



## City of Douglas

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

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City Hall,  
Douglas,  
4<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of the CITY OF DOUGLAS to be held on WEDNESDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2024, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER within the CITY HALL, DOUGLAS for the transaction of the hereinafter mentioned business.

I am,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katherine'.

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, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

Members Present: Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, Mr Councillor F. Horning.

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

### REPORT

#### **PART A –**

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

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

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague; and the Director of Housing and Property (Mr D. Looney).

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 were approved and signed.

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

There were no matters arising from the public minutes.

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

There were no referrals from the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

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

There were no referrals from the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

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

The meeting of the Housing and Property Committee, scheduled for Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, had been cancelled.

##### **A8. Monthly Financial Review – May 2024**

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.

The monthly report was required to monitor progress against the Finance Department's Service Plan actions and to meet objectives set out in the 2022 – 2026 Corporate Plan.

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

- The rates collection figure of 27%, compared with the target figure of 26.7% for the months of April to June 2024."

##### **A9. Isle of Man Municipal Association**

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

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

**A10. Items for Future Report**

The Committee considered a written report by the Chief Executive identifying those issues on which further reports had been requested or which were outstanding, so that Members and officers were aware of them and could monitor progress.

Resolved, “That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and that it be considered and monitored at each meeting of the Executive Committee.”

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

The time and date of the next meeting was confirmed as 2.00pm on the rescheduled date of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

**PART C –**

***Matters subject to Council approval***

**C12. Douglas Promenade Regeneration – Outstanding Works (Tender Report)**

The Committee considered a written report by the Head of Electrical Services and Environment & Regeneration Projects in relation to tenders received for the Douglas Promenade Regeneration Outstanding Works Scheme 2024 / 2025, and associated works at various other locations.

Two tenders had been received for the scheme, both of which were above the pre-tender estimates for the works. The lower of the two had been evaluated and was considered to reflect the present economic climate and represent value-for-money; with the increase in costs being attributed to the schedule of rates known at the time of the pre-tender scheme estimate.

It was noted that the submitted tender was for the civil engineering and reinstatement costs only, as all columns, electrical equipment, and the electrical infrastructure material for the scheme had been procured by the Council.

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

- (ii) That the tender received from Paul Carey and Sons Limited, which exceeded the tender estimate, be accepted under Standing Order 143 (Tenders Exceeding Estimates); and
- (iii) That approval be given for the Chief Executive to seek petition approval from the Isle of Man Government for funding in the sum of £108,106.18, this being the amount to defray the costs of the work.”

**C13. Dublin City Council – Twinning Proposal**

The Committee considered a written report by the Director of Finance seeking to determine if a formal Twinning Agreement application should be submitted to Dublin City Council.

The matter had first been considered in December 2023. Since that time, research undertaken by officers had identified a number of commonalities and shared linkages between the two Cities; and the Director of Finance had met with a number of individuals identified as potential stakeholders and interested parties, from which there appeared to be widespread support for a twinning or other civic partnership.

Members were advised that Dublin City Council entered into two forms of Agreement – a formal twinning agreement, which had legislative provision set out in the Republic of Ireland’s Local Government Act 2001; or an informal agreement, whereby partners committed to a partnership agreement in areas of identified mutual interest and where there was a benefit to both parties. In the case of both the formal and informal agreements, a period of time covering the agreement would be agreed and a review process undertaken every two years.

It was noted that Dublin City Council’s Protocol Committee had recently drawn up a new procedure for the consideration of twinning applications and other informal agreement requests. As a result, all twinning and informal agreements entered into by Dublin City Council would have to align with its Mission Statement, “*to drive the sustainable development of the City through strong civic leadership and delivery of effective services that promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities.*”

Dublin City Council had therefore asked the Council to consider a number of points, to assist in determining to what extent a twinning or other form of friendship agreement might offer a real opportunity for learning and an exchange of views between the two Councils and Cities.

There were clearly benefits to the Council and the City of Douglas arising from a partnership with Dublin, including opportunities for mutual learning; the potential for education, cultural, and sporting

exchanges; the potential for commercial benefits for Douglas-based businesses; and greater numbers of visitors from Dublin and Ireland. Additionally, a twinning or other partnership had the potential for benefitting not just Douglas, as the Island's capital, but the Isle of Man as a whole.

Members discussed the matter at length. While the benefits were acknowledged and there was support for the application, concern was also expressed in relation to resources – currently, there was no officer capacity to fulfil the additional ongoing workload that would be associated with a twinning arrangement. It was therefore suggested that a report be prepared for consideration by the Committee, detailing the options; how such an arrangement could be used to benefit the Council and Douglas; the implications of entering into it (including resourcing); and how it would be maintained.

If the Council as a whole was in support of the application, the next step would be for relevant staff in Dublin City Council to be consulted, to provide feedback and support. Dublin's International Relations Team would then prepare a report for submission to the Elected Members of the Dublin City Council's Protocol Committee for a final decision to be made.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes, together with the updated appendices to include information on housing and property;

- (ii) That it be recommended to Council that an application for a twinning agreement be submitted to Dublin City Council; and
- (iii) That in the meantime a further report be submitted to the Executive Committee detailing the implications of such an arrangement (if the application was successful) and how it would be used to the benefit of this Council and be maintained."

*Although the report had been considered in private, the matter was already in the public domain on Dublin City Council's website, so there were no grounds for it to remain confidential.*

The Committee rose at 4.00pm.

(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, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

Members Present: Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley (Chair), the Mayor, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin.

