GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the general meeting held in the Boardroom, Town Hall, Derby Road, Peel on 18 September 2025 at 7:05pm.

Present	Mr R. Harmer (Chair) Mr F. Crompton (Deputy Chair) Mrs K. Baptist Mr A Cubbon-Wood Mr S. Hardingham Miss S. Lambert Mrs C. Moughtin
Apologies	D. Sewell (Clerk to Commissioners)
In attendance	Mr J. Blanchard (Finance Officer)

25/041: INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO MEETING

CHAIR'S WELCOME
The Chair welcomed the Board to the September general meeting. The Chair advised he had represented the Board at the Queen Elizabeth II prize giving and presenting the music prize. The Chair sent the Board's condolences to Reverend Brian Kelly following the sad passing of this community leader.

25/042: MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

ITEM 1 MINUTES

The Chair sought approval of the minutes from the meetings held on 21 August 2025. Miss Lambert proposed the approval of these minutes. Mr Cubbon-Wood seconded this proposal and the Board unanimously **agreed**.

ITEM 2 MATTERS ARISING (including last month's meeting reference numbers)

25/036 20MPH Speed Limit Proposal

The Board noted the content of the Department of Infrastructure's communication dated 1 September 2025 and the Chair welcomed Dr Haywood, the Minister for Infrastructure, and her officer Mr Podmore to the meeting at 7:10pm. The Minister advised the Department would take their own notes from the meeting. The Chair requested the Department provide an overview of their 20mph speed limit proposal for Peel. The Department's representatives advised they had set criteria based on the density of housing, proximity to community facilities, pedestrian movements and the designation of the main traffic routes to reduce delays. This had resulted in the proposals shown on Plan HW4247 which provided information on the existing and proposed speed limits. This Plan showed the whole existing 30 mph speed limited area in Peel being replaced with a 20 mph zone and 40mph buffer zones on the approaches to the Peel urban area on the Ramsey Road, Poortown Road, Douglas Road and Glenfaba Road. The Department confirmed no existing 20mph zones would be removed under this proposal. The Minister advised a bus stop was being built outside Mylchreest Court as part of these proposals. The Department's representatives confirmed this improvement had been approved. The Minister advised local knowledge would be useful in fine tuning the application of their criteria. Mrs Baptist asked if existing traffic speed had been taken into consideration. The Minister confirmed the criteria described above had only been used to deliver the Tynwald resolution to introduce 20mpn speed limits in urban residential streets and no data was collected. Miss Lambert asked if the Department could hold two drop in sessions in the Town to undertake a public consultation as the timings of 4.30pm to 6.30pm did not provide sufficient time for people who work. Mrs Baptist advised the Commissioners would be holding a surgery on Saturday 11 October 2025 which could be used for this purpose. The Board **agreed** the Town Hall could be used by the Department to facilitate a local public consultation on their 20 mph proposals for Peel once the Minister had provided information on the time and date for the drop in sessions. The Chair asked if the new speed limits would be supported by traffic calming outside the schools and on the Promenade which were an integral part of the previous speed reduction proposals in Peel. The Minister stated the Department did not have the funding for traffic calming and this was why the signing proposal had been brought forward. Monitoring the impact of the 20 mph signs impact on traffic speeds will be a follow-on action to decide if any additional measures are required to reduce the speed of traffic. The Chair stated there were already designs for these critical locations. The Minister reiterated there was no funding for this type of work. Miss Lambert stated there was a lack of infrastructure to encourage safe active travel for children in Peel. Mr Cubbon-Wood asked what had triggered this proposal. The Minister referenced the Tynwald motion to make residential streets 20 mph and advised although there is no specific data. The accident data indicates a 1 in 5 risk of traffic incidents in a 30 mph zone resulting in a serious or fatal injury compared to a 1 in 9 risk of traffic incidents in a 20 mph zone. The Minister advised the Chief Constables main priority was derestricted roads because on these routes the highest frequency of fatalities and serious accidents occurred. The Deputy Chair asked if the one-way direction of some roads in Peel could changed to improve traffic flow and access to car parking. The Minister stated this was not part of the proposal and they were short of staff. The Chair asked if the sewage treatment plant access road could be extended to access Mill Road and the industrial estate area. The Deputy Chair questioned the effectiveness of signing by reference drivers ignoring halt signs in Peel. Miss Lambert asked if all the 40 mph buffers zones were required and referenced the traffic calming effect of the roundabouts on Ramsey Road and Poortown Road. Mrs Lambert asked if the 20 mph area will become living streets with priority given to pedestrian traffic and if repeater signage would be required. The Minister stated the new Manx Highway Code would introduce a new hierarchy for road users giving the highest priority to pedestrians and highest duty of care to vehicle drivers. This would align with the United Kingdom Highway Code. The number of signs required would be dependent on the specific proposal brought forward. The Chair thanked the Department representatives for attending the meeting and advised the Commissioners would submitted their written response to the consultation in due course after consideration of all the issues associated with this proposal. The Minister and the Department of Infrastructure representatives left the meeting at 7.42pm.

