

Minute

Special General Meeting of the Council

Monday, 23 March 2020, 11:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors J Harvey Johnston, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, Robin W Crichton, David Dawson, Andrew Drever, Barbara Foulkes, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, John T Richards, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Graham L Sinclair, James W Stockan, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock.

Councillors W Leslie Manson and Stephen Sankey (via teleconference).

Clerk

- John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive.

In Attendance

- Gavin Barr, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure (via teleconference).
- Gillian Morrison, Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- Sally Shaw, Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care (via teleconference).
- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance.
- Karen Greaves, Head of Executive Support.
- Hayley Green, Head of IT and Facilities.
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services.
- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

Apologies

- Councillor Norman R Craigie.
- Councillor Magnus O Thomson.
- Councillor Kevin F Woodbridge.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor J Harvey Johnston, Convener.

1. Special Governance Arrangements During Coronavirus Pandemic

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Executive Support, the Council:

Noted:

- 1.1.** That, on 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation classified the Coronavirus as a Pandemic.
- 1.2.** That the Council had stood up the Strategic and Tactical Incident Management Teams to update planning, response and business continuity arrangements.
- 1.3.** That a number of practical operational issues had been agreed, as detailed in section 3.7 of the report by the Chief Executive.
- 1.4.** That, in terms of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, the Chief Executive held delegated powers to enable him/her to carry out his/her role in an emergency.
- 1.5.** That, notwithstanding paragraph 1.4 above, the Chief Executive would endeavour to involve elected members in relevant decision making wherever possible.
- 1.6.** That a review of the Standing Orders would suggest that temporary amendments could be considered to facilitate more efficient and timely decision making enabling the Council to act swiftly to provide an appropriate and proportionate response to the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- 1.7.** That further actions would be necessary in the coming days and weeks, including the potential for the Chief Executive to declare the Coronavirus Pandemic a Major Emergency.

On the motion of Councillor J Harvey Johnston, seconded by Councillor James W Stockan, the Council resolved:

- 1.8.** That the temporary amendments to the Standing Orders, as detailed in the Appendix to this Minute, be approved, to be reviewed at the General Meeting of the Council to be held on 6 October 2020.

2. Conclusion of Meeting

At 12:10 the Convener declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Harvey Johnston.