

Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Thursday 3 February 2011 at 10 a.m.

Present:

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

Apologies:

L Baisley

In Attendance:

H Sutherland, Executive Director of Education and Social Care
H Budge, Head of Schools
R Sinclair, Head of Capital Programming
A Williamson, Chief Social Work Officer
M Duncan, Grants Co-ordinator
J Edwards, Quality Improvement Officer
A Jamieson, Service Manager – Business Support
E Manson, Human Resources Adviser
D Morgan, Service Manager – Criminal Justice Services
M Nicolson, Service Manager – Children's Resources
V Simpson, Service Manager – Housing
J Thomason, Management Accountant
A Cogle, Service Manager – Administration

Chairperson

Mr L Angus, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

Dr J Wills declared an interest as his wife is an officer in the Schools Service.

Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 7 December 2010 having been circulated, was confirmed on the motion of Mr L Angus.

The Committee noted that the Corporate Parenting event for Councillors would take place on 9 March 2011.

Members Attendance at External Meetings

None.

01/11 Review of Instrumental Music Instruction in Schools

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 1), which recommended consideration of proposals to support more efficient administration of the current scheme of provision.

In response to questions from Members, the Head of Schools advised that, as far as was known, 10 pupils had opted out of music tuition because of the fees. She added that ring fenced funding from the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative was expected to continue for another financial year and was in the region of £100k.

Mrs B Fullerton referred to Appendix 3, and said her main concern was with the apparent inequality of provision across the Isles, and her further concern was that the level of provision in Shetland was double in comparison to other Islands Councils and was therefore much better than adequate. Mrs Fullerton asked what the next step would be in terms of the review.

The Head of Schools advised that there were 100 vacant spaces just now because the lesson time had been reduced, and it was being proposed that a co-ordinator post be established in order to help look at the timetabling and administration of the service throughout all Schools, with a view to ensuring equality in terms of provision and a more efficient delivery of the service.

Mr W H Manson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, but that the part-time Instrumental Instruction administrator post be approved only for the remainder of this academic year and that a further report be required if the post was required for longer. Mr A Cooper seconded.

Mr R Nickerson said the report contained a lot of good information, but recognised that there had been a lack of co-ordination and line management had been undertaken by Head Teachers, which was not always logical. He went on to agree the service could be improved by making more efficient use of Instructors' time and skills, and the fundamental problem of line management should be addressed at a more strategic level. Accordingly, Mr Nickerson moved as amendment that: (a) charges be suspended from June 2011 until August 2012, pending a complete review of the service; and (b) that the Executive Director Education and Social Services undertake a full service review, taking account of all aspects of the instrumental instruction service by December 2011, and that a report outlining the scale and scope of the review be presented to the next Services Committee. Mr R

Henderson seconded. The Committee noted that a suspension of charges would require a recommendation to the Council.

Mrs B Fullerton gave notice of a further amendment.

Mr L Angus said that whatever shortcomings there may be in the scale of the provision, the output was excellent and as a result Shetland had some of the most talented young musicians and provided great opportunities for them.

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

Amendment (R Nickerson)	8
Motion (W H Manson)	8

Mr L Angus used his Chairperson's casting vote in favour of the Motion by Mr Manson.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** that:

- 6.1.1 The range of instruments on offer in schools should be narrowed to support equality and sustainability of provision. This should be done through natural wastage over a period of years.
- 6.1.2 The current scheme of provision has not been in place long, the scheme should be allowed to continue until June 2012 to allow full alignment with the new 50 minute periods.
- 6.1.3 The Schools Service has identified some areas where some amendments to the scheme would support more efficient administration. The Schools Service should revise the scheme of provision and present this during the next Council cycle.
- 6.1.4 The scheme has proven to be time consuming in its administration and has impacted on officer and administration workload. The Schools Service should appoint a temporary part-time Instrumental Instruction administrator as detailed in 6.11 of the review report, but that the appointment be made only for the remainder of this academic year and that a further report be required if the post was required for longer and to note that this post will be subject to monitoring and review to assess the impact on the service in order to determine the longer term need.

