

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** held in the Boardroom, Hawthorn Villa, 79 Main Road, Onchan, on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7:00 pm.

<b>Present:</b>	Mr A Allen	(Chairman)
	Mr A Gibson	(Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services)
	Mr O Lockwood	(Lead Member for Finance and General Purposes)
	Miss G Corkish	
	Mr D Quirk	
	Mr R Turton	
<b>Remote Attendance:</b>	Mr S Wilson	(Vice Chairman and Lead Member for Housing)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Miss A Goldsmith	(Deputy Clerk)
	Mrs S Johnson	(Chief Finance Officer)
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mr R Phillips	(Chief Executive/Clerk)
	Mr R Forgie	(District Surveyor)
	Miss A Crellin	(Executive Officer/Assistant)

**C26/04/02/01**

**TO CHOOSE A PERSON TO PRESIDE IF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN BE ABSENT**

Not applicable.

**C26/04/02/02**

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS (in accordance with Standing Order 18.3)**

Mr Allen asked the Board Members and Officers if they wished to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda items due to be considered this evening.

Mr Allen reminded the Board Members and Officers that declarations of interests can be recorded now or when the agenda item is due to be considered during the meeting.

**C26/04/02/03**

**BUSINESS REQUIRED TO BE DEALT WITH BY STATUTE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**C26/04/02/04**

**MINUTES**

1. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated, were considered.

Amendments:

Page 3 - **Finance and General Purposes**

“Draft 2024/35 Year End Accounts” amend to “draft 2024/25 Year End Accounts”

- Page 5 - **Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023**
- 1<sup>st</sup> bullet point amend reference to “Tynwald” to the “House of Keys”.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point amend reference to “Tynwald” to the “House of Keys”.
- Page 5 - Final paragraph amend “Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2025” to “Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023.”

Subject to the above amendment, it was proposed by Mr Lockwood and seconded by Miss Corkish and unanimously **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Board Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.**

**C26/04/02/05**

**TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ARISING FROM SUCH MINUTES**

None.

**C26/04/02/06**

**TO DISPOSE OF ANY BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING**

None.

**C26/04/02/07**

**TO DEAL WITH ANY BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE**

None.

**C26/04/02/08**

**PLANNING DECISIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE ISLE OF MAN GOVERNMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**(i) PA 26/00166/B Onchan School – Forest School Area, School Road**

Board Members were advised that the planning application is for the erection of a pergola.

In answer to questions, the District Surveyor advised:

- Comments have been received from neighbouring properties; and
- The return date for the planning application is 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Gibson and seconded by Mr Wilson and unanimously **RESOLVED that planning application 26/00166/B – Onchan School Forest School Area be recommended for approval.**

C26/04/02/09FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES1. Lead Member Report – Quarter 4

It was noted that the report relates to the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

The contents of the report were noted.

C26/04/02/10CONSIDERATION OF ANY REPORTS FROM THE CLERK AND OTHER OFFICERS1. Special Leave Policy & Procedure

The report of the Chief Executive/Clerk dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026<sup>[ODC 18/05/2026]</sup>, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with the following overview:

- The Authority's current Special Leave Policy and Procedure was due to be reviewed in February 2025, but due to the Chief Executive/Clerk's workload the deadline for review was missed.
- The Board is asked to consider the approval and implementation of an updated Special Leave Policy and Procedure which is based on the wording of the Public Service Commission and National Joint Council policies and procedures of the same title; and
- Noted feedback from staff who have tried to use the current policy and procedure and found errors, inconsistencies, and a lack of information to provide guidance.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Lockwood and Mr Wilson agreed that aligning the suggested policy and procedure with that of the Isle of Man Government made sense, and noted the consultation with the Authority's human resources advisors and Douglas City Council.
- Mr Gibson highlighted a typing error in Section 5.4 of the document relating to the incorrect spelling of bereavement; and
- All of the Board Members were in favour of the newly proposed Special Leave Policy and Procedure.

Subject to the spelling amendment of bereavement in Section 5.4, it was proposed by Mr Lockwood and seconded by Mr Turton and unanimously **RESOLVED that the 2026 Special Leave Policy and Procedure is approved and is to be implemented with immediate effect.**

2. Isle of Pride Event – Update

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with the following update:

- The event organisers have decided that they will not be holding the Isle of Pride Event this year; and
- An event for next year is being planned, and the organisers may consider approaching the Board again for approval to use Onchan Pleasure Park to host the event.

