

### **Borough of Douglas**

## MR. COUNCILLOR DAVID JOHN ASHFORD, J.P. MAYOR

Town Hall,

Douglas,

7<sup>th</sup> June, 2012

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL to be held on WEDNESDAY, the 13th day of JUNE, 2012, 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

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 Pensions Committee;
- (iii) The Standards Committee;
- (iv) The Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee;
- (v) Any other Joint Committee;
- VII Consideration of the report of each Lead Member in the following order:
- (i) Housing and Property;
- (ii) Regeneration and Community;
- (iii) Environmental Services;
- 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> May, 2012.

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

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Minutes of Meeting held on Friday, 25th May, 2012.

Members Present: Mr. Councillor D.W. Christian (Chairman), the Mayor, Mr. Councillor S.R. Pitts (from 10.05am), Councillor Mrs. C.E. Malarkey, Messrs Councillors E.A. Joyce, R.H. McNicholl.

In Attendance: Chief Executive, Borough Treasurer, Borough Engineer & Surveyor, Assistant Chief Officer (Housing & Property) (from 10.00am to 11.55am).

#### **REPORT**

#### PARTA -

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

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence had been submitted.

#### 2. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved, "That it be unanimously agreed that Mr. Councillor S.R. Pitts be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year."

#### 3. **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. Councillor E.A. Joyce declared an interest in agenda item 6, Minutes and Referrals of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee – Part B, Clause 1, Beach Cleaning.

#### 4. Minutes

Minutes of meetings of the former Policy and Resources Committee held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Special Joint Meeting of the former Policy and Resources and Public Health and Housing Committees held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, and Special Meeting of the former Policy and Resources Committee held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 were approved and signed.

#### 5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

No matters arising from the previous minutes were identified.

#### 6. Consultation Document: Planning Policy Statement – Planning and the Economy

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to a consultation document received from the Department of Infrastructure (Planning Department) on a draft Planning Policy Statement.

The objective of the draft Planning Policy Statement was to support the Government's commitment to further economic growth and diversification. It would enable economic considerations to be taken into account when determining planning applications so that, where previously, any proposal for development in an area not zoned for the purpose would automatically have been refused, consideration could now be given to it if it would create jobs and contribute to the economy. (Other factors, such as environmental considerations, would still be taken into account, however.)

Members considered comments submitted by the Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate & Development) (appended to the written report). It was recommended that these be brought to the attention of the Planning Department, and that the Department be advised that the Council's principal concern was that existing planning constraints should not be disregarded lightly in favour of the economic benefits.

The deadline for the response was 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012, but because of the April Committee recess and the recent local elections, it had not been possible to obtain the view of the Council in time. An extension to this deadline had been requested on these grounds but had been refused by the Director of Planning and Building Control at the Department of Infrastructure. It was considered that such a refusal was unreasonable in the

circumstances, however, and accordingly, the Council proposed to put forward its views, with copies to Minister and Chief Executive for the Department of Infrastructure.

It was also noted that Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas had made a submission in his personal capacity, seeking the withdrawal of the Statement on the grounds that it could lead to unnecessary development in greenfield sites, and be used to progress infrastructure projects that could not gain approval under the Island's development plan. While Mr Councillor Thomas was supportive of a robust and unambiguous planning framework, he considered the document not to contribute to such a structure, and instead favoured a comprehensive Development Plan, including four Area Plans.

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

- (ii) That the objectives of the Planning Policy Statement be supported, subject to more details in some area (specifically as set out in the appendix to the written report), and that the Planning Department be advised of the Council's view accordingly, with copies to the Minister and Chief Executive of the Department of Infrastructure; and
- (iii) That the Council also expresses the view that 'economic development' throughout the document should refer to permanent and sustainable benefit to the economy, firm evidence of which should be provided where any application was considered on these grounds."

#### 7. Car Park Barrier System – Two-Chair Procedure for Provision of Additional Equipment

The Committee considered a written report by the Borough Engineer & Surveyor in relation to a Two-Chair Procedure undertaken to authorise the provision of additional equipment associated with the Council's car park system.

The Borough Engineer & Surveyor advised that, as part of the continual review of the operation of the 'payon-foot' car park system, it had become clear the additional features were required. In order to progress work and avoid potential price rises, orders were required to be placed as soon as possible for the following:

- the supply, installation and commissioning of three 'pay-on-foot' card readers (two for Shaw's Brow Car Park, one for the Bottleneck Car Park), to allow customers to pay for credit on decremental cards on site rather than having to visit the Town Hall on each occasion. It was anticipated that this would encourage greater take-up and usage of the pre-paid system; and
- the supply, installation and commissioning of an additional exit terminal from the 'nested' contract area (levels 5 and 6) at Shaw's Brow Car Park. The current 'raise on exit' barrier did not record vehicle movements and prevented correct operation of the remote signage on car park capacity. The installation of a fully-functional exit barrier would allow for full management of the car park.

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

(ii) That the Two-Chair Procedure authorising the procurement of the additional car park equipment be endorsed."

#### 8. Monthly Financial Review – March (End of Year) 2012

The Committee considered a written report by the Borough Treasurer setting out the final position for 2011 / 2012 in relation to progress made compared to key performance indicators in respect of rates collected; the increase in direct debit take-up for the year; the percentage of net rent collected; gross rent arrears; the number of tenants owing over £500; and sundry debtors over three months old.

It was noted that all targets had been achieved, with 99.9% of Rates due collected in the year.

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

#### 9. **Monthly Financial Review – April 2012**

The Committee considered a written report by the Borough Treasurer setting out details of progress made compared to key performance indicators in relation to rates collected; the increase in direct debit take-up for the year; the percentage of net rent collected; gross rent arrears; the number of tenants owing over £500; and sundry debtors over three months old.

