

**Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Thursday 14 June 2018 at 10.30am**

Present:

P Campbell R McGregor
A Priest D Sandison
G Smith R Thomson

Apologies:

S Coutts S Leask
A Manson

In Attendance (Officers):

J Smith, Director of Infrastructure Services
D Coupe, Executive Manager - Roads
W Spence, Executive Manager – Environmental Services
C Symons, Executive Manager – Estate Operations
S Thompson, Executive Manager – Schools Service
C Bragg, Team Leader – Waste Management
S Brunton, Team Leader – Legal
B Robb, Management Accountant
C Gair, Traffic Engineer
E Park, Transport Contracts and Operations Officer
J Irvine, Administration Assistant - Finance
P Nicolson, Clerical Officer
L Adamson, Committee Officer

Also in Attendance:

T Smith, SIC

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 confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2018 on the motion of Mr Campbell, seconded by Mr G Smith.

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2018 on the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr Sandison.

Shetland Transport Strategy Refresh Consultative Draft – Stakeholder Consultation Report

The Committee considered a report by the Transport Policy and Projects Officer (TP-04-18-F) that presented an update on the Shetland Transport Strategy Refresh stakeholder consultation.

The Transport Contracts and Operations Officer introduced the report, and the stakeholder consultation report at Appendix 1.

The Committee was advised of discussions with residents in Fair Isle on the significant cost for their family to travel to Shetland, who then have the additional air fare for travel to Fair Isle. It was highlighted that whilst residents in Fair Isle can take advantage of a reduced rate for travel, the additional cost is detrimental to family and friends of Fair Isle residents, and to tourists who wish to visit Fair Isle. During the discussion, comment was made on the significant costs of travel to and from Shetland, however the recent increase in air fares to and from Fair Isle had been in line with inflation, and fares had been kept as low as possible being the lifeline service for Fair Isle residents to get to mainland Shetland. Reference was made to the outline business cases to be developed for each of the inter-island routes, and that Fair Isle would be one of the first to be undertaken, with the expectation for reporting in March 2019. During further discussion, it was suggested that consideration be given to extending the Fair Isle Island Resident air fare to include resident's close family.

During the discussion on the Smart Ticketing project it was noted that there was potential for different ticket types and methods of payment for transport on buses and ferries to be expanded to include card and contactless, and it was questioned whether the system could be developed to incorporate friends and family fares. It was noted that Smart Ticketing allows bookings and cancellations to be made on-line, being of particular benefit to encourage cancellations on the busier sailings.

In referring to Page 14 of the Strategy document, the Chair advised of his intention to suggest to the Executive Manager – Transport Planning to rephrase the “Lifeline Transport” statement to also refer to internal lifeline links.

During debate, comment was made that given that internal and external transport links were of significant importance to everybody living within Shetland, and that future developments in those areas depends on the relationship with Government in terms of fair funding, it was vital that lobbying continues in that regard. The Chair advised that the detailed Strategy was a credit to all involved in bringing it to this stage. In terms of lobbying, the Committee noted that the Transport Minister would be visiting Shetland in August, where discussions on transport issues would continue.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the Shetland Transport Strategy Refresh Consultative Draft Stakeholder Consultation Report.

Review of School Transport Policy 2018

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Schools (CS-17-18-F) that provided information on the reviewed and updated School Transport Policy.

In introducing the report, the Executive Manager – Schools advised on the proposed changes to Policy and the Council’s legal responsibility. She reported from the recent discussion at Education and Families Committee, and to the decision not to consider charging for vacant seats at this time, as had been proposed in Section 1.2 of the report. The Executive Manager – Schools then outlined the recommendation from Education and Families Committee, namely “to approve the proposed updated School Transport Policy, and the request to phase out the provision of free school transport for pupils attending a school other than their designated school through a Placing Request, with free school transport being continued for those already in receipt of it under the terms of the current policy”.

In noting that all Members present, with the exception of Mr Priest, had extensively discussed the proposals in the report at Education and Families Committee, Mr Campbell said that unless Mr Priest had any points to raise, he would move that the Committee approve the recommendation from Education and Families Committee.

Mr Priest confirmed that he did not require any further information.

Mr G Smith provided clarity to the Committee on the recommendation from Education and Families Committee, and Mr Thomson seconded Mr Campbell’s motion.

Decision:

The Committee RECOMMENDED that the Policy and Resources Committee recommends that the Council approves the proposed updated School Transport Policy, and the request to phase out the provision of free school transport for pupils attending a school other than their designated school through a Placing Request, with free school transport being continued for those already in receipt of it under the terms of the current policy.

