

Infrastructure Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday, 26 August 2003 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

J C Irvine	B J Cheyne
A J Cluness	C B Eunson
R G Feather	F B Grains
B P Gregson	L G Groat
I J Hawkins	J H Henry
J A Inkster	E J Knight
W H Manson	Capt G G Mitchell
J P Nicolson	F A Robertson
J G Simpson	T W Stove
W N Stove	W Tait

Apologies:

L Angus	W A Ratter
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In Attendance (Officers):

G Spall, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services
S Cooper, Head of Environment
I Halcrow, Head of Roads
A Hamilton, Head of Planning
S Hughes, Financial Support Manager
A Wainwright, Service Manager, Environmental Health
I Bruce, Service Manager, Transport
M Craigie, Projects Unit Manager
D Macnae, Network Manager
M Henderson, Services and Technologies Officer
E Nicol, Agricultural Development Officer
E Leach, Environmental Health Officer
K Tait, Solicitor
D Haswell, Committee Officer

Chairperson:

Mr J C Irvine, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Apologies:

L Angus	W A Ratter
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Minutes:

The minutes of meetings held on 22 May and 17 June 2003, having been circulated, were approved.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

The following Members provided a brief synopsis of their attendance at the following meetings:

Mr J C Irvine CoSLA Convention
 HITRANS

Mr J A Inkster Scottish Accident Prevention Council – Road Safety
 Committee

13/03 **Planning for Wind Energy in Shetland**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 1).

The Head of Planning briefly introduced the report following which considerable discussion ensued, as summary of which is as follows.

Referring to section 7.1 of Appendix A, a Member said that something should be done to the Lerwick power station as it emitted a lot of fumes and people regularly contacted SEPA to complain. It was stated that fresh, clean energy should be produced and it was suggested that this should be contained in the document, namely that the Council wished to encourage the production of fresh, clean energy.

A Member referred to section 3.7 of the report and said that it detailed the key elements. Accordingly, Mr B P Gregson moved that the Committee should recommend to the Council that a structure should be established by which the requirements of section 3.7 are met.

After hearing the Chairman advise that this issue would be addressed by the Working Group which would consist of the Members detailed in recommendation 9.1.2 of the report, Mr B P Gregson withdrew his motion.

A Member said that there was a tremendous opportunity in Shetland for both wind and tidal energy and this would play a part for energy provision in the future. The Member added that there were a number of wind farms on the Continent and, in his view, they enhanced the landscape.

In response to a question from a Member as to why the proposed site (i.e. the Kames) was chosen, the Head of Planning advised that there were at least 3 schemes that touched on the area and, based on work done to date, the Department were reasonably confident that the Kames area would not cause any major problems. Scottish Natural Heritage had indicated that the area did not interfere with any of its interests. This was also the case with the interested developers. Following further investigations and the outcome of the resource study, it was likely that other areas could be identified. At this stage, he said it was important to get the message across to the people bidding for the interconnector that

the Council were taking a positive view on the installation of wind turbines.

A Member reminded the Committee about the experimental wind farm site that was established on Suster Hill 10 years ago. At that time, the planning permission contained provisions that the site should be reinstated following the experiment. However, this had not happened and the area had not been cleared up, much to the community's dismay. The Member stressed that pressure should be placed on developers to restore the site and to ensure that a similar situation did not happen in future.

The Services and Technologies Officer said that the report focused on planning issues and, in his view, the planning side and the economic development side should be kept separate. He added that the areas detailed in the report were those, which Officers were fairly certain there would not be any conflict. Also, Members should bear in mind that several people had already approached the Council in relation to potential huge projects. From an economic development point of view, he understood that there were reports coming forward to the Council.

Mr W H Manson moved the Committee approve the recommendations in the report and, in relation to recommendation 9.1.1, the Committee should recommend that the Council indicates that this is in light of the Council's current knowledge and that the Council are prepared to consider this matter further. Mr F A Robertson seconded.

- 14/03 **Member/Officer Working Group – Management of Roads Schemes**
The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services (Appendix 2) and, on the motion of Mr T W Stove, seconded by Mr E J Knight, approved recommendation 6.1 of the report and, in relation to recommendation 6.2, agreed to appoint the following Members to serve on the Group as well as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee and the Transportation Spokesperson:

Mr F A Robertson	Mr W H Manson	Mr J G Simpson
Mr J P Nicolson	Mr J H Henry	

Capt G G Mitchell advised that there was a typographical error in Appendix 1 whereby "G M Mitchell" should read "G G Mitchell".

- 15/03 **Bressay Bridge – Capping of Budget**
The Committee considered a report by the Projects Unit Manager (Appendix 3).

(Mr L G Groat declared an interest in this item and took no part in the debate).