C26/04/02/11CONSIDERATION OF ANY CORRESPONDENCE1. Mona's Queen III Anchor Memorial Service – Invitation

A copy of the invitation received from Port St Mary Commissioners inviting Board Members to attend the Mona's Queen III Anchor Memorial Service on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026, at 7:00 pm at the Anchor Memorial Site, Kallow Point, copies of which having previously been circulated were considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk requested that any Board Members who wish to attend the event contact the Executive Officer/Assistant, who will respond on their behalf.

## **2. Isle of Man Municipal Association – Annual General Meeting & Dinner**

A copy of the invitation from the Isle of Man Municipal Association to attend the Annual General Meeting and Dinner of Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at the Sound Café at 7:00 pm, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk requested that any Board Members who wish to attend contact the Executive Officer/Assistant, who will respond on their behalf.

## **3. Junior Achievement Isle of Man – Request to use Onchan Pleasure Park**

A copy of the correspondence dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026, received from Junior Achievement Isle of Man to hold a treasure hunt at Onchan Pleasure Park on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The Chief Executive/Clerk provided the Board with the following overview:

- Before 2020, Junior Achievement Isle of Man previously held a number of events in Onchan Pleasure Park.
- Junior Achievement are looking to reintroduce events and would like to propose a treasure hunt within Onchan Pleasure Park on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2026, with a contingency date of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2026; and
- Noted that there are no conflicts with other events in the Park on the proposed dates, and it is envisaged that the event would not disrupt the ordinary activities of the Park tenants.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Board will support the proposed event being hosted at Onchan Pleasure Park, and that the Chief Executive/Clerk advise Junior Achievement.

### **C26/04/02/12**

#### **TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 25**

None.

### **C26/04/02/13**

#### **TO CONSIDER ANY MOTIONS**

## **1. Motion 77 – Submitted under Standing Order 19**

Mr Allen advised the Board that Motion 77 had been tabled by Mr Wilson and seconded by Miss Corkish at the previous meeting and that the Board Members can now debate the matter.

Mr Wilson advised the Board that the motion states “*that the Authority agrees to introduce a structured opportunity for members of the public who attend Ordinary Board Meetings to ask questions of the Chairman or relevant Commissioners, in order to enhance transparency, accessibility, and public engagement in the Authority's decision making processes*”.

Mr Wilson provided the Board with the following comments:

- Following advice obtained from the Chief Executive/Clerk, it is now proposed that the implementation date needs to be changed to make allowance for the Authority's Standing Orders to be updated.
- Although the motion does not express it, it is proposed that questions from members of the public would need to be submitted in writing one week before the Ordinary Meetings are held to allow the Board Members to investigate and prepare responses if required.
- It is suggested that the question period be introduced within the agenda running order after the appointment of the Chairman, Declarations of Interest, and Business Required by Statute to be Considered Before any Other Business.
- It is proposed that the Chairman shall have the full discretion to determine the relevance to admissibility of questions, refuse questions that are defamatory, inappropriate, or outside the remit of the Authority.
- Proposed that questions raised and considered in an Ordinary Meeting shall be recorded in the minutes; however, those raising the questions will not be named within the minutes.
- Proposed that the introduction of the public question period shall operate on a trial basis for a period of three months from the date of the resolution, and at the conclusion of the trial period, the Board shall formally review the effectiveness, impact and operational implications of the arrangement.
- Should substantive concerns arise, the Board may, by way of a further motion, amend or discontinue the arrangement.
- At present, members of the public attending Ordinary Board Meetings are permitted to observe proceedings but are not afforded any structured opportunity to participate. This creates a clear limitation in terms of accessibility and public engagement.
- Notably, Braddan Parish Commissioners have already implemented a model that allows for public participation within their Ordinary Board Meetings. This demonstrates that such an approach is both workable and capable of being managed effectively within a formal meeting structure.
- In contrast, Ramsey Town Commissioners have introduced separate public accountability meetings. While this represents a step towards public engagement, it is notably detached from the Authority's formal decision making processes, and does not allow for questions to be raised in the context of live agenda items.
- A similar proposal was previously considered by the Authority under Motion 69 in 2023, which was not supported at that time; however, expectations of openness and engagement in public administration continue to evolve, and it is increasingly difficult to justify a position where members of the public may observe decisions being made, but are not permitted to ask questions in a structured and controlled manner; and
- This motion does not propose an unrestricted or unmanaged approach. It introduces clear safeguards, including time limits and the Chairman's discretion, ensuring that meetings remain orderly and focused.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Turton expressed that he had concerns regarding how the questions will be asked, as it would be unfair for the questions to be asked at the meeting as the Board Members would not have been given any time to investigate information and to prepare their answers; however, following Mr Wilson's explanation of the proposal, he is now assured that time would be given to be pre-prepared.
- Mr Turton suggested that the current Board should consider live streaming the Authority's public session of the Ordinary Meetings to further enhance transparency and openness.
- Mr Quirk confirmed that he is supportive of the motion and that he too would like to see live streaming of the Authority's public meetings being introduced.

