

MINUTE

‘A&B’

Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 1 June 2011 at 10.00am

Present:

A T Doull	I J Hawkins
R S Henderson	J H Henry
A J Hughson	C H J Miller
R C Nickerson	F A Robertson
G Robinson	J G Simpson

In Attendance (Officers):

G Greenhill, Executive Director - Infrastructure Services
S Cooper, Head of Environment and Building Services
I Halcrow, Head of Roads
I McDiarmid, Head of Planning
K Duerden, Service Manager – Ferries
D Polson, Service Manager – Air, Bus & Vehicle Fleet
J Grant, Waste Services Manager
J Johnson, Senior Assistant Accountant
P Peterson, Communications Manager
J Simpson, Energy Manager
L Adamson, Committee Officer
L Geddes, Committee Officer
A C Cogle, Service Manager - Administration
L Gair, Committee Officer

Apologies

A T Doull	F A Robertson
A S Wishart	

Chair:

Mrs I J Hawkins, Chair of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

None.

01/11 **Minutes of Meeting**

The minute of the Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 3 May 2011, having been circulated, was confirmed.

02/11 **Planning and Performance Management Framework: Summary Workplan**

A report by the Executive Director – Infrastructure (Report No: ISD-03-11-F) presented the work plan and performance measures for the services within its remit in order to determine the relative priority and targets to deliver for the year ahead.

The Committee noted the Service Statements included at Appendix 1, and during discussion concern was expressed with regard to the affect that the smoking ban was

having on litter in general and the knock on effect on areas outwith licensed premises. Members were keen that officers take this up locally with the involvement of the Shetland Islands Area Licensing Board, if necessary, in line with licensing conditions. Members noted that litter campaigns would cover all three aspects of litter management, from cleansing, education and enforcement, but were of the view that more emphasis should be placed on enforcement action.

In general Members noted that the performance monitoring framework was being developed and would be agreed through the Executive Committee. Members also noted that this would ensure a process for performance monitoring at regular intervals.

Members queried the performance of the Planning Service in relation to applications and noted that this was not included within the overall service priorities. However it was recognised that this was a prime function of the service and was a target that was routinely monitored.

A lengthy discussion took place with regard to elements of the transport review in particular the ferries service. Members discussed areas in relation to the allocation of ferries on the routes and their capacity in relation to the levels of demand. Considerable concern was also expressed regarding the Council's decision to increase fares by 15%. Some Members were of the view that this was disproportionate to the increase in fares on other forms of transport. It was also the view of some that this increase in fares was detrimental to the communities involved. However it was noted that all aspects would be considered as part of the overall transport review and Members were generally in agreement that priority should be given to the ferries service part of the review. The Executive Director - Infrastructure acknowledged these concerns and agreed that they would be taken on board and reported back to Committee, as necessary, but in any event the ferry service review would be reported to Committee within 6 months. An option to form a working group was accepted.

On the motion of Mr Robinson, seconded by Mr Henry, the Committee approved the documents as the workplan to develop policy initiatives and manage performance over the next period, taking account of concerns and comments made today.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. note the Service Statement included at Appendix 1; and
2. approve the documents as the workplan to develop policy initiatives and manage performance over the next period, subject to the following:
 - the framework for monitoring and reporting on performance will form part of the framework to be agreed by the Executive Committee;
 - consideration will be given to reviewing licensing conditions relating to litter outside licensed premises, and referred to the Licensing Board if necessary;
 - the Litter Campaigns will cover all aspects of cleansing, education and enforcement;

- Planning Service priorities routinely include the timely processing of applications;
- a review of the delivery of the ferry service across the islands is regarded by the Committee as a priority feature of the Transport Review, and that a model for the ferry service that is politically acceptable be considered within 6 months, and that consideration be given to the formation of a Working Group during the course of that review.

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03/11 **Council Energy Consumption**

A report by the Energy Manager (ES-12-11-F) was presented and outlined the energy consumption across the Council, provided cost information and CO² emission data and outlined ongoing works to reduce energy consumption.

In response to a query the Service Manager – Air, Bus & Vehicle Fleet advised that an electric vehicle was being purchased for the Council's Internal Mail Delivery Service, as a trial. The vehicle is expected to be in place within the next two months.

Decision:

The Committee noted the potential impact on budgets, and that more detail of the impact will be reported through the formal budgetary process or the Planning Performance Management Framework arrangements.

04/11 **Fuel Costs – Ferry Services**

A report by the Head of Transport (TR-16-11-F) was presented and outlined the potential impact of fuel price rises on the Ferry Service fuel budget since the budget setting process was carried out.

Members expressed their concerns that essential maintenance and refurbishments were being deferred due to the increase in fuel costs. They also acknowledged the urgent need for the review of the ferry services and noted the impact that costs may have on the level of services and hours of service provided.

Members were advised that a number of options were being considered to alleviate the impacts of this rise, including the Central Government Centre for Procurement Excellence tender for marine fuel as well as exploring a possible economy of scale by working together with NorthLink.

Decision:

The Committee noted the potential impact on budgets, and that Officers would report back with proposals for mitigating measures to the next meeting of this Committee.

05/11 **Purchase of Second Hand Vehicle**

A report by the Head of Transport (Report No.TR-18-11-F) advised of the recent purchase of a second hand Atlas 140W West Handler for Environmental Services.

Decision:

On the motion of Mrs C H J Miller, seconded by Mr R C Nickerson, the Committee noted that the report met the requirements of the Standing Orders by reporting the purchase of the vehicle to the Environment and Transport Committee.

The meeting concluded at 11.05am.

Chair