

**Infrastructure Committee
15 June 2004 Public Minutes**

Infrastructure Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 15 June 2004 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

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

In Attendance (Officers):

G Spall, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services
A Hamilton, Head of Planning
B Barron, Planning Officer (Development Plans)
M Dunne, Service Manager, Environmental Health
J Grant, Waste Services Manager
I Halcrow, Head of Service - Roads
V Hawthorne, Planning Officer (Implementation)
N Robertson, Network Engineer
A Cogle, Service Manager, Administration

Chairperson:

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

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

The Chairperson advised that Professor Bill Ritchie, Director of SOTEAG, had been delayed, and his presentation, scheduled as the first item of business, would take place later in the meeting.

Apologies:

A J Cluness	F B Grains
L G Groat	J Henry

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Members' Attendance at External Meetings

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

	J C Irvine	-	24 May 2004	
			Planning Development Conference,	
	Scotland			
	G G Mitchell	-	11 June 2004	
			HITRANS, Inverness	
25/04	<u>Orkney and Shetland Ferry Services – Re-tendering Exercise</u>			
	The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services (Appendix 1).			

The Executive Director advised that since the report was written, a special meeting of the Environment and Transport Forum had been called for 17 June, a livestock meeting was being held in Orkney on 29 June, and CoSLA was also meeting on 29 June. The Executive Director said that these meetings would provide an opportunity for all the issues to be discussed, prior to submission of representations. He added that the Council's policy in this matter had been determined in 1999/2000, the basis of which was that the Council required no change to the ports, and daily sailings. He said that the remainder of the tender related to freight and livestock, and accordingly consultation was required with those sectors involved, and who would provide sources of advice and support for the Council's representations.

Members agreed that the Council wanted nothing less than was provided at present. However, there were concerns mooted regarding the continuing problems with entry to Aberdeen harbour, possible reduction in subsidy and increases in general freight charges, which were of concern to the community, as well as livestock.

The Executive Director Infrastructure Services reassured Members that the tender specification was the same as the service being provided at the present time, and there was no indication of any reduction in subsidy. He said that the only difference was in relation to the shore side arrangements, which were now included in the service specification. Regarding freight costs, Members acknowledged that there would continue to be annual increases in charges. In relation to Aberdeen Harbour, the Committee noted that a meeting would be arranged with Aberdeen Port Authority on recent problems and possible solutions, and that a report would be presented back to the Committee in due course.

The Committee otherwise approved the recommendations contained in the report, on the motion of Capt G G Mitchell, seconded by Mr W N Stove.

26/04

**Roads Maintenance and Minor Improvement Works –
Proposed Extension Review and Retendering of Contracts and
In-House Arrangements**

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

Mr J P Nicolson referred to paragraph 2.2 of the report, and questioned whether a two year period was required to revise this contract. In addition, Mr Nicolson asked what the process was for Members raising issues regarding barriers in their areas. With regard to paragraph 7.3, Mr Nicolson said that £150k was a significant piece of spending, and asked that officers be aware of

perceptions and the need to be open and accountable in the processes. Mrs B Cheyne referred to paragraph 7.4, and asked whether £50k would be enough to maintain the current standards. Referring to paragraph 2.8, Mr L Angus asked what the annual cost of the Met Office service was.

In response, the Head of Roads Service advised that the Council was still in negotiation with the Met Office for the forecasting service, but the annual cost was in the region of £20k. Regarding the £50k limit on minor improvement works, the Head of Roads advised that this figure was deemed to be sufficient, but could be augmented if necessary. He added that if a larger scheme was to be included, the Department would proceed to a full tendering exercise.

The Executive Director added that requirements and problems with barriers were normally picked up through consultation with Community Councils, but he asked that Members report any particular problems directly to the Head of Roads.

On the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson, the Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report.

27/04

Roads Authority Permissions and Charges Review

The Committee considered a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 3) and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr B P Gregson.

The Committee noted that the charge shown in Appendix 1 for Permission for Minor Road Works Consent should be £90, not £130. In response to a question, the Executive Director confirmed that administration of this new system would not result in any increase in staffing.

28/04

Capital Rolling Programmes – Roads and Fleet Management Unit – Schemes and Purchases 2004/05

The Committee considered a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 4).

Regarding the Bells Road Scheme, the Head of Roads confirmed that the Department was hopeful that the Scheme would be completed this Summer. Mr A Inkster said that this Scheme had also been discussed by the Member/Officer Working Group, and it was noted there had been some delay because of other Utility works. However the Group were satisfied that it would be completed this Summer, on the basis of the information provided.