25/037 PA 24/00301/B (Amended Drawings)	The Board noted an objection was submitted for PA 24/00301/B to extend the use of the temporary silt lagoons adjacent to the the Commissioners' yard and Peel's Fish Yard industrial area.

25/038 Bonfire & Firework Display	The Board noted the 30 October 2025 Bonfire and Firework Display event date had been booked with the firework supplier.
25/038 Christmas Light Switch On Event	The Board noted the Lead Member Committee for Events and Commercial Innovation were planning the Christmas light switch on event for Saturday 29 November 2025.
25/038 Event & Commercial Innovation Committee funding Motions	The Board noted the funding motions for the Peel Hill Shelter and levelling a small football pitch on the Headlands Field was deferred pending the receipt of further information from the Committee.
25/040 DOI Delegated Routine Highway Functions	The Board noted the Board's decision to continue the delivery of these delegated Department of Infrastructure service was communicated to rate payer.
25/040 Tynwald Commissioner for Administration Consultation	The Board noted the Commissioners' consultation response had been submitted.
25/040 Strategic Plan	The Board noted this deferred matter was to be discussed at agenda item 10.
25/040 Douglas Street Car Park Electric Car Spaces	The Board noted the contents of the communication from the Manx Utility Authority dated 28 August 2025 confirmed the electric vehicle charging point in Market Place would be removed following the suppliers decision to stop providing this service.
25/034 Any Other Business	The Finance Officer reported no any other business items were reported to the Board.

25/043: PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT ITEMS

ITEM 3 PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT LEAD MEMBER COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Deputy Chair reported the Property and Asset Management Lead Members Committee had not met since their meeting held on 1 August 2025 which was reported at the August Board meeting. The Deputy Chair advised the remaining work on the second part of the Reayrt Aalin pilot scheme would be completed the end of September 2025.

ITEM 4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Board noted the contents of planning application 25/90835/B for the erection of a lychgate to form a pedestrian access from Derby Road. The Chair expressed concerns relating to the potential relocation of the bus stop including the removal of bus and coach stopping space if this facility is relocated towards the vehicle entrance to the Cathedral Car Park. Miss Lambert raised concerns about emergency service access off Atholl Street. The Chair proposed an extension is sought to permit the Commissioners to submit their response after this application is considered by the Property and Asset Management Lead Member Committee.

ITEM 5 PLANNING DECISIONS

The Board noted no planning decisions had been referred to the Board for consideration.

25/044: EVENTS AND COMMERCIAL INNOVATION ITEMS

ITEM 6 EVENTS & COMMERCIAL INNOVATION LEAD MEMBER COMMITTEE UPDATE

The lead members reported the Events and Commercial Innovation Lead Member Committee had met yesterday, on 17 September 2025. At this meeting the Committee discussed the firework event, the Christmas light switch on event, the shelter on Peel Hill, and the levelling of the football pitch on the Headlands. The lead members reported at the light switch on event there would be an additional walkaround activity and a grotto at the Transport Museum in addition to the usual attractions. The lead members were going to asked Mr Alan Jones to be Father Christmas again this year.

