

# Minute

## Policy and Resources Committee

Tuesday, 21 April 2026, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



## Present

Councillors Heather N Woodbridge, Alexander G Cowie, Graham A Bevan, Stephen G Clackson, David Dawson, P Lindsay Hall, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, W Leslie Manson, James R Moar, Janette A Park, Raymond S Peace, John A R Scott, Gillian Skuse, Jean E Stevenson, Ivan A Taylor, Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock.

## Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillors Kristopher D Leask and Gwenda M Shearer.

## Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance).

## In Attendance

- Oliver D Reid, Chief Executive.
- Stephen Brown, Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Lorna Richardson, Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.
- Gareth Waterson, Director of Enterprise and Resources.
- James Wylie, Director of Education, Communities and Housing.
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Corporate Governance.
- Gavin Barr, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services (for Items 1 to 8).
- Andrew Groundwater, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development.
- Sweyn Johnston, Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth (for Items 1 and 2).
- Erik Knight, Head of Finance (for Items 1 and 2).
- Frances Troup, Head of Strategic Housing, Housing Operations and Homelessness (for Items 1 to 3).
- Seonaidh McDonald, Principal, UHI Orkney College (for Items 1 to 4).
- Inga Burton, Service Manager (Sustainable Regeneration and Arctic) (for Items 1, 2, 6 and 7).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance) (for Items 1 to 6).
- William Moore, Service Manager (Improvement and Performance) (for Items 1 to 6).
- Pat Robinson, Service Manager (Accounting) (for Items 1 to 6).
- Susan Shearer, Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning) (for Items 6 and 7).

- Glen Thomson, Service Manager (Property and Capital Projects) (for Items 1 to 3).
- Laura Baillie, Team Manager (Housing Strategy, Development and Data) (for Items 1 to 3).
- Paul Sharman, Orkney Islands Archaeologist (for Items 6 and 7).
- Christine Scott, Finance Manager, UHI Orkney (for Items 1 to 4).
- Susan Taylor, Committees Officer.

### **In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)**

- Darren Morrow, Head of Children, Families and Justice Services and Chief Social Work Officer (for Items 8 and 9).
- Kathlene Morrison, Islands Growth Deal Programme Director (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar) (for Items 1 and 2).

### **Observing**

- Wendy Bowen, Head of Education (for Items 3 to 5).
- Garry Burton, Head of Active Communities (for Items 1 and 2).
- Kenny MacPherson, Head of Property and Asset Management (for Items 1 to 4).
- Alex Rodwell, Head of Performance and Business Support.
- Tom Agar, Interim Programme Manager, Orkney World Heritage Site Gateway (for Items 1 and 2).
- Kirsty Groundwater, Communications Team Leader (for Items 1 to 3).
- Stevie Garriock, Improvement and Performance Trainee (for Items 1 to 6).

### **Declarations of Interest**

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

### **Chair**

- Councillor Heather N Woodbridge.

## **1. Exclusion of Public**

On the motion of Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, seconded by Councillor Alexander G Cowie, the Committee resolved that the public be excluded from Items 2 and 3, as the business to be considered involved the disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

## **2. Islands Growth Deal**

Under section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public had been excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

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

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Islands Deal Fund be used to meet any anticipated budget shortfalls in respect of the Council's contribution towards the Orkney World Heritage Site Programme.

Councillor W Leslie Manson joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

### **3. Proposed Repurposing of St Rognvald House**

Under section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public had been excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

After consideration of a joint report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing and the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Team Manager (Housing Strategy, Development and Data), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Director of Education, Communities and Housing and the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, should submit a Stage 2 Capital Project Appraisal in respect of the proposed repurposing of St Rognvald House, to provide accommodation for visiting agency workers, to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Kristopher D Leask left the meeting at this point.

### **4. UHI Orkney – Draft Revenue Budget**

After consideration of a report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Finance Manager, UHI Orkney, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that a further potential advance from the loans fund, up to a maximum of £994,500, be approved, to enable a balanced budget to be set for UHI Orkney for 2026/27.

### **5. Review of Standing Orders**

The Committee noted that this item had been withdrawn.

### **6. Local Code of Corporate Governance**

After consideration of a report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager, (Improvement and Performance), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the new Local Code of Corporate Governance, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

## **7. Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site Management Plan**

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site Management Plan 2026-2036, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved, in so far as it related to the remit of the Council.

Councillor James R Moar left the meeting at this point.

## **8. Onshore Electricity Generation**

### **Increasing Threshold for Applications under the Electricity Act 1989**

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Planning and Regulatory Services, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Council's response in relation to the Scottish Government's consultation on increasing the threshold which determined whether applications for onshore electricity generating stations were decided by Scottish Ministers or by the relevant planning authority, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson left the meeting during discussion of this item.

## **9. Registered Services within Orkney Health and Care**

### **Inspection Assurance**

After consideration of a report by the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Children, Families and Justice Services and Chief Social Work Officer, the Committee:

Noted the inspection activity for registered services within Orkney Health and Care, for the period August 2025 to 11 March 2026, summarised in section 3 of the report by the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.

## **10. Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with Pension Board**

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with the Pension Board, held on 25 February 2026, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Alexander G Cowie, seconded by Councillor P Lindsay Hall, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with the Pension Board, held on 25 February 2026, attached as Appendix 4 to this Minute, as a true record.

### **11. Investments Sub-committee**

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Investments Sub-committee held on 25 February 2026, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Alexander G Cowie, seconded by Councillor P Lindsay Hall, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Investments Sub-committee held on 25 February 2026, attached as Appendix 5 to this Minute, as a true record.

### **12. Asset Management Sub-committee**

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Asset Management Sub-committee held on 24 March 2026, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Alexander G Cowie, seconded by Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Asset Management Sub-committee held on 24 March 2026, attached as Appendix 6 to this Minute, as a true record.

### **13. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 15:00 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Heather N Woodbridge.