- Mr Quirk recommended that the motion be amended to only allow ratepayers of the District to raise questions, not members of the general public as worded within the motion.
- Mr Gibson confirmed that he is in favour of the motion, including Mr Quirk's proposed amendment to include ratepayers as opposed to members of the public.
- Miss Corkish confirmed that she still supports the motion, as well as the proposed amendment.
- Mr Lockwood recommended that the motion needs to be amended so that a workable process is operated for a trial period, which can then be codified in Standing Orders.
- Mr Lockwood agreed with Mr Wilson's proposal that questions should be submitted in advance as this will enable the Board Members to give more considered responses; and
- Mr Lockwood suggested that questions initially directed to a particular Board Member should be allowed to be opened to other Board Members should their input provide useful information, and that the Chairman should have discretion on whether to allow supplementary questions if the questioner believes the initial question has not been fully answered, but to restrict them when a large number of questions have been received.

Mr Allen asked if any of the Board Members had any more comments to consider before proceeding with the motion. No further comments were received.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised the Board that there are proposed amendments which are not covered within the current wording of the motion that will need to be considered before proceeding to a resolution. The amendments include that any questions be pre-prepared, only ratepayers' questions will be accepted, that the initiative will be trialled for three months followed by a review, and the new initiative is subject to the amendment of the Authority's Standing Orders.

Mr Wilson proposed that the motion be amended to state "*that the Authority agrees to introduce a structured opportunity for ratepayers of the District to ask preprepared questions of the Chairman or relevant Commissioners, in order to enhance transparency, accessibility, and public engagement in the Authority's decision making process, for a trial period of 3 months which will be followed by a review, and subject to the Authority's Standing Orders being amended accordingly to make such procedural provision.*"

Miss Corkish seconded the amended motion.

Following advice obtained from the Chief Executive/Clerk, Mr Allen confirmed that under the provision of the Authority's Standing Order 21.2 he will allow the amended motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward as it is conducive to the despatch of business.

**Following a discussion, the amended Motion 77 was proposed by Mr Wilson, seconded by Mr Lockwood, and unanimously RESOLVED that the Authority agrees to introduce a structured opportunity for ratepayers of the District to ask prepared questions of the Chairman or relevant Commissioners, in order to enhance transparency, accessibility, and public engagement in the Authority's decision making process, for a trial period of 3 months and subject to the Authority's Standing Orders being amended accordingly to make such procedural provision.**

## **2. Motion 78 – Submitted under Standing Order 19**

Mr Allen advised the Board that Motion 78 had been tabled by Mr Wilson and seconded by Miss Corkish at the previous meeting and that the Board Members can now debate the matter.

Mr Wilson advised that the motion states *“that the Authority agrees to amend its current approach to recording of Board Meeting Minutes, as established by Motion 69 (March 2024) in order to enhance transparency, accountability, and clarity in its decision making processes.*

*That the motion shall replace the resolution adopted under Motion 69 and introduce the recording of individual Board Members' names when relevant within the Minutes of Board Meetings, rather than being limited only to recording attendances at meetings and events, declaration of interests, whom questions submitted under Standing Orders have been submitted”.*

Mr Wilson provided the Board with the following comments:

