



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

10th November, 2021

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 10th day of NOVEMBER, 2021, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

MRS RAINA CHATEL, JP

Councillors

Miss N.A. Byron

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Mr D.R. Watson

Mr S.R. Crellin

Mr F. Schuengel

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr F. Horning

Ms J. Thommeny

Mr P.J. Washington

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

1. **Minutes – 13th October, 2021**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 13th October, 2021, were approved and signed.

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

Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts asked the Leader of the Council:

- 1.1 *Why was the decision made to allocate only two polling stations for each constituency at the Douglas Borough Council Elections on 22 July 2021?*
- 1.2 *When was the decision made and by whom?*
- 1.3 *Can the residents of Douglas not be treated the same at election time for both House of Keys and Council when all areas are now the same?*
- 1.4 *Was the Cabinet Office consulted in relation to the polling stations to be used in the General Election?*
- 1.5 *If the Cabinet Office wasn't consulted, did the decision maker know which polling stations would be used in each constituency and in each area within that constituency?*
- 1.6 *Why was there inconsistency with the Keys Elections and the designation of the polling stations, so that residents of Douglas were not treated the same in each election in some cases having to go to different polling stations when voting in the same constituency area?*

Response by the Leader of the Council:

- 1.1 *The decision about allocation of polling stations for each Ward in the Douglas Borough Council elections was made on the basis of which premises were available and accessible, following several weeks of research and enquiries.*
- 1.2 *The decision was made by the Returning Officer in late June, 2021.*
- 1.3 *Ideally, to avoid confusing voters, the same premises would be used as polling stations for both House of Keys and Borough Council elections. However the elections are managed separately and under slightly different legislation.*
- 1.4 *The Cabinet Office was not consulted over the location of the polling stations for the House of Keys elections; at the time of having to decide on the stations for the Council elections, it is unlikely that the information on which premises would be used for the Keys elections would have been available. It is also unclear that, at the time, the Cabinet Office would have an overall view of the polling stations that might have been chosen by the respective Returning Officers.*
- 1.5 *No.*
- 1.6 *The inconsistency arose because of the separate organisation behind each of the elections, but was emphasised by the proximity of the dates of the elections in 2021, which is unlikely to ever happen again.*

Supplementary Question:

Would the Leader not agree that the turn out could have been a lot higher if more polling stations were available when the council elections were held on 22 July 2021 which was one of the hottest days of the year?

Response by the Leader of the Council:

Madam Mayor, I feel that better co-ordination between the Returning Officers for the respective elections might have helped ease any confusion and provided more consistency for voters.

But I do not accept the premise that more polling stations would necessarily have led to higher turnout. All voters in both elections had received a poll card advising them of the location of their polling station. Failure to vote is largely down to inertia, rather than any lack of information. It was a very hot day, but there is little that can be done about that.

3. **Executive Committee – 29th October, 2021 – Clause A6 sub-clause A4**

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985 Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner and the Director of Environment and Regeneration declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A6, sub-clause A4 of report of meeting held on Friday, 29th October, 2021, be received by the Council."

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

4. Executive Committee – 29th October, 2021 – Clause A6 sub-clause A12

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985 Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A6 sub-clause A12 of report of meeting held on Friday, 29th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

5. Executive Committee – 29th October, 2021 – Clauses A1 to A5 and A7 to A17

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A5, and A7 to A17 inclusive of report of meeting held on Friday, 29th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there **For** the Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington – **11**

Against: Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner - **1**

Motion carried.

6. Executive Committee – 29th October, 2021 – Clause C18

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C18 of report of meeting held on Friday, 29th October, 2021, be received, approved, and adopted by the Council.”

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

7. Executive Committee – 29th October, 2021 – Clause C19

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C19 of report of meeting held on Friday, 29th October, 2021, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there **For** the Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington – **11**

Against: Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner - **1**

Motion carried.

8. Executive Committee – 29th October, 2021 – Clause C20

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C20 of report of meeting held on Friday, 29th October, 2021, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

9. Pensions Committee – 27th October, 2021 Clauses A1 to A9

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 Clauses A1 to A9 inclusive of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 27th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

10. Pensions Committee – 27th October, 2021 Clause C10

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 Clause C10 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 27th October, 2021, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

Against: Councillors: Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr P.J. Washington – **3**

Motion carried.

11. Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 5th October, 2021

Motion moved by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, seconded by Mr Councillor F Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 5th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

12. Housing and Property Committee – 20th October, 2021

Motion moved by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 20th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

13. Regeneration and Community Committee – 19th October, 2021

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 19th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

14. Environmental Services Committee – 18th October, 2021 Clause A6

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Committee, as contained in Clause A6 of report of meeting held on Monday, 18th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there **For** the Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J Bentley, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr P.J. Washington – **10**

Against: Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts and Ms J. Thommeny – **2**

Motion carried.

15. Environmental Services Committee – 18th October, 2021 Clauses A1 toA5 and A7 to B18

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 Clauses A1 to A5 and A7 to B18 inclusive of report of meeting held on Monday, 18th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

16. Adjournment and Resumption.

The meeting adjourned at 4.36pm and resumed at 4.50pm with the same Members and Officers present.

IN PRIVATE

17. Executive Committee – 29th October, 2021 – Clause A3, sub-clause B19, Resolution (ii)

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A3, sub-clause B19, resolution (ii) of private report of meeting held on Friday, 29th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

Further motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny “That the Council consider Clause A3, sub-clause B19, Resolution (ii) in Committee.”

Question put on Motion to move into Committee, a vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr I.J.G Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington - **9**

Against – Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, and Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts – **3**

Further Motion moved by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, “That proceedings resume in Council.”

Question put on Motion to move back into Council, a vote was taken electronically and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Question put on original 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 I.J.G Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington – **11**

Against - Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner **1**

Motion carried.

18. Executive Committee – 29th October – Clauses A1, A2, A3 sub-clause B19, resolutions (i) and (iii) and A4 to A7

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1, A2, A3 sub-clause B19, resolutions (i) and (iii) and A4 to A7 inclusive of private report of meeting held on Friday, 29th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr I.J.G Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington – **11**

Against - Councillor Miss N.A. Byron – **1**

19. Attendance

Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague submitted his apologies and left the meeting at 5.47pm.

20. Pensions Committee – 27th October, 2021

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of Pensions Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 27th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

21. Housing and Property Committee – 20th October, 2021

Motion moved by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor S. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 20th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

22. Regeneration and Community Committee – 19th October, 2021

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 19th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

23. Environmental Services Committee – 18th October, 2021

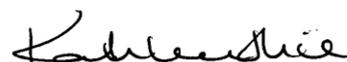
Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Monday, 18th October, 2021, be received by the Council.”

Question put on original 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, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington – **10**

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

Motion carried.

The Council rose at 6.05pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive