



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR 4 NOVEMBER 2010

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 4 NOVEMBER 2010

At its meeting on 4 November 2010 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.

<i>Item Title</i>	<i>Agenda Number</i>	<i>Committee's Decision</i>
		<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Chairman be authorised to write to the BBC with a view to ensuring that BBC Alba becomes available on Freeview.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle do not support any proposal to have one police force for Scotland.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that it be delegated to Directors to determine appropriate arrangements for payment of enhanced public holiday rates to employees required to work over the Christmas/New Year period of 2010/11 on a pilot basis.</p>
Minute of Meeting of 2 September 2010	1	The Minute of Meeting of 2 September 2010 was approved
Declaration of Interest	2	There were no declarations of interest.
Minute of Meeting of Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership of 19 August 2010	3	The Minute of Meeting of Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership of 19 August 2010 was noted.
Minute of Meeting of Young Persons Joint Liaison Committee of 1 October 2010	4	The Minute of Meeting of Young Persons Joint Liaison Committee of 1 October 2010 was approved.
Minute of Meeting of Comataidh Buileachaidh Plana Canan of 28 October 2010	5	<p>The Minute of Meeting of Comataidh Buileachaidh Plana Canan of 28 October 2010 was approved.</p> <p>Arising out of consideration of this item it was agreed that the Chairman write to MG Alba to request that they take appropriate steps to ensure that programming on BBC Alba was advertised actively in the media.</p>
Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 28 October 2010	6	The Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 28 October 2010 was noted.

Minute of Meeting of ICT, Procurement and Asset Management Sub-Committee of 28 October 2010	7	The Minute of Meeting of ICT, Procurement and Asset Management Sub-Committee of 28 October 2010 was approved.
Minute of Meeting of Joint Services Committee of 29 October 2010	8	The Minute of Meeting of Joint Services Committee of 29 October 2010 was approved.
ISLENET Presentation by Dr Panos Coroyannakis, Islenet Manager	9	<p>It was agreed to note the terms of the presentation.</p> <p>Arising out of consideration of the presentation it was agreed to recommend that the chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Islenet Manager, to arrange a seminar at an early future date to discuss the draft Action Plan, identify opportunities and provide details of how the Outer Hebrides had benefitted from its involvement in Islenet to date.</p> <p>It was further agreed to recommend that notes of meetings of the Local Advisory Committee would be circulated to all Members.</p>
Pact of Islands	10	It was agreed to recommend that the Chief Executive be authorised to subscribe to the Pact of Islands on behalf of the Comhairle on the basis of the Adhesion Form and Definitive Text appended to the Report.
Classification of Trading Operations 2010 – 2012	11	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <p>(1) agree to retain the existing classification of Trading Operations as set out in Appendix A; and</p> <p>(2) agree that from 2010/11 responsibility for the trading surpluses/deficits of the Trading Operations set out in Appendix A transfer to the relevant Department and that the treatment of the Property Maintenance Significant Trading Operation be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.</p>
Write Off of Debts	12	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the debts listed in Appendix 1 to the Report, totalling £58,703.47 be written off.</p> <p>Arising out of consideration of this item it was agreed to recommend that information would be circulated to all Members detailing the breakdown of all debts overdue to the Comhairle and that a Report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee producing further details, including comparative data with other authorities and consideration of any appropriate Member involvement.</p>
Budget Strategy Update	13	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <p>(a) enter into formal discussions with the Scottish Government with the aim of reducing the number of Elected Members in the Comhairle;</p> <p>(b) agree in relation to the 2008-13 Capital Programme to:</p> <p>(i) reallocate the £5.239m of projects set out in Appendix A to a Spend to Save Investment Fund subject to the EU Match Fund line being subject to confirmation by the Chief Executive that there are no further bids for consideration and a further Report being submitted to the next series of meetings;</p> <p>(ii) the Director of Technical Services report back to the December 2010 Series of meetings on proposals to deliver savings in Roads and Building Maintenance using the Investment Fund identified above;</p> <p>(iii) an update on further opportunities to enhance the Investment Fund be provided as part of the December 2010 Budget Strategy Report; and</p> <p>(iv) that the Director of Technical Services submit a Report to the next meeting of the Transportation and Policy and Resources Committees providing details of the expenditure of funding made available by the Scottish Government for coast protection schemes.</p> <p>(c) in relation to service choices, agree that Reports be submitted to the appropriate Service Committee at the December 2010 series of meetings on options for savings, including relevant risk and equality assessments, by:</p> <p>(i) the Director of Education and Children's Services:</p> <p>(a) a Report, reflecting the outcome of the consideration of the concurrent schools consultations, identifying how savings could be achieved in relation to Curriculum Development,</p>