- The proposed scope of the recording of Board Members' names includes:-
  - Contributions made during the discussion where these materially inform the decision.
  - Attendances at meetings and events.
  - Declarations of Interests.
  - Who questions submitted under Standing Orders have been submitted by.
  - Proposers and seconders of motions; and
  - Voting in relation to resolutions of the Board.
- There would be a trial period of three months from the date of the resolution, and at the conclusion of the trial period, the Board shall formally review the effectiveness, impact and operational implications of the arrangement.
- Should substantive concerns arise, the Board may, by way of further motion, amend or discontinue the arrangement.
- The current approach to recording minutes, including the exclusion of Board Member names from general discussion, arises from a resolution of the Authority under Motion 69 recorded in March 2024, rather than from any statutory or legal requirement.
- Guidance previously issued to Board Members confirmed that there is no prescribed statutory definition or format for Minutes, and that local authorities may adopt different approaches depending on their governance procedures.
- Guidance has been obtained from the Chief Executive/Clerk in relation to professional guidance, such as Knowles on Local Authority Meetings, a Manual of Law and Practice, the Association of Democratic Service Officers, and the Department of Infrastructure Local Authority Handbook, which support the Authority's right to retain full discretion to determine the level of detail and transparency within its official minutes.
- The Authority's current format is described as a compromise between a narrative record and a resolution based record, with the explicit position that contributions are summarised, but not attributed to individual Board Members; however, the same guidance confirms that Board Members' names are already recorded in specific circumstances including attendance, voting and procedural matters. This demonstrates that the exclusion of names from broader discussion is not a legal necessity, but a discretionary limitation introduced through local resolution.
- It is therefore difficult to justify the continued restriction on recording Board Member contributions, particularly in the context of modern expectations of openness in public administration.
- The absence of named contributions can limit the clarity of the public record and reduce accountability, particularly where decisions are significant to residents and stakeholders.
- This motion adopts a measured and proportionate approach. It does not impose an immediate permanent change, but instead introduces a defined trial period, allowing the Board to assess the practical implications before determining whether to adopt the approach on a longer term basis<sup>[ODC 18/05/2026]</sup>; and
- In doing so, it provides an opportunity to align the Authority's practices with broader standards of transparency, while retaining appropriate safeguards and flexibility.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Mr Lockwood agreed that the proposed provision that only<sup>[ODC 18/05/2026]</sup> contributions that materially inform the decision should be attributed to individual Board Members is important as the Board papers do not, and cannot, include all the information that Board Members take into account when reaching their decisions. For example, it is not unusual for Board Members to vote the opposite way from what they expected going into meetings, and the Minutes should not attribute comments to Board Members who ended up voting the opposite way from what the comments suggest.
- Mr Lockwood recommended that when drafting the Minutes, Officers should err on the side of caution when deciding whether to identify Board Members by name, as it will not show the Authority in a positive light if the Board decides at a meeting to remove a name from the minutes.
- Mr Turton raised concerns regarding the Minutes becoming a verbatim record of what was said, rather than a formal recollection and record of the proceedings and decisions made.
- Mr Quirk stated that when relevant, Board Members should be named in the Minutes as members of the media and general public who attend the meetings in person know which Board Members are being referred to in the Minutes;
- Collectively, the Board Members are in favour of the proposed change to the recording of the Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr Allen asked if any of the Board Members had any more comments to consider before proceeding with the motion. No further comments were received.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that there is a matter which is not covered within the wording of the current motion relating to a three months trial period of the initiative.

Mr Wilson proposed that the motion be amended to state *“that the Authority agrees to amend its current approach to the recording of Board Meeting Minutes, as established by Motion 69 (March 2024), in order to enhance transparency, accountability, and clarity in its decision making processes. Furthermore, that this motion shall replace the resolution adopted under Motion 69 and introduce the recording of individual Board Members names when relevant within the Minutes of Board Meetings for a trial<sup>[ODC 18/05/2026]</sup> period of three months, rather than being limited only to recording attendances at meetings and events, declarations of interest, whom questions submitted under Standing Orders have been submitted by, proposer and seconders of motions and voting in relation to resolutions set by the Board.”*

Miss Corkish seconded the amended motion.

Following advice obtained from the Chief Executive/Clerk, Mr Allen confirmed that under the provision of the Authority’s Standing Order 21.2 he will allow the amended motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward as it is conducive to the despatch of business.