A question was raised regarding the number of vans being used by Roads staff. The Head of Roads advised that this was always being monitored with a view to reducing the number of vans being used, but this was sometimes difficult due to the location of works, and health and safety issues regarding the transporting of workers to locations. Later, the Executive Director confirmed that the colour of Roads' vans was a health and safety precaution.

In response to questions regarding the landslide preventative measures at Sandwick, the Head of Roads confirmed that those areas affected were being monitored by gauges, in order to determine any likely recurrence. Whilst it was noted that there were some theories as to the cause of the landslides, there was no conclusive evidence at this time. The Committee noted that there had not yet been any payment in terms of the claim made by the Council.

The Committee otherwise approved the recommendations contained in the report, on the motion of Mrs B Cheyne, seconded by Mr B P Gregson.

29/04 **Dounreay: Statement of Policy**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 5).

Mrs B Cheyne said that, in her view, the subject of this report was not a matter for this Council, but a matter for SEPA. However, Mr B P Gregson said that Dounreay covered a wide range of environmental and social issues, and that the Council should be responding robustly to consultation documents and, accordingly, moved that the recommendations be approved. Mrs I J Hawkins seconded.

30/04 **Naming Thoroughfares**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services (Appendix 6) and approved the recommendation contained therein, on the motion of Mr E Knight, seconded by Mrs B Cheyne.

The Committee agreed that the Member for the area should be consulted on such proposals in future.

31/04 **Shetland Local Plan: Review of Housing Zones**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 7).

On the motion of Mr J C Irvine, seconded by Mr B P Gregson, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report, subject to the Mrs I J Hawkins, as Spokesperson for Planning, being appointed to the Working Group.

32/04 **Sullom Voe Oil Terminal Advisory Group**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Infrastructure Services (Appendix 8A)

The Committee welcomed Professor Bill Ritchie and Ms Linda King to the meeting.

Professor Ritchie gave a detailed Powerpoint presentation (Appendix 8B) which covered a range of matters including; layout of the Terminal, the production process, monitoring, preventative measures, improvements, contingency planning, SOTEAG structure, Wildlife Response Centre, and future developments.

The Committee noted the presentation and agreed, on the motion of Mr B P Gregson seconded by Mr J P Nicolson, to minute its appreciation and commendation of the ongoing work of SOTEAG towards achieving and maintaining international standards.

(Professor Ritchie and Ms King left the meeting.)

33/04 **Making Development Plans Deliver: Scottish Executive Consultation**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 9) and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr B P Gregson.

34/04 **Part 1 Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 – Scottish Executive Consultation: Draft Guidance for Local Authorities and National Park Authorities**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 10) and approved the recommendation contained therein, on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr B P Gregson.

35/04 **National Planning Framework for Scotland**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 11) and approved the recommendation on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr L Angus, subject to reference being made in the response to the Scottish Executive regarding Shetland's indigenous industries and developing industries such as wind power, fish farming and communications.

37/04 **Rights of Appeal in Planning – Scottish Executive Consultation**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 13) and approved the recommendation and the terms of the response, on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr I J Hawkins.

- 38/04 **Conservation Grant – Sand Haa and Midden Court, Whalsay**
The Committee considered a report by the Conservation Manager (Appendix 14) and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr J G Simpson, seconded by Mr L Angus.
- 39/04 **Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Progress Report**
The Committee considered a report by the Energy Manager (Appendix 15) and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson.
- 40/04 **Grant One Stop Shop**
The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Environmental Health (Appendix 16).
- Mrs I J Hawkins and Capt G G Mitchell each declared non-pecuniary interests in this matter.
- The Committee approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Capt G G Mitchell, seconded by Mr B P Gregson.
- 41/04 **Anti-Litter Campaign**
The Committee considered a report by the Waste Services Manager (Appendix 17A). Copies of various posters were tabled (Appendix 17B).
- The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report, and the various posters, on the motion of Mr W Tait, seconded by Mr B P Gregson.
- 42/04 **Memorial Safety**
The Committee considered a report by the Burial Services Manager (Appendix 18) and approved the recommendation contained therein, on the motion of Mrs B Cheyne, seconded by Capt G G Mitchell.
- Mrs I J Hawkins and Mr J C Irvine recorded their thanks to TRAC Ltd for their excellent work on the Tingwall Churchyard car park.
- Mr L Angus expressed concern regarding the state of the wall surrounding Lerwick Old Cemetery. The Committee noted that the Department would investigate.
- 43/04 **Strategic Waste Fund Grant Offer**
The Committee considered a report by the Waste Services Manager (Appendix 19) and approved the recommendation contained therein, on the motion of Mr B P Gregson, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.
- 44/04 **Strategic Environmental Assessment**
The Committee noted a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 20).

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The meeting concluded at 12.55 p.m.

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**J C Irvine
CHAIRPERSON**