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

#### 10. **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.

Members also requested the following to be included on the list of items for future report:

- Housing Administration Budget: that a further report on progress be brought to Committee in October 2012, once a response had been received from Government in relation to the Department of Social Care's consultation on the review of affordable housing provision on the Island;
- CCTV: that the proposed amended date for report be September 2012.

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."

Further resolved, "That the items detailed above also be included on the list of items for future report to the Committee."

#### PART B -

#### Matters subject to Council approval

#### 1. Commencement Time of Meetings

Resolved, "That it be unanimously agreed that future meetings of the Committee commence at 2.00pm."

#### 2. Minutes and Referrals of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Mr. Councillor E.A. Joyce declared an interest in this item and retired whilst it was considered.

The Committee considered the minutes of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012, including specifically those items referred to the Executive Committee as follows:

- Part A, Clause 2 Review of Remit of the Advisory Committee: Members had requested further investigation in relation to which of the new Advisory Committees should have responsibility for decorative lighting in Summerhill Glen.
- Part B, Clause 1 Beach Cleaning: Members had resolved that the cleaning of Douglas Beach should be included within the remit of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the minutes of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee be noted;

- (ii) That approval be given for responsibility for decorative lighting in Summerhill Glen to fall within the remit of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee (as it was previously with the Leisure Services Committee), with responsibility for public lighting in the Glen remaining within the remit of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee; and
- (iii) That approval be given for responsibility for beach cleaning to fall within the remit of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee."

#### 3. Minutes and Referrals of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee

The Committee considered the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012, including specifically those items referred to the Executive Committee as follows:

- Part A, Clause 4 Noble's Park Kiosk and Bowling Clubhouse: the breakdown of the costs for the three options considered by the former Leisure Services Committee had been requested. The Chief Executive assured the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee that the required information would be made available to the Members of that Committee, as set out in the resolution.
- Part B, Clause 1 Time of Meeting: Members had resolved that the commencement time of future meetings should be changed to 10.30am.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee be noted; and

(ii) That approval be given for future meetings of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee to commence at 10.30am."

#### 4. Minutes and Referrals of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee

The Committee considered the minutes of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, including specifically those items referred to the Executive Committee as follows:

Part B, Clause 1 – Meeting Times: Members had resolved that the commencement time of future meetings should be changed to 10.30am.

Resolved, "(i) That particulars of the minutes of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee be noted;

(ii) That approval be given for future meetings of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee to commence at 10.30am."

#### 5. Election of Councillors 2012

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to a review of the recent local elections in Douglas.

St George's and Derby Wards had been uncontested, while there had been contests in Victoria, Hills, Murrays and Athol Wards. The date of the poll, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012, had been set by the Department of Infrastructure, and all the requisite polling stations had been operational from 8.00am to 8.00pm. While there had been no major problems during the preparations for the election or on polling day itself, there had been a number of issues (as set out in the schedule appended to the written report) that would merit scrutiny and, where appropriate, require remedial action to be taken before the next election.

Members requested that in addition the following issues be noted, some of which may require reference to the Department of Infrastructure and changes to the legislation:

#### Polling Stations:

Noble's Park Pavilion – there had been some issues regarding the access for people with disabilities at the building;

'The Hoggery', Noble's Park – it was suggested that this venue should be used as a polling station instead of the Pavilion, as it could easily be accessed by anyone with a disability, although the inside of the venue had not been looked at to see if it was suitable.

Strathallan Suite – there was some concern that voters were unaware of the location of this polling station or were unwilling to go this far along the Promenade;

Anagh Coar School – (i) this polling station was not suitable in inclement weather as there were no facilities for candidates, agents and tellers; (ii) access was not easy for anyone with a disability; (iii) there was no turnaround facility for vehicles and this had led, during an incident when an ambulance was required to be in attendance, the ambulance having to wait until vehicles had been moved before paramedics could attend the incident;

All Saints Church Hall – disabled access was unsatisfactory;

Pulrose Methodist Church – (i) it was suggested that this should have been used instead of Douglas Town Band Room; (ii) it was queried why notices had not been erected outside advising that the Church was not a polling station and directing voters to the Band Room;

Willaston Methodist Church – it has already been agreed that for the forthcoming bye-election in Athol Ward, that the Church be used for each of the two polling districts (rather than having two separate polling stations), with this being communicated via a press release.

#### Absent Votes:

Application forms should be available earlier, to ensure everyone had as long as possible to vote;

It was suggested that people should be able to attend at the Town Hall right up to the day prior to polling day to cast an absent vote;

Application forms did not contain information relating to where they should be returned to, or the deadline by which they had to be returned.

It was noted that some of the issues (set out above and as appended to the written report) would require a change of legislation and therefore need to be taken up with the Department of Infrastructure. There were also a few matters that would require to be addressed prior to the forthcoming bye-election in Athol Ward.

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

- (ii) That the schedule of issues raised at the 2012 general election of Councillors (as appended to the written report) be noted and taken into account in the review by the Chief Executive;
- (iii) That the additional comments made by Members (as set out above) be noted and taken into account;
- (iv) That the Department of Infrastructure be asked to review the publicity given to the general election and the hours of polling;
- (v) That for the forthcoming bye-election in Athol Ward -
- sufficient ballot papers be ordered for a 60% turn-out;
- more focussed staff training be undertaken;
- an information pack be prepared for issue to nominated candidates; and
- the Returning Officer be asked to check road closures in the area before fixing the date for the byeelection and to review access, particularly for people with disabilities, to the polling stations; and
- (vi) That before the next general election of Councillors takes place in 2016, the Chief Executive does a full review of procedures and the Assistant Town Clerk compiles a Procedures Manual for all aspects of the election."