**Following a discussion, the amended Motion 78 was proposed by Mr Wilson, seconded by Miss Corkish, and unanimously RESOLVED that the Authority agrees to amend its current approach to the recording of Board Meeting Minutes, as established by Motion 69 (March 2024), in order to enhance transparency, accountability, and clarity in its decision making processes. Furthermore, that this motion shall replace the resolution adopted under Motion 69 and introduce the recording of individual Board Members names when relevant within the Minutes of Board Meetings for a trail period of three months, rather than being limited only to recording attendances at meetings and events, declarations of interest, whom**

**questions submitted under Standing Orders have been submitted by, proposer and seconders of motions and voting in relation to resolutions set by the Board.**

Mr Allen queried when the change to the Minutes would be effective from.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that it would be effective from tonight's meeting.

### **3. Motion 79 – Submitted under Standing Order 19**

Miss Corkish tabled Motion 79:

*“That the Board requests a comprehensive review of all existing play area equipment and play apparatus currently provided within Onchan Pleasure Park be undertaken, and that a subsequent report be provided to the Board for consideration.”*

*Additionally, as part of the review and report, accessibility within Onchan Pleasure Park play area must be considered”.*

The motion was proposed by Miss Corkish and seconded by Mr Wilson.

Miss Corkish requested that Mr Allen give consideration to allowing the motion to be dealt with during the meeting under the Authority's Standing Order 19.5.

Mr Allen agreed that the motion can be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward as it is conducive to the despatch of the business.

Miss Corkish provided the following comments:

- Every child deserves a chance to develop. It is important as a local authority to take action, as the Authority is coming into the period where Onchan Pleasure Park will be more heavily used and that a review does need to be undertaken.
- It is important to realise that every child matters, including those with disabilities and limitations; and
- An overall strategic review should be undertaken, rather than just reviewing health and safety matters, as this is already carried out periodically.

A discussion in relation to the following took place:

- Noted that the Board Members all favour the proposal in principle.
- Mr Turton raised concerns regarding who has the relevant qualifications to undertake the review and what the costs will be.
- Mr Wilson provided examples of families with children who are affected by the lack of inclusive play equipment throughout the Island's play parks.
- Mr Wilson suggested that the motion be expanded to include all of the Authority's play areas.
- Mr Lockwood noted that he agrees with the sentiment of the motion, but urges caution in relation to any necessary expenditure required if equipment were to be replaced after the completion of a review, as no provision has been made within the current financial year budget and District Rate setting.
- Mr Gibson supported Mr Lockwood's comments, and highlighted that the motion only refers to Onchan Pleasure Park, so if it is proposed to encompass all of the Authority's play areas then an amendment to the motion is required.
- Mr Turton recommended that if play equipment requires replacing after the reviews are undertaken, then a phased approach should be considered to spread the cost, as play equipment costs are high; and
- Mr Quirk raised concerns regarding the cost of undertaking the inspections and reviews, and suggested that the District Surveyor undertake the reviews as he recently obtained qualifications in relation to play area safety.

The District Surveyor and Mr Gibson advised that if the Board wish to obtain a review, it be undertaken by a competent person or company who specialises in accessibility of play areas.

Mr Allen asked if any of the Board Members had any more comments to consider before proceeding with the motion. No further comments were received.

The Chief Executive/Clerk advised that the proposed amendment to the motion regarding including all of the Authority's play areas for review is required to be considered prior to progressing to a resolution.

Miss Corkish proposed that the motion be amended to state *“that the Board requests a comprehensive review of all existing play area equipment and play apparatus currently provided within Onchan Pleasure Park be undertaken, and that a subsequent report be provided to the Board for consideration. Furthermore, that as part of a review and report, accessibility within all Onchan District Commissioner's play areas must be considered.”*

Mr Wilson seconded the amended motion.

Following advice obtained from the Chief Executive/Clerk, Mr Allen confirmed that under the provision of the Authority's Standing Order 21.2 he will allow the amended motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward as it is conducive to the despatch of business.

**Motion 79 was proposed by Miss Corkish, and seconded by Mr Wilson and unanimously RESOLVED that the Board requests a comprehensive review of all existing play area equipment and play apparatus currently provided within Onchan Pleasure Park be undertaken, and that a subsequent report be provided to the Board for consideration. Furthermore, that as part of a review and report, accessibility within all Onchan District Commissioner's play areas must be considered.**

The District Surveyor confirmed that he will approach companies to obtain quotations to undertake the requested review and report.

