



**LEABHARLAINN NAN EILEAN SIAR STRATEGY 2025-27**

Report by Chief Officer Education and Children's Services

**PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to seek approval to proceed to formal consultation on the Leabharlann na Eilean Siar Strategy 2025-2027.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Leabharlann nan Eilean Siar provides services across our islands delivered through our network of four branches and two mobile library vans.
- 2.2 As a statutory service tasked with providing library facilities for all person's resident in the Western Isles it is vital that the service has a focus on both national and local priorities as set out in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, the Comhairle's Corporate Strategy and in Scotland's Public Library Strategy. In order to ensure this focus the Service has developed a draft strategy (Appendix 1) and is seeking approval to proceed to formal consultation on the strategy. A proposal for Community Consultation is set out in Appendix 2. It is proposed that the Comhairle consider the re-establishment of the Library Member Officer Working Group to support the development of the strategy. In the interim the service has prepared a one-year Action Plan to deliver on identified priorities (Appendix 3).
- 2.3 The Service is currently working on an Annual Report setting out key achievements in the past year. Highlights are included in the draft strategy and the finalised Annual Report and will be uploaded to the website when complete.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**3.1 It is recommended that the Comhairle:**

- (a) **approve formal consultation on the draft Leabharlann na Eilean Siar Strategy 2025-27;**
- (b) **re-establish the Library member Officer Working Group to support the development of the strategy; and**
- (c) **approve the Leabharlann na Eilean Siar Action Plan 2025-26.**

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Appendix: 1 Leabharlann nan Eilean Siar Strategy 2025-2027

Appendix: 2 Consultation Plan Proposal

Appendix: 3 Leabharlann nan Eilean Siar Action Plan 2025-2026

Background Papers: Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy 2021-2025 [slic-public-library-strategydigital\\_final.pdf](#)

Vibrant Libraries – Thriving Schools Strategy [Vibrant Libraries, Thriving Schools - The Scottish Library and Information Council](#)

Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-2027 [oh-cpp-local-outcomes-improvement-plan-2017-27.pdf](#)

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 [CnES Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2028](#)

National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 - [National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28](#)



## IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

<b>Resource Implications</b>	<b>Implications/None</b>
Financial	None
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Implications/None</b>
Risk	None
Equalities/Child Rights	The Service provides interventions that give people with the skills to overcome barriers in their lives thereby reducing inequalities.
Corporate Strategy	The Service supports the following Commitments in the Corporate Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Raise ambition, skills and attainment, in particular to address inequalities.</li><li>➤ Ensure schools and lifelong learning are at the heart of our communities, with particular emphasis on Gàidhlig, digital skills and new technologies.</li><li>➤ Support action that tackles the causes and effects of inequality and poverty.</li></ul>
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

