



# Borough of Douglas

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Town Hall,

Douglas,

9<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2022, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

**MRS RAINA CHATEL, JP**

Councillors

Miss N.A. Byron

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Mr S.R. Crellin

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr F. Schuengel

Mr F. Horning

Ms J. Thommeny

Mr P.J. Washington

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

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson.

1. **Minutes – 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, were approved and signed.

2. **Minutes – 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**

The minutes of the special Council meeting held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, were approved and signed.

3. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

*The recent Budget for the year 2022 / 23 saw an increase in the staff training budget of £15k.*

3.1 *What training courses have staff attended in each of the last two years?*

3.2 *What was the total cost of each training course?*

3.3 *How many staff attended each training course?*

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

3.1 *A total of 55 training courses over the two-year period from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 were attended by 270 individual staff members. 41 of those courses, with 188 attendees, were funded through the Training Budget; the remainder by funding specifically allocated or by service budgets. The list of courses is too lengthy to be listed in this format but can be made available to the Member.*

3.2 *The cost of each training course differs according to the content, format and the number of attendees. A total of £44,728.35 was charged to the Training Budget for the 41 training courses funded by that source, so an average of approximately £1,091 per course, or £238 per staff member attending.*

3.3 *The number of staff undertaking each training course differs, but along with the list of courses, the number of attendees on each can be made available to the Member.*

4. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

4.1 *How many requests for recycling boxes have been received since the introduction of fortnightly bin collection came to the public's attention following the recent budget?*

4.2 *In a recent radio interview the Chair referred to "a very few properties which would really struggle to recycle" and said "In very exceptional circumstances we will continue with servicing them weekly for the residual waste but only those special properties." What steps have been taken to identify these properties and have the residents been contacted?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

4.1 *As of this morning, 152 requests for recycling boxes have been made, the vast majority of which have been from households new to the service or seeking replacement boxes.*

4.2 *As part of the communication roll-out, any resident who is concerned with their ability to cope with the new service will be strongly encouraged to contact Waste Services. Assistance in minimising waste and an assessment will be conducted. If that household needs greater capacity, this will be provided usually in the form of a bigger refuse bin or additional refuse bin. Only in very exceptional circumstances will a weekly refuse service be maintained. The provision of extra capacity will be dependent upon the household making full use of all the disposal routes provided by the Council at the kerbside.*

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

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

5.1 *What were the results of the recent online bin survey and where are they published?*

5.2 *What is the total number of operatives employed or retained to work on the refuse collection vehicles whilst there is a weekly collection?*

5.3 *How many operatives will be required when the bin emptying goes to fortnightly collection?*

5.4 *How many refuse vehicles are used for refuse collection on a weekly collection?*

5.5 *How many vehicles will be required for fortnightly collection?*

5.6 *How many operatives are employed on the recycling vehicles?*

5.7 *How many recycling vehicles are in the ownership or retained by the council?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

- 5.1 *The results of the survey were reported to the Environmental Services Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. They have not been published to date.*
- 5.2 *There are thirteen refuse collection staff.*
- 5.3 *There will still be need for thirteen refuse collection staff after the service changes.*
- 5.4 *There are five vehicles currently in service.*
- 5.5 *There will still be a need for five vehicles.*
- 5.6 *There are eight recycling staff.*
- 5.7 *There are three recycling vehicles currently in service.*

Supplementary Question;

*Why were the results of the survey not published before this year's Budget?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*The Council has regularly conducted surveys in the past but it is not standard procedure for the results of those surveys to be published. However, we are going to consider some elements of that survey in our ongoing communication campaign that we are going to roll out as part of the scheme.*

**6. Executive Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 – Clauses A1 to A11**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A11 inclusive of report of meeting held on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, be received, by the Council.”

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

**7. Executive Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 – Clause C12**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C12 of report of meeting held on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, be received, approved, and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington – **9**

**Against** – Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr J.E. Skinner – **2**

**8. Housing and Property Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 – Clauses A1 to B9**

Motion moved by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to B9 inclusive of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

**9. Housing and Property Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 – Clause C10**

Motion moved by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause C10 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

**10. Regeneration and Community Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington - **9**

**Against** – Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr I.J.G. Clague – **2**

**11. Environmental Services Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

**12. Election of Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee**

The Mayor invited nominations for a Member to serve as Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee for the remainder of the current two-year municipal term, until April 2023.

Councillor Miss N.A. Bryon was nominated by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts.

Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley was nominated by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning.

A ballot took place in which the votes were cast as follows;

Councillor Miss N.A. Byron            5

Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley            6

The Mayor declared Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, having obtained a simple majority of the votes of the Members present, be elected as Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee for the remainder of the current two-year municipal term, until April 2023.

**13. Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 3.00pm and resumed at 3.50pm with the same Members and officers present.

**IN PRIVATE**

**14. Executive Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 – Clauses A1 and A2**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 and A2 of private report of meeting held on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

**15. Executive Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 – Clause A3**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A3 of private report of meeting held on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

*Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.*

The Council rose at 3.55pm.



For Town Clerk & Chief Executive