

MINUTE

B - Public

**Special Shetland Islands Council
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 2 pm.**

Present:

M Bell	M Burgess
P Campbell	A Duncan
G Cleaver	A Cooper
S Coutts	B Fox
A Manson	D Ratter
G Robinson	D Sandison
G Smith	T Smith
M Stout	A Wishart
V Wishart	

Apologies

R Henderson	F Robertson
C Smith	A Westlake
J Wills	

In Attendance (Officers):

M Boden, Chief Executive
H Budget, Director – Children’s Services
N Grant, Director - Development Services
A Edwards, Executive Manager – Quality Improvement
J Gray, Executive Manager - Finance
J Riise, Executive Manager - Governance and Law
S Thompson, Executive Manager – Schools
S Laurenson, Consultant Advisor
J Thomason, Management Accountant
C Anderson, Senior Communications Officer
A Cogle, Team Leader – Administrative Services

Chair:

M Bell, Convener of the Council, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

The Convener ruled that, due to the timescales involved, the following item of business would be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency in terms of subsection 4 of section 50B of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973: Baltasound Airstrip. The Council noted that this was also classed as an exempt item.

Declarations of Interest

None

77/13

Blueprint for Education: The Next Steps – A Strategy for Secondary Education in Shetland

The Council considered a report by the Director of Children’s Services (CS-43) which proposed revisions to the Blueprint for Education strategy.

The Council noted that the matter had been considered earlier by the Education and Families Committee. Accordingly, the Convener invited the Chair, Ms V Wishart, to advise the Council of the Committee's recommendation.

Ms Wishart advised that the Committee recommended that the Council resolve to postpone a decision on the proposed revisions to the Education Blueprint regarding Whalsay School Secondary Department, Mid Yell Junior High School and Baltasound Junior High School Secondary Department in order to allow the alternative options outlined at the meeting to be investigated.

Ms Wishart said that, in summary, those options are:

- The extant Blueprint recommendations (including revisiting the motions made last September)
- The Next Steps recommendations
- A telepresence driven model where some teaching time could be replaced by having a teacher transmit lessons to a number of sites
- A hub and spoke model (setting out the options for both one and two hubs)
- Status quo within the Medium Term Financial Plan

Accordingly, Ms Wishart moved that the Council resolved to approve the recommendation from the Education and Families Committee. Mr G Smith seconded.

In response to a question, it was agreed that Members would be e-mailed with figures relating to the cost of external consultants required to assist in the process of investigating these options, and an indication as to where the consultants would come from.

Decision:

The Council **RESOLVED** to postpone a decision on the proposed revisions to the Education Blueprint regarding Whalsay School Secondary Department, Mid Yell Junior High School and Baltasound Junior High School Secondary Department in order to allow the alternative options outlined at the meeting to be investigated

78/13

Blueprint for Education: The Next Steps – Financial Aspects

The Council considered a report by the Director of Children's Services (CS-44) which presented the estimated financial position relating to the Blueprint for Education.

The Council noted that the matter had been considered earlier by the Education and Families Committee. Accordingly, the Convener invited the Chair, Ms V Wishart, to advise the Council of the Committee's recommendation.

Ms Wishart advised that the Committee recommended that the Council defer consideration of this report in line with the decision made in respect of the earlier report "Blueprint for Education: The Next Steps – A Strategy for Secondary Education in Shetland". Mr G Smith seconded, and the Council concurred.

Decision:

The Council **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of this report in line with the decision made in respect of the earlier report “Blueprint for Education: The Next Steps – A Strategy for Secondary Education in Shetland”.

79/13 **Proposed Statutory Consultation for Bressay Primary School and Nursery Department**

The Council considered a report by the Director of Children’s Services (CS-46) which recommended that statutory consultation commence on the proposed closure of Bressay Primary School and Nursery Department.

The Council noted that the matter had been considered earlier by the Education and Families Committee. Accordingly, the Convener invited the Chair, Ms V Wishart, to advise the Council of the Committee’s recommendation.

Ms Wishart advised that the Committee recommended that the Council resolve to approve that statutory consultation on the proposed closure of Bressay Primary School and Nursery Department commence on 30 September 2013. Mr G Smith seconded. Ms Wishart advised that concerns were raised at the meeting regarding the need for the Council to understand the trends that had led to this situation in Bressay, for example childcare and ferry fares, as matters for consideration. Accordingly, it had been agreed that information would be considered by the Council along with the outcome of the statutory consultation.

Decision:

The Council **RESOLVED** that statutory consultation on the proposed closure of Bressay Primary School and Nursery Department would commence on 30 September 2013.

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr Bell moved, Mr Robinson seconded, and the Council agreed to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of the Appendix 2 to the following items of business.

80/13 **Baltasound Airstrip**

The Council considered a report by the Director of Development Services (DSD-14).

After discussion, Mr W A Ratter moved that the Council adopt the recommendations in the report. Mr G Robinson seconded, and the Council concurred. The Convener agreed that a special meeting of the Council would be called, if necessary, to report on the outcome.

Decision:

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the recommendations contained in the report.

The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.

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Convener

