



## COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Council Chamber,  
Council Offices, Stornoway, Council Offices,  
Stornoway on Wednesday 19 June 2024 at  
11.30am.

### PRESENT

Mr Paul Steele (Chair)  
Mr Duncan MacInnes, MBE, (Vice-Chair)  
Mr Kenneth J Macleod  
Mr Iain M Macleod  
Ms Susan Thomson  
Mr Uisdean Robertson  
Mr Paul Finnegan

Mr Robert Mackenzie  
Mr Norman Macdonald  
Mr Kenneth Macleod  
Dr Frances Murray  
Mr Norrie Macdonald

### APOLOGIES

Mr Donald F Crichton

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Iain A MacNeil  
Mr Mustapha Hocine  
Mr Angus Morrison  
Mr John A Maciver  
Mr Iain M Macaulay

Mr Gordon Murray  
Mr Rae Mackenzie  
Mr Angus McCormack  
Mr George Murray  
Mr Finlay M Stewart

### OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr  
Mr Calum Iain Maciver  
Mr Calum Mackenzie  
Mr Tim Langley

Mr Derek Mackay  
Mrs Marina Macaulay

### Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer, led by Mr Finlay M Stewart.

The Chair ruled items 4, 5 and Appendix C to item 12 as urgent to enable the matters to be considered prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

### MINUTES

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| Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2024                          | 1 | The Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2024 was <b>approved</b> .   |
| Declaration of Interest                                     | 2 | Mr George Murray declared an interest in item 9 as a family member was on the Board of Directors of Urras nan Tursachan.   |
| Minute of Meeting of Community Safety Board of 12 June 2024 | 3 | <p>The Minute of Meeting of the Community Safety Board of 12 June 2024 was noted.</p> <p>Arising out of consideration of this item it was noted that a Report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Safety Board, providing an update on the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.</p> |

## POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 19 JUNE 2024

Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 17 June 2024 4 The Minute of Meeting of the Human Resources Sub-Committee of 17 June 2024 was noted.

Minute of Meeting of Comataidh na Gàidhlig of 18 June 2024 5 The Minute of Meeting of Comataidh na Gàidhlig of 18 June 2024 was noted.

### PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Chief Executive's Service: Corporate Policy and Outcome Delivery Report 6 With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 29 November 2023 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which detailed progress on corporate policy matters and set out the end of year progress report on the 2023/24 Strategic Priorities for the Chief Executive's Service. The Report provided details of the graphical representation of the strategic risk for the Service. The Report stated that the Business Plan was aligned to three strategic priorities and the service contributed to the achievement of 11 Strategic Outcomes. Progress on the Outcome Delivery Plans was detailed in the Report.

Analysis of the budgets at end of year showed that Service budgets were within tolerances and the financial performance was detailed at paragraph 8 of the Report.

**It was agreed to note the end of year progress of the 2023/24 Outcome Delivery Plans for the Chief Executive's Service.**

**Arising out of consideration of this item, it was noted that a progress report, which would detail the various lobbying efforts from the different agencies in relation to island fuel tariffs would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.**

### CORPORATE MATTERS

Corporate Business Continuity Plan 7 With reference to item 10 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 June 2023 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval for the Corporate Business Continuity Plan, which was appended to the Report and was approved at Corporate Management Team on 21 May 2024. An update would be provided to the Committee annually.

**It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Corporate Business Continuity Plan at Appendix 1 to the Report.**

### FINANCE

Island Cost Crisis Emergency Fund 8 With reference to item 11 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 September 2022 the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer submitted a Report which detailed options for distribution of the Comhairle's share of the Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund (ICCEF), which had been made available by the Scottish Government to support island authorities with the cost of living and service delivery in remote island communities. The Report stated that the Comhairle's share of the funding amounted to £1.028m, allocated using a formula based on population and was shared among Orkney and Shetland Islands Council, Highland Council, Argyll and Bute Council, North Ayrshire Council and the Comhairle.

**It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:**

- (1) **note the additional funding provided by the Scottish Government in the sum of £1.028m, through the Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund; and**
- (2) **agrees that the fund be allocated for the purposes identified in paragraph 6.3 of the Report, with any necessary and subsequent adjustments to that allocation being referred to the Policy and Resources Committee, following consideration by the Budget and Strategy Board.**

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information in terms of Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Comhairle).

Islands Growth Deal – Cash Flow Support to Calanais Centre Redevelopment 9

With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 26 April 2023 the Chief Financial Officer and the Depute Chief Executive submitted a joint Report which sought approval for the provision of cash flow support to the Calanais Centre Redevelopment Project, being taken forward as part of the Islands Growth Deal, as part of the Destination Development Programme of the Islands Growth Deal (IGD), a targeted intervention to develop a suite of projects which would build on different strengths of the Outer Hebrides' rich environment and cultural heritage. The Report stated that £8m of IGD funding had been allocated to Outer Hebrides Destination Development (£34m UKG/£4m SG). The full Business Case for the £9m development had been approved by the Scottish and UK Governments and the full funding package was in place, including £4.1m from the Islands Deal and £2m from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

**It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree to provide a cash flow facility of up to £1.3m to the Calanais Redevelopment project, during the construction phase of the project.**

#### CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Barra and Vatersay Community Campus – Update 10

This item was withdrawn.

#### RELATED MATTERS

Road Maintenance Operations (Vehicles and Plant) 11

The Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report which sought approval for the procurement of new and replacement plant items to facilitate efficient delivery of both winter and road maintenance activities within timescales and finance provisions as determined by the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure. A full breakdown of costs was included in the Report and it was stated that the annual borrowing costs would be split between Roads and Winter Maintenance revenue budgets where appropriate to service use.

**It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:**

- (1) **authorise the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to develop and implement the most appropriate procurement options, timescales and financing options for the replacement of the roads maintenance fleet;**
- (2) **in relation to (1) above, approves the utilisation of prudential borrowing of £55k per annum over five years, funded from the roads maintenance budget, for general roads maintenance plant; and**

- (3) in relation to (1) above approves the utilisation of prudential borrowing of £90k per annum over ten years, funded from the roads maintenance budget, for replacement surface dressing plant and equipment.

Duty of Candour  
Annual Report  
2023-24

12

With reference to item 18 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 June 2023 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval of the Duty of Candour Annual Report for 2023-24 in respect of the Comhairle as a provider of care and social work services. A draft updated version of the Duty of Candour Policy Statement and Procedural Guidance and it was stated that the Policy Statement and Guidance document which had been approved in 2021 had been reviewed and a minor change made to section 8 (Training and Support).

**It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the draft updated Duty of Candour Policy Statement and Procedural Guidance document, and the Duty of Candour Annual Report 2023-24, in terms of the drafts appended to the Report.**

British Sign  
Language Plan  
2024-2030

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With reference to item 14 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2024 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which detailed the new British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2024-2030 Action Plan and set out tasks to be undertaken over the period 2024-2030 and a Progress Report was appended to the Report.

**It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle notes:**

- (1) the content of the Report; and
- (2) the requirement for Heads of Service to monitor and report the performance progress of their respective areas of responsibility.

#### PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Reports  
Outstanding:  
Progress

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With reference to item 17 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2024 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which detailed reports outstanding arising from decisions of the Committee.

**It was agreed to note the Report.**