



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR: 25 JUNE 2025

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

EDUCATION, SPORT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE: 17 JUNE 2025

At its meeting on 17 June 2025, the Education, Sport and Children's Services 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 29 April 2025	1	The Minute of the Meeting of 29 April 2025 was approved.
Declaration of Interest	2	Mr Donald F. Crichton wished to record, in respect of item 11 an interest, as a family member is employed within Leabharlann nan Eilean Siar and left the meeting for consideration of the item.
Outcome Delivery Report	3	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle notes the year-end progress of the 2024/25 Education and Children's Services Departmental Outcome Delivery Plans.
Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2023-24	4	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the continuation of improvement activity in relation to the Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators.
Report by HM Inspectors of Education: Sgoil Uige and Sgoil Àraich Uige – June 2023	5	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) supports the Acting Headteacher, Sgoil Ùige and Sgoil Àraich Ùige to continue to make improvements in Sgoil Ùige in line with the HMI recommendations; and (2) continues to monitor improvement and the development of the action plan.
Education Provision: Review of Mothballed School Provisions 2025/26	6	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) begin the statutory consultation process for the permanent closure of Tolsta School in the academic session 2025-26; and (2) continue to mothball the English Medium provision at Breasclete School for a period of one year with a commitment to review this status again ahead of the commencement of the 2026-27 academic year; (3) continue to mothball the Gaelic Medium provision at Pairc School for a period of one year with a commitment to review this status again ahead of the commencement of the 2026-27 academic year; and (4) begin the statutory consultation process for the permanent closure of Bernera School in the academic session 2025-26.
School Engagement Officer	7	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.

Additional Support Needs Transport	8	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approves the revised ASN Home to School Transport Policy (June 2025) for implementation from the start of the 2025/2026 academic session.
Volunteer Centre Western Isles	9	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) extend the Service Level Agreement between Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar and Volunteer Centre Western Isles to 31 March 2026; and (2) approve the payment of grant to Volunteer Centre Western Isles of £22,000 for 2025/2026.
Adult Learning Annual Report	10	<p>It is recommended that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the Adult Learning Annual Report 2024-25; and (2) approve continued focus on the following key priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ promoting and providing opportunities to gain experience and develop skills for life, learning and work; ➤ empowering people to navigate economic hardships; and ➤ finding creative ways to collaborate with our partners to mitigate against the effects of poverty in our communities.
Leabharlann nan Eilean Siar Strategy 2025-27	11	<p>It is recommended that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) approve formal consultation on the draft Leabharlann na Eilean Siar Strategy 2025-27; (2) re-establish the Library Member Officer Working Group to support the development of the Strategy; and (3) approve the Leabharlann na Eilean Siar Action Plan 2025-26. <p>It was further agreed to recommend that the Comhairle appoint the following Members to the Libraries Member Officer Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Paul Finnegan (ex-officio) • Mr Mustapha Hocine (ex-officio) • Mr Iain A MacNeil • Mr Malcolm K MacDonald • Dr Frances Murray • Mr Rae MacKenzie • Mr Norman MacDonald
Minute of Meeting of LNCT 12 June 2025	12	The Minute of the Local Negotiating Committee: Teaching Staff Meeting of 12 June 2025 was noted.
Reports Outstanding	13	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.
Residential Placements for Children and Young People	14 *	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the financial position for specialist residential provision for 2024-25.

Barra and Vatersay
Community
Campus Update

- 15 * It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle notes:
- (1) the welcome announcement in the Programme for Government for 2025/26 that the Barra and Vatersay Campus Project will go ahead; and
 - (2) that a meeting with Scottish Government officials will take place in June 2025 to consider issues regarding delivery of the Project, including project governance, scope and funding mechanisms.