#### **4. Motion 80 – Submitted under Standing Order 19**

Mr Allen tabled Motion 80:

*“That the Board will consider and set all future District Rates during the In Public section of Ordinary and Extra Ordinary Board Meetings commencing from the 2027/28 financial year”.*

Motion 80 was proposed by Mr Allen and seconded by Mr Lockwood and will stand adjourned without discussion until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Authority to be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

**C26/04/02/14**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES**

#### **1. Onchan Pleasure Park – Multi Play Equipment Replacement Options**

A copy of the report of the Environmental and Technical Services Manager, dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The District Surveyor provided the Board with the following overview:

- Officers reported to the Board on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the requirement to remove an item of multiplay equipment from Onchan Pleasure Park for safety reasons; and

- This report provides potential options for replacement play equipment which was requested by the Board from different playground equipment suppliers.

The Board Members raised queries regarding the high cost of the equipment as reported, as well as the installation costs.

Further queries were raised regarding the time it would take to obtain new equipment from suppliers and then obtaining the services of appropriate installers to undertake the works.

The District Surveyor advised that if the Board decides on a new piece of equipment now, the installation will most likely not be completed before the summer due to the lead-in time from suppliers, and then obtaining suitable contractors to undertake the works. It was further advised that the high cost for installation is due to the amount of groundworks involved and the safety floor surfacing.

Mr Gibson advised the Board Members that, in light of Miss Corkish's recent motion regarding play area and equipment reviews, this matter be deferred and brought back to the Board for further consideration.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the matter will be deferred until the play area reviews have been undertaken, and that the matter be brought back to the Board for further consideration.

## **2. Lead Member Report – Quarter 4**

It was noted that the report relates to the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

Mr Quirk queried if the issues regarding the installation of new street lights at Manor Park had been resolved.

The District Surveyor confirmed that he and the Chief Executive/Clerk have obtained legal advice regarding the boundary disputes, and that they plan to meet with the individual property owners to try to negotiate the necessary permissions to progress the scheme.

The remainder of the report was noted.

**C26/04/02/15**

## **HOUSING MATTERS**

### **1. Lead Member Report – Quarter 4**

It was noted that the report relates to the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

Mr Lockwood suggested that the draft Social Housing Development Strategy be circulated to the Board Members for review.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed he will circulate the draft document to the Board Members.

The remainder of the report was noted.

### **2. Amendment to Public Sector General Needs Housing Income Thresholds – Public Consultation**

The report of the Housing Manager dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

Mr Wilson provided the Board with the following overview:

- The Housing Agency within the Department of Infrastructure has launched a public consultation regarding proposed amendments to the Public Sector General Needs Housing Income thresholds.
- The key proposals include:-
  - Updating income eligibility thresholds and introducing automatic annual uplifts.
  - Removing certain “priority” points that do not reflect housing need.
  - Introducing discretion for local housing authorities on residents' requirements.
- The closing date for responses is 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026.
- The Department of Infrastructure has indicated that no extension to the deadline will be granted; and
- The feedback gathered will be provided to shape the policy before the proposed changes are agreed through the House of Keys.

The majority of the Board Members noted that they support the submission of MR Wilson's proposed letter, and drafted consultation responses as outlined within the report.

Mr Lockwood provided the following comments:

- It is queried whether the Board should consider whether changes along the lines proposed should be made now or whether no changes should be made until more comprehensive proposals can be developed.
- It is highlighted in relation to the inflationary uplifts that it is true that the actual costs incurred by prospective tenants increase at a different rate from CPI inflation; however, developing an alternative inflation measure would take substantial work, so the immediate question is whether applying CPI uplifts is preferable to applying no uplifts at all.
- It advised that it is likely that applying CPI uplifts would reduce the frequency with which one-off changes need to be made in the income thresholds.
- Noted that I do not believe applying inflationary uplifts should result in tenancies being reviewed annually – they should continue to be reviewed every five years.
- Regarding discretion, clearly providing guidance to housing providers on how this should be applied would improve consistency; however, such guidance would not be straightforward to develop so the immediate question is whether the policy should acknowledge that discretion may be applied, given that it does happen in practice. If discretion is applied and the policy does not specify that it is permitted, then the Authority is exposed to litigation risk.
- Regarding private renters, the proposed response is calling for the additional points for these to be retained. This is consistent with the view that private renters have lower housing security than those living with family and friends. If the Board believes this is not necessarily the case, then it should support removing these additional points; and
- I agree that since income and assets are eligibility criteria, they should be included as priority criteria as well. Including them as eligibility criteria but not priority criteria might result in people being accepted onto the waiting list who are unlikely to reach the top of the list. This would be a good point to raise in the consultation response.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the letter drafted by Mr Wilson be sent to the Department of Infrastructure Housing Agency on behalf of the Board and that the proposed consultation responses be submitted.

