



# COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Committee Room 1,  
Council Offices, Stornoway on Thursday 7 April  
2022 at 9.30am.

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 Gordon Murray Mr Roddie Mackay Mr John Mackay
APOLOGIES	Mr Grant Fulton	Mr Angus McCormack
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Paul Steele Mr Iain M Macleod Mr John G Mitchell Mr Ranald Fraser	Mr Angus Morrison Mr Finlay Stewart Mr Keith Dodson Mr Kenny John Macleod
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Malcolm Burr Mr Calum Iain Maciver Mr William MacDonald Mr Tim Langley Mrs Anne Macdonald	Mr Derek Mackay Mrs Fiona Maciver Mr Nigel Scott Mr Colin G Morrison Mr Murdo Morrison

Prayer The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Finlay Stewart.

### MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 8 March 2022	1	The Minute of Meeting of 8 March 2022 was <b>approved</b> .
Declaration of Interest	2	Mr Uisdean Robertson declared an interest as a Director of Urachadh Uibhist and remained in the meeting during consideration of item 3.  Mr Alasdair Macleod declared an interest as a Board Member of Third Sector Hebrides and remained in the meeting during consideration of item 3

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Islands Programme and Place Based Investment Programme	3	The Head of Economic Development and Planning submitted a Report concerning the opening of the bidding to the 2022/23 Islands Programme (IP); an award under the Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP); and sought approval for arrangements to approve projects related to both funds. The Report stated that the IP had an available budget of £4m and would be delivered on a competitive bid basis across all six Local Authorities with islands. Bids required to be submitted by 10 June 2022 with grant drawdown/project delivery required to be achieved by 31 March 2023. Therefore delegation was sought to meet the deadline. The Scottish Government had also notified the Comhairle that its allocation for 2022/23, under the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) was £116k.
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The Report further stated that the timescales for the delivery of these funds presented challenges and an initial suite of eligible projects had been developed based around previously identified Comhairle priorities and projects that were in the best state of readiness to allow implementation within the narrow delivery window. Section 6 of the Report detailed the initial schedule of projects to be agreed as the priority list for implementation.

The Report concluded that the IP and PBIP both provided an excellent opportunity to submit bids that would accelerate the delivery of a range of existing priority projects and enable development of place-based investments around key ports of entry. The proposals would allow place-based improvements to be made to local amenity; support repopulation objectives; underpin the Islands Deal and allow investment in critical community facilities.

Mr Paul Steele advised that work had taken place in the Lochboisdale Amenity Trust facility Talla Chidhe and requested consideration be given to adding this project to the list under the Community Facility Development Fund at 6.5 of the Report.

The Director for Communities indicated that the Comhairle had been notified of an additional fund from Scottish Government and provided an overview, highlighting that the sum of £556k had been allocated to the Local Covid Economic Recovery Fund. It was proposed to utilise this funding by allocating £300k to the Comhairle's Covid Economic Recovery Grant Scheme (CERGS), which was the fund established by the Comhairle to support business recovery and resilience; and by working with Third Sector Hebrides to develop a programme to support low-income households.

**It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:**

- (1) approves the schedule of projects at Section 6 of the Report as the priority list for implementation;**
- (2) authorises the Director for Communities, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Head of Accountancy and Exchequer Services, to adjust the list as required to ensure maximisation of bids and approved funding; and**
- (3) agrees to allocate £300,000 from the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund to Business Support through the Covid Economic Recovery Grant Scheme and allocate £256,000 to a programme of support to vulnerable households in partnership with Third Sector Hebrides and authorise the Director for Communities, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Head of Accountancy and Exchequer Services, to deliver the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund.**