



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Talla na Mara, Pairc Niseabost, Isle of Harris, Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday, 25 September 2024 at 10.30am.

PRESENT

Mr Uisdean Robertson (Chair)	Mr Kenneth Macleod
Ms Susan Thomson (Vice-Chair)	Mr Donald F Crichton
Mr Kenneth J Maclean	Mr John A Maciver
Mr Iain A MacNeil	Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Iain M Macleod	Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Paul F Steele	Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE
Mr Angus Morrison	Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Ranald Fraser	Mr Finlay M Stewart
Mr John Norman Macleod	

APOLOGIES

Mr Paul Finnegan	Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
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MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Kenny M Macleod	Mr Rae Mackenzie
Mr Robert Mackenzie	Dr Frances Murray
Mr Norman Misty Macdonald	Mr Norman Macdonald
Mr Donald Macsween	

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mrs Elaine Mackenzie
Mr Calum Mackenzie	Mr Innes Maciver
Mr Tim Langley	Mr Adam Hill
Mr David Macleod	Mrs Linda Cunningham
Mr Robert MacIannan	Mr Nial Houston
Mr Derek Mackay	Mr Nigel Scott
Mrs Marina Macaulay	Mrs Yvonne Maciver
Mrs Shona Hadwen	Mr Steven Ferguson
Mrs Fiona Maciver	Mrs Katie Macaskill
Mr Kenneth Morrison	Mrs Joanna Mackenzie

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Angus Morrison

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 19 June 2024 1

The Minute of Meeting of 19 June 2024 was **approved**.

Declaration of Interest of 2

Mr Kenny M Macleod declared an interest in item 8 as Chair of a community group purchasing surplus assets and remained in the meeting during consideration of the item.

PRESENTATION

CMAL Presentation 3 The Chair welcomed Mr Kevin Hobbs, CMAL Chief Executive and Mr Brian Fulton, CMAL Head of Business Support to the Meeting.

Mr Fulton and Mr Hobbs addressed the Committee providing an update and overview on the progress with vessels; resilience; and infrastructure; ports; and harbours in relation to the vital ferry services serving the Western Isles.. Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions throughout.

The Chair thanked both Mr Hobbs and Mr Fulton for their attendance and for the updates provided to the Committee.

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

HARBOUR BOARD

It was agreed that the public, including the press, not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Comhairle) related to the Appendix to the Report only.

Designated Persons Report 4* With reference to item 5 of the Minute of Meeting of 19 June 2024 the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report providing the Designated Persons (DP) Report for August 2024. The Report stated that the Port Marine Safety Code (the Code) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publication Safety in Docks: Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) related to the marine and shore side safety of harbours. The Code required an annual internal audit and a three-year independent external audit to verify compliance.

The DP had re-visited the ports of Miavaig and Brevig and his report, provided at Appendix 1 to the Report, highlighted a medium risk shortfall in that there were no byelaws in place for Comhairle harbours. The Report further stated that the DP, Chair of Transportation and Infrastructure, Head of Assets and Infrastructure and the Harbour Master had met on 29 August 2024 and had agreed that as the lack of byelaws did not substantially impact the safety of marine operations and navigation, CNES would not issue Byelaws until a clear nation-wide policy position on the need for Byelaws was stated by the UK and / or Scottish Governments.

Provision on how other recommendations would be progressed would be provided at a future series of Comhairle committees.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the External Audit report at Appendix 1 to the Report; and**
- (2) does not issue Byelaws until a clear nation-wide policy position on the need for Byelaws is stated by the UK and / or Scottish Governments.**

ROADS

Assaye Place – Prohibition of Vehicle Entry Order 5 With reference to item 16 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 June 2022 the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report seeking approval to implement a permanent prohibition of entry Traffic Regulation Order to Assaye Place from Willowglen Road. The Report stated that the Comhairle had agreed to extend the period of the

Experimental Order to June 2022 to undertake further assessment on the impacts on Assaye Place and Willowglen Road. Following the assessment, it was agreed to promote and implement a permanent Traffic Regulation Order for the prohibition of entry except for local access into Assaye Place from Willowglen Road.

There had been one objection to the implementation of the permanent Traffic Regulation Order, which officers had been unable to bring to a point of resolution and understanding with the individual concerned. Details were included in the Appendix to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the details of the objection in the Appendix to the Report;**
- (2) agree that the option to proceed to a Formal Hearing in relation to the objection is not exercised in this case; and**
- (3) on agreement of recommendation (2) above to proceed with replacing the Experimental Traffic Order with a Permanent Traffic Order for the prohibition of entry except for Local Access into Assaye Place from Willowglen Road.**

Electric Vehicle
Infrastructure
Charging Strategy
Update 6

With reference to item 10 of the Minute of Meeting of 8 February 2024 the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report concerning the new delivery approach and funding landscape for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, along with work undertaken to date, and proposals for the future delivery of the EV network throughout the Western Isles. The Report stated that in January 2022 the Scottish Government had launched a new public Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF) designed to support the growth of the public EV infrastructure network.

The Report further stated that the Comhairle had developed a combined islands EV charging Strategy and Plan in collaboration with Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Council, supported by HITRANS. The Comhairle's Strategy Plan focussed on providing a fit for purpose network and development of EV hubs at key strategic locations across the Western Isles, and also included potential to explore commercial interest opportunities in the local EV network and to consider any potential to develop alternative business options for EV charge point ownership and management.

The Report intimated that the Comhairle were currently awaiting a formal grant offer from Transport Scotland. Scottish Government had indicated that there would be a transition away from publicly subsidised ChargePlace Scotland (CPS) model of delivering EV infrastructure and the current contract for operating the CPS 'back office' would not be renewed when it expired in mid-2026. In order to ensure a smooth transition to a new back-office operator the Comhairle would need to transition their charging infrastructure to an alternative charge point operator (CPO) by the end of 2025.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note Scottish Government's new public Electrical Vehicle Fund (EVIF), and work undertaken to date in the development and submission of a combined Electric Vehicle Strategy and Expansion Plan;**
- (2) note the end of the ChargePlaces Scotland back office provision;**
- (3) agree that Officers should continue to engage with Transport Scotland, HITRANS and neighbouring Authorities on future funding options through EVIF; and**
- (4) agree to deliver the project outcomes of the EV Strategy and Plan subject to the award of EVIF funding.**

ASSETS

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

Water Supply – 7*
Ardmhor

The Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report seeking the views and approval on the position to be taken in relation to the provision of water connections from Comhairle infrastructure. The Report outlined options for the provision of water supply for consideration.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) does not proceed with the process of adoption of water supply pipe, or enter into a shared supply agreement, in relation to developments in Ardmhor, Barra; and**
- (2) agrees not to establish the practice of facilitating shared supply agreements for water services and that developers are encouraged to manage utility provision with the appropriate licensed providers.**

Disposal of Surplus Assets 8*

With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 19 June 2024 the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report providing an update on progress with the disposal of surplus assets. An update with the current position in respect of each property declared as surplus was detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the Report in relation to the progress detailed in the Appendix to the Report; and**
- (2) agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure, to agree terms for the sale or lease of an area of land, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report, to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) for the purposes of constructing an electricity substation.**

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Reports Outstanding 9

The 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.