25/045: FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND WORKS ITEMS

ITEM 7 FINANCE, OPERATIONS & STAFF RESOURCING LEAD MEMBER COMMITTEE UPDATE

The lead members reported a meeting of the Finance, Operations and Staff resources Lead Member Committee had taken place on 3 September 2025 when the following matters were discussed:

The lead members reviewed the Technical Officer's works and operations. The Technical Officer advised in August 68 jobs were reported and 49 of these were completed to date. The outstanding jobs were not prioritised as emergency or urgent and were routine in nature. The Technical Officer reported he was obtaining a quote from two solar panel providers for the installation of solar panels on the campsite administration and shower block. The lead members asked when the playground repair works would commence. The Technical Officer advised this work would start in September and would take 8 to 10 weeks to complete. The lead members asked what was the discussed artificial grass area in Kerroo Coar going to be used for. The Technical Officer provided the background on the antisocial behaviour which occurred at this location prior to relocating the playground facilities to the Swimming Pool site. The Technical Officer advised the site could be used to provide additional car parking and a public open space area. The lead members **agreed** this was an appropriate use.

The Technical Officer reported the Commissioners owned a jetter and trailer equipment which was no longer used and required selling. The Technical Officer asked if this sale could be done through a local advert or if the equipment needed to be auctioned. The Technical Officer advised the money from the sale could be reinvested in a mobile power washer to clean streets and a footway sweeper. The lead members **agreed** this sale could be facilitated through a private advert and sale to ensure the Commissioners received the best sale price without having to pay commission.

The lead members requested a financial statement for the 2025/26 financial year. The Town Clerk reported this should be available for their next meeting when the accounts were rolled forward by the Commissioners' Accountant.

The lead members noted the external audit will take place at the end of September or early October 2025.

The lead members noted the Legislative Council call for evidence required this information by 26 September 2025. The lead members noted the car parking strategy prepared by the STEP student was presented to the Board on 4 September 2025.

Mrs Baptist asked for the Events and Commercial Innovation Lead Member Committee to be briefed on any changes to the Kerroo Coar playground.

25/046: GENERAL ITEMS

ITEM 8 MANX UTILITY AUTHORITY SEWAGE PIPEWORK CLOSE CHAIRN

The Board noted the content of the Manx Utility Authority communication dated 12 September 2025 to local businesses and residents describing their forthcoming works in the Close Chairn area.

ITEM 9 MANX UTILITY AUTHORITY PEEL PROMENADE PUMPING STATION WORKS

The Board noted the request from the Manx Utility Authority to remove the public parking spaces from the Commissioners' pumping station car park to facilitate their works on the sewage tanks and pumps. The Board noted the rented spaces could be relocated and remain available to the tenants who rent spaces in this car park while these essential works scheduled to commence on 13 October 2025 took place. Miss Lambert proposed alternative public parking could be made available on Mill Road and possibly on West Quay for the duration of these works. The Board noted this arrangement would require enforcement from the Department of Infrastructure and agreed to seek the Department's support for this temporary proposal.

ITEM 10 ISLE OF MAN STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION

The Board noted the content of the Cabinet Office's Strategic Plan consultation scheduled for completion by 27 October 2025. The Board deferred a decision on this matter until their October 2025 meeting.

ITEM 11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT ACT

The Board noted the content of the communication dated 8 September 2025 from Arbory Parish Commissioners, on behalf of eleven local authorities, to the Chief Minister asking for consideration of the Local Government Amendment Bill to be postponed until further consultation takes place with the Local Authorities on the changes to Section 5 of the Act. The Chair proposed the Commissioners write to express support for this postponement. This proposal was seconded by Miss Lambert and the Board unanimously **agreed**.

ITEM 12 RATES AND VALUATION ACT CONSULTATION

The Board noted the content of the Treasury's consultation communication dated 5 September 2025 on amendments to the Rates and Valuation Act 1953. Miss Lambert proposed the Board should support the changes in rates to increase their value for dilapidated and empty properties. This proposal was seconded by Mrs Moughtin and the Board **agreed** to submit their support for the measures proposed including increasing the charges on dilapidated and empty properties. Any other issues were to be submitted by the Board to the Town Hall.

ITEM 13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Miss Lambert requested the kiosk refuse bin should be repositioned to allow better access to the defibrillator equipment.
The Chair requested repair work to the headlands fencing.
The Board and officers did not raise any other business items for consideration.

The Board meeting ended at 8.12pm