

# MINUTE

‘B’

## Services Committee

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick

Thursday 6 May at 10.00am

### Present:

L Angus	L F Baisley
J Budge	A J Cluness
A T J Cooper	A G L Duncan
E L Fullerton	F B Grains
I J Hawkins	R S Henderson
W H Manson	R C Nickerson
F A Robertson	G Robinson
C L Smith	J W G Wills

### Apologies:

A T Doull  
J H Henry  
A J Hughson  
C H J Miller  
A S Wishart  
J G Simpson

### In Attendance:

H Sutherland, Executive Director Education and Social Care  
H Budge, Head of Schools  
C Ferguson, Head of Community Care  
C Medley, Head of Housing  
R Sinclair, Head of Capital Programming  
J Robinson, Service Manager Occupational Therapy  
W Weis, Service Manager – Community Care Resources  
A Williamson, Chief Social Work Officer  
A Edwards, Quality Improvement Manager  
M Moss, Quality Improvement Manager  
L Saunders, CHCP Projects Manager  
K Johnston, Solicitor  
N McDougall, Financial Controller, SCT  
L Adamson, Committee Officer  
R Macleod, Committee Officer

### Chairperson

Mr L Angus, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

### Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

### Declarations of Interest

Dr J W G Wills declared an interest, as a family member works within the Education Service.

### Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 11 March 2010, having been circulated was confirmed.

## **Members' Attendance at External Meetings**

None

### **34/10 Capital Projects Update – Services Committee Projects**

The Committee noted a report by the Capital Programme Service Manager (Appendix 1).

In response to a question regarding the sum of £1.6m spent on the new Anderson High School Capital Project referred to in Appendix 3, the Head of Capital Programming clarified that this figure refers to spending in the previous year.

Mr A T J Cooper referred to the delay in progressing the new build housing in Brae and hoped that the Head of Capital Programming would be able to resolve these issues in early course.

Highlighting the information regarding the Eric Gray Centre, the Depute Chief Executive advised that legal advice is still being sought. A deadline for response has been set for the end of this week.

In response to a question from Mr A G L Duncan, the Committee noted that the figures shown in brackets relate to income from the sale of Council houses.

Following a query from Mrs F B Grains regarding maintenance at Aith Junior High School, the Head of Capital Programming agreed to provide more information via email.

The Head of Capital Programming confirmed that detailed design work is continuing in relation to the Occupational Therapy Resource Centre and progress will depend on the Planning process.

In the absence of Mr A J Hughson, Mrs E L Fullerton asked if a delay had occurred in commencing work on the Little Tikes Nursery. The Head of Capital Programming advised that works were due to commence on 24 May. Following further discussion, the Committee noted that the opening date had been postponed by one month to September 2010.

Following a query from Mr R S Henderson regarding the underspend on play areas, the Head of Capital Programming advised that more information on the Cullivoe play area upgrade would be provided via email.

### **35/10 Reshaping Care for Older People – Summit 8 February 2010**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Community Care, attached as Appendix 2.

Mr C L Smith reiterated the importance of this report and moved that the Committee note the recommendations contained therein. Ms L F Baisley seconded.

Mrs I J Hawkins referred to paragraph 5.5.2 of the report and commented that she had concerns regarding the impact on carers. In response to Mrs I J Hawkins' concerns, the Head of Community Care informed Members that the Council's current policy is in line with national initiatives led by the Ministerial Steering Group on Health and Community Care. The law requires residents of care establishments pay according to their means.

Referring to the need for better partner integration, Mr G Robinson questioned to which bodies this would apply. He also commented that increasing recruitment would exclude opportunities to engage with partners. During discussion Members noted that there are a limited number of partners accessible for partnership working, with NHS Shetland and the Church of Scotland being the most substantial examples.

Mr A G L Duncan drew Members' attention to the Council objective to offer an additional 120 care home places by 2020. He stated that this was far from achievable within current practice and should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Mrs I J Hawkins suggested that volunteers could be used to alleviate some of the pressure on care home staff and commented that care at home may not be the most appropriate solution in all cases. Mrs Hawkins commented that the Council must be mindful of attracting young people to the islands in order to achieve a balanced population. Ms L F Baisley confirmed her agreement with these comments.

Following Mr C L Smith's earlier comments, Mrs E L Fullerton drew Members' attention to the need to divert resources away from non-essential services in order to counteract the increased pressure felt by the Social Care Service.

