

# MINUTE

‘A&B’

**Infrastructure Committee**  
**Room 16, Islesburgh Community Centre, Lerwick**  
**Tuesday 10 March 2009 at 10.00am**

## **Present:**

A S Wishart	L Angus
L F Baisley	J Budge
A T J Cooper	A T Doull
E L Fullerton	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	J W G Wills

## **Apologies**

A J Cluness	A G L Duncan
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## **In Attendance (Officers):**

G Greenhill, Executive Director Infrastructure Services  
S Cooper, Head of Environment and Building Services  
I Halcrow, Head of Roads  
D Macnae, Network and Design Manager, Roads  
C Albutt, Senior Assistant Accountant  
D Marsh, Service Manager, Trading Standards  
J Emptage, Cleansing Service Manager  
M Dunne, Service Manager – Environmental Health  
L Gair, Committee Officer

## **Chairperson:**

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

## **Circular:**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

## **Declarations of Interests**

None.

## **Minutes of Meeting**

The minutes of the Infrastructure Meeting held on 3 February 2009, having been circulated, was confirmed.

## **Attendance at External Meetings**

Mrs I J Hawkins	Nuclear Free local Authorities (NFLA), Dundee, 27 February 2009
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## **17/09 Roads and Transport Capital Rolling Programmes – Proposed Schemes for 2009/10, and Major Schemes Derived from Rolling Programmes**

The Committee considered a report by the Network and Design Manager, Roads, attached as Appendix 1.

Mr L Angus expressed his concerns regarding traffic management and parking in Lerwick stating that emergency vehicles had difficulty driving through some streets due to cars parked on both sides. The Committee agreed that the matter be brought before the Informal Meeting of Town Councillors in order to discuss it in more detail.

Mrs E L Fullerton drew attention to paragraph 3.1, Appendix 2 and said that concerns had been raised by the community of Burra and Trondra with regard to the damage on the Burra bridge and the barriers that were held in place by cable ties. She said that there had been no reassurance when the repair work would be done. Mrs Fullerton also drew attention to a comment made within the report, which she said was offensive and had no part in the public report. The Network and Design Manager apologised for the comment. With regard to the damage to the bridge, the Network and Design Manager explained that the repairs should be carried out in the summer, but the bridge would have to be closed. Mrs Fullerton asked that the safety of the current situation be checked and that this be reported to her as soon as possible and added that the Community accepted that the bridge would be closed in order for the work to be carried out.

Mrs I J Hawkins said that in addition to the concerns regarding the safety issues, she said that she was concerned about the bad example that the Council was setting to others.

With regard to crash barrier replacement, Mr J Budge advised the Committee that an accident had occurred at a stretch of road in Levenwick within the last 2 weeks and queried whether the replacement budget also funded new crash barriers. The Network and Design Manager confirmed that new crash barriers would be funded from the same budget and said that Officers would check the area mentioned and consult with ward Members.

Mrs C H J Miller, referred to Appendix 1.2 and queried when the Beosetter lay-bys would be done. The Network and Design Manager said that the work had been planned for the end of this financial year, but as it had not been done, it would now be included in the programme. He advised that the policy authorised the Executive Director to substitute one project for another. In the same appendix Mrs Miller drew attention to the footpath from the Church in Bressay, and said that as the Bressay Ferry Link was now indefinitely on hold, she queried when the footpath from the Terminal would be done. The Network and Design Manager said that it would be a bigger project and would not be done at the moment, as no costs had been determined.

Mr C L Smith drew attention to item 3 on Appendix 1.5 regarding the Gulberwick Junction, and in response to his concerns regarding the need for consultation, it was agreed that the public be advised, at the public presentation meeting in April, that Officers would include the preservation of the corridor within their presentation.

Mr J G Simpson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report with the addition that 7.2 reflect strongly that there needs to be an increased budget, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

Mrs F B Grains referred to Laxaburn Bridge, Effirth and said that the condition was getting worse and suggested that land acquisition should be sought now that the outline plans had been done.

Mr A T J Cooper asked that update reports be provided every 2 cycles, and that the information include the timescales for projects to start, in order that Members can inform Community Councils. During further discussions, it was agreed that the update to be provided to the Member Officer Working Group Roads, be expanded to include timescales and be provided to all Members.

In response to a query from Mr R C Nickerson, The Network and Design Manager explained how new projects were included onto the programme of works. Mr Nickerson sought assurance that a report would be brought to the MOWG – Roads and the Chairperson said that the procedure would be looked at for the next MOWG – Roads.

