



# COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in the Council Offices, Stornoway, on Wednesday 7 February 2018 at 12.15pm.

PRESENT	Mr Donald Crichton (Chair) Mr Norman MacDonald (Vice-Chair) Mr Calum Macmillan Mr Iain A MacNeil Mr Roddy Mackay Mr Uisdean Robertson Mr Finlay Cunningham	Mr Norman A MacDonald Mr Alasdair Macleod Mr Gordon Murray Mr Roddie Mackay Mr John Mackay
APOLOGIES	Mr Donald Manford Mr Angus McCormack	Mr Neil Mackay Mr Iain M Macaulay Mr John A Maciver
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Paul Steele Mr Angus Morrison Mr Charlie Nicolson Mr Finlay Stewart	Mr Calum Maclean Mr John M Macleod Mr Kenneth Macleod Mr Kenny John Macleod
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Malcolm Burr Mr Calum Iain Maciver Mr Joe Macphee Mr Robert Emmott Mrs Anne Macdonald Ms Lesley McDonald	Mr Colin George Morrison Mrs Dolina Macleod Mr Derek Mackay Miss Mairi Sine Macdonald Mrs Fiona Maciver

Prayer The Meeting was preceded by prayer led by Mr Gordon Murray.

Declaration of interests There were no declarations of interest.

### FINANCE

Budget and Council Tax Setting 2018/19 1(a) The Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Joint Report seeking approval of the Comhairle's budget for 2018/19, to set the Council Tax for 2018/19 and to recommend a forward Budget Strategy. The Report stated that the Settlement announced on 14 December 2017 included £153m of ring fenced funding and represented a cut overall amounting in a net reduction of £1.7m. A revised Settlement was announced on 23 January 2018 showing an increase of £0.4m in the Comhairle's share of funding.

The Draft budget included proposed 1% efficiency savings detailed in Appendix A to the Report. Based on the revised Settlement the Comhairle's deficit for 2018/19 would be £6.3m offset by Loan Charge savings of £1.2m and the 1% efficiency savings of £0.7m to give a residual, recurring deficit of £4.4m. The Comhairle currently had £3.8m of balances for future budget deficits. The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources advised the Committee that a further £1.2m had been announced on 31 January 2018 and, after taking account of the cost of pay awards, would reduce the deficit to £3.35m.

Appendix B to the Report provided detail of a programme of service redesign seeking a 25% reduction in service costs to enable the Comhairle to achieve a balanced budget. Members had been afforded the opportunity to contribute to the ranking of the priority order for the service redesign.

**It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle:**

- (1) agree to accept the 2018/19 Settlement offer from the Scottish Government as set out in the Scottish Government letter at Appendix D;
- (2) agree the Budget Strategy for 2018/19 as set out in Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Report;
- (3) approve the business plans for 2018/19 at Budget Item (b) of the Agenda;
- (4) approve the draft budgets for 2018/19 at Budget Item (c) of the Agenda;
- (5) approve the fees and charges for 2018/19 at Budget Item (d) of the Agenda;
- (6) agree the delegated budget for Cùram is Slàinte nan Eilean Siar as detailed in Section 6 of the Report;
- (7) agree to earmark £429k for Cùram is Slàinte nan Eilean Siar to be used if required for the purposes specified in Section 6 of the Report;
- (8) request that Cùram is Slàinte nan Eilean Siar recommend to the Comhairle the 2018/19 fees and charges for the services within its remit in time for the Comhairle to set these at its February 2018 series of meetings;
- (9) agree to increase Council Tax by 3% for 2018/19 to £1,086.36 for Band D properties;
- (10) agree to maintain the level of uncommitted balances at £3.5m, to continue the policy of setting aside underspends on winter maintenance for future severe winters and to review earmarked balances once the outturn for 2017/18 is known;
- (11) note the long term financial plan set out in Appendix C;
- (12) agree the redesign programme set out in Appendix B, and request that the Chief Executive report to the February 2018 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee recommending appropriate Governance arrangements for the programme;
- (13) agree that any additional funding agreed in the Scottish Budget be set aside to support the overall Comhairle budget; and
- (14) continue to engage with the Scottish Government to seek an early indication of the budget expectations for 2019/20 onwards and to seek to secure the best settlement for the Comhairle in future years.

Departmental  
Business Plans  
2018/19

- 1(b) The Chief Executive submitted a Report seeking approval of the Comhairle's draft Departmental Business Plans 2018/19. The Report stated that The Outer Hebrides Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2013–2023 provided the basis for the Comhairle's Corporate Strategy and the Comhairle's Service Business Plans. The Report further stated that the individual Departmental Business Plans detailed in the Appendices to the Report would continue to be reported on a quarterly basis via Interplan and through performance presentations to Service Committees and Policy and Resources Committee by the Chief Executive and Directors of the Comhairle.

**It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle approve the Draft Departmental Business Plans for 2018/19.**

Draft Budget  
2018/19

- 1(c) The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report seeking approval of the Draft Budget Book for 2018/19. The Report detailed a total budget summary for all Departments. The initial Budget for the current financial year and the proposed Budget for 2018/19 was broken down by the major expenditure headings and a narrative provided on any changes in each service area.

**It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.**

Fees and Charges 2018/19 1(d)

The Director of Technical Services submitted a Report seeking approval of a revised Schedule of Rates and Dues at Comhairle Piers and Harbours for 2018/19. The Report stated that the Comhairle was empowered to levy dues under Section 26 (2) of the Harbours Act 1964 and Sections 25-33 of the Harbours, Docks and Piers (Clauses) Act 1847. The Report provided details of the Schedule of Rates and Dues 2018/19 proposing:

- a flat rate increase of 3.6% being the Retail Price Index (RPI) to all sections of the Schedule of Rates and Dues subject to consideration of the financial model in the Revenue Estimates process;
- a change to the charging structure for leisure craft to a day, week and month per metre; and
- rates for CalMac Ferries Ltd be moved to a flat sum for berthing and wharfage charges with proposed total charge for 2018/19 being £83k. A further increase may be required in 2019/20 to cover the construction phase.

**It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.**