

## WIGTOWN AREA COMMITTEE (BUSINESS)

Meeting of Wednesday 5 June 2013  
at 10.00 am in County Buildings, Wigtown

### Present

#### Members

<b>Roberta Tuckfield</b> (Chairman)	- Wigtown West
<b>Jim McClung</b> (Vice-Chairman)	- Wigtown West
<b>Iain Dick</b>	- Stranraer and North Rhins
<b>Grahame Forster</b>	- Wigtown West
<b>Alistair Geddes</b>	- Mid Galloway
<b>Jim McColm</b>	- Mid Galloway
<b>Graham Nicol</b>	- Mid Galloway
<b>Willie Scobie</b>	- Stranraer and North Rhins

#### Officials

<b>Harry Hay</b>	- Head of Improvement and Engagement and Community Services
<b>Charles Clemie</b>	- Senior Manager Roads Services DGFirst
<b>Ewan Green</b>	- Head of Economic Development, Planning and Environment Services
<b>Steven Herriott</b>	- Head of Infrastructure and Commissioning, Planning and Environment Services
<b>John Howell</b>	- Service Manager Network Strategy, Planning and Environment Services
<b>Stephen Jack</b>	- Service Manager Area Framework and CLD Wigtown
<b>Nick Jackson</b>	- Principal Environment Officer DGFirst
<b>Wendy Jesson</b>	- Principal Officer Partnership Support
<b>Fraser Marshall</b>	- Senior Manager Neighbourhood Services, DGFirst
<b>James McLeod</b>	- Service Manager Infrastructure, Planning and Environment Services
<b>Andrew Pattie</b>	- Head of Service Strategic Support West, Education Services

#### Apologies

<b>Marion McCutcheon</b>	- Stranraer and North Rhins
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**Alex Haswell**  
Director Chief Executive Service

## 1 SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

8 Members present. 1 Apology.

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

### NOTED

2.1 Alistair Geddes declared an interest in Item 5 due to reference being made to the Wigtown Rural Development Company of which he was a Director at the Council's request but deemed that his interest was such that he did not require to leave the meeting for this item;

2.2 Iain Dick declared an interest in Item 8 - Newton Stewart Bowling Club due to his press statements and deemed that his interest was such that he required to leave the meeting for this item; and

2.3 Alistair Geddes, Graham Nicol and Jim McColm declared an interest in Item 10 due to the fact that they were Directors of the Whithorn Trust and deemed that their interest was such that they required to leave the meeting for this item.

## 3 MINUTE OF MEETING OF 1 MAY 2013

### Decision

**APPROVED** subject to the addition to the Declarations of Interest :-

"that Jim McClung declared an interest in Item 9 due to his having a personal membership of another Golf Club in the area and following governance advice, deemed that his interest was such that he did not require to leave the meeting during discussion of this issue".

## 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES AND DGFIRST STRATEGIC COMMISSIONS 2012-13 - REPORT BY DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES AND DIRECTOR DGFIRST.

### Decision

4.1 **NOTED** the performance of the Planning and Environment Services and DGFirst Commissions for the 12 month period ending 31 March 2013 ;

4.2 **AGREED** the following aspects of performance would be referred to the Planning, Housing and Environment Services Committee (PHE) or the DGFirst Management Committee:-

- 4.2.1 that the PHE Services Committee set Area specific targets whenever possible and in relation to the "percentage of missed household waste collections" that numbers of households are recorded not just percentage figures;
- 4.2.2 that the PHE Services Committee be requested to support the completion of repairs at Stranraer Harbour in the current financial year and that an early report be brought forward to Wigtown Area Committee confirming solutions, costs and timescales for completion;

- 4.2.3 that the target for KPI in relation to Lighting Maintenance and Management Services be appropriately increased as this was a huge issue for residents in terms of security and safety;
- 4.2.4 recommend that the PHE Services Committee consider the resource implications of implementing a more proactive, as opposed to reactive, programme of headstone inspections in cemeteries;
- 4.2.5 that targets should be set against Secondary KPI's wherever possible;
- 4.2.6 that a KPI should be developed in relation to the drainage performance of the roads network

4.3 to receive a report to the September 2013 Wigtown Area Committee Business meeting detailing the timescales and milestones for implementation of the Newton Stewart Household Waste Renewal Site;

4.4 to receive information in relation to the current position at Garlieston Harbour;

4.5 to receive update information surrounding the replacement of street lights in Elizabeth Avenue and Philip Avenue, Newton Stewart, pending the implementation of the LED Lighting Programme.

4.6 to receive detailed information on roads within the Wigtown Area which have not be adopted by the Council and the reasons why and what action was still to be taken.

**PROCEDURE** - The Chairman intimated with the approval of Members, she intended to take item 7 on the agenda next. This was agreed. The items in this Minute are recorded in the order in which they appeared on the agenda.

