

## Minute

### Education, Leisure and Housing Committee

Wednesday, 14 November 2018, 10:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



### Present

Councillors Robin W Crichton, John A R Scott, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, Barbara Foulkes, Steven B Heddle, J Harvey Johnston, W Leslie Manson, John T Richards, Stephen Sankey, James W Stockan and Owen Tierney.

Jo Hill and Mary Maley.

### 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).
- James Wylie, Head of Education (Curriculum and Community Learning).
- William Ross, Principal, Orkney College.
- Keith Foubister, Works and Inspection Manager (for Items 1 and 2).
- Garry Burton, Sport and Leisure Manager (for Items 1 to 8).
- Paul Kemp, Strategic Finance Manager.
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.
- Kerry Spence, Community Learning and Development Team Leader (for Items 1 to 7).
- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.
- Andrew Hamilton, Performance and Best Value Officer (for Items 1 to 3).

### Observing

- Kirsty Groundwater, Press Officer.

### Apology

- Hugh Halcro-Johnston.

### Declarations of Interest

- Councillor John T Richards – Item 6.
- Councillor Stephen Sankey – Item 6.
- Councillor John A R Scott – Item 6.

## **Chair**

- Councillor Robin W Crichton in the Chair.

### **1. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring**

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

Noted:

**1.1.** The revenue financial summary statement in respect of Education, Leisure and Housing for the period 1 April to 30 September 2018, attached as Annex 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance, indicating the following:

- A net General Fund overspend of £41,400.
- A net Non-General Fund overspend of £57,300.

**1.2.** The revenue financial detail by Service Area statement, in respect of Education, Leisure and Housing for the period 1 April to 30 September 2018, attached as Annex 2 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance.

**1.3.** 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 joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance.

### **2. Housing Revenue Account**

#### **Revenue Repairs and Maintenance Programme**

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, the Committee:

Noted:

**2.1.** The position of expenditure incurred as at 30 September 2018, against the approved revenue repairs and maintenance programme in respect of the Housing Revenue Account, as detailed in section 4.2 of the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance.

**2.2.** The explanations given in respect of significant budget variances, attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance.

Councillors Steven B Heddle and James W Stockan left the meeting at this point.

### **3. Performance Monitoring**

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

Noted the performance of Education, Leisure and Housing for the reporting period 1 April to 30 September 2018, 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.

Councillors Steven B Heddle and James W Stockan rejoined the meeting at this point.

### **4. Support for Learning – Review**

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:

**4.1.** That a review of support for learning provision in Orkney's schools had been carried out over an 18-month period, with the outcome report attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

**4.2.** The key conclusion of the review of support for learning provision, namely that, when advice and guidance around assessment and planning was robustly implemented, it made a positive difference to the lives of children, young people and families.

**4.3.** That the review of support for learning provision also noted:

- Inconsistencies of practice in respect of assessment, planning and delivery, within and across schools.
- That not all staff felt knowledgeable and confident regarding some of the challenges they met.
- Variability in the consistency of service provision within Education, Leisure and Housing as well as with respect to the contribution of other partners agencies and services.

**4.4.** That work was ongoing to build confidence and capacity with respect to meeting the needs of all learners across staff groups and schools.

**4.5.** That development and improvement work was underway and included in the service's National Improvement Framework Plan that would support the recommendations of the review of support for learning provision.

**4.6.** That, should the recommendations of the review of support for learning provision be accepted, the 3-year Action Plan, attached as Appendix 2 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, would be used to progress the recommendations and inform the ongoing review of the service's National Improvement Framework Plan.

**4.7.** That a more specific review of the provision of Support for Learning Assistants within schools had also been undertaken in order to manage the service within the approved budget, which had increased over the last five years but not in line with the increase in the numbers of children and young people identified as having additional support needs.

**4.8.** That the full impact of the review of the provision of Support for Learning Assistants would not be known until early 2019 as the changes required were phased in.

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

**4.9.** That the recommendations of the review of support for learning provision, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

**4.10.** That the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a report, to the next meeting of the Committee, prioritising the 3-year Action Plan referred to at paragraph 4.6 above.

**4.11.** That, once the changes referred to at paragraph 4.8 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.

## **5. National Improvement Framework**

### **Education Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan**

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 (Curriculum and Community Learning), the Committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Orkney Islands Council Education Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan 2018, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved for submission to the Scottish Government and thereafter used to inform the working plan of staff across the Education service for forthcoming years.

Jo Hill and Mary Maley left the meeting at this point.

## **6. Pickaquoy Centre Trust – End of Year Performance**

Councillors John T Richards, Stephen Sankey and John A R Scott 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 Manager, the Committee:

Noted:

**6.1.** Pickaquoy Centre Trust's end of year usage figures and performance for 2017 to 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, which indicated the following:

- Overall annual usage figures of 463,611 which represented an overall increase of 9% in usage against the same period in 2016 to 2017.
- The main positive variances against targets being:
  - Gym (including strength and conditioning).
  - Group exercise.
  - Health suite and spa.
  - Other indoor leisure.
  - Swimming.
  - Climbing and bouldering.
  - Soft play.
  - Campsite.
  - Sport courses.
- The main negative variances against targets being:
  - All-weather pitch use.
  - Junior activities.
  - Arena sports.
  - Cinema.
  - Squash.
  - Track and infield.
  - Grass pitches.

**6.2.** That Pickaquoy Centre Trust's annual accounts for 2017 to 2018 had been submitted and indicated an operating deficit of £324,623.

## **7. Community Learning and Development Annual Report**

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 Community Learning and Development Team Leader, the Committee:

Noted the Community Learning and Development Annual Report 2017 to 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

## **8. Natwest International Island Games – Gibraltar 2019**

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 Manager, the Committee:

Noted:

- 8.1. That Orkney Island Games Association was preparing for the 2019 NatWest International Island Games to be held in Gibraltar from 6 to 13 July 2019.
- 8.2. That it was anticipated that eight sports would be represented at the 2019 NatWest International Island Games, with 50 provisional Orkney participants.
- 8.3. That Orkney Island Games Association was seeking financial support from the Council in respect of two team officials as well as games competitors.
- 8.4. That the cost of attending the 2019 NatWest International Island Games was estimated at £1,150 per competitor.
- 8.5. That, historically, the level of grant awarded by the Council had been assessed on an individual basis for each NatWest International Island Games, depending on the location of the Games.
- 8.6. That the grant to Orkney Island Games Association towards participation in the Island Games was normally paid over two financial years, with budget provision existing for 2018 to 2019.
- 8.7. That, in advance of a service budget being established as part of the Council's annual budget setting process, award of grant to Orkney Island Games Association in 2019 to 2020 was subject to an adequate budget being made available.

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

- 8.8. That a per capita grant of £100 per person be awarded to Orkney Island Games Association in respect of participants and officials in the 2019 NatWest International Island Games, up to a maximum of 50 participants and two officials.
- 8.9. That, subject to an adequate budget being made available in 2019 to 2020, the grant, referred to at paragraph 8.8 above, should be payable equally over each of the two financial years 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020, up to a maximum sum of £2,600 each year.

## **9. College Management Council Sub-committee**

After consideration of the draft Minute of the Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 5 November 2018, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Resolved:

- 9.1. On the motion of Councillor John A R Scott, seconded by Councillor Robin W Crichton, to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 5 November 2018 as a true record.

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

**9.2.** That the recommendations at paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of the Minute of the Meeting of the College Management Council Sub-committee held on 5 November 2018, attached as Appendix 3 to this Minute, be approved.

## **10. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 12:25 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Rob Crichton.