs would be built into the Medium Term Financial Plan, however, for the 2022 / 2023 year, it was proposed that the excess amount be funded from the IT Fund.

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

- (ii) That approval be given for the extension of the Council’s insurance cover to include cyber risks; and
- (iii) That the £6,070 funding shortfall for 2022 / 2023 be met from the ICT Fund.”

#### **A14. Isle of Man Municipal Association**

No documents had been received from the Isle of Man Municipal Association in advance of the meeting.

#### **A15. Items for Future Report**

The Committee considered a written report by the Acting 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. Chair's Closing Remarks**

The Chair extended thanks to Members and officers for their support in her role as Chair of the Executive Committee and Leader of the Council during the previous six months. The input received had been invaluable and, while there had been challenges during that time, there had been a collective working towards the aims of the Council.

Members of the Committee and officers reciprocated their thanks to the Chair for her excellent chairmanship of the Committee, recognising the significant amount of work this involved.

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

***PART C –***

***Matters subject to Council approval***

**C17. Enforcement Policy – Vandalism to Council Property**

The Committee considered a written report by the Community and Enforcement Manager seeking approval to update the Council's policy for dealing with vandalism to its own property and assets.

The Council had previously adopted a formal vandalism policy in June 2018 to deal with incidents of vandalism to its assets, including the recovery of costs associated with any damage. The proposed updated policy would continue to adopt a fair and consistent approach to all incidents of vandalism, however, it would also now provide for some discretion on whether incidents were pursued as a criminal act via the police or, if deemed more appropriate, be subject to enforcement under the Douglas General Byelaws.

Additionally, while the updated policy would recognise that certain aspects of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) would need to be considered in all ensuing actions taken by the Council, the presumption would now be that the Council would use footage on social media, provided that certain measures had been met as defined within the policy document, and ensuring compliance with GDPR.

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

(ii) That the updated policy be endorsed and recommended to Council for immediate implementation."

The Committee rose at 4.20pm.

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, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Members Present: Councillor Ms J. Thommeny (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Mr Councillor P.J. Washington.

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

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

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

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

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin.

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

There were no Declarations of Interest.

##### **A3. Minutes – 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, were approved and signed.

##### **A4. Vacant Properties Update**

The Committee considered the monthly report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) to update on the number of vacant social housing properties.

Appended to the officer's report was the void properties schedule, which showed that as at the end of February, 2022 there were eleven vacant properties receiving attention. Members were presented with a summary chart showing the number of properties returned in each month, together with details of the category repair type for each property.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) advised that as of 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, there were sixteen vacant properties outstanding, five of which had been returned during March 2022.

Resolved, "That particulars of the discussion and the number of void properties be noted on the minutes."

##### **A5. Housing Rent Arrears**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) to monitor the progress made on rental income collection.

Members were presented with a table setting out the rent arrears statistics for January and February, 2022. It was noted that as at the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 the level of rent arrears was £120,350.69 which had increased from £112,945.69 as at 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

Members were advised that there are currently one hundred and fifty-six tenants on payment plans. The Director of Housing and Property explained that the figures reported in January 2022 had been significantly lower, notably fifty-six, due to an issue with the reporting system which had subsequently been resolved. Currently, there are two "at risk" tenants, where no payment plan was in place. Members were advised that officers were actively engaging with these tenants.

The Director of Housing and Property advised that information on energy saving tips, together with contact information of supporting agencies and charities who may be able to assist tenants who may be in financial need would be included in the next Housing Newsletter, this was in response to the continued rise in fuel costs as officers consider early engagement with tenants essential in order to mitigate the likely rise in rent arrears.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that the progress made on rental income collection be noted."



**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.

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

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

Members were reminded that the next scheduled meeting was due to take place at 10.00am on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

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

**PART B –**

***Matters requiring Executive Committee approval***

**B8. Funding Housing Maintenance Repairs from the Housing Reserve Fund**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Housing and Property to advise on the overspend of the Housing Maintenance Budget for the 2021/2022 financial year and to seek agreement to request additional funding from the Housing Repairs fund.

Members were advised that a number of different issues had adversely impacted the Housing Maintenance Budget during the 2021/22 financial year, notably an increase in labour, material and shipping costs and the rise in inflation. These issues had been further compounded by a back log of maintenance jobs from the 2020/21 financial year as a result of the Covid-19 lockdowns during 2021.

