



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in the Council Offices, Stornoway, on Wednesday 6 December 2017 at 2.00pm.

PRESENT	Mr Donald Crichton (Chair) Mr Norman MacDonald (Vice-Chair) Mr Calum Macmillan Mr Iain A MacNeil Mr Roddy Mackay Mr Uisdean Robertson Mr Norman A MacDonald Mr Alasdair Macleod	Mr Angus McCormack Mr Iain M Macaulay Mr Gordon Murray Mr Roddie Mackay Mr John A Maciver Mr John Mackay
APOLOGIES	Mr Donald Manford Mr Finlay Cunningham	Mr Neil Mackay
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Paul Steele Mr Iain M Macleod Mr Paul Finnegan Mr John G Mitchell Mr Angus Morrison	Mr Charlie Nicolson Mr Calum Maclean Mr Kenneth Macleod Mr Kenny John Macleod
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Calum Iain Maciver Mr Joe Macphee Mr John Cunningham Mr Murdo Mackay Mr Domhnall Macdonald Mr Peter Middleton Mr David Macleay Mr John Gillies Ms Sarah Maclean Mr Nick Smith	Mrs Anne Macdonald Mr Norman Macdonald Mr Nigel Scott Ms Lesley McDonald Mr Colin George Morrison Mrs Dolina Macleod Mr Derek Mackay Miss Kaye Anne Afrin Miss Mairi Sine Macdonald
Prayer	The Meeting was preceded by prayer, led by Mr Charlie Nicolson	
Welcome	The Chairman welcomed Ms Joni Buchanan, and Mr Tony Inglefinch and Mr Iain Buchanan, Directors of Ionad Hiort Ltd. to the Meeting.	
Minute of Meeting of 27 September 2017	1	The Minute of Meeting of 27 September 2017 was approved .
Minute of Meeting of the Crofting Joint Consultative Committee of 6 November 2017	2	The Minute of Meeting of the Crofting Joint Consultative Committee of 6 November 2017 was approved .
Declaration of Interest	3	There were no declarations of interest.

Crofting Joint Consultative Committee Appointment of Member	4	<p>With reference to Item 7 of the Minute of Meeting of 27 September 2017, the Chief Executive submitted a Report seeking appointment of one Comhairle Member to the Crofting Joint Consultative Committee (CJCC). The Report stated that in terms of the Scheme of Administration, Membership of the CJCC comprised of nine Councillors, appointed by the Comhairle at the June 2017 Series of Meetings, of which the Chairman of Sustainable Development Committee was an ex-officio member. It was further agreed by the Comhairle on 3 October 2017 that the nine representatives from the crofting industry comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Crofting Federation – 4 Members • Horticultural Sector – 1 Member • Lewis and Harris Sheep Producers – 1 Member • Community Land Scotland – 3 Members <p>Following the resignation of Councillor Neil Mackay the appointment of one Comhairle Member was required, securing where practicable geographical representation.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend to the Comhairle that Mr Kenneth Macleod be appointed to the Crofting Joint Consultative Committee.</p>
Slighe Hiort: St Kilda Projects Update	5	<p>The Director of Development submitted a Report introducing the Slighe Hiort St Kilda Project which provided an overview on the status of the project and an update on other proposed St Kilda Centre projects in Uist and Harris. Ms Joni Buchanan, Mr Tony Inglefinch, and Mr Iain Buchanan, Directors of Ionad Hiort Ltd. were available to present more details of the project which proposed the construction of an iconic building where the remarkable story of St Kilda and its people would be told respectfully, creatively and excitingly.</p> <p>The presentation provided background to the project which went through a rigorous selection process in 2010 to be selected by Jura Consultants as the winning site at Geodha Sgoilt. The presentation provided details of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the original submission; • the stages of development; • the Ionad Hiort Vision; • the phased development and construction; and • project costs <p>On conclusion of the presentation Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions. The Chairman thanked Ms Joni Buchanan, Mr Tony Inglefinch and Mr Iain Buchanan for the presentation and on behalf of the committee congratulated them on the project.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) continue to offer support to develop proposals for St Kilda related visitor centres in partnership with Ionad Hiort, Sealladh Hiort and Harris Development Centre; and (2) to invite Sealladh Hiort and Harris Development Centre to present to a future Meeting of the Committee.
Performance Management (Development) 2017/18: Quarter 2	6	<p>With Reference to item 6 of the Minute of Meeting of 27 September 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report providing an overview of the Business Plan and related performance issues for Quarter 2, 2017/18. The Report stated that the Development Department Plan covered the following service areas with relevance to the Committee: Cultural and Information services (Heritage); Development Services (elements related to Strategic Planning; Economic Development and the Energy Unit. The progress against individual actions and key performance indicators for Quarter 2 were summarised in the Presentation as follows:</p> <p><u>Cultural and Information Services: Libraries and Heritage</u> All Business Plan actions and KPIs were on target. It was noted that there had been 17,766 visitors to both Museum nan Eilean sites during the quarter.</p> <p><u>Planning and Building Standards</u> All Business Plan Actions and KPIs were on target. It was noted that the Local Development Proposed Plan had been submitted to Scottish Ministers, the Planning Performance Framework had been submitted and the peer review in progress and the strategic approach to Marine Planning was currently being implemented.</p>

