

**Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 15 February 2012 at 10am**

Present:

R S Henderson A J Hughson
J H Henry C H J Miller
F A Robertson A S Wishart

Apologies:

A T Doull R C Nickerson
G Robinson J G Simpson

In Attendance (Officers):

P Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services
D Coupe, Executive Manager Roads Maintenance
K Duerden, Executive Manager, Ferry Operations
M Dunne, Executive Manager, Environmental Health and Trading Standards
C Gair, Senior Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety
B Robb, Management Accountant
L Gair, Committee Officer

Also In Attendance (Members)

J Budge
A T J Cooper

Chair:

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

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

None.

01/12 **Minutes of Meeting**

The minute of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting held on 14 December 2011, having been circulated, was confirmed on the motion of Mr Hughson seconded by Mr Henderson.

02/12 **Performance Overview**

The Committee noted a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (Report No: ISD-01-12-F), which summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Services Department for the 9 months up to December 2011 against the objectives approved by the Environment and Transport Committee in June 2011.

Mr Henry commented on the Tidy Business Awards that had recently presented awards to 70 companies, and said that this scheme should be spread out to more businesses.

During discussions, Members commented on the following items:

- NINES project – this project is being rolled out in a phased way to 1000 homes. 20 prototypes are in homes around Lerwick in the first instance, in order that close monitoring can be undertaken. It is anticipated that the 1000 water heaters will be distributed across Shetland and it is hoped that they will be made available to private homeowners in the future.
- LEAN Process previously undertaken in the buildings stores – Members were advised that best practices from the process would be used across the department and it was reported that a review of spares, equipment and vans would be done.
- Format of the table – Members were assured that the format would be improved for the next report, to ensure that it provides more measurable performance information to allow proper scrutiny of the process.
- Staffing arrangements for Tingwall Airport – Members were advised that a further review of the airport was being undertaken.
- Planned Road Surface Dressing – Members were assured that the surface dressing list, would be sent to relevant Community Council's for their comment, before it is presented to Committee for approval.
- Litter in the Sound area – Members noted that litter would be blown around during storms and particular problems should be reported to the Environmental Health Section in order that cleansing staff can be deployed. Members also noted that there had been a significant reduction in the amount of litter around Lerwick since the introduction of wheeled bins. Members were advised that there would be a review of the street cleansing section as part of the budget process.
- Appendix 3, High Risk item, third row - Members were advised that the risk register is a working progress and the items listed would be reviewed from 1 April 2012. The risks would be monitored through the Audit and Standards Committee. Members noted that there were a number of services out for review and there would be consultation plans provided to Community Councils. The consultation process would require Officers to attend Community Council meetings and in managing customer expectations it was important to be open and honest about what the Council can do within the funds available.
- Community Engagement - Members agreed the need for a planned timetable for consultations across all departments to avoid repeated consultations being carried out in the same communities. Members were reassured that Officers were discussing the best way to run community engagement across the Council.
- Electric Van – Members were advised that information would be provided on the results of the trial together with comments from the Fleet Manager.
- Participatory Budgeting in Staneyhill - a request was received for information on how the money was spent
- Construction of Shetland Telecom Project – Members were advised that the work carried out by the Roads Service would be complete on time. Members were further advised that an agreement had been reached with Faroese Telecom and the link between Sandwick and Lerwick would be available by the beginning of March.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **NOTED** progress against priorities that informed activity for the remainder of this financial year and the planning process for next and future years.

03/12 **Animal Health and Welfare Framework**

The Committee considered and, on the motion of Mr Henry, seconded by Mr Henderson, approved a report by the Executive Manager – Environmental Health and Trading Standards (Report No: EHTS-02-12-F), which sought approval of the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Service Plan for implementation from 1 April 2012.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to adopt the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Service Plan for implementation from 1 April 2012.

04/12 **Traffic Regulation Orders, Etc. – Annual Progress Report**

The Committee noted a report by the Senior Engineer – Traffic and Road Safety (Report No: RD-02-12-F), which informed Members of the Traffic Orders etc. made in the past year and to provide an overview of the progress of those that are currently being promoted. The annual report is required in order to let Members know what Orders etc. have been promoted or made under delegated authority. The report also informed Members on progress to date of the review of the existing speed limits on Shetland's A & B class roads.

