



Shetland

Islands Council

MINUTE

‘B’

Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 7 February 2001 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

R J Anderson Dr C M Begg
R I Black A J Cluness
F B Grains I J Hawkins
J C Irvine P Malcolmson
J P Nicolson F A Robertson
T W Stove W N Stove
W Tait

Apologies:

C B Eunson W H Manson
Capt G G Mitchell J M Ritch

In Attendance (Officers):

M Goodlad, Chief Executive
A Matthews, Executive Director, Corporate Services
G Johnston, Head of Finance Services
H Tait, Group Accountant
M Thompson, Group Accountant
J Watt, Executive Director, Community Services
C Medley, Head of Housing Services
M Miller, Head of Social Care Services
C Ferguson, Evaluation, Research and Development Officer
G Smith, Head of Community Development Services
N Watt, Section Leader, Sport and Recreation Services
M Duncan, Grants Officer
M Payton, Head of Education Services
A Cogle, Senior Committee Officer
L Geddes, Committee Officer

Invited to Attend

M Thomson, Chartered Surveyor
S Duncan, Depute General Manager, Shetland Recreational Trust
J Grant, Shetland Welfare Trust
S Inkster, Islesburgh Community Centre Trust
K Hubbard, Shetland Arts Trust

Chairman:

Mr P Malcolmson, Chairman of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes:

The minute of the meeting held on 28 November 2000, having been circulated previously, was confirmed.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings – Update

Mr A J Cluness gave a brief synopsis of a meeting he had attended recently in Blackpool with Captain G G Mitchell regarding housing stock transfers.

Mr J C Irvine stated that he wished to declare non-pecuniary interests in a number of items connected with the voluntary sector, particularly Shetland Council of Social Services.

01/01 **Shetland Golf Club – Support Grant**

The Committee considered a report by the Section Leader, Voluntary Services and Sports Development (Appendix 1).

Mr P Malcolmson declared an interest as a Member of Shetland Golf Club and proposed Mr J P Nicolson to take the chair for this item. Mr T W Stove seconded.

Mr R I Black declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Mr J P Nicolson highlighted the difficulties encountered by Shetland Golf Club in relation to the climate and the short season. He referred to condition (e) on page 5 of the report, and enquired if this should read the minutes of Shetland Golf Club rather than Shetland Islands Council. He also stated that he felt the word 'forthwith' in condition (l) was dated and not appropriate.

The Section Leader, Sport and Recreation Services confirmed that it should read Shetland Golf Club minutes and added that it had been included on the recommendation of Internal Audit. In response to a query from a Member he said that, as far as he was aware, this was the only Support Grant which had this condition.

Mr J C Irvine, seconded by Mrs F B Grains moved the recommendations contained in the report.

A Member requested that condition 5.5(e) be removed and Mr J C Irvine agreed, with the consent of his seconder, to amend his motion to state that the Committee approved the recommendations but that paragraph 5.5(e) be removed from the conditions.

02/01 **New Shetlander Support Grant 2001/2002**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development Services (Appendix 2) and approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr W N Stove, seconded by Mr P Malcolmson.

03/01 **Shetland Council of Social Service – Support Grant**

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

A Member enquired about the 3% uplift referred to in Appendix A, and said that he had worked it out to be 6.4%.

Mr J C Irvine said that this related to items in the Appendix to Appendix A, and the Head of Community Development Services confirmed that there was an ongoing commitment to meet these additional costs.

The Committee approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr P Malcolmson, seconded by Mr J Nicolson.

04/01 **New Museum and Archives – Service Level Agreement**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development Services (Appendix 4) and on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr R J Anderson, approved the recommendations contained therein.

The Chairman noted that the Draft Service Level Agreement would be based on option (b) referred to in paragraph 1.3 of the report.

05/01 **Grants for Community Projects – Stage 2 Design – Fetlar Community Association – Extension and Refurbishment**

The Committee considered a report by the Grants Officer, Community Development Services (Appendix 5), and on the motion of Mr J Nicolson, seconded by Mrs I Hawkins, approved the recommendations contained therein.

