

MINUTE

‘A’ & ‘B’

Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Thursday 16 March 2006 at 10.30am

Present:

F B Grains	L Angus
A J Cluness	C B Eunson
R G Feather	B P Gregson
L G Groat	I J Hawkins
J H Henry	J A Inkster
J C Irvine	E J Knight
W H Manson	Capt G G Mitchell
J P Nicolson	F A Robertson
J G Simpson	W N Stove
T W Stove	W Tait

Apologies:

B J Cheyne W A Ratter

In Attendance:

L Bisset, Capital Projects Manager
B Doughty, Interim Head of Social Work
C Ferguson, Community Care Manager
N Galbraith, Interim Head of Education
S Gray, Chair, Shetland Childcare Partnership
N Henderson, Creative Links Officer
M Malcolmson, Leisure Facilities Officer
C Medley, Head of Housing
S Morgan, Service Manager, Looked After Children
A Nicol, Youth Development Officer
J Reyner, Acting Quality Improvement Manager
G Smith, Head of Community Development
L Adamson, Committee Officer

Also:

B Beattie, Consultant
S Westbrook, Consultant

Chairperson

Mrs F B Grains, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 26 January 2006, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

There was nothing to report.

10/06 **Changing Lives – 21st Century Social Work Review**

The Committee noted a report by the Interim Head of Social Work (Appendix 1). The Interim Head of Social Work advised that a copy of the summary report had been sent to all Members.

The Interim Head of Social Work summarised the key recommendations from the review, outlined in Section 3.3.3 of the report.

11/06 **Girlsta Chalets – Update**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Capital Programmes and Housing (Appendix 2).

(Mr J A Inkster attended the meeting).

12/06 **Cinema and Music Venue – Review of Business Plan**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Community Development (Appendix 3).

The Head of Community Development advised that the review of the Business Case for the Cinema and Music Venue was attached as an Appendix to the report. In terms of good practise, and at the request of the Scottish Arts Lottery, the review had been undertaken prior to the Stage 2 submission. He advised that Mr Bryan Beattie and Mr Steve Westbrook, the authors of the Review were present at the meeting to answer questions.

The Head of Community Development advised that by following some adjustments prudent in the sense of changing times, the review had concluded that a realistic figure of £80,000 per annum would be required to meet the operating costs of the venue. A sensitivity analysis of 20% had been applied which could make an operating surplus of over £100,000 or a deficit of £200,000, but realistically an operating costs subsidy would be in the region of £80,000.

Mr B Beattie summarised the background and key points from the Review. Their role had been to test the assumptions made in the original business plan. Mr Beattie said that the original submission getting through Stage 1 from the Scottish Arts Lottery was a very good test. The submission had been very detailed with sound underlying business principles. Mr Beattie advised that they had taken a cautious approach in downsizing estimates on cinema attendance, music venue attendance and café sales and having reviewed other similar venues in the UK, had increased the staff provision.

Mr A J Cluness said this project had been the subject of some controversy, with similar controversy arising during the proposals to

build the Clickimin Centre and that facility was now of huge importance to the community. Mr Cluness said that Shetland has musical advantages with its high quality of music promoted worldwide. The venue would be a centre of excellence and an enormous tool for promoting Shetland. Mr Cluness advised that Shetland College had proposed that music students would use the facility and this would be a huge opportunity for Shetland. Mr A J Cluness moved that the Committee note the report, congratulate the officers on the work done to date and to move on with the project with the least possible delay. Mr W N Stove seconded.

Mr J P Nicolson said that it was important that this project moves on through a series of honest appraisals and for the Council to be open and realistic throughout the process.

It was reported that some Members had met with representatives of the Youth Voice Forum who were very supportive of the Cinema and Music Venue and keen for the project to go ahead, although they had concerns relating to the bar and the sale of alcohol.

Mr J C Irvine said he had received numerous comments from the public regarding this project, however he advised that he was not representing the Shetland Licensed Trade Association. Mr J C Irvine moved, as an amendment, to source information and terms for a referendum for the next meeting and to note the report at this stage. Mr J A Inkster seconded.

In response to a query from a Member, Mr Westbrook confirmed that concession tickets had been included in the attendance projections.

