

Minute

Development and Infrastructure Committee

Tuesday, 4 February 2025, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Kristopher D Leask, Graham A Bevan, Alexander G Cowie, P Lindsay Hall, Rachael A King, W Leslie Manson, Raymond S Peace, Gillian Skuse, Owen Tierney, Duncan A Tullock and Heather N Woodbridge.

Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance).

In Attendance

- Hayley Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Gareth Waterson, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.
- James Buck, Head of Marine Services, Transportation and Harbour Master.
- Lorna Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services (for Items 1 to 5).
- Karen Bevilacqua, Service Manager (Legal Services).
- Laura Cromarty, Service Manager (Transportation) (for Items 4 to 12).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Kenny Roy, Service Manager (Roads and Grounds) (for Items 1 to 5).
- Susan Shearer, Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning) (for Items 5 to 7).
- Gavin Barr, Economic Development Manager (for Items 6 to 9).
- James Green, Team Manager (Marine Planning) (for Items 5 to 7).
- Matthew Wylie, Team Manager (Roads Support) (for Items 1 to 5).
- Symeon Grayson, Airfield Superintendent (for Items 4 to 12).
- Morag Roberston, Economic Development Officer (for Items 6 to 9).

In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Katy Russell-Duff, Committees Officer.

Observing

- Sweyn Johnston, Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth (for Items 7 to 9).
- Thomas Richards, Senior Human Resources Adviser.
- Emily Gray, Marine Planner (for Items 6 and 7).
- Daniel Morris, Marine Planner (for Items 6 and 7).
- David Work, Roads Support Student (for Items 1 to 5).

Declaration of Interest

- Councillor Rachael A King – Items 8 and 9.

Chair

- Councillor Kristopher D Leask.

1. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Corporate Finance), the Committee:

Noted:

1.1. The revenue financial summary statement in respect of service areas for which the Development and Infrastructure Committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2024, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, indicating a budget overspend position of £2,308,200.

1.2. The revenue financial detail by service area statement in respect of service areas for which the Development and Infrastructure Committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2024, attached as Annex 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

The Committee scrutinised:

1.3. The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 3 to the report by the Head of Finance, and obtained assurance that appropriate action was being taken with regard to significant budget variances.

2. Road Asset Replacement Programme – Expenditure Monitoring

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Corporate Finance), the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. The summary position of expenditure incurred as at 31 December 2024, against the approved Road Asset Replacement Programme for financial year 2024/25, as detailed in section 1.4 of the report by the Head of Finance.

The Committee scrutinised:

2.2. The detailed analysis of expenditure figures and programme updates, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, and obtained assurance with regard to significant budget variances and progress being made with delivery of the approved Road Asset Replacement Programme.

3. Road Asset Replacement Programme

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, together with an Island Communities Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Neighbourhood Services, the Committee:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

3.1. That the Road Asset Replacement Programme for 2025/26, together with indicative programmes for 2026/27 and 2027/28, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute be approved.

3.2. That powers be delegated to the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Finance, to adjust the Road Asset Replacement Programmes referred to above, as variations arose and in order to maximise use of budget allocations.

4. Prohibition of Driving – Bridge Street and Albert Street, Kirkwall

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Neighbourhood Services, the Committee:

Noted:

4.1. That the Council engaged Sustrans to carry out public engagement on the proposal to close Bridge Street, Kirkwall, on Friday and Saturday nights, which included an online survey as well as on-street engagement with the public and local businesses.

On the motion of Councillor Kristopher D Leask, seconded by Councillor Gillian Skuse, the Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

4.2. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should commence statutory consultation in respect of introducing a new Prohibition of Driving Order covering Bridge Street, Albert Street, Laing Street, St Olaf's Wynd and Bridge Street Wynd, Kirkwall, in accordance with Option 3, as outlined in the report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, namely:

- Prohibiting all vehicles, with exceptions for emergencies only, between the undernoted hours:
 - 11:00 and 15:00.
 - 23:00 and 03:00.

The Committee noted:

4.3. That implementation of any new order would require the installation of retractable bollards at the start of Bridge Street and end of Albert Street and Laing Street, Kirkwall, to ensure strict control of the prohibition order.

4.4. That the permanent closure of St Olaf's Wynd and Bridge Street Wynd, Kirkwall, would be included in any prohibition of driving order.

