

MINUTE

‘A’ & ‘B’

Infrastructure Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 16 October 2007 at 10.00am

Present:

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

Apologies:

L Angus	A J Cluness
E J Fullerton	
L F Baisley (for lateness)	

In Attendance (Officers):

G Spall, Executive Director – Infrastructure
M Craigie, Head of Transport
M Dunne, Service Manager – Environmental Health
J Emptage, Cleansing Service Manager
I Halcrow, Head of Roads
D Macnae, Network and Design Manager
D Marsh, Service Manager, Trading Standards
J Mouat, Environmental Liaison Officer
E Perring, Transport Strategy Officer
L Adamson, Committee Officer

Chairperson:

Mr A S Wishart, Chairman of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes:

The minute of meeting held on 28 August 2007, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Members’ Attendance at External Meetings

The following Members provided a brief synopsis of their attendance at the following meetings:

Mr J H Henry	Waste Management Summit, Edinburgh – 3 October
Mr F Robertson	Investigate Tunnelling Experience and Standards,
Mr A Wishart	Faroe – 11-13 September
Mrs I J Hawkins	<i>(The Chairman requested that the Head of Transport</i>
Mrs C H J Miller	<i>present graphics on progress with the study to the next</i>

meeting of the Committee).

Mr G Robinson Mr A T J Cooper	SOTEAG Meeting, Aberdeen – 1 October
Mr R C Nickerson	Nuclear Free Local Authority AGM, Glasgow – 23-24 August
Mr R C Nickerson	Nuclear Free Local Authority Meeting, Manchester – 14 September
Mrs I J Hawkins	KIMO UK, Edinburgh – 7 September
Mrs I J Hawkins	KIMO International AGM, Ireland – 4-7 October

41/07 **Public Convenience Provision – Community Projects**

The Committee considered a report by the Cleansing Service Manager (Appendix 1).

The Cleansing Service Manager introduced the report and highlighted the proposals in paragraph 3.5, for the Council to grant aid the full costs for the provision of toilets associated with community organisation projects, and paragraph 3.6, whereby once the building is complete, the Council would take on the responsibility for the running costs.

On the motion of Mr R C Nickerson, seconded by Mr C L Smith, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

Mr A T J Cooper said that he was aware of a project where the toilets had been grant aided but the Council had not maintained responsibility for the facilities. The Cleansing Services Manager explained that the facility had been grant aided as an Economic Development project, whereby the facility when complete is managed as a business.

In response to a query, the Cleansing Service Manager explained that the priority listing for new toilets had been agreed in 2004, following consultation with all Community Councils, Shetland Islands Tourism and a range of interested groups. He added that there would be flexibility in the order for the new builds, however they would be relative to the priority list. The Chairman said that the priority list could also change with community organisations coming forward with further projects. Mr W H Manson commented that the priority list would also be amended in terms of practicality, when for example projects are incorporated into other works.

In response to a query from Ms Baisley, the Cleansing Service Manager advised that he was aware that the Unst Show Committee would be submitting an application for new public toilets on land at Hagdale.

42/07 **Environmental Health Service and Trading Standards Service: Detailed Schemes of Delegation**

Environmental Health Service: Amendment to Enforcement Policy

Trading Standards Service: Enforcement Policy

Trading Standards Service: Advice and Education Policy

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environment and Building Services (Appendix 2).

The Service Manager, Trading Standards introduced the report and outlined the detailed delegation arrangements set out in Appendices A and B, the amended Enforcement Policy at Appendix C, the Enforcement Policy at Appendix D, and the Advice and Education Policy at Appendix E, which require formal approval by the Council.

In response to a query from Mr J H Henry, the Service Manager explained the numerous methods that the Service undertakes to ensure that businesses are kept informed of changes in legislation.

Mrs C H J Miller said that from a business point of view, her experience was that the Service had been exceptionally helpful, understanding and had assisted fully to ensure that the requirements were achieved.

Mr G Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr J H Henry seconded.

43/07 **Food Standards Agency Scotland Audit Report 2007**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health (Appendix 3).

After hearing the Service Manager, Environmental Health summarise the main terms of the report, the Committee approved the recommendations therein, on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr A G L Duncan.

44/07 **Foot and Mouth Disease and Blue Tongue Disease - Update**

The Committee noted a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health (Appendix 4).

The Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that there were now eight confirmed cases of Foot and Mouth in the Sussex area, with the last outbreak announced on 30 September. The Food and Mouth restrictions in Scotland should be lifted tomorrow, and the Service Manager agreed to provide Members with further details. The export ban to Europe had been lifted on 12 October, however stringent conditions had been attached. The welfare cull of light lambs was now underway and it was expected that a decision on a potential cull of cast ewes, calves and pigs would be announced soon.

Mr J Budge commended the Service Manager, and her staff, for their assistance and the work undertaken since the outbreak of Foot and Mouth. The Committee concurred.

The Service Manager then advised that the first case of Blue Tongue in the UK had been confirmed on 22 September in East Anglia, and there are now 41 premises affected by the disease and the numbers continue to increase. The Service Manager explained that a concern was that the disease had over-wintered in Europe, and had come back stronger the next season, and it is more than likely that the disease was carried to England in animal transportation containers. The Service Manager concluded by saying that for the virus to spread through midge saliva the temperature needs to be above 15°C, however Shetland cannot rely on its temperature to control the disease.

45/07 **B9074 Trondra Phase 2 – Report on Overspend**

The Committee noted a report by the Network and Design Manager (Appendix 5).

