



Town Hall,
Parliament Square,
Ramsey,
Isle of Man.

www.ramsey.gov.im

10th April, 2025.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The monthly **Public Meeting** of the Ramsey Town Commissioners will be held at 7.00 p.m. on **Wednesday evening next, 16th April, 2025**, in the Boardroom of the Town Hall, Ramsey.

BUSINESS:

A vacancy exists in North Ward.

1. Apologies for Absence:

2. Minutes for Adoption:

page(s): 1 - 10

- Board Meeting held on 19th March, 2025.
- Special Board Meeting held on 31st March, 2025.

3. Matters arising not included within the Agenda.

4. Matters for Information:

page(s): 11 - 16

- Action Tracker – April, 2025.
- Ruinous Register – April, 2025.

5. Finance and General Purposes:

page(s): 17 - 58

- Town Clerk's Report(s):
 - Local Government Amendment Act Amendments
- Deputy Town Clerk's Reports:
 - Annual General Meeting
 - Freedom of Information Act
 - Local Authority Elections

- Finance Officer's General Report(s):
 - Accounts
 - Summary of Revenue Income and Expenditure
 - Rates

6. Works and Development:

page(s): 59 - 60

- Technical Services Manager's Report(s):
 - Planning Applications

7. Notices of Motion:

page(s): 61 – 68

The following notices of Motion, all dated 8th April, 2025, have been submitted:

In the name of Ms L. L. Craine:-

- "Lamp post location assessment and redistribution"
- "New Commissioners on-boarding"
- "New Landmark Sculpture"
- "Private Agenda Statement"

In the name of Mr. F. B. R. Williams:

- Review of Recording of Minutes

10. Any other Business:

page(s):

(by permission of Chairman)

- Matter(s) Raised by the Public
 - ❖ None Received
- Representative Report(s):
 - ❖ None Received



D. C. Flint
Town Clerk and
Chief Executive

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

[PUBLIC]

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in the Boardroom of the Town Hall, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 19th March, 2025, at 7.00p.m.

Present: Mr. F. B. R. Williams, Ms's S. Cottam-Shea and L. L. Craine remotely); Messrs. J. McGuinness, A. J. Oldham, L. Parker and W. G. Young.

Apologies: Messrs. R. D. Cowell, A. R. Beighton, G. Court, Revd Canon N. D. Greenwood,

A vacancy exists in North Ward.

The Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Finance Officer, Technical Services Manager, Housing and Property Manager, and Minute Clerk were in attendance.

(2024/25:300) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 19th February, 2025, and the Special Board meeting held on 5th March, 2025, be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Chairman.

(2024/25:301) Matters Arising:

Mr. McGuinness referred to the Clause 280 pertaining to Station Road Car Park Lease. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that negotiations are still ongoing.

Matters for Information:

(2024/25:302) Action Tracker February 2025:

Resolved: To note the "Action Tracker" to 13th March, 2025, subject to the following:-

Ruinous Buildings Policy – Mr. McGuinness referred to the previous request that the formation of a Ruinous Buildings Policy be included within the Action Tracker and queried progress on this matter. The Technical Services Manager informed members that a draft policy has now been obtained with which officers can work to prepare a draft for the Board's consideration.

Fireworks Display 2025 – Mr. McGuinness asked if a preferred date had been indicated by the Northern Chamber of Commerce for the 2025 Fireworks Display. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that the Chamber had indicated their preference for Saturday, 1st November. Mr. Parker asked if the Chamber saw any benefits in staging the event on a Saturday. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that the chamber members had commented on the commercial benefits to the Town in that people visit Ramsey for the day to shop and often visit restaurants or public houses before or after the event.

Ms Craine commented that clashing with other displays should be avoided. Members were informed that Douglas is understood to be holding its display on the Friday and that there would be unlikely to be a clash with Peel.

Resolved: Following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms Cottam-Shea and agreed by 6 votes to 1, Mr. McGuinness voting against that the Fireworks Display be held on Saturday, 1st November, 2025.

Portaloo Provision North Promenade: Mr. McGuinness referred to the report on this matter within the private agenda and proposed that it be brought into the public domain. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Young and agreed nem con.

Discussion ensued during which members were reminded that the original proposal was put in an attempt to alleviate the nuisance caused by people urinating in public. The Town Clerk explained that other liabilities and health and safety factors had to be considered. Mr. Parker commented that all motorhomes should have self-contained w.c. facilities.

A proposal was put by Mr. McGuinness that the Commissioners do not provide public conveniences and enforce Town Byelaws with regard to motorhomes parking in Ramsey. Mr. Parker in seconding the proposal commented that it might be worth extending the hours during which the town's public conveniences are open, he also felt that there is a sufficiency of public conveniences and no need for people to urinate in the streets.

The proposal was put to the vote and carried by 4 votes to 3 – Ms. Cottam=Shea and Messrs. Oldham and Williams voting against.

BMX Track – Mr. Parker sought an update with regard to the future operation of the BMX Track. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that no update is available as yet. In response to a further query members were informed that the track would be given extra attendance if required to avoid it becoming an eyesore.

Volunteer Policy – Ms Craine referred to a suggestion made some time ago that the Commission establish a "Volunteer Policy" which she felt should have been included in the Action Tracker. The Town Clerk informed members that there are a number of policies under review. The question of utilising volunteers is complex and to this end he invited Ms Craine to discuss her thinking with him.

Ms Craine formally proposed that this be added to the Action Tracker, which Mr. Williams agreed could be done.

(2024/25:303) Ruinous Register:

Resolved: To note the Ruinous Register at 13th March, 2025, detailing properties within the Town about which there are concerns. Ms Craine commented on the success of the register in keeping the public informed and conveyed her thanks to the Technical Services Manager for her work in this matter.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2024/25:304) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Local Authority Election:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13th March, 2025, giving a reminder of the date of Local Authority Elections, which if contested will take place on 24th April, notice of which having been given by Cabinet Office on 13th March. Nominations can be accepted by the Deputy Returning Officer, at the Town Hall, Ramsey, between 19th March, 2025, and 1.00 p.m. on 26th March.

A proposal was put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed nem con that Cabinet Office be written to with regard to the Electoral Roll advising that, whilst it is noted that a new consolidated list will be available from 1st April, 2025, the current list with additions and deletions is impractical during an election. It was agreed to ask if future lists in election years could be produced earlier or the election dates better aligned to the production of the list.

(2024/25:305) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Street Trader's Licence – Manx Whippy:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13th March, 2025, advising of the request made by Manx Whippy Limited for a street trader's licence to permit them to operate two vehicles in Rasmeay as they have done for many years.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed nem con a licence be issued.

(2024/25:306) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Street Trader's Licence – Parish Pantry:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13th March, 2025, advising of the request made by Parish Pantry for a street trader's licence to permit them to operate on the footpath on the Northern end of the Mooragh Promenade one day each week from the approximate times of 10.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed nem con a licence be issued.

(2024/25:307) Finance Officer's General Report:

Resolved: To note and approve the Finance Officer's general report dated 12th March, 2025, subject to the following:-

Accounts – Mr. Parker queried the amount paid to a particular supplier and was advised that this was because of expensive repairs required to refuse wagons. Mr. Young suggested that the Shipyard might now be able to undertake repairs of this type.

Works and Development:

(2024/25:308) Town Clerk's Report – 20 MPH Speed Limits:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 13th March, 2025, advising of the intention of the Department of Infrastructure to roll-out 20 mph speed limits within the Towns and Villages of the Island. A copy of the Isle of Man (Speed Limits) Order 2025 was appended to the report. Discussion ensued during which reference was made to the impracticalities of enforcing the proposals, the costs involved in the provision of signage and whether or not the Order would be applicable to cyclists.

A proposal was put by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Parker to support the 20 mph in residential areas, but request a limit of at least 30 mph on arterial routes.

Mr. Young commented that many motorists already travel at 20 mph or slower in parts of towns or villages; Ms Craine commented the slower limit would be helpful to pedestrians and cause less pollution. Mr. Williams commented that a similar scheme has been introduced in Wales, which commends 30 mph on arterial routes and about which a review is expected. Mr. Williams suggested that the wording to await the Welsh review be added to the proposal. Mr. McGuinness agreed to the addition to this proposal which was put to the votes and carried by six votes to 1, Ms Craine voting against.

(2024/25:309) Town Clerk's Report – Plaza Car Park TT 2025:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 10th March, 2025, which conveyed the request made by Fynoderee Distillery in conjunction with The Hutch, that a parking space be made available to them on the Plaza Car Park to enable The Hutch to trade, generally and in association with the distillery during TT 2025.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Ms Cottam-Shea and agreed nem con that permission be granted. It was noted that a Street Traders' Licence would not be required as the catering vehicle to be used by The Hutch would be sited on a private property.

(2024/25:310) Town Clerk's Report – Section 13 Agreement Ballachrink:

Mr. Williams declared an interest but was permitted to chair discussion on this clause.

Discussion ensued during which various concerns were raised with regard to possible flooding and liability; and the actual areas and acreage of land that might be subject to a Section 13 Agreement.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Ms Craine and agreed nem con, before any Section 13 agreement is signed a meeting be requested with the developers, to discussion future development proposals in the area, any liabilities and assurances that there will be no future costs for the Commission or any third party that may be ultimately involved. Mr. Williams did not vote.

A decision as to whether the meeting will be held in public or private will be left to the developer.

(2024/25:311) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Loading Bay Market Place / West Quay:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 13th March, 2025, advising of the request made by the Licensee of the Commercial Hotel with regard to the provision of loading bays in Market Place and West Quay. General discussion ensued with regard to parking bays generally; the habit of vehicles unloading in Parliament Street and partially obstructing pavements.

A proposal was put by Ms Craine that the Commission liaise with the Department of Infrastructure to discuss the loading bay now requested and that outside Bar Logo. Ms Cottam-Shea commented that vehicles unloading required to park close to the respectively shops due to the weight of deliveries. It was suggested that the views of the Chamber of Commerce be also sought.

Ms Craine indicated she was happy to extend her proposal to include discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and business community. The proposal thus amended was seconded by Mr. Oldham and carried nem con. Mr. Williams again declared an interest and did not vote.

(2024/25:312) Technical Services Manager's Report – Planning Applications:

Resolved: To note the Technical Services Manager's Report dated 12th March, 2025, detailing planning applications received from the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, under the planning consultation procedures, subject to the following:-

REF NO:	4211	
P.A. NO.:	25/90197/B	Retrospective
PROPOSED:	Installation of refrigeration & gas coolers with an acoustic close boarded fence erected around, and modifications to the adjacent car park area	
NOTES:	P.A. in Detail	
SITE:	Tesco Supermarket, Bowring Road, Ramsey.	

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Ms Craine and carried by 5 votes to 2, Messrs. Parker and Young voting against that an objection be submitted to remain in place until such time as the lease agreement is signed.

REF NO:	4213
P.A. NO.:	25/90079/C
PROPOSED:	Additional use of existing dwelling house (Class3.3) as tourist accomdation (Class 3.1).
NOTES:	P.A. in Detail
SITE:	Mysore Cottages, 39 Waterloo Road, Ramsey.

Concern was expressed the possible loss of residential accommodation available to local purchasers.

Any Other Business:

(2024/25:313) Area Plan:

The Town Clerk gave an updated on the Area Plan, particularly with regard to the "life of the plan". Members were informed that matters included would not cease to be relevant when the area plan is again reviewed in 2026. Members asked if the response from Cabinet Office could be published.

(2024/25:314) Dropped Kerbs around Town:

Ms Craine referred to perceived concerns at the lack of dropped kerbs within the Town and asked that the Commission report thereon and in so doing reach out on social media to determine how the Commission can identify any problem and liaise with the Department of Infrastructure.

Mr. Williams suggested that, in the first instance, the Commission write to the Department of Infrastructure and obtain their work schedule. The Town Clerk suggested that, if there is nothing in the Department's schedule concerning dropped kerbs they be asked what their strategy is?

Resolved: That following a proposal by Ms Craine, seconded by Ms Cottam-Shea that the Commission write to the Department of Infrastructure and attention be drawn on social media asking the public to make the Commission aware of any areas of particular concern.

(2024/25:315) Local Government Amendment Act:

Mr. McGuinness sought an updated on the Local Government Amendment Act. The Town Clerk advised that he had attended a meeting of local authority clerks. Clause 1 remained contentious, although it was suggested that it could bring a collaboration of services. It was also suggested that the Isle of Man Municipal Association could be "revitalised".

Mr. McGuinness contended that that the actions of Bride Parish Commissioners in withdrawing from the NCAS Committee had promoted the Clause, the ramifications of which are huge and would also impose rate increases on local authorities. Mr. McGuinness reiterated his long-held stance of the need for rate reform.

Resolved; That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed nem con, the Members of the Legislative Council be written to conveying the Commissioners concerns with regard to the Amendment Act; they be advised of the ramifications for local authorities and the need for rate reform.

(2024/25:316) Housing and Property Manager's Report – Response to Letter Housing Strategy:

Mr. McGuinness proposed that the above-titled report, presented within the private agenda be brought into the public domain. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Parker and carried by 6 votes to 1, Mr. Oldham voting against.

The report presents a letter from Mr. L. L. Hooper, M.H.K., addressed to all local authorities, to which was appended a draft response which covered the following:

- Identified area for development and Potential Land Use for Accommodation;
- Plans for Renovation of Existing Housing Stock
- Plans for New Builds Awaiting Planning Approval
- Disused or Under-utilized Structures identified for demolition/development
- Plots Ripe for Development without Formal Plans

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Parker and agreed nem con, the response drafted as an appendix to the report be sent to Mr. L. L. Hooper, M.H.K., and copied to the Minister for the Department of Infrastructure; Treasury Minister and Mr. D. J. Ashford, M.B.E., M.H.K., and The Hon. G. Clueit, M.L.C., Chair and Lay Member respectively of the Housing and Communities Board; in addition to the comments that it considered counter intuitive and duplication for the Commission to have to pay for consultants and use the services of the Project Management Unit.

The Deputy Chairman closed the public session of the Board Meeting at 8.27 p.m.

The following items were considered in private the detail of which, having regard to data protection, matters affecting persons who cannot be named, etc., is not as extensive as that contained in minutes of matters discussed in public.

(2024/25:317) Minutes Recorded in Private:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 19th February, 2025, recorded in private, be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Chairman.

It was further resolved that the Minutes of the Special Board meeting held on 5th March, 2025, be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Chairman, subject to the following:

Clause 298 Northern Civic Amenity Site – Ms Craine stated that she has requested general financial statement to be provided and wished the clause to be amended. The Town Clerk informed members that on-going negotiations have prevented publication of the information, as requested.

Mr. Williams asked if new information was available, and if so the Commission should suspend Standing Orders to allow further discussion. Members were not inclined to do this.

Matters for Information:

(2024/25:318) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker”:

Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker” to 13th March, 2025, subject to the following:

Mr. McGuinness sought an updated on a debtor listed within this list, upon which a “watching brief” is being kept. Members were informed that legal advice is being sought to determine how best the Commission can progress legal action.

