

Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 10am

Present:

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

Apologies:

S Coutts	R McGregor
A Priest	D Sandison

In Attendance (Officers):

J Smith, Director of Infrastructure Services
G Maitland, Harbourmaster
R Barton, Transport Projects and Policy Officer
B Robb, Senior Management Accountant
P Sutherland, Solicitor
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

Mr Thomson declared an interest in item 2 "Taxi Tariff Review", as he is taxi licence holder and advised that he would vacate the Chamber during consideration of the item.

Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of the meetings held on 11 December 2018 on the motion of Mr Campbell seconded by Mr Leask.

01/19 **Exception from Contract standing Orders – Purchase of Dumper for Gremista Waste Management Centre and Landfill**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Waste Management (ES-01-19-F) that informed the Board of a contract award and works carried out as an exception to the Council's Contract Standing Orders by Environmental Services.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and in responding to a question he advised that he did not have the detail of the plant and vehicle budget but advised that he had worked with Finance on re-profiling of budgets and he was not aware of any budgetary issues created by the purchase of this vehicle. He agreed to circulate to Members the budget figure for the plant and vehicle replacement budget.

During further questions comment was made on the length of time it had taken to purchase a replacement vehicle and concern was expressed that that the Council was bound in process that cost the Council more at a time of reducing budgets. The option of leasing a vehicle was also commented upon and the Senior Management Accountant explained that if a lease option were used it would take money from the revenue account and the Council is short on revenue funding. She explained that there is sufficient funding in the capital grant to cover the cost of replacement. The Senior Management Accountant went on to advise that leasing is less economical than purchase as the Council has its own garage to undertake the maintenance of the vehicles giving a better outcome in the round. She advised that the Council's own Capital Policy states how the budget is to be used and this purchase is covered by that, she confirmed that the use of the budget is not dictated to the Council by the Scottish Government.

In terms of the £50k limit Officers were asked if that was a historical figure and whether that should be reviewed. The Senior Management Accountant advised that the Contract Standing Orders had been reviewed recently.

Decision

The Committee **NOTED** the exception applied.

The Chair referred to his earlier declaration of interest in the next item and in the absence of the Vice-Chair he nominated Mr G Smith to sit as Chair pro-tem, Mr Leask seconded and the Committee concurred.

(Mr Thomson left the Chamber and Mr G Smith took the Chair)

02/19 Taxi Tariff Review

The Committee considered a report by the Transport Policy and Projects Officer (DV-03-19-F) that sought approval for a table of tariffs to be used as the basis for statutory consultation and reporting.

The Transport Policy and Projects Officer introduced the report and advised on the recommendation to Policy and Resources to move to statutory consultation. She informed the Committee that there is an obligation to review tariffs at periods of not longer than 18 months. The last tariff review concluded in February 2018 but in fact the tariffs had not altered since December 2014. She explained that there had not been a functioning Taxi Owner's Association for some time, making engagement between the Licensing Authority and the industry as a whole difficult, but it had been re-established in October 2018 and the proposed tariffs had come from them. She explained that the valid reasons behind the rise in fares included increased fuel and running costs, the loss made on shorter journeys and the need to charge more for cleaning to reflect the time the vehicle is out of service. She also explained the proposal to extend the festive charge into the period after midnight on to 6am, to ensure that people were not paying less for a journey in the small hours of the morning than they had paid in the early evening, and the high visitor demand for tours which had led to a proposed fixed excursion rate.

During consideration of the report Members noted that the fares were not significantly different to other areas in Scotland and comment was made on the high standard of service in Shetland which was seen as good value for money. The Transport Policy and Projects Officer added that the increases would put Shetland higher up the national

table of tariffs but given the higher cost of fuel and higher cost of living in Shetland it was not considered unreasonable.

In responding to a question in regard to tourism, the Transport Policy and Projects Officer advised that the Association had come up with rates based on other areas in Scotland and they gave consideration to the accredited tourist guides. She advised that she would circulate more detail on this to the Committee following the meeting. The Transport Policy and Projects Officer further advised that now there is an active Taxi Owner's Association there would be better communication with the industry and it would be possible to seek feedback from the Shetland Islands Tourist Guide Association as to what feedback they receive on the taxi services

Mr Leask moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report. Mr Campbell seconded.

Decision

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Policy and Resources Committee **RESOLVES** to approve the table of tariffs given in Appendix 1 as the basis for statutory consultation and reporting as set out in Appendix 2.

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr Thomson 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.

03/19 Infrastructure Services Department – Executive Management Restructure

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services that presented proposals to restructure the Executive Management of the Infrastructure Services Department following review to reflect changes in the business needs of the Council.

The Director of Infrastructure introduced the report and responded to Member's questions and following some discussion Ms Manson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, Mr Leask seconded.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee **CONSIDERED** the proposals within their remit, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Policy & Resources Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report.

The meeting concluded at 10.50am.

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Chair