



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

BARRA AND VATERSAY COMMUNITY CAMPUS PROJECT BOARD

Minute of Meeting held in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday, 26 March 2025 at 10.00am.

PRESENT

Mr Paul F Steele (Chair)
Mr Iain A MacNeil
Mr Kenneth J Maclean
Mr Mustapha Hocine
Mr Paul A Finnegan
Mr Duncan Macinnes MBE

Mr Dan Macphail
Mr Donald A Macleod
Ms Emma Macsween
Mr Malcolm Burr
Mr Norman Macdonald

APOLOGIES

Mr Calum Mackenzie

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Appointment of 1
Chairperson

It was **agreed** to appoint Mr Paul Steele as Chair of the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus Project Board.

The Chair noted that in recognition of the significant operational and political activity in relation to the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus, that there would be merit in inviting the Chief Executive to participate on the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus Project Board as a member.

It was agreed to appoint the Chief Executive as a member of the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus Project Board.

BARRA AND VATERSAY COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Barra and Vatersay 2
Community
Campus (BVCC) –
Project Update

The Chief Executive, and the Project Manager submitted a Joint Report in relation to the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus (BVCC) project. The Report detailed progress with the BVCC project, including the outcome of the recently commissioned Developed Study, and related site options appraisal, and sought consideration of the operational and political challenges the project faces, and the development of a strategy to advance the project.

The Project Manager indicated that representatives from the Comhairle are in regular discussion with Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) who in turn are in regular engagement with senior representatives from the Scottish Government, including the Cabinet Secretaries for Finance and Local Government, Education and Skills, Health and Social Care, Local Government and Finance. SFT have been engaged fully in relation to developments and have advised how each of the options identified would impact the Learning Estate Investment Programme funding award and, ultimately, the Comhairle's available budget for the project. SFT are currently preparing a Ministerial update for 28 March 2025 which will include consideration of the BVCC project.

It was noted that the Tier 1 Contractor for the project (MSC), has vast experience in the delivery of major projects, including the delivery of schools' projects for The Highland Council. The Project Manager noted that the contractor had carried out a site visit to Barra and had met with local contractors and community stakeholders. As part of the visit, logistics options and opportunities had been explored, including on-site visits to explore freight options through piers and harbours.

The Chief Executive noted that all avenues for support to deliver the BVCC continue to be explored fully, and discussions are taking place with senior civil servants, including the Permanent Secretary and senior representatives from the Scottish Government, including and First Minister at every opportunity.

It was agreed:

- (1) to note the advice and professional assessments contained in the Report and the Developed Study.**
- (2) that the Chief Officer, Education and Children's Services would notify the Project Board of the most recent inspections of Castlebay School.**
- (3) that Officers and Elected Members would continue to make representations to Civil Servants, and senior representatives from the Scottish Government in relation to the development of the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus as a priority capital project.**
- (4) that the Project Manager would provide Scottish Futures Trust with a summary of the discussion at the meeting;**
- (5) to provide an update of the meeting to the Scottish Futures Trust, and relevant stakeholders;**
- (6) to invite the Cabinet Secretaries for Education and Skills, Health and Social Care, and Local Government and Finance to a meeting to discuss the need for assistance and progress in relation to the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus.**
- (7) that the Chief Executive and the Project Manager would submit a Progress Report in relation to the project to the next meeting of the Education, Sport and Children's Services Committee, and the Policy and Resources Committee; and**
- (8) that a Press Release would be issued noting the ongoing work to support the delivery of the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus, and the establishment of a revised Barra and Vatersay Community Campus.**

Schedule of 3
Meetings 2025

The Barra and Vatersay Community Campus Project Board will next meet following the April 2025 Committee Series. It was noted that Project Board meetings may be convened at short notice on occasion to consider any urgent business.