



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in the
Council Offices, Stornoway,
on Wednesday 25 June 2008
at 9.30am

PRESENT

Mr Angus Campbell (Chairman)
Mr Norman A MacDonald (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Alexander A MacDonald
Mrs Morag Munro
Mr Archie K Campbell
Mr Donald Manford
Mrs Agnes Rennie
Mr John A Maciver
Mr Norman M Macleod
Mr Roddie Mackay
Mrs Annie Macdonald

APOLOGIES

Mr Charlie Nicolson

Tribute: Mr Roy
Cameron

The Chairman referred to Mr Roy Cameron who was attending his last meeting of the Comhairle as he would be retiring on 11 July 2008. Roy had been an employee of the Comhairle's Technical Services Department since July 1977, when he joined the Comhairle as a Quantity Surveyor. Roy then became Principal Quantity Surveyor in 1979 before becoming Assistant Director in 1985.

On behalf of the Comhairle the Chairman thanked Roy for his all his work over many years of service in the Technical Services Department and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Harris Tweed

The Chairman referred to the current situation in relation to Harris Tweed, namely, despite the current positive outlook and the Comhairle's support for the Liaison Group there was a current down turn in production with many weavers facing unemployment and when there was no work weavers did not automatically qualify for unemployment benefits.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle make representations to the appropriate body to seek to support weavers temporarily unemployed and not eligible for benefits.

MINUTES

Minute of
Meeting of 24
April 2008

1 The Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 was **approved**.

Declaration of
Interest

2 Mr Norman M Macleod declared an interest in item 25 in relation to the relocation of bulk fuels and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

The Chairman declared a non pecuniary interest in item 46 as Chairman of the Western Isles Credit Union.

Mrs Morag Munro declared an interest in item 38 as an employee of Harris Voluntary Service and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

Minute of Meeting of Local Government Employee JCC of 6 June 2008	3	The Minute of Meeting of the Local Government Employee JCC of 6 June 2008 was approved .
Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 19 June 2008	4	This item was withdrawn as the meeting of 19 June 2008 had been postponed until 26 June 2008.
Minute of Meeting of Joint Services Committee of 19 June 2008	5	The Minute of Meeting of Joint Services Committee of 19 June 2008 was approved .
Minute of Meeting of ICT, Procurement and Asset Management Sub-Committee of 23 June 2008	6	The Minute of Meeting of ICT, Procurement and Asset Management Sub-Committee of 23 June 2008 was approved .

COMMITTEES

Joint Services Committee: Vacancy C01.03.01	7	The Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought the appointment of a Member to the vacancy on the Joint Services Committee, following the resignation of Mr Roddie Mackay. It was indicated in the Report that at the time Mr Mackay had been recommended for appointment, the Comhairle also requested the Mrs Munro be appointed to the Committee but NHS Western Isles had only been in a position to appoint one additional member and therefore only Mr Mackay's appointment had been confirmed at that time.
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It was agreed to recommend that Mrs Morag Munro be matched to the vacancy on the Joint Services Committee.

Social Work Department Budget Working Group C02	8	The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and the Acting Director of Social Work submitted a Joint Report seeking the establishment of a short life Working Group to consider the budgetary pressures on the Social Work Department and how efficiencies could be achieved. It was proposed in the Report that the Working Group should comprise five Comhairle members and a number of officers, as determined by the Chief Executive. It was indicated that the Joint Services Committee had recommended that NHS Western Isles be requested to nominate a member to the Working Group. It was further indicated in the Report that it was anticipated that the Working Group would report back to the Committee no later than October 2008.
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It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) a Member of NHS Western Isles be invited to represent NHS Western Isles on the Social Work Department Budget Working Group; and**
- (2) the following four Members be appointed to the Social Work Department Budget Working Group:
Annie MacDonald
Angus Campbell
Catherine Macdonald
John Mackay**

Genealogy Member Officer Working Group: Proposal to Amend Remit C02 9 With reference to item 32 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which detailed a proposal by the Genealogy Member Officer Working Group to amend its remit. It was indicated in the Report that, at the first meeting of the Genealogy Member Officer Working Group, Members had expressed a strong view that the Genealogy Service should include archiving and that the wider implications of the service should be considered with genealogy, culture and tourism linking together. The proposed revised remit of the Group was detailed at paragraph 2.1 of the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the revised remit of the Genealogy Member Officer Working Group, as detailed at paragraph 2.1 of the Report, be approved.

