



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in the Council Offices, Stornoway, on Wednesday 1 March 2017 at 2.00pm.

PRESENT

Mr Donald Crichton (Vice-Chair)
Mr Ronald J Mackinnon
Mr Uisdean Robertson
Mr Andrew Walker
Mr Philip McLean
Mr Norman A MacDonald
Mr Charlie Nicolson

Mr Rae Mackenzie
Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mrs Catriona Stewart
Mr John N Macleod
Mr Alistair MacIannan

APOLOGIES

Mr Alasdair Macleod (Chair)

Mr Angus Morrison

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded by prayer, led by Mr Charlie Nicolson.

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 7 December 2016

1 The Minute of Meeting of 7 December 2016 was **approved**.

Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2017

2 The Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2017 was **approved**.

Declaration of Interest

3 Mrs Catriona Stewart declared an interest as her daughter worked in the Ionad Spors Leòdhais Café and left the Meeting during consideration of item 6.

Mr Uisdean Robertson declared an interest as a Board member of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and left the Meeting during consideration of item 25.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Performance Management (Development) 2016/17: Quarter 3

4 With reference to item 5 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 December 2016 the Director of Development submitted a Report providing an overview of Business Plan and related performance issues for Quarter 3, 2016/17. The Report stated that the Development Department Plan covered four service areas with relevance to the Committee: Cultural and Information services (libraries and heritage); Development Services (elements related to strategic planning); Economic Development and the Energy Unit.

Cultural and Information Services: Libraries and Heritage

All Business Plan actions and KPIs were on target for Quarter 3. It was highlighted that there had been 10,006 visitors to Museum nan Eilean during the quarter and that it was anticipated to exceed high-end targets for visitor numbers. It was noted that funding had been secured to catalogue the Harris Tweed Authority archive and that Museum nan Eilean was the category winner, "Gaelic as an Economic Asset", at the Scottish Gaelic Awards.

Development Services

All Business Plan Actions and KPIs had been achieved with the exception of the preparation of a Regional Marine Plan. The presentation highlighted that supplementary guidance for Wind Energy Development had been adopted and that the Local Development Plan proposed plan had been approved.

Economic Development

All Business Plan actions and KPI's were on target and provided an overview of various projects and the stages under the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, details of the Community Capital Grants programme, updates on LEADER and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and Business Gateway.

Energy Unit

All Business Plan actions and KPI's were on target. The presentation provided details on the Energy Supply Company, European Energy Projects and Oil and Gas Decommissioning.

The presentation concluded with the year-end performance and finance outcome and the priorities for the next quarter for Development Services were listed at the end of the Presentation.

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.

Performance Management (Sport and Health)
2016/17: Quarter 3

5 With reference to item 6 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 December 2016 the Director of Education and Children's Services submitted a Report providing an overview of progress against Business Plan Key Actions and Key Performance Indicators for Quarter 3, 2016/17. In regard to process against Business Plan Actions approximately 57% of KPIs were on target (8 on track, 5 off track and 1 requiring monitoring). The presentation highlighted the following points:

- new equipment had been fitted in all Sports Centres and the old equipment had been shared amongst community groups;
- preparation for the Island Games 2017 was well underway;
- the Community Learning and Development section of Education and Children's Services was progressing with the design and implementation of a community planning and engagement framework based upon Community Signature;
- 43 Adults had been supported on employability programmes during the last quarter.
- survival ESOL had been delivered to Syrian refugees; and
- employability ESOL continued to run three classes in MacDuff's fish processing factory

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle continue to scrutinise Business Plan performance through Interplan and through engagement with the Performance Monitoring Presentation.

LEISURE AND LEARNING

Mrs Catriona Stewart declared an interest as her daughter worked in the Ionad Spors Leòdhais Café and left the Meeting during consideration of the following item.

Ionad Spors Leòdhais (ISL) Café

6 With reference to item 43 of the Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 25 June 2014, the Director of Education and Children's Services submitted a Report detailing the catering arrangements and best value options for the future provision of the ISL Café. The Report stated that the Civic Catering had been operating the Café since April 2011 and despite the continued efforts of the staff, the business had not been able to breakeven since opening. The Report further stated that any shortfall had been covered by savings made in other Trading Operations or by the Education and Children's Services Department Budget.

