



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Minute of Meeting held in the Council Chamber
(and via Microsoft Teams) on Wednesday 22
February 2023 at 5.00pm.

PRESENT

Mr Kenneth Macleod (Convener)
Mr Paul Steele (Leader)
Mr Duncan MacInnes, MBE (Depute
Leader)
Mr Kenneth John Maclean
Mr Iain A MacNeil
Mr Iain M Macleod
Ms Susan Thomson
Mr Mustapha Hocine
Mr Uisdean Robertson
Mr Paul Finnegan
Mr Grant Fulton
Mr Robert Mackenzie
Mr Angus Morrison
Mr Ranald Fraser
Mr Norman Macdonald

Mr John N Macleod
Mr Donald Macsween
Mr Donald F Crichton
Mr John A Maciver
Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Rae Mackenzie
Dr Frances Murray
Mr George Murray
Mr Finlay M Stewart

APOLOGIES

Mr Norrie Macdonald
Mr Angus McCormack

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr
Mr Calum Iain Maciver
Mr William MacDonald
Mr Norman MacDonald
Mr Calum Mackenzie
Mr Neil Macleod
Mr Jack Libby
Ms Lisa Kitto

Mr Donald Macleod
Mrs Emma Macsween
Mr Colin George Morrison
Mr Nigel Scott
Mr Derek Mackay
Mrs Shona Hadwen
Mrs Marina Macaulay

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr John A Maciver.

Welcome: Lisa
Kitto

The Convener welcomed Lisa Kitto, Strategic Finance Consultant, who was helping the Comhairle develop their financial strategy, to her first meeting of the Comhairle.

The Convener ruled items 3 and 4 as urgent to allow the matters to be discussed prior to the next meeting.

Declaration of Interest of 2

There were no declarations of interest.

REPORT OF MEETING

Report of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 22 February 2023 at 2.45pm 3

Mr Paul Steele, seconded by Mr Duncan MacInnes, presented the Report of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 22 February 2023 at 2.45pm and proposed that the Comhairle:

- (a) agree to accept the 2023/24 Settlement from the Scottish Government as set out in the Finance Circular (Appendix A);
- (b) agree the Budget Strategy for 2023/24 as set out in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Report;
- (c) approve the Business Plans for 2023/24 at Budget Item 1(b) of the Budget Folder;
- (d) note the operational risk registers at Budget Item 1(c) of the Budget Folder;
- (e) note the Business Continuity Plans for 2023/24 at Budget Item 1(d) of the Budget Folder;
- (f) approve the draft Budgets for 2023/24 at Budget Item 1(e) of the Agenda;
- (g) agree the delegated Budget for Cùram is Slàinte nan Eilean Siar as detailed in Section 10 of the Report;
- (h) agree to increase Council Tax by 5% (£1,290.75 for Band D properties);
- (i) agree to allocate additional funding to the provision of the Winter Maintenance contract, in the event that the Council Tax increase of 5% is approved;
- (j) note the capital allocation for 2023/24 and that progress with the Capital Programme will continue to be monitored quarterly through the Policy and Resources Committee;
- (k) note the financial risks in Appendix E and agree to maintain the level of uncommitted reserves at £3.5m;
- (l) agree that the Budget Board monitor progress with the implementation of Business Plans;
- (m) note that preparation of a long term financial plan is in progress; and
- (n) agree that a Budget Strategy update be provided to the June 2023 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Ms Susan Thomson, seconded by Mr John A Maciver, moved the following amendment:

“the Comhairle, recognising the real hardship being faced by many members of our community who work hard to strive for their families to have a warm home and decent wholesome food on the table, wishes to support them and for that reason will not add to their financial burden by increasing their council tax for 2023-24 to be funded from uncommitted reserves.”

The Comhairle then proceeded to debate the motion against the amendment.

The Comhairle then proceeded to vote on the matter.

The vote was taken by roll call as follows:

MOTION

AMENDMENT

Mr Kenneth Macleod
Mr Paul Steele
Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE
Mr Kenneth John Maclean
Mr Iain A MacNeil
Mr Iain M Macleod
Mr Mustapha Hocine
Mr Uisdean Robertson
Mr Paul Finnegan
Mr Grant Fulton
Mr Robert Mackenzie
Mr Angus Morrison
Mr Ranald Fraser
Mr Norman Macdonald
Mr John Norman Macleod
Mr Donald Macsween
Mr Donald F Crichton
Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
Mr George Murray
Mr Finlay M Stewart

Mrs Susan Thomson
Mr John A Maciver
Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Rae Mackenzie
Dr Frances Murray

The Motion having received the majority of the votes cast was then debated against the second amendment.

Dr Francis Murray, seconded by Mr Gordon Murray, moved the following amendment:

With reference to the Report of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 22 February 2023 at 2.45pm in respect of Budget and Council Tax Setting 2023/24 that the Comhairle amend the savings proposals for financial year 2023/24 as follows:

- (1) to remove the link with the timetable in secondary staffing reduction as this work has not yet been completed; to reduce the proposal to 2 posts across the 4 schools (£100k);
- (2) do not implement the reduction of ASN support (£100K); and
- (3) to await the results of the Library Service review before making any recommendation of savings (£100k).

with any shortfall to be funded from the savings accruing from industrial action by teachers.

The Comhairle then proceeded to debate the motion against the amendment.

The Comhairle then proceeded to vote on the matter.

The vote was taken by roll call as follows:

MOTION

Mr Kenneth Macleod
Mr Paul Steele
Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE
Mr Kenneth John Maclean
Mr Iain A MacNeil
Mr Iain M Macleod
Mr Mustapha Hocine
Mr Uisdean Robertson
Mr Paul Finnegan
Mr Robert Mackenzie
Mr Angus Morrison
Mr Norman Macdonald
Mr Donald F Crichton
Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
Mr George Murray
Mr Finlay M Stewart

AMENDMENT

Ms Susan Thomson
Mr Grant Fulton
Mr Ranald Fraser
Mr John Norman Macleod
Mr Donald Macswen
Mr John A Maciver
Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Rae Mackenzie
Dr Frances Murray

The Motion having received the majority of the votes cast became the finding of the meeting.

COMMITTEES

Committee
Decision Report

4

The Policy and Resources Committee Decision Report of 22 February 2023 at 2.00pm was **approved.**