Mrs Hawkins referred to Appendix 1.5 and referred to the ranking order for Castle Street Parking. She highlighted the problems with lorries and parked vehicles during icy conditions and advised that a grassy area would provide a solution for a car park. She suggested that officers consult with HGV users. Mrs Hawkins also drew attention to Appendix 2 and said she had observed the burn beach car park when it was full and that the project could not wait for the long term. She said that the car park serviced the flats and the crèche.

Mr W H Manson referred to paragraph 7.2 and said that access was important and said that tertiary roads had the least money spent on them and was of the view that if a little money was spent now there would be a saving in the future. He referred to North Eshaness road, which was in poor condition, but where many old houses had been reoccupied. He said that engineers did a good job of finding first class solutions, but suggested that the cost of the solutions should be set against lesser engineering solutions which may mean that more could be done for the money. He said engineers should look at whether “adequate” was enough. Mr Manson also questioned whether the community in Brae would have preferred a new pavement rather than a junction improvement and wondered why the latter was a greater priority.

Mr R S Henderson referred to Appendix 1 and 2 and highlighted a drainage problem which had been particularly hazardous following a heavy rainfall at the weekend, where 3 inches of water lay on the surface of the road. He sought assurance that the drainage works would be carried out as soon as possible. He said that the Network Engineer was aware of the problem.

18/09 **Waas Community Development Group - Grant Funding for Community Projects Request for Additional Funding**

The Committee considered a report, attached as Appendix 2, by the Cleansing Service Manager and approved the recommendations contained in the report on the motion of Mr F A Robertson and seconded by Mr G Robinson.

The Committee noted that the contingency figure would only be released if required.

19/09 **Anti-Social Behaviour Funding**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health, attached as Appendix 3.

In response to queries from Mrs C H J Miller, the Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that Art Therapy was supported by an under spend from last year's funds and was available for complainants as well as those with behaviour problems and dealt with anger management and communications skills. She also advised that

most complaints came from 20-45 year olds and were not related to young people. She advised that Schools did a lot of work with regard to citizenship etc through additional support and bridges project. She added that her team worked closely with schools.

Mrs E L Fullerton moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mrs C H J Miller.

The Service Manager – Environmental Health responded to further queries and advised that in addition to daily contact, weekly tasking meetings were held with the Neighbourhood Support Workers (NSW) and the Police where they shared information. She advised that they were looking strategically at how they could integrate with the policy whilst ensuring that NSW's were not seen as extra police. The Executive Director – Infrastructure added that a lot of good work had been done to build on coordinating intelligence model to support those who keep coming back into the system. He said that if all parties came to the table to give support at an early stage it may help individuals to become valuable people within the community.

Mr R C Nickerson said he would like to see how many ring fenced areas of services were going to be affected and asked that this be looked at corporately. The Chairperson advised that the Scottish Government wanted more collaboration between services and said that the issue of ring fenced funds be taken forward by the Head of Organisational Development. Mr Nickerson also queried when NSW's would be used in rural areas. The Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that NSW's had already been present in areas outside Lerwick to target specific problems, such as vandalism, for a set period of time. She added that NSW's were also travelling on buses to country discos where there had been problems, and said that they were used as flexibly as possible to engage with the community.

In response to Dr J W G Will's comment, the Service Manager advised that the under spend had been carried forward from the previous year and spent on one-off grants. She said that savings had been made across the board where possible. Dr Wills said that the service was value for money and well done.

Mr L Angus queried whether Mrs Fullerton would include within her motion that there be a review of the Anti-Social Behaviour initiative within 12 months. Mrs Fullerton and Mrs Miller, as seconder, agreed and the motion was clarified that the Committee approve recommendation 7.1.1, 7.1.2 and 7.1.3 with the addition that a review be carried out in 12 months, and that a further paragraph 7.1.4 be added for the Council seek a report on which areas of services would be affected by ring fencing. The Committee agreed.

## 20/09 **Scheme of Assistance**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health, attached as Appendix 4.

Mr L Angus expressed his concern with regard to the new scheme of assistance and said that individuals did not have the means to repay a loan. He said that the scheme was arbitrary and that Shetland building costs had not been reflected in the scheme. He said that it was wrong to set a mandatory ceiling level which also raised more issue and hoped that the scheme would not be adopted.

Mr A S Wishart referred to the One stop Shop and said that it used to be run by the Council, but moved to the Hjaltand Housing Association. He noted that the grant was

declining but the service charges were increasing and questioned whether it would be produced better in house.

Dr J W G Wills moved that the Committee do not approve the recommendations and that the report be withdrawn and resubmitted with a view maintaining the improvement grant scheme. He asked that the report take account of concerns on the loss of grants and how it could be operated. Mr L Angus seconded.

The Service Manager – Environmental Health said that she would be happy to redo the report and advised that she would speak with the Scottish Government, as the recommendations went against the guidelines, and she would report to the next cycle.

