

Environment and Transport Committee
Auditorium, Museum and Archives, Hay's Dock, Lerwick
Tuesday 13 June 2017 at 10am

Present:

P Campbell	S Coutts
S Leask	A Manson
R McGregor	A Priest
D Sandison	C Smith
G Smith	R Thomson

Apologies:

Mr C Smith (for lateness)

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
N Hutcheson, Team Leader – Asset and Network
B Robb, Management Accountant
P Wishart, Solicitor
J MacLeod, Performance and Improvement Officer
C Anderson, Senior Communications Officer
L Malcolmson, Committee Officer

Chair:

Mr Thomson, 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 meeting held on 7 February 2017 on the motion of Mr Sandison, seconded by Mr G Smith.

16/17 Infrastructure Directorate Performance Reports - 2016/17

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (ISD-04-17-F) that summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Directorate for 2016/17.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report highlighting a number of key issues and providing examples where outcomes have been delivered.

Following a number of questions relating to street lighting and replacement programme savings, and related funding, Members said they welcomed the move to LED units. Members were advised that more detail would be presented to the Committee providing a breakdown by area and indicating a timeline. The Director of Infrastructure Services also

explained that the savings programme to be delivered from part night lighting had now come out of the budget therefore when the savings from LED roll out are made on the energy bill, it is not possible to use these savings to reinstate full night lighting. Both savings were required to balance the budget and deliver the spend to save proposal.

In terms of the Council's CO2 level compared to other local authorities, the Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the Council provides transport services such as ferries and towage that other local authorities do not provide so it is difficult to make such a comparison. In addition staff have to travel further to deliver services which also contribute to a higher CO2 level. She said however that the annual report on carbon reductions would be brought to the next cycle of meetings.

The Committee noted the report on the motion of Mr Sandison, seconded by Mr Campbell.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee noted the content of the report.

17/17 Development Services Directorate Performance Report – 9 Month/3rd Quarter 2016/17

The Committee noted a report by the Director of Development Services (DV-32-17-F) that summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Directorate for 2016/17.

The Executive Manager – Transport Planning introduced the report highlighting the issues relating to the Environment and Transport Committee and providing updates on the last four outcomes listed in paragraph 4.2.

Smart Ticketing - In providing an update on the smart ticketing project the Executive Manager – Transport Planning advised of the direct relationship he has with the Scottish Government through Transport Scotland's Smart Ticketing Sub Group and National Smart Card Ticketing Steering Group, which provides an opportunity to develop a system that meets Shetland's needs. In response to comments around the functionality of the smart ticketing card the Committee was advised that a report would be presented to Corporate Management Team to discuss its functionality and how it might be used across other services of the Council, in addition to transport.

Fair Funding – The Executive Manager – Transport Planning expressed disappointment that the commitment from the Scottish Government would not now be effective in this current financial year and resolution was required in terms of the next financial year. He commented that the continued reliance on Council reserves was not sustainable and the Scottish Government needed to understand that. The Committee were advised that of a project board meeting with Councillors on the Sounding Board where the Executive Manager – Transport Planning would set out what is required working towards a date in July so that it can feed into the budget setting process. The Committee were also informed that there are meetings set up to engage with ministers regarding the Scottish Government's wider commitment to the Scottish Islands.

Inter Island Transport Study - The Committee were advised that the Inter Island Transport Study was complete and had been validated by Transport Scotland. Outline business cases were being prepared for Whalsay Transport Link, Fair Isle Inter Island Air Services and services to Yell and Bluemull Sound. In responding to questions the Committee were informed that fixed links were on the agenda and Ministers were on board with this concept

but needed more information on the timeframe. The Executive Manager – Transport Planning said that there needs to be a clearer position established on this as soon as possible.

The Executive Manager – Transport Planning also provided updates on the Inter Island Air Service where specific work would be undertaken by the Community Planning and Development Service with other Community Planning Partners on how they can work together in an integrated way around the wider issue on the stability of the Island Communities. The Executive Manager – Transport Planning also advised that a review and analysis of the Public Bus Contract would be undertaken in preparation of the retendering exercise.

(Mr C Smith attended the meeting)

On the motion of Ms Manson, seconded by Mr Leask, the Committee noted the report.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee noted the content of the report.

18/17 Management Accounts for Environment & Transport Committee: 2016/17 – Draft Outturn at Quarter 4

The Committee noted a report by the Executive Manager - Finance (F-048-17-F) presented the details of the draft outturn position for 2016/17 on net controllable costs for revenue and capital, to enable the Committee to monitor the financial performance of the services within its remit.

The Executive Manager – Finance introduced the report and responded to questions.

The Committee noted the report.

Decision

The Environment & Transport Committee:

- NOTED the Management Accounts showing the 2016/17 draft outturn position at Quarter 4; and
- NOTED the proposed budget carry-forwards which will be included in the overall Draft Outturn report to be presented for approval at Policy & Resources Committee on 19 June 2017.

19/17 Carriageway Condition of Shetland's Roads

The Committee noted a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network (RD-04-17-F) that presented the Road Condition Indicator (RI) figures shown in the 2015/17 results, the benchmarking of Shetland's roads against the other Scottish Local Authorities and the predicted impact of budgetary decisions on the future condition of Shetland's carriageways.

The Executive Manager – Roads introduced the report and responded to questions.

During discussions Members acknowledged that although maintenance and surface dressing of the roads in Shetland improved their condition, there continued to be year on year deterioration of the roads structure. It was noted that in the future this would lead to more expensive road reconstruction being required. Members also commented on the

importance of Shetland's road network in terms of the links between the ferry and air transport links, both internal and external, and the need for a future capital programme allocation to protect the road network.

On the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr C Smith, the Committee noted the content of the report.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee NOTED the contents of the report including the improvement in the overall Road Condition Indicator (RCI) figure shown in the 2015-17 results, the benchmarking of Shetland's roads against the other Scottish local authorities and the predicted impact of budgetary decisions on the future condition of our carriageways.

The meeting concluded at 11.05am.

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Chair