

Minute

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Thursday, 25 November 2021, 10:30.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Alexander G Cowie, Stephen G Clackson, Barbara Foulkes, Steven B Heddle, J Harvey Johnston, W Leslie Manson, John T Richards, John A R Scott, James W Stockan, Magnus O Thomson and Owen Tierney.

Reverend Fraser Macnaughton.

Also Present

Beverly Clubley, Chair, College Management Council Sub-committee (who had been invited for Item 4).

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive (for Item 4).
- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Peter Diamond, Head of Education (for Items 1 to 3).
- Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing.
- Edward Abbot-Halpin, Principal, Orkney College.
- Claire Kemp, Assistant Principal, Orkney College.
- Graham Bevan, Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary Education).
- Paul Kemp, Strategic Finance Manager.
- Sheila Tulloch, Solicitor.
- David Brown, Team Leader (Information and Infrastructure) (for Items 1 and 2).
- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

Observing

- Joanne Wallace, Acting Principal, Orkney College.
- Rebecca McAuliffe, Press Officer.

Apologies

- Jo Hill, Teacher Representative.
- Mary Maley, Teacher Representative.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

1. Disclosure of Exempt Information

The Committee noted the proposal that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Item 4 as the business to be discussed involved the potential disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

Councillor James W Stockan joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

2. Strategic Housing Investment Plan

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing reports from the Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing and the Team Leader (Information and Infrastructure), the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. That the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the period 2022 to 2027, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, which had been produced in partnership with relevant local and national stakeholders, proposed the following:

- 353 social rented and low-cost home ownership properties to be approved and developed by the Council and Orkney Housing Association Limited, over the five-year lifetime of the Plan.

2.2. That, alongside the Council and Orkney Housing Association Limited's programme that made up the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 to 2027, it was anticipated that up to 120 affordable rented and low-cost home ownership properties would be delivered by the private sector and partners, including island development trusts, through the Rural and Islands Housing Fund.

2.3. That the Council projects outlined in the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 to 2027 would only be developed should the funding available through Scottish Government grant and Housing Revenue Account finance be sufficient to allow the projects to proceed.

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

2.4. That the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the period 2022 to 2027, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved for submission to the Scottish Government.

Councillor Barbara Foulkes joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

3. Study Support Programme for Senior Phase Students

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary Education), the Committee:

Noted:

3.1. That, since the outbreak of COVID-19, there had been significant disruption to students' learning in Orkney schools.

3.2. That, during the period of disruption, almost all students had missed out on the quality and quantity of learning that would have been experienced through normal school life.

3.3. That many students could benefit from targeted support during the statutory school day, through Study Support provision after school and through Easter Study programmes.

3.4. The proposal to establish a study support programme for all students in the Senior Phase in Orkney schools, at a gross cost of £390,000, to be partly funded from additional grant funding received from the Scottish Government.

3.5. That the cost of the study support programme in 2021/22, estimated at £130,000, could be met from within existing resources, with the funding source for costs in 2022/23 to be identified.

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

3.6. That a study support programme, for all students in the Senior Phase in Orkney schools, be established for the remainder of academic session 2021/22 and for academic session 2022/23, as part of the Education Service's COVID-19 recovery measures.

3.7. That the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing should arrange for the appropriate resources to be made available to implement the study support programme referred to above, including the establishment of four temporary posts of Study Support Teacher for a period of up to 18 months.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee:**

3.8. That additional one-off funding, amounting to £260,000, be made available for delivery of the study support programme in 2022/23.

4. UHI Branding and Positioning Project

On the motion of Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, seconded by Councillor Alexander G Cowie, the Committee resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Assistant Principal, Orkney College, the Committee:

Noted:

4.1. That, in early 2018, a major strategic project was developed and agreed by the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) to refresh the university's brand.

4.2. That the rebranding project was inclusive of all academic partners in the UHI, and aimed to deliver a unifying brand story through greater alignment of the partnership corporate and visual identity.

4.3. That, commencing in 2018, the UHI Branding and Positioning Project comprised three main project stages, and was now completing its final development phase with the creation of a new branding and visual identity design and framework.

4.4. That UHI's governing body, the Court, and the UHI Partnership Council, had approved the branding and visual identity design and framework.

4.5. The key elements contained within the UHI branding and visual identity design and framework.

4.6. That, on 25 October 2021, the College Management Council Sub-committee was advised of the UHI Branding and Positioning Project and the proposed branding and visual identity design and framework.

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

4.7. That key elements of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) branding and visual identity design and framework be supported.

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.

Please refer to the Minute of the General Meeting of the Council held on 7 December 2021.

This page is intentionally left blank.

5. Conclusion of Meeting

At 12:53 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Gwenda M Shearer.