FINANCE

General Fund Capital Outturn 2007/08 PR110.03 10 With reference to item 5 of the Minute of Meeting of 9 February 2006 the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which provided details of the final outturn of the Capital Programme for 2007/08 as at 31 March 2008 and sought approval of the Capital Programme for 2008/09. The expenditure approved for funding by Prudential Borrowing and CFCR was detailed at Appendix 1 to the Report and Appendices 2 and 3 summarised the expenditure and income by Committee for 2007/08 and slippage to 2008/09. It was indicated in the Report that, in line with previous Comhairle decisions, it was proposed that the underspend from the 2004-08 programme would be applied to the Spinal Route project and therefore reduce the additional prudential borrowing required.

It was agreed to recommend that;

- (1) the capital expenditure to 31 March 2008 be noted;**
- (2) the revised Programme for 2008/09 be approved; and**
- (3) the underspend of £234k in the 2004-08 Capital Programme be applied to the Spinal Route and the outstanding balance of £186k be funded by Prudential Borrowing, with the associated loan charges being funded from the Transportation Revenue Account.**

General Fund Revenue Outturn 2007/08 PR110.08 11 With reference to item 4 of the Minute of Meeting of 9 February 2006 the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which detailed the Comhairle's revenue outturn for 2007/08 and sought approval for departmental carry forwards. A summary of the Comhairle's outturn was detailed at Appendix A to the Report and details of overspends by department were outlined in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the Report be noted;**
- (2) Reports be submitted to the relevant committees at the August/September 2008 series of meetings detailing how the overspends in Sustainable Communities, Social Work and Technical Services occurred and to what extent the overspends above the 1 percent tolerance could be funded by departments;**
- (3) the carry forward of budgets detailed in Appendix D to the Report be approved; and**
- (4) the allocation of an additional £200k to the provision for increase in fuel prices and £80k to the Modernising Government Fund be approved.**

Draft Abstract of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2008
PR120.07

12

The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which sought approval for the submission of the Draft Abstract of Accounts to Audit Scotland. It was indicated in the Report that the accounts required to be submitted by 30 June 2008.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the Draft Accounts and Group Accounts be approved for submission to Audit Scotland; and**
- (2) it be delegated to the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources to submit the Group Accounts as soon as possible after the figures had been received.**

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 9 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, namely information relating to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Comhairle in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services, would be disclosed.

Commercial Operations Unit Fourth Quarter Monitoring Report: 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008
CB011

13*

The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which detailed the trading performance of the Commercial Operations Unit as at 31 March 2008. An analysis of income and expenditure was detailed at Appendix 1 to the Report and a summary of the statutory STOs' three year rolling target was also detailed in the Appendix.

It was agreed to recommend that the Report be noted.

Annual Treasury Management Report
PR120.06

14

With reference to item 19 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 June 2007 the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which detailed the Comhairle's treasury activities for 2007/08. It was indicated in the Report that the management and operation of the Loans Fund in 2007/08 had generated loan charge savings of £395,620 compared to budget and the reasons for these savings were outlined in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Report be noted.

It was agreed that the public including the press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the Appendix to the following item on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 5 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to the adoption, care, fostering or education of any particular child or relating to the supervision of residence of any particular child in accordance with a supervision requirement made in respect of that child under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 would be disclosed.

