



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR: 12 FEBRUARY 2025

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 5 FEBRUARY 2025

At its meeting on 5 February 2025, the Policy and Resources Committee considered the business referred to below. The Committee has approved the recommendations detailed for approval by the Comhairle. Where the Committee has exercised delegated powers or used the conditional delegation provisions for any item, this is stated.

Items marked with an asterisk* were considered with the press and public excluded from the Meeting.

<i>Item Title</i>	<i>Agenda Number</i>	<i>Committee's Decision</i>
Minute of Meeting of 27 November 2024	1	The Minute of Meeting of 27 November 2024 was approved.
Declaration of Interest	2	Mr Iain M Macleod, Mr Kenneth M Macleod and Mr Finlay M Stewart declared an interest in item 13 as they were Council representatives on Tighean Innse Gall and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.
Minute of Meeting of Budget and Strategy Board of: (a) 19 December 2024 (b) 23 January 2025	3	The Minutes of Meetings of the Budget and Strategy Board of 19 December 2024 and 23 January 2025 were noted.
Minute of Meeting of Community Safety Board of 29 January 2025	4	<p>The Minute of Meeting of the Community Safety Board of 29 January 2025 was noted and item 4 was recommended for approval.</p> <p>Arising out of consideration of this item, it was noted that an up-to-date position on the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy be reported to the next meeting of the Community Safety Board.</p>
Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 30 January 2025	5	The Minute of Meeting of the Human Resources Sub-Committee of 30 January 2025 was noted
Minute of Meeting of Comataidh na Gàidhlig of 4 February 2025	6	The Minute of Meeting of Comataidh na Gàidhlig of 4 February 2025 was noted and item 6 was recommended for approval.
Quarter 2 Revenue Monitoring	7	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) note the financial performance to date;(2) approve the ring fencing of planning income as detailed in Appendix 3 to the Report;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (3) approve the reallocation of unspent Year 2 Crown Estate to the Islands Deal Projects as detailed in Appendix 3 to the Report; and (4) approve the allocation of the Assets and Infrastructure carry forward from 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix 3 to the Report.
Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring	8	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the capital expenditure as at 31 December 2024 as detailed at Appendix 1 of the Report; and (2) approve the allocation of £400k of uncommitted General Capital Grant to Roads Maintenance, in lieu of a reduction in the revenue budget in 2025/26.
Capital Strategy 23-28: Update	9	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Capital Strategy 2023-28 appended to the Report.	
Treasury Management Strategy 2025-26	10	It is recommended that the:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Investment Strategy, set out in Section 8 of the Report be approved; (2) Borrowing Strategy, set out in Section 9 of the Report be approved; (3) Prudential Indicators, detailed in Sections 11.2 and 11.4 of the Report, be adopted.
Transformational Plan Proposals	11	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve, subject to the development of full business cases, the three Transformation Projects detailed in paragraph 7 of the Report.	
UK Government Structural Funding	12	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agrees to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the proposals for the 2025/26 allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding as detailed at paragraph 7.2 of the Report; (2) note the next steps in the development of a Community Renewal Partnership with UK Government; and (3) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to allocate £90k Community Renewal Partnership capacity building funding to costs associated with the development and delivery of the Partnership.
Crown Estate Revenues Round 6 – Pan Island Distribution	13	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) notes that the Budget and Strategy Board has recommended to Policy and Resources Committee that Crown Estate funding contribute to the core Comhairle budget; (2) agree the option for strategic allocation of Round 6 Crown Estate Funding proposed at 7.6; and (3) agree to the proposals for a ward-level Coastal Community Fund, including the Scheme of Administration at Appendix 1.

Budget Strategy Update 2025/26	14	This item was withdrawn.
Amendment to Employee Expenses Rates	15	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve that the maximum allowable rate which can be claimed by employees for overnight accommodation with friends and family shall be £40.
Comhairle @50	16	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the progress being made with the planned research work and themes to be covered in the publication; (2) note that Karen Mackay Design has been contracted to assist with the design element of the publication; (3) note that the Town Hall will be the venue for both the Civic Reception on Friday 16 May 2025 and the expert panel discussion evening later in 2025; and (4) note that it is anticipated that the projected costs of the publication and Civic Events can be covered from 2024/25 and 2025/26 Civic Budget.
Reports Outstanding: Progress	17	It was agreed to note the Report. Arising out of consideration of this item, it was noted that item 1, Island Fuel Tariffs would be removed from the Reports Outstanding as it had been reported to the Committee in November 2024.
Residential Placements for Children and Young People	18*	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report
Barra and Vatersay Community Campus - Update	19*	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.
Council Tax on Properties Under Repair – Policy Revision	20	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) agree that the discount continue to be available for a period of up to 2 years in all cases, and that this be extended to 3 years for properties, where the Council Tax Payer encounters delays due to increased construction costs and contractor availability, and where they also intend to use the property as their home on completion; and (2) agree to amend the policy with effect from 1 April 2024.