



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR: 7 MAY 2025

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: 29 APRIL 2025

At its meeting on 25 April 2025, the Sustainable Development 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 Meeting of 4 February 2025 was approved.
Minute of Meeting of 25 February 2025	2	The Minute of Meeting of 25 February 2025 was approved.
Declaration of Interest	3	<p>Mr Iain M Macleod wished to record, in respect of items 6 and 7, that he was a Comhairle representative on the Tighean Innse Gall Board. Mr Macleod did not consider this to be an interest that needed to be declared in terms of the code of conduct.</p> <p>Mr Kenny M Macleod wished to record, in respect of items 6 and 7, that he was a Comhairle representative on the Tighean Innse Gall Board. Mr Macleod did not consider this to be an interest that needed to be declared in terms of the code of conduct.</p>
Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers	4	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle approve the Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2025/26 appended to the Report.
Business Continuity Plans	5	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.
Refurbishment of Vacant Properties in Winfield Way, Balivanich	6	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <p>(1) note the progress of the Winfield Way Housing Project, including the securing of £1.3m Scottish Government funding; and</p> <p>(2) delegate to the Chief Officer, Economic and Community Regeneration, in consultation with the Chief Officer, Finance and Chief Officer, Law and Governance, to finalise the funding package and management arrangements for the Winfield Way properties.</p>

Housing Funding Agreement: Fuel Poverty	7	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the continuation of Housing Grant Funding for The Energy Advisory Service in 2025/26 to the sum of £39,000.
Reform of OFGEM: Call for Evidence	8	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle homologate the response submitted to the UK Government's Call for Evidence regarding the Reform of OFGEM.
Scottish Government Community Benefits Consultation	9	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle homologate the response to the Scottish Government's 'Community Benefits from Net Zero Energy Developments' consultation.
Outer Hebrides Energy Hub (Islands Growth Deal)	10	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the revised scope of the Outer Hebrides Energy Hub, as outlined in the Report.
Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development Indicators Framework Report 2023-2024	11	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development Indicators Framework 2023-24 Report.
Outer Hebrides Economic Strategy 2025-35	12	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Outer Hebrides Economic Strategy 2025-2035 at Appendix 1.
Town Centre Legacy Fund	13	<p>It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) agree that £230k of the capital receipt from the sale of 49-51 Cromwell Street be used to supplement the Medical Adaptations budget within the 2023-28 Capital Programme; (2) note that the remainder will be retained within the capital programme for spend in line with Comhairle priorities; and (3) agree the proposals for utilising the revenue balance within the Town Centre Legacy Fund.

Lews Castle Lease	14*	<p data-bbox="542 152 1070 181">It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="542 219 1449 282">(1) notes that a break point in the lease between Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and NA Lews Castle Limited occurs on 14 July 2026; <li data-bbox="542 320 1449 412">(2) notes that the annual rental income received provides an opportunity for the Comhairle to consider termination of the lease or attempt re-negotiation of its terms, provided that 12 months' notice is given; <li data-bbox="542 450 1449 512">(3) notes that such notice would require to be given no later than 14 July 2025; and <li data-bbox="542 551 1449 734">(4) authorises the Chief Officer, Economic and Community Regeneration, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Sustainable Development Committee, the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer to commence discussions with Together Travel on potential renegotiation of the terms of the lease in the terms set out in paragraphs 2.5, 7.1 and 7.2 of the Report.
Reports Outstanding	15	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.