

# MINUTE

‘A&B’

**Environment and Transport Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 10am**

**Present:**

R S Henderson	A J Hughson
R C Nickerson	G Robinson
J G Simpson	A S Wishart

**Apologies:**

A T Doull	J H Henry
C H J Miller	F A Robertson

**In Attendance (Officers):**

P Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services  
M Craigie, Executive Manager, Transport Planning  
K Duerden, Executive Manager, Ferry Operations  
M Dunne, Executive Manager, Environmental Health and Trading Standards  
J Riise, Executive Manager, Governance and Law  
A Hughes, Assistant Accountant  
L Gair, Committee Officer

**Chair:**

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

**Circular:**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

**Declarations of Interests**

None.

16/11 **Minutes of Meeting**

The minute of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting held on 5 October 2011, having been circulated, was confirmed on the motion of Mr Henderson seconded by Mr Nickerson.

17/11 **Food Hygiene Information System**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager - Environmental Health and Trading Standards (Report No: ES-19-11-F) which sought approval for the introduction of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Food Hygiene Information System.

In response to queries, the Executive Manager - Environmental Health and Trading Standards clarified that it was not a legal requirement to display the certificate, but the information would be made public on the FSA's website, with a link to the Council's website. She explained that since April this year, following inspections establishments have been advised informally whether they would pass or need improvement, under the FSA's Food Hygiene Information System.

The Executive Manager – Environmental Health and Trading Standards also confirmed that a system had already been introduced to minimise the burden on

Public Halls. She informed Members that Public Halls already operate to a high standard and she was confident that all would pass under the FSA system. She said that the system would not place any additional burden on Public Halls.

Mr Nickerson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr Robinson.

**Decision:**

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the Food Hygiene Information System be launched in Shetland with effect from 1 April 2012.

18/11 **Animal Health and Welfare Framework**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Environmental Health and Trading Standards (Report No: ES-20-11-F) which concerned the proposal to adopt the Animal Health Framework and agree the level of service that will be delivered in the required Service Plan.

The Executive Manager - Environmental Health and Trading Standards explained that the current Animal Health Scheme in Shetland would already comply beyond this new framework and therefore derogation would be sought.

During discussions, concern was expressed regarding the cost of administering the framework, without funds being provided by the Scottish Government, and Mr Nickerson asked that Tavish Scott MSP be made aware of the impact of this framework.

Members acknowledged, with concern that the reprioritisation of work would impact on other services such as dog warden, pest control and abandoned cars. The Executive Manager - Environmental Health and Trading Standards said it was important to make best use of the resources available and clarified that Members would be agreeing to the minimum requirements and possibly less if derogation is agreed.

Mr Henderson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report and that the Service Plan be presented to Committee for adoption, seconded by Mr J G Simpson.

**Decision:**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:-

- a) adopt the Animal Health Framework for implementation from 1 April 2012, as requested by the Scottish Government; and
- b) agree that the Service Plan should detail the minimum level of activity to comply with the Framework, and the Draft Service Plan be presented to the Committee for adoption.

19/11 **Cycle to Work Scheme**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Transport Planning (Report No: TR-29-11-F), which outlined the method that would be employed, should start up funds be provided, to establish such a scheme for SIC employees.

The Executive Manager - Transport Planning clarified to Members the following points regarding the administration of the Scheme:

- £25,000 would be used to purchase bikes and equipment
- Participating employees would be given a voucher to purchase locally or through the internet or any retailer who wishes to participate.
- The monthly hire amount would be worked out based on the value of the bike and equipment in line with the individual's salary, over a period of, say, 12-18 months.
- There are no finance charges involved in repayments.
- When salary payments are received this can be recycled quickly allowing more participants to become involved.
- Only SIC employees may participate in this scheme as the arrangement is between the employer and Revenue and Customs. Each organisation would have to have their own scheme
- The Council benefits directly as National Insurance contributions would not be paid for participants on the proportion of the salary that is attributed to the hire agreement.
- The employee benefits from not paying tax on the hire of the bike.
- Employees can purchase the bike at market value at the end of the hire period, which would be at a low cost.

Mr Henderson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr Nickerson.

**Decision:**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council approve the provision of start up funding, to implement an SIC Cycle to Work Scheme, to the amount of £25,000.

20/11 **SIC Ferry Services Review**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (ISD-07-11-F), which proposed a methodology and project structure for carrying out and reporting the next strand of the Service Review.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the main terms of the report and drew attention to the overarching objective noted at paragraph 3.9 and the timetable provided in Appendix 1. He said that this was a cross-departmental and cross-Committee review with responsibility being shared with the Development Department and highlighted the key priorities, as follows:

- promote social mobility and inclusion
- Economic growth and jobs
- Provide quality transport links within legislative requirements
- Provide transport links that can adapt to external services
- Provide links that minimise carbon

Members welcomed the timescale set in Appendix 1 with an implementation date of October 2012. Reassurance was given by the Director of Infrastructure Services that the review would cover the whole ferry service contracted by the Council and would encompass all other reviews/studies already done on the smaller services. He said

that he did not envisage revisiting the work but it would be taken into the entire review where the ferry services would be considered as a whole.

With the Whalsay service in mind, Mr Simpson said that there was a real urgency for this review to be undertaken, within the timescale set.

Mr J G Simpson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report.

Members acknowledged that the timescale provide did not allow for further feedback to Members within the term of the current Council. The Committee unanimously agreed that a feedback mechanism be arranged to inform Members of progress before the end of the current Council. Mr Nickerson seconded.

**Decision:**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve:-

- a) proposals and the timeline to carry out the next strand of the Shetland Islands Council Ferries Review;
- b) the establishment of a Member steering Group to oversee remaining work; and the overarching objective to be met by the next strand of the review.
- c) a feedback mechanism, to all Members, to be arranged before the end of the current term of this Council.

The meeting concluded at 10.40 am.

Chair