The Director of Housing and Property reminded Members of a previous report, which had been presented to the Committee in April 2021, advising on the implications of the Covid-19 lockdowns, at that time it was noted that due to the accumulation and rollover of jobs into the new financial year, there was a very real concern about the significant strain on the 2021/22 Housing Maintenance Budget and that additional funding would likely be required.

It was further noted that because of the backlog of outstanding jobs at the end of 2020/21 financial year, due to the COVID restrictions, there were remaining funds of £47,000, which had been transferred into the Housing Repairs Fund.

The introduction of the Void Plus Standard during the last financial year, had also been a contributing factor to the impact on the Housing Maintenance budget. Members were reminded that although this had caused a short term strain on the budget, long term this approach would significantly improve the quality of the housing stock, resulting in a future cost saving on the Maintenance budget and a considerable improvement to the Housing Service provided.

Members were reminded that for 2022/23, the Council had requested £500,000 funding for the Housing Minor Capital Works in order that maintenance repair works of a capital nature can be carried, it was noted that this should assist in further reducing the burden on the Housing Maintenance budget.

It was noted that the full costs are unable to be reported until the end of the financial year, however officers felt it prudent to seek early agreement from the Committee to the overspend. It was noted that the total excess figure would be reported to both the Executive Committee and the Housing and Property Committee in May 2022.

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

- (i) The Housing Maintenance Budget overspend in the 2021/22 financial year be noted; and
- (ii) The matter be referred to the Executive Committee seeking agreement to fund the overspend, with the total figure to be reported in May 2022, from the Housing Repairs Fund.”

The meeting ended at 11.06am.

## HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Special Meeting held on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

Members Present: Councillor Ms J. Thommeny (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, Mr Councillor P.J. Washington.

In Attendance: Director of Housing and Property (Mr D. Looney), Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) (Mr V. Zivave), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P. Cowin), Assistant Property Manager (Capital) (Mr R. Green), Democratic Services Officer (Miss C. Cullen).

### REPORT

#### **PART A –**

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

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

No apologies for absence were received.

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

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### **PART C –**

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

#### **C3. Willaston Apartments – Tender and Petition**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Property Manager (Capital) on the tendering of a contract for the construction of forty-eight two bedroom apartments in Willaston.

The proposed development will be located opposite the Willaston shops on Snaefell Road and construction will be carried out to meet the Association of Environment Conscious Building (AECB) standards. Members were advised that planning and building control had previously given consent for the development as part of the capital procedure process.

Members were reminded that demolition of the local Police Station, Methodist Church and fourteen Council flats had been undertaken as part of the projects enabling works, tree felling is currently underway to clear the site ready for construction works later in the year. During the planning process, the Department of Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture (DEFA) had granted permission to fell identified trees relative to the construction works. It was noted that new trees and shrubs would be planted as part of the development.

The Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) advised that during the competitive tender process, two of the five contractors who had submitted expressions of interest, withdrew from tendering due to the volatile market and their existing work commitments. One contractor declined to tender resulting in two competitive tenders being received by the closing date.

Due to concerns about the volatile materials market and possible cost fluctuations, both contractors submitted alternative tenders, requesting a 'Price Adjustment Factor Clause' in the contract which in effect passes the price fluctuation risk onto the Council. Following this, a third alternative tender was submitted by one of the contractors, NK Construction Ltd which removed the price fluctuation risk to the Council for an extra sum.

Members were advised that the lower of the two alternative tenders still incorporated price fluctuation risks. The design team had also raised concerns about the proposed schedule of works which may potentially lead to an extension of time request towards the end of the contract period.

It is therefore recommended that the tender received from NK Construction Limited be accepted as it presents no price risk to the Council and is within the pre tender estimate.

Appended to the officer's report was the Stage I3 petition report, together with the petition build up. Subject to the necessary approvals it is anticipated that works will commence on site in July 2022.

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

- (i) That the 'alternative' tender bid submitted by NK Construction Limited be accepted;
- (ii) That the design team's Stage I3 petition report, for the construction of forty-eight new apartments located opposite the Willaston Shops on Snaefell Road be approved;
- (iii) That the Chief Executive be authorised to petition the Department of Infrastructure for borrowing powers in the amount of £11,027,600, being the sum required to defray the cost of this Capital Housing Project to completion; and

- (iv) That the Department of Infrastructure be advised that an assessment of the Council's Housing Reserve fund has been carried out and there is insufficient available funding to fund the proposed scheme via that source."