Economic Development

All Business Plan actions and KPI's were on target and an overview was provided of the various capital projects and details of projects in the five rounds under the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. Further information was provided on the Community Capital Grants programme and updates on LEADER, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and Business Gateway.

Energy Unit

All Business Plan actions and KPI's were on target. The presentation confirmed that the supply partner procurement exercise for the Energy Supply Company had been completed and updates provided on European Energy Projects and Oil and Gas Decommissioning.

The presentation concluded with the financial outcome for Quarter 2 and the priorities for the next quarter for Development Services.

On conclusion of the presentation Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) continue to scrutinise Business Plan performance through Interplan and through engagement with the Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Presentation; and**
- (2) to note that the Director of Development would circulate further information in respect of the Energy Supply Company early in the New Year.**

Heritage Service Update 7

With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 27 September 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report on the activities of the Heritage Service, including museums, archive, archaeology and the Heritage Network. The Report stated that the proposed date for the next Heritage Network Conference for Comann Eachdraidh and other community organisations involved in heritage be held on 17, 18 and 19 January 2018 at Sgoil Lionacleit, Isle of Benbecula. The theme of the Conference would be "*Building a Heritage Strategy for the Outer Hebrides*" and include a comprehensive piece of work mapping the heritage sector including analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing heritage organisations and prioritisation of project ideas. It was noted that invitations had been issued and there had been a good response.

In regard to Museums, the Report provided an update on visitor numbers and proposed targets. The Report provided further details of exhibitions such as Fossil Hunters in collaboration with National Museums Scotland at Museum nan Eilean Uist and Barra on 20 October 2017, and forthcoming exhibitions for 2018 which included Scotland's Early Silver in collaboration with National Museums Scotland and an exhibition on the Iolaire disaster in collaboration with An Lanntair and Acair via Museums Galleries Scotland funding.

The Report further stated that archive related collections activity brought significant material into the service over the last year yet the growing backlog of cataloguing work needed to be completed to enable public access to the collections. The Report concluded with details of a Mac TV documentary about a collection of photographs of the islands dating from 1977 which had been donated to the archive and, would be broadcast on 11 December 2017.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree:

- (1) to hold a Heritage Network Conference in January 2018 on the theme "Building a Heritage Strategy for the Outer Hebrides", as outlined at Section 4 to the Report; and**
- (2) a target of 35,000 visitors to Museum nan Eilean Lews Castle for the 2018/19 financial year.**

Business Gateway: Revolving Loan Fund 8

With reference to item 21 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 June 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report providing an update on the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and seeking support for additional funding to support new business development and growth. The Report stated that a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) had established within the Economic Development service using loan repayments generated from funding granted through these EU Programmes and the fund, administered by the Comhairle's Business Gateway team, was in excess of £1.2m. The Report detailed that the RLF had been successful in supporting a wide range of businesses across the Outer Hebrides and the Fund had reached its capacity to lend and a further injection was required to continue supporting business investment.

The Report provided a detailed overview of the previously operated two loan guarantee schemes Fisheries Loan Scheme (FLS) and the Business Loans Scheme (BLS). The Report further stated that the Comhairle did not provide any of the funding and both schemes had ceased; although 6 loans remain unpaid, the Comhairle held a provision of £11k for these with an additional £141k earmarked for this fund. The Report proposed to retain the provision and transfer the balance of £141k to the RLF.

The Chairman highlighted the success of the Scheme to date and stressed the significant impact on the local economy. The RLF had enabled the Comhairle to provide a valuable service to the local business community and had been especially beneficial to the fisheries sector, particularly in the Southern Isles. A statement from Duncan Macinnes, Western Isles Fishermen's Association referring to the current buoyancy within the fishing industry was appended to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree:

- (1) to transfer £141k of the funds earmarked for the Global Guarantee to the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF); and**
- (2) to authorise the Director of Development, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, to forward commit loans in any financial year based on the final balance and anticipated receipt.**

Scottish
Government
Regeneration
Capital Grant
Fund (RCGF) –
Round 5, Stage 2

9

With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 June 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking support for a financial contribution towards projects submitted to Scottish Government for consideration under Round 5 of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. (RCGF). The Report stated that RCGF supported locally-developed community regeneration projects to build sustainable communities by encouraging transformational change through local economic development and employment creation. A total of £25m per annum is available through this fund delivered in partnership with COSLA and Scotland's Local Authorities.

The Report further stated that the Comhairle had made successful applications to each of the four funding Rounds to-date, securing grants totalling £3.5m, leveraging external funding of over £11m and creating and retaining over 70 jobs and following successful applications to Stage 1 of RCGF Round 5, two projects - Stornoway Regeneration Programme (Phase 1) and Cnoc Soilleir, had been invited to submit Stage 2 proposals.

The Report provided an update on the successful Stage 1 projects and the preparation for Stage 2 submissions by 8 December 2017. The Report sought support for financial assistance for these community projects under the new capital programme. The total Comhairle contribution anticipated for the Stornoway Regeneration Programme Phase 1 and the Cnoc Soilleir project was £1.5m. Both projects would create new jobs and secure over £12.5m of external funding. A further Report would be presented to the Comhairle subsequent to the outcomes of the Stage 2 submissions.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree to authorise the Director of Development to submit a Round 5 (Stage 2) bid to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund in respect of Stornoway Regeneration Programme – Phase 1 and Cnoc Soilleir on the basis that if successful, the Comhairle will consider its contribution in the context of available funding within its 2018-23 Capital Programme.

Broadcast Media
Activity Update

10

The Director of Development submitted a Report providing an update on current developments in the broadcast media sector, highlighting the scope and economic impact of the sector and to consider opportunities for further development activity. The Report stated that the Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations (CTEER) Committee had recently sought stakeholder responses on implementing measures aimed at strengthening and developing the screen sector over the next five years. A draft Comhairle response was appended to the Report for consideration. The Report provided an overview of the local broadcast media industry and its important contribution in terms of employment, population retention and inward investment and a review of the main challenges and areas for growth and development in the future.

The Report detailed the Comhairle's significant investment over the last thirty years in supporting the local broadcast media sector and detailed the outcomes of an independent economic impact assessment and it was estimated that the total current employment in the sector was approximately 114. The Report further stated the current co-location of MG Alba, Creative Industries and Media Centre, BBC Radio nan Gaidheal, the An Tosgan offices for Gaelic organisations and Isles FM, had contributed considerably to fulfilling the vision for a creative media cluster. The Report provided an update on discussions that were on-going with regard to the future use of the main studio facility at Studio Alba, as part of the next phase of delivery of the Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy 2017-2020. A further Report on the outcome of discussions would be provided to the Sustainable Development Committee in the new year.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the importance of broadcast media activity to the Outer Hebrides economy and endorse ongoing efforts to maximise the economic potential of the sector;**
- (2) authorise the Director of Development, in consultation with the Chair of Sustainable Development Committee, to submit the response to the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee;**
- (3) agree that the Director of Development and the Director of Education, Sport and Children's Services submit a Joint Report to the February 2018 Committee meeting on the use of the main studio facility at Studio Alba.**

It was agreed under the terms of Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public, including the press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Comhairle would be disclosed.

