

**Services Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Thursday 18 October 2007 at 10.00am**

**Present:**

E L Fullerton	J Budge
A J Cluness	A T J Cooper
A T Doull	A G L Duncan
C B Eunson	F B Grains
I J Hawkins	R S Henderson
J H Henry	W H Manson
C H J Miller	R C Nickerson
F A Robertson	G Robinson
J G Simpson	C L Smith
A S Wishart	

**Apologies:**

L Angus	L F Baisley
A J Hughson	

**In Attendance:**

H Sutherland, Executive Director of Education & Social Care  
H Budge, Head of Schools  
J Edwards, Quality Improvement Officer  
C Ferguson, Head of Community Care  
C Medley, Head of Housing & Capital Programmes  
S Morgan, Head of Children's Services  
C Nicolson, Senior Capital Projects Manager  
J Thomason, Senior Assistant Accountant  
A Williamson, Chief Social Work Officer  
L Geddes, Committee Officer

**Also:**

G Gibbons, Shetland Arts

**Chairperson**

Mrs E L Fullerton, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

**Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 August 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed.

**Members' Attendance at External Meetings**

There was nothing to report.

48/07 **Anderson High School (AHS) Progress Report**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing and Capital Programme Service (Appendix 1). An outline of the costs relating to the cost saving options referred to in paragraph 4.3 of the report was tabled at the meeting (Appendix 1a).

The Chairperson informed the Committee that Mr L Angus had advised that he intended public consultation to take place prior to the Council decision on funding.

It was suggested that it would be useful for some Members to be included in a member/officer working group for this project. However it was pointed out that Members were already involved in the project through the taskforce meetings.

Some discussion took place regarding the background to this project. Members expressed disappointment at the length of time it had taken to get the project to this stage, and were reminded that any changes to earlier Council decisions would require a notice of motion to the Council.

On the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mrs F B Grains, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

49/07

**Joint Management: Foula and Another Shetland School**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 2) and approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr W H Manson.

50/07

**Pupil Air Transport**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 3).

After hearing the Head of Schools summarise the main terms of the report, the Committee approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr R C Nickerson, seconded by Mr A G L Duncan.

51/07

**Olnafirth Primary School**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 4).

Mr A G L Duncan referred to a presentation given to Members by the Head of Finance regarding the Council's financial position and went on to say that during the discussion that had taken place afterwards, the issue of school closures had been raised. He felt that Olnafirth Primary School was a good example of why this should take place, given that the school had only 25 pupils and was only five miles away from Brae. He therefore proposed that Olnafirth Primary School should be closed forthwith with all pupils being transported to Brae, and that no repair works should be carried out at Olnafirth. However he withdrew his proposal after hearing that further reports to the Council would be required on this option, but reiterated his concerns regarding the financial implications of refurbishment in this instance.

During the discussion that followed, it was noted that there were no current plans to consider the future of this school, and that there would also be cost implications in transferring pupils to another school. Some Members felt that the school should be made wind and watertight only until the provision of education throughout Shetland was reviewed, and it was noted that some pre-school children in the area already attended the Brae nursery. However other Members pointed out that HM Inspectors had stated that the building was inadequate, that pupils deserved to have a school that met their needs, and that the Council had a duty to maintain buildings in the schools estate.

In response to a query, the Head of Housing and Capital Programme explained that the Council was allocated money from the Scottish Executive to spend on school buildings, but any additional monies required came from the Capital Programme. The figures relating to refurbishment quoted in the report had resulted from Building

Services carrying out work to see what was required, and he assured Members that efforts were always made to spend no more than what was required.

Mr A T Doull moved that the Committee approve recommendation 8.2 in the report, and Mr W H Manson seconded.

Mr C L Smith moved, as an amendment, that the Committee approve recommendation 8.1 in the report, and Mr R C Nickerson seconded.

After summing up, voting took place by show of hands, and the result was as follows:

Amendment (Mr C L Smith)	13
Motion (Mr A T Doull)	5

52/07 **Appointments to Steering Groups and Working Groups - Housing**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing and Capital Programme Service (Appendix 5), and agreed that the following Members be appointed to the Steering/Working Groups:

Housing Strategies Steering Group

Mrs E L Fullerton	Mr A G L Duncan
-------------------	-----------------

Housing Allocations Policy Monitoring Group

Mr A G L Duncan	Mrs I J Hawkins
Mr J H Henry	Mr C L Smith
Mrs F B Grains	

Fuel Poverty Working Group

Mr J H Henry

53/07 **Shetland Mental Health Strategy**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 6).

The Chairperson referred to page one of the Strategy relating to the scale of mental health problems, and said she felt it was important that the Council attempted to assist with dispersing of the stigma of mental health, and support those who suffered mental health problems.

Members noted that an Executive Summary of the Strategy document would be produced.

On the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr A J Cluness, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

54/07 **Carer Information Strategy**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 7).

The Head of Community Care advised that this was a revised strategy that took on board comments that had been received. A lot of progress had been made in implementing the Strategy through the Community Health Partnership.

On the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr G Robinson, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

55/07

**Shetland Childcare Partnership Review**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 8) and on the motion of Mr W H Manson, seconded by Mr G Robinson, approved the recommendation in the report and appointed the following Members to participate in the Shetland Childcare Partnership review:

Mr W H Manson

Mr G Robinson

Mr L Angus (*in absentia*)

Mrs L F Baisley (*in absentia*)

56/07

**Mareel Project – Roles and Responsibilities**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 9).

Members noted that there would be a presentation on the Mareel project following the meeting.