#### 6. Nomination and Election of Council Leader, Lead Members and Chairs

The Committee considered a written report by the Assistant Town Clerk in relation to a proposal submitted by Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas 'that Council considers separating the nomination for and election of Council Leader, Committee Lead Members and Chairs by considering them at meetings held a few days apart'.

The purpose in making the proposal was to address an issue that he had identified, which was that new Members of the Council, shortly after election, had been asked at the Special Council Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 to participate in the election of Members to significant positions when they were not familiar with the individuals concerned, their personal policies or experience.

While Mr Councillor Thomas' concern had not been reflected by any other Member, in the interests all of Members being as well-informed as possible in all decision making, it should be addressed. It was noted, however, that the suggestion of an additional Council meeting might not be the most appropriate method. It was therefore proposed that the Special Council Meeting (at which the election of the positions took place) should continue to be held on the Wednesday before the Annual Council Meeting, but that Standing Orders be changed to require nominations for each of the offices to be elected to be submitted and circulated to all Council Members by the preceding Friday. In that way, all Members would be aware of the nominations and could undertake research and discussion, as well as being open to canvassing by those nominated.

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

(ii) That the proposal be not supported and, accordingly, there be no amendment to Standing Orders."

#### 7. Notice of Motion – Housing Administration Budget

The Committee considered a written report by the Borough Engineer & Surveyor in relation to a Notice of Motion submitted by Mr. Councillor D.J. Ashford to the Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012, "that the officers of the Council consider how the portion of the Housing Administration budget (Code SH120) that is ratebourne can be reduced year on year in real terms by a minimum of 10% per year over the next five years, and to report back to the newly constituted Public Health and Housing Committee no later than the September 2012 meeting".

Following consideration of the report in respect of the Government's Review of affordable housing provision on the Island, as set out in Clause 7 above, it was agreed to await the Government's response to the Council's submission in respect of the Review.

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

(ii) That a further report on progress be brought to the October 2012 meeting, following the response to the Council's submission to the Department of Social Care in respect of the Island-wide review of the Housing Service."

The Committee rose at 1.45pm.

VI(ii) – The Proceedings of the PENSIONS COMMITTEE as follows:

### PENSIONS COMMITTEE

PENSIONS COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2012.

Members Present: Mr. Councillor C.L.H. Cain (Chairman), the Mayor, Messrs Councillors C.C. Thomas, J. Joughin, R.H. McNicholl, A.V. Quirk.

In Attendance: Borough Treasurer, Assistant Chief Officer (Finance), Democratic Services Officer, Mr Mark Freeman (Hymans Robertson, Items 9 – 16 only), Mr. Chris Moore – (BlackRock, Items 11 – 16 only).

#### REPORT

#### PART A -

Matters within the scope of the Committee's delegated authority

#### 1. Vice – Chairman 2012/2013

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr. Councillor R.H. McNicholl to act as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2012/2013.

#### 2. **Minutes – 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday,  $22^{nd}$  February, 2012 were approved and signed.

### 3. Matters Arising – Minute 3 – Changes to the Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme 2012

The Borough Treasurer advised that under the 2003 Regulations the scheme used the actuarial guidance provided by the Government Actuary Department (GAD) in London who also provide this service to public sector schemes throughout the UK. GAD was referred to effectively as the scheme actuary throughout the 2003 regulations which made no change from the United Kingdom (UK) Regulations on which they were based. The former Department of Local Government and the Environment chose not to employ GAD but instruct Douglas as the administering Authority to use the latest GAD guidance available for the England and Wales Scheme. As the same factors were used as in the UK there was no cost to this arrangement. During the consultation prior to the introduction of the 2012 Scheme, the potential additional costs to the Council of appointing a scheme actuary were not included in the calculations on the effects of the implementing the 2012 Scheme.

The new 2012 Regulations in the General Modifications, changes "the Government Actuary" to "the scheme actuary". In Regulation 82 (i) the scheme actuary is defined as "..the actuary appointed by the Civil Service Commission for the time being to provide a consulting service on actuarial matters relevant to the Scheme;". The Civil Service Commission has been dissolved and replaced by the Pensions Authority, however the Local Government Superannuation Scheme (LGSS) is specifically excluded from the remit of the Pensions Authority so there is currently no scheme actuary.

The actuary for the Scheme provides the actuarial values and factors necessary to calculate the pension entitlements in cases which are not completely straightforward (eg transfers or where someone takes early retirement). Without these values and factors it is impossible to operate the pension scheme.

Members discussed the matter thoroughly. It was suggested that the actuary for the Post Office pension scheme could also serve as actuary for the LGSS. The Borough Treasurer advised that whilst this may indeed be the case, the issue of whether the LGGS has to appoint its own actuary or whether it is to use an actuary identified by the Government first needs to be resolved. It was suggested that the report on governance which is to be brought to a future meeting should include the terms of reference for the scheme actuary. The Borough Treasurer commented that whilst this should be included in the governance report, as the LGSS cannot operate without a scheme actuary the matter is urgent. There was some discussion as to whether or not the Fund Actuary could take on this additional role, and whether or not it is appropriate from a governance perspective.

The Borough Treasurer advised that his attempts to resolve the issue with the Department of Infrastructure have been unsuccessful so far, but that he intended raising this with more senior officers in the Department.

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

Further resolved, "That the Borough Treasurer be authorised to continue to seek an early resolution of the issues and report back to the Committee at the next meeting."

