

Minute

Policy and Resources Committee

Tuesday, 16 June 2026, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

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

Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillor Kristopher D Leask.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance).

In Attendance

- Stephen Brown, Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Lorna Richardson, Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.
- Gareth Waterson, Director of Enterprise and Resources.
- James Wylie, Director of Education, Communities and Housing.
- Gavin Barr, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services (for Items 13 and 14).
- Andrew Groundwater, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development.
- Erik Knight, Head of Finance (for Items 1 to 15).
- Kenny MacPherson, Head of Property and Asset Management (for Items 7 to 9).
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Corporate Governance.
- Alex Rodwell, Head of Performance and Business Support (for Items 1 to 11 and 16 to 23).
- Stuart Allison, Service Manager (Enterprise) (for Items 1 to 3 and 9 to 11).
- Ross Cunningham, Service Manager (Policy and Communications) (for Items 4 and 5 and 13 to 15).
- David Custer, Service Manager (Engineering) (for Items 1 and 2).
- Donna-Claire Hunter, Service Manager (Safety and Resilience) (for Items 5 to 9).
- William Moore, Service Manager (Improvement and Performance) (for Items 16 to 19).
- Kerry Spence, Service Manager (Community Learning, Development and Employability) (for Items 5 to 13).
- Pat Robinson, Service Manager (Accounting) (for Items 9 and 10).
- Laura Hutton, Economic Development Manager (for Items 9 to 11).

- Nick Blyth, Climate Change Strategy Officer (for Items 13 and 14).
- Kirsty Groundwater, Communications Team Leader (for Items 1 to 5 and 11).

In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Darren Morrow, Head of Children, Families and Justice Services and Chief Social Work Officer (for Item 17).

Observing

- Sweyn Johnston, Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth (for Items 1 to 3, 6 and 7).
- Mohammadreza Allahyar, Marine Infrastructure Manager (for Items 1 and 2).
- Calum Forbes, Corporate Policy Officer (for Items 4 and 5).
- Stevie Garriock, Corporate Performance Officer (for Items 16 to 19).
- Cheryl Moar, Corporate Policy Officer (for Items 4 and 5).
- Precious Onyenweaku, Business Improvement Officer (for Items 16 to 19).

Apologies

- Councillor Stephen G Clackson.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillor Janette A Park – Item 3.
- Councillor Gillian Skuse – Item 13.

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 for Items 2 and 3, 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. North Isles Linkspans – System Upgrade

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

After consideration of a report by the Director of Enterprise and Resources, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Noted what action had been taken with regard to the North Isles Linkspan System upgrade.

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. Heritage Places – Orkney Living Landscape Project

Councillor Janette A Park declared an interest in this item, in that she was the Honorary Curator at the Stromness Museum, a partner in the Orkney Living Landscape Project, and potential recipient of funding, and was not present during discussion thereof.

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 1 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

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

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** what action should be taken with regard to the Orkney Living Landscape project.

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. Council Plan and Delivery Plan – Mid-Term Review

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, together with an Equality Impact Assessment and an Island Communities Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing reports from the Head of Corporate Governance and the Service Manager (Policy and Communications), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Council Plan 2023-2028 Mid-Term Review (2026) and accompanying Delivery Plan, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively to this Minute, be approved.

Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson left the meeting during discussion of this item.

5. Review of Standing Orders

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Governance), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the revised Standing Orders, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson rejoined the meeting during discussion of this item.

6. Chief Executive's Service – Service Delivery Plan

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Corporate Governance, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Service Delivery Plan for the Chief Executive's Service, attached as Appendix 4 to this Minute, be approved.

Councillor Kristopher D Leask left the meeting during discussion of this item.

7. Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee – Membership

After consideration of a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Enterprise and Resources, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Corporate Governance, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

7.1. That the number of members to be appointed by the Council to the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee be increased from two to three.

7.2. That the Deputy Leader be appointed as the Council's third representative on the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee.

The Committee noted:

7.3. That the revised quorum for meetings of the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee was three members, subject to the quorum including at least one member from each authority.

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

7.4. That the undernoted members be appointed as proxies, any of whom would be entitled to attend as a substitute for any of the three members at a meeting of the Joint Committee in the event of their unavailability:

- Vice Chair, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.
- Councillor P Lindsay Hall.
- Councillor Janette A Park.

8. Regulation of Investigatory Powers and Covert Surveillance

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Corporate Governance, the Committee:

Noted:

8.1. That the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office had confirmed their satisfaction with the Council's compliance with all relevant requirements relating to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 and that there would be no further inspection required until 2029.

8.2. The enhancement suggested by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office in respect of Section 8 of the Council's Surveillance through Social Media Policy and the update that was being proposed in response.

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

8.3. That the existing policies and procedures in connection with the Council's arrangements for covert surveillance and the use of covert human intelligence sources, attached as Appendices 5 to 8 to this Minute, and the updated Surveillance through Social Media Policy, attached as Appendix 9 to this Minute, be approved.

9. Corporate Risk Register

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Safety and Resilience), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the updated Corporate Risk Register, as at June 2026, attached as Appendix 10 to this Minute, be approved.

10. Detailed Revenue Budgets

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the final detailed revenue budgets for financial year 2026/27, attached as Appendix 11 to this Minute, be approved.

11. Community Development Fund

After consideration of a report by the Director of Enterprise and Resources, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Economic Development Manager, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

11.1. That the Community Development Fund be renewed with an allocation of £300,000 being made from the Council's Crown Estate Scotland Fund.

