

Services Committee
21 March 2001 Public Minutes

Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 21 March 2001 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

R J Anderson	Dr C M Begg
A J Cluness	M U Colligan
C B Eunson	F B Grains
I J Hawkins	J C Irvine
J P Nicolson	J M Ritch
F A Robertson	T W Stove

Apologies:

L Angus	R I Black
L Hutchison	P Malcolmson
W H Manson	Capt G G Mitchell
W A Ratter	W N Stove
W Tait	

In Attendance (Officers):

J Watt, Executive Director, Community Services
C Medley, Head of Housing Services
M Miller, Head of Social Care Services
M Payton, Head of Education Services
G Smith, Head of Community Development Services
S Hughes, Financial Support Services Manager
F Robertson, Divisional Manager, Management Services
B C Hill, Acting Divisional Manager, Legal Services
A Jamieson, Acting Divisional Manager/Project Manager
N Watt, Section Leader, Sport and Recreation Services
J Porter, Area Community Worker
M Duncan, Grants Officer
R Lovell, Leisure Facilities Officer
A Cogle, Senior Committee Officer
D Haswell, Committee Officer

Also

J Johnson, General Manager, Shetland Recreational Trust

Chairman:

Mr J M Ritch, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes:

The minute of the meeting held on 7 February 2001, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings – Update

There was nothing to report on this item.

37/01 **Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust Estimates 2001/02:
Transfer of Grants to Charitable Trust - Education**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education Services (Appendix 1) and, on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mrs M U Colligan, approved the recommendations contained therein.

38/01 **Multicourts Provision**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education Services (Appendix 2).

Mr J C Irvine moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report with the addition of an additional recommendation 6.1.4, namely that in relation to the provision of a multicourt at the new South Nesting School, a further report should be presented to the next meeting on 2 May 2001 providing information on (a) the availability of funding or otherwise and (b) progress on the acquisition of ground for the new build school and multicourt. Mr J P Nicolson seconded and the Committee agreed.

39/01 **New Housing Partnerships – Arrangements for Next Stage of Feasibility and Implementation**

The Committee considered a report by the Acting Divisional Manager, Housing Administration and Strategy (Appendix 3).

Mr J P Nicolson moved the Committee approve recommendations 8.3.1 and 8.3.2 of the report. Mr R J Anderson seconded.

In relation to recommendations 8.4(i) and (ii), the following nominations were made:-

Shadow Board

Mrs M U Colligan, Capt G G Mitchell and Mr A J Cluness, on the motion of Mr J M Ritch, seconded by Mr T W Stove.

NHP Corporate Implementation Team

Mr P Malcolmson, on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mrs M U Colligan.

Mr W N Stove, on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr A J Cluness.

Mr R J Anderson, on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mrs F B Grains.

The Executive Director, Community Services advised that correspondence had been received from the Scottish Executive

indicating that they would be willing to write-off the Council's Housing Debt if tenants agreed to the transfer of housing stock. She added that the Head of Housing Services was in discussion with the Scottish Executive regarding this issue.

40/01 **New Housing Partnerships (NHP) – A Working Plan to an Alternative Approach**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services (Appendix 4) and, on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mrs M U Colligan, approved the recommendations contained therein.

41/01 **Council Provision of Housing Services to Scottish Homes in Shetland**

The Committee considered a report by the Heads of Housing and Finance Services (Appendix 5).

In response to questions from Members, the Divisional Manager, Management Services, advised that during the last financial year, the Council had lost 80 properties through the Right to Buy Scheme (RTB). In previous years, the average had been approximately 40 houses per year. One-third of the total stock had been lost through RTB.

Mr F A Robertson moved the Committee approve the recommendation in the report and, in recognising that Housing Services staff had the expertise to provide the service, to ensure that Housing Services staff were targeted to providing the service. Mr A J Cluness seconded.

42/01 **Housing Support Worker Tied Accommodation**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Housing Management Services (Appendix 6) and, on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mr R J Anderson, approved the recommendations contained therein.

43/01 **Proposed Revenue Responsive and Planned Maintenance Programme 2001/2002**

The Committee considered a report by the Senior Technical Officer, Housing Technical Services (Appendix 7) and, on the motion of Mrs I J Hawkins, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson, approved the recommendation contained therein.

45/01 **Shetland Community Drugs Team**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 9) and, on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Dr C M Begg, approved the recommendations contained therein.

In response to concerns from a Member regarding the estimated purchase and refurbishment costs for the new premises, the Head of Social Care confirmed that a breakdown of these costs would be contained within the further report, as detailed in recommendation 7.3.