The meeting ended at 11.40am.

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

# PENSIONS COMMITTEE

PENSIONS COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Members Present: Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner (Chair), the Mayor (from 11.20am), Mr Councillor F. Horning, Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, Mr A. Thomas (Independent Member).

In Attendance: Scheme Administrator - Mr A. Beedall and Mr M. Slaughter (Capita). Director of Finance (Mr A. Boyd), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr E.P. Pierce), Payroll Manager, (Mr R. Leach), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson). Mr Ian Murray – Chair of the Public Sector Pensions Authority (Items A1 to A2).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

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

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

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin submitted apologies for the meeting.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

##### **A3. Minutes – 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022, were approved and signed.

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

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

##### **A5. Training: Administration pensions Framework**

The Committee received a presentation from Mr Beedall on the regulations that the IOMLGSS is subjected to.

Mr Beedall began by explaining the general pension's framework of the state pension and occupational schemes, and then covered the legislation that the Scheme is governed by.

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

##### **A6. Annual Review of the Risk Register**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) to review the Pensions Risk Register.

Members were reminded that the document is presented annually to the Committee to advise of any risks facing the scheme, and to ensure that the Council, as administering authority, and all of its partners, have effective strategies for the management of those risks. Officers confirmed a review had been conducted together with the Investment Consultant and Contract Administrator. A 'changes made' column was included in the document for Committee's benefit to highlight changes made in the version.

Members were presented with a table of thirty-nine risks. The risks were categorised and colour coded by low, moderate and high risks. The risks were re-calculated after a chosen action and colour coded accordingly using the RAG (Red Amber Green) model.

It was noted that there were no residual risk scores showing high risk (severe); however there were seven risks showing high risk (major).

The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) drew the Committee's attention to the new identified risk regarding divestment. There is a risk that if an approach is taken that results in divestment from certain types of entity or certain countries of operation, then the obligation to manage the pension fund in the best interest of employer and employee members may be breached. It was agreed that a report on this risk be presented to the May Committee.

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

- (i) The review of the Risk Register be noted;
- (ii) The chosen actions set out in the Risk Register be endorsed; and

- (iii) Hymans Robertson prepare a report for the May 2022 Committee in relation to the risk identified with regards to divestment.”

**A7. Superannuation Scheme Performance Monitoring**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) to update on the performance against measures outlined in the Superannuation Scheme Service Plan.

Members had in front of them the actions from the Service Plan together with an outcome on each. The RAG model had been applied to determine progress in comparison to the action. Members noted that all objectives on the Plan are completed or on schedule apart from one. This relates to liaising with the Department of Infrastructure to bring in updates to Regulations. Members noted that the Policy Review Group has selected a firm of actuaries to provide the support it will need.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and the progress against the planned actions in the Service Plan be noted.”

**A8. Items For Future Report**

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

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

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

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting was due to take place at 10.30am on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

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

The Committee rose at 12.49pm.

VI(v) - The proceedings of the EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE as follows:

# EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE

EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC AMENITY SITE JOINT COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Members Present: Councillor Miss N.A. Byron (Douglas) (Chair), Ms F. Logan (Onchan), Mr A. Jessopp (Braddan) (substitute for Mr N. Mellon), Mr T. Kenyon (Garff).

Apologies: Mrs A. Davidson (Santon), Mr N. Mellon (Braddan).

In Attendance: Mr P. Cowin (Secretary), Mrs D. Eynon (Douglas), Mr A.J.T. Boyd (Douglas), Mr R. Phillips (Onchan), Mr J.C. Whiteway (Braddan), Mr S.A. Crook (Contractor's Representative) (Items A3 and A4 only), Mr J. Quayle (Department of Infrastructure Representative).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

#### ***Matters dealt with under delegated authority***

##### **A1. Minutes – 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021**

Approved unanimously as a correct record.

##### **A2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Item 5 – Extension of Operating Contract: Mrs Eynon advised that despite concerns, there appeared to be no legal obstacle to the proposed short-term extension of the Contract.

##### **A3. Operational Contractor's Report**

Mr Crook joined the meeting to provide further explanation in respect of his report which had been circulated.

