



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR 17 FEBRUARY 2011 at 3.30PM

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 17 FEBRUARY 2011 at 2.30pm

At its meeting on 17 February 2011 the Policy and Resources Committee considered the business referred to below. The committee approved the recommendations detailed for approval by the Comhairle. Where the Committee has exercised delegated power or used the conditional delegation provisions for any item, this is stated.

Items marked with an asterisk* were considered with the press and public excluded from the Meeting.

Item Title	Agenda Number	Committee's Decision
Declaration of Interest		There were no declarations of interest.
Budget and Council Tax Setting 2009/10	1	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:
Recommendations from Service Committees		<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) formally agree the settlement offer from the Scottish Government;(2) agree the budget strategy for 2011/12 as detailed in Appendix A to the Report;(3) approve the business plans as set out in Section 4 of the Budget Folder;(4) approve the draft budgets as set out in Section 5 of the Budget Folder, as amended by the Budget Strategy in Appendix A;(5) approve the savings proposals as set out in Sections 6 of the Budget Folder as amendments to the draft budget as follows:<ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) the savings for Waste Management Services indicated in Appendix 1 to the Report, as summarised in line 33 to line 42, in the sum of £166K;(ii) the savings of £33k in the overall Consumer and Environmental Services Budgets in 2011/12 as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the Report;(iii)<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) the proposals to achieve budgetary saving and annual efficiency savings of £164k for 2011 / 12 within Housing Services as summarised at Section 7.1 to the Report;(b) the Private Sector support budgets for 2011 / 12 as set out at Appendix 1 to the Report;(c) the ACTISH indicative budget framework to 2014 as set out in Section 6.11, Table 1, to the Report; and(d) that a further Report be presented in June 2011 to consider the future budgetary approach in light of a full year Review of the Comhairle's Scheme of Assistance and related strategic issues as outlined at Section 6.5 to the Report;(iv) the discontinuation of free school meal provision for all P1 pupils;(v) the revised Home to School Travel Policy attached as Appendix 1 to the Report and the termination of bus contract SY3 with effect from 1 April 2011;(vi) the savings in relation to Transportation Services as detailed as proposals 1,2,3,4 and 5 (Option B) and that the additional savings required of £10k be found from Street Lighting, Parking Charges and Unadopted Roads, together with a one-off saving of £32k from within the Roads Maintenance Budget for 2011/12 and £70k from the predicted surplus for 2011/12 as detailed in the paragraph 2.8 of the Budget and Council Tax Setting Report 2011/12;

- (a) agree that the Chief Executive would seek contributions towards the Air Service from other public sector users; and
 - (b) agree that the Comhairle undertake a review of its PSOs.
- (vii)
- (a) savings of £46k be made in 2011/12 from 2010/11 Cash Planning Limit of the Sports Facilities Budget by ensuring a balance between reductions in opening hours at facilities across the islands by between 4 and 8 hours per week and growth in the business to attract additional income; and
 - (b) savings of £38k be made in 2011/12 from the 2010/11 Cash Planning Limits of Library facilities by:
 - i) reducing library opening times by the equivalent of one day per week as detailed in the Report and making corresponding reductions in the staffing complement;
 - ii) a general rationing of evening provision in Libraries to one evening per week;
 - iii) a reduction in opening times during school holidays, at school based community libraries, working to maintain opening hours during peak demand periods; and
 - iv) a reduction in library services to The Nicolson Institute.
- (viii)
- (a) savings of £83k from the closure of lochdar Care Unit on 31 March 2011;
 - (b) Uig and Carloway Care Units remain open; and
 - (c) a consultation process regarding the feasibility of closure of Garrabost Care Unit be undertaken and a Report submitted to the June 2011 committee series.
- (6) approve the recommendations for fees and charges as set out in the reports in Sections 7 of the Budget Folder;
- (7) agree to freeze the 2011/12 Council Tax at the 2007/08 level of £1,024 for Band D properties;
- (8) retain the level of uncommitted balances at £3.0m for 2011/12;
- (9) agree that a Report providing an update in respect of the forecast uncommitted balances at 31 March 2011 be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee in March 2011; and
- (10) agree the planning assumptions and strategy set out in Section 8 of the Report for the development of the 2012-15 budgets.