06/01 **Grant to Voluntary Organisation 2000/2001 – Additional Funding for Essential Repairs – Walls Marina**

The Committee considered a report by the Grants Officer, Community Development Services (Appendix 6).

Mr F A Robertson summarised the report and pointed out that it was a retrospect grant.

The Chairman enquired if there was any way grants could be monitored to try and ensure that this situation did not occur again.

The Head of Community Development Services agreed that there were lessons to be learned, and pointed out that a proper survey had not been carried out originally, and this may have dealt with the problem if it had been carried out.

A Member said that similar issues had been addressed at a seminar the day before, and it had been discussed that Legal Services may be employed in this area and become more closely involved in grants, and that monitoring could be carried out from the beginning.

Another Member pointed out that there was always an element of risk involved in this type of project, and that this should be acknowledged.

The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr P Malcolmson.

07/01 **Feasibility Grant for Community Projects – Brae Community Play Area Development**

The Committee considered a report by the Leisure Facilities Officer, Community Development Services (Appendix 7), and approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mrs I Hawkins.

In response to a query from a Member, the Head of Community Development Services confirmed that the Council would be responsible for maintenance and insurance.

08/01 **Feasibility Grant for Community Projects – Bigton Play Area Development**

The Committee considered a report by the Leisure Facilities Officer, Community Development Services (Appendix 8), and on the motion of Mr W Tait, seconded by Dr C M Begg, approved the recommendations contained therein.

09/01 **Islesburgh Community Centre Trust – Request for Re-Disbursement of 1999/2000 Surplus**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development Services (Appendix 9).

A Member queried the terminology in the heading of the report and asked if it should read 'repayment' rather than 're-disbursement'.

The Executive Director, Corporate Services confirmed that 're-disbursement' was the correct terminology, as the Charitable Trust would have to vire from the repaid surplus to its Planned Maintenance Fund upon which Islesburgh Community Centre Trust could call.

The Committee approved the recommendation contained therein on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mr F A Robertson.

10/01 **Update on Assistance to the Voluntary Sector**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Community Services (Appendix 10).

On the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr R J Anderson, the Committee approved the recommendations contained therein.

11/01 **Funding of Drugs Services**

The Chairman pointed out that this report had been withdrawn from this agenda.

Dr C M Begg said that she was very disappointed and concerned that the report was not available today. She added that the premises for

delivery of the drugs services was completely inadequate and enquired about the funding anticipated and if adequate provision had been made.

The Head of Education Services confirmed that premises that may be suitable had been identified and efforts were being made to get funding in place, although it had not been possible to get everything ready for this meeting in the short timescale.

The Chairman reiterated the Member's concerns and stated the need for Member involvement in the process. He asked if the report could be guaranteed to come to the next Committee meeting. The Head of Education Services confirmed that it would be brought to the Services Committee on 21 March.

12/01 **Developing Literature in Shetland**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Development Services (Appendix 11).

Mr W N Stove and Dr C M Begg declared non-pecuniary interests as Trustees of Shetland Arts Trust.

Ms K Hubbard introduced the report to Members, and provided Members with information with regard to the breakdown of funding.

A Member enquired if the £56,328 referred to in paragraph 2.1 could be regarded as growth, as it was not stated in the report. Another Member stated that it would be useful to get guidance on this, and that it should be stated if new initiatives were to be halted if they were deemed as growth.

The Executive Director, Corporate Services said that it was not considered a problem, growth was something extra but there was nothing to say that it could not happen. He continued that the Committee would make recommendations to the Council who, in turn, would make recommendations to the Charitable Trust, so the Council could decide if it was growth.

A Member referred to the positive moves being made regarding dialect, and Ms K Hubbard confirmed that this had been a very big issue in the consultation process as well.

The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report on the motion of Dr C M Begg, seconded by Mr W N Stove.

13/01 **Additional Government Funding**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education Services (Appendix 12), and approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr R Anderson, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson.

14/01 **Estimates 2001/2002**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance Services (Appendix 13).