#### 4. Matters Arising – Minute 6 - Appointment of an Absolute Return Fund Manager

The Borough Treasurer reported that the issue of whether or not the investment mandate for the absolute return fund manager can include hedge funds has not yet been resolved. There has been some confusion as to

whether or not the correspondence from the Borough Treasurer on the matter has been delivered to the appropriate section of the Department, but the matter is still being pursued. The Borough Treasurer apologised to the Committee that the matter is still outstanding. Although the funds which were to be managed by the Absolute Return Fund Manager have not yet been transferred over, so the desired diversification has not yet been achieved, nonetheless the funds are still invested.

Resolved, "That the update from the Borough Treasurer be noted on the minutes."

### 5. Future Approach to Evaluation of Committee and Advisors (incorporating Scheme Governance)

The Committee considered a report from the Borough Treasurer setting out a possible future approach to the evaluation of the Committee and its advisors, as part of scheme governance. As part of the Best Practice arrangements set out in the Adherence to best practice document on the Douglas Borough Council website under section 4 "Performance Assessment" there is a principle that "Trustees should also periodically make a formal policy assessment of their own effectiveness as a decision-making body and aim to report on this to scheme members." The Committee assesses the quality of the advice which it receives from its investment advisor and other service providers and uses a 'traffic light' approach assigning a 'RAG' (Red, Amber, or Green) rating to each major activity. A list of 'learning points' and actions are agreed for each activity with a Red rating. This approach is used to assess the advice and services provided by the Scheme's advisors. The last formal assessment review was carried out in August 2009 and so it is now an appropriate time to consider another formal review.

It has become increasingly difficult to identify staff resources to handle the work involved in the traffic light approach, so the Borough Treasurer has researched other possibilities for assessment of the work of the Committee and the advisors. Capita Hartshead and Hymans Robertson have each been approached to see what sort of review they could offer. Capita Hartshead use the traffic light system and could further develop that approach. Hymans Robertson, however have suggested a Governance review which would look at all documentation and how the Pensions Committee operates. This would be a fresh approach and would give a view on the overall governance of the Scheme. Attached to the report was a document submitted by Hymans Robertson setting out the scope and fee of a possible governance review.

Members queried whether the review is necessary; if it is required does it need to be done now, and of the fee proposal put forward by Hymans Robertson.

Resolved, "That the report and the discussion be noted on the minutes and the decision on a possible governance review be deferred, pending a further report from the Borough Treasurer on the terms of reference for such a review in acknowledgement of the Council's role acting as Trustee of the Scheme."

#### 6. **Arrangements for July Meeting**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Borough Treasurer on the arrangements for the meeting to be held in July 2012. Previously the Committee had agreed to hold the July 2012 meeting at the London offices of BlackRock. As the dates clash with the summer Olympics in London, both travel and accommodation would be very expensive and difficult at that time. The visit to BlackRock's London offices has been deferred until November, 2012. In previous trips the arrangement has been to travel to London the night before the meeting, then have the whole day at BlackRock's offices, and return to the Isle of Man on the late flight back. It is expected that this would be the format for this trip. There was some discussion of the date of the meeting and the travel dates and the Borough Treasurer agreed to circulate these to the Committee as soon as possible.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes and the updated travel arrangements be circulated to the Committee as soon as possible."

#### 7. Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Borough Treasurer on the appointment of an independent person to review disputed cases under the IOM Local Government Superannuation Scheme for Douglas Borough Council as an employing authority. All employers' pension schemes have to provide an Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP). This is available to all members of the Schemes and others such as deferred and current pensioners whose position may be affected by decisions taken by their employer in relation to the Scheme. Under the 2003 Scheme, the Pensions Committee had appointed Mr John Briscoe to be the appointed person to whom disputes would be referred; and if the matter was still unresolved, the dispute would have been referred to the Minister of Infrastructure for determination.

Under the 2012 Scheme the IDRP is in two stages. The employer has to consider the case at Stage1, and then an appeal can be made to the Administering Authority at Stage 2. For those not satisfied after consideration at these two stages, there is the option to refer the dispute to the Pensions Ombudsman who will make a binding decision.

Mr John Briscoe has indicated his willingness to continue as an appointed person for dispute resolutions.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes and approval is given for:-

- i. the appointment of the Borough Treasurer to consider disputes for Douglas Borough Council as an employing authority at Stage 1 of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures under the 2012 Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme; and
- ii. for the retention of Mr John Briscoe to be the appointed person acting for the Administering Authority at Stage 2 of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures under the 2012 Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme."

#### 8. Training – Investments and Strategy

Mr Mark Freeman of Hyman Robertson gave a training presentation on investments and strategy for the Pensions Scheme. The presentation included a broad overview of asset classes, the importance of investment strategy, the difference between active and passive asset management, the difference between pooled and direct investments, and an explanation of the central benchmark allocation percentage and the control ranges, an explanation of the different asset classes and an overview of the risks and returns associated with each asset class.

In his presentation, Mr Freeman then stated the pension scheme objective and explained the various ways in which the investment strategy enables that objective to be met.

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

#### 9. Adjournment and Resumption

The meeting adjourned at 1.20pm and resumed at 2.00pm when the same Members were present and Mr Chris Moore of BlackRock joined the meeting.

#### 10. Training – Investment Manager's Approach

Mr Chris Moore of BlackRock gave a training presentation on the company and its approach to investing the Pension Fund monies. The presentation included an overview of BlackRock, the Scheme's benchmark, and the team which manages the investments for the Fund and the current positioning.

BlackRock's target is to outperform the overall Scheme benchmark through active asset allocation between the individual asset classes and by active management of the underlying investments. The investment portfolio contains both segregated assets and pooled funds. The LGSS rules limit the amount which a scheme may invest in the pooled funds of any one investment manager to 35% of the total scheme assets. BlackRock therefore uses both in-house and third party funds within the investment portfolio so as to keep within this limit.