In response to Members queries, the Senior Engineer – Traffic and Road Safety confirmed that the Scottish Government had received all the information they requested on the Haggersta to Cova compulsory purchase order and there had been no further queries since Christmas. He confirmed that the project had gone through the Gateway process but was not in the 5 year capital programme. The Director of Infrastructure advised that the project would be considered during the future setting of priorities.

The Senior Engineer – Traffic and Road Safety also explained that there was now a system in place to review disabled parking spaces every 2 years to ensure that they were still required.

The Senior Engineer – Traffic and Road Safety explained the timetable for the remaining five 20mph speed limit at schools and advised that the work would be complete by the end of the current financial year. Members commented that they were pleased that the programme had been completed during the term of this Council.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **NOTED** progress made in implementing Traffic Regulation Orders.

05/12 **Roads and Winter Maintenance Services Reviews**

The Committee considered and, on the motion of Mr Robertson, seconded by Mrs Miller, approved a report by the Executive Manager - Roads (RD-03-12-F), which sought authority to use the Member Officer Working Group – Roads, as a sounding board to provide a member stakeholder input during the Roads Service and Winter Maintenance Reviews which are being undertaken as part of the strategic budget process for 2012/13 and beyond.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee RESOLVED to use the Member Officer Working Group – Roads as a sounding board to provide a member stakeholder input during the Roads Service and Winter Maintenance service reviews.

06/12 Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2017

The Committee considered a report by the Safety and Risk Services Manager (GL-10-12-F), which introduced the Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan covering the next 5 years and advised that the Scottish Government expect all Local Authorities to have in place appropriate strategies to deal with road safety issues.

The Safety and Risk Services Manager advised of the strategy targets from the Scottish Government and what was needed to achieve them. In response to queries from Members, she explained that education is provided from playgroup throughout a child's school years and provided more detail on a number of the activities carried out by the Road Safety Officer. Members commented on the total cost of an accident, which includes the cost of emergency services and stopping up roads.

Mr Cooper referred to a system developed in Highland Council and suggested that this would be a good practice that could be brought into this Council. The Safety and Risk Services Manager said that the service currently deal with the things mentioned by Mr Cooper but advised that she would make contact with Highland Council to establish if there were areas that her service did not currently cover.

Discussion took place regarding the need for discounted insurance premiums for young drivers if they complete a driving awareness course. The Safety and Risk Services Manager explained that there is currently a Pass Plus scheme that has been running for a number of years which is recognised by some Insurance Companies who offer insurance cover at a reduced cost once the course is completed.

Members noted a chart in the Plan that showed a downward trend in accidents over the last 30 years, which is surprising in terms that roads have improved, there is more traffic on the road travelling at faster speeds.

The Environment & Transport Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Executive Committee and the Council that it approves the Roads Safety Strategy and Action Plan for 2012-2017.

07/12 Management Accounts for Infrastructure Services: April – December 2011

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance (F-001-F), to enable the Committee to monitor the financial performance of services within their remit, on the revenue and capital accounts, in order to determine that the expenditure levels and income generated will be delivered within the approved budget for the year. The report advised that there were no specific actions to take, at this stage in the year beyond ensuring that the efficiency projects already identified in the year are implemented and savings secured, or alternative savings found.

Members noted, with disappointment, the projects in Appendix 1 that could not be delivered. However the Director - Infrastructure Services said that what was important was that spend to save projects would be brought forward into the next financial year.

Members also noted that the increased fuel costs had been absorbed in the current financial year. The Executive Manager - Ferry Operations advised that the figures were up to the end of December but not all fuel invoices had been processed due to the holidays. It was expected that, assuming the price does not change, there would be an overspend on fuel of some £500k by the end of the financial year. He said that it was hoped that a break even budget would be achieved but cautioned that the training and maintenance work that had not been done in the last two years would have to be done soon to avoid further deterioration of terminal infrastructure and vessels.

In response to a query, the Executive Manager – Ferry Operations advised that since 1 April 2011, there was a 10% increase in fares and 5% bunker surcharge. He informed Members that figures were not yet available for the full year but in Yell Sound the revenue was up only 2%. He said that there was a revenue increase of 23% in Whalsay but that was due to the increase in volume with the factory reopening and construction work in the Isles. Overall there was a 10% revenue increase on a 15% increase in fares.

Mrs Miller moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr Henry.

The Environment & Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- review the Revenue Management Accounts, from 1 April 2011 – 31 December 2011;
- review the Capital Management Accounts, from 1 April 2011 – 31 December 2011; and
- review the progress on securing savings and efficiencies in the year.

The meeting concluded at 11 am.

Chair