A Member said that it might be the case that it could be perceived by some people that the budget was being increased from £17.5M to £19M. However, this was certainly not the intention. He continued to say that the cap would not be used unless absolutely necessary but the likelihood is that the target price of the project would be £17.5M or less.

Accordingly, Mr J A Inkster moved that the recommendation should be deleted and replaced with the following:

"I recommend that the Committee recommends that the Council

- 7.1 reiterates that the budget for the Bressay Bridge Project remains at the current level of £17.5M and every effort should be made to maintain the construction cost within that figure;
- 7.2 that the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services is provided with delegated authority to award the contract for the construction of the Bressay Bridge Project if the £17.5M budget is met; and
- 7.3 the proposed £19M capping on the Bressay Bridge Project will only be triggered if it is deemed to be absolutely necessary. Also, that the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services, in consultation with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee, is provided with delegated authority to put the capping in place."

Mr J C Irvine seconded.

In response to concerns from a Member and, in receiving the consent of his seconder, Mr J A Inkster agreed to amend recommendation 7.3 as follows:

- "7.3 The proposed £19M capping on the Bressay Bridge Project will only be triggered if it is deemed to be absolutely necessary. Should such a situation arise, the matter will be reported to the Council for a decision and, if necessary, a special meeting of the Council will be convened."

On the motion of Mr E J Knight, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson, the Committee further agreed to recommend to the Council that a report should be presented to the Council for Members to consider the possibility that any major capital project should be capped in future by a similar amount, i.e. 12%.

In response to concerns from some Members in relation to the proposed process to award the contract, the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services said that there were rumours going around the community and explained that the broad parameters was that a bridge of 40m would be built. Considerable dialogue had taken place with the Lerwick Port

Authority (LPA), the outcome of which had been reported back to the Council where it was agreed that the bridge should be 40m. If it were the case that LPA wished the bridge to be more than 40m and this could not be accommodated within the budget, this would be reported back to Members. He continued to say that involving the Contractor at an early stage would assist in the project and hoped that Members could trust the Project Team to proceed to have dialogue with the Contractor.

The Projects Unit Manager advised that the Contractor would be involved in order to provide expertise in the building of the project and it was an extension of the knowledge base. The Project Team would generate the dialogue with LPA and discussions with LPA were ongoing.

In response to a comment from a Member that the draft would also have to be addressed, the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services advised that this would be taken on board.

(Mr L G Groat left the meeting).

- 16/03 **Moorfield Ring Road, Brae – Proposed Traffic Calming**
The Committee considered a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 4) and, on the motion of Mr J C Irvine, seconded by Mrs B J Cheyne, approved the recommendation contained therein.
- 18/03 **Study into Berthing Facilities in Fetlar**
The Committee noted a report by the Projects Unit Manager (Appendix 5).
- 19/03 **The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 – Overview of the New Grant Provisions**
The Committee considered a report by the Environmental Health Officer (Appendix 6) and, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Capt G G Mitchell, approved the recommendations contained therein.
- 20/03 **Private Slaughter of Livestock – Update Report**
The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Environmental Health (Appendix 7) and, on the motion of Mr B P Gregson, seconded by Capt G G Mitchell approved the recommendations contained therein and agreed to nominate Mr W A Ratter to attend the Food Standards Agency meeting.
- 21/03 **The Sheep Scab (Shetland Islands) Order 2003 – Adoption of Measures to Prevent the Introduction of Sheep Scab**
The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Environmental Health (Appendix 8) and, on the motion of Mr W Tait, seconded by Mrs F B Grains, approved the recommendations contained therein.
- 22/03 **Genetically Modified Crops and Food**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Environmental Health (Appendix 9). Supplementary documentation containing comments from key stakeholders was tabled at the meeting and is attached as Appendix 9A).

On the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr B P Gregson, approved the recommendation contained in the report.

23/03

Infrastructure Provision and Maintenance Progress Report

The Committee considered and noted a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 10).

Mr W H Manson moved that the Committee should request a report be presented to the Committee, within the next two cycles, regarding the provision of public toilets in Shetland. Mrs B J Cheyne seconded.

In response to a question from a Member in relation to grass cutting services, the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services and the Head of Roads clarified the position and the Executive Director confirmed that he would liaise with the Executive Director, Community Services in connection with the possibility of a single contract.

(Mr J H Henry left the meeting).

On the motion of Mr J C Irvine, seconded by Mr B P Gregson, the Committee resolved, in terms of the relevant legislation, to exclude the public during consideration of the following items of business.

(Representatives of the media left the meeting).

24/03

Bus Contracts

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Transport.

The Chairperson advised that, following the Committee's decision today, a Press Release would be issued.

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report, on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr W H Manson.

25/03

Waste to Energy Plant – Shell Waste

The Committee considered a report by the Waste Services Manager and, on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mr W H Manson, approved the recommendations contained therein.

CHAIRPERSON