

MINUTE

AB - Public

Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 12 April 2016 at 10.00am

Present:

M Bell	S Coutts
R Henderson	D Ratter
D Sandison	G Robinson
G Smith	T Smith
M Stout	J Wills

Apologies:

None

In Attendance (Officers):

M Sandison, Director of Infrastructure Services
D Coupe, Executive Manager – Roads
C Robertson, Executive Manager – Ferry Operations
L Coutts, Team Leader – Marine Engineering
P Wishart, Solicitor
B Robb, Management Accountant
L Gair, Committee Officer

Chair:

Mr M Stout, Chair of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

None

Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of the meetings held on i) 20 January 2016 on the motion of Mr Robinson seconded by Mr Henderson and ii) 29 February 2016 on the motion of Mr G Smith seconded by Mr Sandison.

09/16 Carriageway Condition of Shetland's Roads

The Committee noted a report by the Executive Manager – Roads (RD-03-16-F), which provided an update on the current condition of Shetland's roads.

The Executive Manager – Roads introduced the report and commented on the work being undertaken to maintain the roads which had resulted in an improved position indicated in the Road Condition Index. He cautioned however that there was an overall 4% deterioration across the network as the main structure of the roads continued to age and deteriorate. The Executive Manager – Roads advised that the Council had the fifth lowest expenditure on roads in Scotland but informed the Committee that the Director of Infrastructure Services had allocated £½m to the maintenance budget from the underspend carryover to be used in 2016/17.

The Chair reminded Members that due to the pre-election period political questions must be avoided.

During questions the Executive Manager – Roads provided an explanation to the steady state model used by Scotts and advised that this is calculated every 2 years and gave an example of how these calculations may increase.

The Gutcher to Cullivoe road was highlighted as a carriageway that is vital to the economy of Shetland given the volume and value of the fish produce that is transported out of Yell every year. The Executive Manager – Roads was asked whether preference would be given to roads that are essential for supporting the continued economy of Shetland. The Executive Manager – Roads explained the process of scanning assists in determining the hierarchy of any roadworks. He said that he was unable to comment on that particular road but it was the case that rather than the worst road being worked on first work would be carried out on “amber” condition roads to avoid them reaching the “red” condition.

A request was made for Officers to provide Members with an indication of what percentage of the overall budget is allocated to roads maintenance, authority by authority in Scotland, in time for future budget consideration. The Committee were advised that the APSE report would provide some information on how we compare locally against other local authorities nationally but more specific information would be provided in regard to Scottish Local authorities.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee noted the improvement in the overall Road Condition Indicator (RCI) figures shown in the 2014-16 results.

10/16 **Exceptions from Contract Standing Orders including Emergency Work on Ferries**

The Committee noted a report by the Executive Manager – Ferry Operations (FO-01-16-F), which informed of the works carried out under exception to the Council's Contract Standing Orders by the Ferry Operations Service since the last meeting of the Committee.

The Executive Manager – Ferry Operations introduced the report and in response to comments from Members he explained that the problem with the MV Linga, like many other vessels in the fleet, is her age. He explained that whilst ongoing maintenance programme ensure safety standards are met, the older the vessel is the more maintenance it requires and the more it will cost. He explained that more routine maintenance would be carried out to ensure she is kept in service.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee noted the exceptions applied.

11/16 **Exception from Contract Standing Orders MV Geira Emergency Works**

The Committee noted a report by the Executive Manager – Ferry Operations (FO-02-16-F), which described the emergency repair works required to be carried out to the MV Geira under exception from the Council's Contract Standing Orders, requesting that Policy and Resources Committee notes the action taken for the associated funding requirement.

The Executive Manager – Ferry Operations introduced the report and in response to a question he explained that on annual inspections, various proportions of the belting is removed with other areas receiving ultrasonic inspection. On this occasion, based on the level tested it was decided that the whole belt be removed but he stated that early detection is preferable. In terms of budget the Director of Infrastructure Services explained that there is contingency budget in place for breakdown of vessels but there will always be unforeseen expenditure. She drew attention to paragraph 4.7 where savings from other projects had been used to offset the cost of these repairs.

In response to a question, Members were advised that if there was another call on the contingency budget the funds would be available at a similar level. The Director of Infrastructure Services was also asked what discussion there was on replacing the fleet and she explained that this was being looked at in terms of Shetland's requirements and this would be built into the ferry replacement programme which would also follow up on EU funding sources as required.

In response to a further query, the Director of Infrastructure Services confirmed that analysis of fixed links are included in the Shetland Inter-Island Transport Study, which would be reported to a meeting of the Committee following the current election period.

Officers were thanked for their quick action, in regard to the MV Linga, and for minimising disruption for the lifeline service.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee noted the exception under Contract Standing Orders for emergency repair work carried out on MV Geira.

The meeting concluded at 10.25am

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Chair