		Learning Communities, and Itinerant Teachers; and
		(b) a Report on savings that could be achieved through the adoption of the statutory distances for travel to school;
	(ii)	the Director of Technical Services:
		(a) a Report, reflecting the outcome of the Waste Seminar of 3 November 2010, on savings that could be achieved from a weekly collection in Stornoway and any other options arising from the seminar;
		(b) a Report that considers options for reductions in public bus services which could be achieved by April 2011;
		(c) a Report on options and savings that could be achieved through a reduction in Street Lighting;
		(d) a Report on how savings could be achieved through a reduction in Street Cleaning;
		(e) a Report on options for achieving savings through changes to the inter island air services; and
		(f) a Report setting out the savings achieved from the revised Winter Maintenance Contracts and options for further savings from a review of the policy; and
	(iii)	the Director of Social and Community Services:
		(a) a Report on the potential for the closure of care units and the potential consequences for residential care including an update on the effect of previous decisions in relation to closure of care units;
		(b) a Report on options for achieving savings in library and leisure facilities through a reduction in opening hours that would reflect usage patterns;
		(c) an interim Report in relation to opportunities for joint working with the third sector incorporating the outcomes of the Integrated Transport Best Value Review; and
	(iv)	the Director of Development:
		(a) a Report on the options for achieving savings through changes to Housing Strategy, Housing Grants including maximising the impact of Additional Council Tax Income from Second Homes Council Tax; and
		(b) a Report on how the costs of Environmental Health and related services could be reduced.
	(d)	agree that the Director of Technical Services would submit: a Report to an early future meeting of the Committee detailing the potential to redesign bus services to better meet the needs of service users.
Rural Rate Relief Scheme	14	It was agreed to recommend that:
		(1) the Comhairle continue to exercise its discretionary powers to grant Rural Rate Relief as detailed in paragraph 4.3; and
		(2) the Discretionary Rural Relief Scheme be extended to grant 100% relief in respect of properties occupied by the Northern Constabulary, as listed in paragraph 5.1, from 1 April 2010.
Mainland Placement Panel	15*	It was agreed to recommend that:
		(1) the decisions taken by the Mainland Placement Panel be noted; and
		(2) the forecasted combined expenditure of £1.174m in respect of the placements detailed in the Appendix attached to the Report be noted.
Specialist Mainland Placements for Children: October 2010	16*	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the forecasted costs for specialist mainland placements, as detailed in the Report, and the actions being taken to address this issue.
Technical Services: Building Maintenance STO Progress Update	17(a)*	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.
Building Maintenance STO	17(b)*	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report and that a further Report be provided to the December 2010 meeting of the Committee.

Winter Maintenance Policy Review –	18	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the changes to the Winter Maintenance Policy for the remaining months of the current season, November 2010 to March 2011, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report subject to the phrase “Roads to be treated by” being replaced by the words “Target Treatment Times” and any regular use of discretion being reported back to Committee.
Home Care Packages - Exceptional Circumstances	19*	It was agreed to recommend that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the exceptional home care packages detailed in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.6 of the Report be approved; (2) it be noted that the Care at Home Best Value review will Report in April 2011 and will be reviewing the performance of the service compared to other similar providers; and (3) information on historical care packages of 37 hours or more would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
Improving Social Work in Scotland – A Report on the Social Work Inspection Agency’s Inspection Programme 2005-09	20	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the Report; and (2) agree the implementation of the Social Work Inspection Agency performance improvement model and the use of the associated computerised e-tool to support the self-evaluation process in relation to the social work service.
Resource Transfer – Response to Scottish Government Consultation	21	It was agreed to recommend that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the Comhairle’s response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on protocols for agreeing resource transfer payments between Health Boards and Councils with respect to NHS long-stay bed closures, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report be noted; and (2) it be agreed that a further Report will be submitted when the outcome of the consultation is concluded by the Scottish Government.
Capital Works: Programme and Progress	22	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.
Repairs and Maintenance (Revenue) Programme 2010/2011 Quarterly Expenditure Report to 30 September 2010	23	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report and note that further Reports on the repairs and maintenance of properties held on the Service and Policy and Resources Committee accounts would continue to be placed before the Comhairle at quarterly intervals.
Western Isles Schools Project Update	24	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.
Gibson Hostel Site, Stornoway	25	It was agreed to recommend that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) consideration of this matter be deferred pending the conclusion of further consultation with the community to the satisfaction of the Comhairle and the submission of further information from HHP in relation to the reasons for their request; and (2) a Meeting be arranged with HHP to discuss more general matters of Housing Strategy and that the Comhairle be represented at the meeting by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Environment and Protective Services Committee, the Chairman of the Local Housing Strategy Member Officer Working Group and Mr Peter Carlin.

