



# COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

## TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Council Chamber,  
Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday, 19  
June 2024 at 9.30am.

### PRESENT

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

### APOLOGIES

Mr John Norman Macleod

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Mustapha Hocine	Mr Norman Misty Macdonald
Mr Robert Mackenzie	Mr Angus McCormack

### OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mrs Dolina Macleod
Mr Calum Mackenzie	Mrs Katie Macaskill
Mr David Macleod	Mrs Shona Hadwen
Mr Iain Buchanan	Mr Derek Mackay
Mrs Elaine Mackenzie	Mrs Fiona Maciver
Mr Iain Norman Campbell	Mr Colin Maciver
Mr Murdo Macritchie	Mr Tim Langley
Mr Sandy Gomez	Mrs Joanna Morrison
Mr Nigel Scott	

### Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Angus Morrison.

### MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2024 1

The Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2024 was **approved**.

Declaration of Interest of 2

There were no declarations of interest.

**GOVERNANCE**

Appointment to 3 This item was withdrawn.  
 Transportation and  
 Infrastructure  
 Member Officer  
 Working Group

**ABATTOIRS**

Stornoway Abattoir 4 With reference to item 6 of the Minute of 26 April 2024 the Head of Municipal Services  
 Update – Season submitted a Report providing information of the throughput and financial performance  
 2023 of Stornoway Abattoir for the 2023 operating season and sought approval for the charges  
 proposed for season 2024. The Report stated that Stornoway Abattoir was a non-  
 statutory service provided to the crofting and farming industries in the Western Isles.  
 The abattoir had received complementary feedback from Quality Meat Scotland and  
 Food Standard Scotland following the 2023 audits.

The Report further stated that the throughput for sheep was similar to 2022, with a 3%  
 drop from 2,413 to 2,338. Cattle and pigs were both down by a higher percentage, but  
 this was not unusual as cattle and pig numbers can vary significantly from year to year.  
 Appendix 2 to the Report detailed the proposed charges for 2024 with an increase of 15%  
 based on a 10% uplift plus the standard inflation increase of 5%.

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

- (1) **note the actions taken to contain staffing costs;**
- (2) **approve the proposed charges for 2024 as outlined in Appendix 2 of the Report;**
- (3) **agree that a short-term Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) be established to which representatives of the crofting community and other interested stakeholders be invited to participate to consider and formulate recommendations for the future provision of abattoir services which are vital not only for the crofting community but also to safeguard public health as clearly charges being increased on an annual basis, by some 13% above current annual inflation, is not sustainable;**
- (4) **agree that the MOWG comprise of five members and officers to be decided by the Chief Executive; and**
- (5) **agree that the Chief Executive be authorised to appoint representatives to the MOWG from the crofting community and other interested stakeholders.**

**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 Appendix 2 to the Report only.

Designated 5\* With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2024 the Chief Officer,  
 Person’s Report Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report providing an update on the Designated  
 Person Report from August 2023. 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.

Appendix 1 to the Report provided an update on the High, Medium and Low Risk shortfall identified by the Designated Person with the Harbour Master's comments on progress. The Designated Person had visited the Ports of Leverburgh and Stockinish with the Harbour Master and the report was provided at Appendix 2 to the Report.

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

- (1) note the April 2024 Designated Person Report; and**
- (2) note the Designated Person High, Medium, Low Risks Shortfalls at Appendix 1 to the Report.**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

Baleshare Causeway

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The Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report advising on issues relating to the safety of the Baleshare Causeway as requested at the April 2024 meeting of the Committee. The Report stated that Baleshare consisted of a community of approximately 30 properties located on the west coast of North Uist. The land surrounding Baleshare was tidal and access was by road over a rock armour causeway.

Weather and tides had the potential to disrupt travel to and from communities served by the road network, predominantly where bridges, causeways and culverts were located. Local residents of Baleshare had raised concerns relating to the safety of passage across the Baleshare causeway under certain conditions and sought reassurances and improvements to this infrastructure. The Report recognised the concerns in relation to Baleshare, however also reflected the requirement to consider the other needs across the estate before committing to prioritise investment. This would require a detailed assessment of similar community resilience concerns and a quantification of interruption and risk. A high-level assessment of community resilience was proposed in connection with a potential Levelling Up project.

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

- (1) note the Report; and**
- (2) agree to consider community resilience/accessibility as a potential project for Uist and Barra through the UK Government Levelling Up Fund.**

**ROADS**

Roads Maintenance Operations (Vehicles and Plant)

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The Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report seeking approval for the procurement of new and replacement plant items to facilitate delivery of both winter and road maintenance activities within timescales and finance provisions as determined by the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure. The Report stated that the Roads Trading Operation undertakes a variety of maintenance operations which require reliable vehicles and plant to ensure efficient service delivery. Most of this equipment had been in the Comhairle's ownership for many years and its condition was rapidly deteriorating due to the demanding conditions in which they operate. For the Comhairle to continue to deliver critical road maintenance services, significant investment in essential plant and vehicles would be required

The Report provided details of the proposals, a breakdown of the likely costs of the proposed plant and vehicle requirements and indicated 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, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle**

- (1) authorise the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Chief Financial 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.**

Road Safety  
Framework 2030  
(20mph)

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The Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report seeking approval to progress the implementation of 20mph areas initially using Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. The Report stated that the 'Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party Shared Policy Programme' published on 1 September 2021 included the commitment that all appropriate roads in built up areas would have a safer speed limit of 20mph by 2025. This National Strategy sought to introduce a consistency for 20mph speed limits across the country, simplifying speed limits for drivers, reduce perceptions of road danger, encourage people to walk and wheel, and create more pleasant streets and neighbourhoods by providing a more equitable balance between different road users and would contribute to the implementation of the safe system. The Transport Scotland criteria used when undertaking road assessments to identify roads that would be appropriate to change to a 20mph limit had identified 128 roads within the Western Isles network that were considered appropriate.

The Report further stated that the Initial roll out would focus generally on areas where flashing 20mph signs were currently in operation and implementation of the speed limits would be carried under a single Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO). Monitoring of performance of the speed limits would be undertaken during the 18-month period of the TTRO and consultation with residents and users of the affected streets would be undertaken prior to the end of the TTRO to allow a measured and informed decision to be made as to whether the 20mph speed limit should be refined or modified prior to becoming permanent or if it should revert back to a 30mph limit. The areas for the proposed implementation of 20mph zones in the Western Isles were detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

**It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agrees to the implementation of 20mph zones as detailed in the Appendix to the Report, initially utilising the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order process**

**ASSETS**

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.

Disposal of Surplus Assets 9\*

With reference to item 11 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 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;**
- (2) agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Officer, Education, Skills and Children’s Services, to agree terms with the Newton Resident’s Association in relation to the acquisition of the Newton Playpark; and**
- (3) agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure, to agree terms with the Ahmore Community Group in relation to terms of lease or sale of Craigard, Lochmaddy, failing which the property be advertised on the open market.**

**PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Reports Outstanding 10

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.**