The presentation included an explanation of the interdependence of the portfolio construction and risk management and BlackRock's overall approach to risk.

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

### 11. Review of Investment Manager's Performance for First Quarter 2012 and Capital Markets Service

Mr Freeman of Hymans Robertson presented a report on the capital markets service and the quarterly monitoring report which gave an overview of market and BlackRock returns for the first quarter of 2012, the previous one year, three years and five years.

Overall investment returns for the Scheme for the first quarter of 2012 were 5.5% versus a benchmark of 5.2%. Over the last twelve months the Fund was 2.0% behind the benchmark. Underperformance can be predominately attributed to the performance of UK equities.

Market returns and a number of indicator charts were also considered.

Resolved, "That these reports be noted on the minutes."

#### 12. Investment Managers' Presentation by BlackRock

Mr Chris Moore presented the investment managers' report on performance in the first quarter of 2012. Markets were very volatile over the past quarter and have been for quite some time.

He set out the current position and summarised the changes in asset allocation. Various risks and the ways that these are managed were highlighted.

Mr Moore confirmed that Blackrock's view is that there are still five possible economic scenarios for 2012 and there is still a great deal of uncertainty.

Throughout the presentation there was discussion on the matters raised in the report.

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

#### 13. Items for Future Consideration

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Borough Treasurer setting out items that are to be considered at future meetings and to review any future training requirements. Where there has been a delay in reporting, the reason for this is outlined.

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

#### 14. **Date of Next Meetings**

The Committee discussed the schedule of upcoming meetings. In the new Standing Orders, meetings are set to start at 10.00am on the last Wednesday in the months of February, March, May, July, October and November. There was some discussion as to whether these dates and start times are appropriate for this Committee. It was noted that the May meetings could conflict with TT Practice week. It was also noted that Members would prefer future meetings to start at 11.00am. The Borough Treasurer agreed to look into matters raised in discussion and to report back at a future meeting.

Resolved, "That the discussion be noted on the minute."

#### 15. **Agenda Review**

The Committee undertook a review of the agenda and agreed that all items should be considered in public.

#### PART B -

#### Matters requiring Council Approval

#### 1. National Fraud Initiative – Mortality Check

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Borough Treasurer with a review of whether or not the Scheme should engage in the 2012/2013 National Fraud Initiative (NFI) Mortality Check. The Pension Scheme is exposed to the risk of fraud where pension payments continue to be made after the scheme member has died. Each year Life certificates are issued to all recipients of Pensions in payment requiring an independent witness to confirm that these individuals are still alive. The NFI in the United Kingdom compares information about individuals from a wide variety of sources which can give an indication if fraud is taking place. The cost of an NFI Mortality check for 2012/2013 is in the region of £2,250.

Capita Hartshead Tracing Solutions offer as an alternative a Mortality Screening facility using a number of different databases which match addresses, check deceased registers, registrar information, and funeral directors' services. The screening contract would cost £552 for a three-year contract to carry out regular monthly pensioner screening. An annual mortality screen on the deferred members could also be carried out for an additional £180 per year for each of the three years of the contract. In answer to question, it was confirmed that both United Kingdom and Isle of Man databases would be checked. The Committee noted that there are members in receipt of the pension who no longer live on the Island

Members were advised that whilst it is expected and hoped that no fraud would be detected, experience has shown that the savings to be made by stopping this sort of fraud would be much greater than the cost of carrying out a check.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes and approval given for Capita Hartshead Tracing Solutions to be engaged for a three year regular monthly pensioner mortality screening contract costing £552 together with a yearly mortality screen on the deferred members costing £180 each year."

The Committee rose at 3.40pm.

VII(i) – The Proceedings of the HOUSING AND PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE as follows:

### HOUSING AND PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HOUSING AND PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2012.

Members Present: Councillor Mrs. C.E. Malarkey (Chairman), the Mayor, Messrs Councillors J. Joughin, J.E. Skinner, S.C. Cain (from 10.10am).

In Attendance: Borough Treasurer, Assistant Town Clerk, Assistant Chief Officer (Finance), Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property), Housing Manager, Democratic Services Officer.

Declarations of Interest: There were no specific declarations of interest although some queries were raised. The Assistant Town Clerk reported that further advice will be provided as and when it is available.

#### **REPORT**

#### PART A -

Matters within the scope of the Advisory Committee's delegated authority

#### 1. Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr. Councillor J.E. Skinner was unanimously elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for the 2012/2013 municipal year.

#### 2. Review of Remit of the Advisory Committee

Members reviewed and discussed the remit of the Committee as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution. Officers in attendance offered explanations and answered questions about the functions included in the remit.

The Committee unanimously agreed to appoint these Members to act as 'champions' for the following areas:-

Mr. Councillor J. Joughin - Market Hall

Mr. Councillor J.E. Skinner - Commercial Properties

Mr. Councillor S.C. Cain - Housing Maintenance

For the time being, the Chairman agreed to act as champion for the non-housing property maintenance.

No specific topics for training were identified.

Resolved, "That the discussion and appointments be noted on the minutes."

#### 3. Items for Future Consideration

The Committee considered a report setting out items on which there are reports outstanding. There was some discussion of each of the items included in the schedule of future reports.

It was agreed that:-

Any suggestions for the proposed renaming of the flats on James Street and King Street be forwarded to the Housing Manager and that a report be brought back for consideration by the Committee at the July meeting.

No other amendments were made to the schedule of future reports, nor were any additional reports requested.

Resolved, "That the report and discussion be noted on the minutes."

The Chairman asked Members to note that there would be an official opening of the new properties in Upper Pulrose on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, at 3.00pm and that they were welcome to attend.