02/11

Capital Grants to Voluntary Organisations – Upgrade of North Unst Public Hall

The Committee considered a report by the Sport and Leisure Services Manager (Appendix 2) which recommended approval of a request for funding from the North Unst Public Hall.

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mr J G Simpson, seconded by Mr R Nickerson.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. approve a grant of up to £100,000 to North Unst Public Hall for the purposes outlined in this report; and
2. that the above grant be subject to the standard Council conditions applying to the Capital Grant Aid Scheme.

03/11

Additional Social Space at Anderson High School

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 3) which sought approval in principle for the construction of additional space at the Anderson High School.

Dr J Wills said that this matter had been discussed and supported by the AHS Parent Council, and the point was made strongly by them that these additional social spaces were part of a long term plan of improvements. He said that it had been reported in the local media that the school was not fit to receive additional pupils from other schools, but he said that the social space at the AHS was not ideal, and that was why improvements such as this were planned for each year. Dr Wills moved that the recommendations in the report be approved. Mr W H Manson seconded.

Members agreed that an update report on Capital Projects be a standing item on future Services Committee agendas, in order that Members can be more informed as to ongoing and future projects.

Some Members expressed concern that it could be assumed that the additional space was being created as a direct result of the Council's proposal to close Scalloway Secondary, and therefore required to accommodate the additional pupils. However, it was noted that the improvements would have come to the Committee whether or not there was a proposal to move pupils to the AHS. Members agreed that the presentation of this report at this particular time had been unfortunate.

Decision:

The Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to Shetland Islands Council that it approve the proposal to apply for capital funding through the Gateway process to extend the current Anderson High School building.

The Committee further **RESOLVED** that an update report on Capital Projects be a standing item on future agendas.

04/11

Proposals for Pitt Lane and Park Lane, Lerwick

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing (Appendix 4) which recommended the demolition and rebuild of houses in Pitt Lane and Park Lane.

Members noted that the Scottish Government's decision relating to Housing Support Grant still required to go through the Parliamentary process.

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mr A Duncan, seconded by Mrs B Fullerton.

Decision:

The Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the Council:

- 1 accept option 4.3 to demolish the existing properties and build back new flats, adding into the design as many additional units as planning policy allows; and
- 2 agree that a full long term financial plan will be prepared to the Services Committee and the Council once the outcome of the Scottish Government review of housing support grant is known or a significant financial / contractual commitment has to be made, which will include the Committee's preferred option alongside all other revenue and capital commitments for consideration.

05/11

Homeless Mediation Project

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing (Appendix 5) which sought the approval for grant funding to establish a pilot Homeless Mediation project.

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mr A Duncan, seconded by Mr A Cooper.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- 1 approve the payment of a one-off grant of £7,000 to Family Mediation Shetland, to establish a pilot project for one year subject to suitable grant conditions regarding service delivery and accountability;
- 2 note that a further report on the evaluation of the project will be brought to Services Committee at the end of the pilot project.

06/11

Reshaping Care for Older People Change Fund

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 6) which sought approval for proposals regarding the allocation of specific funding from the Scottish Government.

In response to questions from Members, the Head of Community Care said that a lot of work was being done to develop person-centred care planning, so that a person's current and future needs are anticipated, considered and planned for. She said the Government was seeking a single system, but there was considerable debate regarding how it would work and the view of local authorities was that a "one size fits all" approach would not work. The Head of Community Care went on to confirm that there were systems in place for recording unmet needs, and whilst there was a minor increase in the Occupational Therapy waiting list, the number of people in residential care was at its lowest for a number of years, and more people were now cared for in their own home rather than in a formal care setting, and bridging funding would be used for that.

