

Services Committee
21 March 2000 Public Minutes

Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday, 21 March 2000 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

P Malcolmson	R J Anderson
L Angus	R I Black
C M Begg	A J Cluness
C B Eunson	F B Grains
I J Hawkins	J C Irvine
G G Mitchell	P Nicolson
W A Ratter	F A Robertson
W Tait	

Apologies:

M U Colligan	L Hutchison
J M Ritch	T W Stove
W N Stove	

In Attendance (Officers):

M Goodlad, Chief Executive
J Halcrow, Director of Education and Community Services
G Johnston, Divisional Manager Accountancy
B Fullerton, Divisional Manager, Service Planning
C Medley, Divisional Manager, Housing Technical Services
M Payton, Divisional Education Officer
G M Smith, Divisional Manager, Community Services
N Watt, Section Leader, Sport and Recreation Services
M Duncan, Grants Officer
M Craigie, Projects Co-ordinator
L Johnson, Committee Officer
A Cogle, Senior Committee Officer

Also:

A Watt, Manager, Shetland Arts Trust

Chairman:

Mr P Malcolmson, Chairman of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes:

The minutes of meetings held on 2 and 18 February 2000, having been circulated, were confirmed.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings – Update

The Chairman reported that he had attended a conference in Edinburgh entitled "Facing the Challenge - Meeting the Needs of Older People in Scotland" and that he had e-mailed all members on his return with a summary

of events at the Conference. He said that he had also attended the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Branch of the Chartered Institute of Housing held in Dundee and that, after an a joint appraisal with the staff members who also attended, he would contact members again by e-mail.

Before proceeding further, Mr J C Irvine and Mr L Angus each declared non-pecuniary interests in the following agenda items: (1) Shetland Voluntary Care Forum; (3) Children's Befriending Scheme for Shetland; and (19) SIC Charitable Trust Estimates 2000/01.

32/00 **Shetland Voluntary Care Forum**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Service Planning (Appendix 1) and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr L Angus.

In response to questions, the Divisional Manager Service Planning advised that any Working Groups established by the Forum were expected to have a limited life, and the Chairman of such Groups would be given temporary membership of the Management Team during the term of any such Group. She went on to advise, in regard to paragraph 3.1, that the intention would be to hold meetings at alternative venues throughout Shetland, not just in Lerwick, and the requested funding would therefore enable reimbursement of such expenses.

Mr R J Anderson moved as an amendment that an additional recommendation be added, namely that a provisional budget of £50,000 be approved in principle for the financial year 2001/02. Mr J P Nicolson seconded. Mr C B Eunson, with the consent of his seconder, agreed to accept this amendment within his motion. Although it was recognised that paragraph 7.4 of the report supported this additional recommendation, the Committee agreed to accept the amended motion.

33/00 **Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust: Royal National Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen – Disabled Facilities and Upgrading Works**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Service Planning (Appendix 2) and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr R I Black.

Reference was made to paragraph 6 of the report, and the Committee agreed to record the fact that the local RNMDSF was held in high esteem not only by seamen and the fishing industry, but by the entire Shetland community.

34/00 **Children's Befriending Scheme for Shetland**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Service Planning (Appendix 3).

Mr A J Cluness declared an interest in this item given his involvement with the Children's Panel, but went on to endorse the benefits of supporting such a scheme. Accordingly, Mr A J Cluness moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report. Mr J P Nicolson seconded, and the Committee agreed. In addition, the Committee agreed that a progress report on this matter be presented to a future meeting of the Services Committee.

35/00 **Charitable Trust – Existing Revenue Commitments – Holidays for Special Groups**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Service Planning (Appendix 4).

After hearing the Divisional Manager Service Planning explain the options provided in the recommendations, Mr C B Eunson moved that the Committee approve the increased grants, namely recommendations 7.1.2, 7.1.3 and 7.1.4. Mr L Angus seconded, and the Committee agreed.

36/00 **Transfers to the Charitable Trust**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education and Community Services (Appendix 5).

Mr L Angus gave notice of a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

A Member suggested that the Committee be mindful of the fact that it was not essential for transfers to be limited to the provision of grants to organisations with charitable status. The Director of Education and Community Services confirmed this.

It was further suggested that there was confusion between the terms "community development" and "economic development", and at the request of the Committee, the Director of Education and Community Services agreed to provide the Committee at a later date with a statement differentiating between those two terms.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the transfer of parks and playing fields to the Charitable Trust. The Director of Education and Community Services confirmed that the Best Value Review, whilst in abeyance at the moment, would include all Council-owned facilities in Shetland. It was noted, however, that this would only apply to facilities in Lerwick, and it was the view of some Members that facilities outwith Lerwick should be included in any future review, regardless of their ownership. It was suggested that this approach would enable a level playing field for all such facilities to be considered for transfer. One Member queried

whether organisations would be able to approach the Council with a request to transfer their facilities to the Council, and ultimately to the Charitable Trust. However, the Chairman advised that neither the Committee nor the Council could comment on that suggestion at this time, as any such individual request would have to be considered on its merits. After further discussion, the Committee agreed to call for a report addressing all parks and playing fields throughout Shetland.

