

Minute

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 2 April 2025, 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, Steven B Heddle, James R Moar, Janette A Park, John A R Scott and Jean E Stevenson.

Religious Representative:

Reverend Fraser Macnaughton.

Teacher Representatives:

Jo Hill and Mary Maley.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Service Manager (Governance).

In Attendance

- James Wylie, Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Peter Diamond, Head of Education.
- Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing.
- Garry Burton, Service Manager (Leisure and Culture).
- Catherine Diamond, Service Manager (Early Learning and Childcare).
- Morag Miller, Service Manager (Primary).
- Lesley Mulraine, Service Manager (Housing, Homelessness and Schoolcare Accommodation).
- Jane Partridge, Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary Education).
- Pat Robinson, Service Manager (Accounting).
- Siobhan Wilks, Service Manager (Support for Learning and Inclusion).
- Georgette Herd, Solicitor.
- Laura Baillie, Team Manager (Housing Strategy, Development and Data).
- Nigel Fyffe, Team Manager (Maintenance and Heritage) (for Items 1 to 5).

Observing

- Wendy Bowen, Quality Improvement Officer (Attainment and Achievement).
- Andrew Hamilton, Service Manager (Resources).
- Kerry Spence, Service Manager (Community Learning, Development and Employability).

- Ashleigh Gillespie, Senior Human Resources Adviser.

Apologies

- Councillor Heather N Woodbridge.
- Reverend Susan Kirkbride, Religious Representative.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Gwenda M Shearer.

1. Housing Revenue Account – Draft Budget

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the draft revenue budget for the Housing Revenue Account for financial year 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

2. Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Repairs and Maintenance Programme

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, the Committee:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that, subject to an adequate budget being made available, the undernoted programme of revenue repairs and maintenance for the Housing Revenue Account for 2025/26, totalling £2,104,000, be approved:

- Cyclical Maintenance – £104,000.
- Planned Maintenance – £780,000.
- Reactive Repairs – £443,000.
- Voids/Improvements/Adaptations – £535,000.
- In-House Professional Fees – £242,000.

3. UHI – Transformation Programme

Proposed Establishment of Short-Life Working Group

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

3.1. That a short-life member/officer working group, comprising the undernoted core membership, be established:

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Chair, UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group.
- Vice Chair, UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group.
- Corporate Director for Education, Leisure, and Housing/Head of Education.
- Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary).
- Service Manager (Human Resources Operations) and/or Senior Human Resources Advisor (Education, Leisure and Housing).
- Representatives from Finance, Legal and Committee Services.
- Senior Management Team of UHI Orkney
- 2 HISA Representatives, UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group.
- 2 Staff Representatives, UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group.
- 2 Business/Community Representatives UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group.
- UHI representative.

3.2. That the remit of the short-life member/officer working group should be as follows:

- To engage with the Transformation Programme currently being undertaken by UHI.
- To consider the implications of the Transformation Programme for the relationship between UHI Orkney, UHI and the Council, and for the day-to-day operation of the college, with regards to, but not limited to:
 - Academic delivery.
 - Operational efficiency.
 - Shared resources.

3.3. That the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a report to the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, no later than June 2026, presenting recommendations regarding UHI Orkney's level of participation in any changes UHI made as a result of the Transformation Programme.

4. 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 5, as the business to be considered involved the disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

5. Property Development

Proposed Council Housing Development at Coplands Road, Stromness

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 Corporate Director for Education, Leisure 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 progression of the proposed Council housing development project for 26 housing units at Coplands Road, Stromness, to Stage 2 of the Capital Project Appraisal process be approved.

6. Orkney Schools Attainment

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Education, the Committee:

Noted the Orkney Schools Attainment report for academic session 2023/24, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, which provided assurance on the levels of success and achievement of children and young people in Orkney.

7. Care Inspectorate – Hope Primary School Nursery

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure 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 report in respect of Hope Primary School Nursery, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, completed by the Care Inspectorate on 17 September 2024.

8. Care Inspectorate – Stronsay Junior High Nursery

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure 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 report in respect of Stronsay Junior High Nursery, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, completed by the Care Inspectorate on 18 September 2024.

9. Care Inspectorate – Sheltered Housing Service

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure 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 inspection of the Housing Support Service within the Sheltered Housing service, undertaken by the Care Inspectorate and the subsequent report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

10. Leisure and Culture Annual Impact Reports

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Leisure and Culture), the Committee:

Noted the performance and impact information in relation to the Council's undernoted Leisure and Culture Services, as detailed in Appendices 1 to 5 respectively to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing:

- Arts, Museums and Heritage.
- Libraries and Archive.
- Outdoor Education.
- Active Schools and Community Sports.
- Sport and Leisure Facilities.

11. Three Islands Collaborative Additional Support for Learning Review

After consideration of a report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Support for Learning and Inclusion), the Committee:

Noted:

11.1. The findings of the Three Island Authorities Collaborative Review of Additional Support for Learning carried out in conjunction with the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland and Education Scotland, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

11.2. That the revised Support for Learning Strategy and action plan, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, would set out the indicative financial requirements to meet the additional support needs of children and young people in education.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

At 11:40 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Gwenda M Shearer.

Appendix II – 30 Year HRA Projections

A - HRA REVENUE ACCOUNT PROJECTIONS (1st April 2024 to 31st March 2054)

R2a - HRA - Summary Cashflows - £000s - at Nominal Values											Return to Menu
KPIs		Max Debt	£17,507	Yr	20	30 Yr Cash	£16,289	NPV	£5,327	6%	
HRA SUMMARY CASHFLOWS		1	2	3	4	5	6 - 10	11- 15	16 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30
		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/34	2034/39	2039/44	2044/49	2049/54
OPERATING ACTIVITY:											
Income											
Rents		£4,652	£4,923	£5,148	£5,356	£5,572	£30,891	£35,282	£38,954	£42,563	£47,485
Service & Other Charges		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Voids & Bad Debts		-£153	-£141	-£135	-£121	-£112	-£559	-£628	-£694	-£766	-£846
Other Income		£265	£277	£283	£291	£298	£1,604	£1,815	£2,054	£2,323	£2,629
Total Income		£4,764	£5,058	£5,297	£5,526	£5,757	£31,937	£36,469	£40,314	£44,121	£49,268
Expenditure (Revenue)											
Management		£927	£971	£1,000	£1,027	£1,056	£5,686	£6,352	£7,013	£7,743	£8,549
Maintenance		£2,103	£1,923	£1,894	£1,398	£1,741	£8,942	£20,270	£19,038	£15,893	£19,599
Service Costs		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other stock-related costs		£21	£22	£23	£23	£24	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other general running costs		£330	£345	£353	£268	£274	£1,455	£1,606	£1,773	£1,958	£2,162
Total Expenditure (Revenue)		£3,381	£3,261	£3,271	£2,717	£3,095	£16,083	£28,228	£27,825	£25,594	£30,309
Net Operational Cash Flow from Renting Pre Finance Costs											
		£1,383	£1,797	£2,026	£2,809	£2,663	£15,854	£8,241	£12,489	£18,527	£18,959
Interest Earned		£0	£10	£10	£25	£10	£50	£50	£50	£50	£414
Financing Costs		£823	£888	£966	£984	£1,052	£5,948	£5,843	£5,621	£14,839	£5,299
HRA Surplus/(Deficit)		£560	£920	£1,070	£1,850	£1,621	£9,956	£2,448	£6,918	£3,738	£14,073