

## MINUTE

**‘B’**

**Infrastructure Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Tuesday 2 May 2006 at 10.30 a.m.**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

B J Cheyne	F B Grains
L G Groat	

**In Attendance (Officers):**

G Spall, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services  
S Cooper, Acting Head of Transport/Head of Environmental Services  
N Galbraith, Interim Head of Education  
J Grant, Waste Services Manager  
J Emptage, Cleansing Services Manager  
D Marsh, Service Manager, Trading Standards  
D Macnae, Network Manager  
I Bruce, Service Manager, Transport Operations  
K Adam, Solicitor  
C Manson, Committee Officer  
L Adamson, Committee Officer

**Chairperson:**

Mr J C Irvine, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

**Circular:**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

**Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 14 March 2006, having been circulated, was confirmed.

**Members' Attendance at External Meetings**

The following Members provided a brief synopsis of their attendance at the following meetings:

W Tait	Police and Fire Board meetings, Inverness
--------	---

W Tait J P Nicolson	Police and Fire Board meetings, Stornoway
Captain G G Mitchell I J Hawkins	Future Fare Seminar, Glasgow CoSLA Roads and Transport Executive Group, Edinburgh NFLA Meeting, Dundee
A J Cluness	Convention of Highlands and Islands, Orkney
J C Irvine	Meeting between Transport Minister and Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships, Holyrood, Edinburgh on 30 March 2006  Launch of Scottish Transport Agency by the Transport Minister, Holyrood, Edinburgh on 19 April 2006

Further information can be obtained from the Members concerned.

16/06      **Nominations to Scottish Liaison Group on Radioactive Waste Management**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Administration (Appendix 1).

Mr T W Stove nominated Mrs I J Hawkins as the substantive Member for appointment to the Scottish Liaison Group on Radioactive Waste Management. Mr B P Gregson seconded. As an amendment, Mr W Tait nominated Mr J H Henry, as substantive Member, and Mr L Angus seconded.

(Mr W A Ratter attended the meeting).

Voting followed by a show of hands and the result was as follows:

Mr J H Henry	9
Mrs I J Hawkins	6

Mr J H Henry was duly elected as the substantive Member for appointment to the Scottish Liaison Group on Radioactive Waste Management.

Mr J C Irvine nominated Mr W Tait as the substitute Member for appointment to the Scottish Liaison Group on Radioactive Waste Management. Mr F A Robertson seconded. As an amendment, Mr B P Gregson nominated Mrs I J Hawkins, as substitute Member, and Mr R G Feather seconded.

Voting followed by a show of hands and the result was as follows:

Mrs I J Hawkins	10
-----------------	----

Mrs I J Hawkins was duly elected as the substitute Member.

17/06

**Enforcement of Legislation Controlling the Supply of Tobacco and Other Age-Restricted Products**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Trading Standards (Appendix 2).

Mr J P Nicolson referred to Section 3.3 in the report, "Following a successful pilot project in four Scottish local authorities, the Lord Advocate has given permission for all Scottish Trading Standard Services to use young people to undertake test purchasing of tobacco, fireworks and other age-restricted products". He said the theory of the national project was acceptable and he recognised the principle to try to ensure that regulations were in place and enforced as far reasonable, he had concerns regarding the absence of any anonymity in the Shetland setting, and that the young people involved could be targeted. He also had concerns that the young people could be required to give evidence in court. Mr W H Manson, Spokesperson for Children and Young People, said he also had concerns relating to the question of anonymity in Shetland and the narrow range of children to be selected from, with the recommendation that the children should be aged between 13-14½ years.

Mr W A Ratter said that there could be benefits in training and involving young people in this law prohibiting the sale of age-restricted products.

In response to a query from Mrs I J Hawkins as to how the young people would be selected, the Service Manager, Trading Standards said that Trading Standards would consult with the Education Service to find a suitable way of inviting volunteers. The Executive Director reported that the whole idea of this project was to publicise the campaign, to make sellers of age restricted products aware and to get the message across not to sell these goods to young children. He added that the young volunteers selected would require to be very obviously too young.

Mr J H Henry said that there could be serious consequences with the project, with the volunteers being targeted by other young people. He did not believe that this was a correct way to test the compliance of retailers and suggested that an alternative approach should be considered.

Mr A J Cluness said that he had real concerns with this project for the community of Shetland and also that the young volunteers would be required to attend court. He therefore moved that the Committee reject participation in the project. Mr J P Nicolson seconded.

Mr J A Inkster said that he had no wish to promote the project but said there could be benefits from good citizenship and involving young people at an early age.