Mr A J Cluness highlighted that other local authorities throughout Scotland are able to share social care responsibilities with private sector partners, however, the Council has chosen to retain direct control and that he would not want to see the Council move away from this model as there are often issues of quality with private care providers.

Whilst stating his support for care of the elderly, Mr R C Nickerson commented that funding should not be given at the expense of other services.

In bringing the discussion to a close Mr W H Manson referred to a recent reshaping exercise that had taken place at the North Haven Care Centre in Brae. Whilst some teething problems were still to be resolved, resources were being put to better use.

**36/10 Investors in People (IiP) Award for Community Care and Shetland's Community Health and Care Partnership**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 3).

The Chairperson congratulated Officers on the achievement of retaining the IiP Award for the next session.

**37/10 National Study of Community Health Partnerships**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 4).

**38/10 Care Commission: The Grading of Regulated Services – Inspection Reports 2009/10**

The Committee noted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Appendix 5).

The Chief Social Worker Officer explained that the information contained in this report not only provided results from inspections in 2008/09 but also during 2009/10. These figures had been included to give Members a more balanced report.

In response to a query from the Chairperson, the Chief Social Work Officer agreed that lesser gradings related to inadequate premises.

Mr C L Smith advocated that Members should look at the positive results from the inspections carried out. He also passed his congratulations to the Officers involved.

39/10 **Shetland College/Train Shetland Board of Management – 21 April 2010**

The Committee noted the Minutes of the Shetland College/Train Shetland Board of Management held on 21 April 2010, attached as Appendix 6.

40/10 **COPE – Interim Lifeline Funding for 2010**

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

Mr R C Nickerson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report. Mr A G L Duncan seconded.

Mrs E L Fullerton highlighted that COPE should receive recognition for the work that it carries out and noted that this helps to alleviate some of the responsibility that would otherwise be placed on the Council.

Members were made aware of the major funding issue that will have to be discussed at the end of the six-month period referred to in the report.

41/10 **Policy for Instrumental Music Instruction in Schools**

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

The Chairperson agreed to distribute the following figures for Members information at the meeting and a handout was given to all Members:-

Orkney Islands Council – 7.03FTE music instructors for 505 pupils  
Western Isles Council – 2.85FTE music instructors for 350 pupils  
Shetland Islands Council – 15FTE music instructors for 750 pupils

Mr R C Nickerson stated that he welcomed this policy document but would propose its deferral until the next meeting of the Services Committee so that the charging scheme for music instruction could also be discussed. Mr Nickerson questioned whether appropriate consultation had been conducted and moved that the Committee defer consideration of this draft policy for one cycle. Ms L F Baisley seconded.

Mr G Robinson referred to paragraph 4.2 of the report and commented that consultation had been conducted with the Instrumental Panel/Representatives. He added that this document could be considered in isolation from the charging scheme. Mr G Robinson moved, as an amendment, that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report. Mr W H Manson seconded.

Mr W H Manson commented that this draft policy will help to enshrine existing practice and had been written in consultation with practitioners. He added that it would be highly desirable for this policy to be in place by the start of the next school term in August. The Chairperson agreed, commenting that the next Secondary school term begins in June.

In response to a query from Mr A T J Cooper, the Head of Schools advised that the policy will help to ensure that music instruction is equitable across all schools by offering tuition to pupils in Primary 5 and above, and by setting each lesson for a duration of thirty minutes.

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

Amendment (Mr G Robinson)	9
Motion (Mr R C Nickerson)	7

42/10 **Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) Agreement 2010-2013**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 9).

The Chairperson drew Members' attention to the need to implement a consistent model for Local Service Delivery Groups (LSDGs). Members brought forward the following points:-

- Although many of the LSDGs have ceased, the South Mainland LSDG is a working example of how this initiative can be successfully implemented. As part of the South Mainland LSDG, sub-committees have been established to undertake specific matters.
- Due to a lack of administrative support, many of the ideas generated from LSDGs do not receive follow up action.
- The relationship between Community Councils and LSDGs must be redefined to avoid any remit conflicts.

Following discussion, Mr C L Smith moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained within the report. Mr G Robinson seconded.

The Chairperson highlighted Section 4 of the Appendix and commented that there is no mechanism within the existing structure to place Health and Care projects on the Capital Programme. The Chairperson requested that reports be presented, at future meetings, in relation to revenue management accounts for the CHCP and information on staffing numbers.