Close Woirrey – Ms Craine sought an update on Close Woirrey redevelopment. The Housing and Property Manager advised that the Business Case has been approved to provide two bedroomed accommodation and the feasibility of including one-bedroomed accommodation will be investigated once funding is released.

(2024/25:319) On-Going Matters “Ruinous Register Tracker”:

Resolved: To note the “Ruinous Register” to 13th March, 2025.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2024/25:320) Finance Office’s Report:

Resolved; to note the Finance Officer’s private report dated 12th March, 2025, subject to the following: _

Bank Balances – the Finance Officer advised that the increased bank balances, from that of the same time last year, was due to timing of receipts and approved loans.

Rent Arrears – a few payments had been received since preparation of the report and there was some reduction in the arrears that had accrued over the Christmas period.

Aged Debtors – a few debts listed had been paid, the agent for a specific debt is now engaging with our officers; the Deputy Town Clerk advised that another specific debtor would pay the debt; legal advice is being sought on how best to attempt to recover another debt.

Financial Statement – the Finance Officer informed members of his understanding that the Local Authority, etc., audit process for 2025 has been put out to tender. The existing auditors will attend the end of March to finalise the Commission’s audit.

Works and Development:

(2024/25:321) Technical Services Manager’s Report – Street Lighting Contract:

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms Cottam-Shea and agreed nem con, the current Street Lighting Contract be extended for a further period not exceeding six months, to enable more appropriate documentation for future tenders/ contracts to be prepared.

Housing and Property:

(2024/25:322) Minutes Housing Committee:

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed nem con, the minutes of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 5th March, , 2025, be ratified.

A proposal by Ms Craine, seconded by Mr. McGuinness that the date upon which properties undergoing maintenance become vacant be included at the appropriate section of future minutes of the Housing Committee.

Any Other Business:

(2024/25:323) Northern Civic Amenity Site:

Mr. McGuinness asked if any details were yet available on the future operation of the Northern Civic Amenity Site?

The Town Clerk advised that legal advice would need to be taken and confirmed he would advise members as soon as possible when information becomes available.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m. giving a time of 3 ½ hours for the payment of attendance allowances.

Chairman.

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS - ACTION TRACKER - PUBLIC

Date started / Date of Resolution	Clause Number	Item	Current position	Last Action	Area	Last Update	Officer	Target Completion Date	Date Completed	RAG Status
		Adoption of Land Traie Twoaie.	The developer has a proposal to add parking spaces within the area delineated for public open space. As per minute 2019/20:197 TC to clarify the matter and progress.	TC met the developer on 11/3/22. He agreed to mark out the parking spaces and prepare the hand over of the site. TC chased 5/4/22 and 11/5/22, 30/5/22. The developer is to mark out the land after TT. Contacted 8/7/22, and 28/7/22,5/9/22,2/11/22 no response. Chased 11/1/23. TC proposes that the developer is left to cut the grass and maintain the area at his cost for 2023. Developer contacted our advocate proposing the POS is transferred (April 23). The car parking spaces are still not delineated, no further action to be taken until car parking spaces are delineated. ATC emailed developer again for update.	FGP	Dec-24	TRKC	Sep-23		
		Empty Pubs	Concern regarding vacant properties and potential for deterioration in condition. DTC has engaged with the Property Manager at the Brewery. Special Board meeting took place 22 June when the Brewery presented ideas and plans for the buildings.	Asked for an updated status for the properties 5/9/22,3/11/22, The Stanley is currently in the process of being sold and the brewery have submitted a planning application for the Britannia. The Britannia planning application has been revised July 2023. The Stanley has been sold. Planning application for the Brit has been approved agreement for the commuted sum to be put in place. The Stanley site is now subject to a planning application	WD	Mar-25	SB	Apr-24		
		Fibre Broadband (request for easement for service poles).	Report on roll out March 2024 - The final phases are dependent on poles receiving planning approval.	MT have been asked to facilitate an open meeting for residents of Ramsey impacted by the pole planning applications. Application 24/00259/B which was subject to an appeal has now been refused as the appeal has been	FGP	Mar-25	TC	Jul-24		
Dec-21		Adoption of land at Auldyn Walk, Ramsey.	Petition approved by DOI Feb 2022, playground received planning approval 25/2/22. Legal transfer of land can only take place following completion of the playground.	All snagging works remain outstanding.. Work has commenced. Discussions with developer on going with regards to park standard etc.	FGP	Apr-25	TC	Mar-25		
Jun-18		War Memorial (repair and renovation).	Memorial added to the Register of Protected Buildings 2021. TSM to meet the War Memorial committee representative to discuss cleaning of the memorial and future works 10/2/21. No costs have been included in the RTC 2022/23 budget. War memorial committee want minimal intervention and work on the memorial (it is about maintenance and not restoration).	Clean the memorial. Prepare project and costs for repairs to the memorial 2023/24 financial year. Drain survey undertaken 5/9/22; drains go to soakaways, one of which appears to be silted up. The memorial has been cleaned prior to 11/11/24. Names have been refreshed.	WD	Nov-23	BW	Repairs 23/24		

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS - ACTION TRACKER - PUBLIC

Date started / Date of Resolution	Clause Number	Item	Current position	Last Action	Area	Last Update	Officer	Target Completion Date	Date Completed	RAG Status
May-22		Bus services.	DTC wrote to Bus Vannin 21/4/22 regarding TT bus service and evening bus services towards the west. TC wrote to the new DOI Minister June 22. Reply received from Bus Vannin reported to Board.	Bus Vannin advice that the TT service is likely to be same as TT 2023 with services at 22.01, 22.35 and 23.10. They are looking at operating an N6 but this has not been confirmed. Keep on tracker to follow up with DOI in future. No additional services during 2025.	FGP	Apr-25	SB	Apr-25		
Jul-22		Ramsey bags for life.	The 2 designs of bags are being sold at the Town Hall.	Monitor sales of bags. 113 out of 200 have been sold of the original design and 97 out of 100 have been sold of the new design	PL	Sep-24	SB	Jul-25		
Jul-22		Mooragh Park shelter public art.	Mooragh Park shelters.	Three shelters underway or complete. Further work will commence during Spring 2025.	PL	Mar-25	SB	Jun-24		
Nov-22		Railway Line	Plots are being sold on the railway line. Awaiting quote from our advocate	Quotes received and forwarded to the potential purchasers. Now with the advocates. First sale complete. Letters need sending to other people who have occupied land not belonging to them.		Jan-24	TRKC/ BW	Jan-24		
Jul-23		Claughbane Public Open Space.	A report was presented to the board in September 2023 concerning the potential adoption of land as POS. Planning application approved.	Developer has been asked for an update.		Mar-25	TC	Dec-24		
Jan-24		BMX track.	Understand how the club is structured and the plans for the course.	Parties contacted to arrange a further meeting. Parks team maintaining in the short term	PL	Mar-25	SB	Sep-24		
Jul-24		Merger of Town Wards.	Request DOI to put forward a scheme under Section 9 of the Local Government Act 1982 to make a scheme to merge the current North and South Wards into one electoral district.	A public enquiry will be held in due course - after the local Authority General Election.	FGP	Mar-25	SB	May-25		
Jul-24		"Great Wave" Street Art - Old Swimming Pool.	Seek Expressions of Interest for Great Wave inspired art on west facing gable of Old Swimming Pool.	Artist chosen and met with RTC. Application to be submitted to new Local Economy Fund from DfE.	PL	Apr-25	SB	Jul-25		
Jul-24		Hearing Loop for Board Room.	Look at options for provision of hearing loop within Board Room.	Portable unit declined by member. AF to bring to March meeting - none compatible hearing aids. Alternative option to be looked into.	HP	Mar-24	AF	Dec-24		
Jul-24		Alternate Hard Standing Locations.	Identify alternate hard standing location options within Mooragh Estate.		WD	Jul-24	BW			
Sep-24	24/25:128	Sprintfest 2025.	2024 completed. 2025 event to held using same format. Include in 2025-26 budget.	Event progressing.	PL	Mar-25	SB	Jun-25		

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS - ACTION TRACKER - PUBLIC

Date started / Date of Resolution	Clause Number	Item	Current position	Last Action	Area	Last Update	Officer	Target Completion Date	Date Completed	RAG Status
Sep-24	24/25141	Refuse Vehicle Replacement.	Progress Petition for Borrowing Powers.	Petition Approval has been received and an updated price has been requested so order can be placed. Orders placed - lead in times 40- 44, 1st RCV due Aug - Sept 25, 2nd RCV weeks Dec 25 - Jan 26	FGP	Mar-25	BW/NC/ SB	Oct-24		
Sep-24	24/25:143	Boathouse clock.	Clock faulty - authorise repairs.	Repairs instructed to be carried out. Due April 2025.	PL	Mar-25	AF	Apr-25		
Sep-24	24/25:146	NCAS Committee.	Identify how to progress/make public aware of actions. Write further letter to NCAS Committee.	Letter sent 24/10/2024.	WD	Oct-24	BW			
Sep-24	24/25:148	Station Road Car Park.	Installation of cooling units. Liaise with interested parties to resolve.	Ongoing dialogue with leaseholder	FGP/WD	Apr-25	SB	Mar-25		
Sep-24	24/25:149	FO Report Aged Debtors.	Doubtful commercial debt. Seek independent legal advice about recovery and report to the October Board Meeting.	Request for opinions sent to Advocates. Included in October Finance Report. All appropriate contribution invoices now raised, but remain outstanding.	FGP	Apr-25	NC	Oct-24		
Oct-24	24/25:167	Toilets at Station Road Car Park	Did RTC agree to enter into agreement regarding toilets at Station Road.	Resolved at 2023/24:369) for RTC to clean toilets if bought up to usable standard. Owner Offered RTC to view 11.04.2025	HP	Mar-25	AF	Feb-25		
Oct-24	24/15:173	Audit Fraud Questionnaire	Consider by Establishment Committee	Reported at Establishment	Estab	Nov-24	SB/NC	Dec-25		
Nov-24	24/25:190	Area Plan North and East	Provide further report once further Cabinet Office response received	Cabinet Office Response now received -- subject to Special Board.	WD	01/03/2025	DF	Jan-25		
Nov-24	24/25:196	Dog Fouling	Raise awareness and report on fines	Enquiries ongoing about options. Fixed Penalty set by Dog (Amendment) Act 2006 so would require a new Act to increase. Courts have option to fine upto £1000	FGP	Aprp-25	TC	Jan-25		
Nov-24	24/25:196	Cigarette Litter	Illustrations around drain covers - seek permission from Department for those on highways	Enquiries with DOI being undertaken by Member	WD	Apr-25	SB	Feb-25		
Nov-24	24/25:196	Town Warden Idling...Engines	Arrange training and investigate greater powers to enforce		FGP		SB	Feb-25		
Jan-25	24/25:256	Review of Re-Use	To ask NCAS to allow to year end	With new regulations around the disposal of electrical items the re-use is current being used as collection and storage points as they have to be stored in the dry.	WD	Feb-25	SB /BW	Feb-25		
Feb-25	24/25:275	Housing Association	Exchange of Correspondence	Correspondence with L L Hooper,M.H.K Report to March 2025 Board. Submitted	HP	Mar-25	AF	Apr-25		
Feb-25	24/25:276	Motorhome Parking	Provision of additional portable conveniences	2 no WCs ordered. Board agreed March meeting to not supply toilets and look at enforcement of bylaws	WD/HP	Mar-25	AF	May-25		

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RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS - ACTION TRACKER - PUBLIC

Date started / Date of Resolution	Clause Number	Item	Current position	Last Action	Area	Last Update	Officer	Target Completion Date	Date Completed	RAG Status
Feb-25	24/25:284	Sprintfest Fan Zone and Vintage Club event	Attempt to obtain additional funding and enter into discussions with VMCC	TT Fan Zone - this has not been possible for TT 2025, look at options for future TT MGP VMCC - VMCC did not wish to pursue	PL	Feb-25	SB	Aug-25		
Feb-25	24/25:286	Fireworks Display	Discuss date with Chamber of Commerce	Date agreed as 1st November 2025. Douglas display on 5th November	PL	Mar-25	SB		Apr-25	
Mar-25	24/25:302	Policy ruinous Buildings	Policy to be formatted	Draft Policy received reviewed, and amendments needed	Policy	Apr-25	BW	May-25		
Mar-25	24/25:302	Volunteer Policy	A volunteer Policy to be created		Policy	Mar-25	DF	Aug-25		
Mar-25	24/25:304	Electoral Roll	Write to Cabinet office asking for consolidated List	Letter Sent	FGP	Apr-25	DF	Apr-25	Apr-25	
Mar-25	24/25:305	Street Traders Licence	To be granted for Manx Whippy	Granted	FGP	Mar-25	SB	Apr-25	Apr-25	
Mar-25	24/25:306	Street Traders Licence	To be granted for Parish Pantry	Granted	FGP	Mar-25	SB	Apr-25	Apr-25	
Mar-25	24/25:308	20 MPH Speed Limit	Write to support 20MPH in residential but request 30MPH on arterial routes		FGP	Mar-25	DF	Apr-25	Apr-25	
Mar-25	24/25:309	Plaza Car Park TT 2025	Approved use for The Hutch	Advise Hutch	FGP	Mar-25	SB	Apr-25	Apr-25	
Mar-25	24/25:310	S13 Ballachrink	Seek meeting with Developer regarding proposals for the area		FGP	Mar-25	DF	May-25		
Mar-25	24/25:311	Loading Bay	Consult with business community regarding provision of loading bays	To undertake consultation	FGP	Mar-25	SB	May-25		
Mar-25	24/25:314	Dropped Kerbs	Write to DOI and undertake Social Media campaign	Social Media campaign started	FGP	Mar-25	DF	May-25		
Mar-25	24/25:315	Local Government Amendment Act	Write to LegCo	Letter Sent	FGP	Mar-25	DF	Apr-25	Apr-25	
Mar-25	24/25:316	Housing Strategy Letter	Send Letter to Mr Hooper and Housing Communities Board	letter sent	HP	Mar-25	AF/DF	Apr-25	Mar-25	
Mar-25	24/25:321	Street Lighting Contract	Extend current contract for not exceeding six months and do more appropriate documentation for future tenders	Extended - waiting on variation to contract to cover extended period	WD	Apr-25	BW	Sep-25		
Mar-25	24/25:322	Void Properties	Add date as to when properties become vacant to list	added. Details of works to be added also.	HP	Apr-25	AF	Apr-25	Apr-25	

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	Property Address	Ruinous Register Entry Date	Commission's correspondence dates	Owner's correspondence dates	Stage	Letters of notices dates (if given)
	9 Auckland Lane	2019	27/02/2025			
	Water Street Boundary Wall	2018	27/02/2025			
	Britannia Hotel	2019				
	Seymour House - Ballure Road	2018		16/05/2024		04/05/2021 28/10/2022 27/02/2023
	The Poplars - Bircham Ave, Ramsey	2019	13/12/2022			
	4 Hespera Terrace	2020				
	3 West Quay	2021				
	13 Water Street	2021	27/02/2025			
	15 Water Street	2021	27/02/2025			
	17 Water Street	2021				
	Old Ocra Building Tower road	2021				
	Stanley Public House	2021				
	3 Cowell's Terrace	2018	13/08/2024			01/05/2024
				16/08/2024		
			14/11/2024			
				06/01/2025		
			06/01/2025 17/01/2025			
	Railway Line	2022				
	Coffee Pot	2022	30/09/2022			
	Sub-station - Tower Street	2022				
	21 Bowring Road	2023	04/03/2024			
				04/03/2024		
			24/01/2025			
				24/01/2025		
			27/01/2025			
				27/01/2025		
			13/02/2025			

	Property Address	Ruinous Register Entry Date	Commission's correspondence dates	Owner's correspondence dates	Stage	Letters of notices dates (if given)
				13/02/2025		
				Mar-25		
	2 Albion Terrace, Lezayre Road	2023	04/12/2023			
	Barry Curran's West Quay	2024	21/08/2024			
			21/08/2024			
			23/01/2025			
			24/01/2025			
			04/02/2025			
	5 Marine Gardens	2024				
	4 Albert Street	2023	25/03/2025			
	5 College Street	2019				
	Cannon Court	2022	27/08/2024			
				28/08/2024		
	Cooil-Ny-Marrey Waterloo Road	Oct-24				
	Auldyn House - 22 Parliament St, 6 West Quay & 24 Parliament St (Tide & Jewel Box)	2019	20/01/2025			
				22/01/2025		
			14/02/2025			
				Feb-25		
	The Groom, Bride Road	2025				
						Mar-25
	Old River Road Depot	2025	18/02/2025			

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**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENTS
APRIL 2025 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

In the above connection you have previously received a copy of a letter circulated on 5 March 2025 by Dr Heywood, Minister for the Department of Infrastructure.

