

**Environment and Transport Committee  
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick  
Tuesday 2 October 2018 at 10.00am**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

C Hughson

**In Attendance (Officers):**

J Smith, Director of Infrastructure Services  
M Craigie, Executive Manager – Transport Planning  
S Thompson, Executive Manager - Schools  
N Hutcheson, Team Leader – Asset and Network  
B Robb, Management Accountant  
P Wishart, Solicitor  
B Kerr, Communications Officer  
L Malcolmson, Committee Officer

**Chair:**

Mr Thomson, Chair of the Committee, presided.

**Circular:**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

**Petition:**

The Chair of the Environment and Transport Committee read out the following statement:

*“A petition has been received formally by the Director of Infrastructure Services, with 494 signatories asking that the Council reinstates a two vessel service to Whalsay for the “Summer Season”.*

*The terms of the petition is attached to this agenda and a copy of the Petition is available for viewing by Members.*

*Obviously the reduction in the service was directly linked to the financial cutbacks made back in 2013. Given the Whalsay ferry service falls below the Governments own routes and services methodology, and the level of service constraints, particularly at peak times the Whalsay community suffers on a regular basis, the petition for an additional vessel at weekends during the Summer months is not an extravagant ask, nor is it something I feel shouldn't be considered.*

*As you are aware the Fair Funding Sounding Group meets on a regular basis, and I was in the fortunate position to be able to discuss Fair Funding of our internal ferries with the Deputy First Minister during his visit last week. There was no confirmation that this funding was in the*

*budget, but a meeting will be scheduled with Finance Minister Derek McKay in due course, and of course will keep the Committee and Members up to date on any development. Indeed the Leader along with the Chief Executive will be meeting the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Paul Wheelhouse, on Wednesday and I understand this topic will be the main area of discussion.*

*The Council have acted in good faith during discussions with Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government, it is our sincere expectation that full funding of our internal ferry service will be in the draft budget proposals for 2019/20, and we are not expecting nor anticipating any alternative outcome on this issue.*

*These issues are intertwined. In order to deliver a ferry service which falls in line with the Governments routes and services methodology, we first must seek that guarantee that our ferries will be funded fairly.*

*On specifically the Whalsay ferry service – this will be considered as part of the Revenue Outline Business Case for inter-island ferry services which is ongoing and currently underway, and that the Outline Revenue Business Case will be reported to Council early in the new financial year.”*

### **Declarations of Interests**

None

#### **25/18     Addendum to School Transport Policy 2018**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager - Schools (CS-33-18-F) that presented an addendum to the recently approved School Transport Policy 2018

The Executive Manager - Schools introduced the report and advised that the addendum had been omitted from the original Policy approved by the Council in June 2018.

During questions, the Executive Manager – Schools confirmed that the cost of £1k related to one charter flight ie. Tingwall to Foula excluding VAT.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report on the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr Coutts.

#### **Decision:**

The Environment and Transport Committee RECOMMENDED that the Policy and Resources Committee RECOMMENDS that the Council approve the proposed addendum to the School Transport Policy 2018.

#### **26/18     Winter Service Review 2018/19: Interim Measures**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network (RD-05-18-F) which presented the Winter Service Review 2018/19 and proposals for interim measures for the winter season 2018/19.

The Team Leader – Asset and Network introduced the report and explained the interim measures set out in the report.

Members spoke in support of the interim measures, and in answering questions the Team Leader – Asset and Network confirmed that the National Winter Service Research Group had taken over responsibility for winter maintenance guidance from the UK Liaison Group but this Council did not have a seat on that group.

Mr Thomson stated that the measures addressed the concerns of the public until the review is undertaken and he moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report. Mr McGregor seconded.

**Decision:**

The Environment and Transport Committee APPROVED the interim measures detailed in sections 4.6.3, 4.7.3 and 4.8.2 for the winter season 2018/19.

27/18

**Carriageway Condition of Shetland Roads**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network (RD-06-18-F) that presented an overview of carriageway conditions of Shetland roads and options for the future maintenance of the road network.

The Team Leader – Asset and Network introduced the report.

The Chair advised that he had attended a recent meeting of the Regional Transport Chairs in Shetland and commented that a number of those who had attended from south had been surprised by the good condition of Shetland's roads. The Chair gave credit to the Team Leader – Asset and Network and his team.

Members spoke in support of the rural housing estates receiving micro surfacing and comparisons were made between the roads in Shetland and other areas in Scotland such as Edinburgh. A word of caution was however expressed in terms of the problems that were being stored up for the future and that more is needed to prevent the deterioration of the network. It was suggested that a report should be presented on a long-term strategy for the roads network.

The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that there were a number of areas across the Council seeking long term budgets and there will be a series of reports on infrastructure to be presented that will go into the detail. He said that that by doing little and often will create bigger problems in the long term. The Chair agreed stating that a long term strategy is required.

Comment was made that the report presented mixed messages as the roads conditions in Shetland were better than many other areas, but that problems would arise in the future. The Leader said that nationally and locally authorities are being asked to do more and more with less funding. He said that the message was that services involved were doing well in terms of the challenges faced and budget available. He said that being able to maintain standards was a credit to all involved but it was clear that what can be seen on the surface is masking what is happening underneath. That said, he commented that at a local level the Council was meeting the needs of the community efficiently.

**Decision:**

The Environment & Transport Committee NOTED the contents of the report.

28/18

**Road Safety Inspection & Defect Categorisation Policy**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network (RD-04-18-F), which presented a proposal to revise the Road Safety Inspection and Defect Categorisation Policy.

The Team Leader – Asset and Network introduced the report and advised that the Policy took a risk based approach for categorising defects, however it was being proposed that the Council approve the Policy with a revision set out in section 2.3 of the report to retain the assessment levels currently adhered to.

During discussion, the Team Leader – Asset and Network explained that the proposed new Policy was more onerous than the recommendations in the report and having consulted with the Insurance Section the view was held that the Council continue with intervention rather than investigation levels.

In response to a question on the number of claims for chipped windscreens, the Director of Infrastructure Services advised that the information would be held by the Council’s Insurance Service and he would inform Members.

There being no debate Mr Thomson moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report, seconded by Mr Leask.

**Decision:**

The Environment & Transport Committee NOTED the contents of the report and RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Resources Committee that it approves the proposal to revise the Road Safety Inspection and Defect Categorisation Policy.

The meeting concluded at 10.30 pm.

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Chair