In response to a query regarding corporate sponsorship, Mr Westbrook advised that the figure of £5,000 in the Review was a conservative figure, and the figure would increase for certain events at this unique venue.

Mr W H Manson said that Shetland has specialist facilities for sports and the benefits can be seen. Shetland does not have specialist facilities for music and although the Clickimin Centre can be used for large musical events, this is very expensive and the acoustics at the Centre are not good. Mr Manson added that there was also the need for specialist facilities for a cinema in Shetland.

Mr F A Robertson said that with Shetland music being promoted worldwide and bands visiting Shetland, it was estimated that music brings in £5m per year to Shetland. To have a venue where bands could perform, study, and meet with peers from other areas would be a tremendous opportunity for Shetland.

In response to a query from a Member, the Head of Community Development advised that with the increased projections to operate the venue, the Stage 2 submission to the Scottish Arts Lottery would include methods of ensuring that the subsidy can be met.

During summing up, Mr J C Irvine moved for a Roll Call vote, and by 14 votes to 6, the Committee agreed, the results of which were as follows:

A J Cluness	Motion
C B Eunson	Amendment
R G Feather	Amendment
F B Grains	Motion
B P Gregson	Motion
L G Groat	Amendment
I J Hawkins	Motion
J H Henry	Motion
J A Inkster	Amendment
J C Irvine	Amendment
E J Knight	Motion
W H Manson	Motion
G G Mitchell	Amendment
J P Nicolson	Motion
F A Robertson	Motion
J G Simpson	Motion
W H Stove	Motion
T W Stove	Amendment
W Tait	Motion
L Angus	Abstained

Amendment	7
Motion	12
Abstention	1

(The motion by Mr Cluness was declared the finding of the meeting).

(Mr A J Cluness, Mr J C Irvine and Mr F A Robertson left the meeting).

13/06

Future of Shetland Childcare

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Head of Social Work (Appendix 4).

(Captain G G Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Ness 2000 Out of School Club)

The Interim Head of Social Work explained the main terms of the report and advised that officers had gone through a considerable

amount of detail to come up with innovative and cost effective solutions for childcare provision in Shetland.

Mr L Angus stated that he had difficulties with this report. As Chairman of the Social Work Task Group (SWTG), the approach was to integrate all children's services and the proposals in this report are not for an integrated approach. Mr Angus advised that he had concerns that the Breakfast Clubs would cease from June, as parents had not been consulted on this proposal. This service should not close until some alternative arrangements have been made. Mr L Angus moved that the report be deferred for one cycle to allow the report on the findings from the SWTG to be considered. Mr J P Nicolson seconded.

In response to a query from a Member, the Head of Community Development advised that childcare provision had not been included in the Terms of Reference for the Islesburgh Trust Working Group. The Chair, Shetland Childcare Partnership, explained that it was crucial that decisions are made today on Islesburgh One Stop childcare and childcare provision at Firth and Mossbank, as the service at Firth and Mossbank could cease on 1 April due to funding difficulties.

Referring to the proposed closure of the Breakfast Clubs, the Chair, Shetland Childcare Partnership, apologised for neglecting to consult with parents whose children attend the Clubs.

Mr W H Manson stated that he did not consider that discussing the findings from the Task Group was a reason to defer a decision being made today. Mr Manson moved, as an amendment, that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, with the exception of recommendation 8.7, and a report on the proposals for the breakfast clubs at Islesburgh One Stop Childcare and Firth and Mossbank to be presented to the next cycle of meetings. Mr W Tait seconded.

(Mr J C Irvine and Mr F A Robertson returned to the meeting)

Mr L Angus said that he still had misgivings with the lack of integration of service, however, in receiving the consent of his seconder, Mr L Angus agreed to withdraw his motion.

14/06

Audit of Child Protection in Shetland

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Head of Social Work (Appendix 5).

The Interim Head of Social Work summarised the main terms of the report.

On the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr B P Gregson, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

Mrs I J Hawkins referred to section 4.2 in the report, and enquired whether the proposal could lead to harassment. The Interim Head of Social Work explained that there was often a rule of optimism when working with families with too much taken at face value. The Audit therefore recommended the need for a critical analysis to ensure that co-operation does take place.