On 14th March, a wide range of Local Government representatives from across the Island met at Onchan with the purpose of exchanging views and discussing a common view on the letter and the Bill in general. On Friday 4th April, Derek Sewell, Clerk to Peel provided a collective draft response which has also been circulated to you. The intention was for each commission to send this in their own name to Minister Heywood in response to the Consultation.

Mr McGuinness has appraised this draft and offered a clear text on what the implications may be. From this and the collective response, a draft has been composed which may better frame the view from a Ramsey perspective.

Recommendation – For review and amendment as required prior to sending ahead of the consultation closure on 18th April 2025

D.C. Flint
Town Clerk

DATE 7 April 2025

Attached 4 Documents:

Letter from DOI Minister 5 March
Letter draft from D. Sewell 4 April
Text Mr McGuinness 7 April
Letter draft for RTC 7 April

To All Local Authorities and Joint Boards

Contact: Steve Willoughby
Telephone: (01624) 686246
Email: Stephen.Willoughby@gov.im
Ref: LA General
Date: 5 March 2025

Dear All

Re: Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023

At the 28th January 2025 sitting of the House of Keys, the consideration of Clauses for the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023 took place. The Government brought forward a number of minor amendments to improve the substance of existing clauses within the Bill, for example the new byelaw approval process by the Department, and to further clarify the quorum of a local authority. These amendments were approved.

At that same sitting Mr Hooper MHK moved a number of amendments. The Department would like to stress that these amendments were not Government amendments, i.e. they were not put forward by the Department. As part of the process of the Clauses stage of a Bill any Member of the Legislature is able to table amendments to a Bill without the need to consult on those amendments, whether it being considered in the House of Keys or the Legislative Council. Mr Hooper exercised that right.

I would like to take this opportunity to set out the new clauses that Mr Hooper proposed. The first new clause (NC1) would provide the Department the power to prepare regulations to impose on a local authority a duty to perform a specified function. The Department would be required to consult the local authority concerned before making such regulations and they would not come into operation unless approved by Tynwald.

At the 11th February 2025 sitting of the House of Keys, Mr Thomas MHK, proposed a number of amendments to Mr Hooper's NC1 which included some minor word changes but also the clarification that NC1 would apply to the Joint Boards as well. This Clause was approved and now forms part of the Bill.

The second new clause (NC2) which is linked to NC1 also suggested by Mr Hooper, intended to bring sanctions where a local authority fails to:

- (a) perform, within a reasonable time, a function imposed on it by any enactment; or
- (b) perform any such function to, or above, the minimum standards specified by the Department under the Local Government Act 1985.

The Department is now determining whether to take this forward as a Government amendment to the Bill as part of the Legislative Council consideration. For ease, a copy of new clause 1 (as amended) and new clause 2 (NC2) is attached as an annex to this letter. NC2 failed to receive the support of the House of Keys, and therefore does not currently form part of the Bill. As a result of this Mr Hooper's third new clause relating to personal liabilities for a local authority was not debated as this cannot stand alone without New Clause 2 being in the Bill.

Department believes there is merit in bringing forward proposals that enable sanctions to be placed on a local authority or a joint board (NC2) where they have failed to perform any function which they are statutorily required to carry out by law.

Whilst there is concern that this has not been consulted on with the LAs. The Department believes that local authority functions should be carried out at a local level. At the moment, where a local authority fails to perform a function that function could be transferred to the Department or another authority using powers under section 5 of the Local Government Act 1985. This power should only be used as a last resort. Currently, there are no powers available to encourage Local Authorities to carry on delivering the service themselves. The intention of NC2 is to simply provide a mechanism to ensure the LA delivers the service i.e. it is a step to be used ahead of the service being transferred as a last resort. The Department believes this power will ensure local authority functions are carried out at a local level, which is clearly of benefit to the rate payer.

The Department is minded to bring forward NC2 to the Legislative Council. The Department believes that this logically follows NC1 and thus NC2 should be introduced when the Bill is considered at the Legislative Council. It should be noted that the current NC2 refers to local authorities; however, we would amend NC2 to include joint boards in a similar fashion to Mr Thomas' amendments to NC1.

Before the Department determines whether to proceed to move NC2 as a Government amendment at the Legislative Council, I would be grateful for your views upon the proposals contained within NC2. Please bear in mind that the House of Keys has voted that NC1 is part of the Bill. NC2 is an adjunct to NC1 and should be considered in this light. We do not intend to remove or amend NC1. We do, however, fully intend to consult with the Local Authorities and Joint Boards and Committees on any regulations that will be required to be made under this Clause before we introduce anything legislatively.

Furthermore, I would like to stress that it is not the Department's intention to move any amendment which would create direct personal liability for local authority members (Mr Hooper's original NC3).

I feel that a consultation period of 6 weeks should suffice to allow your Authority or Board to consider the proposed new clause and its implications. I am aware that these clauses have been publicly available for some weeks and that Mr Thomas MHK has also been in contact with you all on these, so, although the consultation is for six weeks I am sure that many of you will have already formed an opinion around the new clauses and their impact. I would appreciate your view on the implication of NC2 before this goes for consideration by Legislative Council. Due to the parliamentary process used to introduce NC1, a consultation on that clause was not required. However, I hope that you will take this opportunity to share your opinion about NC2. I have paused the progression of this Bill through Legislative Council to allow for this consultation to take place.

The Department asks that you please respond to this consultation by the proposed deadline of the end of Friday April 18th to the Local Government Team by email.

(LocalGovernment@gov.im). After any responses have been received the Department will review the responses with respect to NC2 and make a determination about whether to reintroduce this clause in the Legislative Council consideration of the Bill.

Please can you indicate in any response if you are not willing for your response to be shared outside of the Department as part of the reporting on the consultation process?

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Dr M Haywood MHK
Minister for Infrastructure

Annex

INSERTION OF NEW CLAUSE 1

1. Page 11, after line 18 insert the following new clause —

«[NC1] Power to require performance of functions

- (1) The Department may by regulations —
- (a) impose on a local authority or joint board a duty to perform a specified function;
 - (b) amend any enactment to, by such means as it considers appropriate, impose on a local authority or joint board a duty to perform a function that the enactment empowers the local authority or joint board to perform at its discretion.

Tynwald procedure – approval required.

- (2) Before making regulations under subsection (1), the Department must consult
- (a) the local authority or joint board concerned; and
 - (b) any other body likely to be affected by the regulations.
- (3) When making regulations under subsection (1), the Department may specify minimum standards in a manner equivalent to that provided for in section 4A(1) and (2)(b).
- (4) For the avoidance of doubt, section 5 applies to regulations made under this section.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (1) may require a local authority or joint board to discharge its duty to perform a function by making a financial contribution to the performance of that function by another person where —
- (a) the function entails provision of a facility or service;
 - (b) the function is identical to that of another person in close geographical proximity to the district of the local authority; and
 - (c) joint provision of a single facility or service by the local authority and the other person would be efficient and therefore in the public interest.

INSERTION OF NEW CLAUSE 2

2. Page 11, after line 18 insert the following new clause —

«[NC2] **Sanctions for failure to perform functions**

- (1) Where a local authority fails to —

(a) perform, within a reasonable time, a function imposed on it by any enactment; or

(b) perform any such function to, or above, the minimum standards specified by the Department under this Act,

the Department may serve on the local authority a notice setting out the failure and requiring the local authority to remedy the failure by a specified date.

- (2) Failure to comply with a notice under subsection (1) is an offence.

- (3) In the prosecution for an offence under subsection (2), the Department must provide evidence of the failure.

- (4) On summary conviction of an offence under subsection (2), a local authority is liable —

(a) to a fine at level 5 on the standard scale;

(b) where applicable, to an additional fine of £1000 for each day after conviction for which the failure persists.

- (5) A local authority may discharge its liability to prosecution for an offence under this section by paying a civil penalty of £1000 less than level 5 on the standard scale, such penalty (should the local authority opt to pay it) becoming payable the day after the specified date in the notice.

- (6) A civil penalty under subsection (5) must be paid to the Treasury, which must in turn pay it into the General Revenue of the Island.».

Minister for Infrastructure,
Department of Infrastructure,
Sea Terminal Building,
Douglas
IM1 2RF

4 April 2025

Dear Minister,

Response to Minister's Letter Dated 5 March 2025 Concerning The Local Government Amendment Bill 2023

The Local Authorities were advised by email on 23 January 2025 the Department of Infrastructure had promoted their Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 proposal to the House of Keys for its final reading on 28 January 2025. You will recall this was the day before the red weather warning for Storm Eowyn on 24 January 2025 resulting in the closure of schools and offices across the Island.

In addition, to providing this late notification the Department advised the Local Authorities:

“There are also several relatively minor amendments included **within the Order Paper** that will also be considered on that day.”

Unfortunately, this has proven to be inaccurate. The New Clauses proposed by a member of the Department of Infrastructure on the Order Paper could not be described as minor and have serious implications on the operation of Local Authorities and rate payer who fund services locally. No consultation has taken place with either stakeholders or the public/rate payers on these Clauses which is usually required when major changes are being made to primary legislation.

Local Authorities received a letter on 5 March 2025 from the Minister for Infrastructure advising:

“At that sitting (28 January 2025) Mr Hooper moved a number of amendments. The Department would like to stress that these amendments were not government amendments i.e they were not put forward by the Department (Infrastructure).....any member of the legislature is able to table amendments to a Bill without the need to consult on those amendments, whether it is being considered in the House of Keys or the Legislative Council. Mr Hooper exercised that right.”

If Mr Hopper was not a political member of the Department of Infrastructure and/or the Department's Minister and political members had opposed a major amendment of this nature this statement could be given credence. Unfortunately, with the Hansard records for the relevant sittings

still unavailable and only having access to information on how the Members of the House of Keys voted the following is reported:

1. Mr Hooper MHK, a member of the Department of Infrastructure, was the promotor of these major and late amendments to this Bill.
2. All the Department of Infrastructure's political members including their Minister voted for all Mr Hooper's major and late amendments to this Bill.
3. The Minister and the other two Department of Infrastructure political members (Mr Hooper and Ms Faragher) made up 43% of Members of the House of Keys who voted in favour of bringing forward an amended Clause 2 which was not taken forward by 13 to 7 vote against this Clause.
4. The Minister for Infrastructure was the only member of the Council of Ministers to vote in favour of the amended Clause 2 which was not supported by the House of Keys

In addition, Local authorities were advised by a Member of the House of Keys present during the debates the former Cabinet Office Minister advised that a Cabinet Office and Department Clause about performance management of Clerks and local authority financial plans was not included in the Bill, despite her belief it would be.

On the basis of this information, it is clear that an amendment of this nature was in preparation and supported by the Department's political members. The promotion of this Clause by a Department backbencher facilitated the introduction of a late major change to this Bill and this action has by-passed the necessary Government's consultation and engagement principles for changing primary legislation as required under Section 3.3 of GD2017/061.

The Department of Infrastructure is the Government Department with statutory responsibility for sponsoring and promoting Local Authority issues. Local Authorities had hoped the Minister for Infrastructure would elect to consult Local Authorities on these late major changes prior to taking the amended Bill forward (see later). Unfortunately, in your letter to Local Authorities dated 5 March 2025 it is stated there will be no consultation on the amended Clause 1 and instead Local Authorities have been given a 6 weeks consultation period on a Department of Infrastructure replacement Clause 2 amendment. This New Clause 2 is being brought forward after failing to receive House of Keys approval for the original Clause 2 amendment proposed by Mr Hooper. The Department has described its intention to introduce a New Clause 2 through the Legislative Council's consideration of this Bill thereby ignoring the House of Keys' resolution to refuse the original Clause 2 amendment (or seeking changes to it) and thereby by-passing any initial consideration of the Department's latest proposed by elected National political representatives.

These actions are further evidence that the Department of Infrastructure is continuing to sponsor and support these late and major changes to legislative provision for Local Authorities which will impact on the functions they undertake for ratepayers, how these services will be funded by ratepayers and the quality of services which ratepayers require locally. The Local Authorities believe this action rarely occurs because it is undemocratic and a poor way to develop and implement legislation.

Representatives of all Local Authorities met on 14 March 2025 and they agreed they did not support the amended Clause 1 and the Department's Clause 2 Amendment because it is superfluous. Instead, the Local Authorities believed the Department should meet with all the newly elected Local Authority representatives after 1 May 2025 to discuss this important matter which if taken forward represents Local Authority reform without engagement.

Timescale for Taking Legislation Forward

The Department of Infrastructure are responsible for setting the timescale for taking legislation forward and/or removing it from consideration by the House of Keys. Local Authorities are aware the Department could have withdrawn consideration of this Bill on 28 January 2025 if they were opposed to the late major changes being promoted by a backbench member of the Department before the voting took place to approve the New Clause 1 and 2 in principle. In addition, should the Department wished to table an amendment to New Clause 2 this should have been done on 28 January 2025. Neither of these options were taken which alongside how the Department Minister and the Department members voted evidences their support for the original New Clause 1 & 2 scheduled for consideration at the House of Keys sitting on 28 January 2025.

The Department of Infrastructure can still set the timescale for consideration of this legislation by the Legislative Council. The Department is already doing this by undertaking a consultation on their New Clause 2 before consideration is permitted by the Legislative Council. Furthermore, Local Authorities are aware the Bill was not taken through Legislative Council after the Summer recess and National elections in 2021 after it had completed its three readings in the House of Keys.

