



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD

Minute of Meeting held in Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday, 18
September 2024 at 2.00pm.

PRESENT

Mr George Murray (Chair)
Dr. Frances Murray (Vice-Chair)
Mr Kenneth J Maclean
Mr Mustapha Hocine
Mr Kenny M Macleod
Mr Ranald Fraser

Mr Norman Misty Macdonald
Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
Mr Finlay M Stewart

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Iain M Macleod
Mr Uisdean Robertson
Mr Robert Mackenzie
Mr Iain M Macaulay

Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Rae Mackenzie
Mr Norman Macdonald

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Colm Fraser
Mr Jack Libby
Mr Derek Mackay

Mrs Anne MacDonald
Mrs Katie Macaskill

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 12 June 2024 1

The Minute of Meeting of 12 June 2024 was **approved**.

Declaration of Interest 2

Mr Iain M Macleod declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3 as a Board Member of Western Isles Citizens Advice Services and remained in the meeting during consideration of the item.

Mr Kenneth J Maclean declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3 as an employee of Western Isles Citizens Advice Services and remained in the meeting during consideration of the item.

CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Western Isles Citizens Advice Services - Annual Report 2023-24 3

With reference to item 3 of the Minute of Meeting of 13 September 2024, the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report detailing the Western Isles Citizens Advice Services Annual Report for 2023-24. The Report stated that the Comhairle provided or funded various advice services for local residents including debt, welfare, consumer, housing and general advice.

The Report further stated that the Comhairle funded contract was the main source of funding for WICAS and the service would be unable to continue in its current form without it. As a result of holding the Comhairle contract WICAS had been able to bid for and operate various additional advice services, "levering" in an additional £233,952 for the year. WICAS had also recorded a client financial gain of £1,262,398 for 2023-24, although in real terms the figure was anticipated to be well in excess of this amount.

Appendix 1 to the Report detailed the Western Isles Citizens Advice Service's Annual Report for 2023/24 and a summary of WICAS's annual activity was also included in the concurrent report Consumer and Environmental Services Annual review for 2022-23.

WICAS representatives were in attendance at the meeting and provided a presentation to the Board on the activities of WICAS. Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the Western Isles Citizens Advice Services Annual Report for 2023-24; and**
- (2) make representation to the Scottish Government on the withdrawal of funding to WICAS for their legal advice project.**

Consumer and
Environmental
Services Service
Plan 2023/24
Review

4

With reference to item 6 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 June 2023, the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report concerning the Consumer and Environmental Services Service Plan review for 2023/24. The Report stated that the Comhairle was required to develop certain Service Plans to satisfy external agreements such as the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement, the National Performance Framework for Trading Standards Services and the framework agreement in place that relates to Animal Health and Welfare. The Framework Agreements required that these plans be submitted to the relevant member forum to ensure local transparency and accountability, including any reviews.

The review of the combined Consumer and Environmental Services Service Plan for 2023/24, including the Services not covered by external agreements was detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report. The Service managed the grant given to the Western Isles Citizens Advice Services (WICAS) and their activity for 2023/24 was also summarised in Appendix 1 with the WICAS annual report for 2023/24 detailed in a concurrent report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Consumer and Environmental Services Service Plan review for 2023/24.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-Social
Behaviour

5

The Head of Children's Services/Chief Social Work Officer submitted a Report providing an update on the Comhairle's response to reported incidents on anti-social behaviour. The Report stated that following a number of representations to Members from constituents relating to actual or alleged incidents of anti-social behaviour it was decided to review the Comhairle's existing strategy and procedures to prevent and respond to incidents of anti-social behaviour.

The Report further stated that the Comhairle's current antisocial policy and procedure dated back to 2012 and due to certain services referenced within the policy and procedure it was no longer relevant. The Community Planning Partnerships Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy dated back to 2013 - 2017. The Comhairle continued to comply with the policy and procedures although given the reduced resources available, the method of service delivery may vary, with there being a need for a renewed strategy. The Report noted that work would begin in November 2024 on devising a new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, which harnesses the resources both within the Comhairle and more widely across the Community Planning Partnership.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the intention to have one single document which covers the Comhairle's strategy for preventing incidents of anti-social behaviour occurring in the first**

instance and for intervening when incidents of anti-social behaviour have occurred;

- (2) note that there will be a revised anti-social behaviour strategy that covers both prevention and intervention. All services within the Comhairle, partner agencies and the wider community will be consulted in terms of revising the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy; and
- (3) approve the interim measures to be put in place until such time as a revised strategy has been approved and implemented.

POLICE AND FIRE

Presentation by Calum Steel, former General Secretary of the Scottish Police Federation 6

The Chair welcomed Mr Calum Steele, former General Secretary of the Scottish Police Federation to the meeting. Mr Steele gave an informative presentation to the Board in relation to his previous role within the Scottish Police Federation highlighting democracy in the oversight and governance of Police Scotland.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) make representations through COSLA in respect of the issues around the absence of elected member scrutiny in the oversight and governance of Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority; and
- (2) authorise the Chair of the Community Safety Board to engage with Chairs of Police Scrutiny Boards in Highland and Islands Local Authorities in respect of elected member scrutiny in the oversight and governance of Police Scotland and the Scottish Police authority.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Reports Outstanding 7

There were no reports outstanding.