The Head of Roads introduced the report and provided Members with an explanation of the additional works required during construction of the B9074 Trondra Phase 2, which resulted in a significant overspend on the project. The Head of Roads said that he was fully aware that Members should have been informed of the additional costs at an earlier date, however works had been underway, therefore the project had to proceed. He explained that with the change in management of the Capital Programme there has been some slippage with reporting on projects, however Capital Projects are working towards a system whereby Members will be provided with more regular and detailed updates on projects.

During the discussion that followed, the Head of Roads answered questions from Members explaining the unforeseen circumstances which had required the additional monies to be spent.

In response to a query from Mr C L Smith as to whether there could be further overspend on this project, the Network and Design Manager clarified that additional works costing approximately £7,000 would be included in the £120,000 overspend identified in 2007/08.

During the discussion that followed, Members expressed concern that the overspend on this project could impact on other projects in the Capital Programme and that some projects may not go ahead this year. The Executive Director, Infrastructure Services advised that although to date there has been no slippage identified to cover this, he did not envisage that the overspend on this project would result in any projects being delayed.

Mrs F B Grains suggested that reports providing updates on individual projects in the Capital Programme should be presented to the related Committee. The Executive Director, Infrastructure Services advised that the Head of Capital Projects was currently preparing a report to Council, requesting guidance from Members on the detail to be given in reporting on projects in the Capital Programme.

Mr A T J Cooper proposed that the issues raised during this discussion should be reported and debated with the Head of Capital Projects at the Capital Programme Prioritisation Workshop meeting on 29 October.

Mr F A Robertson suggested that detailed progress reports on individual road projects should be presented to the Member/Officer Working Group – Roads.

Mr J G Simpson said it was disappointing that the overspend had occurred, however many of the circumstances had been unforeseen and lessons would be learned. Mr Simpson accordingly moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr C B Eunson seconded.

Mr Cooper suggested that the motion should also include that the issues raised relating to Capital Programme reporting be referred to the Capital Projects Prioritisation Group and the Member/Officer Working Group - Roads for further discussion and solution. In receiving the consent of his seconder, Mr J G Simpson agreed to incorporate Mr Cooper's suggestion into his motion.

46/07 **Minutes of the KIMO Co-ordination Group**

The Committee noted a report by the Environmental Liaison Officer (Appendix 6).

(Mr R C Nickerson declared a pecuniary interest in this item, and left the Chamber).

The Environmental Liaison Officer summarised the main terms of the report and Members noted the minutes of the KIMO Co-ordination Group held on 22 June 2007.

47/07 **Minutes of the SIC Nuclear Policy Co-ordination Group**

The Committee noted a report by the Environmental Liaison Officer (Appendix 7).

The Environmental Liaison Officer introduced the report and Members noted the minutes of the Nuclear Policy Co-ordination Group held on 22 June 2007.

(Mr R Nickerson returned to the meeting).

48/07 **Bressay Link – Progress Report**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Transport (Appendix 8).

The Head of Transport advised that the first stage in the consultation process was now complete, with questionnaires returned by 12 October. The next process would be to evaluate the information submitted and report the consultation findings.

The Chairman then drew Members' attention to the Council Policy relating to the link to Bressay, "The current Council policy is to provide a high level fixed bridge at the point of Scatland within a capped budget of £19m", and proposed that the Policy should not be amended until such time as the findings from the consultation exercise were reported.

Mr A G L Duncan requested that Members be provided with the overall costs of the Bressay link project, since it was first discussed. The Head of Transport agreed to provide this figure for the next meeting.

Mr J G Simpson referred to paragraph 2.2, that the principle is to develop fixed links to the main islands of Bressay, Yell, Unst and Whalsay. He agreed that fixed links were the way forward, however he noted that progress with the fixed links could take some time. Mr Simpson then explained that the ferry terminal supporting the Whalsay service was in a very poor condition and requested that improvements should progress soon. The Head of Transport advised that the STAG 1 process was complete for the Whalsay Service and the STAG 2 process was underway. The Whalsay Service would soon be a priority for financial investment in the short-term, with a report to ZetTrans and SIC in February/March 2008, recommending a way forward on the Whalsay route.

The Chairman suggested that cost comparisons be established between the internal ferry service and fixed links, for the next 50-60 years.

(Mrs F B Grains declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item).

Mr G Robinson said that the Bressay Link project would have a significant impact on other projects in the Capital Programme and the only way he could support fixed links would be if a significant amount of money was forthcoming from the Scottish Executive. Mr Robinson said he also had concerns that the current Policy for the link to Bressay related to a high level bridge, and a budget of £19m. Mr Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendation in the report but that the

Policy should be amended to a 'fixed link' and that the budget of £19m be dropped at this time.

The Executive Director, Infrastructure Services clarified that technically, the Policy could only be amended at a meeting of the Council. The Chairman said he was aware that the project could have an impact on the whole of Shetland, not just in tying up capital, but also drawing people to the central belt.

In light of the clarification provided by the Executive Director, Mr Robinson amended his motion to recommend that the Council debate the current Policy on the link to Bressay at the next Council meeting. Mrs L F Baisley seconded.

Mr W H Manson said that the fact that the current Policy is tied to a high level bridge was academic and the current policy maintains the sum of £19m in the Capital budget. Mr Manson moved as an amendment, that the Committee approve the recommendation in the report and agree to leave the capital sums intact for the time being. Mr J G Simpson seconded.

During the discussion that followed, Mr R Nickerson commented that the Bressay link had already lost £4m of European funding and requested more discussion on how the options are weighted in the STAG process.

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

Amendment (Mr W H Manson)	13
Motion (Mr G Robinson)	3

CHAIRPERSON