

MINUTE

‘A&B’

Executive Committee

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick

4 September 2007 at 10am

Present:

A J Cluness	L Angus
I J Hawkins	W H Manson
J G Simpson	A S Wishart

Apologies:

E J Fullerton

In attendance (Officers):

G Spall, Executive Director - Infrastructure
G Johnston, Head of Finance
C Medley, Head of Housing and Capital Programmes
N Grant, Head of Community Economic Development
D Irvine, Head of Business Development
A Priest, Project Manager
L Coutts, Area Economic Development and Tourism Officer
S Spence, European Officer
P Peterson, Performance Management Co-ordinator
L Gair, Committee Officer

Chairperson

Mr A J Cluness, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

There was nothing to report.

Minute

The minute of meeting held on 26 June 2007, was confirmed.

23/07 **Housing Revenue Account/Harbour Account/Reserve Fund
Revenue Management Accounts 2006/07
For the Period 1 April 2007 to 30 June 2007**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance (Appendix 1).

The Head of Finance briefly introduced the report.

Mr W H Manson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr A S Wishart.

24/07 **General Fund Revenue Management Accounts 2007/08
For the Period 1 April 2007 to 30 June 2007**

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

The Head of Finance briefly introduced the report.

In response to a query relating to paragraph 5.1.4 the Head of Finance advised that staff would were working to meet the target and acknowledged that would be more of a challenge than the report indicated. At paragraph 7.2 the Head of Finance provided an explanation on the savings achieved in the first quarter, and said that although ahead of schedule he was not suggesting that the Council would be able to repeat that savings every quarter, but was of the opinion that the target for the year could be met.

Mr A S Wishart moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr A T J Cooper.

25/07

Review of Mid Yell Junior High School Project

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing and Capital Programmes (Appendix 3).

The Head of Housing and Capital Programmes briefly introduced the report, and stated that the Services Committee had provided their own suggestions on the report. He advised that paragraph 3.11 had caused discussion at the Services Committee and confirmed that the 120 quoted for Mid Yell was the figure used for design purposes.

Mr W H Manson moved that Member endorse the recommendations of the Services Committee held on 30 August 2007, seconded by Mr A J Cluness

Mr L Angus said that if the task force appointed by Services Committee, were to change the specification or make material changes, these should be reported back to the Services Committee or the Council for approval.

26/07

Capital Programme – Capital Programme Review Team (CPRT) – August 2007

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing and Capital Programmes (Appendix 4).

The Head of Capital Programme and Housing service introduced the report.

Mr A T J Cooper moved the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr A J Cluness

In response to a query at 4.1.3, the Head of Capital Programme and Housing Service advised that there was no formal decision for Council expenditure on the Roof of the old Library, Burial Grounds and Waste to Energy and the Executive Committee were to agree whether these projects go ahead.

Scalloway Harbour – Dredging of Main Navigational Harbour

Mrs I J Hawkins said that timing was of the essence regarding the dredging at Scalloway. The Head of Capital Programme and Housing Service said that he understood the General Manager Ports & Harbours had identified another source from which the dredging may be funded, but said that he would check this out.

Knab Dyke

Members discussed the Knab Dyke and it was noted that the dyke below the cemetery was not included in the recommended works. Mr L Angus asked the Head of Capital Programme and Housing Service prepare a report for Executive Committee regarding the South Corner of the Knab Dyke.

In response to a request for a list of Social Work projects, the Head of Capital Programme and Housing Service advised that a list of all known aspirations had been reported to the Council earlier in the year. He also advised that at the last cycle of meetings a report was presented to the Services Committee on which projects the service areas wanted to see carried out. The Head of Capital Programme and Housing Service said that he could update the aspirational list and put a timescale on the information provided by service area and circulate both to Members by email. Members agreed.

27/07

Centre for Nordic Studies

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business Development (Appendix 5).

The Chairman said that he was disappointed to hear on Radio Orkney that Shetland was not taking a positive view on this, but said that on the other hand the Council needed to know that the vehicle for this was the right one.

The Head of Business Development introduced the report and said the he had stated in his report that it was not safe to engage in this project at this time. He went on to advise that since writing the report, there may be a compromise that would allow the Council to engage in this which would mean that some research work would be done through the Shetland College.

The Chairman said that this was of considerable interest and needed to be explored and developed over the years, and said that he would not want to reject the proposal at this stage.

During discussions, Mr L Angus said that parallels could be drawn with the North Atlantic Fisheries College stating that the NAFC had raised the profile of Shetland and said that if academia was a one way of doing that and if Orkney was the only way forward at this stage, it should be considered. Mr A S Wishart drew attention to paragraph 6.3 and said that the Shetland College had its own priority lists and he would not like to see it getting into difficulties.

The Head of Business Development advised that he had spoken with the Director of Shetland College and Train Shetland who indicated that although he had concerns, he would be more concerned if they had to drop out of the project.

The Chairman said that it was important to keep the door open at this stage and if the Shetland College felt an agreement could be reached, it should be pursued.

Mr A J Cluness moved that the Committee recommend that the Council delegated authority to the Head of Business Development to fund an agreed solution between Orkney and Shetland Colleges on the Nordic Studies Centre Project. Mr A S Wishart seconded.

28/07

Sumburgh Airport Image Improvement Project

The Committee considered a report by the Principal Officer – Marketing (Appendix 6).

The Head of Business Development briefly introduced the report.

Mr A J Cluness moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr L Angus.

29/07

Heritage Tourism Investment Programme

The Committee considered a report by the Economic Development/Tourism Officer (Appendix 7).

The Economic Development/Tourism Officer briefly introduced the report.

In response to concerns raised with regard to paragraph 9.2, the Head of Finance said it was envisaged that funding would be sought from the Development Trust for the development of heritage for Shetland. He said however that the Development Trust may need to seek funding from the Council, particularly for the capital project such as the Sumburgh Lighthouse.

The Head of Finance suggested however that when a call was made on the Council's reserves for capital projects, these requests should be passed to the Capital Project Review Team to be measured against existing projects and prioritised on that basis. He said that this would provide a fairer process.

Following further discussion, Mr L Angus moved that the Committee approve recommendation 9.1 and that recommendations 9.2 be amended to reflect that requests for Capital Project funding from the Council's Reserve fund would be passed to the Capital Project Review Team where they would be measured against existing capital projects and prioritised on that basis. Mrs I J Hawkins seconded.

30/07

Viking Energy: Board Representation

The Committee considered a report by the Project Manager – Viking Energy (Appendix 8).

(Mr W H Manson declared an interest as Chairman of the Charitable Trust. On the suggestion of the Chairman, Mr Manson remained in the Chamber)

The Project Manager briefly introduced the report.

Mr L Angus moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr J G Simpson.

31/07

Statutory Performance Indicators for 2006/07

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

The Performance Management Co-ordinator introduced the report and advised that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee had analysed the information in Appendix 1 and had sought further investigation/information in some areas.

Mr A J Cluness moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

32/07 Leader Funding Programme 2007-2013

The Committee considered a report by the European Officer (Appendix 10).

The European Officer briefly introduced the report.

Mr L Angus fully endorsed the report and moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, Mr W H Manson seconded.

33/07 Update on European Activities

The Committee noted a report by the European Officer (Appendix 11).

Mr L Angus advised Members that there had been discussion by the previous Council that Shetland should consider hosting a conference on the proposed EU Maritime Policy. He stated that a conference would promote the NAFC as the Scottish Centre for Marine Policy and said that the Council should consider hosting a conference in the next 2 years.

A J Cluness
CHAIRPERSON