## **5 PERFORMANCE REPORTING - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES - REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES.**

### **Decision**

5.1 **NOTED** the overall performance of the Planning and Environment Services;

### **AGREED**

5.2 that the Head of Economic Development would contact Stena Line and facilitate a meeting to discuss the implications on local employment in relation to their recent announcement to relocate the management structure to Belfast;

5.3 that the Head of Economic Development would carry out an Economic "Health Check" for Stranraer Town Centre based on the Vulnerable Towns report recently agreed at Full Council;

5.4 to request the option of including a casino in the overall Stranraer Town Centre and Waterfront Development be considered, following the appropriate process; and

5.5 to refer to the Planning, Housing and Environment Services Committee this Area Committee's disappointment on the progress in maximising opportunities linked to the international designation of Biosphere status and request that this is taken forward as a matter of urgency.

## **6 PERFORMANCE REPORTING - EDUCATION SERVICES - REPORT BY DIRECTOR EDUCATION SERVICES.**

### **Decision**

6.1 **NOTED** the Wigtown Area level report and exception report for the performance of Education Services; and

6.2 **AGREED** to refer the following aspects of performance to the Education Committee:-

- concerns regarding the maths performance between Primary 5 and Primary 7 pupils in relation to the bench marked assessment information provided; and
- the length of time currently being taken to undertake autistic assessments;

6.3 to congratulate Hightae Primary for achieving "excellent" in all 5 key inspection categories.

**PROCEDURE** - The Chairman intimated that, with the approval of Members, she intended to take Item 9 on the agenda next. This was agreed. The items in this Minute are recorded in the order in which they appeared on the agenda.

## **7 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE - COSTS OF PROVIDING A CUT AND LIFT SERVICE WITHIN WIGTOWN AREA - REPORT BY SENIOR MANAGER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DGFIRST.**

### **Decision**

#### **NOTED**

7.1 the cost implications should alterations to the current grounds maintenance specifications be made to incorporate cutting, uplifting and disposing of the arisings and **AGREED** that this would not be progressed due to the significant financial pressures being experienced by the Council at present;

7.2 the £100,000 available to DG First through Civic pride funding for repairs to cemeteries across the Region and that DG First were currently costing priorities for this; and

7.3 discussions have taken place regarding progressing options for Community Commissioning.

## **8 DISCRETIONARY BUDGETS 2013-2014 - REPORT BY HEAD OF IMPROVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.**

### **Decision**

#### **NOTED**

8.1 the remaining balance of £705.27 available to this Area Committee for dispersal during the 2013 / 2014 financial year;

8.2

#### **AGREED**

8.2 to award grants totalling £494.50 to the following two external organisations:-

- Kindred Spirits : Kinship Care Support and Advice Services - grant of £250; and
- Dumfries and Galloway Duke of Edinburgh's Award Association - Advanced First Aid Training and Contribution to Insurance - an additional underwrite award of £244.50 taking the total award to £733.50.

8.3 to carry forward the sum of £17,100 for the Garlieston Footbridge Project to a cut off date of 31 July 2013 and that if the required level of match funding was not in place by that time the £17,100 would be returned to the Discretionary Budget.

**MEMBER** - Iain Dick declared an interest in the following item of business and left the meeting - 7 Members present.

8.4 **NOTED** the additional information requested in relation to Newton Stewart Indoor Bowling Club and **AGREED** that £29,000 be allocated to the organisation when the mortgage had been confirmed and on the basis that the organisation's financial projections indicated an operating surplus would be generated, that the £29,000 be paid back to the Wigtown Area Committee's Discretionary Budget in a sustainable manner. Also **AGREED** to receive a performance report after one year of trading that would indicate proposals for the terms associated with repayments.

**MEMBERS** - Iain Dick rejoined the meeting and Alistair Geddes, Graham Nicol and Jim McColm declared an interest in the following item of business and left the meeting - 5 Members present.

## **9 DALRYMPLE STREET, STRANRAER - RECEIPT OF PETITION FOR 20MPH SPEED LIMIT AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS - REPORT BY DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES.**

### **Decision**

9.1 **NOTED** receipt of the petition;

9.2 **DEFERRED** consideration of this issue until full quantifiable costs including the cost implications of re-locating fibre optic cables are available before taking this forward; and

9.3 **AGREED** to advise Belmont and Ochtrellure Community Council accordingly.

**MEMBER** - Willie Scobie wished his dissent to be noted in relation to the above decision.

## **10 WHITHORN COMMON GOOD FUND - APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - REPORT BY HEAD OF IMPROVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.**

### **Decision**

**AGREED** to grant the sum of £1,915.70 to the Whithorn and District Business Association for their project "All Roads Lead to Whithorn".

## **11 WIGTOWN AREA COMMITTEE (COMMUNITY) - MINUTE OF MEETING OF 24 APRIL 2013.**

### **Decision**

**APPROVED.**

**12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN DUE TO THE NEED FOR A DECISION**

**Decision**

**NOTED** that there was no business deemed urgent due to the need for a decision.