

## Minute

### Development and Infrastructure Committee

Tuesday, 11 November 2025, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



### Present

Councillors Kristopher D Leask, Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Graham A Bevan, Alexander G Cowie, P Lindsay Hall, Rachael A King, W Leslie Manson, Raymond S Peace, Gillian Skuse, Owen Tierney, Duncan A Tullock and Heather N Woodbridge.

Councillors David Dawson, James R Moar and Jean E Stevenson, who had been invited for Items 1 and 2.

### Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillors Steven B Heddle, Janette A Park, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer and Ivan A Taylor, who had been invited for Items 1 and 2.

### Clerk

- Katy Russell-Duff, Committees Officer.

### In Attendance

- Hayley Green, Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.
- Gareth Waterson, Director of Enterprise and Resources.
- Lorna Richardson, Head of Infrastructure Services.
- Karen Bevilacqua, Service Manager (Legal Services).
- Laura Cromarty, Service Manager (Transportation) (for Items 1 to 5).
- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance) (for Items 1 and 2).
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Kenny Roy, Service Manager (Roads and Grounds) (for Items 1 to 8).
- Susan Shearer, Service Manager (Development and Marine Planning) (for Item 1).
- James Green, Team Manager (Marine Planning) (for Item 1).
- Laura Hutton, Economic Development Manager (for Item 2 to 9).
- Matthew Wylie, Team Manager (Roads Support) (for Items 1 to 8).

### Observing

- Gavin Barr, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services (for Item 1).
- Kirsty Groundwater, Communications Team Leader, (for Items 1 and 2).
- Thomas Richards, Senior Human Resources Adviser.

- Daniel Morris, Marine Planner (for Item 1).
- Emily Murphy Gray, Graduate Marine Planner (for Item 1).

## **Apology**

- Councillor Stephen G Clackson, who had been invited for Items 1 and 2.

## **Declaration of Interest**

- Councillor Rachael A King – Item 9.

## **Chair**

- Councillor Kristopher D Leask.

## **1. Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan**

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, 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 Team Manager (Marine Planning), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council**:

**1.1.** That the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for adoption.

**1.2.** That, subject to adoption by the Scottish Ministers, the Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan should be withdrawn for the purposes of Council decision making on planning and works licence applications.

## **2. 20mph Speed Limits**

The Committee **suspended Standing Orders** 16.16 to 16.22 and 16.24 to enable an alternative method of voting to be implemented, should that be required in the event of several amendments being proposed.

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, together with an Equality Impact Assessment and an Island Community Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Infrastructure Services, the Committee:

Noted:

**2.1.** The outcome of the statutory and public consultation in respect of introducing new 20 mph speed limits across Orkney, as detailed in section 5 of the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.

Councillor Rachael A King, seconded by Councillor Heather N Woodbridge, moved that the proposed Orders, as detailed at Appendix 2 to the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, be made.

Councillor Duncan A Tullock, seconded by Councillor Owen Tierney, moved an amendment that Option 1, namely do nothing, should be approved.

The result of a recorded vote was as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors P Lindsay Hall, Raymond S Peace, Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock (5).

For the Motion:

Councillors Graham A Bevan, Alexander G Cowie, Rachael A King, Kristopher D Leask, W Leslie Manson, Gillian Skuse and Heather N Woodbridge (7).

The Motion was therefore carried and the Committee thereafter:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**2.2.** To make the undernoted Orders:

- The Orkney Islands Council (20mph speed limit) (Various Roads in Kirkwall, Orkney) Order 2025.
- The Orkney Islands Council (20mph speed limit) (Various Roads in Stromness, Orkney) Order 2025, with modifications, namely the length of Ness Road, Stromness, covered by the Order being reduced to the existing Southern extent of the 15mph, a point to the South of 8 Well Park, Stromness.
- The Orkney Islands Council (20mph speed limit) (Various Roads on Orkney Mainland and Isles) Order 2025.

Councillor Steven B Heddle, who had been invited to attend the meeting for Items 1 and 2, joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams during discussion of this item and left the meeting at this point.

### **3. Burial Grounds Management Plan**

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, 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 Infrastructure Services, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that, in order to ensure compliance with new regulatory requirements, the Burial Grounds Management Plan and Burial Grounds Customer Charter, attached as Appendices 2 and 3 respectively to this Minute, be adopted.

### **4. Coastal Erosion and Structures at Risk**

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, 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 Infrastructure Services, the Committee:

Noted:

**4.1.** The increasing risk posed by coastal erosion and other environmental factors to critical infrastructure.

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

**4.2.** That the Coastal Erosion and Structures at Risk procedure, attached as Appendix 4 to this Minute, be adopted as an additional appendix to the Roads Management and Maintenance Plan 2023-2028.