Local Authorities believe the absence of any stakeholder engagement and the imminence of the Local Authority elections, (which take place every four years), the Department should excise this power and commit to engaging properly on the late major changes they are seeking to make to this Bill after 1 May 2025.

Ongoing and Formal Assurances Only Minor Changes Are Included

The Department has consistently and formerly stated the amendments to the Local Government Act are minor. This is a misleading statement when Local Authorities believe the late major amended Clauses fundamentally change the Local Government Act. The impact of Clause 1 and 2 are far reaching and merit the appropriate level of stakeholder and public scrutiny.

Local Authorities believe these Clauses falls outside the scope of the Department's proposed 2023 Bill and the remit of the 2017 public consultation. It has not been subject to stakeholder or ratepayer consultation in the intervening time. No evidence has been provided on its need and the scope of this Clause is too wide reaching to identify a specific application at this time. These Clauses should not be supported until it has followed the appropriate mechanism for developing primary legislation in accordance with the Council of Minister's Public Engagement and Consultation Principles as laid out in GD2017/061.

Lack of Local Authority Engagement

A primary concern is the lack of constructive stakeholder engagement and feedback. The Local Authorities have sought without success to be actively involved and assist in the preparation of this legislation. Consultation on Local Government legislation took place eight years ago in 2017. At this time the Local Authorities highlighted no stakeholder consultation had taken place and the Department had instead chosen to solely undertake a public consultation. Since 2017 the Department have had adequate time to engage with Local Authorities. Instead, there have been long periods of inactivity and then without providing advance notice the Department has sought House of Keys approval for their Bill. This has occurred on the following occasions:

Local Authorities were notified of an urgent requirement to progress this legislation at the end of 2020 and during the final covid lockdown period in January 2021. A subsequent workshop with Local Authorities took place on 24 February 2021 when the Local Authorities

raised concerns with small aspects of this Bill. No feedback was provided on these issues and on 13 May 2021 Local Authorities were notified the 2021 version of this Bill had received its first reading two days earlier.

On the 14 June 2023 Local Authorities were notified the 2023 version of this Bill had received its first reading a day earlier.

Then on 20 June 2024 Local Authorities were official notified the final reading of this Bill would not proceed at this moment in time. Only to receive notification on 23 January 2025 that this would take place imminently. A Local Authority was formerly advised on 24 January 2025 the decision to promote this Bill was made in December 2024 on the appointment of a new Minister. Unfortunately, the Department of Infrastructure chose not to release this information to Local Authorities until it was scheduled for consideration by the House of Keys.

On 30 January 2025 the Commissioners were approached by a Member of the House of Keys to highlight the changes proposed in Clause 1 and 2 in the Bill by a member of the Department. No prior consultation took place on these matters or notification of the scope of these new proposed Clauses.

On 5 March 2025 the Department of Infrastructure wrote to Local Authorities to advise them they were undertaking a six weeks consultation on a New Clause 2. This letter was sent out 1 week before the Notice of Local Authority Election was issued. These elections must be held in every Local Authority area on 24 April 2025 to comply with the minimum statutory requirements of Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) Act 2020 and the Elections (Local Authority) Regulations 2022. The timing of this consultation immediately prior to Local Authority elections does not meet the requirements of section 2.3 of the consultation principles. Particularly bullet point 1,2, 3, 5, and especially 7 in GD2017/061.

Problems with Legislation

The lack of consultation and engagement have result in a number of shortcomings and inconsistencies in the approved legislation provisions. In addition, the reasons cited for the legislation in the press are erroneous and misleading. These matters could still be addressed through proper engagement by the Department with stakeholders and Local Authorities instead of supporting these late, major and radical amendment to Local Authority legislation.

Summary

The Local Authorities would like to see New Clause 1 and 2 removed and recommend the Department should meet with all the newly elected Local Authority representatives after 1 May 2025 to discuss this matter. There are serious constitutional and financial implications if these Clauses are taken forward which represents Local Authority reform without engagement.

Thank you for consideration of this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

Chairman

Text from Mr McGuinness

Firstly, I am strongly opposed to New Clause 1 (NC1). While I understand that its stated aim is to ensure consistency and parity in the delivery of local government functions, in practice it hands the Department a broad and far-reaching power to impose new duties on local authorities by regulation. Although Mr Hooper has publicly stated that this is not intended to result in Tynwald "going mad" and mandating services across the board, the clause would permit exactly that. It provides the mechanism for Tynwald to instruct local authorities to undertake or pay for any service it sees fit — regardless of whether the local authority agrees. Once this legislation is passed, its future application is entirely outside Mr Hooper's control. The ramifications are exponential, and I believe this represents a serious centralisation of power away from local democracy.

There is a particular risk that these powers could be used to shift the cost of services from centrally funded departments onto ratepayers. With ongoing Treasury pressure to tighten budgets, this legislation provides a convenient means of reducing central expenditure by passing obligations to local authorities, who must then fund them through rates. This is especially concerning given that our rates system remains outdated and does not reflect residents' ability to pay. It could effectively force rate increases to fund services which the local authority did not seek or prioritise, further undermining local accountability.

I also have significant concerns about New Clause 2 (NC2), particularly its potential to introduce sanctions against local authorities that fail to meet Department-specified standards or complete functions in a "reasonable" timeframe. More troubling still is the background to this clause: it was rejected in the House of Keys as a private member's amendment, yet the Department is now considering adopting it as its own. That raises process concerns, but also questions of legitimacy. While I acknowledge that the Department has now said it does not intend to introduce a clause relating to personal liability, the fact that such a clause was originally drafted (NC3) is worrying in itself. In an era where fewer people are coming forward to stand for local office, the threat of sanctions — let alone personal liability — is the opposite of what's needed. It risks creating a climate of fear rather than cooperation and will dissuade good people from participating in public life.

I recognise that this proposal may have originated as a response to the specific issue of Bride's withdrawal from the Northern Civic Amenity Site, a case in which the Department had no powers to intervene. However, this response goes too far. It introduces a general and lasting power that could be applied across the Island in any number of ways, well beyond the original problem. The ability to dictate actions or

funding responsibilities — even with a duty to consult — does not ensure agreement, and introduces an unhealthy power imbalance between central and local government.

Ramsey's experience with the Northern Civic Amenity Site serves as a live example of the kinds of operational difficulties that can arise. But I do not believe this justifies granting the Department permanent powers to direct local authorities. We must be proportionate in our legislative response. These clauses are not.

I also believe this legislation risks becoming a backdoor mechanism for cost-shifting and quiet local authority reform, without the openness or consent that such reform would require. If central government wants to change the structure or funding model of local government, that should be the subject of a clear and transparent process — not done incrementally by regulation.

If regulations are to be made under NC1, they must require not only consultation but agreement from affected authorities. Otherwise, we are creating a power of unilateral imposition. That is not compatible with a partnership model of local governance.

We should also be alert to the implications for joint boards. Ramsey is part of the Northern Swimming Pool Board, for instance, where the facility was originally built by central government and remains subject to mortgage repayments. The proposed powers would potentially allow the Department to shift full financial responsibility for such facilities onto local authorities, without proper negotiation or support. That is a significant financial and governance risk.

Another concern is the potential confusion these changes would cause for the public. As responsibility for services is shifted and rate demands rise, residents will be unsure who is actually accountable. It undermines public trust in both levels of government if decisions are made centrally but delivered (and funded) locally. There's also the danger that unelected officials will effectively override elected local representatives — reducing transparency and public confidence in local democracy.

Finally, I believe the timing of this consultation is highly problematic. It coincides directly with the local authority elections, placing outgoing and incoming members at a disadvantage. There's a real risk that full engagement from local authorities will be hampered as a result. In light of the importance of this legislation, the Department

should have delayed consultation until after the elections to allow for full, democratic involvement.

Minister for Infrastructure
Department of Infrastructure
Sea Terminal Building
Douglas
IM1 2RF

Dear Minister,

Concerns Regarding the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023

In the above connection I write on the direction of my Board. This letter is to express serious concern over the handling and content of the proposed amendments to the Local Government Act, specifically New Clauses 1 and 2, as introduced by Mr Hooper MHK at the House of Keys sitting on 28 January 2025.

Lack of Consultation and Democratic Process

Local Authorities were only informed of the Bill's final reading on 23 January 2025, mere days before Storm Eowyn led to widespread office and school closures across the Island. This short notice, combined with the Department's assurance that only "relatively minor amendments" would be considered, proved to be both inaccurate and misleading. The new clauses proposed are far from minor — they represent fundamental, far-reaching changes to the operation, funding, and autonomy of local government.

We note your letter dated 5 March 2025, in which you state that these amendments were not Departmental but introduced independently by a political member. However, given that Mr Hooper is a member of the Department of Infrastructure and that all Departmental political members, including yourself, voted in favour of these major amendments, it is difficult to accept this distinction. The process followed has clearly circumvented the established government consultation principles outlined in GD2017/061.

Another concern is the potential confusion these changes would cause for the public. As responsibility for services is shifted and rate demands rise, residents will be unsure who is actually accountable. It undermines public trust in both levels of government if decisions are made centrally but delivered (and funded) locally. There is also the danger that unelected officials will effectively override elected local representatives — reducing transparency and public confidence in local democracy.

Substantive Concerns with New Clauses

New Clause 1 (NC1) grants sweeping powers to the Department, enabling it to mandate new functions and impose funding obligations on Local Authorities through regulation, regardless of local agreement. This is a centralising move that risks significantly undermining local democracy. It could shift the financial burden of

centrally funded services onto ratepayers without proper consultation or accountability — a particularly troubling prospect given the outdated nature of the Island's rating system.

New Clause 2 (NC2), previously rejected in the House of Keys as a private member's amendment, now appears to be repurposed by the Department. This raises serious procedural and legitimacy concerns. The clause allows the Department to impose sanctions where functions are not completed to its satisfaction, creating a threatening legislative environment that discourages participation in local government. In an era where fewer people are coming forward to stand for local office, the threat of sanctions, let alone personal liability, is the opposite of what is needed. It risks creating a climate of fear rather than cooperation and will dissuade good people from participating in public life.

This is compounded by the fact that an even more draconian clause proposing personal liability (NC3) was reportedly drafted, even if later dropped.

We acknowledge that the Department may have been motivated by specific operational challenges, such as those relating to the Northern Civic Amenity Site. However, the proposed legislation responds to that narrow issue with broad, indefinite powers that could be applied anywhere on the Island. This is not a proportionate or justified approach.

Implications for Governance, Finance, and Public Trust

The potential consequences of these clauses include:

- Cost-shifting from central to local government, forcing rate increases without local consent.
- Unilateral imposition of responsibilities, undermining the principle of partnership.
- Financial exposure for joint boards, such as the Northern Swimming Pool Board, with little oversight or negotiation.
- Confusion and erosion of public trust, as service responsibilities blur and elected local representatives lose real authority.

These changes are not only technically flawed — they are fundamentally undemocratic. They represent a form of quiet local government reform without public mandate or transparent process.

Timing and Engagement Failures

The timing of the six-week consultation on the Department's revised Clause 2 — issued one week before the Notice of Local Authority Elections — further demonstrates a failure to respect the principles of genuine engagement. Furthermore, it places both outgoing and incoming members at significant disadvantage. Section 2.3 of the

Government's consultation guidance (GD2017/061) highlights the importance of accessibility, clarity, and democratic participation, all of which have been compromised. Only delaying this consultation until after the elections would have allowed full, democratic engagement.

Local Authorities have long sought meaningful involvement in this legislative process. Since the original 2017 consultation, opportunities for engagement have been minimal, and major developments have repeatedly occurred without warning or dialogue — including in 2021, 2023, and again in January 2025.

Recommendations

We urge the Department to:

1. **Withdraw New Clauses 1 and 2** from the Bill currently under consideration.
2. **Defer further legislative progress** until after the Local Authority elections on 24 April 2025.
3. **Commit to a full, transparent consultation** with newly elected Local Authority representatives on any proposed legislative changes.
4. **Adhere to the Council of Ministers' Consultation Principles** before any further steps are taken to amend primary legislation.

There are serious constitutional, operational, and financial implications if these clauses are pursued without proper engagement. We remain willing to work with the Department constructively on appropriate reforms — but these must be developed in partnership, not imposed.

Yours sincerely

Derek Flint

Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Minister for Infrastructure
Department of Infrastructure
Sea Terminal Building
Douglas
IM1 2RF

Dear Minister,

Concerns Regarding the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023

In the above connection I write on the direction of my Board. This letter is to express serious concern over the handling and content of the proposed amendments to the Local Government Act, specifically New Clauses 1 and 2, as introduced by Mr Hooper MHK at the House of Keys sitting on 28 January 2025.

Lack of Consultation and Democratic Process

Local Authorities were only informed of the Bill's final reading on 23 January 2025, mere days before Storm Eowyn led to widespread office and school closures across the Island. This short notice, combined with the Department's assurance that only "relatively minor amendments" would be considered, proved to be both inaccurate and misleading. The new clauses proposed are far from minor — they represent fundamental, far-reaching changes to the operation, funding, and autonomy of local government.

We note your letter dated 5 March 2025, in which you state that these amendments were not Departmental but introduced independently by a political member. However, given that Mr Hooper is a member of the Department of Infrastructure and that all Departmental political members, including yourself, voted in favour of these major amendments, it is difficult to accept this distinction. The process followed has clearly circumvented the established government consultation principles outlined in GD2017/061.

Another concern is the potential confusion these changes would cause for the public. As responsibility for services is shifted and rate demands rise, residents will be unsure who is actually accountable. It undermines public trust in both levels of government if decisions are made centrally but delivered (and funded) locally. There is also the danger that unelected officials will effectively override elected local representatives — reducing transparency and public confidence in local democracy.

Substantive Concerns with New Clauses

New Clause 1 (NC1) grants sweeping powers to the Department, enabling it to mandate new functions and impose funding obligations on Local Authorities through regulation, regardless of local agreement. This is a centralising move that risks significantly undermining local democracy. It could shift the financial burden of

centrally funded services onto ratepayers without proper consultation or accountability — a particularly troubling prospect given the outdated nature of the Island's rating system.

New Clause 2 (NC2), previously rejected in the House of Keys as a private member's amendment, now appears to be repurposed by the Department. This raises serious procedural and legitimacy concerns. The clause allows the Department to impose sanctions where functions are not completed to its satisfaction, creating a threatening legislative environment that discourages participation in local government. In an era where fewer people are coming forward to stand for local office, the threat of sanctions, let alone personal liability, is the opposite of what is needed. It risks creating a climate of fear rather than cooperation and will dissuade good people from participating in public life.

This is compounded by the fact that an even more draconian clause proposing personal liability (NC3) was reportedly drafted, even if later dropped.

We acknowledge that the Department may have been motivated by specific operational challenges, such as those relating to the Northern Civic Amenity Site. However, the proposed legislation responds to that narrow issue with broad, indefinite powers that could be applied anywhere on the Island. This is not a proportionate or justified approach.