In Attendance: Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) (Mr M. Quayle), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Head of Parks (Mrs S. Parkinson), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs D. Atkinson).

## REPORT

### *PART A –*

#### *Matters delegated to the Committee*

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

Mr Councillor F. Schuengel and the Director of Environment and Regeneration submitted apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of interest

##### **A3. Minutes – 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024, were approved and signed.

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

There were no matters arising raised.

##### **A5. Parks Friends Groups**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Parks, following a request from a Member, to consider the Council's approach to a Parks Friends Group.

The report explained that a Parks Friends Group is a group of people passionate about looking after their local park or green space to enhance the environment and to meet the needs of their local community.

Whilst there are many benefits to establishing a Parks Friends Group, the Head of Parks explained that Parks Services are currently assisting several volunteer groups to promote biodiversity through the recently launched Dragonflies' Den competition, and a collaboration with HSBC at Farmhill Grange. The report recommended not to proceed with the establishment of a Parks Friends Group at this time due to other ongoing community projects but suggested continuing to review and monitor the situation. The Head of Parks advised that officers are currently drafting an overarching Parks Strategy which will propose a review of the management of all open spaces. This review will consider Parks Friends Groups or other forms of community involvement for each specific site.

Members expressed their support at the creation of a Parks Friends Group and amended the report recommendation to include consideration of the initiative as part of the overarching Park Strategy to ensure the opportunity is not overlooked in the future.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and the establishment of a Park Friends Group be not established at this time, and the consideration of such groups be included in the overarching Park Strategy report due for Committee consideration in September 2024."

##### **A6. Noble's Park Pitch Improvements**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Head of Parks (Services) to seek approval to carry out pitch improvements to Noble's Park football pitch.

The report explained that due to the current condition of the Noble's Park football pitch, it is being underutilised. The pitch is the smallest size pitch that the Council operates and is undulating and sloped. Due to the condition, the previous regular user of the pitch, Douglas and District, are currently using

Pulrose on a temporary basis. This pitch will not be available to the club as and when the new Pulrose clubhouse scheme is developed, due to the number of changing rooms included in the specification. Douglas and District have indicated they will revert to the Noble's Park pitch if it is improved. The Council is keen to utilise this pitch as the changing facilities in the Pavilion are in very good condition and underutilised.

The estimated cost for the proposed works is £40,000. As there is no budget available it was recommended that Executive Committee approval be sought to fund the works from General Revenue Reserves.

The report advised there is only one specialist contractor on the Island that prepares football pitches, and therefore recommended that Executive Committee approval be sought to seek an exemption from tendering for the works due to specialist skills required to meet the Sport England standards for pitch levelling.

It was suggested that Douglas and District Football Club be approached to consider funding part of the pitch replacement in exchange for a discounted rental fee. This approach would ensure the pitch was utilised following the Council investment.

Resolved, "That the matter be deferred pending negotiations with Douglas and District Football Club."

**A7. 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."

**A8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Members were advised that the next scheduled meeting was due to take place on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.

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

The meeting ended at 10.44am.

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

# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

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

In Attendance: Assistant Chief Officer (Environment) (Mr I. Jackson), Assistant Chief Officer (Regeneration) (Mr C. Pycroft), Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services) (Mrs L. Radcliffe), Finance Manager (Mr E. Skinner), Dilapidation Enforcement Officer (Mr S. Salter) (Items A5 and A6), Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Miss C. Cullen).

## REPORT

### **PART A –**

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

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

Apologies for absence were submitted by the Director of Environment and Regeneration.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

##### **A3. Minutes – 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 were approved and signed.

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

No matters were raised as arising from the previous minutes.

##### **A5. Consideration of the Planning Authority's decision to refuse planning application 24/00381/B – 16 Belmont Terrace**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Dilapidation Enforcement Officer to determine whether the Council should continue to support the proposed development of 16 Belmont Terrace, if the applicant lodges an appeal against the refusal of planning application 24/00381/B.

Members were reminded that planning application 24/00381/B had been considered by the Environmental Services Committee at a meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, when it had been resolved to support the application on the condition that no waste or recycling bins be left on the public highway except for on collection days, after which time the bins must be removed and stored within the purpose-built storage area.

Members were advised that the Council was subsequently notified that the application had been refused by the principal planning officer and that the application had not been considered by the Planning Committee. It was noted that the application was refused on the grounds that there would be an unacceptable standard of amenity by virtue of the poor outlook from the ground floor in particular, flat number 2 where the only primary windows are sited to the rear of the building onto communal areas.

It is recommended that should the applicant decide to appeal against the refusal or make further amendments to provide a better outlook for the occupants of apartment number 2, that the Council continue to support the development by way of written submissions.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and that if an appeal is submitted by the applicant in relation to planning application 24/00381/B, that the Council continues to support the proposed development by way of written submissions only."

3 For. 1 Against.

*Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked that his name be recorded as voting against the resolution.*

##### **A6. Schedule of Dilapidated, Ruinous or Dangerous Properties**

The Committee considered a schedule of properties in a state of dilapidation or disrepair. Members noted that four properties had been added to the schedule since the last meeting; two properties had



been removed because work had been completed; and a total of fifty-nine properties remained on the list. This equates to 0.004% of the total number of properties in Douglas.

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, and report back to Committee if service of Notice and/or legal action is required.”

**A7. Items for Future Report**

The Committee noted a report submitted by the Assistant 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.

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

**A8. 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, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.

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

The meeting ended at 10.40am.