

Minute

Special General Meeting of the Council

Tuesday, 23 March 2021, 14:00.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

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

Clerk

- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services.

In Attendance

- John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive.
- Gavin Barr, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.
- Gillian Morrison, Interim Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care.
- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance.
- James Buck, Head of Marine Services, Transport and Harbour Master.
- Karen Greaves, Head of Executive Support.
- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

Observing

- David Hartley, Communications Team Leader.
- Rebecca McAuliffe, Press Officer.

Not Present

- Councillor John A R Scott – suspended from attendance.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor J Harvey Johnston, Convener.

1. Notice of Motion

The Council had for consideration the following Notice of Motion:

“Orkney Islands Council notes with extreme concern the findings of the independent Islands impact assessment carried out for HIAL on the proposed centralisation of their Air Traffic Management System.

The report states that HIAL’s proposals will have ‘very significant’ negative impacts for Orkney. It is time for the Scottish Government to demonstrate that the requirements of the Islands Act are more than mere words on paper.

Island communities impact assessments are carried out for a purpose and their findings must be valued and respected.

Orkney Islands Council therefore calls on the Scottish Government to require HIAL to pause these proposals in order to give proper consideration to the findings of the Islands Impact Assessment and as a first step asks that the Scottish Government convene as a matter of urgency a meeting with Orkney Islands Council, HIAL and the relevant government ministers.

Given the urgency of the matter to which this Notice of Motion relates, I am respectfully seeking the suspension of Standing Order 17.2 to enable this Notice of Motion to be included within the business of this Meeting.

Signed David Dawson.

Countersigned Steve Sankey”.

After receiving procedural advice from the Head of Legal Services, the Council:

Noted:

1.1. That Standing Order 17.2 provided that a Notice of Motion must be received by the Chief Executive at least 14 Clear Days prior to a Meeting in order for it to be included within the business of that Meeting.

1.2. That the Notice of Motion referred to above was received by the Chief Executive on 16 March 2021, which was less than 14 Clear Days ago.

1.3. That, in order for it to be procedurally competent for the Motion to be considered at this Meeting, Standing Order 17.2 required to be suspended.

1.4. That, in all other respects, the Notice of Motion was procedurally competent, in that:

- It was signed by an Elected Member and countersigned by one other Elected Member.
- It was accompanied by a report from the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure on the implications of the suggested course of action contained in the Notice of Motion.

The Council thereafter **suspended Standing Order 17.2** in order to consider the Notice of Motion, proposed by Councillor David Dawson and countersigned by Councillor Steve Sankey.

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 Head of Marine Services, Transport and Harbour Master, the Council:

Noted:

1.5. That the Chief Executive had received a Notice of Motion regarding Highlands and Islands Airports Limited's proposals with regard to implementation of a revised Air Traffic Management Strategy.

1.6. That the immediate implications of the suggested course of action contained in the Notice of Motion were mainly in Elected Member and officer time for the petitioning of the Scottish Government.

1.7. That the findings of the final report, produced by Reference Economic Consultants for Highlands and Islands Airports Limited, in respect of Kirkwall airport and its assessment of the impact on Orkney for the economic and community measures could be summarised as follows:

- The net reduction in employment of up to 36 Full Time Equivalent jobs compared to the 'local surveillance' model. In real terms 16.2 Full Time Equivalent jobs over current employment levels with implementation of the Air Traffic Management Strategy.
- The net reduction of gross salaries of approximately £1.9 million compared to the 'local surveillance' model. In real terms a reduction of £653,000 in gross salaries over current levels with implementation of the Air Traffic Management Strategy.
- A very significant negative impact on business, leisure and non-scheduled flights should either the Air Traffic Management Strategy or the 'local surveillance' model be unable to provide resilient air traffic management.
- Potentially very significant negative impact on renewables development on Orkney.

1.8. That, of 13 specific assessment criteria within the final report, produced by Reference Economic Consultants for Highlands and Islands Airports Limited, eight were rated as having significant or very significant negative impacts on Orkney

The Council considered the Notice of Motion and thereafter:

Resolved:

1.9. To call upon the Scottish Government to require Highlands and Islands Airports Limited to pause their proposals with regard to implementation of a revised Air Traffic Management System in order to give proper consideration to the findings of the independent Islands Impact Assessment undertaken by Reference Economic Consultants.

1.10. To request the Scottish Government to convene, as a matter of urgency, a meeting with Orkney Islands Council, Highlands and Islands Airports Limited and the relevant Government Ministers.

2. Conclusion of Meeting

At 14:37 the Convener declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Harvey Johnston.