

Minute

Development and Infrastructure Committee

Tuesday, 12 November 2024, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

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

Clerk

- Katy Russell-Duff, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Hayley Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Gareth Waterson, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.
- Sweyn Johnston, Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth (for Items 10 to 12).
- Roddy Mackay, Head of Planning and Community Protection (for Items 1 to 6).
- Lorna Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services (for Items 1 to 4).
- Stuart Allison, Service Manager (Enterprise) (for Items 6 to 12).
- Karen Bevilacqua, Service Manager (Legal Services).
- Laura Cromarty, Service Manager (Transportation) (for Items 6 to 13).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Susan Shearer, Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning) (for Items 1 to 6).
- Gavin Barr, Economic Development Manager (for Items 6 to 12).
- James Green, Team Manager (Marine Planning) (for Items 1 to 6).
- Derek Manson, Team Manager (Development Planning) (for Items 1 to 6).

Observing

- Andrew Groundwater, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development (for Items 1 to 4).
- Thomas Richards, Senior Human Resources Advisor (for Items 1 to 4).

Apology

- Councillor Rachael A King.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

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 30 September 2024, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, indicating a budget overspend position of £551,500.

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 30 September 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.

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

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 30 September 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 regarding significant budget variances and progress being made with delivery of the approved Road Asset Replacement Programme.

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

3. Performance Monitoring – Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure

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

Scrutinised:

3.1. The performance of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure for the reporting period 1 April to 30 September 2024, in respect of directorate priorities and performance indicators, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively to the report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, and obtained assurance.

3.2. The complaints and compliments made to Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure in the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2024, and for the two preceding six-month periods, as set out in section 5 of the report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, and obtained assurance.

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

3.3. That the following action, which had been progressed to completion, be removed from the Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure Directorate Delivery Plan:

- Plant and Vehicle Replacement Strategy – we will deliver a vehicle fleet that meets the needs of the communities and the Council while reflecting the aspirations of Net Zero and decarbonisation within available resources.

3.4. That the following actions be amended as indicated and thereafter incorporated within the Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure Directorate Delivery Plan:

- Local Resilience Plan – prepare a local resilience plan for each island – target date to be extended from 31 March 2025 to 30 September 2025.
- Marine Plan – prepare a plan for the Orkney Islands Marine Region – target date to be extended from 31 March 2025 to 31 December 2025.
- Local Place Plans – promote and support the production of plans – target date to be extended from 30 September 2024 to 31 March 2025.

3.5. That the revised Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure Risk Register, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

4. Performance Monitoring – Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Scrutinised:

4.1. The performance of Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration for the reporting period 1 April to 30 September 2024, in respect of directorate priorities and performance indicators, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively to the report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, and obtained assurance.

4.2. The complaints and compliments made to Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration in the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2024 and for the two preceding six-month periods, as set out in section 4 of the report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, and obtained assurance.

5. Proposed Scapa Flow Historic Marine Protected Area

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

Noted:

5.1. That the Marine Directorate of the Scottish Government, acting on advice from Historic Environment Scotland, intended to seek a Ministerial decision in 2025 on the designation of the proposed Scapa Flow Historic Marine Protected Area.

5.2. That the Marine Directorate of the Scottish Government was seeking clarification of the Council's current position regarding the proposed Scapa Flow Historic Marine Protected Area.

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

5.3. That the Council decision taken in April 2019 to endorse the proposed Scapa Flow Historic Marine Protected Area be confirmed.

5.4. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should inform the Marine Directorate of Scottish Government of the Council's decision to endorse the proposed Scapa Flow Historic Marine Protected Area.

6. Orkney Local Development Plan – Development Plan Scheme

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, 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:

Noted:

6.1. Progress made over the last twelve months in developing the evidence base and undertaking community engagement on the review of the Local Development Plan.

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

6.2. That the Development Plan Scheme 2024 including the Participation Statement, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved.

7. Inter-Island Air Services – Proposed Summer 2025 Timetable

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:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

7.1. That, subject to an adequate revenue budget for 2025/26 being established, the timetable in respect of inter-island air services during summer 2025, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

The Committee noted:

7.2. That, should an enhanced inter-island air service be awarded from 1 April 2025, the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration would submit an amended timetable for consideration by the Development and Infrastructure Committee.

8. Inter-Island Ferry Services – Proposed Summer 2025 Timetables

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:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that, subject to an adequate service revenue budget for 2025/26 being established, the timetables in respect of inter-island ferry services, to be operated by Orkney Ferries Limited during summer 2025, attached as Appendix 4 to this Minute, be approved.

9. Harbour Authority Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 29 October 2024, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, 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 29 October 2024, attached as Appendix 5 to this Minute, as a true record.

10. Highlands and Islands Regional Economic Partnership

Regional Economic Strategy

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 (Enterprise), on the motion of Councillor Kristopher D Leask, seconded by Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Highlands and Islands Regional Economic Partnership's Regional Economic Strategy, attached as Appendix 6 to this Minute, be endorsed.

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

Budget Monitoring Statement and Delegated Approvals

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:

11.1. Spending to 30 September 2024, in relation to Economic Development Grants totalling £139,696, of which £79,571 related to grant commitments made in previous financial years and £59,945 to current year commitments.

11.2. Grant approvals made in the period 1 April to 30 September 2024 totalling £180,458, including grants approved under delegated schemes for the same period totalling £140,458, as detailed in Annex B to the report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

11.3. Approvals made in the period 1 April to 30 September 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.

12. Exclusion of Public

On the motion of Councillor Kristopher D Leask, seconded by Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson, the Committee resolved that the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting, as the business to be discussed 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.

13. Inter-Island Air Services – Public Service Obligation Contract

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 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:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** what action should be taken with regard to the Inter-Island Air Services Public Services Obligation Contract.

The above constitutes the summary of the Minute in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 section 50C(2) as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

14. Conclusion of Meeting

At 11:46 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Kristopher D Leask.