Members spoke in support to the motion and the Committee agreed that the Service Manager – Environmental Health ensure that, the one-stop-shop be provided with support, if required, for another cycle. Members stressed that the grants had to go to those most in need, and that consideration be given to the level of improvements sought with a view that more individuals are assisted to carry out essential works as opposed to non-essential works.

In response to a query, the Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that low cost DIY equipment was in the Scottish Government Guidance and that it was something to explore. She added however that private merchants already provide the service.

#### 21/09 **Smoking Prevention and Reduction Work with Young People**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Trading Standards, attached as Appendix 5.

Members queried whether the remit could be widened to include alcohol. The Service Manager -Trading Standards explained that the funding was specifically targeted to tobacco control, but that the remit may widen in the future. He also advised that the post was funded until 2011.

Mr L Angus moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mrs E L Fullerton.

*(Dr J W G Wills and Mr C L Smith left the Chamber)*

#### 22/09 **Enforcement of Home Reports and Energy Performance Certificates**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Trading Standards, attached as Appendix 6.

Mrs L F Baisley queried what the nature of the enforcement would be. The Service Manager – Trading Standards advised that there would be a penalty charge notice followed by a penalty fee, which would be dealt with in house.

*(Dr Wills returned to the Chamber)*

Mr A T J Cooper moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr F A Robertson.

#### 23/09 **Scord Quarry Price Review**

The Committee considered a report by the Maintenance Manager, attached as Appendix 7, and approved the recommendations contained in the report on the

motion of Mr J G Simpson, seconded by Mr A T J Cooper.

24/09 **Traffic Regulation Orders, etc. Progress Report**

The Committee noted a report by the Network and Design Manager, attached as Appendix 8.

Mrs I J Hawkins referred to page 6 and the proposed road humps at Scalloway. Mrs Hawkins asked that a public exhibition and meeting be held before going to formal consultation. Mrs E L Fullerton agreed.

Mr G Robinson drew attention to page 6 and the A971 Hellister, Weisdale. The Network and Design Manager advised that the Council no longer had a use for the land, as indicated in the report, but that it had a duty to ensure that it did not become unsightly.

Mr A T J Cooper queried whether the housing developer had contributed to the cost of the camp road junction in Brae, stating that the works would increase the value of the land. The Network and Design Manager advised that where possible developers were asked to contribute to road works, however the roads service had a responsibility to ensure that the junction was safe.

Mrs Fullerton referred to page 3 and thanked staff for the 30mph limit at Bridge End and stated that the limit had made a difference.

Mr L Angus, referred to the approach to the Bressay Bridge, and said that it may be prudent to retain the area of land required in case it was needed. The Network and Design Manager advised that under the current Local Plan there was still a protected corridor for the approach to a Bressay Bridge.

Mr A J Hughson referred to page 8 and the Strand Loch and suggested that the landowner be approached rather than progressing with the compulsory purchase order (CPO). The Network and Design Manager advised the policy stated that after a period of time, even though there was voluntary negotiations underway, the CPO process be initiated in parallel.

25/09 **20MPH Speed Limits at Schools Progress Reports, February 2009**

The Committee noted a report by the Road Safety Engineer, attached as Appendix 9.

For clarity, the Network and Design Manager explained it was possible to install the less expensive option of a permanent 20mph limit when 85% of traffic drove at less than 24mph.

In response to a query from Mrs E L Fullerton, the Network and Design Manager advised that the Roads Service had now responded to a letter from Hamnavoe, Burra and Trondra Community Council, regarding 20mph limits.

26/09 **A971 Haggersta to Cova - Report on Progress, February 2009**

The Committee considered a report by the Network and Design Manager, attached as Appendix 10.

Mrs F B Grains referred to paragraph 4.1.2 and queried whether draft plans had been prepared on 27 February. The Network and Design Manager advised that there were minor changes still to be made before the plans could be completed. He advised that they would also be in contact with the landowner. He added that this was also an

appropriate time to obtain up-to-date estimates on the project, and hoped that would be done in the next few weeks.

27/09 **Minutes of Inter Island Ferries Board – 26 February 2009**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Inter Island Ferries Board held on 26 February 2009, attached as Appendix 11.

Min Ref: 03/09 – Page 2 Change “Mr Miller” to “Mrs Miller”

28/09 **Minutes of Infrastructure and Environment Forum – 13 February 2009**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Forum held on 13 February 2009, attached as Appendix 12.

29/09 **Minutes of ZetTrans – 23 February 2009**

The Committee noted the minutes of the ZetTrans meeting held on 23 February 2009, attached as Appendix 13.

The meeting concluded at 11.45am.

A S Wishart  
Chairperson