

Minute

Policy and Resources Committee

Wednesday, 27 November 2024, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Heather N Woodbridge, Alexander G Cowie, Graham A Bevan, Stephen G Clackson, David Dawson, P Lindsay Hall, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, Kristopher D Leask, W Leslie Manson, James R Moar, Janette A Park, Raymond S Peace, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Gillian Skuse, Jean E Stevenson, Ivan A Taylor, Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance).

In Attendance

- Oliver D Reid, Chief Executive.
- Stephen Brown, Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Karen Greaves, Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions.
- Hayley Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.
- Gareth Waterson, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.
- James Wylie, Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal and Governance.
- Andrew Groundwater, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development.
- Erik Knight, Head of Finance.
- Kenny MacPherson, Head of Property, Asset Management and Facilities (for Items 3 to 11).
- Alex Rodwell, Head of Improvement and Performance (for Item 1).
- Graeme Christie, Service Manager (Estates) (for Items 8 to 10).
- Rosemary Colsell, Service Manager (Procurement) (for Items 1 and 2).
- David Custer, Service Manager (Engineering) (for Items 6 to 11).
- Susan Shearer, Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning) (for Items 5 to 8).
- Glen Thomson, Service Manager (Property and Capital Projects) (for Items 1 to 5).
- Paul Sharman, Islands Archaeologist (for Items 5 and 6).

In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Maya Tams-Gray, Committees Officer.

Observing

- Sweyn Johnston, Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth (for Items 6 to 11).
- Lorna Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing (for Items 7 to 10).
- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications) (for Item 1).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance) (for Items 3 to 5).
- Kirsty Groundwater, Communications Team Leader.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Heather N Woodbridge.

1. Communications and Engagement Strategy

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions, 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 Improvement and Performance, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Communications and Engagement Strategy 2024-2028, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

2. Sustainable Procurement Policy

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions, 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 (Procurement), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Sustainable Procurement Policy, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved.

3. Corporate Anti-Fraud Policy

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, together with an Equality Impact Assessment and an Island Communities Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the revised and updated Corporate Anti-Fraud Policy, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

4. Capital Strategy

After consideration of a joint report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration and the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, 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 Finance, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Capital Strategy 2024 to 2029, attached as Appendix 4 to this Minute, be approved.

Councillor James R Moar joined the meeting at this point.

5. Capital Project Appraisal – Procedure

After consideration of a joint report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration and the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Finance, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the revised Capital Project Appraisal Procedure, attached as Appendix 5 to this report, be approved.

6. Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site Management Plan

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

6.1. That the consultative draft Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site Management Plan 2025-2035, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, be approved for public consultation.

6.2. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should submit a report to the Policy and Resources Committee, in Spring 2025, detailing the outcomes of the consultation, together with an amended version of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site Management Plan 2025-2035.

7. Strategic Offshore Energy Development

After consideration of a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, seconded by Councillor Graham A Bevan, moved that:

- The draft Outline Strategic Offshore Energy Development Strategy for Orkney be endorsed for further development, in consultation with members of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee and relevant local stakeholders, with a final version to be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in early 2025.

- A budget of £4 million be ring-fenced from current resources within the existing Marine Services budget areas, in order to deliver the Strategic Offshore Energy Development Strategy in the period up to May 2027.
- Powers be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration and members of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee, to authorise spend from the budget, referred to above, in the period up to May 2027, thereby ensuring Elected Member oversight of this budget.
- The three red line commitments to all Elected Members on the Strategy as set out in section 4.4 of the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, be endorsed.

Councillor Rachael A King, seconded by Councillor Steven B Heddle, moved an amendment, that:

- The draft Outline Strategic Offshore Energy Development Strategy for Orkney be endorsed for further development, in consultation with members of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee and relevant local stakeholders, with a final version to be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in early 2025.
- A budget of £4 million be ring-fenced from current resources within the existing Marine Services budget areas, in order to deliver the Strategic Offshore Energy Development Strategy in the period up to May 2027.
- The three red line commitments to all Elected Members on the Strategy as set out in section 4.4 of the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, be endorsed.

The result of a recorded vote was as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors Stephen G Clackson, P Lindsay Hall, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, Raymond S Peace, Gwenda M Shearer, Gillian Skuse, Jean E Stevenson and Owen Tierney (9).

For the Motion:

Councillors Graham A Bevan, Alexander G Cowie, David Dawson, Kristopher D Leask, W Leslie Manson, James R Moar, Janette A Park, John A R Scott, Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Duncan A Tullock and Heather N Woodbridge (11).

The Motion was therefore carried and the Committee thereafter:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

7.1. That the draft Outline Strategic Offshore Energy Development Strategy for Orkney, attached as Annex 1 to the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, be endorsed for further development, in consultation with members of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee and relevant local stakeholders, with a final version to be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in early 2025.

7.2. That a budget of £4 million be ring-fenced from current resources within the existing Marine Services budget areas, in order to deliver the Strategic Offshore Energy Development Strategy in the period up to May 2027.

7.3. That powers be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration and members of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee, to authorise spend from the budget, referred to at paragraph 7.2 above, in the period up to May 2027, thereby ensuring Elected Member oversight of that budget.

7.4. That the following three red line commitments to all Elected Members in respect of the Strategic Offshore Energy Development Strategy be endorsed:

- No borrowing or financial commitment from the Council that is not fully understood and agreed by Members to be affordable and sustainable.
- Development decisions around any asset to be clearly flagged and understood by Elected Members and taken transparently by Members with access to all relevant information and data.
- Control over use of assets to be retained by the Council so that activities and use can be understood now, and in the future.

The Committee noted:

7.5. That Councillor Steven B Heddle wished his dissent, from the recommendations outlined above, to be recorded.

Councillor Ivan A Taylor left the meeting during discussion of this item and rejoined the meeting at this point.

8. Active Travel

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

8.1. That the Active Travel capital infrastructure projects, detailed in Appendix 6 to this Minute, be added to the capital programme for financial year 2024/25 onwards, at a total cost of £405,000, to be fully funded from Tier 1 and Tier 2 Active Travel funding awarded to the Council for financial year 2024/25.

8.2. That the Planning service revenue budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 be increased by £65,000 and £45,000 respectively to allow the Active Travel development works, detailed in Appendix 7 to this Minute, to progress, to be funded by a contribution from the Covid Recovery Fund, established in December 2021, specifically in relation to Footpath, Core Path and Cycleway Improvements.

9. Exclusion of Public

On the motion of Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, seconded by Councillor Alexander G Cowie, 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.

10. Proposed Disposal of Property

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 2, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

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

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** what action should be taken with regard to the proposed disposal of property.

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.

11. Strategic Offshore Energy Development Strategy

After consideration of a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that further consideration of the matters detailed in the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration be deferred.

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 Graham A Bevan, Stephen G Clackson and Kristopher D Leask left the meeting during discussion of this item.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

At 16:48 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Heather N Woodbridge.