

Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Monday 28 August 2017 at 2pm

Present:

P Campbell	S Coutts
S Leask	A Manson
R McGregor	A Priest
D Sandison	C Smith
G Smith	R Thomson

Apologies:

None

In Attendance (Officers):

J Belford, Executive Manager - Finance
M Craigie, Executive Manager – Transport Planning
J Smith, Executive Manager – Ports and Harbours Operations
W Spence, Executive Manager – Environmental Services
C Symons, Executive Manager – Estate Operations
C Bragg, Team Leader – Waste Management
B Sinclair, Waste Prevention Officer
J MacLeod, Performance and Improvement Officer
B Sinclair, Waste Prevention Officer
P Sutherland, Solicitor
B Kerr, Communications Officer
L Malcolmson, Committee Officer

Also:

A Duncan
J Fraser
T Smith

Chair:

Mr Thomson, Chair of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

None

Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of the meetings held on i) 6 March 2017 on the motion of Mr Sandison, seconded by Mr Coutts and ii) 13 June 2017 on the motion of Mr Leask, seconded by Ms Manson.

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (ISD-05-17-F) that summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Directorate for the first quarter of 2017/18.

The Acting Executive Manager – Ports and Harbours introduced the report advising that the performance demonstrates consistent progress against priorities.

In responding to questions the Executive Manager – Estate Operations provided a summary of the issues relating to DP138 Energy Efficiency Capacity and explained that attempts were being made to train in-house personnel to undertake the work. It was noted that a number of external contractors were put off by the level of paperwork involved and bureaucracy was an issue that was being picked up by the Leader in terms of Island Proofing.

Cllr Duncan was invited to address the Committee and advised that he had raised an issue at the Development Committee but was advised it was more appropriate for Environment and Transport Committee. He questioned Officers on the central government funding issues categorised in the Development Committee report as medium risk and in the Environment and Transport Committee reports as significant risk. It was suggested that this be categorised as “extreme risk” and this was based on three factors; namely that the Minister for Transport and the Islands had indicated there was no more funding from the Scottish Government for the ferry service replacement in the Islands of Shetland; that the Minister for Public Health and Sport advised that there would be no further funding for the Integration Joint Board. It was suggested that these categories be reconsidered and entered as an extreme risk in the risk register in light of the diminishing funding allowance and recent assertions by two MSPs. The Executive Manager – Finance advised that this is entered as a risk by Infrastructure Services but there are other associated risks for the corporate risks register so the wider debate around funding would be considered further.

In terms of SP219 the facilities management review the Executive Manager – Estate Operations advised that the business justification case would be put forward shortly and the Executive Manager – Finance confirmed a number of business justifications cases had been reviewed and it was expected to be reported on by the end of the month.

The Executive Manager – Finance was also able to respond to a question, that according to the current Asset Investment Plan the life extension to the m.v. Leirna would cost £800k and £1m would need to be spent on the m.v Geira over the next three years.

The Committee noted the report.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee noted the report as appropriate to their remit and commented on progress against priorities to inform further activity within the remainder of this year, and the planning process for next and future years

21/17 Development Services Directorate Performance Report – 3 Month/1st Quarter 2017/18

The Committee noted a report by the Director of Development Services (DV-41-17-F) that summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Directorate for the first quarter of 2017/18.

The Executive Manager – Transport Planning introduced the report highlighting the issues relating to the Environment and Transport Committee, including progress in smart ticketing and the hope that there would be more detail and a business case for bus and ferries by the end of the financial year. There were comments from Members on the use of smart card ticketing system for other concessions such as school meals and it was noted that the Government are launching eligibility on concessionary tariffs therefore it was hoped this would not affect the use of the cards as it includes external ferries for over 60's.

In responding to a comment on the Papa Stour ferry timetable, the Executive Manager – Transport Planning advised that it is possible to look at journeys required for the Islands and noted that a modest improvement could change the number of travel opportunities for residents.

Following comments on the internal and external ferry service the Executive Manager – Transport planning advised that he would circulate, to Committee Members, the consultation response on the procurement of external ferry services.

