

---

# MINUTE

# A&B - PUBLIC

**Environment and Transport Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Monday 4 March 2019 at 2.00pm**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

S Coutts

**In Attendance (Officers):**

J Smith, Director of Infrastructure Services  
D Coupe, Executive Manager - Roads  
M Craigie, Executive Manager – Transport Planning  
C Bragg, Team Leader – Waste Management  
A Inkster, Team Leader – Port Engineering  
N Hutcheson, Team Leader – Roads  
S Goodlad, Team Leader – Building Services  
B Robb, Management Accountant  
J Macleod, Performance & Improvement Adviser  
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.

**Declarations of Interests**

None

**Minutes**

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2019 on the motion of Mr Leask, seconded by Ms Manson.

05/19      **Infrastructure Directorate Performance Quarter 3 2018/19**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (ISD-03-19-F) that summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Directorate for the third quarter of 2018/19.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and advised on achievements against projects and actions.

During consideration of the report, Members discussed the movement of skilled workers from the Council and the Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the retention of skilled workers and apprentices is difficult when opportunities outwith the organisation appear more attractive. He said that the Council was committed to training its workforce the Council does all it can to keep its staff. The Committee acknowledged that the Council was supportive of apprenticeships however it was suggested that more could be done to advise young people of the opportunities available and career paths that could be followed. The Director of Infrastructure confirmed that there were good career progression opportunities with the department and he would raise this issue with Human Resources when he meets later in the week to discuss recruitment statistics.

*(Mr G Smith attended the meeting)*

The Committee also discussed the reduction in food hygiene inspections and the Director of Infrastructure Services advised that work in this area had to be prioritised in line with the resources available. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that there are discussion ongoing in regard to Brexit and whether it will create the need for more information on fish exports which would put an extra strain on services. Following further discussion it was agreed that Members would be provided with statistics on reaction times and how the Environmental Health service performs against its targets.

As requested at a previous meeting of the Committee, the Team Leader – Waste Management provided an update on the recycling shed project and advised that there was an expected move in date of July 2019.

In regard to the underspend for winter maintenance, the Executive Manager – Roads explained that it had been a mild winter so far and that there had been an underspend in both wages and materials. He added that any surplus of materials would be carried over to next year.

There followed discussion on the new income stream for the Energy Recovery Plant in terms of NHS Scotland's clinical waste. The Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the income stream was dependent upon incineration capacity and the constrained supply of waste. He said that more would be understood following discussions with the NHS and contractors. He added that there are decisions being made in Aberdeen regarding waste to energy plants so there may be more facilities emerging in the next three to five years. In regard to concerns expressed by North Lerwick residents, the Director of Infrastructure Services advised that the waste was considered low risk but this would continue to be monitored by SEPA to ensure staff safety. He said that the Council already handles clinical waste and care is taken when it is processed. He assured the Committee that there is a limit to what can be processed in Shetland so the scale would not increase significantly.

Comment was made on the difficult position in regard to the overspend on ferries, and assurance was sought all was being done to mitigate the costs and reduce overtime. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that the ferry timetables are set and have to be met and that was the priority. He said that there are recruitment and retention issues particularly in engineering, but work was being done to make adjustments to keep services running which meant that some staff were working "above and beyond". He acknowledged that was not a sustainable position in the long term.

Reference was made to Appendix G and the assessment to be undertaken to establish whether a pelican crossing is needed for the new Anderson High School. The Executive Manager – Roads advised that a budget had been set aside for reassessment of pelican crossings once it was known where pupils would cross. He said however that pupils are crossing the road at multiple locations therefore a better place could not be found. He noted that pupils do cross at Tesco and Grantfield where there are split islands where the traffic is at a near standstill. He said that pupil movements would continue to be monitored but no particular pattern had emerged that would mean the pelican crossing would be moved.

There being no debate, the Committee noted the report.

**Decision:**

The Committee noted the report as appropriate to their remit and commented on progress against priorities to inform further activity within the remainder of this year, and the planning process for next and future years.

06/19

**Development Services Directorate Performance Report - 9 Month/3rd Quarter 2018/19**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Development Services (DV-04-F) summarising the activity and performance of the Development Directorate for the third quarter of 2018/19.

The Director of Development Services summarised the main terms of the report that related to the remit of the Committee. He advised of the additional contribution to ZetTrans and provided further detail on that decision required at Section 1.2.

In responding to questions, the Executive Manager – Transport Planning advised that the smart ticketing for ferries was technically available but required investment. In that regard, Officers were in dialogue with the Scottish Government to invest in bus and ferry hardware integration. He explained that Transport Scotland were happy to invest in the business case and the ambition was to achieve smart ticketing on buses and ferries by the end of the calendar year.

