



## City of Douglas

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City Hall,  
Douglas,  
10<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the CITY OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2024, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the CITY HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

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

Councillors

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr D.R. Watson

Mr S.R. Crellin

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr F. Horning

Ms J. Thommeny

Mr P.J. Washington

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

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts and the Chief Executive.

1. **One Minute Silence**

The Council stood to observe a one minute silence for former Borough Warden Manager, Mr Neil Cringle who had sadly passed away since the last meeting.

2. **Minutes – 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, were approved and signed.

3. **Minutes – 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

The minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, were approved and signed.

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

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

4.1 *What is the policy for gum removal on pavements and pedestrian areas in Douglas?*

4.2 *When was the last removal of gum carried out?*

4.3 *Do the Council have the necessary equipment to carry out gum removal?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

4.1 *Generally, cleansing carry out two focused chewing gum removal operations per year, one before Easter and one before Christmas. Ad hoc gum removal continues through the year.*

4.2 *Currently underway, started April 2023.*

4.3 *Waste Services has three specialist items of plant for gum removal. Two of these items were scheduled for full service and PAT testing last spring/Summer but following an inspection by British Engineering, Fleet services were advised to have the boiler vessels serviced and certified by a specialist contractor. Unfortunately, the Service Engineer did not collect the two pieces of plant until February this year and due to a health related matter, these items have not yet been returned to the Council. In the interim period, Waste and Fleet services trialed alternative gum removal equipment and have purchased one, which is currently being used. Fleet Services are pursuing the Service Engineer for a return date for the equipment.*

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

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

*In relation to the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Council agenda item (vi) (i) Executive Committee, Clause A7: Referrals from the Housing and Property Committee (Clause B12);*

5.1 *British Standard BS5839 states “the most important component of a fire alarm system is the control panel.” The upgrading of the of fire alarm systems at Anagh Coar, King Street and Tynwald Court flats has been ongoing for approximately two years at least. Why was the upgrading of the controls in these properties not included in the original design?*

5.2 *How long does it normally take to gain approval from the Department of Infrastructure for a petition after submission?*

5.3 *At the time of submission was it made known to the Department that this was urgent?*

5.4 *Has there been any progress made with regard to the approval of the petition?*

5.5 *Was the need to urgently replace the control panels picked up at the initial design stage for the upgrade work?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

5.1 *A business case was put forward to request funding for professional fees for the fire alarm framework, this would fund the design and creation of tender documentation for the upgrades of the fire alarm systems across our communal flat living accommodation. The full design will not be known until this phase has been completed. The requirement to upgrade the panels was included in the original business case, to then be included in the final design, which will then go to tender.*

*The panel replacements in Anagh Coar, King Street and Tynwald Court were brought forward due to the failure of the panels and the urgent requirement to replace them, hence the requirement to temporarily fund from an available funding source.*

*The fire alarm systems across our communal living stock are currently fully functional. The requirement within the business case for the fire alarm framework upgrade is a proactive measure.*

- 5.2 *We would normally expect a response within a reasonable amount of time (between 6 and 12 weeks). However, more recently response times have not been as timely, some extending many months, and in some cases over one year. This petition for the project was submitted on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and we are still awaiting concurrence from the Department of Infrastructure. There has been a number of communications in relation to the submission during this time, mainly technical questions.*
- 5.3 *The importance of the project is highlighted in the business case. To note, all current fire alarm systems are functioning.*
- 5.4 *The Council have been made aware by the Department of Infrastructure that the petition is being reviewed.*
- 5.5 *The panels that were replaced had failed, and as a result their replacement became urgent at that time. The panel replacements were included in the original business case as specified in 3.1, but at that time were fully functional.*

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

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

*Are / should all meetings of the Council both public and private business be recorded and if so for what purpose?*

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

*All public and private Council meetings are audio recorded for verification of decisions if required, to provide transcripts as and when required and for historical records for use at a later date.*

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

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

*Further to Question 5.1 and subsequent answer at the March Council meeting, how many of the nine whose tenancies agreements were ending have been tenants in the same properties for more than five and ten years?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

*Six tenants had been in the same property five years or more (but less than ten), and three had been in the same property for more than 10 years.*

**8. Executive Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

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 report of meeting held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, 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 – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

**10. Pensions Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, subject to correction of two clerical errors in Clause A5, on the sixth paragraph, the title of Mr Ian Murray is Chief Executive of the Public Service Pensions Authority and Chair of the Policy Reform Group, and that the minute be amended to read that he could be retained on a zero hours contract, be received by the Council.”

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

**11. Regeneration and Community Committee – 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

**12. Environmental Services Committee – 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

**13. Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 3.30pm and resumed at 3.50pm with the same Members and officers present.

**IN PRIVATE**

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

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

**15. Executive Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 – Clauses A1 to A6**

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 A6 inclusive of private report of meeting held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

**16. Executive Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 – Clause C7**

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 C7 of private report of meeting held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

**17. Housing and Property Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024, be received by the Council.”

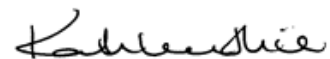
Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

**18. Pensions Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, be received by the Council.”

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

The Council rose at 4.25pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive