

## Minute

### Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 5 June 2024, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



### Present

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Graham A Bevan, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, David Dawson, Steven B Heddle, James R Moar, Janette A Park, John A R Scott, Jean E Stevenson, Ivan A Taylor and Heather N Woodbridge.

### Religious Representatives:

Reverend Susan Kirkbride and Reverend Fraser Macnaughton.

### Teacher Representatives:

Jo Hill and Mary Maley.

### Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Marie Locke, Religious Representative.

### Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

### In Attendance

- James Wylie, Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Peter Diamond, Head of Education (for Items 1 to 6).
- Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing.
- David Brown, Service Manager (Resources).
- Garry Burton, Service Manager (Leisure and Culture).
- Catherine Diamond, Service Manager (Early Learning and Childcare) (for Items 1 to 6).
- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance) (for Items 1 to 6).
- Morag Miller, Service Manager (Primary Education) (for Items 1 to 6).
- Lesley Mulraine, Service Manager (Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation).
- Pat Robinson, Service Manager (Accounting).
- Craig Walker, Service Manager (Human Resources) (for Items 1 to 3).
- Georgette Herd, Solicitor.
- Cheryl Rafferty, Team Leader (Youth Services) (for Items 1 to 9).
- Rachel Scarth, Project Manager, DYW Orkney (for Items 2 to 7).

## **In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)**

- Anna Evans, Director, Indigo House (for Item 4).

## **Observing**

- Jane Partridge, Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary Education) (for Items 1 to 7).
- Siobhan Wilks, Service Manager (Support for Learning and Inclusion).
- Nigel Fyffe, Senior Maintenance Surveyor.
- Vikki Kerr, Team Leader (Libraries and Archives) (for Items 8 and 9).
- Katell Roche, Team Manager (Sport and Leisure) (for Items 8 and 9).
- Maya Tams-Gray, Committees Officer.

## **Declarations of Interest**

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

## **Chair**

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

## **1. Appointment of Vice Chair**

The Chair called for nominations for the post of Vice Chair of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, and the Committee:

Resolved that Councillor Ivan A Taylor be appointed Vice Chair of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.

## **2. Appointments to Sub-committees, Groups and Other Bodies**

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Governance), the Committee:

Resolved:

**2.1.** That, unless determined otherwise, the undernoted appointments and/or nominations to the various Sub-committees, groups and other bodies falling within the remit of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee should be for the remainder of the term of this Council, namely for three years to May 2027.

The Committee resolved to make the undernoted appointments.

### **2.2. St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee**

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the following members be appointed to serve on the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee for the period to May 2027:

- Convener – Councillor Graham A Bevan.
- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Councillor Alexander G Cowie.
- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor John A R Scott.

### **2.3. Cultural Services Review Short-Life Working Group**

The Committee noted:

**2.3.1.** That the Cultural Services Review Short-Life Working Group was established on 7 February 2024.

**2.3.2.** That, although the decision by Council to establish the working group, together with its membership, had been taken within the last 12 months, no suspension of Standing Orders was necessary, as there had been a material change of circumstances, namely a by election for the Stromness and South Isles ward, as well as the Council's mid-term review, whereby Committee membership, including the appointment of Vice Chair of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, was reviewed and amended.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**2.3.3.** That the following members be appointed to serve on the Cultural Services Review Short-Life Working Group:

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Councillor Graham A Bevan.
- Councillor Janette A Park.
- Councillor John A R Scott.

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

**2.3.4.** That Councillor Rachael A King, who was not a member of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, be reappointed to serve on the Cultural Services Review Short-Life Working Group.

### **2.4. Sport and Leisure Services Review Short-Life Working Group**

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the following members be appointed to serve on the Sport and Leisure Services Short-Life Working Group:

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Councillor Graham A Bevan.
- Councillor Stephen G Clackson.
- Councillor John A R Scott.

### **2.5. Education Quality and Standards Consultative Group**

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the Education Quality and Standards Consultative Group be disestablished.

### **2.6. Housing Strategies Consultative Group**

After a secret ballot to appoint five members of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee to the Housing Strategies Consultative Group, the result of which was as follows:

- Councillor Alexander G Cowie – 6 votes.
- Councillor Stephen G Clackson – 7 votes.
- Councillor James R Moar – 8 votes.
- Councillor Janette A Park – 6 votes.
- Councillor John A R Scott – 9 votes.
- Councillor Jean E Stevenson – 9 votes.
- Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson – 6 votes.

Councillors Stephen G Clackson, James R Moar, John A R Scott and Jean E Stevenson were duly appointed.

As the remaining three candidates had an equal number of votes, after a further secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Councillor Alexander G Cowie – 2 votes.
- Councillor Janette A Park – 5 votes.
- Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson – 5 votes.

Councillor Alexander G Cowie, having received the fewest votes, was removed from the ballot.

After a further secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Councillor Janette A Park – 6 votes.
- Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson – 6 votes.

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13.3, as the secret ballot produced an equality of votes, after the drawing of lots, Councillor Janette A Park was duly appointed.

The Committee thereafter resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the following members be appointed to serve on the Housing Strategies Consultative Group for the period to May 2027:

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Councillor Stephen G Clackson.
- Councillor James R Moar.
- Councillor Janette A Park.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Jean E Stevenson.

## **2.7. Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership**

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that Councillor Graham A Bevan appointed to represent the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee on the Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership for the period to May 2027.