H2Growth Project – Developing & Supporting the Outer Hebrides Hydrogen Infrastructure	26	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) support the continued development of the Hebridean Hydrogen Initiative through the H2growth Project as set out in the Report; (2) approve the H2growth PID attached as Appendix 3 to the Report and agree to release the approved Capital Project SD-G2, Hebrides Hydrogen Strategy Implementation; and (3) support the Creed Enterprise Park Wind Turbine development and delegate the Director of Technical Services to undertake all necessary enabling actions required to prepare a robust business case for consideration by the Comhairle.
Lochboisdale Harbour Regeneration	27*	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) approve a Capital Grant of £625,000 to Sealladh na Beinne Moire as the Comhairle's contribution towards the Lochboisdale Harbour Regeneration project <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) on such terms and conditions as the Chief Executive should determine including without prejudice to the foregoing generality appropriate involvement of the Comhairle in the governance and project management of the Project; and (b) subject to approval of all other external funding not later than 30 April 2010; and (2) delegate to the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Director of Development, to agree any further support to Sealladh na Beinne Moire in relation to assistance with project cash flow and management in terms of the Comhairle's agreed policy. <p>Arising out of consideration of this item it was agreed to recommend that an assessment be carried out of all monies paid to the Crown Estate by the Comhairle and that the Finance and Strategy Working Group be requested to report back to the next meeting of the Committee in relation to any potential efficiencies that could be achieved in this regard.</p>
North Territory hub Programme	28*	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to determine the detailed terms and conditions of the Comhairle's participation in the Programme, on the basis of the draft Report attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.</p>
Progress Report - Ardseileach Core and Cluster Replacement	29	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note that an options appraisal exercise and Equality Impact Assessment of the residential, respite and supported accommodation services for adults with Learning Disabilities currently provided in Stornoway will be undertaken with a view to reporting back in February 2011 in relation to the scope of the project.</p>
Bus na Comhairle: Procurement of Replacement Vehicles	30*	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle homologate the actions of the Director of Technical Services in funding the purchase of replacement vehicles outlined in the Report through prudential borrowing.</p>
Cleansing Services Fleet Replacement	31	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the implementation of the Cleansing Services Vehicle Replacement Programme and that this was being funded through prudential borrowing as agreed by the Comhairle on 2 September 2010.</p> <p>Arising out of consideration of this matter it was further agreed to recommend that future purchases of vehicles be delegated to the appropriate Director subject to the approval of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources.</p>
Tender for the Provision of Insurance Services	32	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree the evaluation criteria and weightings that would be used to determine the most economically advantageous tender, as detailed in paragraph 5.4 of the Report.</p>
Best Value Service Review of Civic Catering	33*	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the completion of the Best Value Review of Civic Catering, on the basis that the Director of Education and Children's Services would submit an improvement plan based on the recommendations contained within the Review to a future meeting of the Comhairle.</p>

Best Value Service Review of School Catering	34*	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the completion of the Best Value Review of School Catering on the basis that the Director of Education and Children's Services would submit an improvement plan based on the recommendations contained within the Review to a future meeting of the Comhairle.
Universal Home Insulation Scheme - Offer of Grant from Scottish Government	35	It was agreed to recommend, in so far as the Committee's interests were concerned, that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the offer for Universal Home Insulation Scheme funds of £320k by the Scottish Government be accepted by the Comhairle; (2) the Comhairle allocated £50k from Private Sector Housing funding as its contribution towards the UHIS; and (3) the tender evaluation criteria detailed at paragraph 7.3 of the Report be approved and delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Development, to award the contract to the tenderer whose tender was judged to be the most economically advantageous in terms of the said criteria.
Inter Island Business Development Scheme	36	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) to a four month extension to 31 December 2010 to allow all outstanding commitments to be claimed; (2) to seek engagement with Scottish Government to make the case for the inclusion of the Sounds of Harris and Barra crossings in any subsequent RET scheme developed following the completion of the pilot phase; and (3) that a further Report should be submitted to the Transportation and Sustainable Committees in December 2010, following discussions with all relevant parties identifying any potential sources of funding to continue the scheme.
Lasair Information Service Limited	37*	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree to dispose of the current shareholding in Lasair Information Services Limited at the value as detailed in the Report.
Prospective Applications for EU Assistance Autumn 2010	38*	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the progress made regarding the submission of Stage 2 bids to Round 5 of the EU ESF and ERDF Highlands and Islands Convergence Programmes 2007 – 2013, as set out in the Report; (2) agree the request for £65k of match funding from the Comhairle's Revenue Match Fund in respect of the Outer Hebrides Hydrogen Infrastructure Development application; (3) release the matching capital required for the Lews Castle and Museum nan Eilean Project from the Capital Programme and that this project be amended to include the relocation of the Lews Castle College Nursery for site clearance purposes within the bid on the basis of future partnership working with Lews Castle College; (4) note the position regarding future revenue funding in respect of the Lews Castle and Museum nan Eilean Project; (5) release the Capital Grant for £625k for the Lochboisdale Regeneration Project; (6) release the Capital Funding available for the A865 Spinal Route Improvements (Uist); and (7) agree the request for £70.5k from Sgailean, Western Isles Foyer for match funding on the basis of the further information which had been provided by the applicant and which had been incorporated into this Report.
Islepact and G P Wind	39*	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the responsibilities of the Comhairle for the project co-ordination and other functions in respect of the ISLE-PACT project, and for project management in respect of the GP Wind project; (2) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Development, to agree an appropriate contract with AB to discharge the functions of the project co-ordinator for the ISLE-PACT project, and project manager for the GP Wind project, on such terms and conditions as the Chief Executive shall deem appropriate, and on the basis of the project requirements as set out in paragraph 4.1-5.6 of this Report: and (3) authorise the Chief Executive, if required by the EU Commission, to hold the

signing authority for the ISLE-PACT project.

Human Resources Strategy: Departmental Structures	40*	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) authorise the Chief Executive to commence consultation exercises, within each Department, on potential reduction of service areas, senior management posts, the numbers of professional officers and re-distribution of services;(2) note that further Reports, following the consultation exercises would be submitted to the Service Committees and the Policy and Resources Committee at the December 2010 and February 2011 series of meetings; and(3) the Chief Executive be authorised to extend requests for interest in voluntary severance to further occupational groups of employees within the Comhairle.
Alternative and Renewal Energy: Proposed Establishment of Energy Unit	41	<p>It was agreed to recommend, in so far as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) agree to the establishment of an Energy Unit within the Development Department, to take lead responsibility for promotion of the Comhairle's strategies for alternative and renewable energy developments;(2) authorise the Chief Executive and the Director of Development to make the necessary arrangements to establish the Unit; and(3) grant authority to the Leader, Chairman of Sustainable Development Committee, Chief Executive and Director of Development to take forward implementation of the Comhairle's decisions and policies in relation to energy including all relevant lobbying activity on the basis of regular Reports back to the Sustainable Development and Policy and Resources Committees.
Statutory Review of Polling Stations And Polling Districts	42	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) the commencement of the statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places; and(2) that the outcome of the review be considered by the Comhairle at the February 2011 series of Meetings.
End of Year Performance Report 2009/10	43	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.</p>
Reports Outstanding: Progress	44	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.</p>
		<p>ADDITIONAL ITEM</p>
Temporary Homeless Accommodation	45	<p>It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) note the budget issues relating to the Homeless Budget;(2) support the use of Additional Council Tax Income from Second Homes (ACTISH) to purchase suitable properties on the open market to use as a temporary homeless accommodation;(3) give delegated authority to the Director of Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, to purchase additional properties from unused funding from the ACTISH allocations up to 2010/11;(4) request that the Hebridean Housing Partnership consider the provision of additional properties for use as temporary accommodation, and;(5) note that a progress Report on the Shared Temporary Accommodation Unit would be presented to the December 2010 series of meetings.