

# MINUTE

# A&B - Public

**Environment and Transport Committee  
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick  
Wednesday 8 May 2013 at 10.00am**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

J Wills

**In Attendance (Officers):**

P Crossland, Director of Infrastructure Services  
D Coupe, Executive Manager - Roads Maintenance  
M Sandison, Executive Manager - Environmental Services  
C Symons, Executive Manager – Buildings and Transport  
C Gair, Traffic and Road Safety Engineer  
A Cogle, Team Leader – Administration  
L Gair, Committee Officer

**Also In Attendance (Members):**

P Campbell                G Cleaver  
A Cooper                  A Manson  
V Wishart

**Also:**

Prof. M Richardson, SOTEAG  
Prof. D Patterson, SOTEAG

**Chair:**

Mr A Wishart, Chair of the Committee, presided.

**Circular:**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

**Declarations of Interests**

None.

13/13      **Minutes**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2013 on the motion of Mr Stout seconded by Mr Henderson.

14/13      **Presentation from SOTEAG**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (Report No: ISD-07-13-F), which informed of the activities of SOTEAG at Sullom Voe.

Mr Patterson and Mr Richardson provided a slide presentation (slides circulated prior to the meeting) on the role of SOTEAG, their accountability and the importance of their independence in the monitoring activities they perform. They also explained their involvement with the Wildlife Response Coordinating Committee and the Monitoring Committee. During their presentation Mr Patterson explained how dogwelks were used as an indicator for particular problems in the marine environment, as they are particularly sensitive to any changes. He also highlighted how SOTEAG look at the biodiversity of species and advised that there are new species that have not been identified yet. Mr Patterson said that in the intertidal system there are more species of seaweed than were expected. During SOTEAG's existence it has gathered 30 years worth of records and data that is important for showing national fluctuations and climate change. This data is also used for academic purposes as well as monitoring. Members were also advised on the potential for invasive species and a desk survey was carried out with NAFC on the sensitivity of Shetland waters. In Mr Patterson's conclusion he referred to SOTEAG's extensive records on seabirds and the invaluable experience and records held by Mr Martin Heubeck.

The Chair invited questions from Members and discussions were held on invasive species and how they can be transported in ballast water. Members noted that there is a Convention on control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments. Mr Patterson said that there are various ways of treating ballast water including UV treatment. He said that most responsible shipping companies follow the convention, but not all. He explained how a treatment is used in New Zealand where the ship is encased in plastic and the external hull is treated, he said however that this was an expensive option.

Members advised Mr Patterson and Mr Richardson that Shetland has a thriving aquaculture industry and there was particular concern for the Blueshell mussels in Shetland. He said that some invasive species could affect the mussel and salmon farms in Shetland. Members also acknowledged that the problem was not just limited to tankers at Sullom Voe, but also with visiting Yachts.

The Chair thanked Mr Patterson and Mr Richardson for attending the meeting and the Committee agreed that annual presentations would be welcomed.

**Decision:**

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to note the presentation.

15/13

**Infrastructure Services Quarter 4 Performance Overview**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (Report No: RD-02-13-F), which summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Service Department as it pertains to the functional responsibilities of the Committee for the fourth and final quarter of 2012/13 against the objectives and actions in the Infrastructure Services Directorate Plan.

The Director - Infrastructure Services summarised the main terms of the report and highlighted the following areas of interest:

- £1½m under spend is expected.
- Expect to over achieve on income target
- Staffing levels are 10% less to February 2013

- Increase in sickness in January, 5.5% compared to Council average of 5.1%. That figure is expected to improve in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
- Overtime is significantly reduced, however the Ferry Services and Winter Maintenance rely on Overtime. A target line will be introduced to provide more scrutiny.
- PIN forms for November are up.
- Ferry carryings appear to be static.
- Waste processing target not achieved, below target for recycling.
- Building Services – do well on reactive work however the commercial sector does better on planned jobs.

The Director - Infrastructure Services said that he hoped to achieve 85% performance, but was pleased to report 96% achieved by the Management Team and staff. Member recognised this achievement.

In responding to questions, the Director - Infrastructure Services explained that the building maintenance work was broken into a 50/50 split between internal and external contractors.

A Member referred to the improvement in dog fouling and noise complaints. The Executive Manager - Environmental Services explained that the dog watch initiative had been effective in the Town Hall and North Road areas. The Neighbourhood Support Workers (NSW's) spoke to residents to sign up to the campaign. She explained that officers try to refresh campaigns regularly and involving the community appears to be effective. A Member requested that these initiatives should be rolled out more widely to address these same issues in other areas. The Executive Manager - Environmental Services advised that in relation to noise, Officers work with the Police and follow up on any reports received.

Concern was expressed in relation to the suitability of the new wheeled bins that have been introduced. The Executive Manager - Environmental Services agreed that when empty, unless the wheel clamp is engaged they could move from their situation. She advised that where possible chains have been installed to ensure they do not move. In terms of location, every effort is made not to take up parking spaces.

In response to a further query, the Executive Manager - Environmental Services advised that there was no increase in fly tipping as a result of removing community skips. She confirmed that skip sites continued to be monitored to ensure no rubbish is left. The Executive Manager - Environmental Services informed Members that there was an increase in commercial waste being processed through the landfill site at Greenhead which meant that the waste was going through the correct route. In terms of bulky uplift, she advised that there were not the number of requests expected. She explained that uplifts were arranged for when staff were expecting to be in the area.

