



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in the Council Chamber , Council Offices, Stornoway on Tuesday 25 February 2025 at 3.00pm

PRESENT

Mr Paul Steele (Leader)	Mr Robert Mackenzie
Mr Duncan MacInnes, MBE (Depute Leader)	Mr Norman Macdonald
Mr Kenneth J Maclean	Mr Kenenth Macleod
Mr Iain M Macleod	Dr Frances Murray
Ms Susan Thomson	Mr Norrie Macdonald
Mr Uisdean Robertson	
Mr Paul Finnegan	
Mr Kenneth M Macleod	

APOLOGIES

Mr Donald F Crichton	Mr Finlay M Stewart
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MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Iain A MacNeil	Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Mustapha Hocine	Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Angus Morrison	Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
Mr Ranald Fraser	Mr Gordon Murray
Mr John N Macleod	Mr Rae Mackenzie
Mr Donald Macsween	Mr Angus McCormack
Mr John A Maciver	Mr George Murray

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mr Derek Mackay
Mr Norman MacDonald	Mrs Anne Macdonald
Mr Tim Langley	Mr Donald E Macleod
Mr Donald E Macleod	Mr Calum Smith
Mrs Emma MacSween	Mr Gus Grant-Lyford
Mrs Anne M Murray	Mr James Mackinnon
Mr Colm Fraser	Mrs Marina Macaulay
Mr Jack Libby	

Declaration of Interest of 1 There were no declarations of interest.

FINANCE

The Chairman ruled items 2 and 3 as urgent to allow the Comhairle to set a balanced budget for 2025/26.

Budget and Council Tax 2/3
Setting
2025/26
Recommendations
for Services
Committees

The Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer submitted a Joint Report which sought approval of the Comhairle's budget for 2025/26 and to set the Council Tax for 2025/26.

The Chief Executive submitted a Report which indicated that Education, Sport and Children's Services Committee, the Sustainable Development Committee, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee had considered and approved, for their interests, the recommendations in the Budget and Council Tax Setting Report, together with the Schedule of rates and dues at

Comhairle Piers and Harbours for 2025/26 and the Municipal Services fees and charges for 2025/26.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (a) agree to accept the 2025/26 Settlement from the Scottish Government as set out in the Finance Circular in Appendix A to the Report;**
- (b) agree the Budget Strategy for 2025/26 as set out in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Report;**
- (c) approve the draft Budgets for 2025/26 at Budget Item B of the Agenda;**
- (d) agree the delegated Budget for Cùram is Slàinte nan Eilean Siar as detailed in Section 11 of the Report;**
- (e) agree to a Council Tax increase of 8% (£1,394.01 for Band D properties);**
- (f) note the capital allocation for 2025/26 and that progress with the Capital Programme will continue to be monitored quarterly through the Policy and Resources Committee;**
- (g) note the financial risks in Appendix C to the Report and agree to maintain the level of uncommitted reserves at £3.5m;**
- (h) agree that the Budget Board monitor progress with the implementation of Savings Plans;**
- (i) note the preparation of a medium-term financial plan is currently being finalised;**
- (j) agree that a Budget Strategy update be provided to the June 2025 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee;**
- (k) agree to a flat rate increase of 5.5% across all sections of the Harbours Rates and Dues;**
- (l) agree to a 6.5% increase to harbour dues levied on CalMac Ferries Ltd; and**
- (m) agree to the Municipal Services Fees and Charges as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.**