46/01 **Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust Estimates 2001/2002 – Transfer of Grants to Charitable Trust – Social Care**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 10) and, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr C B Eunson, approved the recommendations contained therein.

47/01 **Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust Estimates 2001/2002 – Growth Items**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 11) and, on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mr F A Robertson, approved the recommendations contained therein.

In response to a question from a Member regarding the Red Cross Chalet at Dunrossness, the Head of Social Care Services advised that although she did not have the information requested to hand today, she would provide the information after the meeting.

A brief discussion ensued during which a Member clarified the position regarding the payment of Trustees of the Shetland Alcohol Trust and Members noted the information provided.

(Mr J M Ritch declared an interest as a Trustee of the Shetland Alcohol Trust).

48/01 **Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust – Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) – New Schemes**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 12) and, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins, approved the recommendations contained therein.

A Member was of the view that the Council should monitor the relationship between the agencies involved.

49/01 **Shetland Folk Festival Society – Request for Assistance with Funding for 2001 Festival**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development Services (Appendix 13) and, on the motion of Mr J C Irvine, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson, approved the recommendations contained therein and added that, in future, the

Department should consider increasing the funding by the rate of inflation.

The Head of Community Development Services advised that at this moment in time, the Society intended for the Festival to go ahead but were mindful of the Foot and Mouth outbreak and were continuing to take advice from appropriate sources. Expenses would be incurred regardless of whether or not the Festival took place. However, in the event it was cancelled, the Society would try to minimise costs as far as possible in relation to artists fees.

50/01

Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust 'Draw Down' Reports for the Swan Trust and Unst Youth Centre Trust in Respect of Running Costs for 2001/2002

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development Services (Appendix 14).

(Messrs Anderson and Ritch declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item).

A Member referred to the fact that the Committee had, earlier today, agreed to the provision of £72,223 *plus inflation* in the budget estimates for 2001 - 2002 and onwards to the Shetland Community Drugs Team. He said that a similar provision should be made for the two projects in this report, i.e. the funding detailed *plus inflation*.

The Head of Community Development Services said he understood that the report which had been presented last cycle recommending the amounts detailed had also provided for the fact that the funding would be provided for 2001/02 and subsequent years. However, he sought clarification on this issue from Finance Services staff.

The Financial Support Services Manager said he could not confirm the detail of the report presented last cycle but there would be no difficulty in adding the suggestion to the recommendations.

On the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr R J Anderson, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report with the proviso that if funding *plus inflation* for subsequent years had not been detailed in the previous report, this should be incorporated within the recommendations.

51/01

Natwest Island Games – Isle of Man 2001 – Shetland's Bid to Host the 2005 Island Games

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development Services (Appendix 15) and, after hearing the Head of Community Development Services explain that the grant had not actually been increasing on previous years which, he said, actually had a reducing element, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson,

seconded by Dr C M Begg, approved the recommendations contained therein.

(Dr C B Begg and Mr J P Nicolson declared a non-pecuniary interest).

Referring to recommendation 11.3, a Member questioned the necessity for 5 elected Members to attend the Island Games as an approved duty of the Council. Whilst it was appreciated the cost was not an immense amount of money, it was stated that this could send the wrong message to the Shetland community as the Island Games had not yet been marketed to the Shetland public. Another Member shared this view.

Mr J P Nicolson explained that the Members involved had been nominated by the Council onto the Bid Committee and it was important they knew what their involvement was in terms of the bidding process at the presentation. Whilst this was, ultimately, a decision for the Council, if the Council agreed to nominate Members to represent it but did not recognise this as an approved duty, this would send out the wrong signal. He concluded by saying that the Public Relations potential of the visit was very good and every PR opportunity had to be maximised.

The Executive Director, Community Services agreed that marketing of the Games to the Shetland community still had to be done. However, this was the "chicken and egg scenario" as Shetland had not yet been successful in its bid. She would, however, discuss the position with her staff and, perhaps, produce a Communication Strategy for marketing purposes.

The Section Leader, Sport and Recreation Services explained that in terms of the Games' Constitution, only 2 Members were allowed to present the case for Shetland by way of a 20-minute presentation. The proposal for the 5 elected Members to attend was more than just a physical presentation and would provide political support. It would also allow Members to provide information about Shetland to other Islands. He added that there were a number of Islands waiting in the wings if Shetland's bid was unsuccessful.

(Mr J C Irvine left the meeting).

52/01

Shetland Community Learning Strategy – Employment of Local Learning Co-ordinator

The Committee considered a report by the Acting Section Leader, Community Education (Appendix 16) and, on the motion of Mr R J Anderson, seconded by Mr C B Eunson, approved the recommendations contained therein. A copy of the "Community

Learning in Shetland” booklet was tabled at the meeting and is attached as Appendix 16a.