#### 4. Presentation on the On-going Housing Review Consultation

The Committee received a presentation on the Isle of Man Government Housing Review Consultation. The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) gave a thorough explanation of the financing of housing through the housing deficiency account. Topics covered included the way the rent is set, the relationship of rental income to maintenance costs, the arrangements for capital expenditure, the present cost and projections of future costs to Government of the housing deficiency account.

Members had a full copy of the Government consultation report, "Affordable Housing Provision on the Island". This consultation document has been initially considered by a special joint meeting of the Public Health and Housing and the Policy and Resources Committees in April, 2012. Members were also provided with copies of the internal report considered at that meeting and the subsequent minutes. Officers are currently preparing a detailed response to the consultation which will be presented to the Executive

Committee at its meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, then will be considered by the Council at a special meeting in order for the response to be submitted to the Department of Social Care by the closing date of 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.

There was then discussion on the standard of maintenance of properties, the length of time properties remain vacant between tenants, the advantages and disadvantages of maintenance staff being directly employed or engaged on a contract basis, the funding available and the funding required, and the various factors which encourage people to purchase a property or to rent a property.

It was suggested that Mr Robertshaw, the Minister for Social Care, be invited to attend a meeting of this Advisory Committee. After discussion, it was agreed that an invitation be issued for him to attend the September meeting of the Committee. In response to query, the Chairman confirmed that it is not appropriate for individual members to correspond directly with Mr Robertshaw or other MHKs on behalf of the Council.

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

#### PART B -

#### Matters requiring Executive Committee Approval

#### 1. **Meeting Times**

There was some general discussion about the start time for the meetings which is set at 10.00am.

Resolved, "That future meetings of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee start at 10.30am."

#### PART C-

#### Matters requiring Council Approval

No matters were considered which require Council approval.

The Advisory Committee rose at 11.45am.

VII(ii) – The proceedings of the REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE as follows:

# REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2012.

Members Present: Mr. Councillor S.R. Pitts (Chairman), the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. R. Chatel, Mr. Councillor G.J. Faragher, Councillor Mrs. D.A.M. Jallow, Mr. Councillor W.M. Malarkey.

In Attendance: Assistant Chief Executive, Assistant Town Clerk, Assistant Chief Officer (Finance), Assistant Borough Engineer, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate and Development), Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

#### **REPORT**

#### PARTA -

Matters within the scope of the Advisory Committee's delegated authority

#### 1. Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr. Councillor G.J. Faragher was unanimously elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for the 2012/2013 municipal year.

#### 2. Review of Remit for the Advisory Committee

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Town Clerk seeking Members to act as champions for various aspects of the Committee's remit.

The report suggested that Members of the Committee be appointed to act as champions in relation to Noble's Park, Cemetery and Crematorium, Library Services and Community Events. It was noted that throughout the writing of the Constitution it was envisaged that individual Members would be given the opportunity to take specific interest in certain functions and to be able to liaise with the respective Officers to ensure there that actions taken within those areas comply with Council policy.

Resolved, "That the following Members of the Committee be appointed to act as champions in relation to the four areas detailed;

Noble's Park - Mr. Councillor W.M. Malarkey

Cemetery and crematorium - Councillor Mrs. D.A.M. Jallow

Library Services - Councillor Mrs. R. Chatel

Community Events – Mr. Councillor G.J. Faragher."

#### 3. Items for Future Consideration

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Assistant Town Clerk on outstanding matters from previous Public Health and Housing Committee and Leisure Services Committee meetings.

Members were presented with a table of nine different matters and asked which items the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee would like to pursue. Members unanimously agreed to take each item forward. It was suggested that Members who did not know the background of certain matters be briefed after the meeting on each item as required.

Members made particular reference to certain matters detailed on the list. The Chairman asked for an update on the CCTV for Noble's Park and asked that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

Members asked for an update on the future of the BMX track and the lease agreement. The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed the draft lease has been sent to the BMX club. To date no formal written response has been received from the club.

In relation to the reinstatement of the Douglas Head amphitheatre, the Assistant Chief Executive requested guidance from Members as the land is not Council owned. It was agreed that the owner of the land be approached and asked to consider reinstating the amphitheatre with the support of the Council.

Resolved, "That the report and discussion be noted on the minutes and all nine matters for consideration be pursued by the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee."

#### 4. Noble's Park Kiosk and bowling clubhouse

The Committee reconsidered the demolition of the Noble's Park Kiosk part of which provides a bowling clubhouse.

Members requested background information on the Noble's Park Kiosk including a breakdown of the estimated costs for three options that were presented to the previous Leisure Services Committee.

Resolved, "That (i) the options for Noble's Park Kiosk and bowling clubhouse be reconsidered and all information required, including the breakdown of original costs, be provided to all Members of the Committee prior to the next meeting;

(ii) The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary of the Bowling Club be invited to attend the next meeting of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee."

#### 5. Noble's Park Five Year Plan

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive on the Noble's Park Five Year Plan.

Members were presented with a final version of the Noble's Park Five Year Plan consolidating the latest position arising from the 2012/2013 budget process.

The Assistant Borough Engineer informed Members that the planning application in principle to cover the Noble's Park tennis courts had been refused. Members instructed Officers to appeal the decision.

In answer to question, the Assistant Borough Engineer informed Members the planning application to allow HGV parking in Noble's Park was yet to be considered by the Planning Authority, despite the application being submitted in July 2011. The Assistant Borough Engineer agreed to discuss the application with the Department of Infrastructure.

A Member requested an update on the Community Nut Grove, the Assistant Chief Executive confirmed the trees had been purchased but were not yet strong enough to be planted, it was agreed a Briefing Note would be circulated.