Implications for Governance, Finance, and Public Trust

The potential consequences of these clauses include:

- Cost-shifting from central to local government, forcing rate increases without local consent.
- Unilateral imposition of responsibilities, undermining the principle of partnership.
- Financial exposure for joint boards, such as the Northern Swimming Pool Board, with little oversight or negotiation.
- Confusion and erosion of public trust, as service responsibilities blur and elected local representatives lose real authority.

These changes are not only technically flawed — they are fundamentally undemocratic. They represent a form of quiet local government reform without public mandate or transparent process.

Timing and Engagement Failures

The timing of the six-week consultation on the Department's revised Clause 2 — issued one week before the Notice of Local Authority Elections — further demonstrates a failure to respect the principles of genuine engagement. Furthermore, it places both outgoing and incoming members at significant disadvantage. Section 2.3 of the

Government's consultation guidance (GD2017/061) highlights the importance of accessibility, clarity, and democratic participation, all of which have been compromised. Only delaying this consultation until after the elections would have allowed full, democratic engagement.

Local Authorities have long sought meaningful involvement in this legislative process. Since the original 2017 consultation, opportunities for engagement have been minimal, and major developments have repeatedly occurred without warning or dialogue — including in 2021, 2023, and again in January 2025.

Recommendations

We urge the Department to:

1. **Withdraw New Clauses 1 and 2** from the Bill currently under consideration.
2. **Defer further legislative progress** until after the Local Authority elections on 24 April 2025.
3. **Commit to a full, transparent consultation** with newly elected Local Authority representatives on any proposed legislative changes.
4. **Adhere to the Council of Ministers' Consultation Principles** before any further steps are taken to amend primary legislation.

There are serious constitutional, operational, and financial implications if these clauses are pursued without proper engagement. We remain willing to work with the Department constructively on appropriate reforms — but these must be developed in partnership, not imposed.

Yours sincerely

Derek Flint

Town Clerk and Chief Executive

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025
APRIL 2025 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of Ramsey Town Commissioners will take place on Thursday 1st May 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the Boardroom, Ramsey Town Hall, Ramsey.,

Recommendation: for noting

H. S. Bevan
Deputy Town Clerk

8th April 2025

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
APRIL 2025 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, has opened a consultation in respect of the Freedom of Information Act 2015. The Freedom of Information Act 2015 sets out the requirements and duties of public authorities when responding to Freedom of Information requests. The Act came into effect on a phased basis from 1 February 2016.

The purpose of the Freedom of Information Act 2015 is:

To enable persons who are resident in the Island to obtain access to information held by public authorities in accordance with the principles that:

(a) the information should be available to the public to promote the public interest; and

(b) exceptions to the right of access are necessary to maintain a balance with rights to privacy, effective government, and value for the taxpayer.

Ramsey Town Commissioners strives to operate in a transparent way with most business being heard in public, agendas and reports for meetings are published in advance and public meetings of the Board are livestreamed.

Most Freedom of Information requests received by Ramsey Town Commissioners are processed involving less than 15 hours of officer time.

The full consultation can be viewed online at <https://consult.gov.im/cabinet-office/consultation-on-the-introduction-of-fees-and-cost/>. The Council of Ministers “Consultation on the introduction of fees and cost limits for Freedom of Information requests” document is appended to this report.

The questions raised in the consultation are detailed below:

1) Would you support a proposal that a public authority can refuse to comply with a request if it estimates that it will take more than 15 hours to answer, therefore setting a prescribed limit of £510 in each instance.

Yes

No

Please explain your answer

**Deputy Town Clerk's Report - Freedom of Information Act
April 2025 – Public Continued:**

2) Would you support a proposal that two or more similar requests from one person or by different persons that appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, received within 60 days of each other can be aggregated for the purposes of calculating if the prescribed cost limit is exceeded.

Yes

No

Please explain your answer:

3) Should it be recognised within any regulations that smaller public authorities outlined within Schedule 1 that are not central government departments will have fewer resources and that a lower costs limit should be adopted in respect of these, for example for those authorities who employ fewer than 20 full time officers?

Yes

No

Do you have any comments or feedback?

4) Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the introduction of cost limits for Freedom of Information requests?

5) The Council of Ministers are minded to introduce a fee to make a Freedom of Information request, what are your opinions?

6) What do you consider to be a reasonable fee?

£10

£15

£20

£25

Other (please specify)

Please specify other amount:

7) If fees were introduced, how do you believe they should be implemented to minimise negative impacts?

8) Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the introduction of fees for Freedom of Information requests?

Members are asked to consider whether the Commission should submit a response. Members can make a response in their own capacity. The consultation closes on 9th May 2025.

Recommendation: for consideration.

H. S. Bevan
Deputy Town Clerk

8th April 2025



Isle of Man Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Council of Ministers

Consultation on the introduction of fees and cost limits for Freedom of Information requests

March 2025

Contents

- 1. Overview**
- 2. Impact of the Act**
- 3. Options for Managing the Impact of FOI Requests**
- 4. Issues on which views are sought**
- 5. Summary**

1. Overview

1.1. The Freedom of Information Act 2015¹ ("the Act") sets out the requirements and duties of public authorities when responding to Freedom of Information ("FOI") requests. The Act came into effect on a phased basis from 1 February 2016.

1.2. In December 2023 Tynwald debated a motion from Mr Thomas MHK which called on the Council of Ministers ("Council") to lay its intentions in respect of amending Schedule 1 of the Act regarding publicly-owned companies.

1.3. The full motion was as follows:

"That Tynwald calls on the Council of Ministers to lay before Tynwald its intentions in respect of amending Schedule 1 regarding the definition and specification of publicly-owned companies by March 2024."

1.4. Council of Ministers has since laid its intentions before May's sitting of Tynwald (GD/0037²) and outlined that:

"Work on this topic has prompted thinking towards a wider discussion and review of how the FOI regime is operating. The impact on some public authorities on the volume and complexity of requests received were alluded to in the debate in Tynwald in December 2023.

As a consequence Council has agreed that it wishes to revisit the principle of initial charges and cost limits for requests, the latter last being considered in 2016, and will hold a public consultation on the topic in summer 2024."

1.5. The Isle of Man Government's ongoing commitment to openness and transparency is resolute. The policy proposals outlined in this consultation are in no way intended as a barrier to access; rather they seek to strike a careful balance over the right to information alongside effective government and value for the taxpayer.

1.6. The Cabinet Office looks forward to receiving comments from the public and interested parties and would encourage feedback on this consultation.

2. Impact of the Act

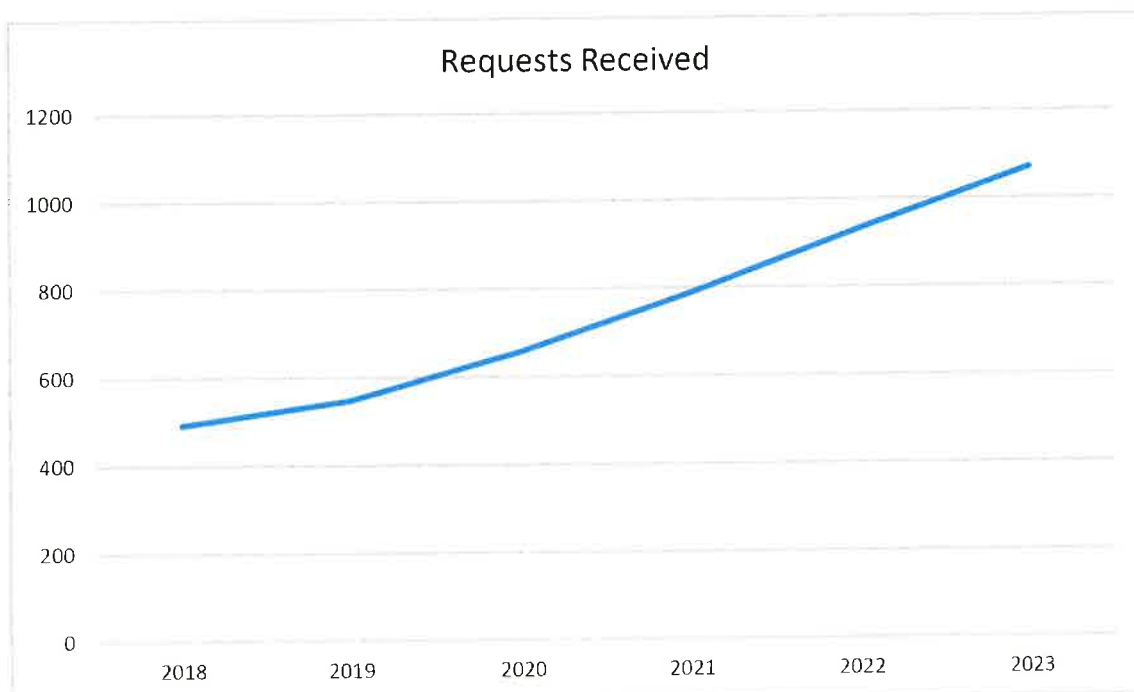
Year on year FOI volumes

2.1. Since 2018 (the first year which the system reported figures for cases within all the defined hourly thresholds), requests received have increased at an average rate of 17% per annum. Government received 982 requests in the 2024 calendar year with the time taken to resolve requests continuing to rise.

2.2. It should also be noted that the data included in this section is only for Government Departments, Statutory Boards & Offices only.

¹ [Freedom of Information Act 2015](#)

² [Council of Ministers' Report on the Freedom of Information Act 2015 and Publicly-Owned Companies](#)



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Percentage Increase	0%	11.18%	20.11%	19.79%	18.3%	14.82%	-9%

2.3. We can also observe that requests are taking longer to resolve:

Hourly Threshold	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
0 – 1	227	238	303	369	437	336	172
1 – 7	211	271	304	370	441	542	567
7 – 18	44	37	43	47	48	158	194
18 +	10	1	7	1	5	33	49

Costs to Process FOI Requests

2.4. The below table outlines the estimated costs to respond to FOI requests, as the system currently stands. An hourly rate of £34.00 has been used which was calculated from 2016's Consultation on a Cost Limit for Freedom of Information Requests³ rate of £25.00 and allowing for inflation.

³ [Consultation on a Cost Limit for Freedom of Information Requests](#)

2.5. To provide an example from the report, in applying the hourly thresholds to 2024's cases received, and the hourly rate(s) we can observe;

Hourly Threshold	Cases received:	Total Processing Hours:	Average Hours p/Case:	Average Cost p/Case based on Hourly Rate:	Total Cost to Process all Cases:
0 – 1	172	83	0.49	£16.50	£2,839
1 – 7	567	1958	3.45	£117.39	£66,560
7 – 18	194	1995	10.28	£349.63	£67,828
18+	49	1293	26.38	£896.97	£43,951
Total Cumulative Costs					£181,178

2.6. It should be noted that the time estimates included above are likely to be the minimum amount of time spent responding to FOI requests and the actual amounts of time expended are likely to be much higher. It is also important to recognise that the time expended by teams and staff making enquiries and co-ordinating large requests can have a real and significant impact on officers providing essential and / or front-line services.

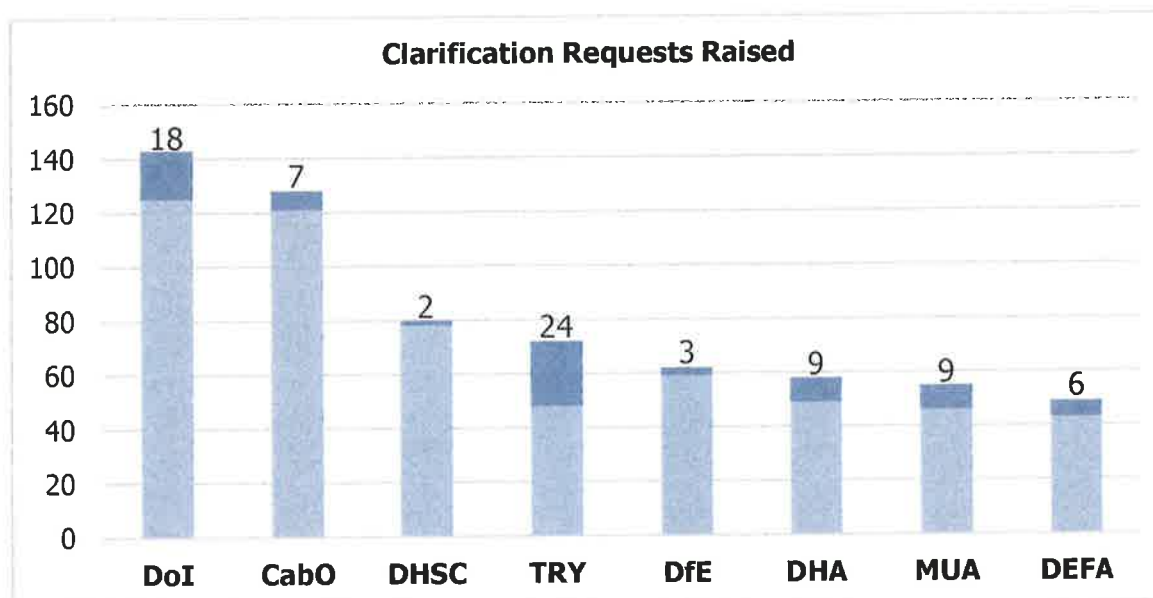
2.7. It is clear from the data, that the cost to Government is increasing, along with an increasing number of requests which indicates that the time is right to revisit consulting on possible policy options to address the issue and provide better value for money for the taxpayer.

Proportion of FOI Requests which has information supplied or provided via the application of a Section 20 (Information Accessible by other means) exemption.

2.8. The following data has been sourced from the below Public Authorities during the time period of 28/08/2023-28/08/2024.

