



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

9th November, 2022

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

The Mayor

COUNCILLOR MS J. THOMMENY, JP

Councillors

Miss N.A. Byron

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr D.R. Watson

Mr S.R. Crellin

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr F. Horning

Mr F. Schuengel

Mr P.J. Washington

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

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, MBE.

1. **Minutes – 12th October, 2022**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 12th October, 2022, were approved and signed.

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

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

- 2.1 *What training and qualifications (if any) are given to Council officers and staff in order that they may recognise signs and symptoms of mental health or any other disability?*
- 2.2 *Have any Council officers or staff received training or qualifications in recognising symptoms of mental illness or any other disability?*

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

2.1 *The following training has been provided:*

- *Stress Bucket Training - through Isle Listen*
- *Mental Health for Line Managers – through Isle Listen*
- *Mental Health First Aiders – through Isle Listen*
- *Sunflower – Hidden disabilities training – through Hospice Isle of Man*
- *Threatening Self Harm presentation – through Superintendent Maddocks, IOM Police*

Employees are not ‘qualified’ in mental health or disability and are not expected to be experts in mental health.

Training has been provided and this allows for mental health to be managed in the workplace. The mental health wellbeing training provided guidance on how to spot the signs that someone may be experiencing mental ill health. Managers and employees know where they and staff can go for further support internally (such as mental health champions, and mental health first aiders) who are there to signpost to external services.

Wellbeing support is also provided via DBC’s Wellbeing Group.

A number of staff have been trained as mental health first aiders and wellbeing champions are available to staff who may wish to utilise this provision.

There is still a lack of understanding about mental health and staff are being encouraged to talk to their line managers about their mental health. If staff do not wish to speak with their line manager then they can speak to a named mental health first aider or wellbeing champion. Involving staff and educating the workforce about mental health is important.

The Council is committed to promoting positive mental health across the organisation, this is an encouraging cultural shift.

2.2 *The following training has been provided:*

- *Stress Bucket Training* (37 employees)
- *Mental Health for Line Managers* (12 employees)
- *Mental Health First Aiders* (15 employees)
- *Sunflower Hidden disabilities training* (37 employees)
- *Threatening Self Harm presentation* (25 employees)

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

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

Standing Order 125 - Urgent Business, how many times has this procedure been used since July 2021 to date?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

Thirteen.

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

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

- 4.1 *Does the Council have a duty of care for its tenants and if so, under what legislation or regulation?*

- 4.2 *What course of action would be taken should an officer or member of staff recognise or feel that there may be cause for concern with a tenant who they consider may have mental health issues or any other disability?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

- 4.1 *Yes, as contained in the following acts and regulations:*

- *Housing Act 1955;*
 - *Safeguarding Act 2018;*
 - *Equality Act 2017;*
 - *Landlord and Tenant Act 1954;*
 - *Landlord and Tenant (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.*
 - *Housing (Standards) Regulations 2017.*
- 4.2 *Staff will discuss with the individual in the first instance. The case will be escalated to the relevant management level. The case may then be referred to other support agencies who are specialist in the relevant field. In some instances, this will need the tenants' permission, however if it's a safeguarding issue, the case will be referred to the safeguarding board and other relevant Government departments.*

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

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

- 5.1 *Given the unusual weather conditions of late and the changing of the seasons with many species still in bloom does the Chair think that the cessation of the "green waste" collection from the week commencing 31st October premature?*
- 5.2 *How many complaints to date have been received and logged since the commencement of the fortnightly refuse collection?*
- 5.3 *How many complaints have been received and logged to date in respect of "green waste" collection?*
- 5.4 *Does the Chair feel that the commencement of the fortnightly refuse collection to initially to have been a success?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

- 5.1 *The Environmental Services Committee at its next meeting will receive a report on extending the garden waste service until November, starting in 2023. The service in the short time it has been running has proved popular and requests to extend the service are being addressed. The garden waste service could not be extended this year due to the timing of the Council's decision-making process and the operational timeframe needed to make such changes.*
- 5.2 *There has been one formal complaint submitted about the change in Waste Strategy. The complaint concerned the decision rather than issues about service provision, that is, the complainant did not complain they could not manage, more that they did not agree with the decision made. Council Members and officers have answered many queries about the change in service but to date, these have not resulted in complaints being received and logged.*
- 5.3 *None.*
- 5.4 *The purpose of the change in Waste Strategy was to significantly increase the Council's recycling rate. After introduction of the garden waste service, which is still in its infancy, and before the commencement of fortnightly refuse collections, the Council's recycling rate had doubled. Therefore the change in waste strategy is achieving its objective and on that basis should be deemed a success. It is inevitable with a change of this magnitude that some residents would be dissatisfied and concerned, and Waste Services will continue to work with these residents to assist them in the transition to the new Waste Strategy and provide extra capacity where that is needed.*

6. Executive Committee – 27th October, 2022 – Clauses A1 to A16 and Clause A1 sub-clause B16 of the private agenda

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A16 inclusive and Clause A1 sub-clause B16 of private report of meeting held on Thursday, 27th October, 2022, be received by the Council."

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

7. **Executive Committee – 27th October, 2022 – Clause C17**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C17 of report of meeting held on Thursday, 27th October, 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 J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **10**

Against, Mr Councillor Mr S.R. Pitts – **1**

Motion carried.

8. **Housing and Property Committee – 19th October, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 19th October, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

9. **Pensions Committee – 26th October, 2022**

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, 26th October, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

10. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 18th October, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 18th October, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Further Motion moved by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, “That the Council consider the Motion in Committee.”

Question put on further Motion to move into Committee, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **10**

Against, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner – **1**

Further Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That proceedings resume in Council.”

Question put on further Motion to resume in Council, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Amendment moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That Clause A2 be withdrawn for further consideration by the Committee.”

Question put on Amendment, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion Councillors: Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr F. Horning, Mr F. Schuengel – **4**

Against, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **7**

Motion fell.

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

11. **Environmental Services Committee – 17th October, 2022 – Clauses A1 to A14**

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 Clauses A1 to A14 inclusive of report of meeting held on Monday, 17th October, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

12. **Environmental Services Committee – 17th October, 2022 – Clause C15**

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 Clause C15 of report of meeting held on Monday, 17th October, 2022, be received, approved and adopted 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 3.35pm and resumed at 3.55pm with the same Members and officers present.

IN PRIVATE

14. Minutes – 3rd August, 2022

The minutes of the special private Council meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd August, 2022, were approved and signed.

15. Executive Committee – 27th October, 2022 – Clause A1 sub-clauses B17 and B18 and Clauses A2 to A8

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A1 sub-clauses B17 and B18 and Clauses A2 to A8 of private report of meeting held on Thursday, 27th October, 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 S.R. Pitts, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **10**

Against – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin – **1**

Motion carried.

16. Housing and Property Committee – 19th October, 2022 – Clause B6

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause B6 of private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 19th October, 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 F. Schuengel declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

17. Housing and Property Committee – 19th October, 2022 – Clauses A1 to B5

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to B5 of private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 19th October, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

18. Pensions Committee – 26th October, 2022

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 private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 26th October, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

19. Regeneration and Community Committee – 18th October, 2022

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 18th October, 2022, be received by the Council.

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

20. Environmental Services Committee – 17th October, 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 private report of meeting held on Thursday, 17th October, 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 S.R. Pitts, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **10**

Against, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner – **1**

Motion carried.

The Council rose at 4.35pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B. D.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

For: Town Clerk & Chief Executive