

Infrastructure Committee
13 June 2006 Public Minutes
Infrastructure Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 13 June 2006 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

J C Irvine L Angus
B J Cheyne C B Eunson
R G Feather F B Grains
B P Gregson L G Groat
I J Hawkins J A Inkster
E J Knight Capt G G Mitchell
W A Ratter J G Simpson
W Tait

Apologies:

J H Henry J P Nicolson
F A Robertson W N Stove
T W Stove

In Attendance (Officers):

G Spall, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services
I Halcrow, Head of Roads
A Hamilton, Head of Planning
G Johnston, Head of Finance
B C Hill, Acting Divisional Manager, Legal Services
I Bruce, Service Manager, Transport Operations
A Drummond-Hunt, Asset and Properties Manager
M Craigie, Capital Projects Unit Manager
V Hawthorne, Development Plans Officer
S Shearer, Planning Officer (Development Plans)
K Adam, Solicitor
D Haswell, 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 2 May 2006, having been circulated, was confirmed.

The Chairperson advised that this was the Committee Officer's last meeting of the Infrastructure Committee as she was leaving the Council at the end of this month. The Chairperson wished her good luck in the future. The Committee concurred.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

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

I J Hawkins Sustainable Development Commission, Edinburgh

Capt G G Mitchell	National Transport Strategy meeting, Dunblane
W Tait	Scottish Accident Prevention Council – Home Safety Committee, Glasgow
J A Inkster	Scottish Accident Prevention Council – Road Safety Committee – Quarterly Meeting, Glasgow Regional Transport Strategy meeting, Dunblane
Mr J C Irvine	Reserve Forces and Cadets for North East Scotland and Shetland, Aberdeen Meeting of Chairs of the Regional Transport Partnership, Glasgow Highlands and Islands Convener's Group, Edinburgh CoSLA Leaders Meeting, Edinburgh

Further information can be obtained from the Members concerned.

27/06 **Flooding and Coast Protection Policy**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 1) and, after hearing the Head of Planning briefly introduce the report, approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr B P Gregson, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

A Member said that there were a lot of outstanding issues that should be progressed, e.g. the Knab Dyke and felt that consideration should be given to a possible virement from other budgets in order that these issues can be progressed.

In response to a suggestion from the Chairperson, the Committee also agreed that a Member/Officer Working Group should be established to take forward issues relating to flooding and coast protection and climate change, as well as the considering the comments raised by Members today and the required funding. It was agreed that a report proposing the establishment of the Member/Officer Working Group would be presented to the next meeting.

28/06 **Planning Service Resources**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning (Appendix 2) and, after hearing the Head of Planning introduce the report, approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

Some Members fully supported the proposals and it was stated that, at the moment, the people of Shetland were being disadvantaged because of the lack

of resources in the Planning Service. In response to a question, the Head of Planning advised that existing staff were currently involved in trying to clear the backlog of work but these members of staff also had their own jobs to do. The Head of Planning assured Members that full consideration had been given to other options, prior to the report being presented to Members today.

Mr W A Ratter said it was very clear Members were concerned with the delay on planning applications. However, in his view, the proposed virement from the reserves to fund posts was widely against current Council Policy.

Mr W A Ratter moved as an amendment that the Committee approve recommendations 8.1(a) and (c) but agree that recommendation 8.1(b) be deleted. Mr R G Feather seconded.

The Executive Director pointed out that the recommendations could not proceed without recommendation 8.1(b) because there was no other funding that could be vired from any other budgets for the posts.

After summing-up, voting followed by a show of hands and the result was as follows:

Amendment (W A Ratter)	5
Motion (C B Eunson)	9

(Mr L Groat left the meeting).

29/06 **Transfer of Functions**

The Committee considered a report by the Acting Head of Transport (Appendix 3) and, after hearing the Executive Director briefly introduce the report, approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr E J Knight.

(Mr L Groat returned to the meeting).

30/06 **Efficient Government Bid by SCOTS to Develop an Asset Management Framework**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Roads (Appendix 4) and, after hearing the Head of Roads briefly introduce the report, approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr W Tait, seconded by Capt G G Mitchell.

31/06 **Shetland's Response to Scottish Executive Consultation on a Draft National Transport Strategy**

The Committee considered a report by the Acting Head of Transport (Appendix 5).

As Chairperson of the Member/Officer Working Group – Transport Strategy, Mr W A Ratter advised that the Working Group and the consultants, FaberMaunsell, had done a lot of work on the Shetland Transport Strategy. He said that the focus should be on integrated community transport in Shetland and it was important to get as much equal transport across Shetland as possible

because some rural areas in Shetland were suffering at the moment. Mr Ratter said the National Transport Strategy would be a useful guide for the future of the Shetland Transport Partnership (STP).

Accordingly, with the exception of a minor typographical error in section 106 of the draft response whereby the word “much” should read “such”, Mr W A Ratter moved the Committee approve the recommendation in the report. Mr B P Gregson seconded. The Committee also agreed that the Shetland Transport Strategy should be formally presented to Mr Tavish Scott, Minister for Transport, when he visited Shetland in January 2007.

32/06 **Scord Quarry – Supplies of Materials to Private Individuals**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Roads (Appendix 6).

Mr L Angus moved the Committee approve recommendation 4.1.b in the report. Mr A J Inkster seconded.

Mrs I J Hawkins moved as an amendment that the Committee approve recommendation 4.1.a in the report. Mr C B Eunson seconded.

After summing up, voting followed by a show of hands and the result was as follows:

Amendment (Mrs I J Hawkins)	8
Motion (Mr L Angus)	4

33/06 **Progress Report on Development of Shetland Transport Strategy**

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

34/06 **Note of Environment and Transport Forum – 6 June 2006**

The Committee noted the aforementioned minutes (Appendix 8).

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 items of business.

(Representatives of the media left the meeting).

36/06 **Inter-Islands Air Service**

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

The Chairperson said that if the recommendations were approved today, a Press Release would be issued highlighting the salient points.

The Chairperson noted comments from the Head of Finance and advised that he had been involved with working on the contract for the last 6 months and was very well aware of the circumstances. However, he said that it was important that the Council was seen to be giving its very best attention to Shetland's peripheral areas.

Infrastructure Committee
13 June 2006 Public Minutes

Capt G G Mitchell said that the main problem related to the fact that the Council had to continue to provide the service and this would have to be done in a new environment. He felt that this was the best package available to the Council.

Accordingly, Capt G G Mitchell moved the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr B P Gregson seconded.

(Mr W A Ratter left the meeting).

The meeting concluded at 1.05 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

35/06

Potential Outstanding Liability – Demolition Works

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning.

The Asset and Properties Manager briefly introduced the report. Mrs B J Cheyne advised that the Planning Sub-Committee had requested this report at a special meeting last week. She said that the Council takes health and safety very seriously and, accordingly, moved the Committee approve the recommendation in the report. Mr J G Simpson seconded.

The Committee adjourned at 12.20 p.m.

(Messrs Angus and Groat left the meeting).

The Committee reconvened at 12.30 p.m.