

Minute

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 5 June 2019, 10:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, Barbara Foulkes, Steven B Heddle, J Harvey Johnston, W Leslie Manson, John T Richards, John A R Scott, James W Stockan, Magnus O Thomson and Owen Tierney.

Hugh Halcro-Johnston.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Wilfred Weir, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Peter Diamond, Head of Education (Leisure, Culture and Inclusion).
- Andrew Groundwater, Head of HR and Performance (for Items 1 to 6).
- Frances Troup, Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services.
- James Wylie, Head of Education (Curriculum and Community Learning).
- Garry Burton, Sport and Leisure Service Manager (for Items 4 to 13).
- Paul Kemp, Strategic Finance Manager.
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.
- Luke Fraser, Team Leader (Policy and Planning) (for Items 1 to 7).
- Lesley Mulraine, Team Leader (Housing and Homelessness).
- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

Observing

- Andrew Hamilton, Performance and Best Value Officer (for Items 1 to 4).

Apologies

- Jo Hill.
- Mary Maley.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillor John T Richards – Items 4 and 11.
- Councillor John A R Scott – Items 4 and 11.
- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer – Items 4 and 11.

Chair

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

1. Disclosure of Exempt Information

The Committee noted:

1.1. The proposal that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Items 11, 13 and 14, 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.

On the motion of Councillor Barbara Foulkes, seconded by Councillor John A R Scott, the Committee resolved:

1.2. That the public should not be excluded for consideration of Item 11, Pickaquoy Centre Trust – Revised Service Agreement.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair, and the Committee:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that Councillor Alexander G Cowie be appointed Vice Chair of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.

3. Appointments to Sub-committees, Working Groups and Other Bodies

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Noted:

3.1. Council policy on appointments and/or nominations to external bodies, as outlined in section 6 of the report by the Chief Executive.

3.2. The proposal that, as the term of this Council was five years, appointments made at this meeting should last for the remainder of the term of this Council, namely for three years until May 2022.

The Committee resolved:

3.3. To confirm constitutional arrangements and thereafter make appointments, where required, to the various Sub-committees, consultative groups and other bodies, referred to at paragraphs 3.5 to 3.14 below, which fell within the remit of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.

3.4. That the appointments to the various Sub-committees, consultative groups and other bodies, referred to at paragraphs 3.5 to 3.14 below, should be for the remainder of the term of this Council, namely for three years to May 2022.

3.5. Orkney College Management Council Sub-committee

The Chair called for nominations for three appointments to the Orkney College Management Council Sub-committee and, after a secret ballot, the result of which was as follows:

- Councillor Stephen G Clackson – 10 votes.
- Councillor J Harvey Johnston – 8 votes.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson – 7 votes.
- Councillor John A R Scott – 4 votes.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the following members be appointed to serve on the Orkney College Management Council Sub-committee:

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Councillor Stephen G Clackson.
- Councillor J Harvey Johnston.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.

3.6. 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:

- Convener.
- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Councillor Barbara Foulkes.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Councillor John T Richards.
- Councillor John A R Scott.

3.7. Education Quality and Standards Consultative Group

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the following members be appointed to serve on the Education Quality and Standards Consultative Group:

- Leader.
- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Councillor Stephen G Clackson.
- Councillor Magnus O Thomson.

3.8. Member/Officer Working Group established to consider Programme of Events and Activities to commemorate 900th Anniversary of Death of St Magnus

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that, as the remit had been fulfilled, the Member/Officer Working Group established to consider a programme of events and activities to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the death of St Magnus should be disestablished.

3.9. Housing Strategies Consultative Group

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

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Councillor Stephen G Clackson.
- Councillor J Harvey Johnston.
- Councillor John A R Scott.
- Councillor Owen Tierney.

3.10. Council House Build Programme Board

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the following members be appointed to serve on the Council House Build Programme Board:

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Chair, Development and Infrastructure Committee.
- Vice Chair, Development and Infrastructure Committee.
- Chair, Policy and Resources Committee.
- Vice Chair, Policy and Resources Committee.
- Councillor Owen Tierney.

3.11. Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that Councillor John T Richards be appointed as the representative from the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee to serve on the Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership.

3.12. Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Review Group

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that Councillor John A R Scott be appointed to serve on the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Review Group.