During debate comment was also made on the amount of progress since the last performance report and the information provided by Officers therefore it was agreed that Officers should keep members informed of progress between the quarterly performance meetings. It was also requested that the information presented on Internal and External Ferry Services should be reported separately.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee noted the report as appropriate to their remit and commented on progress against priorities to inform further activity within the remainder of this year, and the planning process for next and future years.

22/17 Management Accounts for Environment & Transport Committee: 2017/18 – Projected Outturn at Quarter 1

The Committee noted a report by the Executive Manager - Finance (F-068-17-F) that presented the details of the projected outturn position for the first quarter of 2017/18 on net controllable costs for revenue and capital, to enable the Committee to monitor the financial performance of the services within its remit.

The Executive Manager – Finance introduced the report and after informing of the draw of funding from contingency due to vessel fuel costs he responded to questions around the detail of the fixed deal from June 2016 and advised that there was no opportunity to fix a price in line with budget. He commented on the continuing volatility in the market price of fuel and that consideration was being given to discussing the possibility of continuing with a further fixed deal.

Decision

The Environment & Transport Committee RESOLVED to review the Management Accounts showing the projected outturn position at Quarter 1.

23/17 Implementation of Kerbside Recycling Collection Service

The Committee noted a report by the Team Leader – Waste Management (ES-02-17-F) that presented a plan for the implementation of kerbside recycling collections for every household in Shetland. This proposal adheres to the Scottish Government Household Recycling Charter and its Code of Practice (COP).

In introducing the report the Team Leader – Waste Management summarised the main terms of report and provided an update on the position in relation to recycling waste in Shetland.

During consideration of the report Members commented on the number of bring sites; were advised that there will be no difference to the current position on collection of garden waste; highlighted challenges for some householders to use wheeled bins; that there will be a trial in one area, Brae and Muckle Roe or the South Mainland; that communal bins will continue to be used; and that there are solutions to securing the wheeled bins.

The Team Leader – Waste Management also advised that through discussions with Zero Waste Scotland they have agreed to fund a study to understand the practicalities of using wheeled bins in Shetland and there is advice on this around tethering bins. He said that staff will be attending the ideal homes exhibition to be able to answer questions first hand, as well as other opportunities to speak with the public. In terms of businesses the Team Leader – Waste Management explained that there is a commercial waste strategy in place.

Some Member expressed great concern around the ability to secure wheeled bins and the difficulty caused by Shetland's high winds. In responding to a question around insurance and who has responsibility for the bins, once provided by the Council, the Team Leader – Waste Management said that the wheeled bins will be the responsibility of the household. He also advised that Officers would work closely with Community Councils and community organisations on finding solutions to suit the circumstances of individuals. The Team Leader – Waste Management added that there are already a number of wheeled bins used across Shetland in various areas that are subject to the different weather conditions.

The Team Leader – Waste Management responded to a question on the Business Justification Case for the sorting shed and provided clarification on the capital outlay and estimated payback of 2.6 years. He added that the implementation of the proposals was important in ensuring that the Council is not charged for failing to meet its targets.

Mr C Smith moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr Coutts.

Members commented on how well the Team Leader – Waste Management had answered questions and viewed this as important in engaging with the most vulnerable and hard to reach individuals. The Chair also noted that the current 9% recycling in Shetland means that Shetland is at the bottom of the chart in Scotland and not only are these arrangements something that the Council needs to but has to do legally. Members acknowledged that there will be teething problems therefore it was important to work with the Communications team during implementation of these proposals.

Decision

The Environment and Transport Committee:

- APPROVED the timetable and strategy for implementation in accordance with the Charter for Household Recycling – Code of Practice (COP) and the dates as agreed with Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS), as set out in section 2.6 and 2.7 of the report.

- APPROVED acceptance of the offer of ZWS transitional funding set out in paragraph 4.1.4 of the report; and
- APPROVED plans for a Business Justification Case for this project through the Council's Gateway Process for the Management of Capital Projects.

The meeting concluded at 3.15pm.

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Chair