

Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 2.00pm

Present:

P Campbell	S Coutts
C Hughson	S Leask
A Manson	R McGregor
A Priest	G Smith

Apologies:

D Sandison	R Thomson
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In Attendance (Officers):

J Smith, Director of Infrastructure Services
N Grant, Director of Development Services
A Inkster, Executive Manager – Marine and Airport Infrastructure
C Symons, Executive Manager – Environmental Services and Estate Operations
K Main, Team Leader – Port & Marine Operations
N Hutcheson, Team Leader – Roads
B Robb, Management Accountant
P Wishart, Solicitor
L Malcolmson, Committee Officer

Also:

M Lyall

Chair:

Mr McGregor, Vice-chair, presided in the absence of the Chair of the Committee.

The Chair reminded the Committee of their responsibilities in terms of Pre-election Guidance already provided when

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Petition – Traffic Calming – Gilbertson Road etc.

The Chair drew attention to the terms of the petition at agenda Item C and read out the following response from the Roads Service

“The Roads Service is to hold a public meeting in mid-December at the Gilbertson Park Games Hall to discuss proposals for a 20 mph speed limit on Gilbertson Road and the crescents to the north of Hayfield Lane. This proposal would link with the existing 20 mph zone covering the south crescents and the south end of Gilbertson Road outside Bell’s Brae School. Traffic calming on Gilbertson Road, including the south section at the school, will be one of the proposals discussed.

This meeting will be followed by the formal consultation required by legislation and in due course, probably in April 2020, the findings from the meeting and consultation will be reported to Committee for decision.”

Declarations of Interests

None

Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2019 on the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr Leask.

21/19 Development Directorate Performance Report – Q2 2019/20

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Development Services (DV-34-19-F) that summarised the activity and performance of the Development Directorate for Q1 & Q2 2019/20, enabling Members to analyse its performance against the Directorate's Service objectives and the Corporate Plan outcomes.

The Director of Development Services introduced the report in terms of the matters that related to the Environment and Transport Committee.

(Mr Campbell attended the meeting)

There being no questions and no debate the Committee noted the report.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the content of the report.

22/19 Strategic Roads Network – Strategic Outline Programme

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager Roads Services and Team Leader – Asset and Network (RD-06-19-F) that provided information on current and projected needs, issues and opportunities around large-scale potential projects which might be required to maintain or develop the capability of the core Roads network in Shetland.

The Executive Manager – Roads Services summarised the main terms of the report.

During discussions a question was raised in regard to the previous Council's intent when the maintenance programme was put on hold. It was noted however that questioning the previous Council's decision in regard to priorities could not be answered by an Officer. It was acknowledged however that there had been no strategic programme in place for some time therefore it was important that this report is brought to Member's attention.

The Executive Manager – Roads Services was asked to provide an explanation on which roads are identified as part of the core road network when other important routes are not. He explained that the strategic network had been developed over many years and the main route was detailed closely using the maintenance hierarchy. He said that the main principal roads were established by the government and in addition to the spine network there are also the routes that link the ferry terminals. In responding specifically on the Walls Pier Road the Executive Manager – Roads Services advised that an assessment was needed to see if it should be added. The Executive Manager – Roads Services explained that West

Burrafirth had been added as it is the only route linking with a ferry terminal that is not included in the strategy.

Concern was expressed in regard to the progression of the rest of the priorities listed on the programme and clarity was sought in terms of how these other priorities would be carried forward to reporting stage. The Director of Infrastructure Services provided a fulsome explanation and concluded that no action would be taken without a complete business case process. He advised that there would be an update provided in January alongside a commitment to revisit the programme, and that on each occasion reports would reflect back on the programme and what steps would be taken next.

Reference was made to the Cullivoe Road and concern was expressed in regard to the planning/development restrictions in place as a direct result of the current road condition. The Executive Manager – Roads Services explained that without any resolution to the condition of the road he was unable to determine how long the road could remain open. He explained the patching work that had been undertaken and advised that Road Inspectors were now in a monitoring regime to see how long it can last or how long before a weight restriction is in place.

It was further acknowledged that there are problems across Shetland's road network and it was stressed that mitigation is required now.

The Chair referred to a recent visit to Mid Yell school by the Chair of the Committee and it was noted that there was much interest in the Cullivoe Road by the pupils. He said that he would report back to the Chair of the Committee in order that he could pass on the decision of the Committee to the pupils.

During debate the previous Councils decisions were again questioned on whether they were prudent or thrifty but this Council was in a process to looking after the roads. The Council recognised that there is now a build up of roads that need extensive maintenance and these were not just school routes but service every part of life and that a certain level of standard is expected.

In addition concern was expressed in regard to the time taken to bring some of these projects forward and it was noted that the priority lists constantly shift and change to accommodate emergency situations elsewhere on the network. A call was made for proper planning and capital investment.

The Leader paid tribute to the Roads Services for maintaining the roads to the current standard within budget and stated that these are political choices that this Council now had control over.

Mr Priest moved that the Council approve the recommendations contained in the report. Ms Manson seconded.

Decision:

The Committee recommended that the Council:

- **NOTE** actions taken to date regarding the development and maintenance of Shetlands Strategic Roads network.
- **ENDORSE** the objectives and critical success factors set out in the Strategic Outline Programme including the proposed reporting arrangements;

- **APPROVE** the identification of the B9082 Cullivoe road as the priority project for resolution within the Strategic Roads network;
- **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Infrastructure Services or his nominee to initiate the preparation of a Strategic Outline Business case for the B9082 Cullivoe Road again in January 2020; and
- **NOTE** the addition of the road to the West Burrafirth Ferry Terminal to the strategic road network.

23/19

Carriageway Condition of Shetland's Roads

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Asset and Network (RD-07-19-F) that presented an overview of carriageway conditions of Shetland roads and options for the future maintenance of the road network.

The Chair advised that there was a change in the wording of the decision required with the removal of the word “overall” and insertion of “A class”.

The Team Leader – Asset and Network introduced the report and apologised for the error in the report stating that the overall condition of Shetland's roads had deteriorated. In responding to questions the Team Leader – Asset and Network advised that the road condition survey does not take account of how many houses are occupied in the area but when the road maintenance hierarchy is applied consideration is given to population.

Reference was made specifically to the condition of the old North Road and the Team Leader – Asset and Network confirmed that this was a public road that required to be maintained by the Council. He said that although most of the damage to the road will be from the quarry, the quarry is well established and the Council has responsibility to keep the road maintained. He said that where an existing road is damaged due to a new development project, it would be appropriate to charge the developer to contribute to repairing the road.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the contents of this report including the improvement in the “A class” Road Condition Indicator (RCI) figure shown in the 2017-19 results, the benchmarking of Shetland's roads against the other Scottish local authorities and the predicted impact of budgetary decisions on the future condition of our carriageways.

24/19

Environment and Transport Committee Business Programme – 2019/20

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (ISD-15-19-F) that provided information on the Business Programme of the Committee for the financial year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 including items where the date is still to be determined.

In introducing the report the Director of Infrastructure Services indicated that the January 2020 meeting had a number of reports on it and there may be a need to move some business into the next meeting.

During discussion concern was expressed that the gritting review was not taking place until the new year. A request was made that the report include an explanation of the hierarchy applied to the gritting of roads. In response to a question the Director of Infrastructure Services confirmed that the service were working to the enhanced policy approved last year.

A request was made that Infrastructure Service Performance Report is presented in January before budget setting meetings.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the business planned in the financial year 2019/20.

The meeting concluded at 2.45pm.

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Chair