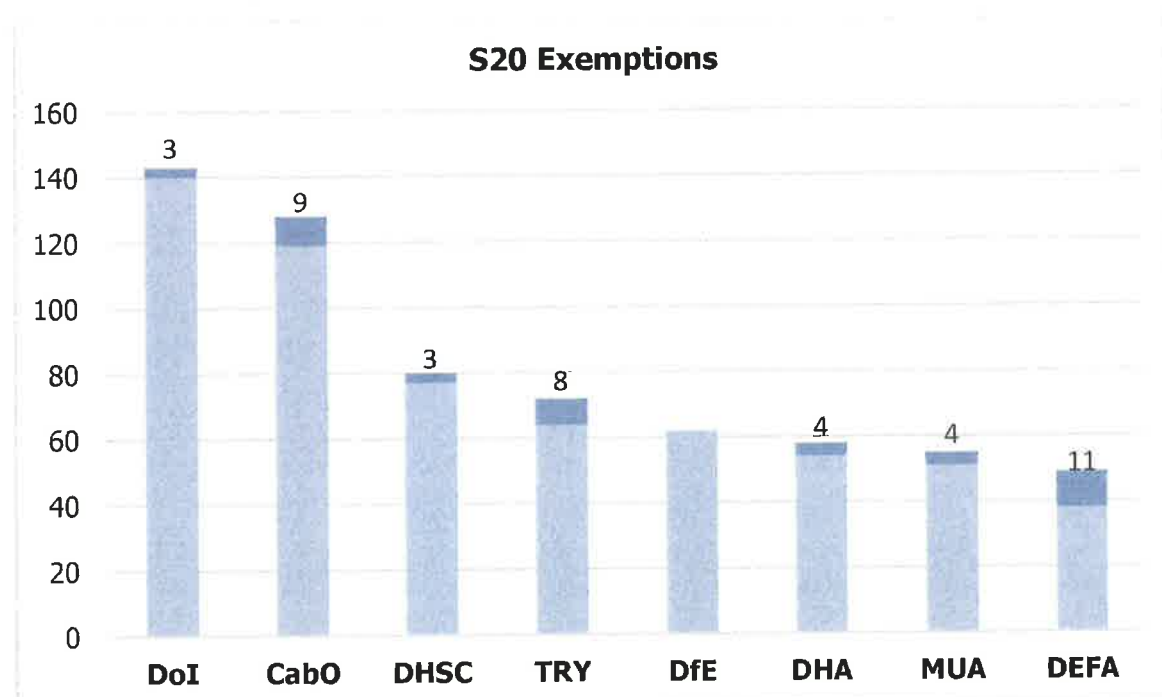
Public Authority	Total Requests Received
Department of Infrastructure	143
Cabinet Office	128
Department of Health & Social Care	80
The Treasury	72
Department for Enterprise	62
Department of Home Affairs	58
Manx Utilities Authority	55
Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture	49
Grand Total	647

2.9. Of the total requests received in the period, 78 (12%) were clarified with the applicant.



2.10. Of those requests where clarification was raised, 44 lapsed due to information not being provided.

2.11. 42 (7%) warranted a Section 20 (Information Accessible by other means) exemption.

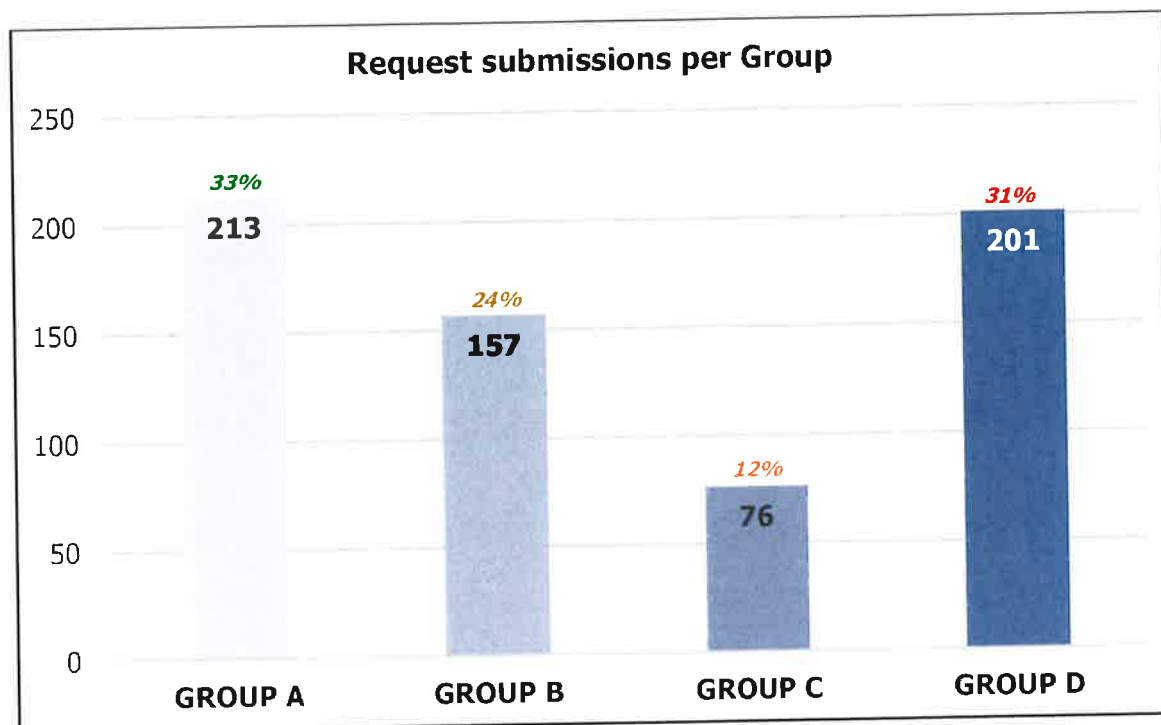


2.12. There are only 7 total requests (1%) where both a clarification request was raised with the applicant, and a Section 20 exemption was applied to the request in some way (either wholly or partly).

Number of individuals which submit FOI requests to Departments, Boards & Offices annually.

2.13. For the purpose of illustrating this at a broader level, requesters have been grouped together based on the number of requests submitted as follows.

Group	# of Requesters	Parameters
A	213	1 request in the period
B	65	2 – 4 requests in the period
C	12	5 – 9 requests in the period
D	10	10+ requests in the period



2.14. Based on the above, we can observe that of the 300 requesters who submitted a request in the period, 22 of those (Groups C & D), which account for 7% of requesters, were responsible for 43% of the total requests received in the period.

2.15. Of the 87 requesters who submitted more than 1 request, 67 of those (77%) submitted a request to more than one public authority.

2.16. We can further observe that the top three requesters of Group D submitted 98 requests in their own capacity, accounting for 15% of the total requests received. These individuals are consistent in that they submitted multiple requests to multiple public authorities in the period, and had a particular focus on a single public authority.

Requester	Total Submissions
Requester X	34
Requester Y	33
Requester Z	31

2.17. It is clear from the data that there is a significant impact being placed upon Government's resources from a disproportionate number of requesters. This highlights the need to address this issue and bring forward policy options to reduce the administrative burden that is being placed upon Public Authorities.

3. Options for Managing the Impact of FOI Requests

Fees

- 3.1. One method suggested for managing the burden on public authorities is the introduction of an upfront fee payable by the requester at the time of submitting an FOI request.
- 3.2. Section 68 (1) of the Act provides for the Council of Ministers to make regulations regarding the introduction of a fee for requests for information: *"the Council of Ministers may make regulations prescribing the fees payable – (a) to public authorities in respect of - (i) requests for information; and (ii) giving access to information in accordance with this Act"*. To date, no such fees have been payable due to the absence of such regulations.
- 3.3. The introduction of a charge is being considered by Government as it may reduce the number of requests received by public authorities for information that is already available via Government websites, Tynwald or previously published responses. An upfront fee may also discourage purported abuse of the act through submission of vexatious, frivolous or misconceived requests, or "request campaigns" where the requester has submitted a string of repetitive requests for information relating to the same subject matter.
- 3.4. Section 3 of the Act provides:
- "The purpose of this Act is to enable persons who are resident in the Island to obtain access to information held by public authorities in accordance with the principles that —*
- (a) the information should be available to the public to promote the public interest; and*
- (b) exceptions to the right of access are necessary to maintain a balance with rights to privacy, effective government, and value for the taxpayer."*
- 3.5. Council is therefore cognisant and supportive of the fact that all Isle of Man residents have a right to request information from Government and is seeking views on the introduction of a modest sum so as not to inhibit anyone's right to public information.
- 3.6. However, these rights must be balanced against protecting the resources of a public authority by managing the burden placed on them in an effort to provide greater value for money for the taxpayer.

Cost Limits

- 3.7. The Act gives the Council of Ministers powers to make regulations regarding a cost limit, above which a public authority may refuse to give an applicant the requested information, if the public authority estimates that the cost of searching for or preparing (or both) the information to give to the applicant would exceed the amount prescribed by regulations made for the purposes of this paragraph. To date, this practical refusal reason⁴ has not been used because of the absence of such regulations. These regulations would include the methodology for estimating the cost of supplying information.

⁴ [Section 11\(3\)\(f\) of the Freedom of Information Act 2015](#)

3.8. Any implementation of a cost limit will result in a request being refused if it exceeds the cost limit, however as set out at point 3.9, Public Authorities will still be required to advise and assist applicants to form a concise targeted request for information.

3.9. Since the previous consultation in 2016⁵, and the experience of all public authorities, views are sought from the public on the proposal that a cost limit is put in place, to provide a level of protection against the impact caused by the time taken to respond to some FOI requests. To support the spirit of the Act any provisions should balance protecting the resources of a public authority by managing the burden placed on them whilst at the same time not discouraging the making of FOI requests. It is anticipated that the introduction of a cost limit would, in turn, encourage better formulation of concise, targeted requests by applicants.

3.10 Public Authorities would still be required to demonstrate compliance with their duty to advise and assist applicants⁶ in formulating a concise, targeted request for information in a manner which would not require the public authority to exceed any cost limit, and must reasonably attempt to remove the practical refusal reason before issuing the applicant with a refusal notice.

4. Issues on which your views are sought

Cost Limits

4.1. Jersey has a cost limit of 12 and a half hours for Freedom of Information requests. Their legislation recognises that there has to be a limit on the amount of time and staff resources which can be spent when answering a single FOI request. The request may be refused under their FOI legislation⁷ if it is estimated that it will take more than 12 and a half hours to answer, conversely if it is estimated to take fewer than 12 and half hours the request will be answered free of charge.

4.2. The UK⁸ have a cost limit of £600 for central Government with £450 for all other local authorities, calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per person therefore providing time limits of 24 hours for central Government and 18 hours for all other public authorities.

4.3. Ireland⁹ will charge in full if a request is estimated to cost between 101 and 500 euros, if a request is estimated to cost greater than 700 euros, it can be refused. Costs are calculated at 20 euros per hour for the search and retrieval of records.

4.4. Due to the relative size of the Isle of Man in relation to the UK and Ireland it is determined that the most accurate and prudent comparison to make is to Jersey's model. As evidenced in the table below, which shows that over the last 2 years the number of requests received by both jurisdictions are at a similar level.

⁵ [Consultation on a Cost Limit for Freedom of Information Requests](#)

⁶ [Section 15 of the Freedom of Information Act 2015](#)

⁷ <https://www.jerseylaw.je/laws/current/Pages/16.330.10.aspx>

⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/3244/contents/made>

⁹ <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/government-in-ireland/how-government-works/standards-and-accountability/freedom-of-information/>

Year	Jersey Requests Received	IOM Requests Received
2018	798	492
2019	985	547
2020	926	657
2021	1207	787
2022	883	931
2023	1013	1069
2024	1169	982

4.5. It is proposed that the introduction of a cost limit could provide such protection for public authorities without the need to adopt an upfront fee for making requests. The views of the public are sought on the following policy proposals for such a limit.

4.6. The below proposal is in line with Jersey's policy, who calculate the cost of responding to a FOI request at a rate of £40 per hour taken at a maximum cost limit of £500. This therefore provides a time cost limit of 12 and a half hours for a request. Taking the same cost limit (£500) and using the Island's calculation of hourly cost to respond to a FOI request as outlined in paragraph 2.3 (£34), this provides a cost time limit of 15 hours.

i. Would you support a proposal that;

a. a public authority can refuse to comply with a request if it estimates that it will take more than 15 hours to answer, therefore setting a prescribed limit of £510 in each instance. (Yes / No / If not, why not?)

There is a possibility within the Freedom of Information system as it currently stands for overlapping requests, where a public authority is dealing with several requests at any one time from the same requestor to the detriment of others. This impacts the ability of the public authority to either respond on time or continue with its own day to day business. The below is in line with regulations in the UK and Jersey. As evidenced in paragraphs 2.13-2.17 there is a large impact being placed on Government's resources from a small number of requesters. The below policy option may provide an effective remedy to this issue.

ii. Would you support a proposal that 2 or more similar requests from one person or by different persons that appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, received within 60 days of each other can be aggregated for the purposes of calculating if the prescribed cost limit is exceeded; (Yes / No / If not, why not?)

Both the UK's and Jersey's respective cost limit regulations draw a distinction between public authorities which form part of central government and those which do not. They each recognise that a government department has greater resources to manage FOI requests and therefore set a lower costs limit for other public authorities.

This principle could be extended to public authorities such as small publicly-owned companies or smaller local authorities in an effort to reduce the administrative burden that will be placed on them when subject to the requirements of the Act.

iii. Should it be recognised within any regulations that smaller public authorities outlined within Schedule 1 that are not central government departments will have fewer resources and that a lower costs limit should be adopted in respect of these, for example for those authorities who employ fewer than 20 full time officers? (Yes / No / Open text)

iv. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the introduction of cost limits for Freedom of Information requests? (Open text)

Initial Charges

Jurisdiction	Charge to make a request
Victoria, Australia	Application fee of \$31.80 for making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic), subject to an increase on 1 July every year.
South Africa	35 rand for a request to a public body under the Promotion of Access to Information Act.
Canada	\$5 application fee for a request under the Access to Information Act.

The research above shows that a small number of other jurisdictions operate a policy of charging for making a FOI request. Despite this and the fact that those jurisdictions which do follow this policy are not comparable nations, it does not mean that such a policy could or should not be implemented on the Island.

Further to the report (GD/0037¹⁰) to Tynwald at May's sitting, and the acknowledgement of a need for reform of the current FOI system at that debate and at December 2023's sitting of Tynwald Court, this potential policy could prove an effective remedy. A balance will need to be struck to ensure compliance with Section 3 of the Act, however.

i. The Council of Ministers are minded to introduce a fee to make a Freedom of Information request, what are your opinions? (Open text)

ii. What do you consider to be a reasonable fee? (tick box)

- £10
- £15
- £20
- £25
- Specify other amount

Wider views from the public are welcomed to provide an alternative viewpoint from the side of the user and therefore a different perspective on the system, which may have the benefit of being able to identify potential pitfalls or other concerns in respect of the proposed policy principles.

iii. If fees were introduced, how do you believe they should be implemented to minimise negative impacts? (Open box)

¹⁰ [Council of Ministers' Report on the Freedom of Information Act 2015 and Publicly-Owned Companies](#)

iv. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the introduction of charges for Freedom of Information requests? (Open box)

5. Summary

- 5.1. The introduction of cost limit regulations would form the balance to providing access to Freedom of information to the public whilst also providing the means by which requests that would significantly impact a public authority as defined by Schedule 1 of the Act to be refused.
- 5.2. Introduction of costs for FOI requests via cost limits or initial charges represents a policy change for the Isle of Man FOI regime and; in the interests of transparency and in the spirit of the Act, this public consultation on the principles of the proposed cost limit and initial charges, is considered appropriate to gauge the views of stakeholders.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTION
APRIL 2025 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Local Authority General Election is due to take place on Thursday 24 April 2025.

Following the closure of Nominations on 26th March 2025 and end of the period Objections and Withdrawals the situation in each ward is stated below:

South Ward There were 5 nominations received. These Candidates were therefore elected in a non-contested election.

A by-election will be held in due course for the remaining vacancy.

North Ward There were 8 nominations for the 6 vacancies. This means that there will be an election on Thursday 24th April 2025 for which a Notice of Poll has been issued. Poll Cards have also been issued.

The Polling Station will be at Ramsey Town Hall and will be open between 8am and 8pm.

An election meeting is scheduled to held at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 in the West Hall of Ramsey Grammar School.

