

Environment and Transport Committee**Auditorium, Shetland Museum and Archives, Hay's Dock, Lerwick****Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 10am****Present:**

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

Apologies:

D Sandison	J Wills
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In Attendance (Officers):

M Sandison, Director of Infrastructure Services
J Belford, Executive Manager – Finance
D Coupe, Executive Manager – Roads
M Craigie, Executive Manager – Transport Planning
W Spence, Executive Manager – Environmental Services
L Coutts, Team Leader – Ferry Operations
N Hutcheson, Team Leader – Asset and Network
C Gair, Traffic and Roads Safety Engineer
E Park, Transport Contracts and Operations Officer
B Robb, Management Accountant
P Wishart, Solicitor
B Kerr, Communications Officer
L Gair, Committee Officer

Also:

P Campbell	A Cooper
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A Wishart

Chair:

Mr 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) 3 October 2016 on the motion of Mr T Smith, seconded by Mr Mr Robinson; and ii) 6 December 2016 on the motion of Mr Bell seconded by Mr Henderson, with the exception of the following:

28/16 Infrastructure Services Directorate Performance Reports 6 Month/2nd Quarter 2016/17-
Paragraph 10 "Director of Environmental Health" should read "Director of Infrastructure Services".

01/17 Lerwick Town Centre - 20mph Speed Zone, Pedestrianisation and Short-Stay Parking

The Committee considered a report by the Traffic and Road Safety Engineer (RD-01-17-F) that sought approval of the traffic regulation order that would introduce the 20mph Zone Scheme with traffic calming and other improvements along the Esplanade and Commercial Road between Annsbrae and North Ness; and sought approval to proceed to statutory consultation on extended and amended regimes of pedestrianisation on Commercial Street and the short-stay parking zone in Lerwick town centre.

The Executive Manager – Roads introduced the report and emphasised the need to address the road safety issues in this area and to find a holistic approach for pedestrians, cyclists and car users. He provided a summary of the consultation process undertaken and commented that there had been significant feedback received. He explained that the most significant funding for this project had been from Sustrans and the Council's contribution of £41k would be met from the existing budget for Accident Investigation and Prevention. He advised that this project was currently number one on the Council's prioritisation list.

During consideration of the report Members commended staff for the amount of work undertaken to produce the comprehensive and extensive report. In responding to a question, the Traffic and Road Safety Engineer advised on the number of notifiable injury accidents since 2014 to the first six months in 2016. It was also confirmed that the proposals listed in the decision paragraph could be decided upon separately.

Reference was made to two areas in the south mainland where speed limits were not deemed necessary by the Roads Service and a request was made that an explanation be produced and shared with the public on how speed limits are determined. The Vice-Chair advised that at a recent meeting of the Road Safety Advisory Panel an action was undertaken that such an explanation be provided at a future meeting of the Association of Community Councils so that they can hear first hand from staff who administer speed limits.

In referring to paragraph 4.3 Officers were asked why it was not possible to proceed with a 20mph Zone without traffic calming. The Executive Manager Roads explained the difference between a 20mph limit and a 20mph zone and advised that if there is no traffic calming it is a speed limit that relies on the police to enforce. He said that a zone requires traffic calming which is self enforcing.

Mr Stout moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, Mr Ratter seconded.

Some Members questioned whether it was appropriate to move to further consultation on the pedestrianisation, recommended in the report, in light of adverse representation already received. Mr Robinson moved, as an amendment, that the Committee approve recommendation 1.1 only, Mr Henderson seconded. However some Members advised that there had also been representations received in support of further pedestrianisation and that the only way to obtain a balanced view of public opinion would be to proceed to consultation. It was suggested that to do otherwise would be a missed opportunity.

Following summing up, voting took place with a show of hands and the results were as follows:

Amendment (Mr Robinson)	3
Motion (Mr Stout)	5

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee RESOLVED to:

- Approve making the traffic regulation orders that would introduce the 20mph Zone Scheme with traffic calming and other improvements along the Esplanade and Commercial Road between Annsbrae and North Ness; and
- Approve proceeding to statutory consultation on extended and amended regimes of pedestrianisation on Commercial Street and the short-stay parking zone in Lerwick town centre; and
- Note that following the statutory consultations recommendations will be brought back to the Committee for a decision.

02/17 Scottish Government Capital Stimulus Programme: Shetland Funding Bid

The Committee noted a report by the Executive Manager – Estate Operations (EO-01-17-F) that informed the Committee of a successful funding bid submitted under the use of delegated authority by the Director of Infrastructure Services.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and in response to a question she advised that the funding was specifically for social housing but advised that there is another substantial funding stream that does allow for the support of efficiency works in private housing.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee NOTED that the bid was approved, for submission, under delegated authority.

03/17 Exceptions from Contract Standing Orders including Emergency Work on Ferries

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Ferry Operations Engineering Superintendent (FO-01-17-F) that informed the Committee of an Exception from Contract Standing Orders, authorised by the Director of Infrastructure Services, for emergency works required.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and in response to a question she confirmed that there is a contingency budget for unexpected breakdowns. In addition there is insurance cover for some works that can be drawn on where appropriate. Members noted the importance of carrying out emergency works to ensure the continued operation of the lifeline service.

Decision

The Environment & Transport Committee NOTED the exceptions applied.

