

## Minute

### Education, Communities and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 3 June 2026, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



### Present

Councillors Gwenda M Shearer, Ivan A Taylor, Graham A Bevan, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, David Dawson, James R Moar, Janette A Park, John A R Scott, Jean E Stevenson and Heather N Woodbridge.

### Teacher Representative:

Jo Hill.

### Present via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

Councillor Steven B Heddle.

### Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

### In Attendance

- James Wylie, Director of Education, Communities and Housing.
- Wendy Bowen, Head of Education.
- Garry Burton, Head of Active Communities.
- Alex Rodwell, Head of Performance and Business Support.
- Frances Troup, Head of Strategic Housing, Housing Operations and Homelessness.
- Catherine Diamond, Service Manager (Early Learning and Childcare).
- Andrew Hamilton, Service Manager (Resources).
- Petra McLay, Acting Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary Education).
- Morag Miller, Service Manager (Primary Education).
- Lesley Mulraine, Service Manager (Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation).
- Pat Robinson, Service Manager (Accounting).
- Georgette Herd, Principal Solicitor.
- Laura Baillie, Team Manager (Housing Strategy, Development and Data) (for Items 1 and 2).
- Shaun Tulloch, Operational Manager (Early Learning and Childcare).

### In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance) (for Items 1 to 3).

## Observing

- Rebecca Robinson, Headteacher, Stromness Primary School.
- Kerry Spence, Service Manager (Community Learning, Development and Employability).
- Siobhan Wilks, Service Manager (Support for Learning and Inclusion).
- Nigel Fyffe, Team Manager (Maintenance and Heritage).
- Caroline Easton, Nursery Manager, Stromness Nursery.
- Fiona Greaves, Nursery Manager, Strynd Nursery.
- Ashleigh Gillespie, Senior Human Resources Advisor.
- Kirsty Groundwater, Team Leader (Communications).

## Apologies

- Reverend Susan Kirkbride, Religious Representative.
- Reverend Fraser Macnaughton, Religious Representative.
- Mary Maley, Teacher Representative.

## Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

## Chair

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, Chair.

## 1. Exclusion of Public

On the motion of Councillor Gwenda M Shearer, seconded by Councillor Ivan A Taylor, the Committee resolved that the public be excluded for Item 2, as the business to be considered involved the disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

## 2. Proposed Housing Development – Land at Makerhouse, Dounby

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

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 Team Manager (Housing Strategy, Development and Data), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Director of Education, Communities and Housing should submit a Stage 2 Capital Project Appraisal in respect of the proposed development of eight houses and three serviced sites at Makerhouse, Dounby, to the Policy and Resources Committee.

### **3. UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group – Terms of Reference**

After consideration of a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, 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 Terms of Reference for the UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

### **4. Education Scotland Inspection – The Strynd Nursery**

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 (Early Learning and Childcare), the Committee:

Noted the inspection letter in respect of The Strynd Nursery, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, issued by Education Scotland on 12 May 2026.

### **5. Education Scotland Inspection – Stromness Nursery**

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 Operational Manager (Early Learning and Childcare), the Committee:

Noted the inspection letter in respect of Stromness Nursery, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, issued by Education Scotland on 26 May 2026.

### **6. Education Scotland Inspection – Stromness Primary School**

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 (Primary Education), the Committee:

Noted the inspection letter in respect of Stromness Primary School, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, issued by Education Scotland on 26 May 2026.

### **7. Education Scotland Inspection – Stronsay Junior High School**

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 Acting Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary Education), the Committee:

Noted the inspection letter in respect of Stronsay Junior High School, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing, issued by Education Scotland on 12 May 2026.

## **8. Homelessness in Orkney**

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 (Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation), the Committee:

Noted the Statistical and Performance Information on Homelessness for 2025/26, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing.

## **9. Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing**

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 (Resources), the Committee:

Noted the level of progress towards meeting the initial Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing target, as detailed in section 3 of the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing.

## **10. Performance Monitoring – Education, Communities and Housing**

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 (Resources), the Committee:

Noted:

**10.1.** The performance of Education, Communities and Housing for the reporting period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026, in respect of directorate priorities and performance indicators, as detailed in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 respectively to the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing.

**10.2.** The complaints and compliments made to Education, Communities and Housing in the six-month period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026 and for the two preceding six-month periods, as detailed in section 5 of the report by the Director of Education, Communities and Housing.

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

**10.3.** That the following action, which had progressed to completion, be removed from the Education, Communities and Housing Directorate Delivery Plan:

- 2.2 – Service Reviews (Sport and Leisure Service, Culture Service and Library Archives) – Request the creation of three Member Officer working groups, one for the Culture Service, one for the Sport and Leisure Service and one for the Library and Archive Service.

**10.4.** That the following action be amended as indicated and thereafter incorporated in the Education, Communities and Housing Directorate Delivery Plan:

- 15c – Refresh project management framework and develop tool, approaches, and training with a focus on people, outcomes, and benefits realisation – target date to be extended from 31 March 2026 to 31 March 2027.

**10.5.** That the following action, which had progressed to completion, be removed from the Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions' Directorate Delivery Plan:

- 09b – Community Councils – Improve communications on the work of Community Councils.

**10.6.** That the revised Education, Communities and Housing Risk Register, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 11:31 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Gwenda M Shearer.