Resolved, "That (i) the final version of the Noble's Park Five Year Plan be agreed;

- (ii) The Plan be released to the Council's intranet and all Council Members immediately, and to the Council's website following the June 2012 meeting of the Council;
- (iii) The Plan be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Council's budget making process;
- (iv) The Planning Department be contacted to
  - a) Appeal the refused planning application for the covering of the Noble's Park tennis courts;
  - b) Discuss the outstanding planning application in relation to HGV parking in Noble's Park."

### 6. Enhancing Public Consultation and Engagement with all Interested Parties in respect of the Noble's Park Five Year Plan

The Committee considered a request from a Council Member to consider enhancing public consultation and engagement with all interested parties in respect of the Noble's Park Five Year Plan.

It was noted that community engagement is considered as part of the Noble's Park Five Year Plan. Members discussed various options to enhance and engage interested parties including uploading questionnaires to the internet, consulting with sports clubs that use the park and inviting interested parties to a consultation, all of which had been carried out previously.

It was agreed that the Plan would be uploaded to the website, a press release would be issued and public consultation and engagement would be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the on-going review of the Five Year Plan.

Resolved, "That the Noble's Park Five Year Plan be uploaded to the website following the June 2012 meeting of the Council and a press release be prepared and issued."

#### 7. Community Room Update

Members requested an update on the daily operation of the Community Room following a complaint from a Member of the public who hired the room and on arrival the room was locked and had not been cleaned.

In answer to a question the Assistant Chief Executive confirmed this was an error on behalf of the company that opens and cleans the room. The issue has been discussed in detail with the company and an improved system has been put in place by the company to ensure the error does not reoccur.

It was noted that the customer received a full refund for the room hire at the cost of the company, not the Council.

Members made comment on the upkeep of the room and agreed the room required painting.

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

#### 8. **Party in the Park**

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Democratic Services Officer on arrangements for the Party in the Park.

It was noted that the staged area of the event was sponsored by PokerStars.

Members requested that a karting company be invited to operate in Nobles Park on the day of the Party in the Park.

Resolved, "That (i) the Party in the Park begin at 1:00pm and finish and at 6:00pm.

- (ii) That the package quote submitted by The Simply Stupid Agency, to provide clowns, children's entertainers and a balloon modeller, at a price of £400, be accepted for the event;
- (iii) That the quote for two Punch and Judy shows, at a cost of £150, be accepted;
- (iv) A karting company be invited to attend."

#### 9. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Democratic Services Officer updating on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacon lighting.

It was noted that the Douglas Borough Council beacon will be lit at 10.15pm at St Ninian's Church. Light refreshments will be provided by the Church, at the expense of the Council, from 9:30pm, the Douglas Town Band have agreed to perform at the event.

Resolved, "That the arrangements be noted and an additional £440 expenditure be approved to cover staff overtime and the production of a safety bracket for the event."

#### 10. Crematorium and Chapel Upgrades – Lawn Chapel Shelter

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Planned Maintenance Officer on the design work to the Lawn Chapel shelter element of the Crematorium and Chapel Capital project.

Members were asked to approve Architect's professional fees in the sum of £2,000 and Structural Engineer's fees of up to £4,000, it was noted that both fees would be subject to Treasury and the Department of Infrastructure approval.

Members requested the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) attend the next meeting of the Committee to provide Members with background on the Capital project, it was agreed that the Lawn Chapel shelter item be deferred pending the presentation.

The Mayor made reference to a resolution in previous minutes regarding a report that was requested detailing the additional expenditure in relation the Capital project. Members requested that this item be included on items for future reports to be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee. Members made particular reference to the increased cost of mercury abatement and enquired if further quotes had been sought from other suppliers.

Resolved, "That the Lawn Chapel shelter element of the Crematorium and Chapel Capital project be deferred pending further information, in the form of a presentation, by the Assistant Chief Officer (Housing and Property) at the next meeting of the Committee."

#### 11. **Agenda Review**

The Committee undertook an Agenda review and considered all items to be public.

#### PART B -

#### Matters requiring Executive Committee Approval

#### 1. Time of Meeting

Members discussed the start time of the meeting.

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs. R. Chatel, seconded by Mr. Councillor S.R. Pitts, "That the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee meet at a later time of 10.30am for all monthly meetings."

Further Motion moved by Mr. Councillor W.M. Malarkey, seconded by Mr. Councillor G.J. Faragher, "That the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee meet at earlier time of 9.30am for all monthly meetings."

Question put on the Motion moved by Councillor Mrs. R. Chatel.

#### For: 3 Against: 2

On that Motion being carried, Mr. Councillor W.M. Malarkey's Motion fell.

The recommendation to the Executive Committee is therefore that in reviewing Standing Orders the time of the meeting of this Committee should be changed to 10.30am.

#### PART C -

#### Matters requiring Council Approval

There were no matters requiring Council approval.

The Advisory Committee rose at 11.00am.

VII(iii) – The proceedings of the ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE as follows:

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012.

Members Present: Mr. Councillor R.H. McNicholl (Chairman), the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. S.D.A. Hackman, Messrs Councillors C.C. Thomas, A.V. Quirk.

Apologies: Mr. Councillor C.L.H. Cain.

In Attendance: Borough Engineer and Surveyor (from 10.00am to 11.05am), Borough Treasurer, Assistant Town Clerk, Building Control Manager, Senior Accountancy Officer, Democratic Services Officer.

#### REPORT

#### PARTA -

Matters within the scope of the Advisory Committee's delegated authority

#### 1. Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Mrs. S.D.A. Hackman was unanimously elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for the 2012/2013 municipal year.