11.2. That the Community Development Fund be included in the revenue budget under the Development area at £300,000 for 2026/27.

11.3. That the Director of Enterprise and Resources should submit a report, to the meeting of this Committee to be held in November 2026, regarding funding for the Community Development Fund for the following three years.

Councillor W Leslie Manson left the meeting during discussion of this item.

12. Scapa Flow Oil Port and Miscellaneous Piers and Harbours

Minor Capital Improvement Programmes

After consideration of a report by the Director of Enterprise and Resources, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the undernoted allocations within the Non-General Fund capital programme for 2026/27, in respect of minor capital improvement works, be increased as follows:

- Scapa Flow Oil Port – from £150,000 to £938,000.
- Miscellaneous Piers and Harbours – from £300,000 to £3,179,000.

13. Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund

Councillor Gillian Skuse declared an interest in this item, in that she was the Chief Executive Officer of Age Scotland Orkney, which had previously benefitted from the Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund and might benefit from a future allocation, and was not present during discussion thereof.

After consideration of a joint report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, and the Director of Enterprise and Resources, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Community Learning, Development and Employability), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

13.1. That the Orkney Community Planning Partnership's Cost of Living Task Force should be invited to make recommendations to the Council on the local distribution of Orkney's allocation of the Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund for 2026/27, and to action their recommendations once approved.

13.2. That powers be delegated to the Director of Enterprise and Resources to scrutinise and approve the recommendations made by the Cost of Living Task Force on the local distribution of Orkney's allocation of the Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund for 2026/27.

14. Climate Change Strategy Approach

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Climate Change Strategy Officer, the Committee:

Noted:

14.1. Progress on the Net Zero Strategy actions, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.

14.2. The work plan and interim targets which would be progressed during 2026, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.

Councillor W Leslie Manson rejoined the meeting during discussion of this item.

15. National Islands Plan

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Policy and Communications), the Committee:

Noted the contents of the National Islands Plan (2026) and National Islands Plan Implementation Route Map, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively to the report by the Chief Executive.

16. Performance Monitoring – Chief Executive’s Service

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Corporate Governance, the Committee:

Noted:

16.1. The performance of the Chief Executive’s Service for the reporting period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026, in respect of service priorities and performance indicators, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively to the report by the Chief Executive.

16.2. The complaints and compliments made to the Chief Executive’s Service in the six month period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026 and for the two preceding six-month periods, as set out in section 4 of the report by the Chief Executive.

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

16.3. That the undernoted actions, which had been progressed to completion, be removed from the Directorate Delivery Plan.

- SPBS DDP 11b External communication – Develop supporting external communications delivery plan.
- SPBS DDP 12b Internal communication – Develop supporting internal communications delivery plan.
- SPBS DDP 14b Supporting local business through procurement – Improve publicity of contract opportunities in an open and transparent manner.

16.4. That the Chief Executive’s Service Risk Register, attached as Appendix 12 to this Minute, be approved.

17. Performance Monitoring – Orkney Health and Care

After consideration of a report by the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Noted:

17.1. The performance of Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership services delivered by the Council, for the reporting period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.

17.2. The complaints and compliments made to the Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership in the six-month period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026 and for the two preceding six-month periods, as set out in section 4 of the report by the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.

18. Performance Monitoring – Council Delivery Plan

After consideration of a joint report by the Chief Executive, the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, the Director of Enterprise and Resources, the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development and the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Improvement and Performance), the Committee:

Noted:

18.1. Progress made in respect of the Council's priorities and performance measures detailed within the Council Plan and Delivery Plan 2023 to 2028, for the reporting period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026, as set out in Annex 1 to the joint report by the Chief Executive, the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, the Director of Enterprise and Resources, the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development and the Chief Officer, Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership.

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

18.2. That, based on progress made during the reporting period, the undernoted Delivery Plan projects be closed:

- E1(vi) Net zero and decarbonisation – evaluation of baseline data relating to the Council's carbon emissions,
- I7 Mid-market rental properties – investigate the potential for the development of an affordable programme of mid-market rent (MMR) properties across Orkney.

Councillor Rachael A King left the meeting during discussion of this item and rejoined the meeting at this point.

19. Performance Monitoring – Local Government Benchmarking Framework

After consideration of a report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Improvement and Performance), the Committee:

Noted:

19.1. The Local Government Benchmarking Framework's National Benchmarking Overview Report for 2024/25, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, which set out a national summary of councils' performance.

19.2. The Council's performance against the Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators, as set out in Annexes 2 and 3 to the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing.

20. Police and Fire Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Police and Fire Sub-committee held on 19 May 2026, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor David Dawson, seconded by Councillor Duncan A Tullock, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Police and Fire Sub-committee held on 19 May 2026, attached as Appendix 13 to this Minute, as a true record.

21. Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with Pension Board

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with the Pension Board, held on 20 May 2026, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Alexander G Cowie, seconded by Councillor P Lindsay Hall, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with the Pension Board, held on 20 May 2026, attached as Appendix 14 to this Minute, as a true record.

22. Investments Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Investments Sub-committee held on 20 May 2026, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Alexander G Cowie, seconded by Councillor P Lindsay Hall, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Investments Sub-committee held on 20 May 2026, attached as Appendix 15 to this Minute, as a true record.

23. Human Resources Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Human Resources Sub-committee held on 26 May 2026, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved, on the motion of Councillor Alexander G Cowie, seconded by Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Human Resources Sub-committee held on 26 May 2026, attached as Appendix 16 to this Minute, as a true record.

24. Conclusion of Meeting

At 15:53 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: (Leader's signature).