

**Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 6 June 2012 at 10am**

Present:

A Wishart	M Stout
M Bell	R Henderson
W Ratter	G Robinson
D Sandison	M Smith
T Smith	J Wills

Apologies:

None.

In Attendance (Officers):

P Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services
M Dunne, Executive Manager - Environmental Health and Trading Standards
J Riise, Executive Manager, Governance and Law
S Cooper, Executive Manager – Environment and Transport Operations
N Hutcheson, Team Leader – Asset and Network Management
S Pearson, Team Leader - Safety and Risk
B Robb, Management Accountant
L Gair, Committee Officer

Also In Attendance (Members)

G Cleaver
V Wishart

Chair:

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

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

Dr J W G Wills declared, as an Island Resident, an interest in matters relating to ferries.

Mr R Henderson declared, as an Island Resident, an interest in matters relating to ferries.

08/12 Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting held on 15 February 2012, having been circulated, were confirmed on the motion of Mr Henderson seconded by Mr Wishart.

09/12 Management Accounts for Infrastructure Services: 2011/12 Quarter 4 (April 2011 – March 2012)

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance (Report No: F-027-F), which provided the opportunity to monitor the financial performance of services within the remit of the Committee, on the revenue and capital accounts, in order to determine that the expenditure levels and income generated had been delivered within the approved budget for the year.

Following a brief introduction of the report, Officers gave explanations to questions raised by Members as follows:

- The figures in this report are rounded to the nearest million, therefore the figures on some occasions may not appear to add up. Figures will be shown in £000's in future to provide a clearer financial position.
- With regard to large variances in appendix 2, Members were advised that in the early stages of budget setting there is an element of estimation required and during the year if one project is over the estimated budget, another will be reduced to allow a balanced position at the end of the year.
- Consultation on the Ferry Services review includes options being presented to the community and feedback on the impact of these options with any suggestions will be assessed and the outcome of the review will be reported to Committee in October this year. It was suggested that the consultation be accompanied by an explanation on the scale of the problem to give the Community a complete understanding of the situation.
- Concern was raised regarding the current cost of fuel and the Ferry Services review that would propose cuts to services. Cuts in isles ferry services was likened to daily road closures on the mainland and there was likely to be an impact on the population and demographic of the island communities.
- Assurances were given to Members that all comments and suggestions by the community including ferries staff would be considered and looked at carefully. It was also noted that back office systems would be considered as part of the Review process.
- Member were also advised that a new ticketing systems was being procured as a spend to save opportunity and that the new machines would coordinate passenger and income data and provide customers with the option of debit card payments. It was explained that the new system was roust and would ensure fair collection of fares.
- With regard to the Tingwall Airport, Members were advised that the contract would be out next year at which time it would be reviewed and all aspects of it would be considered including the airport's continued use, service provision and staff resources.

Mr G Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr A Wishart

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to:-

- Review the Revenue Management Accounts, from 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012;
- Review the Capital Management Accounts, from 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012; and
- Review the progress on securing savings and efficiencies in the year.

10/12 Road Safety Advisory Panel – Reconstitution

The Committee considered a report by the Safety and Risk Service Manager (Report No: GL-48-12-F), which sought the approval of the reconstitution of the Road Safety Advisory Panel, in addition to the appointment of a North Isles, Shetland West and Shetland South Member to the Panel.

The Executive Manager - Governance and Law suggested that he contact the relevant ward Members following the meeting to be advised of their appointed Ward Member. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr R Henderson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Dr J Wills

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to:-

- Approve the reconstitution of the Road Safety Advisory Panel which will include a link to the Community Safety Partnership; and
- The Executive Manager - Governance and Law would contact Members of the North Isles, Shetland West and Shetland South wards to make their appointment to the Road Safety Advisory Panel.

11/12 **Infrastructure Services Directorate Plan**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (Report No: ISD-02-12-F), which presented the draft Infrastructure Services Directorate Plan. This set out the policy and performance management framework for the Directorate and outlined the aims, objectives and actions for the financial year 2012/13.

Members were advised that the document was a living management tool that would be updated and presented to committee quarterly. Officers were present and responded to specific queries Members had in relation to the improvement actions contained in the Appendix.

Members commended the Director - Infrastructure Services for the production of the report and its links to the Single Outcome Agreement, Community Plan and Budget Strategy. The Director - Infrastructure Services noted Members comments on the content of the document and possible improvements that could be made.

Mr D Ratter moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr A Wishart

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to endorse the contents of the Plan as the priorities for the Infrastructure Services Directorate for the financial year 2012/13.

12/12 **Roadside Grass Cutting Policy**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network Management (Report No: RD-05-12-F), which informed of the existing grass cutting policy and sought approval of its amendment.

The Team Leader – Asset and Network Management explained that the £15,000 savings would be realised through natural wastage in staff resources, use of less contracted labour and less contracted plant.

In response to a query regarding the tendering of the service, the Director - Infrastructure Services explained that during the time of compulsory competitive tendering, the service had been won by the SIC and that schedule of rates had been

updated in the years since. The Director - Infrastructure Services agreed to look into the possibility of putting this service out to tender.

Mr R Henderson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr D Sandison.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Shetland Islands Council approve an amendment to the Council's Grass Cutting Policy such that the annual Shetland-wide cutting of all roadside verges be discontinued with verges only being cut for safety reasons.

13/12 **Roadside Verges Policy**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network Management (Report No: RD-07-12-F), which informed of the existing policy on roadside verges and sought approval of a replacement policy.

Mr D Ratter moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr G Robinson.

Decision:

The Environment & Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Shetland Islands Council approve:-

- An alteration to the current specification of roadside verges such that they no longer have to be constructed from a distinctively coloured aggregate that contrasts with the colour of the carriageway;
- The new policy, that specifies revised construction details for Shetland's roadside verges.

Mr Wishart moved that in order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, the Committee resolve to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of the following item of business. Mr Ratter seconded.

14/12 **Roads Weather Forecasting Contracts**
Extension of Current Contracts

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network Management.

Following some discussion, Mr G Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report. Seconded by Mr G Smith.

Decision:

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

- Approve the extension of the Met Office contract for the provision of weather forecasting, for one year to 31 March 2013, in accordance with paragraph H13(c) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Tenders and Contracts.

- Approve the extension of the Vaisala contract for the provision, operation and maintenance of equipment, for one year to 31 March 2013, in accordance with paragraph H13(c) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Tenders and Contracts.
- Authorises the Director of Infrastructure Services or his nominee to enter into negotiations to secure such extensions.

The meeting concluded at 11.10 am.

Chair