Mrs E L Fullerton referred to Section 12 in the Appendix and acknowledged the success of the pilot project in Unst. However, she questioned whether the Council's capacity to roll out these initiatives across Shetland. Mrs Fullerton advised that practical difficulties in the roll out may occur in high demand areas where there are a limited number of vacant properties. Mr A G L Duncan agreed that he would welcome a report on this subject.

43/10 **Knitting Instruction in Schools**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 10).

Highlighting the Council's current financial position, Mr A G L Duncan moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained within the report. Mr C L Smith seconded. Mr Duncan added that what was once a necessity has now been modernised with machines which can produce garments at a quicker pace whilst reducing costs.

Following further discussion, Ms L F Baisley moved as an amendment that the service be maintained whilst a full review of best value is conducted, also looking at the possibility of utilising volunteers to help reduce costs. Mr R S Henderson seconded.

Mr G Robinson drew Members' attention to paragraph 3.4 and stated that under these proposals some knitting instruction would remain in place. Referring to possible school

closures, Mr Robinson continued by saying that the savings made from the reduction in this service would help to alleviate some of the burden on the Education Service.

Following further discussion, Mr W H Manson clarified that the current knitting instructors would be redeployed into existing vacant posts, resulting in the projected savings. Mr Manson highlighted that school resources budgets are being reduced for many of Shetland's schools. Members were also reminded that knitting instruction is not a statutory service and remains at the discretion of the Council to provide.

Mr R C Nickerson referred to the risks associated with this report and noted that socio-economic risks had not been highlighted. Mr Nickerson urged Members to look at the bigger picture, stating that he found the terms of this report very difficult to accept. Mr R C Nickerson gave notice of a further amendment.

Mr A T J Cooper questioned if Ms L F Baisley had considered, as part of her amendment, the source of finance for such a review. Ms L F Baisley stated that she would prefer the implementation of the Blueprint for Education before work on this review was conducted. In response, Mr A T J Cooper reminded Members of their agreement not to include any growth items in the budget planning for the financial year 2010/11.

(Mr C L Smith left the meeting.)

In response to queries from Mrs E L Fullerton, the Head of Schools advised that various artists in residence have been deployed within schools and due to the high level of external funding it is hoped that this can continue on a rolling programme. The Head of Schools also confirmed that work will be carried out to investigate access to Shetland Museum artefacts relating to Shetland's knitwear heritage.

(Mr A J Cluness left the meeting.)

Following further discussion, Mrs I J Hawkins questioned whether there would be scope to employ volunteers and whether offering an opt-in knitting instruction scheme for those interested in the subject could be implemented.

(Mr C L Smith attended the meeting.)

Members noted that Fair Isle knitting is synonymous with Shetland and the Head of Schools confirmed that lace knitting is currently offered to pupils in the later primaries. However, pupils have shown little interest.

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

Amendment (Ms L F Baisley)	5
Motion (Mr A G L Duncan)	10

Mr R C Nickerson in referring to a pilot which was previously run at Whalsay school with machine knitting he summarised the basis of his amendment, stating that in addition to the recommendation contained within the report, a pilot opt-in scheme could be implemented in discussion with Shetland Arts and the Shetland Museum. Mr R S Henderson seconded.

Voting took place by a show of hands, and the result was as follows:

Amendment (Mr R C Nickerson)	4
Motion (Mr A G L Duncan)	10

44/10 **New Anderson High School Capital Project – Progress Report**

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

Mr G Robinson declared an interest as an employee of Shetland Recreational Trust.

Following discussion regarding the consultation period for the school at the Knab site, Members noted that Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education (HMIE) had not been informed of the Council's decision that Lower Staney Hill be the new preferred site. Technically the public meeting should not have been held until HMIE were informed. However, the Head of Schools could inform Members consultation could now begin in September 2010, in line with the consultation requirements.

Dr J W G Wills moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report. Mr C L Smith seconded.

Mr F A Robertson highlighted that the new Anderson High School must be designed with public use in mind. It is hoped that the new building, whilst blending with the existing architecture, will integrate into the community for the next one hundred years or more.

**In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr L Angus moved, and Mr A T J Cooper seconded, to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of the following items of business.**

45/10 **Sale of Caravan Sites at Hoofields**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing.

Mrs E L Fullerton moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report. Mr A G L Duncan seconded.

46/10 **New Anderson High School Capital Project – Update on Contractual Issues**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care.

Mr W H Manson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report. Mr C L Smith seconded.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.

.....  
L Angus  
Chairperson