Mr Stout referred to the sickness figures and said that it was important for the Committee to acknowledge the impact that the changes were having on staff, and try to support them through that process.

**Decision:**

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report and commented on the progress against objectives and outcomes that inform on activity for the new financial year and inform the planning process for the current and future years.

16/13 **Harrison Square Pedestrianisation**

The Committee considered a report by the Traffic and Road Safety Engineer (Report No: RD-04-13-F), which informed of the objections to Shetland Islands Council (Harrison Square, Lerwick)(Pedestrianisation) Traffic Regulation Order 2012 have been withdrawn, and sought approval to proceed with the pedestrianisation of Harrison Square and the removal of vehicular traffic from the areas at all times.

The Traffic & Road Safety Engineer introduced the report

Mr Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report, seconded by Mr G Smith

**Decision:**

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to approve that the Director of Infrastructure Services, as the Proper Officer of the Council in such matters, makes the Shetland Islands Council (Harrison Square, Lerwick)(Pedestrianisation)Traffic Regulation Order 2012, as advertised.

17/13 **Energy Efficiency Funding: Scottish Government Submission and Eco Funding**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Building and Transport Operations (Report No: BTO-04-13-F), which presented the submission made on 24 April 2013 to the Scottish Government for energy efficiency funding available under the Home Energy Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HES:ABS).

The Executive Manager – Buildings and Transport introduced the report and explained that in addition there would be Eco funding available and NPower had agreed to partner the scheme to the value of £5m/year.

Members acknowledged that it would not be possible to use all of the funding available in the current financial year because the system had to be set up and contractors had to be trained to carry out the assessments.

In terms of the Eco Funding, the Executive Manager – Buildings and Transport advised that there were 6 companies approached on 28 February 2013 but only NPower came back with a solid response.

Concern was expressed in relation to who would carry out the work and reference was made to a previous initiative that suffered as a result of poor workmanship. The Executive Manager – Buildings and Transport explained that the accreditation training would be delivered to local contractors. He said that having local contractors deliver the scheme would give the Council more control over the standard of work being delivered.

The Director - Infrastructure Services advised that although the scheme was aimed at domestic housing, officers in the Energy unit were investigating the potential for commercial funding.

The Executive Manager – Buildings and Transport advised that the forms provided by the Scottish Government were challenging. He said that Officers were working to simplify the forms with a view to maximising uptake of the scheme. He explained that he was already in possession of 100 applications but given the limited number of surveyors it was intended that they would be sent out to assessments on a first come first serve basis within identified areas.

In response to a question, the Executive Manager – Buildings and Transport explained that it was important to ensure that by insulating properties, it does not create a condensation trap. He said that where necessary there may be a need to install a heat recovery unit to alleviate this. The Executive Manager – Buildings and Transport said that this scheme would have a construction based approach whereby all solutions for a property would be paid for from the one pot.

The Executive Manager – Buildings and Transport confirmed that Train Shetland was likely to be used for a lot of the training required for the assessment process.

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

**Decision:**

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

- a) Note the submission made to the Scottish Government for energy efficiency funding available under the Home Energy Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HSE:ABS);
- b) approve where the funds are allocated (£440,000) for energy efficiency work in private houses throughout Shetland, as set out in the submission attached as Appendix 1; and

The Environment and Transport Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Executive Committee that the Council resolve to:

- (c) approve the Domestic Energy Efficiency Support Scheme, attached as appendix 6, as a delegated grant scheme;
- (d) grant delegated authority to the Director of Infrastructure Services (or his nominee) to approve HES:ABS funding disbursement in terms of the delegated grant scheme, attached as Appendix 6; and
- (e) grant delegated authority to the Director of Infrastructure Services (or his nominee) to agree and enter into an ECO funding arrangement with an appropriate energy provider.

**Protecting Consumers**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Environmental Services (ES-05-13-F), which related to how Food Safety and Trading Standards services were resourced in Shetland in response to the issues raised in the Audit

Scotland Report "Protecting Consumers" which assesses how well Councils protect consumers.

The Executive Manager - Environmental Services introduced the report and highlighted that the staffing numbers used in the report were incorrect as it appeared to include management and administrative staff rather than staff who carry out the inspections. She explained that she queried this with Audit Scotland as it was not clear that the same information had been used across all Local Authorities.

The Chair pointed out that the report indicated 9 staff in Shetland when in reality there are only 3 and the Committee acknowledged how difficult it was to make comparisons with other Councils. The Executive Manager - Environmental Services advised that she would continue to seek clarity on this matter.

The Director - Infrastructure Services referred to paragraph 3.6 and noted the number of export certificates granted by Shetland compared to other areas and said that this was a good illustration of the work officers have to do.

A Member referred to paragraph 3.2.2 and the reference Audit Scotland made to the risks involved as resources reduced. Members recognised the need to be mindful of the risk implications.

Mr Stout moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report, seconded by Mr Henderson.

**Decision:**

The Environment and Transport Committee **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report, having been satisfied that consumers were adequately protected.

The meeting concluded at 11.40a.m.

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Chair