

# MINUTE

# B - PUBLIC

**Development Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Wednesday 14 August 2013 at 10 a.m.**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies**

A Westlake

**In Attendance (Officers):**

N Grant, Director of Development Services  
D Irvine, Executive Manager - Economic Development  
T Coutts, Business Development Project Manager  
W Grant, Project Manager  
K Marshall, Solicitor  
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**

None.

36/13     **Minutes**

Subject to the following, the Committee approved the minutes of the meeting on 29 May 2013, on the motion of Mr Coutts, seconded by Mr Burgess.

The Chair advised of an omission to the minute at Min. Ref.: 32/13, which he would raise when the meeting moved into private session. The Director of Development Services advised of an update he would provide on Min. Ref. 29/13.

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2013 on the motion of Mr Robertson, seconded by Mr Smith.

37/13     **Economic Development Policy Statement 2013-2017**

A report by the Business Development Project Manager (DV025-F), presented the final draft Economic Policy Statement 2013-17.

In introducing the report, the Business Development Project Manager outlined the main amendments and additions that have been made to the Policy Statement following the Committee's decision on 29 May 2013 for the document to progress to consultation.

During the discussion, some Members commented that a number of the summaries provided on the Local Government and Sectoral/Industrial Plans and Strategies, as set out in Sections 6.3 and 6.4, were not particularly relevant or achievable at this time. However the Project Manager confirmed that the wording in the Policy Statement had been direct quotes from each of the Strategy documents. In regard to the Vision of “Shetland’s Local Housing Strategy 2011-16” the Director of Development Services acknowledged that although the aims are getting harder to meet, the aspiration is still to achieve the targets as set out within the document.

In response to a comment regarding the NINES project as referred to in Objective 4.2, the Director of Development Services suggested that an update from SSE on the NINES project could be provided to the next Committee.

Reference was made to Objective 4.4, to the Outcome/Target to identify a “Range of measures/projects suitable for support under key Structural Fund themes 2014-20”, and a request was made for an update to Committee on current measures/projects. It was confirmed that currently no projects have been identified, however a team of Council officials would soon be meeting to decide what projects may be considered for this funding stream.

In response to a question as to whether there has been any progress in re-establishing a Chamber of Commerce in Shetland, the Executive Manager – Economic Development reported from discussions the Service has had with the Scottish Chamber of Commerce, in that an event is to be arranged in Lerwick during the autumn where local businesses will be encouraged to participate.

During the discussion Members suggested a number of minor amendments and additions to the policy actions, as follows:

- Objective 1.1: Amend the final measure to read:  
“Through monitoring and evaluation, refine local delivery of Business Gateway services to be more effective for Shetland businesses and social enterprises.”
- Objective 4.2: Under final measure add the following outcome/target:  
“Work with utility companies to increase capacity and storage in the Shetland grid”
- Objective 4.7: Amend the first measure to read:  
“Hold regular meetings with companies engaged in large-scale developments to discuss issues relating to local supply chain and skills development, and prepare appropriate actions”
- Objective 4.7: Include the following outcome/target:  
“Develop and conduct ‘exit meetings’ where companies are concluding large-scale developments to discuss supply chain and other relevant issues”
- Objective 4.8: Amend final measure to read:  
“Support political lobbying efforts to secure/reinstate assisted area status for Shetland”

Mr Robertson said that with the amendments to the Policy Statement as agreed during the meeting, he moved that the Committee approve the recommendation in the report. Mr Burgess seconded.

**Decision:**

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Executive Committee recommend that the Council resolve to adopt the Economic Policy Statement 2013-17, as amended.

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

38/13      **Investment Update**

The Committee considered a report by the Project Manager, which provided an update on recent activities concerning specific investments and initiatives of a confidential nature.

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

**Decision:**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report, and 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.

39/13      **Minutes of Meeting – 29 May 2013**

**Min. Ref.: 32/13**

An omission in the minute was highlighted, whereby it had been agreed at the meeting that the 2 Members of Development Committee appointed to the Working Group were Mr A Cooper and Mr B Fox. The Committee concurred.

**Min Ref: 29/13**

The Committee were advised that there had been an anomaly in the report presented to Committee in terms of the amount of Hire Purchase facility approved, however a report would be presented to the Special Development Committee on 30 August to address this matter.

The meeting concluded at 10.55 am.

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Chair