The Head of Finance Services introduced the report, and drew Members' attention to a number of key areas, particularly with regard to the higher net overall controllable expenditure in Education and Social Care Services.

The Chairman referred to growth items in Appendix D, and said that many of the items had been supported by Members through the Committee, and they hoped to see them put in place.

In response to a query from a Member regarding Education staff increases, the Head of Education Services confirmed that there had been a significant increase in SEN auxiliary and support staff in order to meet demands on the services, both locally and nationally.

A Member pointed out that the special needs issue could also be addressed in social care, and enquired if any significant political moves to get more money for special needs from central government were still in progress.

The Chairman pointed out the underlying commitment for special needs, some of which had been taken up in the Community Care Plan. He added that the Council were moving the boundaries forward in this area.

The Executive Director, Community Services reminded Members that the earlier agreement to expand provision for special needs was on the basis of efficiency savings being made.

In response to a query from a Member, the Executive Director of Community Services confirmed that efficiency savings related to all organisations trying to achieve best value.

Mr R J Anderson referred to page three of the report, and said that Members had been reassured that staffing costs were not going to increase with re-organisation, but Members should be aware that staffing costs had actually increased.

A Member referred to the term 'Social Care' and enquired as to why this term had replaced 'Social Work', which was still in use across the country.

The Chief Executive replied that this had been discussed, endorsed and agreed during the process of extensive consultation with Members and staff during the restructuring exercise and subsequent enabling report. He was aware that there was now some disquiet arising with this in certain quarters but felt it would not be appropriate to discuss it at this particular moment. The Head of Social Care Services added that she had been on annual leave at the time of the consultation.

In response to a query from a Member regarding paragraph 3.2.5.12, the Head of Finance Services confirmed that Shetland College was under the remit of the Development Committee, but had been noted in this report as it was an education related item.

A Member referred to Table 6 on page eight of the report, and pointed out that Whalsay Sports Development Trust had recently received lottery funding. The Head of Community Development Services confirmed that this would be taken account of and may result in a saving of this amount at a later date.

A Member referred to tenant participation activities in Appendix F of the report, and enquired if some of the central government funding for the stock transfer could be used for this purpose.

The Head of Housing Services pointed out that this report related to participation regardless of whether the stock transfer would take place, but that funding required for tenant participation in relation to the stock transfer could be recovered from central government.

The Executive Director, Corporate Services informed Members that they should be aware of a potential shortage of funding for implementation of the McCrone report, as pointed out in a letter to the SIC from the Convenor of Argyll & Bute Council. He informed Members that the formula used for implementation worked negatively against Shetland, and a number of other local authorities, with a low ratio of pupils to teachers.

Members expressed concern and enquired if lobbying could be carried out on the Council's behalf. The Chief Executive confirmed that this had already started, and the issue had also been raised at a CoSLA meeting.

The Head of Finance Services pointed out that a lot of 'number crunching' would have to be carried out, and that the budgets would continue to be looked at in detail beyond Council Tax setting, and that further modifications may be necessary before the budgets went live on 1 April.

The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr W Tait.

15/01

Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust Estimates 2001/2002

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance Services (Appendix 14).

The Head of Finance Services summarised the report, and drew Member's attention to growth items identified in Tables 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13 in the report.

A Member said that it was worth noting paragraph 1.3 of the report, in that a 15% cushion was being maintained, as well as a self-sustaining balance.

The Chairman referred to Appendix A, and that there should be a sense of pride regarding the positive allocation of resources in provision for the Community.

A Member referred to paragraph 2.3.11 and said that she was concerned that the Council was acting after 'the horse had bolted'. The Chairman pointed out that this item would be addressed in the forthcoming sports development strategy.

A Member referred to the General Multicourts budget which had been on the previous report, and noted that there was nothing in this report for multicourts. He said that he felt that a budget of £46,840 would not be sufficient, and referred to a report which would be going to the Forums regarding the development of multicourts in school areas. He was concerned that this report would state there was no additional funding available for multicourts as the estimates had already gone through.