The Executive Director referred to the Committee's decision to reject participation in this project, and explained that the Service had recognised that this was a controversial issue and therefore decided to present the proposals to Committee. The Executive Director confirmed that the Committee could agree to opt out of the national Scottish project. However, it was important to publicise that the SIC did not approve of the sale of age-restricted goods to young people under the age of 16.

18/06 **Provision of New Toilets for the Esplanade, Lerwick – Progress Report**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environmental Services (Appendix 3).

(Mr E J Knight, Mr A J Cluness and Mr J C Irvine declared a non-pecuniary interest, as Members of the Lerwick Boating Club).

The Head of Environmental Services summarised the main terms of the report. Mr J G Simpson referred to the budget of £422,000 for the provision of the new toilets. He stated that this was a huge amount of money for toilet facilities, and enquired whether any additional facilities would be included in the price. The Head of Environmental Services explained that the Council had previously approved the budget of £422,000 for the option to build the toilets as a redevelopment at Harbour House, and that design had included shower and waiting facilities. He added that the design and costs to build new toilets in Harbour House courtyard had not been prepared but any increase in costs over budget would be reported to Committee.

Mr F A Robertson said from a planning point of view, the preference would be to build the toilets at the street side, and he could see the logic in the LPA developing a reception pavilion for cruise ship passengers at the site of the present toilets. He said that Officers should bear in mind that Harbour House was a listed building. He added that as the proposal was now to build new toilets in the courtyard of Harbour House, the design and costs could be cheaper than the initial proposal to redevelop Harbour House.

Mr W H Manson stated that the option to rebuild on the site of the present toilets should be rejected. He said that the Esplanade should be developed further and agreed that the toilets should be located on the West side of the road. The facilities require to be planned properly including facilities for disabled users, shower facilities and a waiting area.

Mr Manson suggested that Officers should enquire whether the LPA would be willing to sell Harbour House. The Head of Environmental Services said that he was aware that the LPA intend

to refurbish the building. He added that if it were not viable to build toilets in the courtyard of Harbour House, then alternative options would be explored and reported to Committee.

Mr E J Knight said that notice had been taken in the original plans for new toilet provision that the Lerwick Boating Club sourced a good proportion of its income from people from visiting yachts using their shower facilities. The Executive Director said that this had been taken into consideration, however it was proposed that shower facilities would be included in the new build. Mr W Tait said it was essential that showers were provided in the new public toilet facilities, as other tourists to Shetland, other than those visiting Lerwick in yachts, would require to use the shower facilities.

Mr W H Manson moved that the Committee approve recommendation 7.1.1 in the report. Mr B P Gregson seconded.

Mr A J Cluness said, as the proposal to build the toilets in the courtyard at Harbour House was a completely new build; the design and costs should be reported back to Committee.

19/06 **Rova Head Landfill Closure**

The Committee considered a report by the Waste Services Manager (Appendix 4) and on the motion of Mr W Tait, seconded by Mr J C Irvine, the Committee approved the recommendation contained therein. Mr W H Manson said it was important that savings were made wherever possible.

In response to a query from Mr J H Henry, the Waste Services Manager reported that the building on the site would be used for recycling and composting and also for work associated with the kerb side paper collection, to recycle for animal bedding.

20/06 **SIC (Meadowbank Road, Burravoe, Yell) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2006**

The Committee considered a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 5).

The Network Manager summarised the main terms of the report and advised that three stages of consultation had been undertaken associated with the proposed traffic order. The final consultation process, a questionnaire sent to all households in Meadowbank Road, had suggested a number of options. Five responses had been received, three favoured the most drastic option, to prohibit parking in the cul-de-sac, and two responses preferred no change from the current situation. The Network Manager advised that as the community had been divided on the proposals, and as a compromise, the recommendation in the report was an amended version of the original proposed order; to allow parking on one side of the road, prohibit parking at the entrance to Meadowbank Road and to remove one parking space.

Mr J P Nicolson, Member for the Area, said that this was a unique situation and Members should bear in mind that any decision made could set a possible precedent. He had no lack of sympathy for disabled people but the introduction of yellow lines on the cul-de-sac could have mixed results. He therefore suggested that a sign "Disabled Access Keep Clear" should be erected in the necessary space. The Network Manager advised that the space for the disabled person was not the only issue, as people were presently parking cars at both sides of the cul-de-sac and this resulted in difficulties when reversing vehicles.

Mr J P Nicolson said that he expected the residents of Meadowbank Road to recognise the adequacy of a sign "Disabled Access Keep Clear". Mr Nicolson moved that the Committee reject the recommendations in the report, that the traffic order is not introduced, and that Officers be instructed to erect a sign "Disabled Access Keep Clear". Mr W Tait seconded.

21/06      **Capital Rolling Programmes, Roads and Transport Schemes and Purchases, 2006/2007**

The Committee considered a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 6).