The Committee otherwise approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr R J Anderson.

37/00 **Proposed Transfer of Council's Residential Units and Equalisation of Charges**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Service Planning (Appendix 6).

Concern was raised by a Member that the method of achieving the transfer of the residential units to a voluntary organisation was perhaps questionable. It was pointed out that local authorities had an obligation to provide access to residential care for the elderly, and a transfer of all Units would leave the Council in the unique position of having none under direct local authority control. However, it was pointed out that the report today was a step in that direction, but a final decision would not be made until all such concerns had been addressed. The recommendation to have TUPE regulations apply was to provide the Council with the basis for any discussion on transfers with voluntary organisations.

After further discussion, the Committee resolved, on the motion of Mr W Tait, seconded by Capt G G Mitchell, to adopt the recommendations in the report, with the proviso that any options on future provision is presented to the Committee before any decisions are made.

38/00 **Millennium Fund Grant Application – Education, Recreation, Training and Socialising (ERTS)**

The Committee considered a report by the Millennium Co-ordinator (Appendix 7) and adopted the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr W A Ratter, seconded by Mr R I Black.

(Mr J C Irvine left the meeting.)

39/00 **Millennium Fund Grant Application – Shetland Amenity Trust Digital Database**

The Committee considered a report by the Millennium Co-ordinator (Appendix 8) and adopted the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr L Angus.

40/00 **Millennium Fund Grant Application – Shetland Arts Trust Bonhoga Gallery**

The Committee considered a report by the Millennium Co-ordinator (Appendix 9).

The Committee agreed to record their appreciation of work done by the Shetland Arts Trust on this initiative.

On the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr R I Black the Committee resolved to adopt the recommendations contained in the report, subject to: (a) approval of grant aid as per the amount in the grant application, i.e. £12,500; and (b) the applicant being advised to liaise closely with the Lerwick Town Centre Management Group on the proposals.

41/00 **Feasibility Report – Extension to North Mainland Pool**

The Committee considered a report by the Section Leader, Sports and Recreation Services (Appendix 10) and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr W A Ratter, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson, subject to clarification on the following: (a) in the absence of any elevation drawings, that the roof lines should not be less than at present; and (b) that the existing Sauna will be relocated within the complex, and not removed altogether.

42/00 **Replacement of Fitness Suite – Clickimin Centre: Shetland Recreational Trust**

The Committee considered a report by the Section Leader, Sports and Recreation Services (Appendix 11) and approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson, subject to: (a) confirmation that the floor area will be structurally stable enough for the number and weight of equipment being proposed.; and (b) provision made for privacy screening of the area.

43/00 **Sports Development Events – Delegation of Authority**

The Committee considered a report by the Section Leader, Sports and Recreation Services (Appendix 12) and resolved to adopt the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr R I Black.

(Mr W A Ratter left the meeting.)

44/00 **Priority Programme of Capital Projects – 2000/2001 and 2001/2002**

The Committee considered a report by the Section Leader, Sports and Recreation Services (Appendix 13).

Concern was expressed regarding the proliferation of such projects throughout Shetland. The main concern expressed was that the

list of projects in the Appendix to the report would either raise expectations or cause disillusionment, depending on their placing within the list. Further concern was expressed at the method to be used for deciding upon the priorities, and how the scheme would be operated under delegated authority. It was suggested that only the first few projects should be prioritised, with further projects being prioritised as they reached the feasibility stage. However, the Divisional Manager Community Services explained the intended method for deciding on priority would have to include the likelihood of projects receiving funding for feasibility studies.

(Mr L Angus left the meeting.)

After further discussion, the Committee agreed that, whilst progress reports would be presented to the Committee providing Members with an opportunity to question the method and re-prioritise projects if necessary, there were issues which needed clarification before the scheme could be operated fairly.

(Mr J C Irvine returned to the meeting.)

Accordingly, the Committee resolved, on the motion of Mr R J Anderson, seconded by Mr R I Black, that the recommendations in the report be held in abeyance, and that an Officer/Member Working Group be established to consider the system (not to assess any individual projects), but that the money identified for the scheme be approved at this stage.

(Mr L Angus returned to the meeting.)

Consequently, the following Members were duly appointed to the Capital Grants to Voluntary Organisations Officer/Member Working Group:

Mr J P Nicolson	Mr R J Anderson
Mrs I J Hawkins	Mr R I Black
Mrs F B Grains	

45/00

Capital Rolling Programmes – Prioritisation of Schemes and Purchases

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education and Community Services (Appendix 14).

In response to a question, the Director of Education and Community Services confirmed that, in relation to paragraph 3.1(e) [Kitchen Refurbishments], this was generally at least one major refurbishment per year but, dependant upon the type of work required, could be two or more smaller projects.

The Divisional Manager Community Services confirmed that £33,000 was being proposed for refurbishment to existing Council play areas, but that funding for individual initiatives was financed from the Charitable Trust. With regard to paragraph 3.2(a), the Divisional Manager Community Services also confirmed that this was included in the Services Committee Rolling Programme as the walls formed part of the boundary of recreational areas.

