



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in the Council Offices, Stornoway, on Wednesday 21 February 2018 at 2.00pm.

PRESENT	Mr Donald Crichton (Chair) Mr Norman MacDonald (Vice-Chair) Mr Calum Macmillan (By VC) Mr Iain A MacNeil Mr Donald Manford Mr Roddy Mackay Mr Uisdean Robertson Mr Finlay Cunningham 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
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mr John G Mitchell Mr Angus Morrison Mr Finlay Stewart Mr Keith Dodson	Mr Calum Maclean Mr Charlie Nicolson Mr Calum Maclean 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 Nick Smith Mrs Anne Murray	Mrs Anne Macdonald Mr Norman Macdonald Mr Nigel Scott Ms Lesley McDonald Mr Colin George Morrison Mrs Dolina Macleod Miss Kaye Anne Afrin Miss Mairi Sine Macdonald

Prayer		The Meeting was preceded by prayer, led by Mr John Mackay.
Minute of Meeting of 6 December 2017	1	The Minute of Meeting of 6 December 2017 was approved .
Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2018	2	The Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2018 was approved .
Declaration of Interest	3	Mr Uisdean Robertson declared an interest as a Member of Fèis Tir an Eorna and left the meeting during consideration of item 13. Mr John A. Maciver declared an interest as a Board Member of Feisean nan Gàidheal and left the meeting during consideration of item 13.
Performance Management (Development) 2017/18: Quarter 3	4	With Reference to Item 6 of the Minute of Meeting of 6 December 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report providing an overview of the Business Plan and related performance issues for Quarter 3, 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 3 were summarised in the Presentation as follows:

Cultural and Information Services: Heritage

All Business Plan actions and KPIs were on target and it was noted that there had been 7,247 visitors to both Museum nan Eilean sites during the quarter.

Planning and Building Standards

All Business Plan Actions and KPIs were on target. A significant upload in complicated case work was anticipated over the next two years and there was significant pressure on Development Management staff and a Report would be considered by Human Resources Sub-Committee in the following week. The results of a Building Standards Customer Survey showed a high overall satisfaction with the service provided.

Economic Development

The majority of Business Plan actions and KPIs 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 KPIs were on target. The presentation highlighted the positives steps in relation to the radial connector and the Energy Supply Company which were reported on separately at Items 5 and 6 of the agenda. Further updates were provided on the Outer Hebrides Energy Group and confirmation that £100k had been secured to align Arnish to market opportunities, and that a bid for Scottish Government RCGF of £2.3m had been submitted as part of the Stornoway Vision project.

The Director assured Members that a progress update on the Balivanich Regeneration project would be submitted to the Committee in April and also highlighted that similar process was being considered for Lochboisdale.

The presentation concluded with the financial outcome for Quarter 3 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 continue to scrutinise Business Plan performance through Interplan and through engagement with the Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring Presentation.

UK Government 5
Consultation on
Remote Island
Wind:
Amendments to
the Contracts for
Difference (CfD)
Scheme

The Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of a response to the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's consultation on proposed amendments to the Contracts for Difference (CfD) for Renewable Electricity Generation scheme. The Comhairle welcomed The UK Government's decision to enable 'Remote Island Wind' to access the CfD Auction regime with the next Auction scheduled for Spring 2019. Under the regime, Strike Price support provided a guaranteed price for electrical product and if market conditions forced a generator to sell below Strike Price, the difference would be made up from the CfD pot and if the generator sold above Strike Price, the surplus must be refunded. With Strike Price support in place, Remote Island Wind would be a viable proposition for the first time.

The Report stated that there was circa 450MW of 'Remote Island Wind' electricity generation consented and contracted to Grid and awaiting connection although there was no Transmission connection in place between the UK's national electricity network and the islands which could take this electricity to market. The Report further stated that the islands were currently supplied by a 22MW AC Distribution connection and the local network was now full to capacity and no new connections could be made until the new Transmission connection was in place. If island generators were successful at the CfD Auction this would open the way for construction of the £800m Western Isles Radial Connector providing Transmission Owner, SSE, with the confidence that island Wind Farms were viable and that connected generators, supported by the CfD regime, would be able to afford the elevated lifetime Transmission Charges. Assuming success at Auction in Spring 2019, formal award of the Radial Connector contract would take place in the summer of 2020 and work would begin on the Converter Stations at Arnish and Beaully first with the seabed cable being laid during the summer of 2021 and the Radial Connector being energised for connection around September 2023.