Recommendation: for noting.

H. S. Bevan
Deputy Town Clerk

9th April 2025

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
FINANCE OFFICER'S GENERAL REPORT
APRIL 2025 - PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The following documents are appended for review and / or information:

1. A summary of accounts paid and suppliers used in March 2025 – Appendix 1.
2. Tabulated summary of the Income and Expenditure for the period to 31st March 2025 – Appendix 2.

Accounts

Accounts of £1,315,705.50 were paid via the General Revenue Account and accounts of £23,289.37 were paid via the Northern Civic Amenity Site Account in March 2025. Details of the accounts paid and the suppliers utilised are attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendation: To be noted.

Summary of Revenue Income and Expenditure

A summary of the 2024-25 Income and Expenditure from 1st April 2024 to 31st March is attached at Appendix 2.

Certain elements of capital expenditure incurred have been paid through the Revenue account with some being financed by way of capital loans. They are not disclosed as part of Appendix 2, the 2024-25 Income and Expenditure figures, and they are:

Upper Queens Pier Road refurbishment – initial prof. fees	£131,265
Cronk Elfin refurbishment – prof. fees & works	£124,688
New LED street lighting heads	£120,000
Close Woirrey demolition	£91,300
Replacement street lighting columns	£56,445
Solar panels – Town Hall	£29,982
New telephones & communications system	£19,684
New pavement cleaning machinery	11,780
Close Woirrey redevelopment – initial fees	£7,250
New rear door access – Town Hall	£6,276
Recycling collection housing	£3,943
Beach raft	£3,520
Jet washer – for general purposes	£2,639
Printer for Library	£2,470
Bircham Avenue survey	£2,025

Recommendation: To be noted.

Finance Officer's General Report
April 2025 - Public Continued:

Rates

Treasury has supplied a 1st Supplemental Rating List for 2025-26 which indicates some slight changes in the gross and rateable values for the Town as follows :

	Gross £	Rateable £
Existing list	862,583	746,102
Valuations to be added	24,564	19,651
Valuations to be cancelled	<u>(21,800)</u>	<u>(17,438)</u>
Revised list	<u>865,347</u>	<u>748,315</u>

Recommendation: To be noted.

9th April 2025

N.Q. Cannell, FCCA
Finance Officer

Ramsey Town Commissioners

Accounts paid during March 2025

Appendix 1

Payee	Description	Amount (incl. VAT)
General Account		£
Banks	Capital loans - capital payments	500,113.89
Banks	Capital loans - interest payments	381,316.80
Staff	Wages, salaries, ITIP, NI & superannuation	190,339.98
Manx Demolition Ltd.	Close Woirrey - part demolition fee	55,300.00
Various	Legal & consultancy fees - Housing	39,759.60
IOM Government	Waste disposal charges at EFW Plant	34,131.50
Various	Housing property repairs, maint. & safety checks	19,892.39
SPA Power Machinery	New pavement machinery	14,136.00
Manx Utilities	Water charges & Electricity supply	13,697.19
Various	Legal fees: non-housing	9,896.52
Various	Commission property repair, maint. & safety checks	9,809.46
Various	IT costs	9,493.86
Ellan Vannin Fuels Ltd.	Fuel & heating oil	7,940.47
Various	Vehicle maintenance, repairs & licences	7,358.98
Swept Clean Road Sweeping Serv. Ltd.	Sweeper & gulley cleaner hire	6,468.00
Various	Refuse materials & equipment	3,028.36
2 Clean	Toilet cleaning contract	2,251.82
Various	Park materials	1,737.45
Banks	Bank & debit card charges	1,530.28
Various	Phones	1,461.98
Various	Office expenses - post, printing, stationery etc.	1,194.37
Various	Library books, materials & IT licences	1,037.54
Various	Staff training	995.00
Various	Machinery servicing & repair	893.34
Various	Rent refunds & transfers	535.26
Various	Security & safety	414.96
Various	Town events	390.50
Various	Tree surgery work	360.00
Various	Gift vouchers	220.00
		<u>1,315,705.50</u>

Northern Civic Amenity Site

IOM Government	Waste disposal at EFW Plant	13,497.62
Manx Waste Recycling Ltd.	Skip haulage	3,506.18
Various	Recycling charges	2,824.69
Manx Utilities	Heat & kight	1,432.15
Various	Equipment servicing & maintenance	1,006.00
Various	PPE	398.35
Various	Site maintenance	345.78
Manx Telecom Ltd.	Phone	169.06
Worldpay (UK) Ltd.	Debit card reader charge	86.71
Bank	Charges	22.83
		<u>23,289.37</u>

Ramsey Town Commissioners

Suppliers utilised during March 2025

Appendix 1

Access UK Ltd.	UK	Mac's Builders Merchants Ltd.	
ADT Fire & Security plc	UK	Magee & Co. Ltd.	IOM
Argon Business Systems Ltd.	IOM	Mann Waste Recycling Ltd.	IOM
Askews & Holts Library Services Ltd.	UK	Manx Business Solutions Ltd.	IOM
Axis Consulting Engineers Ltd.	IOM	Manx Demolition Ltd.	IOM
Ayre Mowers Ltd.	IOM	Manx Telecom Ltd.	IOM
Ballaneven Compost & Horticulture Ltd.	IOM	Manx Utilities	IOM
Ball Colegrave Ltd.	UK	March Consultants Ltd.	IOM
B.P.D. Ltd.	IOM	North Norfolk Vehicle Solutions Ltd.	UK
Brew & Corkill Ltd.	IOM	North Point Plastics Ltd.	IOM
Brunel Engraving Company Ltd.	UK	Outdoor Power & Plant Ltd.	IOM
C E Richmond Ltd.	IOM	Paul Wheeler Ltd.	IOM
City Electrical Factors IOM Ltd.	IOM	P & M Window Cleaners Ltd.	IOM
Cleervu Aerial Specialists Ltd.	IOM	Phoenix Windows Ltd.	IOM
Countryside Maintenance Ltd.	IOM	Ramsey Automotive Centre Ltd.	IOM
Curtins Consulting Ltd.	IOM	Ramsey Shipping Services Ltd.	IOM
Data Processing Network 1989 Ltd.	IOM	Ramsey Skips	IOM
David Perry Electrical Contractors Ltd.	IOM	Safety Management Services IOM Ltd.	IOM
Dickinson Cruickshank	IOM	Screwfix Direct UK Ltd.	UK
Egan Reid Stationery Co. Ltd.	IOM	SPA Power Machinery	UK
Ellan Vannin Fuels Ltd.	IOM	Stark Building Materials Ltd. (formerly Jewsons)	IOM
Farmers Combine Ltd.	IOM	Sure IOM Ltd.	IOM
Feltons Ironmongers	IOM	Surface Matter Ltd.	UK
Ferncroft Environmental IOM Ltd.	IOM	Swept Clean Road Sweeping Services Ltd.	IOM
G4S Secure Solutions (IOM) Ltd.	IOM	The Learning Curve Ltd.	IOM
Haldane Fisher (IOM) Ltd.	IOM	2 Clean	IOM
Hampshire Flag Company Ltd.	UK	Ulverscroft Ltd.	UK
Hersham Electrical Engineers Ltd.	IOM	Unique Fire Protection IOM Ltd.	IOM
Infotech Systems Ltd.	IOM	Vannin Officepoint Ltd.	IOM
Investec Asset Finance Ltd.	IOM	Watsons Nurseries Ltd.	IOM
IOM Government	IOM	W.D.S. Ltd.	IOM
IOM Post Office	IOM	Westmister Car Restorations Ltd.	IOM
Joe Wood Tree & Garden Services Ltd.	IOM	Workwear Express Ltd.	UK
J Qualtrough & Co. Ltd.	IOM	Worldpay (UK) Ltd.	UK
Keep Britain Tidy	UK	Wurth UK Ltd.	UK
Kirby Park Garden Centre	IOM		

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 31st MARCH 2025 - Appendix 2

	2024-25 to date			Estimate for 2024-25		
	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Social Housing						
Housing Schemes	4,778,227	5,241,277	(463,050)	5,039,706	5,012,829	26,877
Cl. Wolrrey/ Cl. y C Ghlass	393	0	393	448	0	448
Brookfield Court	17,294	5,102	12,192	25,687	20,800	4,887
Close ny Mooragh	41,896	13,206	28,690	50,934	53,586	(2,652)
Sub Total	£4,837,810	£5,259,585	(£421,775)	£ 5,116,775	£ 5,087,215	£ 29,560

	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Property and Assets						
Town Hall	227,828	25,748	202,080	230,449	25,293	205,156
Workshops	85,504	0	85,504	75,990	0	75,990
Public Conveniences	63,347	0	63,347	76,746	0	76,746
Courthouse - loan repayment	14,800	0	14,800	14,800	0	14,800
Courthouse - maint., H & L etc.	7,232	0	7,232	34,157	0	34,157
Mansail Lease	6,938	13,148	(6,210)	5,700	11,680	(5,980)
Lakeside Centre	5,867	12,543	(6,676)	4,778	12,546	(7,768)
Parklands Day Nursery	3,742	20,323	(16,581)	3,539	20,965	(17,426)
Bowling Alley	6,355	15,000	(8,645)	2,780	15,000	(12,220)
Non-Lease Properties	8,583	0	8,583	5,294	0	5,294
Prom shelters, benches, signs	33,612	0	33,612	30,625	0	30,625
Private Property Repairs	7,967	2,306	5,661	40,500	0	40,500
CCTV town centre	3,650	0	3,650	6,135	0	6,135
Apprentices	0	0	0	21,467	1,628	19,839
R.N.D.H.C.	21,015	24,409	(3,394)	15,955	17,551	(1,596)
Park assets	88,915	0	88,915	111,302	0	111,302
Sub Total	£585,355	£113,477	£471,878	£680,217	£104,663	£575,554

	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Works & Development						
Foreshores & Flags	3,408	0	3,408	4,463	0	4,463
Car Parks	18,705	26,974	(8,269)	31,112	28,903	2,209
Refuse Removal	846,766	136,003	710,763	872,357	173,334	699,023
Civic Amenity contribution	261,364	0	261,364	302,325	0	302,325
Sewers & Pumps	104,141	104,141	0	104,141	104,141	0
Street lighting & maint.	128,166	0	128,166	232,350	0	232,350
Decorative maint.	14,956	0	14,956	10,343	0	10,343
Decorative lighting new items	0	0	0	25,000	0	25,000
Local Services	289,848	0	289,848	327,391	0	327,391
Sub Total	£1,667,354	£267,118	£1,400,236	£1,909,482	£306,378	£1,603,104

	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Parks & Leisure						
Events & Attractions	70,608	17,555	53,053	78,068	16,000	62,068
Parks & Gardens	305,574	102	305,472	297,067	710	296,357
Games Concessions	657	0	657	1,280	0	1,280
Public Library	148,414	9,385	139,029	180,595	9,165	171,430
Sub Total	£525,253	£27,042	£498,211	£557,010	£25,875	£531,135

	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Finance & General Purposes						
Administration	74,551	0	74,551	139,679	0	139,679
Office Expenses	674,843	46,056	628,787	853,909	134,135	719,774
Sundry Expenses	11,041	0	11,041	9,582	0	9,582
Miscellaneous	54,710	47,699	7,011	62,148	34,419	27,729
Swimming Pool	45,197	0	45,197	45,111	0	45,111
Town Band	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000
Town Centre Management	1,865	71	1,794	1,368	506	862
Sub Total	£864,207	£93,826	£770,381	£1,113,797	£169,060	£944,737

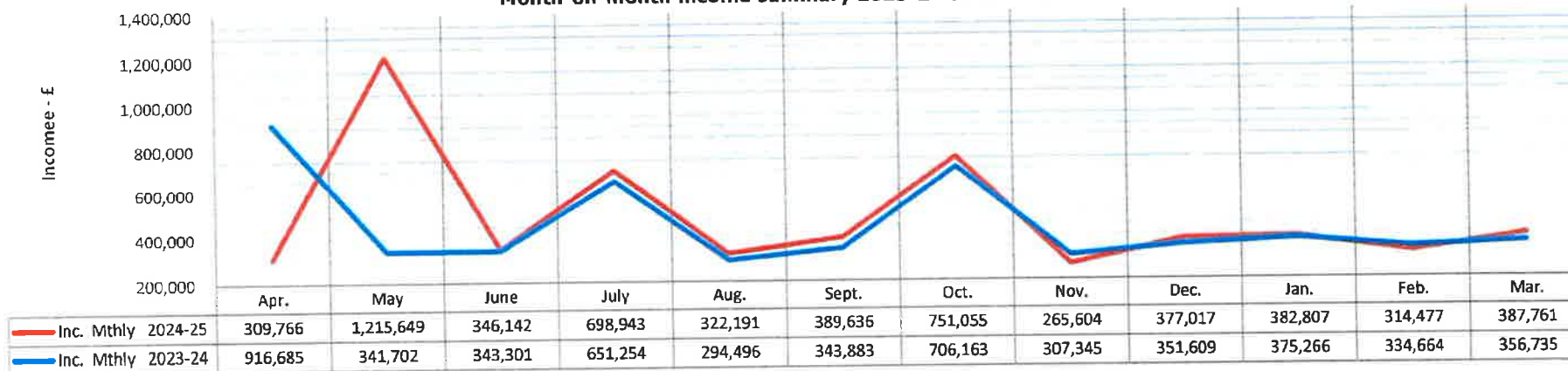
TOTAL	£8,479,979	£5,761,048	£2,832,408	£ 9,377,281	£ 5,693,191	£ 3,684,090
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Town rates	£ -	£3,420,716	(£3,420,716)	£ -	£ 3,513,954	(£3,513,954)
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RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS **SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 31st MARCH 2025**

Appendix 2

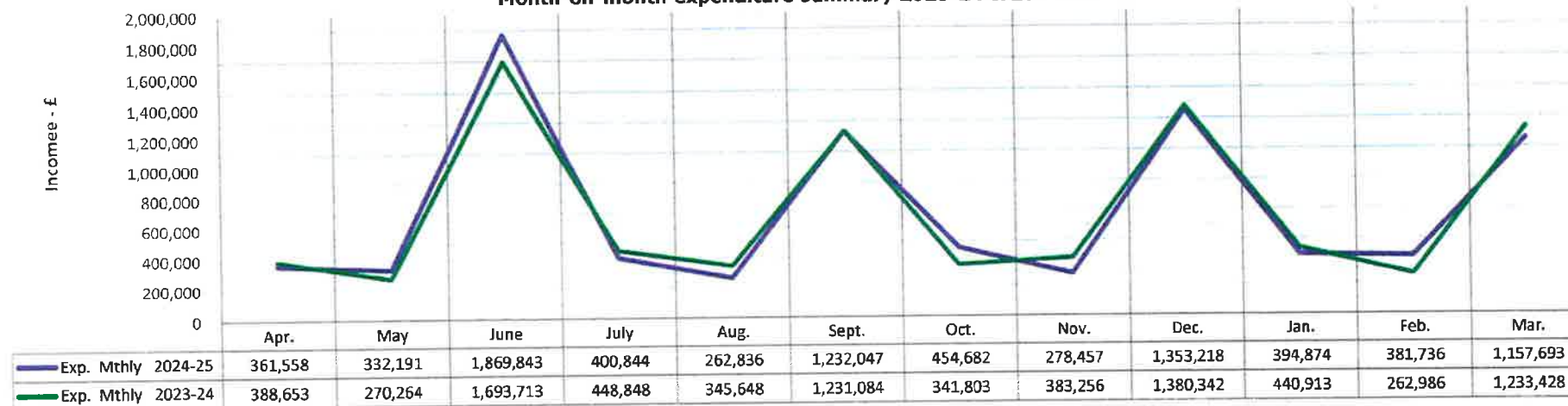
Ramsey Town Commissioners
Month-on-month income summary 2023-24 & 2024-25