Item 1.3 – Oversized items: Mr Crook was aware of an oversized item having been found at the Energy from Waste Plant in December, 2021, but the charge for it was being challenged.

Item 1.4 – Comparisons between Sites' Operations: Mr Crook was aware that the Department was to produce a comparison between the operations of the various Civic Amenity Sites with the results expected in June, 2022. Mr Quayle explained that the intention was to inform each authority of the others' operations in the hope of promoting consistency on a voluntary basis across all four Sites. Mrs Eynon referred to allegations of the Western Site charging, and in some cases turning away vehicles driven by, residents in the Eastern area. It was agreed that the WCAS board be asked to clarify its policy in relation to residents of other areas.

Item 1.5 – Fridges and Freezers: Mr Crook advised that there was only one commercial freezer on Site, which had been accepted in error several years ago. Procedures were in place to check contents. Mr Crook felt that the issue revolved around the interpretation of "commercial" by the removal contractor, and that it was being used to describe anything other than a standard domestic unit. The issue was about materials contained in the unit so that wine coolers and the like, containing glass, were not regarded as domestic fridges but as commercial units. Mr Quayle agreed to discuss the matter with the Contractor.

Item 1.6 – Bring Bank Recycling: The Department was to withdraw the service from Civic Amenity Sites in the expectation that Site operators would make their own alternative arrangements. There was a difference of view between Mr Crook and Mr Quayle in relation to the Site Operators having agreed to the change, and it was noted that there may have been a misunderstanding of what had originally been put to the Operators. Mrs Eynon stated that a further report would be required for the Joint Committee in relation to the implications, feasibility and costs.

Item 2 – Incidents on Site: Mr Crook advised that there had been one incident of a gantry being struck by a manoeuvring skip. He provided further detail on an incident previously reported, and advised of one incident concerning asbestos material being found in an inert waste skip which would be reported in the next Contractor's report.

Item 4 – Traffic Volumes: detail was given in this report at ½ hour intervals rather than per hour, at the request of the Chair.

#### A4. **Height Barrier**

A report by Mr Crook, on the efficacy of the height barrier at the Site, had been circulated. Mr Crook explained that the records of use of the Site when the barrier was in operation and when it was not showed little difference. He felt that the staff on Site were able to discern commercial users without the need for the barrier, and recommended that its use be discontinued.

The observation was also made that discontinuing the height barrier restrictions might lead to fewer vehicles diverting to the Western Site which had made negative comments a number of times.

**It was agreed:** that the use of the height barrier be discontinued and the signage adjusted accordingly, as soon as practicable.

#### A5. **Attendance, Adjournment and Resumption**

Mr Crook was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 3.50pm, at which time the meeting adjourned until 3.55pm.

#### ***PART B –***

#### ***Matters requiring approval by the respective Authorities***

#### A6. **Middle Park Civic Amenity Site**

Mrs Eynon reminded that the Planning Consent had been granted for the new Civic Amenity Site at Middle Park. The deadline for appeal by the Objectors had passed without an appeal being lodged.

An Officers meeting had taken place to identify how to progress the outstanding issues which were as follows:

a) Revised Joint Committee Agreement

Discussion with the Local Government Unit had led to several adjustments to the revised Joint Committee Agreement which had been previously signed. These, although comparatively minor, would require execution of a revised version and its formal submission to the Department for consent to formation of the Joint Committee.

b) Consent to Acquisition of Land

The Department of Infrastructure would require a separate Petition from each of the five Authorities seeking consent to the joint purchase. A valuation of the land had been obtained from an independent valuer, and endorsed by the Government Valuer. The Developer was preparing documentation for the transfer of the land, naming all five Authorities as parties.

c) Borrowing Petitions

The Department of Infrastructure would require a separate petition for consent to borrow from each of those Authorities who would be doing so. It could be combined with the petition for consent to the land acquisition. A draft letter would be circulated by the Secretary for each Authority to adapt with their details and then they could be submitted together. A single public notice of the petitions would be prepared on behalf of all the Authorities for publication in the press.

d) Business Case

A draft Business Case had been prepared to support the petitions when submitted, subject to approval by all the Authorities. It was noted that some suggested changes were still to be incorporated, including the position of Santon Commissioners funding of its share, the increasing rental costs of remaining at the current Site, and the physical constraints of the current Site. Once those had been incorporated, the Secretary would circulate the document to each Authority for approval.

e) Land Registry Fees

It had become apparent that the Land Registry Fees of approximately £7,000 had not been provided for elsewhere; Mrs Eynon suggested that they be taken from the Client Contingency provision in the Construction Contract.

f) Construction Contract

The Developer had agreed to increase the professional indemnity insurance limit to £5,000,000 from £2,000,000 at the request of Officers. They had not withdrawn the deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> June for holding the price of the contract but had indicated some flexibility, centring on the need to have the value of the land in the bank by the end of June.