Hebrides Energy - 6
Tariff Launch

With reference to Item 13 of the Minute of Meeting of 27 September 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report providing an update on the launch of the Hebrides Energy Tariffs. The Report stated that the Comhairle had been exploring scope to address high fuel costs through the creation of a licensed electricity company with the main objective to supply local energy to local customers through a community owned Energy Supply Company. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Community Energy Scotland, Hebridean Housing Partnership, The Stornoway Trust and Tighean Innse Gall were all shareholders in the company.

The Report stated that Hebrides Energy had signed a partnership agreement in December 2017 with 'Our Power' a not-for-profit energy supply company established by Scottish Housing Associations with the objective of tackling fuel poverty and provided details of the tariffs offered to customers were shown in the Appendix to the Report. The Report further stated that trial switches had commenced in January and a launch event was scheduled for early March. The Business Plan for Hebrides Energy proposed that the company owning its own generation assets was ultimately where substantive savings could be derived from and consultancy firm Ricardo had been appointed to undertake a short scoping study to explore shared ownership opportunities in the pipeline of island renewable energy schemes, within the context of how local energy could be used to impact on electricity prices for island customers. Funding had been secured from Local Energy Scotland towards this and a Report will be submitted to Committee on completion of the Study this is complete.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the launch of the Hebrides Energy electricity tariffs.

Western Isles 7
Biodiversity Duty
Delivery Plan
2014-2017

With reference to Item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 16 April 2014, the Director of Development submitted a Report to provide an update on the progress with the Western Isles Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan (BDDP) 2014-17 which set out objectives, actions and lead partners' delivery of the Comhairle's Biodiversity Duty. It was a statutory duty under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (referred to as the WANE Act) for all public bodies to publish a report on the actions taken to meet their biodiversity duty every three years. The Report stated that the BDDP actions had been incorporated into Interplan and the Comhairle's Performance Monitoring System and embedded within the Departmental Business Plans. The Report presented the progress in implementing the 2014-2017 BDDP in the Appendix 1 to the Report and highlighted achievements over the last three years, future and ongoing actions which would continue to be reviewed and updated.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the progress made delivering the Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan 2014-17 as set out in the Appendix to the Report.

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 1 namely information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office holder or former office holder, or applicant to become an office holder under, the Comhairle.

Heritage Service 8 *
Structure

With reference to Item 7 of the Minute of Meeting of 6 December 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report detailing the long term vision for the structure of the Heritage Services. Appendix 1 to the Report showed the current staffing structure allocated at the start of the project and using information gathered from an activities matrix and needs analysis the service had identified the structure at Appendix 4 to the Report as representing the best long-term arrangement.

The Report stated the facilities had now been fully open for just under eighteen months and it was considered appropriate to review the structure of the service with reference to its core activities and current challenges. These were highlighted as a significant backlog of inventory and cataloguing work to museum and archive collections, consolidating archaeological assemblages to relieve pressure on stores, maintaining a full programme of exhibitions and events, and providing a high level of support to community organisations.

The Report further stated that in order to fulfil the potential of the Lews Castle project, to take advantage of the opportunities for heritage across the Outer Hebrides, and to better engage the public with our collections, additional resources were required within the Heritage Service. The proposed service structure described an ideal final situation whilst recognising the funding challenges and it was highlighted in the Report that any restructuring proposals would be required to be considered in the context of the Comhairle's agreed Budget and service redesign programme.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the long term vision for the structure of the Heritage Service.

Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development (SLAED) Performance Indicators Framework 2016-2017

9

With reference to Item 19 of the Minute of Meeting of 1 March 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report providing an update following publication of the Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development (SLAED) Performance Indicators Framework 2016-2017 Final Report. The Report stated that the Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development group (SLAED) was the network of economic development services across all 32 Scottish local authorities. The Report indicated that the SLAED Indicators Framework provided an overview of performance across Local Authorities and a set of measureable benchmarks which could be used to better understand impact, allocation of resources and identify potential areas for improvement for the Comhairle. The Appendix to the Report outlined the Comhairle's Economic Development Performance Indicators Return for 2016/17 and highlighted progress in the following areas:-

- Leverage of External Funding (£1: £8.10);
- Business Survival Rate (3 Year) (81%);
- Employee Rate (77%);
- Businesses Supported by Council Economic Development Activity (258); and
- Number of Attendees at Business Gateway Events (540)

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development Indicators Framework 2016-2017 Report and the performance of the Economic Development Service.

Taigh Chearsabagh Revenue Funding 2018/19

10

With reference to Item 22 of the Minute of Meeting of 1 March 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of an application for annual revenue funding from the Taigh Chearsabagh Trust. The Report stated that Creative Scotland had acknowledged Taigh Chearsabagh's achievements and status by awarding the organisation £305k for the period to 2018-2021. The Committee commended Taigh Chearsabagh for this highly successful outcome in an extremely competitive bidding process throughout Scotland.

The Report stated that Taigh Chearsabagh Museum and Arts Centre in Lochmaddy was a community based Trust, established as a partnership in 1995 between the Uists Artists Association (UAA) and Comann Eachdraidh Uibhist a Tuath (CEUT - North Uist Historical Society). The Museum and Arts Centre was a nationally acclaimed and internationally renowned cultural hub and provided valuable cultural services for the local community and to visitors to the Uists and delivered significant social and economic impacts for the Outer Hebrides.

The Report concluded that Taigh Chearsabagh had satisfied their funding agreement requirements with the Comhairle for 2017/18 and had successfully delivered a wide ranging and vibrant programme of cultural and creative activity which provided significant economic and social benefits for the Outer Hebrides. The continued provision of Comhairle funding would be essential to the organisations financial stability and would enable them to plan confidently for the future development of their programme.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:-

- (1) subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a one year Funding Agreement for 2018/19, approve funding of £19,500 to Taigh Chearsabagh from the Arts Revenue budget, and the repayment of the sum £3,713 due under a re-payable grant agreement for the Building for the Future Capital Project; and**
- (2) note that, in implementation of the Comhairle's decision in relation to service redesign on 7 February 2018, the Director of Development will engage with stakeholders in the arts, culture and heritage sector with a view to reviewing the support required.**

Hebridean Celtic
Festival Revenue
Funding 2018/19

11 With reference to Item 23 of the Minute of Meeting of 1 March 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report which sought approval of an application for revenue funding from the Hebridean Celtic Festival Trust (HCFT) for 2018/19. Insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, approval was sought for the portion of funding from the Arts Revenue Budget. The Report stated that the Hebridean Celtic Festival (HebCelt) was a major international event on the Celtic music calendar and a key asset in branding the Outer Hebrides as a culturally rich and vibrant travel destination. The Report indicated that an independent Visitor Survey and Economic Impact Report on HebCelt 2016 concluded that the festival directly generated £1,405,472 into the local economy and that the net additional economic impact of festival-goer expenditure as a result of HebCelt 2016 was in the region of £2,206,591 which helped to safeguard 41 tourism related jobs. A draft programme for HebCelt 2018 was detailed in Appendix 5 to the Report

The Report stated that Creative Scotland had confirmed funding totalling £80k towards the festival in 2018. It was highlighted that although a significant percentage of funding for the festival was derived from private sponsorship and commercial income, continued support from the Comhairle was imperative in ensuring inward investment from other public sources and to maintain the quality, ambition and size of this annual event. Further details of attendance at the event, income and expenditure and an economic impact summary were detailed in the Appendices to the Report.

