

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

Present:

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

Apologies:

None.

In Attendance (Officers):

P Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services
K Duerden, Executive Manager – Ferry Operations
D Coupe, Executive Manager – Roads Maintenance
J Gray, Executive Manager – Finance
J Riise, Executive Manager – Governance and Law
M Sandison, Executive Manager – Environmental Health and Trading Standards
C Symons, Acting Executive Manager – Building and Transport.
J Emptage, Executive Manager – Environmental Operations
A Taylor, Team Leader – Development Plans and Heritage
C Anderson, Senior Communications Officer
L Gair, Committee Officer

Also In Attendance (Members)

A Cooper
B Fox
V Wishart

Also In Attendance (Officers)

S Hughson, Shetland Amenity Trust

Chair:

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

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

None.

15/12 **Petitions**

The Convener had received a Petition, and the Chair advised as follows:

The petition was received on 11 July 2012 entitled “Sign up to stop the SIC cutting lifeline ferry services.”

The petition provides a list of 2108 names representing signatures received in

support of the petition, both online and in paper format.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED**, in accordance with Section 17.5 of the Council's Standing Orders for Meetings, to note the petition and that it would be considered as part of the ongoing review.

16/12 **Minutes of Meeting**

The minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting held on 6 June 2012, having been circulated, were confirmed on the motion of Mr Henderson seconded by Mr Sandison.

17/12 **Management Accounts for Environment and Transport Committee: 2012/13 Quarter 1 (April 2012 – June 2012)**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance (Report No: F-032-F), which provided the opportunity to monitor the financial performance of services within the remit of the Committee to ensure that expenditure incurred and income generated had been delivered within approved budgets, so that timely action can be taken when required to mitigate projected overspends.

The Executive Manager – Finance, explained in detail the new focus on reporting which is forward looking and provides projections on what the outturn position could be if no adjustments/actions are taken during the remainder of the year. He explained how factors such as profiling and late payments may affect the projected outturn, and advised that later in the year staff would be able to provide more accurate information on the projected outturn.

During lengthy discussion, Members welcomed this new reporting system and were assured that steps would be taken by staff to ensure that any slippage or shortfall is addressed. Members were advised that a report to Committee in October 2012 would demonstrate how spending would be brought back in line with the budget. The following additional points were made:

- Under the ferry review there are some changes that could be delivered and implemented quicker that should not wait until the review is complete. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that changes to the ferry service would be implemented next year however a report in October 2012 would provide a more clear position.
- Members expressed concern that the Council operate on a cash accounting basis rather than commitment based accounting. The Executive Manager – Finance said that staff were committed to sorting this out to help tighten up the information Members receive.
- Trading accounts were raised as a matter of concern at a time of reduced roads maintenance and the Director of Infrastructure Services explained that as well as carrying out work in-house, that does not require to be tendered, the Council has also been successful in winning work which has been tendered outside the Council.
- In response to a request for an understanding of the Council's financial position Members were advised that, at the Audit and Standards Committee on Monday, the Director of Corporate Services had committed to reporting on this.

- Recharges were also discussed and Members commented that savings founds in one service were being reduced because of the recharges from other services. Officers advised that overheads in the form of recharges have to be reported in order that Members can understand what the true savings are.

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

Decision:

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

- Review the Revenue Management Accounts, from 1 April 2012 – 30 June 2012, including the projected outturn position and savings in the year; and
- instructed officers to bring forward alternative savings proposals to address the projected overspend.

18/12 **Infrastructure Services Quarter 1 Performance Overview**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (Report No: ISD-07-12-F), which summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Services Department for the first quarter of 2012/13 against the objectives and actions in the Infrastructure Services Directorate Plan.

The Director of Infrastructure Services tabled an Appendix 3, which was circulated to Members, and he introduced the main terms of the report.

Members commended the work put into producing the documents, but urged that all appendices be included with the report at the time of circulation, to allow Members time to study the information in more detail.

Members raised a number of points that were noted by Officers as follows:

- Concern was expressed that some passengers on the ferry network were still not paying their fares, and it was suggested that fares should be collected before passengers board the ferry.
- The Scottish Government should be pursued to reimburse inter island ferry fares to allow passengers to travel free. Western Isles was given as an example of where that is done. It was suggested that this would produce savings on ticketing equipment and staff costs. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that staffing costs would not be saved as there is a specific number of staff required for the safe manning of vessels and these staff are not just tasked with collecting fares. It was agreed that Scottish Ministers should be approached again on this matter.

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

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **NOTED** the contents of the report.

19/12 **Dog Fouling**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Environmental Health and Trading Standards (Report No: EHTS-03-12-F), which sought approval of a trial in the use of dog waste bag dispensers at two key dog walking locations to help address the problem of dog fouling.

Members were advised that a donation had been received and was to be spent on an environmental campaign and this would be a one-off initiative.

Members discussed the dog fouling problem and the measures being taken to address this. They also discussed the high level of complaints received last year and the increased number of status dogs now in Shetland. The Executive Manager - Environmental Health and Trading Standards advised that the Council has a zero tolerance for dog fouling. She also advised that there have been prosecutions against owners that have had an illegal dog. She explained the process of fixed penalty fines that are issued by Environmental Health and the increases that are imposed if these are not paid.

During discussions Members understood that all agencies work closely to address the problems but acknowledged that enforcement was not the full answer to the issue.

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

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the implementation of an evaluated trial to provide dog waste bag dispensers.

20/12 **Appointment to Shetland Access Forum**

The Committee considered a report by the Heritage Manager (Report No: PL-20-12-F), which sought a nomination to represent the Council on the Shetland Access Forum.

Mr Ratter was nominated as Observer on the Shetland Access Forum, on the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr Robinson. There being no further nominations, Mr Ratter accepted the nomination and was duly appointed.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr Ratter as an observer on the Shetland Access Forum.

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 Appendix A to the following item of business. Mr Stout seconded.

(The Press left the Chamber)

21/12 **Shetland Amenity Trust Glass Reprocessing Grant Funding 2012/13**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Environmental Operations, which sought approval of grant funding for Shetland Amenity Trust's glass reprocessing operation, "Enviroglass" for financial year 2012/13.

Mr Ratter commented that a review was needed with analysis of how the Council supports the recycling projects and initiatives in order to meet the targets set by Government. The Committee agreed that this review would be included in the Infrastructure Services Departmental performance monitoring and service priorities next year. The Acting Executive Manager – Environmental Operations advised that he would provide a report in the next two cycles, on the Scottish Government's recently published Zero Waste Plan and Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Mr Robinson moved that the Committee approve delegated authority to the Director of Infrastructure Services or his nominee to provide a grant of up to £15,000 as last resort deficit funding. Mr Sandison seconded.

Decision:

The Environment & Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to approve delegated authority to the Director - Infrastructure Services or his nominee to provide a grant, of up to £15,000 as last resort deficit funding to Shetland Amenity Trust's "Enviroglass" operation in this financial year 2012/13.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 am.

Chair