Mr Phillips reaffirmed his willingness to act as Clerk of Works during construction. The Chair asked for arrangements to be made for Site visits by the Joint Committee before the start of, and periodically during, construction.

**It was agreed:** that the Secretary circulate to each Authority copies of:

- the draft petition letter for adaptation, approval and signature;
- the adjusted Business Case for approval;
- the revised Joint Committee Agreement for approval to its execution.

and that the Secretary liaise with the Clerk of each Authority to arrange for execution of the Joint Committee Agreement, and collection of the signed petitions for submission together.

The Meeting ended at 4.30pm.



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 Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022.

Members Present: Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley (Chair), Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, Mr Councillor F. Schuengel.

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Head of Parks (Mr D. Hewes), Assistant Chief Officer (Income) (Mrs C. Pulman), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

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

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

The Worshipful the Mayor and Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts submitted apologies for the meeting.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

##### **A3. Minutes – 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, were approved and signed.

##### **A4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Officers advised that the proposed Civic Sunday date clashes with Armed Forces Day.

Resolved, “That the Civic Sunday service take place on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.”

##### **A5. Noble’s Park Skatepark Equipment Replacement**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks to seek approval for the replacement of skateboard equipment at Noble’s Park with an above ground modular system.

Members were reminded that in January 2022, as part of the budget setting process, £250,000 was approved to resurrect the replacement project in 2022/23.

The Head of Parks explained that over the past four years the Council had twice engaged with suppliers of formed concrete skateboard and wheeled sports arenas for Noble’s Park. On both occasions the detailed evaluation did not meet the Council’s criteria for the award of contracts and could not be progressed. Subsequently, due to Covid budget restraints in 2020, the funding for the project was deleted from the Council’s capital scheme. In January 2021 the funding was reinstated but the skate park construction industry was negatively impacted by Covid with some businesses now not trading. Those still trading were reluctant to provide such services to the Island due to the location of the site.

Officers approached companies offering modular skateboard and wheeled sports equipment who appeared to be receptive to supplying this style of equipment to the Island. The report listed the benefits and examples of the modular equipment.

Members noted that officers intend to consult with ISB Skateboarding at the design stage before final proposals come forward to the Committee. The design will accommodate learner to medium skilled skaters.

Members concurred that the replacement of the skatepark equipment in Noble’s Park is essential, and it will complement the proposed skate equipment on Douglas Promenade.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and the replacement of skateboard equipment at Noble’s Park with above ground modular skateboard equipment be approved.”

##### **A6. Proposed Hymer Club Rally 2023**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) to seek agreement to the submission of a planning application seeking an amendment to condition 5 of planning

consent 21/00527/B to permit stays of up to fourteen days in the motorhome aire in the Boneyard of Noble's Park, as part of organised motorhome rallies and other similar pre-arranged events.

Members recalled in July 2021, the Council received planning consent to operate a motorhome aire in the Boneyard in Noble's Park. The planning consent imposed a condition that motorhomes be allowed to park on site for a maximum of four nights (excluding TT and racing periods).

In January 2022, the Council received correspondence from Hymer Club International, a motorhome owner's club, to hold a motorhome rally in Noble's Park. The event is likely to consist of 30-40 motorhomes travelling to the Island for at least eight nights.

The report recommended seeking an amendment to the current planning consent to permit stays of up to fourteen days only in the circumstances such as where an organised event is being held.

Members discussed the benefits to permitting longer stays not just for events, but to provide an additional recreational facility for residents and visitors all year round. The Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) explained that the planning condition is to ensure that the site is not used for permanent residency or long term parking, however, the rules already in place for the site should eliminate this concern. Members concurred that if approved, any motorhomes utilising the site for a period over four days must be occupied for the duration of the stay.