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

- (1) **subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a one year Funding Agreement for 2018/19, approve funding of £21,375 from Arts Revenue and £4,275 from Sgioba na Gàidhlig Budgets to the Hebridean Celtic Festival Trust; and**
- (2) **note that, in implementation of the Comhairle's decision in relation to service redesign on 7 February 2018, the Director of Development will engage with stakeholders in the arts, culture and heritage sector with a view to reviewing the support required.**

Ceolas Uibhist
Ltd. Revenue
Funding 2018/19

12 With reference to Item 24 of the Minute of Meeting of 1 March 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of an application for annual revenue funding from Ceòlas Uibhist Ltd. Insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, approval was sought for the portion of funding from the Arts Revenue Budget. The Report stated that Ceòlas core work was an annual week long Gaelic cultural summer school and a series of community events based at Daliburgh School and surrounding community venues in South Uist and attracted participants from the Outer Hebrides, the Scottish mainland, England and further afield and provided an increasing number of additional cultural projects throughout the year as detailed in the Report.

The Report stated that the continued provision of Comhairle funding for Ceòlas was essential to enable the organisation to plan for the 2018 programme and summer school and secure partnership funding from other sources. The Report concluded that the organisation satisfied their funding agreement requirements with the Comhairle and recommended the continued provision of funding for 2018/19. Further details of the core programmes and attendance figures, income and expenditure and an economic impact summary were detailed in the Appendices to the Report.

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

- (1) **subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a one year Funding Agreement for 2018/19, the Comhairle approve funding of £4,513 from Arts Revenue and £4,512 from Sgioba na Gàidhlig Budgets to Ceòlas Uibhist Ltd.; and**
- (2) **note that, in implementation of the Comhairle's decision in relation to service redesign on 7 February 2018, the Director of Development will engage with stakeholders in the arts, culture and heritage sector with a view to reviewing the support required.**

Feisean nan Gàidheal Revenue Funding 2018/19 13 With reference to Item 25 of the Minute of Meeting of 1 March 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of an application for annual revenue funding from Fèisean nan Gàidheal for 2018/19. Insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, approval was sought for the portion of funding from the Arts Revenue Budget. The Report stated that Fèisean nan Gàidheal was a registered charity established in 1988 as the independent umbrella association of the Fèis movement and offered a wide range of support services. The Fèis movement had helped to ensure that Scottish Gaelic traditions were passed onto new generations of children in the Outer Hebrides and Fèisean activities enhanced the quality of life in remote communities across the islands and helped to make these communities attractive places to bring up a family.

The Report further stated that the Comhairle had awarded funding since 2009 on an annual basis to be devolved to seven island Fèisean and to support the post of Western Isles Fèis Development Officer. This enabled a seven week community-based Gaelic arts tuition festivals to take place between April and August in the Outer Hebrides plus a varied programme of classes and additional projects during the year. The financial allocation to the individual island Fèisean were detailed at Paragraph 8.3 to the Report

The Report concluded that Fèisean nan Gàidheal had satisfied their funding agreement requirements with the Comhairle for 2017/18. The current arrangements worked effectively and delivered a wide range and vibrant programme of cultural and creative activity throughout the Outer Hebrides and provided significant economic and social benefits within the local economy.

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

- (1) subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a Funding Agreement for 2018/19, approve funding of £6,400 from Arts Revenue and £6,400 from Sgioba na Gàidhlig Budgets to Fèisean nan Gàidheal, to be devolved to seven Outer Hebrides Fèisean and to support the post of Western Isles Fèis Development Officer; and**
- (2) note that, in implementation of the Comhairle's decision in relation to service redesign on 7 February 2018, the Director of Development will engage with stakeholders in the arts, culture and heritage sector with a view to reviewing the support required.**

An Lanntair Revenue Funding 2018/19 14 With reference to Item 21 of the Minute of Meeting of 1 March 2017, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of an application for annual revenue funding from An Lanntair Ltd. for 2018/19. The Report stated that An Lanntair Arts Centre had been established as a charitable trust in 1985 and was currently in its 32nd year of operation. The centre was a nationally acclaimed and internationally renowned cultural hub and Comhairle support enabled An Lanntair to deliver a year round programme of high quality visual art exhibitions, performing arts events, cinema screenings and educational activities which provide significant economic and social benefits for the Outer Hebrides.