15/06 **Additional Resources for Youth Justice**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Children and Families Services (Appendix 6) and on the motion of Mr J G Simpson, seconded by Mr L Angus, approved the recommendations contained therein.

16/06 **Guaranteed Hours for Social Care Workers**

The Committee considered a report by the Community Care Manager (Appendix 7) and on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr E J Knight, approved the recommendation contained therein.

17/06 **Career Grades for Staff in the Social Work Service**

The Committee considered a report by the Community Care Manager (Appendix 8) and on the motion of Mr J G Simpson, seconded by Mr J C Irvine, approved the recommendations contained therein.

18/06 **New Housing Development in Lerwick and Landward Areas**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing (Appendix 9).

The Head of Housing summarised the main terms of the report. Captain G G Mitchell said that the proposals in the report were an innovative way of dealing with the local housing situation. Captain Mitchell moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr L Angus seconded.

Mrs I J Hawkins referred to Section 3.14 in the report, and advised that it had come to her attention that a substantial amount of land could be available in the future for housing development in the Scalloway area, following the zoning review and consultation with the local community. She said that the door should not close on future housing developments in the Scalloway area.

Mr L G Groat stated that the proposals in the report were excellent and looked forward to the disposal of the word 'Hoofields' and to its reputation.

19/06 **Shared Management of Schools in Shetland: Pilot Project – Cullivoe Primary School and Mid Yell Junior High School**

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Head of Education (Appendix 10).

The Interim Head of Education reported that the shared management proposal had emerged from the School board itself. He advised that there were potential savings from shared management on staff costs and the pilot would be subject to very full consultation.

Mr J P Nicolson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, and Mr B P Gregson seconded.

20/06 **Shared Management of Schools in Shetland: Pilot Project – Fetlar Primary School and Baltasound Junior High School**

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Head of Education (Appendix 11).

The Interim Head of Education advised that the Fetlar School board had requested the meeting with the Education Service to discuss shared management. It is proposed, for the duration of the pilot, that Fetlar Primary School would be managed by the Depute Head Teacher (Primary) from Baltasound Junior High School.

Mr B P Gregson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, and Mr T W Stove seconded.

21/06 **Additional Support Needs Provision - Update**

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Head of Education (Appendix 12) and on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr C B Eunson, approved the recommendation contained therein.

In response to a query from a Member, the Interim Head of Education confirmed that NHS Shetland had experienced difficulties in recruiting speech therapists. However, the situation had now been sorted. He added that there was currently a national shortage of speech therapists.

Mr L Angus reported that he was aware of cases where auxiliary staff had been employed to assist children with additional needs, and when that child had moved on, the auxiliary staff had been retained in the school, often doing lesser duties. The Interim Head of Education advised that the proposal in Section 4.3 in the report addresses the point raised.

22/06 **Local Support Co-ordinators**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Community Development, Interim Head of Social Work and the Interim Head of Education (Appendix 13).

The Head of Community Development summarised the main terms of the report and advised that this was an important report to ensure that the needs of children and young people are met. Early intervention and identification of the issues were very important before they manifest to further problems. He advised that the pilot had run for over two years, and with the changes in delivery and funding this allows the posts of Co-ordinators to become permanent.

Mr J P Nicolson said that this was a very good initiative and moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr W H Manson seconded. Mr Manson added that as Local Support Co-ordinators is an evolving role, that delegated authority should be given to the Chair of the Integrated Children and Young People Services Planning Group to amend as necessary. Mr J P Nicolson agreed to incorporate this into his motion.

In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Community Development advised that as the posts were now permanent, the services of the Local Support Co-ordinators would be advertised.

23/06 **Review of the Ongoing Management and Maintenance of Play Areas in Shetland**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development (Appendix 14).

Mr L Angus moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, and to approve funding option 7.5.3. Mr J H Henry seconded.

24/06 **Capital Grants to Voluntary Organisations – Refurbishment of Skerries Hall**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development (Appendix 15) and on the motion of Mr J G Simpson, seconded by Mr E J Knight, approved the recommendation contained therein.

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F B Grains
Chairperson