



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday, 27
November 2024 at 9.30am.

PRESENT

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Mustapha Hocine	Mr Norman Misty Macdonald
Mr Kenny M Macleod	Mr Angus McCormack
Mr Robert Mackenzie	Mr Norrie Macdonald

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mr Nial Houston
Mr Calum Mackenzie	Mrs Dolina Macleod
Mr David Macleod	Mrs Katie Macaskill
Mr Colm Fraser	Mrs Shona Hadwen
Mrs Elaine Mackenzie	Mr Derek Mackay
Mr Donald A Macleod	Mrs Fiona Maciver
Mr Sandy Gomez	

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Donald F Crichton

TRIBUTE

Mr David Macleod, Head of Municipal Services was retiring after 40 years' service in the Comhairle. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Mr Macleod for his hard work and contributions over the years in various roles and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The Chair welcomed Mr Colm Fraser to the meeting and congratulated him on his recent appointment as the new Head of Municipal Services.

Minute of Meeting of 25 September 2024 1

The Minute of Meeting of 25 September 2024 was **approved**.

Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 26 April 2024 2

The Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 26 April 2024 was **noted**.

Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 20 September 2024	3	The Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 20 September 2024 was noted .
Declaration of Interest	4	Mr Donald Crichton and Mr Calum Maclean both declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 as members of the Stornoway Trust and left the meeting prior to consideration of this item.

PRESENTATION

Transport and Health Working Group Update	5	<p>The Chair welcomed Mr Neil Macrae , HITRANS Partnership Manager to the meeting. Mr Macrae gave a Presentation on the work of the Transport and Health Working Group, providing an overview of the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress to date • Key issues • Transport to health delivery plan • Highlands and Islands Health and Transport Action Plan • Next steps
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The Working Group terms of reference stated that it would consider the immediate issues and opportunities which had been identified across the Western Isles in relation to health services and transport, making recommendations for actions. The Working Group would also foster relationships to improve integration of transport provision for health services and consider alternatives.

Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions. The Chair thanked Mr Macrae for taking the time to address the Committee and for the informative presentation.

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

GOVERNANCE

Appointment to Roads Investment Member Officer Working Group	6	With reference to item 5 of the Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023 the Chief Executive submitted a Report seeking an appointment to the Roads Investment Member Officer Working Group (MOWG). The Report stated that there was a vacancy on the MOWG following the resignation of Councillor Grant Fulton and that it had been the Comhairle’s practice that the newly elected Member takes over the appointments of the previous Elected Member.
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It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle appoint Mr Kenny M Macleod to the Roads Investment Member Officer Working Group.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Outcome Delivery Report: Assets and Infrastructure	7	The Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report presenting the half-year progress of the 2024/25 Departmental Strategic Priorities for the Assets and Infrastructure Business Unit detailing an update on the departmental key areas of strategic risk, progress on the strategic outcomes and the resources identified to implement the Business Plan. The Report further detailed financial performance and progress on departmental workforce planning.
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The Report stated that the Business Plan was aligned to all four strategic priorities and progress on the outcome delivery plans were detailed in the body of the Report. The Report concluded that the Assets and Infrastructure Business Unit had maintained good controls on business planning, governance, and budget management the first two quarters of 2024 / 25. In addition to its core functions and responsibilities, the Business

Unit's key tasks were working to review, update and implement the Comhairle's Corporate Strategies and political priorities while delivering efficient front-line services on behalf of the community across a broad service portfolio and seeking to take best advantage of new and emerging economic opportunities.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the half-year progress of the 2024/25 Departmental Outcome Delivery Plans.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management Services Update

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With reference to item 7 of the Minute of Meeting of 29 November 2024 the Head of Municipal Services submitted a Report providing an update on the Comhairle's Waste Strategy which had been approved in 2012. The Report stated that as part of the Strategy eleven Actions were identified. Nine of these actions had been completed with the two remaining due to be completed by 2026/27. This included the roll out of a three-weekly collection service for waste and recycling collections, with the provision of kerbside recycling service to all households in the Western Isles, which had increased the recycling rate from 31.8% to 35.1%. The Comhairle remained the best performing of the Island Authorities and was now performing at a level close to the next group of mainland authorities.

The Report further stated that extended Producer Responsibility for packaging had been confirmed, with payments due to be made to local authorities in October 2025. The diversion of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) (residual waste) from landfill, compulsory from January 2026, would require all refuse collections and some bulky wastes to be sent to a mainland Energy from Waste (EfW) facility and would require a new waste transfer facility at Bennadrove Landfill. This would require funding support to construct a new landfill cell to accommodate locally produced commercial and industrial wastes. A potential solution had been identified for BMW collected in Uist and Barra and would run for 2025 calendar year, to confirm performance and suitability with an option to extend based on performance. Based on the confirmed increase applied by HMRC, a 21.6% increase in Scottish Landfill Tax from April 2025 was likely. This would increase the financial burden on the Comhairle but would bring landfill disposal closer to the estimated cost of disposal at a mainland EfW.

The Report intimated that the Deposit Return Scheme for plastic and metal drinks containers was now planned for 2027 and that the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 and associated Route Map would drive the next set of legislative challenges for local authorities. However, it was hoped that the specific challenges faced by Island Authorities would continue to be acknowledged when designing new regulations and guidance.

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

Charging for the Initial Issuing of Household Waste and Recycling Bins to Domestic Properties

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The Head of Municipal Service submitted a Report which sought agreement to the introduction of a charge for the initial issuing of household waste and recycling bins to all domestic new build or refurbished properties in the Western Isles. The Report stated that it was proposed that the charge for the issuing of the full set of four bins for an individual property be set at £130 plus VAT per property. All bins would continue to remain the property of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and any necessary repairs or replacement would be carried out at no additional cost to the householder, subject to fair wear and tear.

The Report further stated that new housing developments add to collection route costs. Where significant additional numbers of properties were included in a new development,

the service impact should be considered and the need for additional financial support assessed.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree to the introduction of a charging scheme for the initial issuing of waste and recycling bins to all domestic new build or refurbished properties in the Western Isles.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

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 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.

Mr Donald Crichton and Mr Calum Maclean both declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item as members of the Stornoway Trust and left the meeting prior to consideration of this item.

Disposal of Surplus Assets 10*

With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 25 September 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 recommended that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the Report in relation to the progress detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;**
- (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 The Stornoway Trust for purposes of leasing to CalMax Construction Ltd; and**
- (3) 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 adjacent to Western Isles Hospital, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the Report, to NHS for the purposes of upgrading helicopter landing facilities.**

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Reports Outstanding 11

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.