## **5. Inter-Island Ferry Services – Proposed Summer 2026 Timetables**

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 (Transportation), the Committee:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that the timetables in respect of inter-island ferry services to be operated during summer 2026, attached as Appendix 5 to this Minute, be approved, subject to:

- An adequate service revenue budget for 2026/27 being established.
- Amendments required for operational and/or educational purposes requested by Orkney Ferries Ltd.

## **6. Finstown Traffic Management – Review of Implementation**

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 Head of Infrastructure Services, the Committee:

Noted the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds recorded prior to, and after, extension of existing speed limits and installation of permanent Speed Indication Devices in Finstown, as detailed in section 1.4 of the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.

## **7. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring**

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Corporate Finance), the Committee:

Noted:

**7.1.** The revenue financial summary statement in respect of service areas for which the Development and Infrastructure Committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 30 September 2025, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, indicating a budget underspend position of £929,100.

**7.2.** The revenue financial service area statement in respect of service areas for which the Development and Infrastructure Committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 30 September 2025, attached as Annex 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

**7.3.** The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 3 to the report by the Head of Finance.

## **8. Road Asset Replacement Programme – Expenditure Monitoring**

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Corporate Finance), the Committee:

Noted:

**8.1.** The summary position of expenditure incurred as at 30 September 2025, against the approved Road Asset Replacement Programme for 2025/26, as detailed in section 1.4 of the report by the Head of Finance.

**8.2.** The detailed analysis of expenditure figures and programme updates in respect of the approved Road Asset Replacement Programme for 2025/26, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance.

## **9. Economic Development Grants**

### **Budget Monitoring Statement and Delegated Approvals.**

Councillor Rachael A King declared an interest in this item, her connection being that a close family member had received economic development grant funding, however, as the detail of Annex B was not discussed, she did not leave the meeting.

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:

Noted:

**9.1.** Spending to 30 September 2025 in relation to Economic Development Grants, totalling £97,449, of which £75,655 related to grant commitments made in previous financial years and £21,794 to current year commitments.

**9.2.** Grant approvals made in the period 1 April to 30 September 2025 totalling £157,822, including grants approved under delegated schemes for the same period totalling £117,882, as detailed in Annex B to the report by the Director of Enterprise and Resources.

## **10. Performance Monitoring**

### **10.1. Infrastructure and Organisational Development**

After consideration of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Noted:

**10.1.1.** The performance of Infrastructure and Organisational Development for the reporting period 1 April to 30 September 2025, in respect of directorate priorities and performance indicators, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively to the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.

**10.1.2.** The complaints and compliments made to Infrastructure and Organisational Development in the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2025, and for the two preceding six-month periods, as set out in section 5 of the report by the Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.

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

**10.1.3.** That the following actions, which had been progressed to completion, be removed from the Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure Directorate Delivery Plan:

- 06 – Orkney Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy – Progress to Net Zero via the decarbonisation of our Council buildings and properties, via the Orkney Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.
- 10 – Management and Control of Operational Costs – Complete the review of the New Horizon system, supported by the Improvement Support Team.
- 12 – Waste and Recycling Strategy – Identify appropriate strategic direction for waste and recycling in Orkney, taking into account changes in legislation.
- 19 – Island Games 2025 (formerly within the Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions' Directorate Delivery Plan) – Project management to co-ordinate the Council's role in supporting and facilitating the planning and delivery of the Orkney 2025 Island Games.

**10.1.4.** That the following action be amended as indicated and thereafter incorporated within the Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure Directorate Delivery Plan:

- 08 – Local Resilience Plan – Prepare a local resilience plan for each island – target date to be extended from 30 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.

**10.1.5.** That the Infrastructure and Organisational Development Risk Register, attached as Appendix 6 to this Minute, be approved.

## **10.2. Enterprise and Resources**

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

Noted:

**10.2.1.** The performance of Enterprise and Resources for the reporting period 1 April to 30 September 2025, in respect of directorate priorities and performance indicators, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively to the report by the Director of Enterprise and Resources.

**10.2.2.** The complaints and compliments made to Enterprise and Resources in the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2025 and for the two preceding six-month periods, as set out in section 5 of the report by the Director of Enterprise and Resources.

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

**10.2.3.** That the Enterprise and Resources Risk Register, attached as Appendix 7 to this Minute, be approved.

## **11. Harbour Authority Sub-committee**

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 28 October 2025, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved:

**11.1.** On the motion of Councillor Kristopher D Leask, seconded by Councillor Mellissa-Louise Thomson, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 28 October 2025 as a true record.

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

**11.2.** That the recommendation at paragraph 1 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee held on 28 October 2025, attached as Appendix 8 to this Minute, be approved.

## **12. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 12:30 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Kristopher D Leask.