(Mr J M Ritch declared a non-pecuniary interest).

53/01 **Grant to Voluntary Organisation – 2001/2002 – Essential Repairs – Skeld Pier Trust**

The Committee considered a report by the Grants Officer, Community Development Services (Appendix 17) and, on the motion of Mrs F B Grains, seconded by Mr F A Robertson, approved the recommendations contained therein.

54/01 **Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust – Report Drawing Down Funding for New Bids from Shetland Arts Trust, Islesburgh Trust and Shetland Recreational Trust**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development Services (Appendix 18).

A Member was of the view that the Off-Site Store at Knab Road should be considered for housing developments as the site was in a residential area. Another Member expressed concern regarding the valuation of the Store.

The Head of Community Development Services advised that if the Committee did not approve recommendation 6.2, a further report detailing alternative financial arrangements would be required.

Mr A J Cluness moved the Committee approve the recommendations in the report but, in relation to recommendation 6.2, said that the Committee should not proceed on this basis and should ask the Facilities Management Division to examine if the area of the Off-Site Store at Knab Road could be secured for future housing developments. In the meantime, the Store would continue to be leased to the Trust. Mr C B Eunson seconded and the Committee agreed.

55/01 **Stage 2 – Design Grant for Community Organisation – Hayfield Community Development Association – Hayfield Play Area**

The Committee noted a report by the Leisure Facilities Officer (Appendix 19) and, on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Dr C M Begg, approved the recommendations contained therein.

56/01 **Capital Grants to Voluntary Organisations – Design Stage 2 – Aithsvoe Marina Association**

The Committee considered a report by the Grants Officer, Community Development Services (Appendix 20) and, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr R J Anderson, approved the recommendations contained therein.

(Mr T W Stove declared an interest).

In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Community Development Services advised that only one year's funding had been approved for Water Based Capital Projects.

After hearing this, a Member requested that the budget for Water Based Facilities should be reviewed.

Accordingly, on the motion of Mr R J Anderson, seconded by Mr T W Stove, the Committee agreed that the Water Based Facilities budget should be reviewed.

The Head of Community Development Services advised that the motion would result in a further recommendation of a Water Based Facilities budget during the next review of the Capital Programme. Members noted the position.

57/01 **Minute of Meeting of Inspections Advisory Sub-Committee**

The Committee noted the Minute of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 21).

In response to questions from a Member, the Head of Social Care Services clarified the position regarding Unannounced Inspections. In relation to the issue of Staff Appraisal Schemes, she said that, in her view, the Council should consider this as a whole. The Member agreed and said that there was no reason which such a Scheme could be applied to all levels of staff throughout the Council.

58/01 **Children's Services Plan – Change to Publication Date**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 22).

59/01 **Final Update on Projects Assisted by the Millennium Fund**

The Committee noted a report by the Grants Officer, Community Development Services (Appendix 23). Appendix C was tabled at the meeting and is attached to this minute.

In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Community Development Services said he understood the application from Disability Shetland for an "Access Guide 2000" had been withdrawn but he would clarify this after the meeting.

60/01 **Culture and Recreation Services Forum – 22 February 2001**

The Committee noted the record of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 24).

61/01 **Education Forum – 23 February 2001**

The Committee noted the record of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 25).

62/01 **Community Care Forum – 27 February 2001**

The Committee noted the record of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 26).

63/01 **Housing Forum – 28 February 2001**

The Committee noted the record of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 27).

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, the Committee resolved, on the motion of Mr J M Ritch, seconded by Mr R J Anderson, 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)

64/01 **Leasing of Properties in Firth**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional Manager, Housing Management Services and, following some discussion, approved the recommendations contained therein, with a slight amendment, on the motion of Mr R J Anderson, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson.

65/01 **Tendering Exercise – Lerwick Internals – Phase 2**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services.

Following some discussion, Mr J P Nicolson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report with a slight amendment. Mrs I J Hawkins seconded.

66/01 **Short Term Appointment of Medical Adviser to the Adoption and Fostering Panel**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services and, on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mr T W Stove, approved the recommendations contained therein.

67/01 **Premature Retirement of Teachers**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education Services.

After hearing the Head of Education Services clarify the position, on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

68/01 **Exercise of Chief Executive's Emergency Powers – Sale of Land**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services (Appendix 32).

In response to a question from a Member, the Acting Divisional Manager, Legal Services advised that he did not have the information requested to hand but would provide it following the meeting.