The Report stated, due to the financial constraints on the Comhairle, that the Trading Operation recommended the closure of the Café and to continue with the provision of a vending operation that would offer snacks and hot drinks. Details of income and Expenditure for 2016/17 and the previous year's trading were detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree the closure of Ionad Spors Leòdhais (ISL) café with effect from 31 March 2017.

FUEL POVERTY

Outer Hebrides Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025: Progress Update

7

With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 28 September 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report providing an update on the Outer Hebrides Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025. The Report stated that the Strategy identified a number of high level actions, grouped under the following themes: improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock; increasing the income of the poorest households; and reducing the cost of fuel. The Report stated that a multi-agency Fuel Poverty Group and an Action Plan was in place to support the implementation of the Strategy.

The Report detailed some of the key emerging issues at local and national level in respect of fuel poverty. These included: the recommendations of the Scottish Rural Fuel Poverty Task Force, delivery of the Scottish Government's 2016/17 Home Energy Efficiency Programme, supporting households to switch electricity supplier, and the direction of Hebrides Energy (the ESCO). The Report indicated that the Scottish Government was now consulting on its recently published 'Scottish Energy Strategy' and the consultation closing date was 31 May 2017.

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

- (1) note the progress update on the Outer Hebrides Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025;**
- (2) authorise the Director of Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on Scotland's Energy Strategy;**
- (3) agree the proposals for supporting local households to switch electricity supplier outlined at Paragraph 6.7 of the Report; and**
- (4) agree to re-appoint Tighean Innse Gall as the Managing Agent for the Home Energy Efficiency Scotland: Areas Based Schemes (HEEPS:ABS) for 2017/18 subject to no other party expressing an interest following publication of a Voluntary Ex Ante Transparency notice.**

FISHERIES

Marine Scotland Consultation on Wild Seaweed Harvesting

8

The Director of Development submitted a Report seeking views on a draft response to the Marine Scotland consultation on wild seaweed harvesting. The Report stated that Marine Scotland had undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to ensure that harvesting of wild seaweed in Scotland was sustainable to assist decision making and to inform future policy. The Report highlighted that seaweeds and seagrasses played a key role in marine and coastal ecosystems, supporting high levels of biodiversity and also provided a number of ecosystem services, including natural hazard protection and climate regulation.

The Report stated that the consultation covered areas such as the commercial extraction of maerl and wild harvesting of seagrass, regulation of the wild harvesting industry, proposals for a seaweed harvesting register and specific areas of further environmental information which could inform the process. The consultation questions and a draft Comhairle response was appended to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree the draft response to the Marine Scotland Consultation on Wild Seaweed Harvesting detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

European Energy Projects

9

The Director of Development submitted a Report detailing the successful conclusion of the EU funded WISE and BEAST Energy projects and sought approval for participation in an emerging INTERREG Atlantic Area project opportunity. The Report stated that the Comhairle had benefitted immensely from 24 years of involvement in European energy projects and was widely respected as a capable partner in those projects. The Report highlighted the successful conclusion of the WISE and BEAST projects delivered in-house using existing staff resources and which had realised a surplus of £81,098 funding to the Comhairle in addition to considerable learning and networking benefits.

The Report further sought approval for the Comhairle’s participation in EnergyRES, a 36 month Island Energy Planning project led by Canary Island partners, which would realise EU funds of £143,351 for the Comhairle, £174,137 for Lews Castle College and £98,360 for Community Energy Scotland. The Report highlighted the benefits of EnergyRES for all three organisations and that the Comhairle’s involvement was crucial to Lews Castle College and Community Energy Scotland participation and would further assist to secure and create high level research jobs for the islands and support the Comhairle towards its vision for a smart local energy network supplied by community owned Renewable Energy generation.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the successful conclusion of the WISE and BEAST projects and agree to participate in the INTERREG Atlantic Area EnergyRES project.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Outer Hebrides
Local Development
Plan: Action
Programme Update
2016/17 and
Development Plan
Scheme 2017

10

With reference to item 10 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 December 2016 the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking agreement of a second review of the Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (LDP) Action Programme for publication and approval of the annual review of the Development Plan Scheme (DPS). The Report stated that the Comhairle was required to update the LDP Action Programme and republish it at least every two years. The second review of the Action Programme and broader ongoing Plan monitoring had identified that some policy and land allocation elements of the Plan had been operating or implemented successfully whilst some aspects had encountered issues in their delivery. These were detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Report stated that in accordance with the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, planning authorities were required to publish a Development Plan Scheme (DPS) and to review and update it annually. The original DPS for the Outer Hebrides LDP had been published in February 2009 and set out the Comhairle’s proposed programme and processes for preparing and reviewing its Development Plan including details of how the public and other stakeholders would be consulted and engaged in the preparation of the LDP and its constituent elements and stages. The Report further stated that over the coming year, and in line with legislative requirements, work would focus on: preparing the emerging LDP for examination by Scottish Ministers; concluding the adoption of the Plan; revising the associated Action Programme; reviewing Supplementary Guidance; and identifying preparatory actions to progress the Regional Marine Plan. The Comhairle’s annual DPS was attached at Appendix 2 to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) approve the Local Development Plan Action Programme Update 2016/17, set out in Appendix 1 to the Report, and authorise the Director of Development to publish the LDP Action Programme Update 2016/17; and**
- (2) approve the Outer Hebrides Development Plan Scheme 2017 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report, and authorise the Director of Development to publish the Development Plan Scheme 2017.**

Simplified Planning
Zones

11

With reference to the preamble of the Minute of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee on 14 December 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report on the national Simplified Planning Zones (SPZ) pilot. The Report stated that a SPZ is an area where the need to apply for planning permission for certain types of development is removed so long as the development complies with the details and guidance set out in the ‘scheme’. In setting up an SPZ scheme an authority would require to front load its development appraisal and set out general principles that would apply to all development. The planning authority would be required to invest a significant resource into determining the scheme and the design guidelines in advance of a SPZ being established and there would be no planning fee income from developments in these SPZs, and it would be more difficult to secure developer contributions and specify planning obligations or planning conditions. The concept of SPZ relied on having ‘development ready’ land – where issues of ownership, constraints, infrastructure etc. have already been considered or largely addressed.

The Report stated that in 2015 Scottish Ministers commissioned an independent panel to undertake a review of the Scottish Planning System. During the review the concept of SPZs for delivery of housing projects had been identified and in response the Scottish Government sought potential pilot projects to test the approach. The current SPZ pilot had been commissioned by the Scottish Government as an action arising from the independent panel's review of planning. The Report highlighted the publication of the Scottish Government's consultation on 'The Future of the Scottish Planning System' which was the subject of a concurrent Report. The consultation included the concept of SPZs for housing delivery under the area of 'Building More Homes and Delivering Infrastructure' and included proposals to widen the scope of SPZs (including within conservation areas) and invited views around speeding up the preparation process, resourcing SPZs and delivering infrastructure within SPZ areas, and on rebranding SPZs.

The Report proposed that the Comhairle note the Report and seek to monitor any outcomes of research and appraisal undertaken of the ongoing SPZ pilot projects and to report back on the matter.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree that the Director of Development review the outcomes from the Scottish Government Simplified Planning Zones pilot and report back on these outcomes and the potential for implementing Simplified Planning Zones in the Outer Hebrides.

Scottish
Government
Consultation on the
Future of the
Scottish Planning
System

12 The Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of a draft response to the Scottish Government consultation on the Future of the Scottish Planning System. The Report stated that Ministers commissioned an independent panel to undertake a review of the planning system in 2015. The review included opportunities to get involved through both written and oral evidence and an online discussion forum. The Comhairle gave oral evidence to this panel. The Report by the Panel, 'Empowering Planning to Deliver Great Places' had been published in May 2016. Since then the Government had been working with a wide range of stakeholders, including community representatives and the public and private sectors to explore potential changes to the planning system. A consultation on the key components of potential legislation had been being undertaken and the Comhairle's proposed response was detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

The consultation highlighted twenty proposals for improving the planning system set out under the following four key areas of changes:

- Making Plans for the Future
- People make the System Work
- Building More Homes and Delivering Infrastructure
- Stronger Leadership and Smarter Resourcing

The Comhairle's response focussed around the areas of key concern or relevance to it and emphasised that there be a specific focus on the distinctiveness of delivering planning in rural and island areas. The Report concluded that the consultation was the next step towards further planning reform and subsequent secondary legislation from Scottish Government was anticipated.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Consultation and authorise the Director of Development to respond to the consultation on the basis of Appendix 1 to the Report and in conjunction with Orkney and Shetland Islands Councils.

Planning Performance Framework 13 With reference to Item 16 of the Minute of Meeting 8 June 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report on the Comhairle's Planning Performance Framework (PPF). The Report stated that as part of the ongoing modernisation of the Planning Service across Scotland, local authorities had made a commitment to the continuous improvement of the Planning System in Scotland and that the PPF provided a balanced measurement of the overall quality of the planning service and would be used to drive a culture of continuous improvement. The Report further stated that the Scottish Government had provided positive feedback on the Comhairle's 2015/16 PPF with all performance markers presenting as green. The Report stated that the Comhairle were required to submit a fresh PPF by the end of July 2017.

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

- (1) note the Scottish Government feedback on the Comhairle 2015/16 Planning Performance Framework as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report; and**
- (2) authorise the Director of Development to submit a Planning Performance Framework Annual Report 2016/2017 to the Scottish Government by the end of July 2017, based on the approved Development Department Business Plan and ongoing work within the service.**

HERITAGE SERVICES

Lews Castle Museum and Archive Project Update 14 With reference to item 16 of the Minute of Meeting of 23 March 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report providing an update on the Lews Castle Museum and Archive project covering the final phases of the capital works, the heritage and commercial activities and arrangements for the official opening. The Report stated that the Lews Castle Museum and Archive project had been undertaken in phases which commenced in April 2012 and would be fully completed in March 2017. The Report highlighted that the facilities would be officially opened by the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on 6 March 2017.

The Report provided details of the phase 3 and 4 works and stated that completion of the upper floor accommodation and the external works around the main entrance of the Castle was anticipated prior to the end of February 2017. The Report indicated that some works related to the main stairs, upper floor windows and the fire strategy required to be completed after the official opening, as well as the furnishing and final fit-out of the upper floors by Natural Retreats. The launch of the upper floor accommodation would include a public open day prior to first occupation in mid-April 2017.

The Report provided details of operational matters and highlighted that the Museum and Archive had attracted a total of 34,179 visitors since opening on 14 July 2016 to the end of December 2016. Public events aimed at family and other audiences had proved popular and effective in attracting more people even in the quieter months of December and January. The Report highlighted two major exhibitions programmed for the Special Exhibitions Gallery in the first half of 2017. Fossil Hunters' a touring exhibition of treasures from Scotland's natural history collection and an exhibition on 'Colin Mackenzie' celebrating the life, work and collecting activity of the Stornoway born man who rose to become Surveyor General of India during the Raj.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.

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| Museum Accreditation Policies | 15 | <p>With reference to item 16 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 December 2016 the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of policies required to achieve Museum Accreditation. The Report stated that the Accreditation Scheme set nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK and that there were currently approximately 1800 museums participating in the scheme, demonstrating a commitment to manage collections effectively for the enjoyment and benefit of users.</p> <p>The Report stated that the Museum was now in the process of compiling the plans and policies required to complete a 'return' for both Museum nan Eilean Sites for maintaining accreditation status and the updated policies were appended to the Report for approval.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the Museum nan Eilean Access Policy at Appendix 1 to the Report; (2) the Museum nan Eilean Loans Policy at Appendix 2 to the Report; and (3) the Heritage Service Human Remains Policy at Appendix 3 to the Report. |
| Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology | 16 | <p>The Director of Development submitted a Report providing an update on national, regional and local plans for the 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. The Report stated that the five aims of the Year came under the titles of promote, celebrate, participate, collaborate and business engagement. The Report indicated that financial and marketing support for associated events was available through the Heritage Lottery Fund (stories, Stones and Bones Fund), EventScotland and Visit Scotland.</p> <p>The Report further stated that a variety of events and activities had been planned by the Heritage Service and they would encourage all heritage organisations in the Outer Hebrides to ensure their events and activities were listed and co-branded. The major events and activities in which the Heritage Service was involved and timed to coincide with the Year were detailed in Section 5 to the Report. It was proposed that the development and publication of a Comhairle Archaeology Strategy and a Heritage Strategy would be produced as part the Year.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree to support the series of planned activities outlined in the Report in relation to the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, funded from Economic Development Revenue Budgets.</p> |
| Revised Opening Hours - Branch Libraries | 17 | <p>With reference to item 17 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 December 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report arising from the outcomes of a review of community/branch library service points and opening hours and a staff and public consultation exercise. The Report detailed a timetable for the closure of Daliburgh Library and proposed revised opening hours for Tarbert and Castlebay libraries. The Report stated that a change in delivery was essential if the public library service was to position itself more efficiently in order to meet the aims of the National Library Strategy and the Comhairle's Libraries Forward Plan. The Report further stated that following consultation with users and an assessment of local needs and transport links, revised opening hours for Castlebay Library and Tarbert Library had been compiled and were outlined in Section 6 and detailed in the Appendix to the Report.</p> <p>The Report indicated that the closure of Shawbost Library had already taken effect and it was proposed that Daliburgh Library close to the public on 30 June 2017. The Report proposed that alternative models of service delivery would be investigated and partnership working with communities developed in order to widen library access beyond the traditional venues through the establishment of library points in key areas. The Report stated that a further review of the staffing structure would be undertaken and a Report would be presented to the June 2017 Series of Meetings.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the closure of Daliburgh Library on 30 June 2017; and (2) agree the proposed revised opening hours for Castlebay and Tarbert Libraries, detailed in the Appendix to the Report, to be implemented in May 2017. |

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tourism Marketing Funding 18 With reference to item 23 of the Minute of Meeting of 10 February 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking agreement of funding for tourism marketing and visitor information provision in the Outer Hebrides during 2017/18. The Report stated that tourism continued to contribute significantly to the economy of the Outer Hebrides and proposed that the Comhairle's Tourism Budget be allocated in its entirety to tourism marketing and promotion, and specifically to the development of local content. The Report further sought approval of an amendment to the Comhairle's Scheme of Delegation to grant authority to the Director of Development to approved funding up to a maximum of £20,000.

The Report confirmed that the proposed change in methodology had been supported by Visit Scotland in recognition that local destinations were better placed to secure a greater return on investment, cater to an increasingly digitally-orientated market and meet the constant demand for new content. Visit Scotland were obliged to market Scotland as a tourist destination and it was not anticipated that the reallocation of the Comhairle's £80k Tourism Budget would impact upon the 'share' of their marketing activities received by the Outer Hebrides and would enhance the agency's ability to pitch the Outer Hebrides as a must-visit destination.

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

- (1) agree to allocate the Tourism Budget of £80,000 towards the production of local tourism marketing content in conjunction with the Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group; and**
- (2) amend the Comhairle's Scheme of Delegation to authorise the Director of Development to approve funding for local tourism marketing up to a maximum of £20,000.**

Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development (SLAED) Performance Indicators Framework 2015-2016 19 With reference to item 15 of the Minute of Meeting of 10 February 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report providing an update following publication of the Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development (SLAED) Performance Indicators Framework 2015-2016 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 2015/16 and highlighted progress in the following areas:-

- Leverage of External Funding (£1 : £7.60);
- Business Gateway Survival Rate (3 Year) (81%);
- Employment Rate (77.6%);
- Number of Attendees at Business Gateway Events' (384); and
- Number of Businesses Supported by Council Economic Development Activity' (298).

