

MINUTE

‘B’

Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Thursday 19 October 2006 at 10.30am

Present:

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

Apologies:

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| B J Cheyne | A J Cluness |
| L G Groat | J C Irvine |
| W A Ratter | F A Robertson |

In Attendance:

B Doughty, Executive Director, Education and Social Care
H Budge, Head of Schools
S Crook, Library and Information Services Manager
C Medley, Head of Housing
L Adamson, 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 31 August 2006, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

There was nothing to report.

The Chairman advised that Item 6 on the Agenda would be considered at the end of the meeting, as an Appendix to that report contained Exempt Information.

The Committee considered a report by the Library and Information Services Manager (Appendix 1).

The Library and Information Services Manager introduced the report and advised that the proposals focused on continuity and improvements to provide joint school and community library provision in Unst, whilst taking into account the outcomes of ongoing reviews in the Council.

Mr B P Gregson, Member for the Area, said he wished to acknowledge and commend the work carried out in consulting with the community and schools to produce the Feasibility Study. In moving the recommendations in the report, Mr Gregson said that the outcome in the report was a sensible holding solution for library provision for Unst. He added that Unst was not on hold during the next few years, but there was a much going on, with a sense of optimism and hope for the island.

In seconding, Mr W H Manson suggested that the project could be brought forward should funding allow. Mr L Angus advised that the project would be subject to review under the Capital Programme.

In response to a query from Mr R G Feather regarding the possibility of sourcing external funding for library provision in Unst, the Library and Information Services Manager advised that the provision of library services was a statutory requirement for Local Authorities.

60/06 **Zetland Educational Trust**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 2).

The Head of Schools summarised the main terms of the report and advised that a circular was sent to schools in Shetland advising of the award scheme, and the five categories where applications could be submitted to fund projects. She added that a report would be presented to Committee annually, to inform Members on the allocation of the Trust's funds.

Mr C B Eunson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr B P Gregson seconded. The Chairperson proposed that the Spokesperson for Education, Children and Young People be included in the small Officer Group, set up to consider the individual applications. The Committee concurred.

61/06 **Shetland Education Resource Centre**

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

The Head of Schools summarised the main terms of the report. Mr W H Manson said that this was an excellent resource, being pulled together and publicised to the schools.

62/06 **Implementation of Cultural Strategy within Schools and Lifelong Learning**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 4), and after hearing the Head of Schools summarise the main terms of the report, Mr E J Knight moved that the Committee approve the recommendations therein. Mr L Angus seconded.

Mr J P Nicolson said he had concerns with short-term funded posts within the Council, and noted that when the external funding ceased for the Creative Links Officer and Drama Co-ordinator posts, the costs would draw on primary and secondary school budgets. He added that the culture of Shetland does not rest solely with youth workers, but it is the total lifestyle of Shetland. In response to a query from Mr Nicolson, the Executive Director, Education and Social Care advised that the Executive Management Team was very supportive of the proposals and the overall cultural provision in Shetland.

In response to a concern from Mrs I J Hawkins regarding the potential effect on services when the external funding for these posts cease, the Head of Schools advised that the services provided were part of the core curriculum and the Service could fund the posts from the supply budgets, should the external funding be discontinued.

63/06 **Independent Reviews for Looked After Children**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Social Care (Appendix 5) and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr W N Stove.

In response to a query from Mr B P Gregson regarding ongoing staff shortages, the Executive Director, Education and Social Care advised that the recent recruitment exercise had been successful and the Children and Family Service was now fully staffed.

Mr B P Gregson referred to the findings in the report regarding the shortage of foster carers in Shetland. He then highlighted a recent article in a national newspaper, "One Third of Foster Parents Suffer False Abuse Claims", and enquired whether this could be an issue in recruiting foster carers. The Executive Director, Education and Social Care agreed that the article was concerning, however he was not aware of this situation arising in Shetland. He added that the Fostering Service had recently been strengthened and this

should ensure that the proper policies, procedures and support were in place.

64/06 **Carer Information Strategy**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 6). The Executive Director, Education and Social Care advised that this report was for noting, however he welcomed any additional comments on the Strategy document, prior to submission to the Scottish Executive by 31 October 2006.

Mr T W Stove highlighted an anomaly that the contents list was out of step with the document, after Page 7.

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Capt G G Mitchell, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson.

Mr L Angus advised of his concerns regarding the management of care and framework of the Community Health Partnership (CHP), in that it was not a partnership in relation to the Strategy, planning or resources, but in name only, and proposed that representation regarding these issues be made to the Health Minister. In response to Mr Angus' concerns, the Executive Director, Education and Social Care undertook to prepare a report for the next Committee, providing an overall view of the CHP in Shetland.

Members noted that the Executive Director had recently been in discussion with the Chief Executive, Shetland Health Board, regarding proposals for developments on the Gilbert Bain Hospital site.

65/06 **Shetland CHP Guide to Services**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 7) and approved the recommendations contained therein, on the motion of Mr B P Gregson, seconded by Capt G G Mitchell.

66/06 **Note of Social Forum – 5 October 2006**

The Committee noted the minute of the above meeting (Appendix 8).

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mrs F B Grains moved, and Mr J P Nicolson seconded, to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of Appendix 2 of agenda item 9.

(Representatives of the media left the meeting).

67/06 **Criminal Justice Unit Staffing**

The Committee considered a report by the Criminal Justice Service Manager.

The Executive Director, Education and Social Care introduced the report.

Mr Gregson accordingly moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr J P Nicolson seconded.

In response to a query from Mr J P Nicolson regarding the indication in the report that recruitment to the three posts could be done locally, the Executive Director said that he was confident that the posts could be filled in Shetland.

In response to a request from Mr J H Henry, the Executive Director explained the main elements associated with the co-ordination of the CJU. Members noted the information provided.

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F B Grains
Chairperson