The Report stated that the Comhairle agreed in principle in June 2014 to provide a three year revenue funding package to An Lanntair at £69,350 per annum as match funding to support a bid to Creative Scotland for three year 'regular funding'. Creative Scotland had acknowledged An Lanntair's achievements and status by awarding the organisation three year regular funding for the period to 2018-2021, following a very competitive bidding process which released £403,333 per annum. An Lanntair was currently preparing a funding bid for a further round of Creative Scotland regular funding and the Comhairle's previous approach to a three-year agreement in principle to match fund the bid would be critical to a successful outcome.

The Report concluded that the organisation had satisfied their funding agreement requirements with the Comhairle and recommended the continued provision of funding for 2018/19. Further financial information was provided in the Appendices to the Report.

It was noted that the Arts Revenue Fund totalled £125k which generated discussion in relation to the level and the geographical spread of the funding proposed for An Lanntair and also raised questions as to the availability of funding to wider community bodies. It was noted that engagement with the community on the provision of future support would be undertaken as part of Comhairle's agreed Budget and service redesign programme.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) approve £69,350 to An Lanntair Ltd. from the 2018/19 Arts Development budget, and the repayment of the sum of £3,415 due under Prudential Borrowing Arrangements, subject to:
 - (a) the satisfactory conclusion of a one year Funding Agreement for 2018/19: and
 - (b) that the Director of Development submit a Report to the April 2018 meeting of Sustainable Development Committee, detailing:
 - (i) the economic impact of the An Lanntair facility in terms of employment,
 - (ii) the economic impact for the whole of the Comhairle area, and
 - (iii) the consequences of not paying the £69,350 to An Lanntair would have on other funded bodies throughout the Comhairle area; and
- (2) note that, in implementation of the Comhairle's decision in relation to service redesign on 7 February 2018, the Director of Development will engage with stakeholders in the arts, culture and heritage sector with a view to reviewing the support required.

Reports
Outstanding

15 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.

Scottish
Government
Consultation on
Proposed Sites to
Host Inshore
Fisheries Pilots
2017

16 The Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of a draft Comhairle response to the Scottish Government Consultation on Proposed Sites to Host Inshore Fisheries Pilot 2017. The Report stated that one of the proposals identified by Marine Scotland for further public consultation was from the Outer Hebrides Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (OHRIFG) regarding a creel number limitation scheme in the nephrops, brown crab, velvet crab and lobster fisheries.

The Report stated that on 25 May 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing MSP, announced the Inshore Fisheries Pilots initiative. The aim of which was to explore alternative approaches to managing inshore fisheries in order to ensure our coastal communities were making the most of their waters. The pilots would investigate two different methods of fisheries management i.e. a localised approach to fisheries management, and the impact of separating different methods of fishing, such as creeling and trawling, within specified areas.

The proposals and management measures for the Outer Hebrides were detailed in sections 5 and 6 to the Report which were to limit the number of creels that vessels may operate from the east of Lewis south to Barra and which was the most heavily fished static gear area in the Outer Hebrides RIFG area. The benefits of which would include:-

- reverse decreasing catch per unit effort rates;
- reduce gear conflict;
- prevent gear being placed on the ground to stop others from fishing;
- improve health and safety; and
- encourage the fishing industry to take a more responsible role in the management of the marine environment

As highlighted in the Report the creel sector was very important to the economy of the Outer Hebrides, providing employment throughout the island chain and statistics for 2016 showed landing of creel-caught Nephrops, lobsters, brown crabs and velvet crabs worth £5.5 million. The proposal for the Inshore Fisheries Pilot initiative in the Outer Hebrides was supported by the Comhairle and the draft response appended to the Report. Delegation was sought for the Director of Development in consultation with the Fisheries Joint Consultative Committee to submit a finalised response.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) approve the Draft Comhairle response to the Scottish Government Consultation on Proposed Sites to Host Inshore Fisheries Pilots 2017 appended to the Report;**
- (2) authorise the Director of Development, in consultation with the Fisheries Joint Consultative Committee, to modify and submit a final response by 23 February 2018; and**
- (3) in terms of Paragraph 17 of the Scheme of Administration, the Committee determine recommendation (1) and (2) above on behalf of the Comhairle under delegated powers to enable a response to be submitted to the Scottish Government by the consultation deadline, on the basis that the recommendation is not contentious and does not breach a major policy consideration of the Comhairle.**