The Head of Community Development Services confirmed that there was currently only £46,840 in the General Multicourts budget, and that the paper going to the Forums would be looking for guidance on how to deal with multicourts as it was felt that it may be more appropriate to include them in the overall economies of schools, although there had been difficulties in classifying them as a core requirement of the curriculum.

Dr C M Begg declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Shetland Recreational Trust, and referred to the Sports Development Initiatives in Table 5 of the report and enquired, as the budget was rather small, if it should be increased. She added that she believed swimming pool hire charges were amongst the highest in the country and was concerned that this budget may be an economic disadvantage to Clickimin, and that high-achieving athletes may be penalised due to the high charges.

The Head of Community Development Services confirmed that his Service was in the early stages of looking at a strategy for sports development and added that, in relation to comparative information received nationally, Shetland had the highest number of attendances at swimming pools.

Mr S Duncan, Depute General Manager of Shetland Recreational Trust, felt that the problem lay not with the lane hire charges which were actually cheaper for training lane hire, but with the amount of time which these groups required to use the facility, and particularly for gala hire when SRT had to try to re-coup lost revenue from pool closures.

The Chairman noted that the Funding of Drugs Services, referred to earlier in the meeting, was not on this report.

The Head of Education Services said that the running costs were set out in Table 2, but not the capital costs.

The Executive Director, Corporate Services advised that, as the report had been withdrawn, there were no figures upon which to base an estimate. He added that this could be taken into account at the next Services Committee meeting on 21 March, and from there to the next Charitable Trust meeting of 29 March.

Mr R J Anderson declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Shetland Recreational Trust, and referred to Table 6 in the report. He enquired, if this was excluded from the recommendation in 6.3, when it would go ahead.

The Head of Community Development Services confirmed that it was not included in 6.3 as it was an additional growth item, and said that the report would be brought forward to the next cycle.

In response to a query from a Member regarding draw down reports, the Head of Finance Services confirmed that the Charitable Trust needed more detailed reports before they could be considered.

The Chairman added that there may be a need to look at the whole system to see if it could be simplified in any way.

On the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr P Malcolmson, the Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report.

16/01 **Housing Revenue Estimates (HRA) and Charge Setting – 2001/2002**

The Committee considered a report by Head of Finance Services (Appendix 15).

The Executive Director, Community Services pointed out that the Housing Forum had considered rent increases of 5% and that was the increase on which the budget strategy was based. But there was also the possibility in the report of an increase of 10.9%, if the deficit was fully met by a rent increase. She added that if the Council agreed to the increase, it would be the most expensive landlord in Scotland.

The Head of Finance Services referred to paragraph 3.1, and pointed out that an average increase of 5% in rents would leave the HRA in deficit, and that in paragraph 3.2 a balanced budget had to be set to deal with the deficit.

A Member pointed out that rent levels were very high, and this was not necessarily because the Council had good stock as some properties could not be considered as such. He added that a long-term solution

may be to transfer properties to a community trust, but that it was not possible for the Council to go on the way it had in the past.

In response to a query from a Member regarding what would happen to the Repairs and Renewals (R & R) Fund if a stock transfer took place, the Head of Finance Services confirmed that this Fund was created out of the Reserve Fund so would revert back to the General Fund if this occurred.

The Head of Housing Services advised that reduction of responsive maintenance would have a detrimental effect on levels of stock and service, and a reduction in planned maintenance would result in a lower valuation of stock. He went on that the planned maintenance budget could be cut with less effect, although tenants would have to be informed that the budget was to be cut, and that rents could be increased or the contribution could be increased from the R & R Fund.

A Member was of the view that rents were high enough and a rise equivalent to the rate of inflation would be more equitable, so a change of Council policy to use money from the R & R Fund would be more appropriate.

The Executive Director, Corporate Services stated that it was possible to apply up to £682,000 to the Housing Revenue Account although it would not comply with SIC policy, and it would be necessary for the SIC to approve it. The difference between income and self sustaining contribution amounts to £195,000 which would make up two-thirds of the deficit.

A Member pointed out that the Reserve Fund had been used in the past and suggested that it would be a useful demonstration that the Council was concerned about the situation if this happened again, as he felt that a 7% rent increase was too high.

