

Services Committee  
04 May 2006 Public Minutes  
**Services Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Thursday 4 May 2006 at 10.30am**

**Present:**

F B Grains      L Angus  
B J Cheyne      C B Eunson  
R G Feather      B P Gregson  
I J Hawkins      J H Henry  
J C Irvine      E J Knight  
W H Manson      F A Robertson  
J G Simpson

**Apologies:**

L G Groat      J A Inkster  
Capt G G Mitchell      J P Nicolson  
T W Stove      W Tait

**In Attendance:**

B Doughty, Interim Head of Social Work  
N Galbraith, Interim Head of Education  
C Ferguson, Community Care Manager  
H Budge, Quality Improvement Manager  
J Reyner, Acting Quality Improvement Manager  
N Watt, Sport and Leisure Services Manager  
C Manson, Committee Officer  
D Haswell, Committee Officer

**Chairperson**

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

**Circular**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

**Minutes**

The minute of the meeting held on 16 March 2006, having been circulated, was confirmed.

**Members' Attendance at External Meetings**

Mr E J Knight      Visit to Cinemas and Music Venues – various venues throughout the country

(Mr W H Manson attended the meeting).

Mrs F B Grains      Criminal Justice Committee Meeting - Aberdeen

Further information can be obtained from the Members concerned.

25/06      **Consultation on Shared Management in North Mainland Schools**  
The Committee considered a report by the Interim Head of Education (Appendix 1).

The Interim Head of Education introduced the report and referred Members to section 10. He said that the proposals were conditional on the proposals emerging from the current re-examination of the Best Value Service Review (BVSR) which, he hoped, would be presented to the Council in the near future. He advised that Members had not, as yet seen his re-examination of the BVSR and his recommendations from that and, therefore, the proposals in section 10 of the report would stand until Members had considered his recommendations and would depend on whether the recommendations were accepted or not.

In response to a question as to the timescale for his report to be considered by the Council, the Interim Head of Education advised that he hoped to complete his re-examination of the BVSR by 15/16 May. Thereafter, it would be for the Chief Executive to decide when the report should be presented to the Council and a special Council meeting could be called, if necessary.

Referring to section 2.4, a Member said he understood that the concept of Shared Management was raised because a number of people felt that Shared Management offered advantages to schools in rural areas.

In response to a question from a Member with regard to section 10.6, the Interim Head of Education explained that it did not always happen that using Shared Management achieved savings. He added that the Council's decision with regard to Shared Management was never meant to be interpreted as a blanket policy. He hoped that the report reflected the fact that consultation had taken place and the views of the community had been considered and taken on board. Every time a consultation process was carried out, lessons were learned and it was beneficial to find out what was important to people in the community. He concluded by saying that he had recently visited North Roe Primary School and, like most schools in Shetland, the facilities available and the education being given to pupils was excellent.

A Member said that there were other issues that required much higher priority than Shared Management proposals and referred in particular to the requirement for a probationer teacher at Bell's Brae School. He said he hoped that this would be progressed soon.

26/06

**Accordion and Percussion Tuition**

The Committee noted a report by the Interim Head of Education (Appendix 2) and, after hearing the Interim Head of Education introduce the report, approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mrs B J Cheyne, with the following condition:

"That Heads of Service are asked to consider the possibility of the Accordion Instructor's post being made a full-time post in the near future."

The Interim Head of Education confirmed that this would be taken on board.

27/06 **Clothing Grants**

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Head of Education (Appendix 3).

The Interim Head of Education introduced the report and advised that the budget allocated to the grant scheme in 2005/06 was £18,500 but the total amount spent was over £19,000. He said that 425 grants had been distributed which meant that there were 425 families that met the criteria. The budget allocation for 2006/07 was £21,000.

The Interim Head of Education continued to say that Officers in the Department were very keen to review the grant scheme in some detail because the amount of grant offered was not a great deal of money and would not go far in Shetland. The current grant available was based on the median range given by all Scottish local authorities but, in his view, they were based on an inadequate starting point in the 1970's when local authorities were asked to provide clothing grants. He hoped that a review would be presented to Members for their consideration soon and that it could be accommodated within existing budget provision. This would also have to be balanced with the Council's decision for a 5% cut in services across the board.

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report on the motion of Mr E J Knight, seconded by Mr B P Gregson. It was further agreed that the review of the scheme should be done in consultation with other island local authorities.

28/06 **Joint Future Extended Local Partnership Agreement (ELPA) and Community Care Plans 2006-2009**

The Committee considered a report by the Community Care Manager (Appendix 4) and, on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins, approved the recommendation contained therein.

A Member pointed out that there was a substantial funding contribution from the Council. He said that the Community Health Partnership was the responsibility of NHS Shetland and asked if Shetland was missing out on funding by not having a Community Health Partnership delivering services in Shetland.

In response, the Community Care Manager said she did not think that Shetland was missing out on funding. She acknowledged that the Community Health Partnership had been slow to surface in Shetland but, with regard to funding, there were bids going through the Community Health Partnership which should benefit the community.

29/06 **Proposal for Service Development: Young Offenders in the Adult Criminal Justice System**

The Committee considered a report by the Criminal Justice Service Manager (Appendix 5) and, after hearing the Interim Head of Social Work briefly introduce the report, approved the recommendation contained therein, on the motion of Mr B P Gregson, seconded by Mr E J Knight.

In response to questions from Members, the Interim Head of Social Work assured Members that restorative justice and the Shetland Youth Information Service would be included in the brief.

30/06

**Breakfast Clubs**

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Head of Social Work (Appendix 6) and, on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr L Angus, approved the recommendations contained therein.

A Member said that when the Committee had previously discussed this issue, assurance had been given that the Islesburgh Breakfast Club would not cease until an alternative was found. However, he said that some Trustees of the former Islesburgh Trust were unaware that the Club was in operation until it was threatened with closure.

The Interim Head of Education advised that the service at Islesburgh would not be terminated. Consideration had been given to providing Breakfast Clubs at schools and Officers were of the view that schools could accommodate Breakfast Clubs although it had to be recognised that this could result in an increase in the number of users of the service although there would be a decrease in transport costs.

31/06

**Whalsay Golf Club – Application for Funding**

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

32/06

**Note of Social Forum – 20 April 2006**

The Committee noted the minute of the meeting.

A Member said he was impressed with the list of items for future discussion by the Forum and, referring to the report on the visit to Market House, said he was surprised to learn that Market House was functioning to capacity.

Referring to minute reference 04/06 – Community Planning Board Update – a Member pointed out that it had not been Chief Inspector Andy Cowie who had introduced the idea of CCTV coverage in Lerwick and said that Lerwick Community Council had asked the Police for CCTV in Lerwick for a number of years. It was stated that at a recent meeting of Lerwick Community Council, the Community Council had been assured that a report on the funding required for CCTV would be presented to the Committee and he requested that a report be brought forward.

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The Chairperson confirmed that Officers would be asked to prepare a report on the funding required for CCTV.

With regard to the issue of the alcohol bye-law in Lerwick, a Member expressed concern that Members were not being kept apprised of the current position. The Chairperson agreed that the Committee should ask Officers for a progress report on the alcohol bye-law.

Members noted that the Member/Officer Working Group were currently examining the Council's current Committee and Forum structures and further noted that the Working Group would welcome any feedback on the current structure.

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F B Grains  
Chairperson