



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday, 30
April 2025 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 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 Finlay M Stewart
Mr Ranald Fraser	
Mr Kenneth Macleod	

APOLOGIES

Mr Iain A MacNeil	Mr Calum Maclean
Mr John Norman Macleod	

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Mustapha Hocine	Mr Donald Macsween
Mr Kenny M Macleod	Mr Angus McCormack
Mr Robert Mackenzie	Dr Frances Murray
Mr Norman Macdonald	Mr Norrie Macdonald

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mrs Anne MacDonald
Mrs Anne Murray	Mrs Dolina Macleod
Mr Calum Mackenzie	Mrs Katie Macaskill
Mr Colm Fraser	Mrs Shona Hadwen
Mr Iain N Campbell	Mr Derek Mackay
Mrs Elaine Mackenzie	Mrs Fiona Maciver
Mr Sandy Gomez	Mr James Mackinnon
Mr Donald Maciver	Mr Derek Mackay
Mr Nial Houston	Mrs Joanna Morrison

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Donald F Crichton.

Tribute: Cllr Iain A MacNeil

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, extended sincere condolences to Cllr Iain A MacNeil, and to the family, whose son Tony had passed away suddenly.

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 5 February 2025 1

The Minute of Meeting of 5 February 2025 was **approved**.

Minute of Meeting of 25 February 2025 2

The Minute of Meeting of 25 February 2025 was **approved**.

Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 7 February 2025 3 The Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 7 February 2025 was **noted**.

Declaration of Interest 4 There were no declarations of interest.

PRESENTATION

Digital Connectivity 5 The Chair welcomed Mr Duncan Nisbet, Delivery and Compliance Manager, Scottish Government to the Meeting. Mr Nisbet delivered a presentation to the Committee on the progress made with delivery of Digital Connectivity. The presentation set out the Scottish Government Policy context and stated that there were three key areas focusing on broadband improvements, namely: R100 Programme, Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) Programme, and Project Gigabit in Scotland.

The presentation covered the following areas:

- Digital connectivity for Na h-Eileanan an Iar
- Broadband improvements
- Na h-Eileanan an Iar broadband history
- R100 contracts
- R100 delivery
- Project Gigabit in Scotland
- Tracking progress
- Island build logistics

Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions following the presentation and were welcome to contact Mr Nisbet in the future to address any further questions. The Chair thanked Mr Nisbet for his comprehensive presentation.

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

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 6 With reference to item 5 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2024, the Chief Executive submitted a Report seeking approval of the Comhairle's Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2025/26.

The Comhairle approved the five-year Operational Plan and associated Service Business Plans (SBPs) 2022-2027 in February 2022 that were prepared in accordance with the Corporate Strategy 2022-2027. The Corporate Management Team (CMT) approved a new SBP Report format in October 2022 that was designed to provide Members with a more comprehensive and informed picture of each service, including the funding and staffing resources identified to implement each SBP.

The Report stated that from 2024/25, all SBPs are presented to the April Series of Meetings for approval to ensure all sections of the SBPs are as up to date as possible.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle approve the Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2025/26 appended to the Report.

Business Continuity Plans 7

With reference to item 6 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2024, the Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided an update on the status of Business Continuity Management across the Comhairle.

The Report stated that risks that resulted in a disruption to the service, required continuity strategies in place to allow service delivery to continue with minimum disruption. Services had been asked to prepare Business Continuity Plans (BCP) for their most critical activities, therefore in the event of an incident that causes service disruption, the BCP can be picked up and immediately actioned.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.

WASTE MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Waste Management Services Update 8

With reference to item 11 of the Minute of Meeting of 28 November 2012, the Head of Municipal Services submitted a Report providing an update on the Comhairle's Waste Services and highlighting relevant waste consultations. The Report stated that it was proposed to update the Waste Strategy which had been approved in 2012. A draft Waste Strategy covering the period 2025-2030 was detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report and thereafter the planned final strategy would be presented to the June 2024 meeting of the Committee.

The Report intimated that the ban on sending Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) to landfill would take effect on 1 January 2026. Plans to manage the 2,000–3,000 tonnes of waste from Uist and Barra were nearly complete and the proposals to transport the 6,000 tonnes of BMW from Lewis and Harris to mainland Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facilities still required further development. The additional annual revenue costs for the Comhairle, estimated at £500,000 to £750,000, would depend on specific haulage costs, tonnages per load, and gate fees.

The Report further stated that it was estimated that the Comhairle would receive £3.4 million in 2025/26 from producers (via the scheme administrator PackUK) through the new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to cover the costs of managing household packaging waste. This money was not ringfenced, but the fee was expected to cover the *"full net costs of efficient and effective local authority household packaging waste collection and disposal services"* so payments from 2026/27 onwards may be considered in that context when local authority annual settlements are decided.

The Scottish Government were consulting on changes to waste management services which could have significant impact on waste management in the islands. They were also consulting on the Future of the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. A summary of the consultation topics and the proposed Comhairle response approach were detailed in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agrees to:

- (1) agree with the direction of travel outlined in the draft Waste Strategy at Appendix One;
- (2) authorise the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure and Chief Executive to progress compliance with the BMW ban to landfill for 1 January 2026;
- (3) note the potential income from the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme; and
- (4) authorise the Head of Municipal Services to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on Waste Management Services and the future of

the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund in line with the approach detailed at paragraphs 10-13 in the Report.

Replacement of 9
Cleansing Vehicles

The Head of Municipal Services submitted a Report seeking homologation for the purchase of a precinct sweeper and authorisation to purchase replacement Cleansing Service vehicles and equipment through Asset Rental Borrowing or leasing. The Report stated that Cleansing and Waste Management related duties required reliable vehicles to ensure efficient service delivery. Some of these vehicles had reached the end of their useful working life or had component issues rendering them unsuitable for use.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle agree to:

- (1) homologate the decision of the Chief Financial Officer to approve the replacement of hired precinct sweeper, direct from Aebi Schmidt, at a cost of £85k, funded through the current Asset Rental agreements from within the Cleansing Services Trading Operation budget;**
- (2) the replacement of refuse collection vehicle VX63 HBC, either by leasing or funded through the current Asset Rental agreements from within the Cleansing Services Trading Operation budget; and**
- (3) rebody the inoperable refuse collection vehicle (MJ72 YRZ), if viable and cost effective, with a suitable body and bin lifts if funding is available and agreed with the Chief Financial Officer.**

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 10*
Person's Report

With reference to item 7 of the Minute of Meeting of 5 February 2025, the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report presenting the Designated Person (DP) Report for March 2025. The Report stated that the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publication, Safety in Docks: Approved Code of Practice (ACOP), set out the safety standards for both marine and shore-based operations within harbours. The PMSC mandates an annual internal audit and an independent external audit every three years to ensure compliance.

The DP had conducted site visits to the ports of Acarsaid, Ceann a Gharraidh, Haun, Ludaig, and Berneray in March 2025 and a detailed account of his findings was provided in the Appendix to the Report. The DP noted that a revised Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) and an updated Guide to Good Practice were scheduled for publication in 2025. In anticipation of these updates, and the subsequent compliance review six months after their release, it had been agreed that the DP would conduct a comprehensive external compliance audit and present the findings to the Comhairle in September 2025.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the External Audit report included at the Appendix to the Report; and**
- (2) note that a PMSC compliance audit will be carried out and reported to the Comhairle in September 2025.**

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 11*

With reference to item 11 of the Minute of Meeting of 5 February 2025, 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 note the Report in relation to the progress detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Reports Outstanding 12

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.