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mrs B Fullerton, seconded by Mr C Smith.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- 1 note the information presented in this report and the Reshaping Care for Older People Change Fund Guidance attached at Appendix 1 to the report;
- 2 agree that a Draft Change Plan is prepared following the stakeholder event on 7 February incorporating the topics in paragraph 5.2 above and that this is submitted to the Ministerial Steering Group by the deadline of 28 February 2011;
- 3 agree that the Change Plan will be formally agreed as an integral part of the CHCP Agreement 2011 – 2014 due to be presented to Shetland NHS Board and SIC Services Committee in March 2011; and
- 4 agree that the implementation of the Change Plan will be taken forward by the CHCP Management Team and monitored by the CHP Committee on a quarterly basis.
- 5 recommend that the Community Planning Delivery Group consider and agree on regular updates for the Community Planning Partnership from the CHP Committee.

07/11

Adult Support and Protection Biennial Report

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Appendix 7) which introduced the first Biennial Report on Adult Support and Protection, and

approved the recommendation contained therein, on the motion of Mr A Cooper, seconded by Mr C Smith.

Decision:

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided in the Biennial Report; and **RESOLVED** that the Report be distributed to the relevant public bodies as stipulated in the legislation.

[Mr A J Cluness left the meeting.]

08/11

Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme

The Committee considered a joint report by the Chief Social Work Officer and the Human Resources Manager (Appendix 8) which advised Members of the new vetting membership scheme, and sought approval to continue to meet the cost of Scheme membership.

The Committee noted that the cost of a new Record was £50 and not £59 as stated in the appendix.

The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report, on the motion of Mrs B Fullerton, seconded by Mr A Hughson.

Decision:

The Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the Council:

- 1 delegates authority to the Human Resources Manager to amend recruitment and other procedures accordingly, in order to replace the Disclosure Scotland procedure with the new PVG Scheme; and
- 2 continue to meet the cost of vetting employees and meet the cost of membership to the PVG Scheme.

09/11

Education and Social Care Revenue Management Accounts for the Period 1 April 2010 to 31 December 2010 – General Ledger, Reserve Fund and Housing Revenue Account

The Committee **NOTED** a report by the Head of Finance (Appendix 9) which provided Members with an overview of the financial position on the Education and Social Care Services accounts.

10/11 **Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 – New Community Payback Order**

The Committee **NOTED** a report by the Service Manager Criminal Justice (Appendix 10) which advised Members of the changes and implications for Shetland as a result of the introduction of community-based sentencing.

11/11 **Young Carers Progress Report**

The Committee **NOTED** a report by the Head of Children's Services (Appendix 11) which informed Members of progress to date on local issues relating to young carers.

12/11 **Consideration of Best Value and Benchmarking**

The Committee **NOTED** a report by the Head of Housing (Appendix 12) which provided Members with the latest analysis of benchmarking information relating to the Housing Service.

13/11 **Homelessness and Intentionality**

The Committee **NOTED** a report by the Head of Housing (Appendix 13) which set out the implications for Shetland Islands Council on the advice received from Alex Neil MSP.

The Committee also **AGREED** that a short report be presented to the next meeting of the Services Committee clarifying the legislation in relation to what constitutes anti-social behaviour.

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr L Angus moved, Mr C Smith seconded, and the Committee RESOLVED to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of the following items of business.

14/11 **Protocols for Agreeing Resource Transfer Payments between Health Boards and Councils with Respect to NHS Long Stay Bed Closures**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Education and Social Care which sought approval to adopt a protocol regarding resources transfers between the Council and NHS Shetland.

After some discussion, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mr C Smith, seconded by Mrs B Fullerton.

15/11 **Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) Commissioning Strategy – Outsourcing**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care which recommended changes to the CHCP Commissioning Strategy as a result of issues raised by the Council's Internal Auditor.

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mr C Smith, seconded by Mrs B Fullerton.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.

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L Angus
Chairperson