

Minute

Special General Meeting of the Council

Tuesday, 13 October 2020, 10:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors J Harvey Johnston, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, Robin W Crichton, David Dawson, Andrew Drever, Barbara Foulkes, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, John T Richards, Stephen Sankey, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Graham L Sinclair, James W Stockan, 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.
- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance.
- Lorna Richardson, Strategic Policy and Projects Manager.
- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

Observing

- James Buck, Head of Marine Services and Transport and Harbour Master.
- David Hartley, Communications Team Leader.
- Christie Hartley, Volume Tourism Development and Management Officer.

Apologies

- Councillor Norman R Craigie.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.

Not Present

- Councillor Magnus O Thomson.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillor Rachael A King – Item 2.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer – Item 2.
- Councillor Graham L Sinclair – Item 2.
- Councillor James W Stockan – Item 2.

Chair

- Councillor J Harvey Johnston, Convener.

1. Disclosure of Exempt Information

The Council noted the proposal that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Appendices 1 to 8 of Item 2, 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. Islands Growth Deal – Strategic Outline Cases

Councillor Rachael A King declared a non-financial interest in this item and left the meeting at this point.

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Graham L Sinclair and James W Stockan declared non-financial interests in this item, being Council-appointed Board Members on the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus Limited Liability Partnership, but concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.

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

Noted:

2.1. That, on 22 September 2020, when considering an update on the Islands Growth Deal, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that the Strategic Outline Cases should be submitted to a Special General Meeting of the Council for approval, prior to submission to the UK and Scottish Governments, anticipated to be early October 2020.

2.2. That, as a number of the projects, which were the subject of a Strategic Outline Case, were being led by external organisations and, in some cases, did not involve the Council, it was advised it was not within the Council's gift to authorise or make amendments to the content of the Strategic Outline Cases, nor delay their submission, particularly where custodianship of the projects was outwith the Council.

2.3. That there were a number of projects where clearly the Council had a vested interest, although it should be stressed, in the majority of cases, those were presented as collaborative projects with single or multiple partner agencies involved and therefore to propose amendments at this stage would likely cause delay and pre-empt difficult challenges in managing relationships with the other two Island Councils and both Governments.

2.4. The Strategic Outline Cases, attached as Appendices 1 to 8 to the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in respect of which feedback was encouraged for consideration in development of the next stage of the business case for the Islands Growth Deal.

3. Strategic Outline Cases

On the motion of Councillor J Harvey Johnston, seconded by Councillor James W Stockan, the Council 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 paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

Following consideration of the detailed Strategic Outline Cases, attached as Appendices 1 to 8 to the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, the Council:

Resolved that the Strategic Outline Cases, referred to at paragraph 2.4 above, be endorsed to expedite a timeous submission to both the UK and Scottish Government by 16 October 2020.

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.

4. Conclusion of Meeting

At 13:10 the Convener declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Harvey Johnston.