The Network Manager introduced the report and said that the updated list of schemes for construction this year had been agreed from consultation with the Community Councils and through technical requirement.

Mr A J Cluness questioned the reference to the road reconstruction at Gilbertson Road (North), being at the design stage, when it actually needed to be resurfaced. The Network Manager advised that tests had shown the foundations of the road to be in need of reconstruction and that this, together with the resurfacing project, would be included as a named scheme after approval by the CMPT.

In response to a query from Mr R G Feather, the Network Manager explained that the project "Shurton Brae Improvements" included road widening and drainage improvements on the side road at Gulberwick.

Mrs I J Hawkins stated that there was a pressing need for a pavement along the East Voe Road. She added that this was an opportune time to build a pavement as the contractor building the housing development in the area, had been instructed to include a pavement in the scheme. That new pavement could be extended along to the Trondra Bridge. She added that the Community Council had already requested the need for a pavement along the East Voe Road.

Mr B P Gregson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. He added that the list of schemes represented a tremendous amount of work by the Department and in the current climate, the work

involved by the Community Councils in bringing projects forward. Captain G G Mitchell seconded.

In response to a query, the Network Manager advised that, following consultation with the Community Councils, a full report would be prepared outlining the proposed timescales for other projects intended for the next 3 to 4 years.

22/06

**Progress Report on Development of Shetland Transport Strategy**

The Committee noted a report by the Acting Head of Transport (Appendix 7).

The Acting Head of Transport introduced the report and said that the Shetland Regional Transport Strategy contained a considerable amount of information including the proposed issues, vision and objectives. The paper had been presented to the Member/Officer Working Group and work would now be undertaken to test that the work already done was robust when potential projects were tested against it. Mr W A Ratter said that all Members had transport issues in their Area, ranging from ferries, roads, buses and external links, and stated that it was vital that Members were involved in the Transport Strategy. He added that it was important to follow up discussions with the Community Councils who had been involved in the consultation exercise for the Transport Strategy.

Mr J P Nicolson referred to the Scenarios A – E set out in Section 4.4 of the Strategy document, and said that from the detail in the individual scenarios it was important to recognise that a lot of work would have to be undertaken.

The Chairperson advised that when the Shetland Transport Strategy Member Officer Working Group had been established it had been agreed that the Working Group would report periodically to the Committee.

23/06

**Traffic Regulation Orders, etc., Progress Report**

The Committee noted a report by the Network Manager (Appendix 8).

Mr J P Nicolson referred to the Traffic Order proposed for Yell (Meadowbank Road, Burravoe), and said that due to the decision agreed earlier on the agenda, the Traffic Order could be removed from the list.

In response to a query from Mr R G Feather, the Network Manager explained that it had been proposed that a report would be prepared on a parking restriction in Tarland, as a number of objections had been received relating to the proposed traffic order, but this had been withdrawn while other possible solutions are assessed. With regard to the proposed speed restrictions and traffic calming near Sound School, Mr J H Henry stated that there was still a view in the community that a part time speed limit would be sufficient.

24/06 **Note of Environment and Transport Forum – 9 March 2006**

The Committee noted the aforementioned minutes (Appendix 9a).

In response to a concern from Mr C B Eunson, that dredging exercises in Aberdeen harbour were only carried out twice a year, the Chairman advised that the Chair of the Environment and Transport Forum would follow up this matter, at future meetings with representatives from Aberdeen harbour.

25/06 **Note of Environment and Transport Forum - 18 April 2006**

The Committee noted the aforementioned minutes (Appendix 9b).

The Chairman said it was proposed that a report on Flooding and Coast Protection would be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee.

**On the motion of Mr J C Irvine, seconded by Mr B P Gregson, the Committee resolved, in terms of the relevant legislation, to exclude the public during consideration of the following item of business.**

*The Committee adjourned for 10 minutes.*

26/06 **Inter-Islands Air Service**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Transport Operations.

(Mr W H Manson declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chairperson of SCT and SLAP, and left the meeting. Mr W Tait declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Board Member of SLAP).

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report, on the motion of Mr W A Ratter, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

In response to questions from Members, the Executive Director advised that the tender exercise had been based on current service levels, however there was potential for additional flights to be added to the schedule. He added that consultation with the island communities would take place to discuss possible enhancement of the service.

The Chairman advised that a Press Release had been prepared and this would give assurance that there would be continuity of service.

The Executive Director answered questions from Members with regard to flight schedules and Members noted the information provided.

In response to a concern from Mr F A Robertson, the Executive Director confirmed that the fare structure had been included in the contract, and there would be no increase in the current fares.

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm



Infrastructure Committee  
02 May 2006 Public Minutes

CHAIRPERSON