

Minute

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 31 March 2021, 10:30.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Alexander G Cowie, Stephen G Clackson, 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.

Jo Hill and Mary Maley.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Peter Diamond, Head of Education (Leisure, Culture and Inclusion).
- Frances Troup, Head of Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation Services.
- Graham Bevan, Service Improvement Officer.
- Keith Foubister, Works and Inspection Manager.
- Paul Kemp, Strategic Finance Manager.
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.

Observing

- Carol McManus, Service Improvement Officer (for Items 1 to 3).
- Garry Burton, Sport and Leisure Manager (for Items 1 to 4).
- Lesley Mulraine, Service Manager (Housing and Homelessness).
- Andrew Hamilton, Performance and Best Value Officer (for Item 1).
- Lorraine Stout, Press Officer.

Apology

- Hugh Halcro-Johnston.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

1. Local Government Benchmarking Framework

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

Noted:

1.1. That the Improvement Service, the national improvement service for local government in Scotland, had recently withdrawn the national attainment data as outlined on pages 5, 6 and 8 to 12 of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework Indicators 2019/20, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

The Committee scrutinised:

1.2. Performance of the Education, Leisure and Housing Service, against the Local Government Benchmarking Framework Indicators for 2019/20 attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, with the exception of the national attainment data which had been withdrawn, and obtained assurance.

2. Orkney Schools Attainment 2019/20

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 Graham Bevan, Service Improvement Officer, the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. The circumstances and challenges presented by COVID-19, outlined in section 4 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, which highlighted amendments to the method of gathering, and subsequent presentation of, attainment data.

2.2. The Orkney Schools Attainment Report for academic session 2019/20, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, which outlined the level of success and achievement of young people in Orkney.

Mary Maley left the meeting during discussion of this item.

3. College Management Council Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 15 March 2021, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved:

3.1. On the motion of Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, seconded by Councillor Alexander G Cowie, to approve the Minute of Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 15 March 2021 as a true record.

3.2. That the recommendation at paragraph 2 of the Minute of the Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 15 March 2021, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

4. St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee held on 18 March 2021, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved:

4.1. On the motion of Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, seconded by Councillor J Harvey Johnston, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee held on 18 March 2021 as a true record.

4.2. That the recommendation at paragraph 2.4 of the Minute of the Meeting of the St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee held on 18 March 2021, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved.

Jo Hill left the meeting at this point.

5. Housing Services – Performance Monitoring

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:

5.1. That housing organisations were required to report performance against a number of service areas and indicators within the Scottish Social Housing Charter.

5.2. Performance in relation to the undernoted range of service areas within Housing Services for the reporting period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing:

- Customer Satisfaction.
- Housing Quality and Maintenance.
- Access to Housing and Support.
- Homelessness.
- Neighbourhood and Community.
- Getting Good Value from Rents.
- Re-lets and Voids.
- Customer/Landlord Relationship.

5.3. Areas of positive performance within Housing Services for the reporting period, as follows:

- High levels of customer satisfaction.
- Low levels of repairs reported as emergencies.
- Low levels of repairs per property.
- Low levels of abandonments/evictions.
- Reductions in re-let times.

- Improved void performance.
- Low levels of former tenant arrears written off.

5.4. Areas where performance within Housing Services could potentially be improved or continue to be improved, as follows:

- Slightly higher levels of properties recorded as being exemptions from the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.
- Time to complete non-emergency repairs.
- High percentage of tenancies ending in arrears and rising debt.
- Rising rent arrears.

5.5. That, as part of the performance monitoring processes for 2019/20, the Annual Assurance Statement required by the Scottish Housing Regulator was approved by Council in October 2020.

The Committee scrutinised:

5.6. Performance in relation to the range of service areas within Housing Services for the reporting period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance.

6. Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Repairs and Maintenance Programme – Proposed Programme for 2021/22

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** that, subject to an adequate budget being made available, the undernoted programme of revenue repairs and maintenance for the Housing Revenue Account for 2021/22 be approved:

- Cyclical Maintenance – £60,000.
- Planned Maintenance – £641,000.
- Reactive Repairs – £233,900.
- Voids/Improvements/Adaptations – £328,000.
- In-House Professional Fees – £201,300.

7. Conclusion of Meeting

At 12:11 the Chair declared meeting the concluded.

Signed: Gwenda M Shearer.

