

# MINUTES

## B - Public

**Development Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Monday 1 October 2018 at 2pm**

**Present:**

P Campbell	A Cooper
S Coutts	A Duncan
J Fraser	S Leask
A Priest	T Smith

**Apologies**

A Manson

**In Attendance (Officers):**

N Grant, Director of Development Services  
A Jamieson, Executive Manager - Housing  
J Manson, Executive Manager - Finance  
C Bain, Treasury Accountant  
T Coutts, Project Manager  
W Grant, Project Manager  
K Nicolson, Project Manager  
A Ross, Solicitor  
B Kerr, Communications Officer  
L Adamson, Committee Officer

**Chair:**

Mr Cooper, Chair of the Committee, presided.

**Circular:**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

**Declarations of Interest**

None

24/18     **Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022**

The Committee considered a report by the Project Manager - Economic Development (DV-33-18-F) that presented the Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022.

In introducing the report, the Project Manager (T Coutts) advised on the main changes that have been made to the draft Strategy and Action Plan following consultation with stakeholders during July/August 2018.

In referring to the section "Our Ambitions" in the Strategy and to the Action Plan, a comment was made that a number of the targets set appeared to be fixed and quite restrictive, and in that regard it was suggested that the targets should be prefixed with the wording "a minimum of" in order to strive to exceed targets. In responding, the Project Manager advised that the targets set would always be considered to be

the minimum achievement. He advised also that a number of the targets were particularly ambitious, and there were projects where the Council will have to work in partnership and rely on different organisations for progress to be made.

In responding to questions relating to the outcome in the Action Plan to support links between businesses and graduates to engage graduate placements, the Project Manager explained that the scheme was in draft at this time, however following approval of the Strategy the detailed scheme would be worked up. He reported that while the Scheme was unlikely to be in operation this financial year, the aim would be to support three graduates during the next financial year, and annually thereafter.

In response to a question, the Director of Development Services advised on the uncertainty in terms of the worst case scenario for Shetland from the UK's exit from the European Union, however he advised on the importance for Shetland to be proactive to develop projects and create certainty where they exist in order to mitigate negative impacts.

During debate, comment was made on the importance to secure all income streams to realise a prosperous economy at a time of reducing budgets. The Chair advised on his disappointment at the lack of engagement from industry sectors during the consultation period on the draft Strategy, and he stressed the need going forward for greater engagement and joint working with industry. Mr Cooper moved that the Committee approve the recommendation in the report. Mr Duncan seconded.

#### **Decision:**

The Committee RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Resources Committee approval of the Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022.

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

#### **25/18      Business Loan Application**

The Committee considered a report by the Project Manager – Economic Development seeking approval for an offer of loan to BA Builders (Shetland) Ltd.

The Project Manager (W Grant) summarised the main terms of the report.

Following discussion where the Project Manager responded to questions from Members, Mr Cooper moved that the Committee approve the recommendations as set out in Section 1.1 of the report. Mr Leask seconded.

Whilst Mr Duncan confirmed that he was not against the proposal for the development of new houses, and he would encourage more companies to build houses in Shetland, Mr Duncan moved as an amendment, that the Committee defer a decision to allow for further investigation on the information in 3.11 of Appendix 2, with a further report to follow.

Mr Duncan's amendment did not receive a seconder.

#### **Decision:**

The Committee RESOLVED to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 1.1 of the report.

The meeting concluded at 2.40pm.

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Chair