3.13. Highlands and Islands Science Skills Academy – Leadership Board

The Committee noted:

3.13.1. That, on 14 May 2019, when reviewing appointments and/or nominations to other bodies, the Council resolved:

- To continue with appointment of a representative to the Leadership Board of the Highlands and Islands Science Skills Academy.
- That the representative should be a member of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

3.13.2. On the motion of Councillor Steven B Heddle, seconded by Councillor John A R Scott, that the appointment to the Leadership Board of the Highlands and Islands Science Skills Academy should be open to any member of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.

3.13.3. That Councillor Stephen G Clackson be appointed as the representative from the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee to serve on the Leadership Board of the Highlands and Islands Science Skills Academy.

3.14. University of the Highlands and Islands Foundation

The Committee noted:

3.14.1. That, on 14 May 2019, when reviewing appointments and/or nominations to other bodies, the Council resolved:

- To continue with appointment of a representative to the University of the Highlands and Islands Foundation.
- That the representative should be a member of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

3.14.1. That the appointment to the University of the Highlands and Islands Foundation should be open to any member of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.

3.14.2. That Councillor Stephen G Clackson be appointed as the representative from the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee to serve on the University of the Highlands and Islands Foundation.

4. Performance Monitoring

Councillors John T Richards, John A R Scott and Gwenda M Shearer declared non-financial interests in this item, being Council-appointed trustees of the Pickaquooy Centre Trust, but concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.

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

Scrutinised:

4.1. The performance of Education, Leisure and Housing for the reporting period 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019, as set out in sections 3 to 5 and Annexes 1 and 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance.

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

4.2. That the following service plan action, which had been progressed to completion, be removed from the Education, Leisure and Housing Service Plan:

- 04 – Review of Leisure and Culture Provision – To work with the change programme team to deliver the review of leisure and culture as identified by the scope of the review which will be approved by the Council.

4.3. That the Education, Leisure and Housing Risk Register, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

Councillor James W Stockan joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

5. Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards Scheme

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Education (Leisure, Culture and Inclusion), the Committee:

Noted:

5.1. That the devolved Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards Scheme had operated since 2014, supporting 31 visual artists and craft makers with a combined total allocation of £21,090.

5.2. That the Scheme was reviewed both locally and nationally, most recently with Creative Scotland and regional partners in April 2019, who concluded that the type and scale of the Scheme supported the development of visual artists and craft makers.

5.3. That Creative Scotland had confirmed continuation of the Scheme in 2019 to 2020, although it was unclear at this time whether this would continue beyond 2020 due to an ongoing review of the organisation's funding model.

5.4. That, should the Council support the Scheme in principle for a further three years, Highlands and Islands Enterprise had indicated it was likely to continue to invest in continuation of the Scheme.

5.5. That the 2019 to 2020 Scheme would include two Recent Graduate Bursary Awards of £500 each.

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

5.6. That, subject to external funding being secured, the Council, through the Arts Development Service, should continue to manage a Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards Scheme, with a maximum budget of £7,000 to disburse annually, for a period of three financial years from 2019 to 2022.

6. Review of Support for Learning – Follow-Up Survey

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Education (Leisure, Culture and Inclusion), the Committee:

Noted:

6.1. That, on 14 November 2018, the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee considered a review of support for learning provision in Orkney's schools which had been carried out over an 18-month period, noting that, although the revised deployment arrangement for Support for Learning Assistants was achieved in August 2018, the full impact would not be known until early 2019 as the changes required to be phased in.

6.2. That the Committee subsequently requested that, once the changes referred to above were in place, the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing should undertake a further review of the impact of the revised allocation of Support for Learning Assistants within schools and thereafter submit the results to a meeting of the Committee no later than June 2019.

6.3. That, in order to evaluate the impact of the revised allocation of Support for Learning Assistants within schools, a follow-up survey of parents, carers and young people had been carried out.

6.4. That, when reviewing the allocation and deployment of Support for Learning Assistants for academic year 2019 to 2020, an additional evaluation of "unmet need" had been undertaken, as detailed in section 6 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

6.5. That, when reviewing the allocation and deployment of Support for Learning Assistants, the largest request for additional support was being generated by the two "resourced schools", namely Kirkwall Grammar School and Glaitness School.

6.6. The proposal that the Resource School components of Kirkwall Grammar School and Glaitness School should benefit from a fixed portion of additional staffing, so that they would be removed from the annual review of deployment of Support for Learning Assistants.

6.7. The proposal that consideration be given to establishing a more diverse professional team to work across the two resourced schools, including a formal exploration of partnership working with all relevant agencies and services in Orkney.

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

6.8. That the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing should review the overall staffing arrangements for Kirkwall Grammar School and Glaitness School and thereafter submit a report, to the next appropriate meeting of the Committee, regarding an appropriate staffing model for the Resource School components of both schools.

6.9. That the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a report, to a meeting of the Committee no later than November 2019, on how the Pupil Equity Fund was being utilised in order to meet learners' needs.

7. Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Team Leader (Policy and Planning), the Committee:

Noted:

7.1. That progress towards meeting the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing was inter-related to works to address the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.

7.2. The level of progress towards meeting the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing, as detailed in sections 5 and 6 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

8. Annual Assurance Statement

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services, with reference to the Minute of the Meeting of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee held on 3 April 2019, paragraph 9, the Committee:

Noted:

8.1. That the Council was required to submit an Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator between April and October.

8.2. That the Scottish Housing Regulator had provided a prescriptive template to be submitted but had not been prescriptive in respect of the structure of the information to accompany the template.

8.3. That the Annual Assurance Statement was required to be completed and agreed by the relevant local authority committee prior to submission.

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

8.4. That the Annual Assurance Statement, together with the Key Points relating to the Council's Performance and the Action Plan, attached as Appendix 2 this Minute, be approved for submission to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

9. Small Repairs Grant Scheme

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services, the Committee:

Noted:

9.1. The level of work undertaken through the Small Repairs Grant scheme, as outlined in section 3 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

9.2. That, due to changes to the benefits system, amendments were required to the eligibility criteria for the Small Repairs Grant, as detailed in section 4.4 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

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

9.3. That the eligibility criteria for the Small Repairs Grant be amended to incorporate the following:

- The applicant/household's principal or sole residence should be in Orkney.
- The applicant/household should be in receipt of any of the following benefits:
 - Employment Support Allowance.
 - Income Support.
 - Universal Credit.
 - Job Seeker's Allowance.
 - Pension Credit.
 - Attendance Allowance.
 - Disability Living Allowance.
 - Personal Independence Payment.
- The applicant/household should have less than £16,000 in savings.
- The applicant/household should have monthly take home pay not exceeding £435 or £935 if they were responsible for at least one child.
- Non-dependents within the household are to be disregarded for the purposes of the calculation.

10. Homelessness in Orkney

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services, the Committee:

Noted:

10.1. That the number of homeless presentations for 2018 to 2019 had increased by 11.2% from 2017 to 2018.

10.2. That the reasons for homelessness remained broadly comparable to previous years, although an increase was evident in respect of domestic abuse, relationship breakdown and being asked to leave by family/friends.

10.3. That homeless presentations for the period 1 April to 9 May 2019 were slightly lower than for the same period in the preceding year.

10.4. That homelessness remained a significant issue in Orkney and that lets to homeless households remained substantial relative to overall lets.

11. Pickaquoy Centre Trust – Revised Service Agreement

Councillors John T Richards, John A R Scott and Gwenda M Shearer declared non-financial interests in this item, being Council-appointed trustees of the Pickaquoy Centre Trust, but concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Sport and Leisure Service Manager, the Committee:

Noted:

11.1. That the Service Agreement between the Council and Pickaquoy Centre Trust in place from 2012 to 2015 had been extended a number of times, the latest being until April 2019.

11.2. That the draft Service Agreement 2019 to 2022, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, which incorporated meaningful outcome related aims and priorities, had been reviewed and agreed by Pickaquoy Centre Trust's Board of Trustees.

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

11.3. That the Service Agreement 2019 to 2022 between the Council and Pickaquoy Centre Trust, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

12. Exclusion of the Public

On the motion of Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, 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 Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

Hugh Halcro-Johnston left the meeting at this point.

13. Stromness Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre

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 paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Sport and Leisure Service Manager, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the temporary post of Swimming Pools Team Leader, G5, be established on a permanent basis.

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.

Councillor Steven B Heddle left the meeting during discussion of this item.

14. Housing Loans

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

After consideration of a joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** what action should be taken with regard to housing loans.

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.

15. Conclusion of Meeting

At 12:45 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: G M Shearer.