The Committee otherwise approved the recommendations contained in the report, on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr W Tait.

46/00 **Proposed Revenue Responsive and Planned Maintenance Programme – 2000/2001**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Housing Technical Services (Appendix 15).

(Mr F A Robertson left the meeting.)

In response to questions, the Divisional Manager Housing Technical Services confirmed that both the recently announced Government funding for housing maintenance and the Council's agreed Reserve Fund contribution for environmental works (which was confirmed as being Shetland-wide) would be included in the Committee's Capital Programme and presented to the Committee next cycle. The Divisional Manager Housing Technical Services further confirmed that a record of replacement defective items was maintained by the Department.

The Committee otherwise adopted the recommendations contained in the report, on the motion of Capt G G Mitchell, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

47/00 **Capital Programme – Kantersted/Eric Gray Centre Re-Design Feasibility Study**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Service Planning (Appendix 16).

Reference was made to the savings required to meet the additional running costs, as referred to in paragraphs 7.3 and 8.3. The Divisional Manager Service Planning confirmed that this had been included at the request of the Director of Finance and Housing, and officers were confident that a good part of the savings required could be found in respect of National Insurance costs which have to be re-calculated next year.

Mr J P Nicolson moved that the recommendations in the report be approved. Capt G G Mitchell seconded. In addition, the Committee requested that officials look at ways and means of achieving a start date for a single contract of April 2001 rather than September

2001, to minimise any delay and to ensure that the vacated building did not stand empty.

Reference was made to option 2 contained in the report, namely to consider a new build. A Member expressed reservations that the recommendation to carry out a major refurbishment would be the most cost effective option, given the amount of work required and possibility of unforeseen problems.

(Dr C M Begg left the meeting.)

Mr L Angus moved as an amendment that the Committee recommend to the Council that Option 2 be adopted, namely to carry out a new build. Mr W Tait seconded.

Mr J C Irvine gave notice of a further amendment.

After summing up, voting took place by a show of hands, and the result was as follows:

Amendment (L Angus)	3
Motion (J P Nicolson)	8

Mr J C Irvine moved as an amendment that the report be deferred and that a special meeting be held with the technical advisers to consider in detail the points and concerns raised by Members.

The Chairman suggested that such a discussion could take place at the next meeting of the Community Care Forum, to which all Members would be invited. Mr J C Irvine agreed to alter his amendment in this way and Mrs F B Grains seconded.

Mr J P Nicolson, with the consent of his seconder, withdrew his motion, and the Committee accordingly agreed that the report be deferred and that the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Community Care Forum with the technical advisers in order to consider in detail the points and concerns raised by Members. It was noted that the matter would be reported back to the next meeting of the Services Committee for a decision.

(Mr F A Robertson returned to the meeting.)

48/00

New Anderson High School and Halls of Residence

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Education Officer (Schools Provision and Organisation) (Appendix 17).

During the discussion which followed, some concern was raised by Members as to the implications of transferring a serviced building. However, the Chairman advised, and the Divisional Education Officer confirmed, that a decision on that was not required today,

but would be presented for further consideration once the view of the Inland Revenue on this matter was known. It was also confirmed that the costs shown were exclusive of VAT as the assumption that all VAT would be recoverable had now been provisionally confirmed by the Inland Revenue.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that a presentation on the background and feasibility of the project would be made to a Joint Education and Children and Young People's Services Forum to be held next cycle, to which all Members would be invited.

The Committee otherwise approved the recommendations contained in the report, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr F A Robertson.

49/00 **Community Learning Strategy**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Community Services (Appendix 18) and adopted the recommendation in the report on the motion of Mr R I Black, seconded by Mr L Angus.

51/00 **Notes of Forums**

The Committee considered the Notes of the following Forum meetings (Appendices 20 to 23):

Joint Education and Children & Young People's Services Forum –
22 February 2000

Noted.

The Committee noted that whilst areas of the North Ness were zoned for housing, different parts were also zoned for commercial use. The Chairman confirmed that a public meeting on the issue of a music venue in Lerwick would take place next week. Mrs F B Grains clarified that she would attend the public meeting, but would not necessarily support the proposal as recorded in the Note.

Cultural & Recreation Services Forum – 24 February 2000

Noted.

Housing Forum – 1 March 2000

Noted, except M Simpson was representing the ASCC, not Shetland Tenants Forum.

Community Care Forum – 1 March 2000

Noted.

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, the Committee resolved, on the motion of Mr P Malcolmson, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson, to exclude the public in terms of

the relevant legislation during consideration of the following items of business.

(Representatives of the media left the meeting).

52/00 **Proposal to Change Land Use Rights at 53 North Road, Lerwick and 9 Pundsta Place, Cunningsburgh**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Housing Technical Services and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr W Tait.

53/00 **Report on Tenders – Proposed West Mainland Leisure Centre**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education and Community Services and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mrs F B Grains, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson.