



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Minute of Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Stornoway, on Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 4.00pm.

PRESENT

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Mr Norman A MacDonald (Convener) | Mr Rae Mackenzie |
| Mr Angus Campbell (Leader) | Mr Charlie Nicolson |
| Mr David Blaney (by video-conference) | Mr Angus McCormack |
| Mr Ronnie Mackinnon | Mr Gordon Murray |
| Mr Donald Manford | Mrs Catriona Stewart |
| Mr Donnie Steele | Mr John A Maciver |
| Mr Andrew Walker (by video-conference) | Mr Donald Crichton |
| Mr Uisdean Robertson (by video conference) | Mr John Mackay |
| Mr Neil Beaton | Mr Kenneth Macleod |
| Mr Donald John Macrae | Mr Alistair MacIennan |
| Catherine Macdonald | Mr Roddie Mackay |
| Mr Donald N Macleod | Mr Philip McLean |
| Mr Angus Morrison | Mr John N Macleod |
| Mr Norman M Macleod | |
| Mr Alasdair Macleod | |
| Mrs Zena Stewart | |

APOLOGIES

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| Mr Iain Macaulay | Mr Iain Mackenzie |
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Prayer

The Meeting was preceded by prayer led by Mr John Mackay.

Declaration of Interest

- 1 Mr Philip R McLean declared an interest in Item 2 as he was an Architect involved in the Hillcrest Project and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

REPORT OF MEETING

Mr Philip R McLean declared an interest in Item 2 as he was an Architect involved in the Hillcrest Project and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

Report of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 7 February 2017 at 3.00pm

- 2 Mr Angus Campbell, seconded by Mr Roddie Mackay, presented the Report of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 7 February 2017 at 3.00pm, as follows:

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (a) agree to accept the 2017/18 Settlement offer from the Scottish Government as set out in Circular 9/2016 and the Scottish Government letter at Appendix B as modified by the letter from Scottish Government to the President of CoSLA dated 2 February 2017;
- (b) agree the Budget Strategy for 2017/18 as set out in Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Report and Appendix A;
- (c) agree the delivery arrangements for residential care for children as set out in Appendix E;
- (d) approve the recommendations for fees and charges for 2017/18 at Budget Item (d) of the Agenda;
- (e) agree the delegated budget for Cùram is Slàinte nan Eilean Siar as detailed in Section 6 of the Report subject to an additional one-off allocation of £495k in 2017/18 to assist in service transformation to be implemented not later than 31 March 2018;

- (f) request that Cùram is Slàinte nan Eilean Siar recommend to the Comhairle the 2017/18 fees and charges for the services within its remit in time for the Comhairle to set these at its March 2017 series of meetings;
- (g) approve the business plans for 2017/18 at Budget Item (b) of the Agenda;
- (h) approve the draft budgets for 2017/18 at Budget Item (c) of the Agenda;
- (i) agree to increase the reformed Council Tax by 3% for 2017/18 to £1,054.72 for Band D properties;
- (j) in the light of the risks set out in Appendix F to maintain the level of uncommitted balances at £3.5m for 2017/18 and to continue the policy of setting aside underspends on winter maintenance for future severe winters;
- (k) note the additional £1350k of capital for 2017/18 and agree to use this to (a) meet the capital costs of the schools adjudication decision; and (b) invest in capital infrastructure to improve video-conferencing facilities following technical assessment; and (c) to invest in care accommodation in Lewis;
- (l) note the long term financial plan set out in Appendix C and agree that detailed transformational service plans, service choices and workforce options be presented to the Comhairle following the elections in May 2017; and
- (m) in the context of 3.1(l) continue to engage with the Scottish Government to seek an early indication of the budget expectations for 2018-20 and to seek to secure the best settlement for the Comhairle in future years.

Mr Gordon Murray, seconded by Mr Rae Mackenzie, moved the following amendment in respect of the Report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 7 February 2017 at 3.00pm:

- (i) with reference to Item 2(c) of the Decision Report, in the event that Members are not satisfied with the terms of the Report on this matter to be submitted to the Education and Children's Services Committee on 28 February 2017, budget choice C(9) be not taken and the cost of £350k be funded from balances;
- (ii) with reference to item 2(a)(vii) of the Minute of Meeting of the Comhairle of 17 February 2016 at 2.30pm re-introduce the concessionary fares on the Sounds of Harris and Barra at cost of £14k to be funded from the revenue allocation referred to in the letter of 2 February 2017.

The Comhairle noted that the amendment related to extant decisions of the Comhairle within the last twelve months and agreed to suspend Standing Order 68 to enable it to debate the terms of the amendment.

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

The vote was taken by roll call as follows:

| MOTION | AMENDMENT | ABSTAIN |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Mr Norman A MacDonald | Mr Donald Manford | Mr John N Macleod |
| Mr Angus Campbell | Mr Rae Mackenzie | |
| Mr David Blaney | Mr Gordon Murray | |
| Mr Ronnie Mackinnon | Mr John A Maciver | |
| Mr Donnie Steele | Mr Kenneth Macleod | |
| Mr Andrew Walker | | |
| Mr Uisdean Robertson | | |
| Mr Neil Beaton | | |
| Catherine MacDonald | | |
| Mr D J Macrae | | |
| Mr Donald Macleod | | |
| Mr Angus Morrison | | |
| Mr Norman M Macleod | | |
| Mrs Zena Stewart | | |
| Mr Alasdair Macleod | | |
| Mr Charlie Nicolson | | |
| Mr Angus McCormack | | |
| Mr Roddie Mackay | | |
| Mrs Catriona Stewart | | |
| Mr Donald Crichton | | |
| Mr John Mackay | | |
| Mr Alistair MacLennan | | |

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

Mr Donald Manford, seconded by Mr John A Maciver, moved the following amendment in respect of the Report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 7 February 2017 at 3.00pm:

- (ii) agree not to increase the reformed Council Tax by 3% for 2017/18 at a cost of £380k to be funded from the revenue allocation referred to in the letter of 2 February 2017; and
- (iii) the Director of Technical Services submit a Report on the options for the delivery of a Barra – Benbecula Air Service;

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

The vote was taken by roll call as follows:

| MOTION | AMENDMENT |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Mr Norman A MacDonald | Mr Donald Manford |
| Mr Angus Campbell | Mr Donnie Steele |
| Mr David Blaney | Mr Rae Mackenzie |
| Mr Ronnie Mackinnon | Mr Gordon Murray |
| Mr Andrew Walker | Mr John A Maciver |
| Mr Uisdean Robertson | Mr Kenneth Macleod |
| Mr Neil Beaton | |
| Catherine MacDonald | |
| Mr D J Macrae | |
| Mr Donald Macleod | |
| Mr Angus Morrison | |
| Mr Norman M Macleod | |
| Mrs Zena Stewart | |
| Mr Alasdair Macleod | |
| Mr Charlie Nicolson | |
| Mr Angus McCormack | |
| Mr Roddie Mackay | |
| Mrs Catriona Stewart | |
| Mr Donald Crichton | |
| Mr John Mackay | |
| Mr John N Macleod | |
| Mr Alistair MacIennan | |

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