

Minute

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 11 September 2019, 10:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



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.

Hugh Halcro-Johnston and Mary Maley.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive (for Items 1 to 6).
- Wilfred Weir, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Peter Diamond, Head of Education (Leisure, Culture and Inclusion).
- James Wylie, Head of Education (Curriculum and Community Learning).
- Edward Abbott-Halpin, Principal, Orkney College (Items 1 to 7).
- Keith Foubister, Works and Inspection Manager (for Items 1 to 5).
- Claire Gee, Cultural Services Manager.
- Paul Kemp, Strategic Finance Manager.
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.
- Luke Fraser, Team Leader (Policy and Planning).
- Andrew Hamilton, Performance and Best Value Officer (for Items 1 to 6).

Observing

- Christine Scott, Business Manager, Orkney College (Items 1 to 7).
- Craig Walker, Senior HR Advisor.
- Jude Callister, Custodian.
- Kirsty Groundwater, Press Officer.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillor John T Richards – Item 3.
- Councillor John A R Scott – Item 3.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer – Item 3.

Chair

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

1. Disclosure of Exempt Information

The Committee noted:

1.1. The proposal that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Item 9, as the business to be discussed involved the potential 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.

Councillor W Leslie Manson, seconded by Councillor James W Stockan, moved that the public should be excluded for consideration of Item 9, Budget Savings.

Councillor John A R Scott, seconded by Councillor Stephen G Clackson, moved an amendment that the public should not be excluded for consideration of Item 9.

On a vote being taken 4 members voted for the amendment and 8 for the motion, and the Committee:

Resolved:

1.2. That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Item 9, as the business to be discussed involved the potential disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

2. Revenue Expenditure Outturn

After consideration of a joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Strategic Finance Manager, the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. The revenue expenditure outturn statement in respect of Education, Leisure and Housing for financial year 2018 to 2019, attached as Annex 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance, indicating the following:

- A net General Fund overspend of £201,800.
- A net Non-General Fund underspend of £177,400.

2.2. The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 2 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance.

3. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring

Councillors John T Richards, John A R Scott and Gwenda M Shearer declared non-financial interests in this item, being Council-appointed trustees of the Pickaquoy Centre Trust, but concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.

After consideration of a joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Strategic Finance Manager, the Committee:

Noted:

3.1. The revenue financial summary statement in respect of Education, Leisure and Housing for the period 1 April to 30 June 2019, attached as Annex 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance, indicating the following:

- A net General Fund underspend of £693,500.
- A net Non-General Fund overspend of £110,300.

3.2. The revenue financial detail by Service Area statement, in respect of Education, Leisure and Housing for the period 1 April to 30 June 2019, attached as Annex 2 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance.

3.3. 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 joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance.

Mary Maley left the meeting at this point.

4. Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Repairs and Maintenance Programme – Outturn

After consideration of a joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Team Leader (Policy and Planning), the Committee:

Noted:

4.1. The summary outturn position of expenditure against the approved revenue repairs and maintenance programme in respect of the Housing Revenue Account for financial year 2018 to 2019, as detailed in section 4.2 of the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance.

4.2. The explanations given in respect of significant budget variances, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance.

5. Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Repairs and Maintenance Programme – Expenditure Monitoring

After consideration of a joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Team Leader (Policy and Planning), the Committee:

Noted:

5.1. The summary position of expenditure incurred as at 30 June 2019, against the approved revenue repairs and maintenance programme in respect of the Housing Revenue Account, as detailed in section 4.2 of the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance.

5.2. The explanations given in respect of significant budget variances, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance.

6. Education, Leisure and Housing Service Plan

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, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Education, Leisure and Housing Service Plan 2019 to 2022, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

7. College Management Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 26 August 2019, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Alexander G Cowie, seconded by Councillor Stephen G Clackson, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 26 August 2019, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, as a true record.

Hugh Halcro-Johnston left the meeting at this point.

8. 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 a report from the Team Leader (Policy and Planning), the Committee:

Noted:

8.1. That the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the period 2020 to 2025, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, which had been produced in partnership with the Housing Forum, proposed the following:

- 173 social rented and low-cost home ownership properties to be delivered by the Council and Orkney Housing Association Limited.
- 151 low cost home ownership properties delivered by the private sector and partners including islands development trusts among others.
- Four major infrastructure projects.

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

8.2. That the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the period 2020 to 2025, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved for submission to the Scottish Government.

9. Budget Savings

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 1 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, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Cultural Services Manager, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** what action should be taken with regard to budget savings.

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.

10. Conclusion of Meeting

At 13:30 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: G M Shearer.