

**Shetland Islands Council – 25 September 2024**  
[Shetland Islands Council Committee Information - Meetings](#)

Item	Subject	Decision
1	Chair's Report - Policy and Resources Committee: SIC Overall Management Accounts 2024/25 Projected Outturn at Quarter 1	<p>The Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOTE the Management Accounts showing the overall projected outturn position at Quarter 1 as set out in Appendices 1-8</li> <li>• NOTE the financial position details set out in Appendices 1-5</li> <li>• APPROVE the virement to remove the savings line from Children's Services of £1.678m to be met from the Contingency budget</li> <li>• APPROVE the re-profiling of budgets in line with the variance analysis set out in Appendix 4 to cover over/underspends as identified</li> <li>• APPROVE the adjustments to the 2024/25 budget to reflect the additional funding offered to the Council, as set out in Appendices 6 and 8</li> <li>• APPROVE the increase in payment to the Integrated Joint Board of £2.136m; this will increase the payment for 2024/25 to £35.766m.</li> </ul>
2	Chairs Report – Policy and Resources Committee: Mothballing a School and Reopening a Mothballed School Procedures	<p>The Council APPROVED the following principles that will apply to mothballing a school and reopening a mothballed school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools on the Mainland of Shetland, Yell, Unst and Whalsay will be considered for mothballing if the school roll falls below 20% capacity.</li> <li>• Schools on the Islands with Small Populations (Fair Isle, Foula, Papa Stour, Skerries and Fetlar) with an open primary school will be considered for mothballing when the school roll falls, or is due to fall, to zero.</li> </ul>

- That the Director of Children’s Services has the delegated authority to mothball a school where the minority of parents are opposed, or majority of parents are not opposed, to the proposal; or where the school roll has fallen to zero.
- Reopening a mothballed school on the mainland of Shetland, Yell, Unst and Whalsay will be considered when the potential primary school roll in the catchment area reaches 20% of the school’s capacity.
- Reopening a mothballed school on Islands with Small Populations (Fair Isle, Foula, Papa Stour, Skerries and Fetlar) will be considered when:
  - Families move into the island - the decision-making process will be completed within four months of this trigger event.
  - An existing child in the area comes of age to attend school, and parents/carers are in favour of this option.
- That the Director of Children’s Services has delegated authority to reopen a mothballed school when the conditions agreed at 1.3.4 and 1.3.5 in the report are met and the costs can be met from within existing resources. Otherwise it is conditional on a report being presented to Education and Families Committee providing funding to reopen the mothballed school.
- There will be a two-year exemption period from further consideration of mothballing if “Stage 3 - Decision” of the Mothballing a School Procedure has been completed but the school is not mothballed – unless the school roll falls to zero.
- That should the majority of parents with pupils in attendance at the school remain opposed to mothballing once all the relevant information and parental views have been gathered, the school should remain open and the Director of Children’s Services will report back to the Education and Families Committee to decide next steps.

3	Chair's Report – Policy and Resources Committee: Self-Directed Support Policy	The Council APPROVED the Self Directed Support Policy 2024 – 2027.
4	Chair's Report – Policy and Resources Committee: Review of the School Transport Policy	<p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APPROVED the proposed updated Shetland Islands Council School Transport Policy.</li> <li>• APPROVED the request to changing that where a pupil is redirected from their catchment school due to mothballing, transport will be provided directly to the new school for the period of one year. After one year school transport will be reviewed in line with the School Transport Policy.</li> </ul>
5	Chair's Report – Policy and Resources Committee: Taxi Tariff Review	<p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOTED the consultation exercise undertaken pursuant to section 17(4A) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, as more fully described in Appendix 2 and paragraphs 4.5-4.9 below, and the extent of responses received in response thereto</li> <li>• NOTED the effect of any appeal to the Traffic Commissioner for the Scottish Traffic Area against a Council decision made in terms of section 18 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982; and thereafter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APPROVED the proposed taxi tariffs as set out in Appendix 1; and thereafter</li> <li>• INSTRUCTED the Executive Manager – Transport Planning (or his nominee) to give all due notice of the Council's decision pursuant to paragraph 1.2.1 above as may be required in terms of sections 17-18A of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and to take such other actions so far as may be necessary to give effect to same.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	Chair's Report – Policy and Resources Committee: Winter Services Review 2024	The Council APPROVED:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The adjustments to Roads Winter Maintenance arrangements to introduce proactive gritting of Priority 1 roads on the Christmas Day and New Year’s Day public holidays, when weather conditions require, as described in section 4.2.3</li> <li>• The implementation by the Roads Service of the jointly developed “Action Cards” and associated call-logging to robustly support Emergency Services requests for additional reactive services, as described in section 4.2.4.</li> </ul>
7	Chair’s Report – Policy and Resources Committee: Ferries Resilience Review	<p>The Council RESOLVED to DELEGATE AUTHORITY to the Chief Executive, or her nominee, to progress the vessel and terminal actions set out in paragraph 4.9, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• applying resources to further explore opportunities for suitable second hand and new vessel acquisition, in consultation with partners</li> <li>• initiate the development of preparatory business cases for these actions; while maintaining alignment with the related Fair Isle Ferry Replacement project and Inter Island Transport Connectivity Programme.</li> </ul>
8	Chair’s Report – Policy and Resources Committee: Asset Investment Plan – Progress Report	<p>The Council NOTED the progress of the projects within the Asset Investment Plan and APPROVED the adjustments to capital budgets for updated anticipated project spend in 2024/25, described at section 4.6.</p>
9	Chair’s Report – Policy and Resources Committee: Asset Investment Plan – Business Cases	<p>The Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APPROVE the proposal described in Section 4.3.1 and included as Appendix A to this report and grant retrospective approval of the budget in the current financial year</li> <li>• APPROVE the proposal described in Section 4.3.2 and included as Appendix B to this report and to include it in the Asset Investment Plan 2025-30 prioritisation process.</li> </ul>

10	Draft Shetland Energy Strategy Update	<p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOTED the progress made to advance the Draft Shetland Energy Strategy since its approval on 27 March 2024</li> <li>• NOTED that the Strategy will be completed with reference to the information provided in paragraph 4.2 and Appendix 1 of the report.</li> </ul>
11	Preventing and Managing Exclusions Policy - Update	<p>The Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APPROVE the updated Preventing and Managing Exclusions in Shetland Schools Policy</li> <li>• DELEGATE authority to the Director of Children’s Services to agree updates to the Preventing and Managing Exclusions in Shetland Schools Policy where these are required to give effect to legislative requirements, Council decisions or changes in operational and technical procedures, and to note that any such changes will be notified in the document version control and, where considered necessary, by a briefing note to Councillors and/or officers.</li> </ul>
12	Review of Employer Discretionary Policy on Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions (SCAVCs)	<p>The Council NOTED the intent to bring a fuller review of all other employer discretions back to the Council in the near future and APPROVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an update to the current Employer Discretionary Policy pertaining to Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions (SCAVCs), noting the minor change made to now permit SCAVCS where employees enter into a Salary Sacrifice arrangement and the intent to bring a fuller review of all other employer discretions back to the Council in the near future.</li> <li>• the retrospective application of the update with effect from 1 July 2024, the date of implementation of Salary Sacrifice Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions (SS SCAVCS).</li> </ul>
13	Shetland Islands Council Risk Register	<p>The Council CONSIDERED the content of the report and the Shetland Islands Council’s Risk Register attached at Appendix 1, and ADVISED the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team of its views.</p>

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