



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR: 7 MAY 2025

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

EDUCATION, SPORT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE: 29 APRIL 2025

At its meeting on 29 April 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 4 February 2025	1	The Minute of the Meeting of 4 February 2025 was approved.
Minute of Meeting of 25 February 2025	2	The Minute of the Meeting of 25 February 2025 was approved.
Minute of Children's Services Member Officer Working Group Meeting of 11 February 2025	3	The Minute of the Meeting of the Children's Services Member Officer Working Group Meeting of 11 February 2025 was noted.
Minute of Local Negotiating Committee: Teaching Staff Meeting of 18 March 2025	4	The Minute of the Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee: Teaching Staff Meeting of 18 March 2025 was noted.
Minute of Barra and Vatersay Project Board Meeting of 26 March 2025	5	Insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, the Minute of the Meeting of the Barra and Vatersay Project Board Meeting of 26 March 2025 was noted.
Declaration of Interest	6	There were no declarations of interest.
Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers	7	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle approve the Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2025/26.
Business Continuity Plans	8	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.
Ross and Cromarty Education Trust Bursaries	9	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve: (1) the amended student bursary award criteria as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report;

		(2) the amended Nicolson Institute pupil bursary award criteria as detailed in Appendix 2 of the Report; and
		(3) reopening for applications under Sections 13 to 29 of the Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust scheme from April 2025 until the available funding of £5,000 is awarded.
South Uist Primary Schools Catchment Area Rezoning	10	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <p>(1) note the findings of the preliminary consultation and consider the options detailed at paragraph 6.5 of the Report; and</p> <p>(2) agree to take no further action and retain the current catchment areas.</p>
National Thematic Inspection of Education Authorities	11	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report and support the Central Education Team in the development of the Action Plan to address development areas, particularly where they relate to strategic governance and elected member engagement.
Stornoway Primary Sports Development Update	12	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report, including the increase in the total project cost which will be met from external grant funding.
The Promise: Supportive School Structure (Right to Education) Project	13	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <p>(1) note the progress of The Promise Project innovations in the Nicolson Institute, Extended Learning Resource and several feeder primary schools; and</p> <p>(2) support the continuation of the project for the 2025-26 financial year based on the use of external funding streams referenced in the Report.</p>
Outer Hebrides Bairns' Hoose (An Taigh-Sholais) Project	14	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the progress made with An Taigh-Sholais and the achievements to-date across the workforce for designing a Bairns' Hoose model that has achieved national and international interest and supported the Comhairle in achieving all 11 Standards.
Continuing Care Policy and Allowance	15	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree:</p> <p>(1) the payment of a maintenance allowance for young people in continuing care who reach the age of 18 at the rate of £200.00 per week and that the rate will be paid up to the young adult's 21st birthday if they remain in the continuing care placement;</p> <p>(2) that the rate of allowance will increase in percentage terms at the same rate at the recommended national foster care allowance; and</p> <p>(3) that for young people studying or training and having to live away from their Continuing Care placements, the carers will get a pro rata payment for when the young person returns to their Continuing Care placement (during holidays and visits between holidays), that an additional weeks' payment will be made each academic/training term to carers to use in a way that benefits the young person, and that with prior agreement from social work, young people will have the costs associated with their travel to and from their Continuing Care placement covered.</p>
Barra and Vatersay Community Campus Update	16 *	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle:

(1) notes the advice and professional assessments contained in the Report and the Developed Study; and

(2) agrees that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Members of the Project Board, implements the operational and political strategies set out in paragraphs 2.3 and 5.7-5.10 of the Report.

Residential
Placements for
Children and Young
People

17 * 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.

Reports
Outstanding

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