04/17 Infrastructure Services Directorate Plan 2017-2020

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (ISD-01-17-F) that presented the Directorate Plan for Infrastructure Services to set out the strategic actions to be taken between 2017-2020 to deliver both the Council's Corporate Plan and strategic priorities and the Directorate's priorities.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and in responding a question, regarding apprenticeships in the Council, she advised that it was her aim to explore

options to include, within procurement contracts, the need for contractors and suppliers to have apprenticeships in place. She also said that although the Council had not retained some apprentices over the years, she found that many were now returning and she viewed their experience in the private sector as being valuable to the Council. The Director of Infrastructure Services said that many who had returned indicated that the Council provided more variety in terms of interesting careers. She added that Officers were looking at other ways of retaining staff through career grades and career progression, but she said that she tries to have a positive view whenever an apprentice moves on.

In terms of the Fair Funding for Ferries project, the Executive Manager – Transport Planning provided a brief update on the position so far confirming that the Scottish Government had not identified the budget yet but that encouraging assurances had been received from Transport Scotland.

Reference was made to the serious issue of fuel poverty and the need to establish local contractors on the ground and the question was asked if island proofing on this could be explored. The Director of Infrastructure Services said that the fuel poverty action group had been raising the issue of challenges locally that no one wants to see the work going outwith Shetland and she agreed that lobbying is part of that. It was recognised however that it was important that the need for the pass 2030 certification does not unnecessarily restrict the Council on which contractor can be used.

In response to a question the Chair confirmed that the fair funding issue was for internal transport links which formed two parts, one for the operation of ferries and the other for capital investment required. The Director of Infrastructure Services added that alongside this there was also work being done on providing better disabled facilities in the form of disabled toilets and better ramps.

Attention was drawn to DP109 Local climate impacts and it was noted that the progress marker was at yellow. The Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the action had not moved forward under the partnership group so the energy team within Infrastructure Services are involved in looking into this under collaborative leadership and to look further ahead at changes.

(Mr Robinson left the meeting)

During further discussion it was suggested that Scottish Government be asked to provide a timeline for the decision on fair funding for ferries, to which the Chair assured the Committee that this had been done recently and it was now a case of waiting until the budget had been passed.

Mr Stout moved that the Committee endorse the Directorate Plan as set out in paragraph 1.1 of the report. Mr Coutts seconded.

Decision

The Environment & Transport Committee:

- Reviewed and discussed the contents of the Directorate Plan; and
- ENDORSED the Directorate Plan, recognising that the Director of Infrastructure Services will make any necessary adjustments to the plan to ensure it is fully aligned with the final version of the Corporate Plan approved by Council.

This report was deferred, and will be presented to the next meeting on 6 March 2017.

06/17 2017/18 Budget and Charging Proposals - Environment & Transport Committee

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-02-17-F) that presented the controllable budget proposals for the services within the Committee's remit.

The Executive Manager – Finance introduced the report. The Chair commended Officers for achieving a 0.8% target figure without having a serious effect on frontline services.

Concern was expressed in regard to the increase charge for blue badge holders. The Executive Manager – Transport Planning explained that this was a nationally set charge that, due to under resourcing of staff had not been applied in the past. There has since been detailed work, with staff now in place, therefore an increase was a reasonable and responsible action to take and is in line with other areas who are charging the maximum national rate. The Executive Manager – Finance explained that this charge is recovered in part as the Council is still committed to funding part of the blue badge charge rather than passing on all of the charge to users.

Reassurance was sought from Officers that the budget set can deliver the directorate plan. The Director of Infrastructure Services said that there are a number of performance indicators that indicate that Services are not always meeting targets for example food hygiene inspections as Officers are impacted by the day to day unforeseen activities. She said that if there was less reactive work it would be possible to deliver services within budget, but there will always be unplanned work however the service has less capacity to do what it used to do. The Chair asked if what was being charged was a fair and up to date charging regime. The Director of Infrastructure Services explained that many of the Services within the Directorate which could charge for service will never achieve a full cost recovery position because there are insufficient requests to provide the scale other local authorities saw however she provided a number of examples where effort had been made to reach a balance.

The Chair moved that the Committee approve the recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee and the Council as set out in section 1 of the report. Mr Coutts seconded.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee RECOMMENDED to Policy and Resources Committee and Council that they approve the budget proposals for 2017/18, included in this report and set out in detail in the Budget Activity Summary (Appendix 2) and Schedule of Charges (Appendix 3).

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr Stout moved, Mr Coutts seconded, and the Committee agreed to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of the following item of business.

07/17 Public Bus Network Usage 2015/16

The Committee considered a report by the Transport Contracts and Operations Officer that presented the Public Bus Services in Shetland, Network Usage Report 2015/16.

The Transport Contracts and Operations Officer introduced the report and advised that once the commercial information had been removed from the report it would be provided to the public.

Mr Stout moved that the Committee approve the decisions required at section 1 of the report. Mr Coutts seconded.

Decision

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

08/17 Energy Recovery Plant and District Heating Scheme - Update

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services that provided an update on work carried out on the Energy Recovery Plan (ERP) and District Heating Scheme.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the main terms of the report.

Following some discussion, Mr Stout moved that the Committee approve the recommendation set out in section 1 of the report. Mr Coutts seconded.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report.

The meeting concluded at 11.40am.

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Chair