	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Budget
Cum. 2024-25	309,766	1,525,415	1,871,557	2,570,500	2,892,691	3,282,327	4,033,382	4,298,986	4,676,003	5,058,810	5,373,287	5,761,048	5,693,191
Cum. 2023-24	916,685	1,258,387	1,601,688	2,252,942	2,547,438	2,891,321	3,597,484	3,904,829	4,256,438	4,631,704	4,966,368	5,323,103	5,490,298

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Ramsey Town Commissioners
Month-on-month expenditure summary 2023-24 & 2024-25

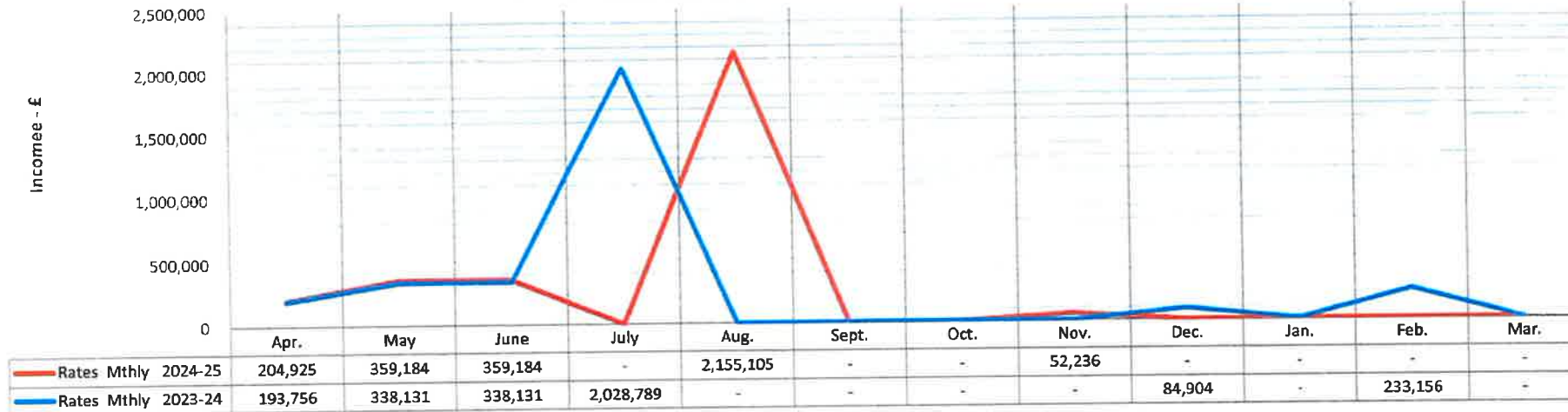


	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Budget
Cum. 2024-25	361,558	693,749	2,563,592	2,964,436	3,227,272	4,459,319	4,914,001	5,192,458	6,545,676	6,940,550	7,322,286	8,479,979	9,377,281
Cum. 2023-24	388,653	658,917	2,352,630	2,801,478	3,147,126	4,378,210	4,720,013	5,103,269	6,483,611	6,924,524	7,187,510	8,420,938	8,537,162

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 31st MARCH 2025

Appendix 2

Ramsey Town Commissioners
Month-on-month rate receipts summary 2023-24 & 2024-25



	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Budget
Cum. 2023-24	204,925	564,109	923,293	923,293	3,078,398	3,078,398	3,078,398	3,130,634	3,130,634	3,420,716	3,420,716	3,420,716	3,513,954
Cum. 2022-23	193,756	531,887	870,018	2,898,807	2,898,807	2,898,807	2,898,807	2,898,807	2,983,711	2,983,711	3,216,867	3,216,867	3,283,799

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**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT
PLANNING APPLICATIONS – APRIL, 2025 PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Copies of the following application has been received from the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, Planning and Building Control Division under the planning consultation procedures. The application is listed for consideration subject to comments where appended. Hyperlinks are provided on the P.A. No. to link to the plans which are available on the IOM Government website.

P.A. NO.: [24/91268/B](#) AMENDED PLANS/ADDITIONAL INFO
PROPOSED: New build 6 storey apartment block containing 12 apartments and associated parking
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Land/Garden adjacent to Isle of Alanis, Mooragh Promenade, Ramsey**

P.A. NO.: [25/90169/B](#)
PROPOSED: Erection of five garages, garden equipment and tool stores and bin store
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Magnus Court and Godred Court, Kings Reach, Ramsey**

P.A. NO.: [25/90208/B](#)
PROPOSED: Erection of two storey extension to existing dwelling house
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **4, Greenlands View, Ramsey**

P.A. NO.: [25/90229/B](#)
PROPOSED: Erection of dwelling in the curtilage of existing property. New access and associated landscaping, groundworks and drainage
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Creg Malin, Jurby Road, Ramsey**

P.A. NO.: [25/90264/B](#)
PROPOSED: Removal of chimney and change to window (amendment to PA 09/02022/B) (retrospective)
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **White Cottage, Richmond Road, Ramsey**

Technical Services Manager's Report – Planning Applications
April, 2025 – Public Continued:

P.A. NO.: [25/90297/GB](#)
PROPOSED: Installation of replacement windows - RB 218 (in association with 25/90297/GB)
NOTES: Registered Building
SITE: **Riverside Cottage, Bridge Lane, Bowring Road, Ramsey**

P.A. NO.: [25/00298/CON](#)
PROPOSED: Registered Building Consent for installation of replacement windows - RB 218 (in association with 25/00298/CON)
NOTES: Registered Building
SITE: **Riverside Cottage, Bridge Lane, Bowring Road, Ramsey**

P.A. NO.: [25/90306/B](#)
PROPOSED: Change of use from shop to living accommodation; erection of first floor extension
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **3, Water Street, Ramsey**

B. Wallace,
Technical Services Manager

8th April, 2025

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF MOTION
APRIL 2025 - PUBLIC

Mr. Chairman and Members:

The following Notice of Motion, dated 8th April 2025, is submitted in the name of Ms L. Craine:

Notice of Motion: Lamp post location assessment and redistribution

Commission staff are currently looking at extending the contract with the UK company which oversees the maintenance of street lamps in the town. The company was selected as best value against competitive tendering.

Some lamp posts are not positioned in the most effective locations to illuminate multiple areas. A key example is Tower Street. This has very limited illumination. Almost adjacent on Parliament Street is a lamp post which, if it was moved by a short distance, would cover the northern end of Tower Street as well.

Lamp posts are currently being assessed and repaired or replaced if necessary. Whilst this work is ongoing, it would be prudent to assess the distribution and effectiveness each lamp post to maximise its potential.

Proposal:

Whilst the strategic assessment is proceeding, assess whether each lamp post is providing the optimum coverage for its location. Where potential exists to improve this, cost in the moving of the column on the basis that the improvement that it will bring will be borne over the 15–20-year lifespan of the unit and should present a minimal addition to the overall spend in lighting improvements.

Standing Order 14 - Notices of Motion provides that every motion relating to any new subject or matter not already before the Board, other than a motion which under Standing Order 15 may be moved without notice, shall be given in writing at the ordinary meeting preceding the one at which it is intended to bring it forward.

Standing Order 14 also provides that “the Chairman may, if conducive to the despatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward.”

8th April, 2025.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF MOTION
APRIL 2025 - PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members:

The following Notice of Motion, dated 8 April 2025, is submitted in the name of Ms L. Craine:

Notice of Motion: New Commissioners on-boarding

The new and returning commissioners will be appointed from 1st May 2025. The role requires board members to have knowledge regarding agendas, meetings, standing orders, notices of motions, et cetera. Much of the information is not immediately to hand and the appointment can be a steep learning curve from the outset

Proposal 1:

A Presentation and subsequent Workshop be delivered by town hall staff regarding minutes, agendas, meetings, standing orders, notices of motions, and any other relevant Commission matter.

Proposal 2:

A Handbook be written regarding the same matters such as agendas, meetings, standing orders, notices of motions, etc. The Handbook can be improved and developed as years go by and will serve as an evolving document for all new commissioners going forward.

Proposal 3:

That photos of the new commissioners (either official or supplied) with their contact details be uploaded to the Commission's website as early as practicable in order they are accessible to the public they represent.

Standing Order 14 - Notices of Motion provides that every motion relating to any new subject or matter not already before the Board, other than a motion which under Standing Order 15 may be moved without notice, shall be given in writing at the ordinary meeting preceding the one at which it is intended to bring it forward.

Standing Order 14 also provides that “the Chairman may, if conducive to the despatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward.”

8th April, 2025.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF MOTION
APRIL 2025 - PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members:

The following Notice of Motion, dated 8 April 2025, is submitted in the name of Ms L. Craine:

Notice of Motion: New Landmark Sculpture


Ramsey has a growing reputation for public art displays. Sculptures have the potential to add to this, presenting photo opportunities and creating iconic social spots for both visitors and residents alike. When allied to a location they generate a signature identity, a sense of being and a way to mark a place and occasion. Giant outdoor concrete letter sculptures are becoming increasingly popular in many towns and cities across the world for these reasons.

Place name concrete sculptures are generally situated in courtyards, squares, or at the entrances to towns, and relate to a particular region, attraction or place. They represent a permanent tourist attraction as well as being of a point of interest and meeting places for locals.

Letter structures are incredibly durable, requiring little maintenance and unlikely to be either damaged or stolen due to the concrete material used. Infrequent painting is all that would be required to maintain it after installation.

Proposal:

Approval of the installation of the Giant Outdoor Concrete Letter Sculpture of “R A M S E Y” to be sited on the grass outside the Bowling Alley

The precise location would be between Outdoor Ramsey’s back door and the toilet block. A gravel pathway and platform would be created to mount the letters on. The left hand side of the structure will allow a person to stand to the side of a giant heart, the same size as the letters similar to the images below reading out I  RAMSEY.

The location is adjacent to the coach parking spaces and will be seen by anyone travelling between the beach and the town centre.

An indicative quote has been attached which includes manufacture delivery, ferry, and accommodation for the installers amounting to £ 11520.00.

Additional funds would be needed to create the pathway and mounting block and it is likely the structure would require planning permission.



Standing Order 14 - Notices of Motion provides that every motion relating to any new subject or matter not already before the Board, other than a motion which under Standing Order 15 may be moved without notice, shall be given in writing at the ordinary meeting preceding the one at which it is intended to bring it forward.

Standing Order 14 also provides that “the Chairman may, if conducive to the despatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward.”

8th April, 2025.

Description	Qty	Unit	Unit price	VAT	Total
Below price is based on 30-40cm					
6 concrete letters 1500x1000 1 concrete heart 1500x1000	7	each	1200	20%	£ 10 080.00
Delivery to: Isle of Man	1	each	1200	20%	£ 1 440.00
Net total:					£ 9 600.00
VAT 20%					£ 1 920.00
Total amount quoted					£ 11 520.00

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF MOTION
APRIL 2025 - PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members:

The following Notice of Motion, dated 8th April 2025, is submitted in the name of Ms L. Craine:

Notice of Motion: Private Agenda Statement

Transparency is the cornerstone of democracy. Decisions, money and issues should be traceable and recordable as these matters are all paid for by public money. In order to ensure that RTC maintains its transparency, there should be fewer things held in private. Only issues that would breach GDPR or have commercial sensitivity should be in private.

Proposal:

At the beginning of any matter on the written private agenda, an explanation be given at the beginning of the item confirming the reason for the issue being dealt with in private. Commissioners should be provided with adequate explanation to understand why a matter cannot be publicly discussed.

Standing Order 14 - Notices of Motion provides that every motion relating to any new subject or matter not already before the Board, other than a motion which under Standing Order 15 may be moved without notice, shall be given in writing at the ordinary meeting preceding the one at which it is intended to bring it forward.

Standing Order 14 also provides that “the Chairman may, if conducive to the despatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward.”

8th April, 2025.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF MOTION
APRIL 2025 - PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members:

The following Notice of Motion, dated 8th April 2025, is submitted in the name of Mr. F. B. R. Williams:

Notice of Motion: Review of Recording of Minutes

In an increasingly digital and fast-paced society, the expectation for timely and accessible information has never been higher. While formal meeting minutes serve an essential role in documenting proceedings, the current approach of uploading approved minutes to the Ramsey Town Commissioners website only after the subsequent meeting causes an unnecessary delay in public awareness of key decisions.

This process reduces transparency and can hinder engagement with constituents. Furthermore, during my term, I have experienced first-hand the difficulty in locating past decisions when the only method is to manually search through previous sets of minutes, often without a clear indication of when a specific decision was made.

As elected representatives, we are accountable to our constituents. We are entrusted with making decisions on their behalf, and it is vital that they can see these decisions clearly and easily.

I propose the introduction of a Decision Table, which would offer a high-level summary of decisions taken by the board using the following format:

Date	Motion	Proposer	Seconder

This could be published independently and ahead of the formal minutes. This information is already compiled internally for drafting the minutes, and as officers begin actioning decisions before minutes are approved, there is no practical barrier to releasing this information sooner.

The implementation of such a table would:

- Enhance transparency and accountability.
- Simplify public access to decisions.
- Support better internal reference and governance.

I believe that the introduction of a decision table can and should be implemented as an immediate and practical improvement, without the need to wait for a broader review to be concluded. It is a simple step that can enhance accountability and access to information straight away, and if necessary, it can be refined in the future as part of any wider updates to the way we record and publish our minutes. In this way, we can begin improving transparency now, while still leaving space for further development if needed.

Formal Motion

That the method of recording and publishing minutes of Board meetings be reviewed with the objective of improving and simplifying publicly available information, with findings and any recommendations to be reported back to the Board by the October meeting.

That a decision table, summarising each motion, proposer, and seconder, be implemented with immediate effect and published as a standalone record ahead of the formal minutes being approved, to provide timely and transparent access to decisions made by the Board.

That the use and effectiveness of the decision table be monitored during this period and included within the broader review, allowing the Board to assess its impact and consider any refinements as part of the final report in October.

Standing Order 14 - Notices of Motion provides that every motion relating to any new subject or matter not already before the Board, other than a motion which under Standing Order 15 may be moved without notice, shall be given in writing at the ordinary meeting preceding the one at which it is intended to bring it forward.

Standing Order 14 also provides that "the Chairman may, if conducive to the despatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward."

8th April 2025.