**C26/04/02/16****CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS****1. Dates for the Diary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Commissioners Surgery – Springfield Court	2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Annual General Meeting	7:00 pm
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Onchan District Commissioners	Commissioners Surgery – The HUB	10:00 am to 12 noon

Mr Quirk requested that the notes from the previous Springfield Court Commissioners' Surgery be circulated to him and Mr Lockwood before they attend the meeting.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that the notes will be provided as requested.

Mr Lockwood highlighted that he is the only Board Member currently due to host the Commissioners' Surgery at the HUB this coming Saturday, and it is recommended that the Surgery be cancelled until at least two Board Members can be available.

Mr Allen noted that he may be able to attend the HUB Surgery, and that he will confirm his availability later this week.

**C26/04/02/17****ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS****1. Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023**

Mr Quirk highlighted that Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023 is being considered by the House of Keys on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026, and he confirmed that he would be attending the public gallery to view the proceedings.

Mr Turton confirmed that he would be attending with Mr Quirk.

**2. Onchan Raceway Limited Complaint**

Mr Gibson advised that he had received a complaint from an Onchan resident regarding a vehicle associated with racing at the Stadium. It has been alleged that the vehicle's driver drove across the Kick-a-bout pitch at high speeds and that concerns were raised as this incident occurred when there was no need to use the Kick-a-about area, nor was it appropriate to drive at a high speed in an area where children play, and residents walk their dogs.

The Chief Executive/Clerk confirmed that following receipt of the complaint from Mr Gibson, he has reported the matter to Onchan Raceway Limited to try to resolve with the driver, and to the Eastern Neighbourhood Policing Team to speak with the driver.

**3. Statement of Intent to Stand as a Candidate for the House of Keys Election**

Miss Corkish confirmed that prior to the meeting, she had requested permission from the Chairman to make the following statement:

*"I would like to formally place on record my intention to stand as a candidate for Onchan in the forthcoming Isle of Man General Election 2026.*

*This is a considered decision, and one I take seriously. I believe it is important that those seeking to represent the community are open and transparent about their intentions at the earliest opportunity.*

*I am aware that some may consider me too young or inexperienced. I do not accept that characterisation. If anything, it reflects a wider need for change in how Tynwald is represented and refreshed, with a greater focus on delivery, accountability, and the confidence to challenge where necessary.*

*I will continue to carry out my responsibilities as a member for Onchan District Commissioners with professionalism, integrity, and a clear focus on the interests of our residents.”*

***There being no further business the meeting ended at 8:37 pm.***

### **C26/04/02/18**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES**

##### **1. Non-Destructive Street Lighting Column Testing**

The following was considered In Committee and transferred to the public domain.

The report of the District Surveyor dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026, copies of which having previously been circulated was considered.

The District Surveyor provided the Board with the following overview:

- The Authority has a legal responsibility to monitor and test the safety of its street lighting assets.
- The guidance within the Institution of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note 22, Asset Management of Minor Structures, explains what is required in relation to monitoring and testing; and
- Quotations in respect of Non-Destructive Testing (“NDT”) were requested from suitably competent companies to carry out NDT on street lighting columns within the District that are over five years old, and that are not due for replacement as part of any ongoing or upcoming planned schemes.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Mr Gibson and seconded by Mr Lockwood and unanimously **RESOLVED to accept the lowest quotation received from Caspian Non-Destructive Testing Limited to provide non-destructive testing to street lighting columns within the District that are over five years old, and that are not due for replacement as part of any ongoing or upcoming planned schemes.**

### **C26/04/02/19**

#### **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

##### **1. Planning Application – PA 26/00043/B**

Mr Allen advised that correspondence had been received before tonight’s meeting from a resident who has objected to the above mentioned planning application. The resident has requested that the Board supports their appeal.

Following a discussion, it was noted that the Board will not support the resident’s appeal, nor will the Board request that the Planning and Building Control Directorate review its decision that the Authority is not entitled to be an interested person and has the right to appeal.

***There being no further business the meeting ended at 9:02 pm.***