#### 2. Review of Remit of the Advisory Committee

Members reviewed and discussed in detail the remit of the Committee as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution. Officers in attendance offered explanations and answered questions about the areas included in the remit.

Each of the Members of the Committee agreed to accept an appointment to act as a 'champion' for one area within the Committee's portfolio of work. In discussion, the Assistant Town Clerk advised that the 'champions' will not be able to make lone decisions on their area, but will meet with the relevant officers for short briefing sessions. These briefing sessions will be set up shortly. This will enable officers to pay close attention to Members' views. Reports will still be written by officers but the 'champions' may have an input into those reports. All agreed that these roles will evolve and develop.

The Committee noted that whilst decorative lighting in most areas of the town had been under the control of the former Public Works Committee, several years ago responsibility for the decorative lighting in Summerhill Glen had been transferred to the former Leisure Services Committee. There was uncertainty as to which of the new Advisory Committees would be responsible for the decorative lighting in Summerhill Glen and it was suggested that further investigation and report on the matter was needed.

The Committee unanimously agreed to appoint these Members to act as 'champions' for the following areas:-

Councillor Mrs. S.D.A. Hackman - Streetscene and the "Cleaner, Safer, Greener" agenda

Mr. Councillor A.V. Quirk - Lighting

Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas - Waste Management

Mr. Councillor C.L.H. Cain - Car Parks

No specific topics for training were identified.

Resolved, "That the discussion and appointments be noted on the minutes."

#### 3. Items for Future Consideration

The Committee considered a report setting out items on which there are reports outstanding. There was some discussion of each of the items included in the schedule of future reports.

It was agreed that:-

The title of the first report should be changed to a review of the whole of waste management rather than a review of street cleaning. The Borough Engineer and Surveyor stated that hopefully this report should be ready for consideration in July, although this topic encompasses a number of different inter-related issues.

That a report be brought to this Committee which had been previously requested by the Public Works Committee seeking an explanation as to why a lamppost had been erected in Woodbourne Road Lane before specific committee approval had been sought.

The scope of the report on the current planning consultation on the Lower Douglas Master Plan should be widened to include comment on the impact of the recent Planning and Policy Statement on the planning framework in Douglas including the 1998 local plan; and evidence that the current planning framework inhibits sustainable development.

No other amendments were made to the schedule of future reports, nor were any additional reports requested.

Resolved, "That the report and discussion be noted on the minutes."

#### 4. Correspondence regarding the Planning Committee

The Committee considered a letter from the Department of Infrastructure to all Local Authorities inviting each one to identify a Member who would regularly attend Planning Committee meetings as an observer. Members were advised that the Planning Committee meets every two weeks and only a portion of the business on the Agenda relates to Douglas. Given the frequency of the meetings, it was agreed that it may be difficult for one Member to regularly attend.

Resolved, "That the correspondence be noted on the minutes and approval given for the Chairman to attend the Planning Committee meetings; and for Mr. Councillor C. C. Thomas or Mr. Councillor J.E. Skinner to serve as nominated substitutes on the occasions when the Chairman is unable to attend, if this arrangement is acceptable to the Department."

#### 5. Naming of New Housing Development at Pulrose Farm, Douglas

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Senior Building Control Officer setting out suggestions for naming of the new housing estate currently under construction on Pulrose Farm off the New Castletown Road. The new estate includes both houses and apartments. The name 'Hampton Farm' was proposed for the estate as at one time the area was farmed by people named 'Hampton'; and the name 'Fairways Court' was proposed for the apartments as they faced the golf course fairway. It was noted that the Post Office has highlighted that the name 'Fairways' is used in other parts of the Island, although not in Douglas.

Resolved, "That particulars of the report be noted on the minutes and approval be given for the streets within the estate to be named 'Hampton Farm' and the apartments within the estate to be named "Fairways Court, Hampton Farm"."

#### 6. Naming of Pedestrian Lane in Douglas Town Centre

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Senior Building Control Officer setting out suggestions for the naming of a pedestrian lane linking Market Street and Castle Street. Whilst there are no postal addresses on the lane, it is an important pedestrian thoroughfare in the town.

Resolved, "That the report be noted on the minutes and approval be given for the pedestrian lane linking Market Street and Castle Street to be named "Well Road Lane"."

### 7. Presentation on the Council Procedures for dealing with dangerous, neglected, ruinous and dilapidated properties

The Building Control Manager gave a presentation to Committee on the procedures for dealing with properties which are dangerous, neglected, ruinous, dilapidated. The presentation included details of the legislation in relation under which the Council takes action and explanations of the process. The Building Control Manager confirmed that the only matters which are considered in public are in connection with those properties where a Nuisance Abatement Notice has been served or where the matter has to proceed to Court. In discussion, Members agreed that they still wish a list of dilapidated properties to be brought to the Committee for consideration. There was further discussion as to the relationship between zero-rated properties and those which are dilapidated. The Senior Accountancy Officer advised that property owners are still liable for rates even when the property is empty; only properties which are deemed to be uninhabitable can be zero-rated. It was agreed that further information should be brought to the Committee on this point.

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

#### PART B -

#### Matters requiring Executive Committee Approval

#### 1. Remit of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee – Beach Cleaning

The Committee noted that Beach Cleaning was an area of responsibility not included in any committee's remit. As the cleaning contract for Douglas Beach was formerly under the control of the Public Works Committee, and the Cleaner Safer, Greener is now within the remit of this committee, Members are of the view that responsibility for beach cleaning should be within delegated to this Committee.

Resolved, "That cleaning of Douglas Beach be included within the remit of the Environmental Services Committee."

#### PART C -

#### Matters requiring Council Approval

No matters were considered which require Council approval.

The Advisory Committee rose at 12.05pm.