

MINUTE

A&B – Public

**Special Shetland Islands Council
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Thursday 21 August 2014 at 12noon**

Present:

M Bell	M Burgess
P Campbell	G Cleaver
A Cooper	S Coutts
A Duncan	B Fox
A Manson	D Ratter
G Robinson	C Smith
G Smith	T Smith
M Stout	A Wishart
V Wishart	

Apologies

R Henderson	F Robertson
D Sandison	A Westlake
J Wills	

In Attendance (Officers):

M Boden, Chief Executive
H Budge, Director of Children's Services
C Horrix, Executive Manager – Early Years and Additional Support Needs
I McDiarmid, Executive Manager - Planning
M Nicolson, Executive Manager – Children's Resources
J Riise, Executive Manager – Governance and Law
S Thompson, Executive Manager - Schools
C Anderson, Senior Communications Officer
K Johnston, Solicitor
K Marshall, Solicitor
A Tait, Solicitor
A Taylor, Team Leader – Development Plans and Heritage
L Geddes, Committee Officer

Chair:

Mr M Bell, Convener of the Council, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

None

64/14

Request to Vary Extended Hours of Provision: Bell's Brae Nursery

The Council considered a report by the Executive Manager – Early Years and Additional Support Needs (CS-18-14-F) which sought approval to vary the hours of the existing extended nursery session at Bell's Brae Primary School, following the implementation of 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare from August 2014.

After hearing the Executive Manager – Early Years and Additional Support Needs summarise the main terms of the report, the Council approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Ms Wishart, seconded by Mr G Smith.

Decision:

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve:

- The new proposed arrangement of hours for the extended session from August 2014; and
- The application of the existing charge on a pro-rata basis.

65/14

Strategy for Secondary Education in Shetland – Preliminary Requirements

The Council considered a report by the Director of Children's Services (CS-16-14-F) which sought to meet the preliminary requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014, in relation to a rural school closure proposal.

After hearing the Director of Children's Services summarise the main terms of the report, the Council approved the recommendations from the Education and Families Committee on the motion of Ms Wishart, seconded by Mr G Smith.

Decision:

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree that:

- Children's Services have met the preliminary requirements in relation to a rural school closure proposal; and
- Children's Services can proceed to publish proposal papers in accordance with the timetable for statutory consultation within the amended Strategy for Secondary Education in Shetland; and
- Paragraph 4.4 (Section 2) of Appendix 1 (Preliminary Requirements for Junior High School Proposals) should be amended to read: "The retention of Secondary 1 to Secondary 4 Junior High Schools in Shetland should be explored as to whether this secures the best possible outcome for pupils in Curriculum for Excellence. The likely educational benefits are:
 - The same teacher would deliver the content and support pupils through the whole of their National 1 to National 5 course
 - Pupils would learn in their geographical communities up to the age of 16
 - Teachers in Junior High Schools would feel job satisfaction by being able to deliver from National 1 to National 5 qualifications.

66/14

Shetland Islands Council Children's Social Work Services Policy

The Council considered a report by the Executive Manager – Children's Services (CS-21-14-F), which presented the Children's Social Work Services Policy seeking agreement on the overarching principles that will govern service delivery.

The Executive Manager – Children's Services summarised the main terms of the report, advising that a suite of procedures sat behind the policy which had been

updated in response to legislative changes. There were three main changes, the first being that the policy now took account of GIRFEC, which was being embedded into all services. The second main change was that residential care was now regarded as a positive choice for some children and young people, and the final main change was that there was now a responsibility to support children and young people up to the age of 26.

On the motion of Ms Wishart, seconded by Mr Robinson, the Council approved the recommendation in the report.

Decision:

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Children's Social Work Services Policy.

67/14

Chair's Report – Special Development Committee – 14 August 2014
Shetland Local Development Plan – Reporter's Recommendations

The Council considered a report by the Chair of the Development Committee (SIC-0821-DV034), which provided an update on the Shetland Local Development Plan (LDP).

Mr Cooper advised that the report had been approved by the Development Committee, with an amendment added which was outlined in paragraph 2.2 of the report. If approved today, the Local Development Plan would go on to Scottish Ministers for approval, although they would have four weeks to respond. There was then a three month period to implement actions, but it was important to note that the process would then begin again. The next level of the plan would be approved in five years' time. At the meeting of the Development Committee, an amendment had been agreed requiring officers to come forward with a report regarding how the Council could provide housing in the central mainland as a matter of urgency. Direction was sought from officers as there was not a process in place for this. However Members had felt that the Council could not afford to wait another five years regarding the issue of housing in the central mainland, so officers should be given a mandate to go ahead and carry out work to see where the Council could build houses.

He accordingly moved that the Council agree the recommendations from the Development Committee, and Mr T Smith seconded.

In response to a query as to how officers could take this forward, Mr Cooper advised that there was concern that there was insufficient provision in the current Local Development Plan and in recognition of this concern, officers should be mandated to come back with a report setting out a procedure for getting this work done and for engaging with the building industry and landowners.

The Executive Manager – Planning added work was already progressing in this area, and discussions were taking place with Housing Services and Hjaltland Housing Association regarding increasing the provision of housing in the central mainland. In response to a further query, he confirmed that the current Local Development Plan, if approved by Scottish Ministers, would become the adopted Plan for the short-term. It included sites which had been accepted for potential future development, and sites that could accommodate windfall developments. However just because potential housing sites were not included in the adopted Plan, this did not preclude them from being developed. A number of sites had been accepted for the current plan. The owners of those sites which had not been accepted had been informed of the issues with their sites, and developers would

have the opportunity to come back to the Council at some point, either through a call for potential housing sites or by submission of a planning application which addressed the issues that had earlier been raised.

Decision:

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Reporter's Recommendations and notify the Scottish Government that it intends to adopt the Shetland Local Development Plan and, following that, the Action Programme, and in recognising the Reporter's observations, requires officers to prepare a report setting out the options for housing in the central mainland.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

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Convener