(Mr G Smith left the meeting)

17/18 **Exception from Contract Standing Orders - Purchase of Excavator for Scord Quarry**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Roads Service (RD-02-18-F) detailing a contract award and the works carried out as an exception to the Council’s Contract Standing Orders by the Roads Service for the purchase of an excavator for Scord Quarry.

The Executive Manager – Roads Service introduced the report.

In responding to a question, the Executive Manager – Roads advised that the second hand excavator was three years old, and was in exceptionally good condition.

The Chair noted the £51K savings against budget, which he said was very welcomed news.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the exception applied.

18/18

Exceptions from Contract Standing Orders - Voith Propulsion Unit Overhaul, Replacement Radars B600's and Tingwall Airport - Hangar Door

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager, Ferry & Airport Operations (FO-01-18-F) detailing three exceptions to the Council's Contract Standing Orders for a Voith Propulsion Unit Overhaul, Replacement radars B600's and Tingwall Airport - Hangar Door.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report.

In responding to comments on the need to report all Exceptions to Committee, for example, when second hand goods or materials can be purchased, and where only one manufacturer produce the goods or materials required, the Director of Infrastructure Services commented that while reporting on Exceptions to Committee updated Members on the purchases made, he undertook to liaise with the Executive Managers of Finance and Capital Programme on any changes to the Council's Contract Standing Orders in that regard.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the three exceptions to Shetland Islands Council Standing Orders.

19/18

Exceptions from Contract Standing Orders - Mechanical & Electrical and Fabric Maintenance Services to Anderson Halls of Residence, Lerwick

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Estate Operations (EO-02-18-F) detailing works carried out under an exception to the Council's Contract Standing Orders by Estate Operations for mechanical and electrical and fabric maintenance services to Anderson Halls of Residence.

The Executive Manager – Estate Operations summarised the main terms of the report.

In response to a question, the Executive Manager – Estate Operations advised on proposals to meet the timescale of 30 September to award the contract.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the exceptions applied.

20/18

Charter for Household Recycling for Scotland - Associated Policies

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Waste Management (ES-01-18-F) that sought approval for the implementation of four policies associated with kerbside recycling collections for every household in Shetland.

The Team Leader – Waste Management summarised the main terms of the report, and provided an overview on the four Policy documents, namely the Additional Capacity Policy, Assisted Uplift Policy, Excess Waste Policy and the Recycling Contamination Policy, which were appended to the report.

Reference was made to Section 4.1 of the report, where the current recycling rate in Shetland was reported as being 8%, and it was questioned whether there had been any increase in recycling as a result of the new recycling service pilot in Brae and Muckle Roe from March this year. The Team Leader – Waste Management reported that while tonnage at this time looks to be encouraging, a longer period

would be required to be able to confirm the increase. He advised however that lessons have been learned during the pilot and that the information leaflet is being updated to clarity and alleviate any issues.

In response to a comment regarding contamination of recycling, the Team Leader – Waste Management advised on the “3 strikes” response as set out in the Recycling Contamination Policy. He said however with the level of promotion and encouragement on the new scheme he questioned whether contamination would be a significant issue.

The Director of Infrastructure Services referred to the amount of work undertaken by the Team Leader – Waste Management and staff to develop and promote the new scheme, which involved changes in recycling for all households in Shetland. He advised on opportunities for Council Members and staff to positively promote the Scheme, which will contribute to increase recycling in Shetland.

In response to a question regarding the Assisted Uplift Policy, the Team Leader – Waste Management reported on the flexible approach that would be taken to assess properties requesting an assisted uplift where the distance from the usual collection point was over thirty metres. He added that risk and feasibility assessments would be undertaken to determine what would be operationally feasible to help and encourage people to recycle.

In response to a question, the Team Leader – Waste Management confirmed that the statement in Section 1.4 of the Assisted Uplift Policy, that as of September 2017 almost 5100 wheeled bins have been sold from the Council’s Landfill office.

During debate, comment was made on the significant progress on the recycling scheme, which has been successfully trialled and well publicised and promoted. The Team Leader– Waste Management was commended on his knowledge, quality of the presentation and level of engagement with communities. The Chair referred to the amount of work within the short timescale to meet the deadline for roll-out of the scheme during the Summer. He added that he had been aware of individuals opposed to the new scheme, however having attended the presentation and being informed of the proposals, they were now fully supportive of the scheme from both an environment and financial perspective.

On the motion of Mr McGregor, seconded by Mr Thomson, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

Decision:

The Committee considered the implementation of the four policies in Shetland, set out in Section 4, and approved their implementation in accordance with the Charter for Household Recycling - Code of Practice (CoP) and the dates as agreed with Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS).

The meeting concluded at 11.20am

.....
Chair

