

Minute

Policy and Resources Committee

Tuesday, 16 April 2024, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Heather N Woodbridge, Alexander G Cowie, Stephen G Clackson, David Dawson, P Lindsay Hall, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, Kristopher D Leask, W Leslie Manson, James R Moar, Janette A Park, Raymond S Peace, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Gillian Skuse, Jean E Stevenson, Ivan A Taylor, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock.

Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance).

In Attendance

- Oliver D Reid, Chief Executive.
- Stephen Brown, Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Hayley Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Gareth Waterson, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.
- James Wylie, Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal and Governance.
- Andrew Groundwater, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development.
- Sweyn Johnston, Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth (for Items 1 and 2).
- Alex Rodwell, Head of Improvement and Performance.
- Emma Chattington, Service Manager (Organisational Development) (for Item 1).

In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Karen Greaves, Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions.

Observing

- Erik Knight, Head of Finance.
- Kirsty Groundwater, Communications Team Leader.

Apology

- Councillor Graham A Bevan.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Heather N Woodbridge.

1. Orkney's British Sign Language Plan

After consideration of a joint report by the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions and the Corporate Director for 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 (Organisational Development), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Orkney British Sign Language Plan 2024-2030, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved in so far as it related to the remit of the Council.

2. UK Government Long-Term Plan for Towns Levelling Up Award

After consideration of a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth, the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. The award of £20M of funding over 10 years, made by the UK Government under its Long-Term Plan for Towns, Levelling Up Fund in the 2024 Spring Budget statement.

Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, seconded by Councillor Alexander G Cowie, moved that:

- Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with all 21 elected members, to determine and implement the appropriate structure and appointments to the Orkney Towns Board, including selection and appointment of an independent Chair in line with UK Government guidelines.
- The Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration should establish a suitable staff resource within the Council to manage the Long-Term Plan for Towns funding and projects, funded from the resources available within the award, and undertake such procurement, as required and within the available funding awarded, to support the Orkney Towns Board in developing its Long-Term plan and investment plans.
- The opportunities and strategic principles to be used to guide the initial discussions and work of the Orkney Towns Board, as set out in sections 7.2 and 7.3 of the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, be approved.

- Relevant officers should submit further reports on progress, to the Policy and Resources Committee, with the Long-Term Plan, initial 3-year investment plan, and any subsequent plans or project proposals identified therein being recommended for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee prior to submission to UK Government.

Councillor Steven B Heddle, seconded by Councillor Duncan A Tullock, moved an amendment that:

- The Chief Executive should present an appropriate structure and appointments for the proposed Orkney Towns Board, including selection and appointment of an independent Chair in line with UK Government guidelines, to a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, or a Special General Meeting of the Council, in a timescale to meet the deadline of 1 June 2024 for establishment of the Orkney Towns Board.
- The Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration should establish a suitable staff resource within the Council to manage the Long-Term Plan for Towns funding and projects, funded from the resources available within the award, and undertake such procurement, as required and within the available funding awarded, to support the Orkney Towns Board in developing its Long-Term plan and investment plans.
- The opportunities and strategic principles to be used to guide the initial discussions and work of the Orkney Towns Board should include those set out in sections 7.2 and 7.3 of the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.
- Relevant officers should submit further reports on progress, to the Policy and Resources Committee, with the Long-Term Plan, initial 3-year investment plan, and any subsequent plans or project proposals identified therein being recommended for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee prior to submission to UK Government.

The result of a recorded vote was as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors Stephen G Clackson, David Dawson, P Lindsay Hall, Steven B Heddle, Kristopher D Leask, Raymond S Peace, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Gillian Skuse, Jean E Stevenson, Ivan A Taylor, Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock (14).

For the Motion:

Councillors Alexander G Cowie, Rachael A King, W Leslie Manson, James R Moar, Janette A Park and Heather N Woodbridge (6).

The Amendment was therefore carried and the Committee thereafter resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

2.2. That the Chief Executive should present an appropriate structure and appointments for the proposed Orkney Towns Board, including selection and appointment of an independent Chair in line with UK Government guidelines, to a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, or a Special General Meeting of the Council, in a timescale to meet the deadline of 1 June 2024 for establishment of the Orkney Towns Board.

2.3. That the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration should establish a suitable staff resource within the Council to manage the Long-Term Plan for Towns funding and projects, funded from the resources available within the award, and undertake such procurement, as required and within the available funding awarded, to support the Orkney Towns Board in developing its Long-Term plan and investment plans.

2.4. That the opportunities and strategic principles to be used to guide the initial discussions and work of the Orkney Towns Board should include those set out in Appendix 2 to this Minute.

2.5. That relevant officers should submit further reports on progress, to the Policy and Resources Committee, with the Long-Term Plan, initial 3-year investment plan, and any subsequent plans or project proposals identified therein being recommended for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee prior to submission to UK Government.

Please refer to the Minute of the General Meeting of the Council held on 30 April 2024.

Councillor James R Moar left the meeting at this point.

3. Police and Fire Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Police and Fire Sub-committee held on 27 February 2024, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor David Dawson, seconded by Councillor Duncan A Tullock, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Police and Fire Sub-committee held on 27 February 2024, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, as a true record.

4. 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 28 February 2024, 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 28 February 2024, attached as Appendix 4 to this Minute, as a true record.

5. Investments Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Investments Sub-committee held on 29 February 2024, 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 29 February 2024, attached as Appendix 5 to this Minute, as a true record.

6. Asset Management Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Asset Management Sub-committee held on 19 March 2024, 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 Asset Management Sub-committee held on 19 March 2024, attached as Appendix 6 to this Minute, as a true record.

7. Conclusion of Meeting

At 11:25 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: H N Woodbridge.