

## Minute

### Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 9 September 2020, 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.

Jo Hill.

### Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

### In Attendance

- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Peter Diamond, Head of Education (Leisure, Culture and Inclusion).
- Frances Troup, Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services.
- Edward Abbott-Halpin, Principal, Orkney College.
- Garry Burton, Sport and Leisure Service Manager (for Items 1 to 4).
- Avril Litts, Accounting Manager (Strategic Finance).
- Lesley Mulraine, Service Manager (Housing and Homelessness).
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.
- Luke Fraser, Team Leader (Policy and Planning).
- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

### Observing

- Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance.
- Hayley Green, Head of IT and Facilities (for Items 1 and 2).
- Carol McManus, Service Improvement Officer (for Items 1 to 5).
- Jonathan McCabe, Head Teacher, Eday Primary School (for Items 1 to 5).
- Steven Burnett, Education Resources Manager.
- Keith Foubister, Works and Inspection Manager (for Items 1 to 4).
- Ellis Inkster, Press Officer.

## **Apologies**

- Hugh Halcro-Johnston.
- Mary Maley.

## **Declarations of Interest**

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

## **Chair**

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

## **1. 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 Accounting Manager (Strategic Finance), the Committee:

Noted:

**1.1.** The revenue expenditure outturn statement in respect of Education, Leisure and Housing for financial year 2019/20, 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 £260,700.
- A net Non-General Fund underspend of £58,200.

The Committee scrutinised:

**1.2.** 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, and obtained assurance that action was being taken with regard to significant budget variances.

## **2. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring**

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 Accounting Manager (Strategic Finance), the Committee:

Noted:

**2.1.** The revenue financial summary statement, in respect of services for which the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020, 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 £253,300.
- A net Non-General Fund overspend of £112,100.

**2.2.** The revenue financial detail by service area statement, in respect of service areas for which the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020, 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.

The Committee scrutinised:

**2.3.** The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 3 to joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance, and obtained assurance that action was being taken with regard to significant budget variances.

### **3. Housing Revenue Account**

#### **Revenue Repairs and Maintenance Programme – Expenditure 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 Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services, the Committee:

Noted:

**3.1.** The summary outturn position of expenditure incurred for financial year 2019/20 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, which indicated an underspend of £55,800 as at 31 March 2020, against an approved budget totalling £1,303,200.

The Committee scrutinised:

**3.2.** The detailed analysis of expenditure figures and progress updates against the approved programme, attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, and obtained assurance with regard to significant budget variances and progress made with delivery of the approved revenue repairs and maintenance programme in respect of the Housing Revenue Account.

## **4. 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 Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services, the Committee:

Noted:

**4.1.** The summary position of expenditure incurred, as at 30 June 2020, 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.

The Committee scrutinised:

**4.2.** The detailed analysis of expenditure figures and progress updates against the approved programme, attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance report, and obtained assurance with regard to significant budget variances and progress made with delivery of the approved revenue repairs and maintenance programme in respect of the Housing Revenue Account.

## **5. Education Scotland**

### **Inspection of Eday Primary School and Nursery Class**

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 Head of Education (Leisure, Culture and Inclusion), the Committee:

Noted:

**5.1.** That, on 5 February 2020, the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee scrutinised Education Scotland's evaluation of Eday Primary School and Nursery Class and recommended that an update on progress made in respect of the improvement areas identified be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee scrutinised:

**5.2.** Progress made in respect of the improvement areas identified by Education Scotland in relation to the inspection of Eday Primary School and Nursery Class, as detailed in sections 4 to 6 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance that action had been taken or agreed as necessary.

## **6. College Management Council Sub-committee**

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 31 August 2020, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, seconded by Councillor W Leslie Manson, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 31 August 2020, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, as a true record.

## **7. Low Cost Home Ownership Scheme – Proposed Golden Share**

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:

**7.1.** That, on 5 February 2020, the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee deferred consideration of a request from Orkney Housing Association Limited towards implementation of a Golden Share in new supply Shared Equity properties developed in Kirkwall, to the next meeting of the Committee, to enable officers to provide clarity on the concept of Golden Share.

**7.2.** Further information in relation to the Golden Share scheme, as detailed in section 5 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, together with the Scottish Government guidance, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

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

**7.3.** That the request from Orkney Housing Association Limited towards implementation of a Golden Share in new supply Shared Equity properties developed in Kirkwall be supported.

## **8. Housing Service – Annual Assurance Statement**

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 Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services, the Committee:

Noted:

**8.1.** The requirement to submit an Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator by October.

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

**8.2.** That the Annual Assurance Statement, together with supporting Annexes 1 and 2, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved for submission to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

## **9. Tenant Satisfaction Survey**

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 Service Manager (Housing and Homelessness), the Committee:

Noted:

**9.1.** That a wholesale tenant satisfaction survey was required by the Scottish Social Housing Charter, the process for which was detailed and prescriptive for landlords with up to 1,500 tenants, including achieving a return rate of 40%.

**9.2.** That the results of the process, referred to at paragraph 9.1 above, were used by the Scottish Housing Regulator as part of the process of regulating Local Authority Housing Services.

**9.3.** That, between March and May 2020, a tenant satisfaction survey was undertaken by an independent body, IBP Strategy and Research, on behalf of the Council, the results of which were summarised in section 4 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

**9.4.** That, due to COVID-19, a higher proportion of replies to the tenant satisfaction survey was obtained by telephone interview.

## **10. Modifying Local Connection Referrals in Scotland**

### **Consultation of Ministerial Statement**

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 Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services, the Committee:

Noted:

**10.1.** That the current homelessness legislation, including that covering local connection, had worked well for Orkney.

**10.2.** That, in April 2019, the Council submitted a response to the previous consultation by the Scottish Government on Local Connection and Intentionality Provisions in the Homelessness Legislation.

**10.3.** That, following consideration of the results of the consultation referred to at paragraph 10.2 above, the Scottish Government gave a commitment to prepare and publish a Ministerial Statement setting out the circumstances in which, and the general criteria by reference to which, the power to modify local connection was to be exercised.

**10.4.** That the Scottish Government had issued a consultation on the Ministerial Statement for Modifying Local Connection Referrals in Scotland, for which responses were required by 23 October 2020.

**10.5.** The Council's draft response to the consultation on the Ministerial Statement for Modifying Local Connection Referrals in Scotland, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

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

**10.6.** That powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, to amend the Council's response to the consultation by the Scottish Government on the Ministerial Statement for Modifying Local Connection Referrals in Scotland and thereafter submit the response, on behalf of the Council, by the deadline of 23 October 2020.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 12:05 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Gwenda M Shearer.