

## Minute

### Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee

Tuesday, 31 March 2026, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



### Present

Councillors Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Graham A Bevan, Alexander G Cowie, P Lindsay Hall, Rachael A King, W Leslie Manson, Gillian Skuse, Owen Tierney, Duncan A Tullock and Heather N Woodbridge.

### Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillors Kristopher D Leask and Raymond S Peace.

### Clerk

- Katy Russell-Duff, Committees Officer.

### In Attendance

- Lorna Richardson, Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.
- Gareth Waterson, Director of Enterprise and Resources.
- Gavin Barr, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services.
- Karen Bevilacqua, Service Manager (Legal Services).
- Laura Cromarty, Service Manager (Transportation) (for Items 2 to 6).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Susan Shearer, Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning) (for Items 1 to 3).
- Derek Manson, Team Manager (Development Planning) (for Items 1 to 3).
- Matthew Wylie, Team Manager (Roads Support) (for Items 5 to 11).
- Rikki Lidderdale, Planning Control Officer (for Items 3 to 11).
- Daniel Morris, Marine Planner (for Items 1 to 3).

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

- James Green, Team Manager (Marine Planning) (for Items 1 to 3).

### Observing

- Andrew Groundwater, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development.
- Sandra Unterhollenberg, Environmental Planner (for Items 1 to 3).

### Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

## Chair

- Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Vice Chair.

### 1. Orkney Local Development Plan – Development Plan Scheme

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 Team Manager (Development Planning), the Committee:

Noted:

1.1. That, as a result of the additional time required to complete the Gatecheck process, and to allow conclusion of key evidence base studies, adoption of the Local Development Plan, which was previously estimated as March 2027, was now estimated as May 2028.

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

1.2. That the Development Plan Scheme 2026, including the Participation Statement, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

### 2. Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance

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 Marine Planner, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Orkney Islands Marine Region: Finfish Farming Spatial Guidance, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be adopted as non-statutory planning guidance.

### 3. Ayre Offshore Wind Farm

#### Section 36 Electricity Act and Marine Licence Applications

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 Team Manager (Marine Planning), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Council's response in relation to the applications for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and marine licences for the construction and operation of the proposed Ayre Offshore Wind Farm, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

### 4. Planning Enforcement Charter

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 Head of Planning and Regulatory Services, on the motion of Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson, seconded by Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Planning Enforcement Charter, attached as Appendix 4 to this Minute, be approved.

## **5. Inter-Island Ferry Services**

### **Proposed Winter 2026/27 Timetables**

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 (Transportation), the Committee:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that, subject to an adequate service revenue budget for 2026/27 being established, the timetables in respect of inter-island ferry services, to be operated during winter 2026/27, attached as Appendix 5 to this Minute, be approved.

## **6. Inter-Island Air Services**

### **Proposed Winter 2026/27 Timetable**

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 (Transportation), the Committee:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the timetable in respect of inter-island air services, to be operated during winter 2026/27, attached as Appendix 6 to this Minute, be approved, until such time as an enhanced level of service could be taken forward.

## **7. HITRANS – Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund Project**

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that, in order to release the remaining £2 million in the partnership to develop the business case, the aims of Phase Two of the Strategy and Expansion of the Electric Vehicle Charging Network across North West Scotland, as detailed in Appendix 7 to this Minute, be approved.

## **8. Orkney's Road Safety Strategy – Delivery Plan**

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 Team Manager (Roads Support), the Committee:

Noted the target updates contained within Orkney's Road Safety Strategy Delivery Plan 2024-25, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.

## **9. National Planning Improvement Framework**

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:

Noted:

**9.1.** The Improvement Action Progress Update 2025, prepared in accordance with the National Planning Improvement Framework, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.

**9.2.** The three new improvement actions, detailed in section 3.5 of the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, which would be included in the Council's Planning Performance Improvement Plan.

## **10. Harbour Authority Sub-committee**

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 17 March 2026, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved:

**10.1.** On the motion of Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson, seconded by Councillor P Lindsay Hall, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 17 March 2026 as a true record.

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

**10.2.** That the recommendations at paragraphs 1 and 3.2 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 17 March 2026, attached as Appendix 8 to this Minute, be approved.

## **11. St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee**

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee held on 17 March 2026, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved:

**11.1.** On the motion of Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson, seconded by Councillor W Leslie Manson, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee held on 17 March 2026 as a true record.

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

**11.2.** That the recommendations at paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Minute of the Meeting of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee held on 17 March 2026, attached as Appendix 9 to this Minute, be approved.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 12:00 the Vice Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: M Thomson.