Specialist Mainland Placements for Children 2008/09
SW01

15*

With reference to item 7 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Acting Director of Social Work submitted a Report which detailed the continuing pressures placed on revenue budgets by the cost of specialist mainland placements for children and detailed the current budgetary provision in relation to these placements. It was indicated in the Report that representations were being made to Scottish Ministers in relation to this matter.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the forecasted costs for children's specialist mainland placements as detailed in the Report and in Appendix 1 to the Report be approved;**
- (2) the shortfall in revenue funding required to meet the current levels of demand for outreach respite services, which would be considered jointly by the Social Work and Education Departments, be noted; and**

- (3) **the position with regard to the need for a specialist residential respite unit for children and young people with severe and complex special needs be noted.**

It was agreed that the public including the press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the Appendix to the following item on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to any particular application for, or recipient or former recipient of, any service provided by the Comhairle, would be disclosed.

Adult Specialist Mainland Placements 2008/09 SW01	16*	<p>With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Acting Director of Social Work submitted a Report which detailed the continuing pressures placed on revenue budgets by the cost of specialist mainland placements for adults. It was indicated that a budgetary deficit was currently being forecast due to a recent new placement.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that the forecasted costs for adults' specialist mainland placements as detailed in the Report and in Appendix 1 to the Report be noted.</p>
Write Off of Debts PR100.07	17	<p>With reference to item 11 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which recommended that a number of irrecoverable debts be written off. The debts were listed in the Appendix to the Report, together with the reasons for their being irrecoverable.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that the debts listed in Appendix A to the Report, totalling £71,420.20 be written off.</p>
Budget and Corporate Strategy 2009-11 PR100.02	18	<p>With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 13 December 2007 the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which recommended a framework for setting the 2009-11 budgets in line with the Comhairle's strategic objectives. The key budgetary issues for the Comhairle and how these were proposed to be addressed were detailed in section 4 of the Report and an update analysis was detailed in Appendix A to the Report. It was further indicated that work on the next three year settlement would begin shortly and the Comhairle would be required to agree on a strategy to ensure that its ability to deliver essential services was maintained. A proposed timetable for taking forward the overall strategy was detailed in section 5 of the Report.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the format of the SOA be used as the basis for planning and reporting on the Corporate Strategy from 2009/10 onwards; (2) the approach and timetable for the development of the 2009-11 budget as set out in sections 4 and 5 of the Report be approved; and (3) the position in relation to the funding of the WISP be noted and that it be agreed that £252k be used to support the WISP on the same basis as the £1.9m previously agreed in February 2008.
A Fairer Local Tax for Scotland – Consultation PR100.03.01	19	<p>With reference to item 10 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which sought approval of the proposed response to the consultation being undertaken by the Scottish Government on its plans to replace the Council Tax with a Local Income Tax. A copy of the consultation paper was appended to the Report and it was indicated that the deadline for responses was 18 July 2008. It was further indicated, in the Report, that a Members' Seminar had been held in May 2008 and the implications of the proposals had been discussed at the Seminar. A draft response to the consultation was appended to the Report and it was indicated in the Report that the issues raised at the Seminar had been used to compile the draft response.</p>

It was agreed to recommend that it be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Finance and Strategy Working Group, to finalise the response to the consultation taking into account COSLA's position and views expressed by Members at the meeting, that a draft response be issued to all Members prior to the meeting of the Finance and Strategy Working Group, that all Members be invited to attend the meeting of the Finance and Strategy Working Group and that the response agreed by the Finance and Strategy Working Group be issued to all Members for final comment prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

Fisheries Local
Guarantee
Scheme Update
DS40.33.242

20

With reference to item 15 of the Minute of Meeting of the Sustainable Development Committee of 22 June 2006 the Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Report which provided an update on the Fisheries Loan Scheme. It was indicated in the Report that in a Report submitted to the Sustainable Development Committee in June 2006 it had been agreed to recommend that the Comhairle continue the partnership loan guarantee scheme as at present, utilising the portion of the Comhairle's guarantee as it becomes available and that avenues would be explored to identify ways to bring additional resources to the Fisheries Loan Scheme. It was further indicated in the Report that no new resources had been identified and the Comhairle's current Global Guarantee was fully utilised and had been for some considerable time and therefore a mechanism was required to enable the Fisheries Loan Scheme to continue in the long term.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the success of the Fisheries Loan Scheme and the future funding implications of the Global Guarantee be noted; and**
- (2) it be remitted to Finance and Strategy Working Group to consider possible means of making additional loans available and report back to the next meeting of the relevant Committees.**

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 Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Schedule 7A to 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 and information relating to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Comhairle in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services would be disclosed.

