



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Council Offices,
Stornoway on Tuesday 18 June 2024 at 2:00pm.

PRESENT

Mr Donald F Crichton (Chair)	Mr Iain A MacNeil
Mr Norman Macdonald (Vice-Chair)	Mr Mustapha Hocine
Mr Paul Steele	Mr Robert Mackenzie
Mr Uisdean Robertson	Mr Norman Misty Macdonald
Mr Angus Morrison	Mr Kenneth Macleod
Mr John Norman Macleod	Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Donald Macsween	Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Duncan Macinnes MBE	Mr Angus McCormack
Mr Rae Mackenzie	
Mr Frances Murray	

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Iain M Macleod	Mr Paul Finnegan
Mr Ranald Fraser	Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Malcolm K Macdonald	Mr Finlay M Stewart

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcom Burr	Mrs Shona Hadwen
Mr Calum Iain Maciver	Mrs Dolina Macleod
Ms Mairi Maciver	Ms Hannah Morrison
Ms Anne Macdonald	Mr Sandy Gomez
Mr Norman Maclean	Mr Domhnall Macdonald
Mr Nigel Scott	Mr Murdo Mackay
Ms Katie Macaskill	Mrs Fiona Maciver

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Duncan Macinnes MBE.

MINUTES

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| Minute of Meeting of 6 February 2024 | 1 | The Minute of the Meeting of 24 April 2024 was approved . |
| Declaration of Interest | 2 | Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 as a member of the Community-led Local Development (CLLD) Group and remained in the meeting during consideration of the item. |

PLANNING

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| Development Plan Scheme 2024 | 3 | The Depute Chief Executive submitted a Report seeking approval of the 2024 Development Plan Scheme and draft Participation Statement. |
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The Report stated that it was a statutory requirement for Planning Authorities to prepare and publish a Development Plan Scheme (DPS) and to review and update it annually.

The DPS is a document that sets out the Comhairle's proposed programme and processes for preparing and reviewing its Development Plan including Local Development Plans (LDPs), and other associated and supporting documents. The DPS included a

Participation Statement, which set out how the planning authority would engage with the public and other stakeholders in relation to the Development Plan.

The Report further stated that there was a statutory requirement to publicly consult on the Participation Statement aspect of the DPS regarding engagement for the new LDP.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) approve the Outer Hebrides Development Plan Scheme 2024 as detailed in the Appendix to the Report; and**
- (2) authorise the Depute Chief Executive to publish the Development Plan Scheme 2024 and draft Participation Statement for public consultation.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Gateway
Services:
Performance
Update 2023-24

- 4 The Depute Chief Executive submitted a Report to update members on the performance of Business Gateway services in 2023-24.

The Business Gateway service has been operational for 15 years and is delivered nationally by Local Authorities on behalf of the Scottish Government. The Outer Hebrides Business Gateway (OHBG) also delivers a range of Comhairle and externally funded packages of support to the local business community across the Outer Hebrides.

The Report stated that 2023-24 was another challenging year for Business Gateway, as the economy continued to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, exacerbated by ongoing difficulties resulting from BREXIT, high energy costs, inflation, rising interest rates, ferry issues and increasing cost of living. In addition, many businesses across all sectors continue to experience recruitment challenges. Despite this, local business community confidence increased to some degree, resulting in many businesses putting forward investment plans for support, encouraged by the Comhairle’s funding and support packages.

The Report went on to summarise business start-up activity, provided information on the Outer Hebrides Young Enterprise Scheme (OHYESS) and the recent reallocation of £200,000 from the Comhairle’s Revolving Loan Fund.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agrees to note the range and scale of support delivered successfully to Outer Hebrides businesses by Business Gateway during 2023-24.

Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item as a member of the Community-led Local Development (CLLD) Group and remained in the meeting during consideration of the item.

Community-Led
Local Development
Programme 2023-
24

- 5 The Depute Chief Executive submitted a Report to provide members with a review of the 2023-24 Scottish Government Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme and an update on the 2024-25 CLLD Programme.

The Report stated that in 2023-24, Scottish Government (SG) allocated £11.6m to support CLLD across Scotland, of which £267,042 was made available for the Outer Hebrides’ Local Action Group (LAG) to administer. Through bidding for additional funding - when it became available subsequently - and participating in collaboration projects, the LAG was able to access further finance, bringing the total budget for 2023-24 to £434,136. The Comhairle acts as Accountable Body (AB) to SG and the CLLD Coordinator implements the programme which the LAG set out in its Community Led Vision (CLV).

The Report went on to summarise the different project strands and stated that the 2023-24 Programme was delivered successfully and had been fully wound up.

In May 2024, the Outer Hebrides LAG received confirmation of an initial allocation for 2024-25 of £219,078 of which £120,545 was revenue and £98,523 capital funding.

The Report further stated that additional funding may become available through further tranches in the future.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agrees to:

- (1) note the success of the Scottish Government Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme 2023-24; and**
- (2) continue its function as Accountable Body for the Outer Hebrides Local Action Group (LAG) for the CLLD Programme 2024-25.**

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Reports
Outstanding

- 6 The Depute Chief Executive submitted a Report detailing those Reports outstanding arising from the decisions of the Committee.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.