In commenting that presentation being given would be the first opportunity that the new Council would have to discuss the project, and that it was important that new Members were well informed and did not feel pushed into making a decision, Mr G Robinson moved that the Committee defer a decision on this report for one cycle.

Mr R S Henderson seconded.

Mr R C Nickerson pointed out that the report was not about the project going ahead, but instead about defining the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved. He expressed concern that deferring any decision may send out the wrong message and therefore compromise the funding being sought, and accordingly moved, as an amendment, that the recommendations in the report be approved.

Mrs C H J Miller seconded.

Members noted that there was an error in Appendix 1 of the report, and that the reference to the funding of deficit costs of the facility up to £100,000 applied to the deficit within the first year, not per annum as stated. This would be a decision for the Shetland Charitable Trust, not the Council.

In response to queries, the Executive Director confirmed that the report sought only to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the partners involved, and that she did not anticipate that the deferral of a decision to the next Council meeting would adversely affect any decision on funding.

With the consent of his seconder, Mr G Robinson amended his motion to defer a decision on the report until the meeting of the Council on 31 October.

Some discussion took place as to the merits of the project. Members were reminded that the Council had committed to the project, therefore it would only be appropriate to have a debate on the merits of the project when the external funding decision had been made and that this would require a notice of motion to the Council.

After summing up, voting took place by show of hands and the result was as follows:

Amendment (Mr R C Nickerson)	10
Motion (Mr G Robinson)	8

57/07 **Social Work Inspection Agency Performance Agency (SWIA) Inspection Reports – Action Plan for Social Work**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 10) and on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr A G L Duncan, approved the recommendations contained therein.

58/07 **Shetland's Cultural Strategy: Progress and Way Ahead**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 11).

After hearing the Executive Director summarise the main terms of the report, the Committee agreed to appoint the following Members to join the Culture Strategy Group:

Mrs F B Grains	Mr R C Nickerson
Mrs C H J Miller	

59/07 **Shetland Alcohol and Drugs Action Team (SADAT): Action Plan**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 12) and on the motion of Mr C L Smith, seconded by Mrs C H J Miller, approved the recommendations in the report and appointed the following two Members to participate in the SADAT partnership:

Mr A G L Duncan	Mr C L Smith
-----------------	--------------

60/07 **Developing a Skills Strategy**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 13).

The Executive Director summarised the main terms of the report, explaining that the idea had come from staff who had felt that it would be useful to have an overarching framework document to help simplify plans and policies. There were key links to Economic Development strategies and the Education and Social Care department would be working with them and others to develop the Strategy.

On the motion of Mrs I J Hawkins, seconded by Mr C L Smith, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

61/07 **Social Work Inspection Agency Performance Agency (SWIA) Inspection Reports – Action Plan for Criminal Justice Service**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 14) and approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr G Robinson, seconded by Mrs F B Grains.

62/07 **Financial Aspects of the Schools Service**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 15)

The Chairperson advised that this information built on the information received over a number of meetings relating to the overall costs of the Schools Service in

Shetland, and she drew Members' attention to page three of the report in relation to work that had been carried out on the 'Blueprint' review.

The Executive Director agreed to a request that all Members should be invited to sit in on working group meetings.

In response to a queries relating to paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8, the Head of Schools clarified that the schools referred to had not been able to agree their budget costs fully as there was still some work to be done on how to attribute travel costs in relation to peripatetic teachers travelling between the two schools. With regard to evening classes, there was a 'gentlemen's agreement' that the costs associated with evening classes, such as janitors' overtime and heating/lighting, were not charged. However this meant that schools had to attribute these costs to the costs per pupil in schools when they were not actually pupil costs, so consideration would have to be given to recharging these costs.

(Mr A T J Cooper attended the meeting)

In response to a query relating to the costs per pupil if pupils from Skerries Secondary were educated in Lerwick, the Head of Schools advised that a report would be presented in the next cycle relating to Skerries School. However initial findings had shown that there would be a saving of £76,727 per annum in the short-term and £70,130 per annum in the long-term if the pupils were taught in Lerwick rather than Skerries.

63/07 **Inspection of Community Learning and Development**

The Committee noted a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 16).

The Executive Director referred to the findings of the recent inspection and explained that an Action Plan would be developed to address the weaknesses identified. She expressed her thanks to staff and volunteers in Community Learning and Development for their hard work.

64/07 **Integrated Assessment Framework**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Children's Services (Appendix 17).

The Head of Children's Services outlined the background and benefits of the Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF) and explained that it would provide a structure for better integrated working and would avoid duplication of services for children and young people. The IAF would be rolled out from 1 November and would have a significant impact on how services were delivered.

65/07 **Minutes of Shetland College Board of Management – 4 October 2007**

The Committee noted the above minutes (Appendix 18).

**In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mrs E L Fullerton moved, and Mr F A Robertson seconded, to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of agenda item 19.**

66/07 **Disposal of Flats and Serviced Sites**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing.

The Head of Housing summarised the main terms of the report, and outlined the options available to the Council.

After further discussion relating to the options available to the Council, Mr A T J Cooper moved that the Committee approve recommendations 8.1.1 and 8.2 in the report, and Mr W H Manson seconded.