

MINUTE

B - PUBLIC

Development Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 27 March 2013 at 10 a.m.

Present:

A Cooper	T Smith
M Burgess	S Coutts
B Fox	A Manson
F Robertson	G Robinson
M Stout	A Westlake

Also in Attendance:

R Henderson
D Ratter

Apologies

None

In Attendance (Officers):

N Grant, Director of Development Services
D Irvine, Executive Manager - Economic Development
I McDiarmid, Executive Manager - Planning
W Grant, Project Manager
S Keith, Project Manager
A Taylor, Team Leader - Development Plans and Heritage
E Park, Transport Strategy Officer
A Cogle, Team Leader - Administration
L Adamson, Committee Officer

Chair:

Mr A Cooper, Chair of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

Ms Manson advised of an interest in Item 6 "Investment Update".

13/13 **Minutes**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting on 31 January 2013 on the motion of Mr Smith, seconded by Mr Coutts.

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting on 6 February 2013 on the motion of Mr Robertson, seconded by Ms Manson.

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting on 8 March 2013 on the motion of Mr Robertson, seconded by Mr Fox.

14/13 **Development Services Action/Services Plan**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Development Services (Report No: DSD-03-13-F), which presented the draft Development Services

Directorate Plan, setting out the policy and performance management framework for the directorate and outlining the aims, objectives and actions for Development Services Directorate for the financial year 2013/14.

(Mr Robinson attended the meeting).

In introducing the report, the Director of Development Services outlined the main objectives and aims where focus will be given for delivery this year, and he said that this was an opportunity for Members to suggest any changes to the priorities to be taken forward.

In response to a comment regarding the need to retain the necessary skill levels in Shetland for high level positions, the Director of Development Services confirmed that this was area where progress was being made. He reported on the work being done through the Skills and Learning Partnership to communicate employment opportunities and apprenticeships within Shetland, and on the TalentScotland website set up to support graduates, and confirmed that a mechanism was already in place whereby information on career opportunities are communicated at upper secondary level. The Chair suggested that a piece of work be undertaken to establish the skills requirement in Shetland in the next 5 - 10 years, and for more focus in approaching schools and graduates to inform on future career opportunities and to encourage professionals back to Shetland.

During the discussion reference was made to the 6 Directorate Risks identified in the Plan, and questions were raised regarding the highest level of risk which related to low staff morale. The Director of Development Services advised that much of the concern among staff related to job certainty with the various reviews and restructuring that are taking place. He went on to inform on the Policy which will be taken forward within the Council from 1 April 2013, whereby measurable objectives will be set and support offered to each employee.

In regards to progress with fixed links, the Director of Development Services confirmed that a Seminar would be organised in May to provide Members with all the information in order to reach a conclusion as to whether the Council should progress any proposals for fixed links in Shetland.

Reference was made to Section 6 of the Plan, and the Committee commended the £3,114,000 budget reduction achieved last year.

The Chair advised of an omission in the Development Directorate Plan, in that it contained no reference to engagement with industry. He said with the Council's limited funds going forward there was a need for more emphasis on industry involvement to ensure support is targeted to where it can achieve maximum effect for the lifetime of this Council. Mr Cooper moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, with the addition that the objectives in the Development Directorate Plan are updated to include more focus and emphasis on engagement with industry. Mr Fox seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- review and discuss the contents of the Draft Directorate Plan and Service Action Plans, and agreed that with the inclusion within the objectives of the Plan

to engagement with industry, to endorse the contents of the Plan and approve the priorities for the Development Services Directorate for the financial year 2013/14

15/13 **Shetland Local Development Plan – Proposed Plan**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Development Plans and Heritage (Report No: PL-03-13-F), which provided an update on the Shetland Local Development Plan (LDP) and representations received during the period for representations.

The Team Leader – Development Plans and Heritage summarised the main terms of the report.

In response to questions, the Team Leader – Development Plans and Heritage explained that the level of engagement with those who submitted representations would depend on the complexity of issues raised, and that no dialogue was anticipated in response to the more straightforward and minor issues raised. He added that all the representations will be beneficial in progressing the LDP, which has been approved as the Council's settled view and regarded as a material consideration in the planning process.