Reference was made to concessionary fares for public transport, and in response to a question the Executive Manager – Transport Planning advised that concessionary fares are only part funded by the Scottish Government and this was to reduce further to 52% funded by 1 April 2019, and the Council had to cover the remainder.

During further discussion, the Executive Manager – Transport Planning provided clarity around the costs for consultancy work in connection with the Outline Business Case for the Fair Funding for Ferries. It was acknowledged that the passenger usage on ferries had dropped and the Executive Manager - Transport Planning said that it would be possible to provide a breakdown of figures in future reports on the number of vehicles carried each year on internal ferry services. The Executive Manager – Transport Planning added that Transport Scotland had withdrawn their funding contribution to the consultation. It was noted that costs of procurement could not be limited to set aside for consultation fees, as most of the budget had already been spent now that the process was so close to conclusion.

**Decision:**

The Committee:

- NOTED the report as appropriate to their remit and commented on progress against priorities to inform further activity within the remainder of this year, and the planning process for next and future years; and
- NOTED that there is a requirement for an increased contribution to ZetTrans of up to £0.484m to fund the additional cost of running the public bus and air services; and consultancy costs to carry out the public transport network re-design.

07/19

**Shetland's Road Safety Strategy 2019/22**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network (RD-01-19-F) that provided information on the Shetland Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2019-22.

The Executive Manager – Roads introduced the report, and in responding to questions he advised that driver training was being reviewed for insurance purposes and this Strategy was about road safety partners. He said however there was no reason that defensive training could not be looked at but it was not within the remit of the partnership to reinstate such training.

Comment was made that the Strategy should be communicated as widely as possible, and it was agreed that this should be done in a way that reaches the wider public. The Executive Manager – Roads confirmed that was part of the plan and the Strategy would be available on the Council's website and would be added to the communication strategy to ensure that the awareness of the Road Safety Strategy is sent out into the Community.

During further consideration of the Road Safety Strategy it was highlighted that with the percentage figures already being very low, one accident could skew these figures dramatically. It was hoped that this strategy would make a difference not just for young drivers. Comment was made on the level of bad driving and overtaking that takes place on Shetland's roads. It was acknowledged the Police Service is stretched in terms of budget, and therefore constrained in what they can do, but it was noted that the change in drink driving laws had reduced the drink driving related accidents. There was also recognition that many bad driving incidents are not reported to the Police but there has been an increase in social media posts made by disgruntled drivers who have witnessed such incidents. The Vice-Chair made a plea that where an individual witnesses bad driving that this is reported to the Police.

Mr Leask moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report, seconded by Mr Priest.

**Decision:**

The Committee RESOLVED to approve the Shetland's Roads Safety Strategy & Action Plan 2019-22.

08/19

**Review of Streetlighting Reduction Policy**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network (RD-02-19-F) that provided information on a review of the Streetlighting Reduction Policy.

The Executive Manager – Roads introduced the report, and in responding to a question he confirmed that a decision regarding streetlighting in Scalloway, taken by the Council, had now been actioned.

During debate, the review was regarded as a sensible approach. It was suggested however that it would be prudent for consultation to take place with residents where streetlights have been removed, and if they are not happy the streetlights should be reintroduced, using LED units, in order that the Council is implementing the same policy across Shetland.

A request was made that Community Councils be used as part of those investigations to inform the process.

Advice was given that the reinstatement of streetlighting was outwith the terms of this report, and that as there would be a significant cost implication involved in consulting with the affected members of the public and in the potential reinstatement cost, that such considerations would need to be the subject of a separate report.

Mr G Smith moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report with the addition of paragraph 1.1.3 that where streetlighting has been removed, to consult with residents and others, as appropriate, with a commitment to reinstate the lights should that be the overall wishes of those affected residents. Mr Leask seconded.

**Decision:**

The Committee RECOMMENDED that the Policy and Resources Committee APPROVES the “Streetlighting Reduction Policy” as detailed in section 4.4, namely:

- Introduce dimmed lighting in areas where part-night lighting is currently in place [Section 4.4.1 – 4.4.2];
- Part-night lighting to be discontinued [Section 4.4.3]; and
- Discontinue the policy to completely remove streetlights [Section 4.4.4], and
- Where streetlighting has been removed, to consult with residents and others, as appropriate, with a commitment to reinstate the lights should that be the overall wishes of those affected residents.

09/19

**Environment & Transport Committee Business Programme 2019/20**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (ISD-04-19-F) providing information on the Business Programme of the Committee for the financial year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The report also included items where the date is still to be determined.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and following consideration of the items to be brought to the future meetings it was agreed that an

item be included on “Gravestone Safety” to be presented to Committee on 7 May 2019.

**Decision:**

The Committee APPROVED the business planned for Environment and Transport Committee in the financial year 2019/20, as amended.

The meeting concluded at 3.10pm.

.....  
Chair