

Minute

Policy and Resources Committee

Thursday, 20 February 2025, 14:00.

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, Raymond S Peace, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Gillian Skuse, Jean E Stevenson, Ivan A Taylor and Owen Tierney.

Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillors Janette A Park and Mellissa-Louise Thomson.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Oliver D Reid, Chief Executive.
- 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.
- Andrew Groundwater, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development.
- Sweyn Johnston, Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth.
- Erik Knight, Head of Finance.
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal and Governance.
- David Custer, Service Manager (Engineering).
- Chris Purnell, Strategic Projects Director.
- Craig Gillon, Strategic Projects Manager.
- Stuart Bevan, Solicitor.

In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Maya Tams-Gray, Committees Officer.
- Andrew Dougans, Partner, QMPF, Financial Adviser.
- Sarah-Jane McArthur, Partner, Brodies LLP, Legal Adviser.
- Adam Milne, Senior Wind Project Manager, Mott MacDonald, Owner's Engineer.

Observing

- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager (Democratic Services and Communications).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Kirsty Groundwater, Communications Team Leader.
- Emily Littlejohn, Strategic Projects Officer.

Apology

- Councillor Duncan A Tullock.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Heather N Woodbridge.

1. 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 from 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.

2. Orkney Community Wind Farms

Hoy and Quanterness Investment Decision

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 6, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, 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 Enterprise and Economic Growth, the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. That the primary purpose for developing the wind farm projects was to secure a new interconnector for Orkney, as recognised in the Council Delivery Plan.

2.2. That the projects had been developed to investment decision stage such that the Council was free to make a decision to proceed with one, both, or neither projects as it saw fit.

2.3. The Stage 2 Capital Project Appraisal in respect of the Orkney Community Wind Farms, attached as Appendix 15 to the report by the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

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

2.4. That a positive investment decision to build out and operate a wind farm at Quanterness be approved.

2.5. That the provision of a wind farm at Quanterness be added to the capital programme in accordance with the Stage 2 Capital Project Appraisal referred to at paragraph 2.3 above.

2.6. That an investment decision to build out and operate a wind farm in Hoy should not be approved at this time.

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.

3. Conclusion of Meeting

At 15:45 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: (Chair).