

Minute

Policy and Resources Committee

Thursday, 1 October 2020, 12:30.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

Councillors James W Stockan, W Leslie Manson, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, Norman R Craigie, Robin W Crichton, David Dawson, Andrew Drever, Barbara Foulkes, J Harvey Johnston, Rachael A King, John T Richards, Stephen Sankey, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Graham L Sinclair, Magnus O Thomson, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive.
- Gavin Barr, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure (for Items 1 to 5).
- Gillian Morrison, Interim Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care (for Items 1 to 5).
- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance.
- Karen Greaves, Head of Executive Support (for Items 1 to 5).
- Andrew Groundwater, Head of HR and Performance (for Items 4 to 6).
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services.
- Stuart Allison, Economic Development Manager (for Items 1 to 5).
- Laura Cromarty, Transportation Manager (for Item 4).

Observing

- James Buck, Head of Marine Services, Transport and Harbour Master (for Items 1 to 5).
- Rosemary Colsell, Procurement Manager (for Item 4).
- Steven Burnett, Education Resources Manager (for Items 1 to 4).
- David Hartley, Communications Team Leader (for Items 1 to 5).
- Jordan Low, Economic Development Officer (for Items 4 and 5).

Apology

- Councillor Steven B Heddle.

Declaration of Interest

- Councillor Robin W Crichton – Item 5.

Chair

- Councillor James W Stockan.

1. Disclosure of Exempt Information

The Committee noted the proposal that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Items 4 to 6 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.

2. Kirkwall BID Limited – Funding Request

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. That, following a renewal ballot held on 1 March 2018, Kirkwall BID Limited had responsibility to deliver the projects and services set out in the BID Business Plan 2018 to 2023.

2.2. That the Council was liable for BID levy payments on all its non-domestic rated properties within the BID area, estimated at between £10,375 and £11,400 per annum Retail Price Index linked for five years.

2.3. That, on 10 October 2017, the Council agreed inter alia that the commitment to the BID levy over the five-year BID period, amounting to between £51,875 and £57,000, plus an index linked annual increase, be met from the Economic Development Grants budget for 2017/18.

2.4. That, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the pressure on its members, Kirkwall BID Limited requested that the Council did not issue levy invoices for the first six months of financial year 2020/21, with a review in September 2020, which confirmed the intention to collect the levy for the last six months of financial year 2020/21.

2.5. That the Chair of Kirkwall BID Limited had written to the Council requesting payment of the Council's full BID levy for 2020/21.

2.6. That, following detailed consideration, it was not possible for the Council to unilaterally pay the BID levy.

2.7. That it would be possible, as an alternative to payment of the BID levy, for the Council to award a bespoke grant to Kirkwall BID Limited, equivalent to the BID levy sum of £5,500, which could be funded from the balance set aside in the Economic Development Grants Fund to pay the BID levy.

On the motion of Councillor James W Stockan, seconded by Councillor W Leslie Manson, the Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

2.8. That a grant of £5,500 be awarded to Kirkwall BID Limited, in lieu of the six-month period when no levy was charged during 2020/21, to be funded from the Economic Development Grants Fund.

2.9. That powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Finance and the Solicitor to the Council, to conclude an agreement with Kirkwall BID Limited in respect of the grant detailed at paragraph 2.8 above.

3. Exclusion of Public

On the motion of Councillor James W Stockan, seconded by Councillor W Leslie Manson, the Committee resolved that the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting, as the business to be considered involved the 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 Robin W Crichton joined the meeting at this point.

4. Public and School Bus Contracts

Under section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public had been excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

After consideration of a joint report by the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure and 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 Transportation Manager, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** what action should be taken with regard to the public and school bus contracts.

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.

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5. Coronavirus Pandemic Emergency Loan Scheme

Councillor Robin W Crichton declared a non-financial interest in this item and was not present during discussion thereof.

Under section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public had been excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 4 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Economic Development Manager, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** what action should be taken with regard to the Coronavirus Pandemic Emergency Loan Scheme.

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.

Councillors Andrew Drever and Magnus O Thomson left the meeting at this point.

6. Education, Leisure and Housing – Management Structure

Under section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public had been 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 Act.

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** what action should be taken with regard to the management structure within Education, Leisure and Housing.

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.

7. Conclusion of Meeting

At 15:05 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: (Chair's signature).