Industrial
Female School
DS41

21*

With reference to item 13 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought agreement to support the Lewis and Harris Building Preservation Trust in progressing plans for the Industrial Female School as part of the Stornoway Townscape Heritage Initiative. It was proposed in the Report that the Comhairle agree, in principle, to facilitate the drawdown of THI funding for design fees, subject to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, being satisfied that there would be no unacceptable risk to the Comhairle in acting as guarantor. Under discussion it was agreed that this proposal be the subject of a further Report when a completed funding package was in place.

It was agreed to recommend that it be delegated to the Chief Executive to put in place the necessary agreement to facilitate the draw down of up to £104,700 of THI funding to meet the eligible fees of the Industrial Female School Project.

Panel of
Safeguarders:
Proposed
Increase in
Fees
SW02.01.02

22

With reference to item 28 of the Minute of Meeting of 4 September 2003 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which detailed a proposal to increase the fees paid to Safeguarders, in line with inflation. It was indicated in the Report that Safeguarders may be appointed by a Children's Hearing or a Sheriff when they consider this is required to safeguard the interests of a child in any proceedings. The fees currently paid to Safeguarders and the proposed fees were detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the fees paid to Safeguarders be increased, from 1 April 2008, in line with inflation, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report; and
- (2) it be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, to increase the fees annually in line with such inflationary rate as he should determine most appropriate.

BUSINESS PLANS

<p>Departmental Business Plans 2008/09 SS02.04</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>The Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval of the Business Plans for 2008/09. It was indicated in the Report that draft business plans had been submitted to the Service Committees for comments in February 2009 and following consultation with staff and other stakeholders, the plans had been amended to include additional information.</p>
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It was agreed to recommend that the Business Plans 2008/09 be approved.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

<p>Stornoway Town Hall LB35.01</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>With reference to item 13 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Report in relation to the future use of Stornoway Town Hall. It was indicated in the Report that the estimated cost of the proposed work to Stornoway Town Hall was about £2.1m and this was subject to a successful ERDF bid for £500k. It was further indicated that, as the full resources of £4.1m required to renovate the Town Hall to the standard outlined in the 2005 report were not available, it was essential that instructions were given to the design team on the scope and priorities of the works to be undertaken should the £2.1m become available.</p>
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It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, develop a prioritised scheme of works for the Town Hall which would allow for the maximising of external funding; and
- (2) the Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sustainable Development Committee and the Members for the Steornabagh a Deas Ward, consider proposals for the future use of the Stornoway Town Hall on the basis of the previously agreed Option 4 and submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee with detailed proposals.

Mr Norman M Macleod declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

<p>2008-12 Capital Programme – Capital Grants PR110.00</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which provided an update on the position of the Capital Grants included in the 2008-12 Capital Programme. The Report detailed that a successful application had been made for consent for fifteen Grant Schemes included in the 2008-12 Capital Programme and these were detailed in Appendix B to the Report.</p>
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The Chairman congratulated all the officers involved in the Finance and Corporate Resources Department for all of their work in relation to this matter.

It was agreed to recommend that the status of the Capital Grants included in the 2008-12 Programme be noted.