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

- (i) Officers liaise with the planning office regarding the submission of a planning application seeking an amendment to condition 5 of planning consent 21/000527/B to permit stays of up to fourteen days in the motorhome aire in the Boneyard of Noble's Park;
- (ii) If resolution (i) is not favourable with the planning office, officers submit a planning application seeking an amendment to condition 5 of planning consent 21/000527/B to permit stays of up to fourteen days in the motorhome aire in the Boneyard of Noble's Park as part of organised motorhome rallies and other similar pre-arranged events;
- (iii) Subject to planning consent, the request for Hymer Club International Rally 2023 to hold a motorhome rally in Noble's Park be approved."

#### **A7. Little Manx Beach Huts Proposal**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) to seek agreement to the Little Manx Beach Huts project on Queen's Promenade Gardens, subject to planning consent.

In November 2021, the Committee considered an in-principle proposal from Little Manx Beach Huts to erect four beach huts on Queen's Promenade. Officers subsequently entered into negotiations with the company regarding the details of the proposal.

If planning consent is approved, the report proposed siting the huts on Queen's Promenade Gardens opposite Switzerland Road. This location was considered ideal because of the proximity to the toilets, water fountain, bus stop and pedestrian crossing. Consultation had taken place with surrounding businesses and all were supportive. Members were advised that the query about whether the huts could be sited on the beach had been discussed and was not feasible for several reasons.

The report proposed, subject to the necessary approvals, that the Council enter into a licence agreement with Little Manx Huts for an initial five years with an incremented fee scale to give the business an opportunity to establish. The report proposed a fee per annum incrementing in stages up to April 2027. The fee was calculated using UK comparatives.

In response to question, the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) confirmed that the beach huts will remain in situ during the winter months, and the maintenance of the huts, including the exterior, will be defined in the licence agreement. Members suggested that a bond to cover the proposed ground works be agreed in advance.

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

- (i) The proposal submitted by Little Manx Beach Huts and the submission of a planning application on the Council's land at Queens Promenade Gardens be supported;
- (ii) A licence agreement be entered into for an initial term of five years for the erection of four beach huts on Queens Promenade Gardens;
- (iii) An annual licence fee per hut as set out in the report from 2022 up to 2027 (all exclusive of VAT) be agreed."

**A8. Douglas Beach Management Contract – Review of Trial of New Methodology for Re-Profiling**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Senior Engineering and Waste Services Manager to advise of the findings following a trial of a new method for maintaining the sand levels on Douglas Beach.

Members were reminded that in January 2021, the beach management contractor was instructed to reduce levels at the seawall following winter storms. A resident, who had studied geomorphology at Durham University, observed the re-profiling works and approached the Council with a suggestion to re-profile sand levels but instead of grading it to the lower part of the beach, would only take the material to the extent of the ‘swash’ zone, under neap high tide conditions. The Council agreed to the trial. It was concluded that the trial on a whole had been marginally effective overall and the Environmental Services Committee decided at the time to extend the trial until March 2022 so the situation could be evaluated over a full calendar year.

The report advised that the methodology proved to be relatively effective during the spring and summer. The effectiveness became less obvious from October 2021 for various reasons, and observations in January and February 2022 showed that the methodology was relatively neutral.

As the new methodology neither improves nor diminishes the quantity of sand migration during the winter, but shows a moderate improvement throughout the spring and summer, the report recommended that the trial methodology is adopted as standard practice.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and the methodology that has been subject to a twelve month trial for maintaining levels on Douglas Beach be incorporated as the standard in the current and future beach management specification.”

**A9. Douglas Borough Cemetery – Land at the Former Cottage Site**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks to seek approval for proposals for the future land use at the former Douglas Cemetery Cottage following demolition.

The Housing and Property Committee resolved to demolish the Cemetery Cottage and requested officers to establish the feasibility and costs for the creation of a Garden of Remembrance dedicated to the memory of babies, infants and children for consideration by the Regeneration and Community Committee.

The Head of Parks advised that whilst there is a memorial to babies, the creation of a memorial garden will be for children up to the age of 16 and include seating and private areas for reflection. The report recommended seeking landscape architect design costs for report back to the Committee.

The Committee were made aware of another suggestion to create a pet memorial and discussed both suggestions at length. The Head of Parks advised that the space could occupy one memorial. Members were conscious of the costs involved in creating a memorial and suggested initially that a report on the feasibility and costs be submitted to the Committee on both suggestions, together with an option to return the area to an open aspect part of the cemetery (with the possibility to return for burial space in the future).