North Uist
Development
Company: Radar
Mitigation 11*

With reference to Item 4 of the Minute of Meeting of the Planning Applications Board of 20 June 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report to consider a request for financial support for Radar Mitigation Scheme which would allow the North Uist Development Company (NUDC) to discharge a Planning Permission condition which was preventing construction of two 900kW wind turbines. The Report stated that the total project cost for the NUDC wind turbines was £2.3m which would be largely met by Scottish Government development funding, Bank Finance and a Community Share issue. NUDC had requested that the Comhairle support the cost of installation of the Thruput hardware and a total of £96,300 had been requested. The Report recommended that the Comhairle provide half of the costs, £48,150, from the remaining funding in the former Community Capital Grant Fund earmarked for delivery of a range of strategic community development projects, with the balance of £48,150 provided under short terms bridging finance, to be repaid on the receipt of bank funding or via turbine income.

It was agreed to recommended that the Comhairle agree:

- (1) a capital grant of £48,150 to North Uist Development Company; and**
- (2) bridging finance of £48,150, on such terms and conditions as the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and Director of Development, shall determine.**

Outer Hebrides
Fisheries Seminar 12

The Director of Development submitted a Report seeking the Comhairle's approval to organise an Outer Hebrides Fisheries Seminar in March 2018. The Report stated that following Brexit and the UK Government's intention to introduce a Fisheries Bill there would be a number of implications for fisheries management and these would form an important part of Brexit negotiations.

Subsequent to a visit to the Outer Hebrides in September by Lord Ian Duncan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland, which related to understanding the challenges and opportunities presented by Brexit to the islands in a fisheries context and how future management policies should reflect specific circumstances connected with the islands and coastal fishing communities. Mr Alasdair Macleod, Chair of the Fisheries Joint Consultative Committee, proposed that the Comhairle arrange a Fisheries Seminar in the islands in March at which Lord Duncan and other stakeholders could hear about those opportunities and specific policies which would benefit the islands and a proposed way forward.

The Report suggested that with the sector being particularly vibrant in the Uists and Barra that the seminar be held in Benbecula and an outline of the content, speakers and proposed dates were detailed in Section 8 to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) agree to convene a Fisheries Seminar in March 2018 with a view to maximising fishing opportunities following Brexit; and**
- (2) to extend an invite to the Conference to Mr Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.**

Reports
Outstanding

13 The Chief Executive submitted a Report detailing those Reports outstanding arising from decisions of the Committee.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.

URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman ruled that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the following items be considered as a matter of urgency in order to allow the Comhairle to take a view on the matter prior to the next Series of Meetings.

Lease of Room in
Ionad Spòrs Nis

14 The Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval to enter into a lease with Ness Sports and Recreation Association for office space at the Spòrs Nis building, Lionel, Port of Ness. The Report stated that the lease for Ness Hall had been terminated and Ness Sports and Recreation Association (owners of Spòrs Nis) had agreed to provide accommodation for the Building Standards Officer responsible for the north of Lewis. The agreed terms of lease would represent a saving of £1,482 per annum for the department and the rental and associated costs would be met from the Building Standards Budget and would allow the Comhairle to terminate the agreement if need be with at least one month's notice.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree that the Director of Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive, be authorised to enter into a lease for office accommodation as described in the Report for an initial period of 5 years and as deemed appropriate thereafter.

Capital
Programme 2018-
2023

15 The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report outlining the proposals for the Comhairle's 2018-2023 Capital Programme. The Report stated that the estimated resources available for the 2018-23 Programme was funding of £46m comprising: £44.3m of capital grant; £0.5m of capital receipts; and £1.2m carried over from 2013-18 with an additional £2.0m if the Local Government share for Scotland was maintained at 26%.

The Report stated that the proposed Capital Programme was made up of two strands:

- Strand A: Core and Statutory: This was the work necessary to be undertaken to maintain existing infrastructure essential for the delivery of Comhairle services; and
- Strand B: Development projects: These were projects to improve, develop or create assets to support the delivery of the Comhairle's Corporate Strategy.

The Capital Proposals for 2018-23 and the Capital Programme Risks were detailed at Appendix A and B to the Report respectively.

It was further stated in the Report that views of each Service Committees would be included in a Supplementary Report for the consideration by Policy and Resources Committee on 13 December 2017.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report and that capital funding for economic and community regeneration should be a key priority when setting the final capital programme.