Release of Capital for Waste Services CH03.08.05 26 The Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Report concerning the release into the Comhairle's Capital Programme for 2008-12 of capital sums for works associated with the implementation of the Comhairle's Waste Strategy which had been approved under the Core and Statutory Programme 2008-12. The objectives of the projects and procedures to be followed to manage the programme of works were outlined in the Report. Three Project Initiation Documents had been prepared for the projects and these were appended to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the approved capital projects CS EPS4, Metal Baler, Maintenance of Civic Amenity Skips and Community Recycling Centres, in the sum of £1,450k be released into the 2008-12 live programme;**
- (2) the capital released under CS EPS54 be allocated into two streams; (1) replacement baler £200k; and (2) Community Recycling Sites £1,250k;**
- (3) a further Report be submitted to the Environment and Protective Services Committee outlining the options for the new Community Recycling Centres Programme and addressing the related revenue consequences of the strategy prior to implementation; and**
- (4) the release into the live programme for 2008-12 for approved composite capital project CS EPS2, amounting to £3,000k, for Mandatory Works Associated with the delivery of the Comhairle's Waste Strategy be approved.**

Contract Management in the Capital Programme PR10 27 The Chief Executive submitted a Report which proposed a mechanism for dealing with project/contract risks in the Capital Programme 2008-12. It was indicated in the Report that the Finance and Strategy Working Group had met to discuss the handling of risk and the proposals that were detailed in the Report were largely based on the mechanisms being set up by the Head of Project Delivery to address risk. The Report highlighted the role of the Project Co-ordinator and Project Team for each project and existing rules in terms of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the proposals to address contractual risk before award of and during the currency of a capital contract be approved and specifically the provisions for a detailed Risk Register in relation to projects with an estimated capital value in excess of £1 million (notwithstanding that the Comhairle's contribution may be less than that sum), projects whose estimated outturn exceeded £1 million at any stage after award and projects with an estimated value of less than £1 million but which were considered by the Chief Executive to merit enhanced attention to risk;**
- (2) in the awarding of contracts within the Capital Programme 2008-12, due regard be taken of available resources within the Comhairle's Commercial Operations Unit prior to the invitation of external bids;**
- (3) the Chief Executive, in consultation with Finance and Strategy Working Group, be authorised to revert to an early future meeting of the Committee in relation to further steps which could be taken to achieve best value within the Capital Programme 2008-12; and**
- (4) it be noted that Risk Management training would be provided to members.**

Community Renewables Support Fund: Scheme of Administration DS01 28 With reference to item 24 of the Minute of Meeting of 22 June 2004 the Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Report which sought approval of a Scheme of Administration for the new 2008-12 Community Renewables Support Fund Grant Programme. It was stated in the Report that the Community Renewables Support Fund had been established by the Comhairle in 2004 in order to support communities to develop community based energy solutions for infrastructure in their localities. The proposed Scheme of Administration was appended to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the Community Renewables Support Fund Scheme of Administration, as set out in the Appendix to the Report, be approved; and**
- (2) the Director for Sustainable Communities be granted delegation to award grants under the Scheme to a maximum of £20,000 and the Scheme of Delegation be amended accordingly.**

Community Regeneration Fund: Scheme of Administration DS01 29 With reference to item 43 of the Minute of Meeting of 30 August 2006 the Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Report which sought approval of a Scheme of Administration for the new 2008-12 Community Regeneration Fund Grant Programme. It was stated in the Report that the Community Regeneration Fund was a new Capital Programme grant scheme for 2008-12 which comprised an amalgamation of several of the Comhairle's previous capital grants to communities, namely, ACE Challenge, Community Initiated Projects, Village Hall Match Fund and Arts Capital Grant. A detailed Scheme of Administration for the new Community Regeneration Fund was appended to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Scheme of Administration for the new Community Regeneration Fund be approved.

BUILDINGS

Capital Works: Programme and Progress PR33.01.12 30 With reference to item 16 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Director of Technical Services submitted a Report detailing programme and progress in respect of properties held on the Policy and Resources and Social Work accounts at pre-construction and construction stages.

It was agreed to recommend that the Report be noted.