The Executive Director, Corporate Services advised that the Reserve Fund was over-subscribed for next year, and if it was used it would impact on other funds and leave the Council with another difficult decision to make.

A Member noted that the Housing R & R Fund would be redundant if the stock transfer took place, and enquired about the likelihood of this occurring.

The Head of Housing Services advised that it could not be assumed that tenants would vote for this, and the Committee should be clear that this might not happen.

A Member pointed out that the Council should be positive about the stock transfer, and campaign for a 'yes vote' from the tenants.

A Member referred to paragraph 3.1.3a and enquired about the increase in budget for void rents, as he was under the impression that there was a shortage of housing in Shetland.

The Head of Housing Services confirmed that there was a shortage of housing in some areas of Shetland, but that there was a surplus in other areas.

The Head of Finance Services advised that if the maintenance budget was not reduced and rents were not increased by more than 5%, then the Council would be relying on reserves. He advised Members that the Reserve Fund was heavily over-subscribed, but demand could be made on the R & R Fund, although the real value of the Fund would be eroded to £6.2million.

Mr R I Black moved the recommendations contained in the report, and with reference to 6.1b, approved option 3.1.2c. Mr T Stove seconded.

The Chairman noted that average rent levels would remain at 5%.

Mr R Anderson moved, as an amendment, the recommendations contained in the report, but that the average rent increase be only 3% with the additional deficit being met from the Housing Repair and Renewals Fund. Mr W Tait seconded.

The Head of Finance Services pointed out that this level would be below the level of rent rises set by Council Policy and would draw £395,000 more than Council policy from the Housing R & R Fund.

With the consent of his seconder Mr R I Black withdrew his motion, and the amendment was declared the finding of the meeting.

(Mr R I Black left the meeting)

17/01

New Housing Partnerships (NHP) – An Alternative Approach

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services (Appendix 16).

Mr A J Cluness summarised the report and pointed out that it was an attempt to look at a new positive approach and an opportunity for a way forward in housing.

A Member enquired if tenants were aware that this proposed new housing trust was backed by the Charitable Trust, and said that tenants fears may be allayed if they were aware that this was the case.

The Chairman pointed out that the new trust would not be backed by the Charitable Trust and should be self-supporting. The Head of Housing Services added that the housing trust could not go forward if it was relying on someone else to subsidise it, and if it were released

from the housing debt there should be enough income to allow the service to achieve what it wanted.

A Member stated that Members were concerned about what would happen after the five-year rent guarantee had run out, and that they would need guarantees that it would be sustainable in the future.

The Head of Housing Services confirmed that the trust would have to register with Scottish Homes as a registered social landlord, and that they would act as an external auditor. The Executive Director, Corporate Services added that the five-year guarantee was a considerable advance, as the Council could not guarantee this for rents.

In response to a query from a Member, the Head of Housing Services stated that the valuation for houses, with regard to the stock transfer, was based upon income that could be gained from the tenanted property and repairs that would need to be carried out in the future. He added that more planned maintenance would reduce the valuation.

A Member enquired if anyone had been employed to work with tenants regarding the stock transfer yet, and the Head of Housing Services confirmed that this still had to be advertised and put out to tender, and that it may be an organisation rather than an individual that was employed.

A Member felt that the Committee should adopt a positive stance and encourage tenants to vote for a stock transfer.

The Chairman pointed out that there would be more tenant ownership of the latter model.

A Member referred to introduction of Appendix A of the report, and enquired if the 'debt from Shetland tenants' should read SIC debt.

The Executive Director, Corporate Services explained that the debt technically came from the Shetland tenants, as they occupied the housing and were required to pay rent which went forward to the Housing Revenue Account.

The Member stated that he could not accept this, unless it was specifically stated in tenancy agreements, and another Member said that it was a question of emphasis and care should be taken about the terminology.

In response to a query from a Member regarding Right to Buy (RTB), the Head of Housing Services confirmed that local authority tenants would retain the same RTB, but that it would be different for new tenants, and the new Housing Bill would modify RTB for all tenants.