## **2.8. UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group**

The Committee noted:

**2.8.1.** That, on 7 June 2023, the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee recommended:

- Establishment of the UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group, with the existing members of the College Management Council Sub-committee, where currently in post, being appointed for the period up to July 2024.
- That the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions and the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a joint report, to the meeting of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee to be held in June 2024, reviewing the Terms of Reference and operation of the Orkney College Stakeholder Group, together with proposals for the appointment of members and term of office.

**2.8.2.** That, as the review of the operation of the UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group was not yet complete, it was proposed that a report be submitted to the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee on 11 September 2024.

**2.8.3.** That the appointments outlined at paragraphs 2.8.4 and 2.8.5 below would, therefore, be subject to review at the meeting of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee to be held on 11 September 2024.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**2.8.4.** That the following members be appointed to serve on the UHI Stakeholder Group:

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor Ivan A Taylor.
- Councillor Stephan G Clackson.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Jean E Stevenson.

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

**2.8.5.** That the following individuals be appointed to serve on the UHI Stakeholder Group:

- Business Community representatives:
  - Rebecca May.
  - Tracey Phillips.
  - Steven Sinclair.
  - Liz Stevenson.
- Community/Third Sector representatives:
  - Gail Anderson.
  - Lorraine Bichan.
  - Harvey Johnston.
- Student representatives:
  - Francesca Meneghetti.
  - Gillian Morrison.
- Staff representatives:
  - Colin Risbridger.
  - Iain Wilkie.
- Representatives from UHI:
  - Neil Simco.
  - Alison Wilson.

### **2.9. Orkney Strategic Community Learning Group**

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that Councillor Gwenda M Shearer be appointed to serve on the Orkney Strategic Community Learning Group for the period to May 2027.

### **2.10. Physical Activity and Wellbeing Group**

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that Councillor John A R Scott be appointed to serve on the Physical Activity and Wellbeing Group for the period to May 2027.

### **2.11. Highlands and Islands Science Skills Academy**

The Committee noted that an appointment to the Leadership Board of the Highlands and Islands Science Skills Academy was no longer required.

## **2.12. UHI Foundation**

The Committee noted:

**2.12.1.** That, following the review of governance arrangements in respect of Orkney College (now UHI Orkney) reported to the Council in June 2023, advice had been sought on the requirement for nominations of an elected member to serve on the UHI Foundation.

**2.12.2.** That UHI had clarified that membership of the Foundation was entirely voluntary and there was no requirement for the Council to nominate an elected member.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**2.12.3.** That the Council should continue to nominate an elected member to the UHI Foundation.

**2.12.4.** That Councillor Stephen G Clackson be nominated to represent the Council on the UHI Foundation for the period to May 2027.

## **2.13. College's Scotland National Employers Association**

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that Councillor Gwenda M Shearer be appointed to serve on College's Scotland National Employers Association for the period to May 2027.

## **3. Performance Monitoring – Education, Leisure and Housing**

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

Scrutinised:

**3.1.** The performance of Education, Leisure and Housing for the reporting period 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024, in respect of performance indicators, as detailed in Annex 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance.

**3.2.** The complaints and compliments made to Education, Leisure and Housing in the six-month period 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024, and for the two preceding six-month periods, as detailed in section 5 of the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance.

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

**3.3.** That the Education, Leisure and Housing Risk Register 2024/25, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

## **4. Local Housing Strategy**

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment and an Island Communities Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, the Committee:

Noted:

**4.1.** That approval of the Local Housing Strategy 2024-2029 did not confirm any right of access to Council funding, with any funding requests submitted on a case-by-case basis through the relevant routes defined in the Scheme of Administration and in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

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

**4.2.** That the Local Housing Strategy 2024-2029, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved.

## **5. Anti-Bullying Policy – Update**

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment and an Island Communities Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Primary Education), Councillor Steven B Heddle, seconded by Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, moved that the Anti-Bullying Policy for Our Children and Young People, as presented, be approved.

Councillor David Dawson moved an amendment that section 3.2, entitled Labelling and Use of Language around Bullying, of the Anti-Bullying Policy for Our Children and Young People be deleted.

On receiving no seconder, his amendment fell, and the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Anti-Bullying Policy for Our Children and Young People, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

Councillor Graham A Bevan and Reverend Susan Kirkbride left the meeting during discussion of this item.

## **6. Orkney Schools Attainment**

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Education, the Committee:

Scrutinised the Orkney Schools Attainment report for academic session 2022/23, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance with regard to the level of success and achievement of children and young people.

Councillor Graham A Bevan rejoined the meeting during discussion of this item.

Jo Hill, Reverend Fraser Macnaughton and Mary Maley left the meeting at this point.

## **7. Developing the Young Workforce**

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Project Manager, DYW Orkney, the Committee:



Scrutinised the key activities of DYW Orkney during 2023, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance.

## **8. Inspection of Community Learning and Development in Orkney**

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Team Leader (Youth Services), the Committee:

Scrutinised the Community Learning and Development Progress Visit Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, published by Education Scotland on 23 April 2024, and obtained assurance.

## **9. Leisure and Culture Annual Impact Reports**

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture), the Committee:

Scrutinised the performance and impact information, as detailed in Appendices 1 to 4 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance regarding the impact that the Council's Leisure and Culture Service had across Orkney.

## **10. Homelessness in Orkney**

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation), the Committee:

Scrutinised the performance information, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance that the Council's response to homelessness was operating satisfactorily.

Marie Locke left the meeting at this point.

## **11. Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing**

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Resources), the Committee:

Scrutinised the level of progress towards meeting the initial Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing target, as detailed in sections 3 and 4 of the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance that the Council's response to meeting and maintaining that standard was satisfactory.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 15:05 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Gwenda M Shearer.