5. 20mph Speed Limits

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Neighbourhood Services, the Committee:

Noted:

5.1. The outcome of the public engagement and online survey in respect of the introduction of 20mph speed limits on various roads across Orkney, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.

5.2. The proposals for focused 20mph speed limits as indicated on the location plans attached as Appendix 2 to the report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.

On the motion of Councillor Gillian Skuse, seconded by Councillor Kristopher D Leask, the Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

5.3. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should undertake the statutory consultation process in respect of the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits on various sections of road throughout Orkney, referred to at paragraph 5.2 above.

5.4. That, regardless of whether any objection was received, the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should submit a report, to the Development and Infrastructure Committee, on the outcome of the statutory consultation referred to at paragraph 5.3 above.

6. National Planning Improvement Framework

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Scrutinised:

6.1. The draft Performance Assessment, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, and obtained assurance that it provided an accurate reflection of the performance of the Planning Service.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

6.2. That the Improvement Action Plan, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved for submission to the National Planning Improvement Champion.

The Committee noted:

6.3. The Peer Review Workshop Outcomes Report, attached as Annex 3 to the report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.

Councillor Heather N Woodbridge left the meeting during discussion of this item and rejoined the meeting at this point.

7. National Marine Plan 2: Planning Position Statement

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Team Manager (Marine Planning), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

7.1. That the draft Council response to the National Marine Plan 2 Planning Position Statement consultation, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

7.2. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure be authorised to submit the response to the consultation on the National Marine Plan 2 Planning Position Statement to the Scottish Government, on behalf of the Council.

The Council noted:

7.3. That, due to the timescale constraints, the Chief Executive would be requested to exercise emergency powers to authorise submission of the response, referred to at paragraph 7.2 above, prior to approval by the Council.

8. Economic Development Grants and Cost of Living Crisis Business Support Schemes

Budget Monitoring Statement and Delegated Approvals

Councillor Rachael A King declared an interest in this item, her connection being that a close family member had received economic development grant funding, however, as the detail of Annex B was not discussed, she did not leave the meeting.

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Economic Development Manager, the Committee:

Noted:

8.1. Spending to 31 December 2024, in relation to Economic Development Grants, totalling £220,666, of which £138,233 related to grant commitments made in previous financial years and £82,433 to current year commitments.

8.2. Grant approvals made in the period 1 April to 31 December 2024 totalling £188,958, including grants approved under delegated schemes for the same period totalling £148,958, as detailed in Annex B to the report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

8.3. Approvals made in the period 1 April to 31 December 2024, totalling £120,000, in respect of Cost of Living Crisis Business Support Schemes, as summarised in Annex C to the report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

9. Archaeological Investigations

Councillor Rachael A King declared an interest in this item, her connection being that a close family member was an applicant for assistance, and was not present during discussion of this item.

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Economic Development Officer, the Committee:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

9.1. That, subject to an adequate service revenue budget for 2025/26 being established, a sum of up to £40,000 be allocated within the Economic Development Grants budget in respect of archaeological investigations.

9.2. That, subject to the annual budget for Economic Development Grants for 2025/26 being confirmed, offers of grant, as detailed in Appendix 4 to this Minute, should be made in respect of archaeological investigations for the 2025 season.

10. Civil Aviation Authority – Inspection of Council’s Airfields

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Transportation), the Committee:

Scrutinised the Civil Aviation Authority Oversight Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, together with the Council’s response to the Level 2 findings and observations, outlined in section 4 of the report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, and obtained assurance that the Council owned airfields were operating in compliance with national licensing requirements.

11. Sustainable and Green Transport Fund

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Transportation), the Committee:

Noted:

11.1. Projects funded from the Sustainable and Green Transport Fund during 2024/25, as summarised in section 4 of the report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

11.2. That the allocation of funding from the Sustainable and Green Transport Fund in respect of proposed projects during 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 5 to this Minute, be approved.

12. Harbour Authority Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 21 January 2025, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved:

12.1. On the motion of Councillor Kristopher D Leask, seconded by Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 21 January 2025 as a true record.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

12.2. That the recommendations at paragraphs 4.2, 4.3, 5.2, 6 and 8 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 21 January 2025, attached as Appendix 6 to this Minute, be approved.

13. Conclusion of Meeting

At 14:34 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Kristopher D Leask.