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle welcome the Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development Indicators Framework 2015-2016 Report and the performance of the Economic Development Service.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Urras Sgìre Oighreachd Bharabhais Community Company: Request for Additional Funding 20 The Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of a funding application from Urras Sgìre Oighreachd Bharabhais Community Company (USOBCC) to acquire the remaining assets of the Barvas Estate. The Report stated that USOBCC purchased the Barvas Estate croft land and salmon hatchery in 2015 and the current proposal represented a final opportunity for the company and the community to secure the remaining assets of the lodge, gamekeeper and caretaker's cottages, the rivers and lochs and the fishing rights associated with the community buyout of Barvas Estate. The Report highlighted that the purchase of the remaining assets would immediately revoke all clauses associated with the original purchase.

The Report stated that funding of £138,000 had been requested from the Comhairle as match funding for a Scottish Land Fund (SLF) application. It was indicated that without Comhairle support the application would not be successful and the project would not proceed. A summary of the revised project costs and funding were detailed at paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle approve £138,000 to Urras Sgìre Oighreachd Bharabhais from the 2013-2018 Capital Programme Match Fund.

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 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Comhairle would be disclosed.

An Lanntair
Revenue Funding
2017/18

21 *

With reference to item 22 of the Minute of Meeting of 10 February 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of an application for annual revenue funding from An Lanntair Limited for 2017/18. The Report stated that An Lanntair Arts Centre had been established as a charitable trust in 1985 and was currently in its 31st 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 2015-2018, 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 2017/18. Further financial information was provided in the Appendices to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a one year Funding Agreement for 2017/18, the Comhairle approve £69,350 to An Lanntair Ltd. from the 2017/18 Arts Development budget, and the repayment of the sum of £3,415 due under Prudential Borrowing Arrangements.

Taigh
Chearsabhagh
Revenue Funding
2017/18

22

With reference to item 19 of the Minute of Meeting of 10 February 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of an application for annual revenue funding from the Taigh Chearsabhagh Trust. The Report stated that the Comhairle agreed in June 2014 to provide a formal letter of support to Taigh Chearsabhagh to support their bid to Creative Scotland for three year 'regular funding', and agreed in principle to provide a three year revenue funding package to Taigh Chearsabhagh at £19,500 per annum as match funding to support the bid to Creative Scotland.

The Report stated that Taigh Chearsabhagh 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 Chearsabhagh had satisfied their funding agreement requirements with the Comhairle for 2016/17 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, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a one year Funding Agreement for 2017/18, the Comhairle approve funding of £19,500 to Taigh Chearsabhagh 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.

Hebridean Celtic
Festival Revenue
Funding 2017/18

23 With reference to item 21 of the Minute of Meeting of 10 February 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of an application for revenue funding from the Hebridean Celtic Festival Trust (HCFT) for 2017/18. 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.

The Report stated that Creative Scotland had confirmed funding totalling £80k towards the festival in 2017. 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, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a one year Funding Agreement for 2017/18, the Comhairle approve funding of £21,375 from Arts Revenue and £4,275 from Sgioba na Gàidhlig Budgets to the Hebridean Celtic Festival Trust.

Ceolas Uibhist Ltd.
Revenue Funding
2017/18

24 With reference to item 18 of the Minute of Meeting of 10 February 2016, 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's core work was an annual week long Gaelic cultural summer school and series of community events based Ceòlas is 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 confidently for the 2017 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 2017/18. 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, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a one year Funding Agreement for 2017/18, the Comhairle approve funding of £4,513 from Arts Revenue and £4,512 from Sgioba na Gàidhlig Budgets to Ceòlas Uibhist Ltd.

Declaration of
Interest

Mr Uisdean Robertson declared an interest as a Board member of Fèisean nan Gàidheal and left the Meeting during consideration of the following item.

Feisean nan
Gàidheal Revenue
Funding 2017/18

25 With reference to item 20 of the Minute of Meeting of 10 February 2016, the Director of Development submitted a Report seeking approval of an application for annual revenue funding from Fèisean nan Gàidheal for 2017/18. 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 company limited by guarantee and 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 details were outlined in the Report and information on 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 2016/17. 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, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a Funding Agreement for 2017/18, the Comhairle 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.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Reports
Outstanding

26 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.