The Chairman stated that the whole idea of the alternative approach was to bring tenants into the equation at an early stage, in order to get responses so that this could be moved ahead.

The Committee approved the proposal contained in the report on the motion of Mr R J Anderson, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson.

The Committee adjourned for lunch at 1.00pm

The Committee reconvened at 2.00pm

Present:

R J Anderson	Dr C M Begg
A J Cluness	F B Grains
I J Hawkins	J C Irvine
P Malcolmson	J P Nicolson
F A Robertson	T W Stove
W Tait	

In Attendance (Officers):

J Watt, Executive Director, Community Services
M Miller, Head of Social Care Services
C Ferguson, Evaluation, Research and Development Officer
G Smith, Head of Community Development Services
A Drummond-Hunt, Divisional Manager, Facilities Management

Invited to Attend

J Grant, Shetland Welfare Trust
S Inkster, Islesburgh Community Centre Trust

Chairman:

Mr P Malcolmson, Chairman of the Committee, presided.

18/01

Independent Living Project – New Developments and Staffing Review

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 17), and on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr T W Stove, approved the recommendations contained therein.

19/01 **Revised Shetland Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 18).

A Member noted that these procedures were part of an overall Scottish Executive requirement, and he commended the Head of Social Care Services and her staff for their extensive work on this.

Dr C M Begg pointed out that this had already been presented to the Children and Young People's Services Forum, and it had been unfortunate that three of the main stakeholders involved in this had not been present at the Forum. She went on to say that the debate had not been as robust as she hoped, which begged the question about what was being achieved with some of the issues which went to the Forums.

20/01 **Shetland Partnership on Domestic Abuse: Strategy and Action Plan**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 19) and approved the recommendation contained therein on the motion of Dr C M Begg, seconded by Mr J P Nicolson.

Dr C M Begg said that she would like to make the same comment as she had on the previous item, and was disappointed that the debate did not generate as much enthusiasm as the subject demanded.

21/01 **Children's Commissioner for Scotland**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 20).

The Head of Social Care Services introduced the report and pointed out that the response took account of the views expressed at the Children and Young People's Services Forum and two additional points referred to in paragraph 3.4.

The Committee approved the recommendation contained in the report on the motion of Dr C M Begg, seconded by Mrs I Hawkins.

22/01 **Joint Shetland Islands Council/Shetland Health Board Community Care Plan 2000-2003**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 21).

The Head of Social Care Services introduced the report and outlined the difficulties in making the Plan suitable and accessible for users and providers of services, and the Scottish Executive who dictated what must be included in the plan. She stated that the format of the Plan was different this year, and it had been divided into sections in order to try to meet all the requirements.

A Member said that the Plan satisfied these requirements, but that she found it quite unreadable and difficult to digest. She added that she

had noted that cigarette smoking had not been included in the alcohol and drug abuse section and enquired if it would be included in the future.

The Head of Social Care Services replied that, in terms of the Community Care Plan and the Council's responsibility, this was a different issue which was being addressed more appropriately through the Health Board and health promotion in schools.

A Member pointed out that it may help in the future if there was a separate covering report brought to the Committee which highlighted the principal changes that have taken place in the review. The Chairman concurred and highlighted a number of issues which he felt it would be appropriate to highlight and prioritise in this way, as it could be difficult to extract them from this particular report.

The Head of Social Care Services agreed that it could be possible to do an update covering report in the future for the key elements.

A Member pointed out that the finer issues could be discussed at the Community Care Forum and views could be put forward as part of the ongoing review process.

The Chairman pointed out that the table of costs on page 13 of the Community Care in Shetland appendix would now need to be updated.

The Committee approved the recommendation contained in the report on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Dr C M Begg.

23/01

Shetland Islands Council Charitable Trust – Shetland Welfare Trust- Staffing Proposals – Personnel Manager

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 22).

Mr A J Cluness declared a non-pecuniary interest.

The Committee, on the motion of Mr J C Irvine, seconded by Mr F A Robertson, approved the recommendations contained in the report.

