

Environment and Transport Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 2pm

Present:

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

Apologies:

R McGregor

In Attendance (Officers):

M Sandison, Director of Infrastructure Services
N Grant, Director of Development Services
J Belford, Executive Manager – Finance
P Dinsdale, Team Leader – Environmental Health
J MacLeod, Performance & Improvement Adviser
B Kerr, Communications Officer
P Wishart, Solicitor
L Malcolmson, Committee Officer

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) 28 August 2017 on the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr Campbell; and ii) 2 October 2017 on the motion of Mr Leask, seconded by Ms Manson.

29/17 Infrastructure Directorate Performance Report Quarter 2 – 2017/18

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (ISD-08-17-F) that summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Directorate for the second quarter of 2017/18.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and provided a summary of activities and progress within the Infrastructure Services Directorate.

The Director of Infrastructure Services responded to questions relating to the activities listed in the appendices and Members were updated on these matters including that:

- a review of Tingwall airport is being carried out by Transport Planning;

- improvements are being made to Tingwall airport following an inspection by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Steps will be taken in regard to the security assessment that are proportionate to the size of the airport;
- there is departmental support for the corporate parenting of young people moving into work through either apprenticeships or by providing work experience opportunities. Work is ongoing to attract electrical engineers but apprenticeships in this area are difficult to support as there are a shortage of suitable experienced electricians to oversee trainees;
- the food hygiene inspection target is an expectation as it is a statutory duty. The local and nationwide shortage of Environmental Health Officers mean that targets could not be met;
- some streetlights have not been working for up to a year in some cases however progress is being made on replacement and upgrades.

During debate reference was made to the carbon reduction policy and the reduction of carbon emissions. It was suggested that all options, including Fixed Links, should be considered as it would not be possible to achieve a 20% reduction in carbon emissions as matters stand at the moment.

In regard to maintenance of care homes it was suggested that pressures should be placed on the Charitable Trust to do essential maintenance as they own the buildings. Further comment was made on the importance of the Council prioritising its basic services.

Congratulations was extended to Tingwall Airport staff for the positive outcome and response to the compliance points, following the CAA inspection.

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.

30/17 Development Services Directorate Performance Report – 6 Month/2nd Quarter 2017/18

The Committee noted a report by the Director of Development Services (DV-53-17-F) that summarised the activity and performance of the Infrastructure Directorate for the second quarter of 2017/18.

The Director of Development Services introduced the report and highlighted the areas that related to the Transport Planning Service.

In response to a question on whether a year extension on the inter islands air services contract was sufficient, the Director of Development Services said that the extended period would provide time for the full business case for ferries, air and bus services to be completed with air being carried out first. He said that it was intended that the tender process be resolved in a timely manner but the extension would provide time to understand the options available.

Reference was made to the recent announcement by Orkney Islands Council on the Inter Island Ferries Services and concern was expressed in terms of the impact on the current joint negotiations. Members were however reassured by the Director of Development Services and by the Chair that Orkney continued to be committed to achieving fair funding for the North isles therefore it would not impact on Shetland's request particularly for next financial year.

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.

31/17 Management Accounts for Environment & Transport Committee: 2017/18 – Projected Outturn at Quarter 2

The Committee noted a report by the Executive Manager - Finance (F-087-17-F) that presented the details of the projected outturn position for the second 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 highlighted the variances and the positive projected year end outturn.

In responding to questions, the Executive Manager – Finance explained that the increase in fuel costs was as a result of the fixed price increasing on last year more than anticipated, and that the budget had been based on less than the current price per litre. The Committee were advised that Officers were being creative to find solutions to better protect fuel costs going forward.

Reference was made to paragraphs 1.7-1.11, and it was agreed that future reports on the management accounts would include a general statement where there are no other significant variances rather than listing those individually.

Members recognised staff for the work undertaken to maintain the budgets on target.

Decision

The Environment & Transport Committee reviewed the Management Accounts showing the projected outturn position at Quarter 2.

32/17 Environmental Health Service Enforcement Policy

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader – Environmental Health (ES-04-17-F) which informed on an updated and amended Enforcement Policy for Environmental Health.

The Team Leader – Environmental Health introduced the report and the updated Enforcement Policy for Environmental Health.

Mr C Smith moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report, seconded by Mr Thomson.

Decision

The Environment & Transport Committee RECOMMENDED that the Policy & Resources Committee APPROVE the updated Enforcement Policy attached as an appendix to the report.

The meeting concluded at 3.10pm.

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Chair