Resolved, “That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and a further report be submitted to the Committee with the feasibility and costs of three options for the former Douglas Borough Cemetery Cottage, a memorial for babies, infants and children, a memorial for pets, and to return the area to an open aspect part of the cemetery.”

**A10. 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.”

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

Members were advised that the next scheduled meeting was due to take place on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

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

**PART B –**

***Matters requiring Executive Committee approval***

**B12. Douglas Carnival**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) on the Douglas Carnival 2022 outline proposal.

The Committee, at the February 2022 meeting, resolved for a future report on a redesigned and reformatted Carnival. In line with the Committee's comments, the report proposed a change in Carnival route, forming the parade at the Bottleneck car park, travelling the length of Loch Promenade, turning at the roundel at the Northern end of Loch Promenade or in front of the Villa Marina, and finishing at the Bottleneck car park. This route will reduce the distance for walking entries, and will assist with the dispersion of the parade. It will also drastically reduce the number of road closure points that need to be staffed during the event, and will reduce the disruption to businesses and the transport network on the remainder of the Promenade.

The report proposed that carnival floats be limited in size to include motorcycles, cars, pickups and small to medium-sized trailers, in addition to bicycles, scooters and other small personal vehicles and pedestrians. Lorries, tractors and buses would not be permitted. This will allow the Bottleneck car park to be the muster point and final destination.

Limiting the procession to Loch Promenade may assist in generating economic benefit to businesses in the vicinity. The report proposed to approach some key hospitality businesses that front onto Loch Promenade and the side streets between the shopping area about the potential for them to host events before, during and following the parade. As a result of this suggestion, to maximise economic benefit from the event, the report recommended holding the event on a Saturday rather than a Sunday as in previous years.

In response to question, the Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) confirmed that if the budget is approved by Executive Committee, officers intend to progress the event for July 2022. He advised that whilst it will be a tight turnaround, with the assistance of Members to liaise with the community, the July date is achievable. Members agreed to create a Carnival working group to assist with the community liaison.

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

- (i) The outline proposals to hold Douglas Carnival 2022 on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, as set out in the Committee report, be agreed as the basis for further detailed planning;
- (ii) That the item be referred to the Executive Committee to seek a budget of £20,000 from the General Revenue Reserves."

The meeting ended at 4.30pm.

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> March, 2022.

Members Present: Mr Councillor F. Horning (Chair), the Mayor, Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner.

In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs D. Eynon), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Finance Manager (Mr M. Quayle), Dilapidation Enforcement Officer (Mr S. Salter) (Items A1 to A5), Assistant Town Clerk (Mr P. Cowin), Democratic Services Officer (Miss C. Cullen).

## 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 – 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 were approved and signed.

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

No issues were raised as arising from the previous minutes.

##### **A5. Schedule of Dilapidated, Ruinous or Dangerous Properties**

The Committee considered a schedule of properties in a state of dilapidation or disrepair, setting out one property added since the last meeting; five properties removed because work had been completed; and a total of fifty-seven properties remaining on the list.

Members were reminded that the addition of any property to the list would first involve contact with the property owner to resolve the concern over its condition and to offer them reasonable opportunity to carry out the work willingly. Should that not happen, then Notice would be served that the work must be carried out, and failure then to comply with the Notice would involve the possibility of legal action being taken.

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, by service of Notice and legal action where necessary.”

The Dilapidation Enforcement officer was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

##### **A6. Items for Future Report**

The Committee noted a report submitted by the 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.

Further to comments raised at the March 2022 Council meeting, a Member advised that they had since received advice from a local MHK indicating that Local Authorities could access the Climate Change Transformation Fund. The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the Director of Finance had written on two occasions to the Department of Food and Agriculture (DEFA) seeking access to this fund which had been declined on both occasions. It was noted that following the comments raised at the Council meeting the Director of Finance would be sending further communication following advice at a political level that the fund could be accessed. The Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to share the previous response with the Committee.

It was noted that the Motion moved at the March 2022 Council meeting, in relation to lighting in lanes within the Borough would be added to the schedule for report to the Committee no later than May 2022.

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

**A7. 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, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

The meeting ended at 10.56am.