24/01

Residential Care – Pricing and Charging Arrangements

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services (Appendix 23).

The Chairman summarised the report and advised Members that the benchmark figure of £282 applied to all the residential homes referred to in the report. In response to a query from a Member, he advised that a paper on the impact of the Sutherland Report would be brought to the Community Care Forum.

The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr R I Black.

25/01 **Joining In – The Integration of Children and Young People with Special Needs into Mainstream Social and Leisure Activities**

The Committee considered a report by the Heads of Social Care and Community Development Services (Appendix 24).

Members stated that they were pleased to see this report coming forward, and noted that it was a pilot scheme.

The Chairman advised that updates on this project would be brought to the Children and Young People's Services Forum.

The Committee, on the motion of Dr C M Begg, seconded by Mrs I Hawkins, approved the recommendations contained in the report.

26/01 **Appointment of Additional Member to the Culture and Recreation Services Forum**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services (Appendix 25) and on the motion of Mr T W Stove, seconded by Mrs I Hawkins, approved the recommendations contained therein with regard to proposal 2.1.

27/01 **Nomination for Vacancy on the Children's Panel Advisory Committee – Local Authority Appointment**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services (Appendix 26).

Mr P Malcolmson nominated Mrs F B Grains to fill the vacancy and this was seconded by Dr C M Begg.

Mrs F B Grains accepted the nomination.

28/01 **Education Forum – 9 January 2001**

The Committee noted the record of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 27).

29/01 **Culture and Recreation Services Forum – 11 January 2001**

The Committee noted the record of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 28).

30/01 **Children and Young People's Services Forum – 11 January 2001**

The Committee noted the record of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 29).

31/01 **Community Care Forum – 16 January 2001**

The Committee noted the record of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 30).

32/01 **Housing Forum – 17 January 2001**

The Committee noted the record of the aforementioned meeting (Appendix 31).

In relation to item 03/01, a Member stated that she had been studying the papers in the Members Room, and she had noted that there could be a potential increase of homelessness in Shetland of 25-30 people, and asked if this was a problem.

The Executive Director confirmed, that if the Bill was passed, that anyone registered as homeless had to be re-housed but it would be necessary to quantify exactly what this means when the Bill is passed. The Head of Housing Services added that representations had been directly and through CoSLA regarding this item.

The Member also referred to item 04/01 and asked for confirmation on an issue she had raised earlier at this meeting regarding the relationship of the proposed new housing trust with the Charitable Trust.

Mr A J Cluness, Spokesperson of the Housing Forum, advised that if the trust was relieved of the housing debt, then there should be substantial income available so that the trust would not have to go to the Charitable Trust and it should not need funding to get it underway.

A Member pointed out that any trust which wished to obtain funding from the Charitable Trust would require to obtain charitable status, and asked if the proposed housing trust would be seeking this.

Mr A J Cluness replied that it was possible at some stage, but emphasised the need to demonstrate that the proposed trust had a new and viable business plan, and that there was no guarantee that the Charitable Trust would back the Trust if approached at some point in the future.

Another Member felt that it would be wrong to suggest to the public that the trust would be backed by the Charitable Trust.

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, the Committee resolved, on the motion of Mr P Malcolmson, seconded by Mr F A Robertson, to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of agenda items 32/01-35/01.

(Representatives of the media left the meeting)

33/01 **Staffing Establishment: Taing House Day Care and Lerwick Meals on Wheels**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services and on the motion of Mr J P Nicolson, seconded by Mr R I Black, approved the recommendations contained therein.

34/01 **SIC Charitable Trust – Grant to Foster Carer**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Social Care Services.

The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report, subject to the amendment of a condition, on the motion of Mr T W Stove, seconded by Mr R I Black.

35/01 **Future Use of the Former Leasks/Market Green/Hydro Premises – Use by the Voluntary Sector**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Central Services and approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr W Tait, seconded by Mr R J Anderson.

36/01 **Application for Early Retirement**

The Executive Director of Community Services advised that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda, but would be brought forward at the next cycle of meetings.

CHAIRMAN