Minute

College Management Council Sub-committee

Monday, 15 March 2021, 13:30.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

Councillors Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, J Harvey Johnston and Gwenda M Shearer.

Community Representatives:

Beverly Clubley, Malcolm Graves and Peter Slater.

Business Representative:

Rebecca May.

Student Representative:

Francesca Meneghetti, Orkney Depute President, Highlands and Islands Students' Association

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Paul Kemp, Strategic Finance Manager.
- Graham Bevan, Service Improvement Officer.
- Steven Burnett, Education Resources Manager.
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.

Orkney College

- Claire Kemp, Assistant Principal.
- Joanne Wallace, Assistant Principal.
- Graham Little, Head of Finance.
- Andie John Seatter, Staff Representative.
- Iain Wilkie, Staff Representative.

Observing

- Rebecca McAuliffe, Press Officer.
- Donna Wishart, Principal's PA and College Management Team Secretary.

Apologies

- Councillor W Leslie Manson.
- Kaila Shepherd, Student Representative.
- Steven Sinclair, Business Representative.

Not Present

- Roy Brown, Business Representative.
- Mark Jones, Business Representative.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Beverly Clubley.

1. Form of Voting

The Sub-committee resolved that, should a vote be required in respect of the matters to be considered at this meeting, notwithstanding Standing Order 21.4, the form of voting should be by calling the roll or recorded vote.

2. Orkney College – Draft Revenue Budget

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 Finance, Orkney College, the Sub-committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the draft revenue budget for Orkney College for financial year 2021/22, attached as Annex 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration through the budget setting process.

3. Progress on Evaluation Report and Enhancement Plan

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 Joanne Wallace, Assistant Principal, Orkney College, the Sub-committee:

Noted:

3.1. That, on 2 November 2020, the College Management Sub-committee considered the findings of Education Scotland's Progress Visit inspection, carried out on 19 and 20 February 2020, and obtained assurance that progress with actions in the Enhancement Plan was satisfactory.

The Sub-committee scrutinised:

3.2. Further progress with actions in the Enhancement Plan, as detailed in section 4 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, and obtained assurance that progress was satisfactory.

4. Highlands and Islands Students' Association – Update

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 Orkney Depute President of the Highlands and Islands Students' Association, the Sub-committee:

Noted the paper prepared by the Orkney Depute President of the Highlands and Islands Students' Association, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, outlining key issues to be addressed during the academic year and key activities during January and February 2021.

5. Conclusion of Meeting

At 14:20 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: B Clubley.

Minute

St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee

Thursday, 18 March 2021, 11:30.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Alexander G Cowie, Barbara Foulkes, J Harvey Johnston, W Leslie Manson, John T Richards and John A R Scott.

Lord Lieutenant Elaine Grieve.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Garry Burton, Sport and Leisure Service Manager.
- Paul Kemp, Strategic Finance Manager.
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.

Observing

- Rebecca McAuliffe, Press Officer.

Apologies

- Reverend Fraser Macnaughton.
- David Oddie, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Society of Friends of St Magnus.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

1. Form of Voting

The Sub-committee resolved that, should a vote be required in respect of the matters to be considered at this meeting, notwithstanding Standing Order 21.4, the form of voting should be by calling the roll or recorded vote.

2. St Magnus Way Paving Stone

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 Sub-committee:

Noted:

2.1. That Orkney Pilgrimage, a registered Scottish Charity, had been granted listed building consent to instal a carved flagstone into the flagged approach to the west door of St Magnus Cathedral bearing the St Magnus Way logo.

2.2. That informal consultation with stakeholders regarding installation of the carved flagstone bearing the St Magnus Way logo had been positively received, with no concerns raised.

2.3. The proposed location and design of the carved flagstone bearing the St Magnus Way logo, as detailed in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

The Sub-committee resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

2.4. That the request from Orkney Pilgrimage to site a St Magnus Way paving stone in the flagged approach to the west door of St Magnus Cathedral be approved, subject to the following conditions:

- All costs pertaining to the creation, installation and maintenance of the carved flagstone being met by Orkney Pilgrimage.
- Should, at some future date, the flagstone be removed by Orkney Pilgrimage, the original flagstone, or appropriate replacement flagstone, being installed, with all costs met by Orkney Pilgrimage.

Councillor Alexander G Cowie joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

3. Conclusion of Meeting

At 11:36 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: G M Shearer.