The Chair commented on the significance of the new LDP, and on the importance to hit the August target when the Council will decide how to proceed. He added that the Supplementary Guidance document "Onshore Wind Energy", which is to be presented to Committee in May, will provide clarity to individuals and developers following adoption.

On the motion of Mr Robertson seconded by Ms Manson, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- Note the representations received;
- Confirm the work being undertaken, based on the information presented relating to the representations received; and
- Approve the revised Development Plan Scheme.

16/13 **Shetland Local Development Plan – Strategic Environmental Assessment**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Development Plans and Heritage (Report No: PL-04-13-F), which provided an update on the comments received on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report (ER) that accompanied the Shetland Local Development Plan, published in October 2012.

The Team Leader – Development Plans and Heritage summarised the main terms of the report.

During the discussion Members noted that the preparation of an SEA ER to accompany the LDP was a new requirement, and was a fairly detailed and technical process. In response to questions, the Team Leader explained that the extent in which the issues raised by the Consultation Authorities can be incorporated within the LDP would depend on the decision of the Council in August on how to proceed

with the LDP. He added that a report on how the Council has taken account of the comments from the Consultation Authorities would be set out in the SEA Post Adoption Statement.

On the motion of Mr Fox, seconded by Mr Robinson, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the work undertaken and, subject to the decision on the Shetland Local Development Plan, that the proposed actions stated in paragraphs 3.9 to 3.12 of the report be approved.

17/13

CAP Reform Representation Update

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Economic Development (Report No: DV011-F), which provided an opportunity to discuss the Common Agricultural Policy Reform and the work being done in the Highlands and Islands to help secure appropriate levels of support for vulnerable farming areas.

Mr D Ratter, Chair of the Shetland Agricultural Support Group, informed on the progress being made on the CAP Reform by way of joint working involving Local Authority representation from Shetland, Highland, Orkney and the Western Isles. During this address, Mr Ratter commended the contribution of the Executive Manager – Economic Development being the Council's lead officer in co-ordinating the lobbying for Shetland.

During the discussion, reference was made to Section 3.2 of the report, in that the Shetland agricultural community benefits from around £9m of agricultural support every year, which Members concluded more than justified the cost for attendance at meetings on the mainland to present Shetland's case.

Mr Cooper moved that the Committee resolve to continue to support lobbying to influence future CAP support measures. Mr Robinson seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to continue to support lobbying as part of the Highlands and Islands effort to influence future CAP support measures and levels.

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr Cooper moved, Mr Smith seconded, and the Committee agreed to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of the following items of business.

18/13

Shetland Mussels Ltd – Proposed Change to Loan Terms

The Committee considered a report by the Project Manager - Economic Development, which concerned a request from Shetland Mussels Ltd to reschedule the repayment terms of a loan from the Council.

The Project Manager (W Grant) introduced the report, and responded to questions from Members.

On the motion of Mr Coutts, seconded by Mr Robinson, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve a phased repayment plan and extended loan term for the loan provided to Shetland Mussels Ltd in August 2010.

(Mr Robinson left the meeting).

(Ms Manson declared an interest in the following item as a close relative is named in the report).

19/13

Investment Update

The Committee considered a report by the Project Manager, which provided an update on recent activities concerning specific investments and initiatives which are of a confidential nature, and presented the current Economic Development commercial investment portfolio.

During the discussion, Mr Robinson moved that Committee invite the Non-Executive Director of Millgaet Media Ltd. to present his opinion on the company up to the date he resigned. Mr Fox seconded.

(Mr Robertson and Ms Manson left the meeting).

On the motion of Mr Fox, seconded by Ms Westlake, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED:**

- That the Executive Manager – Economic Development and the staff of the Economic Development Service continue to act on behalf of the Council accordingly regarding current and future business activities;
- To write off the debt due from Dunberry Marine Ltd following confirmation that no funds will be paid to the SDT from the liquidation; and
- That the Non-Executive Director of Millgaet Media Ltd. is invited to present his opinion on the company up to the date he resigned.

The meeting concluded at 12.45pm

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Chair