Modular Buildings – Associated Issues and Risks LB06 31 The Director of Technical Services submitted a Report which detailed the key issues and risks associated with the utilisation of modular buildings for Comhairle Capital Projects. The distinction between complete modular buildings and modular components was detailed at paragraphs 4.1 to 4.5 of the Report. The development and current usage of complete modular buildings was detailed at paragraphs 5.1 to 5.5 of the Report and the key issues and risks associated with the utilisation of complete modular construction solutions were detailed at paragraphs 6.1 – 6.8 of the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the issues and risks identified in the Report be noted.

Repairs and Maintenance (Revenue) Programme 2007/2008: Quarterly Expenditure Report to 31 March 2008 PR33.01.12 32 With reference to item 24 of the Minute of Meeting of 13 December 2007 the Director of Technical Services submitted a Report informing Members of the situation in respect of expenditure on repairs and maintenance of properties held on Policy and Resources and Social Work Committee accounts to 31 March 2008.

It was agreed to recommend that the Report be noted and it be noted that further reports on the repairs and maintenance of Comhairle properties would continue to be placed before Committee at quarterly intervals.

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 Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Comhairle and information relating to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Comhairle in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services would be disclosed.

Asset Management Planning LB06 33* With reference to item 20 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Chief Executive submitted a Report concerning the progress of the development of Asset Management Planning and detailing two specific proposals relative to existing assets and Asset Management Development. The background to the Marybank Depot site and to NHS asset management and planning was detailed in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that progress to date be noted and the two proposals for feasibility and development be approved.

Western Isles Schools Project Update E01.02.15 34 With reference to item 17 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided an update in relation to the progress of the Western Isles Schools Project. It was indicated in the Report that the proposed refurbishment or rebuild of The Nicolson Institute represented the largest scope item within the Schools Project and would have a significant influence on the affordability and finalised scope of the project. It was further indicated that the accommodation schedules for each of the five schools were nearly complete and the other major items which required a decision were the location of the Primary Department of Sir E Scott School and the identification of a site for Balivanich School.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the progress in relation to the WISP be noted; and**
- (2) the engagement by the Chief Executive of Ms Jane Maciver to ensure a smooth handover between Project Managers be noted and the Chief Executive be authorised to engage Ms Maciver to carry out further work when it was considered by him to present best value to the project.**

GOVERNANCE

Integrated Services SW01 35 With reference to item 43 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 June 2007 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided details of the composition of the Project Team and a forward work plan in relation to the Integrated Services Delivery Project. It was indicated in the Report that funding of £100k had been secured to develop and implement integrated services in community access points, support for joint future, facilities management, reprographics and Gaelic translation. A proposal in relation to the composition of the Project Team, which had been approved by the Community Planning Partnership on 12 June 2008 and which reflected the importance of engagement at a senior level, was detailed in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the potential commitment of NHS Western Isles to integrate services be welcomed;**
- (2) the approval of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership of funding to support the process of integrating services be noted; and**
- (3) the composition of the Integrated Services Project Team, as detailed in paragraph 6.4 of the Report, be noted.**

Single Outcome Agreement PR10 36 With reference to item 22 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Chief Executive submitted a Report concerning the Comhairle's Single Outcome Agreement for 2008/09 with the Scottish Government. The final draft Single Outcome Agreement was appended to the Report and it was indicated in the Report that the Finance and Strategy Working Group and the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership had approved the final draft. The five principles behind the development of Single Outcome Agreements were outlined in the Report. It was stated in the Report that Single Outcome Agreements between the Scottish Government and each of the Councils in Scotland required to be concluded no later than 30 June 2008.

It was agreed to recommend that the final draft Single Outcome Agreement between the Comhairle and the Scottish Government be approved subject to the minor amendments agreed at the meeting and the inclusion of recently received comments from community planning partners and the Chief Executive be authorised to submit the agreement to Scottish Government by 30 June 2008.

EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The Outer Hebrides LEADER Programme 2007-2013 DS61 37 With reference to item 31 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 February 2008 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval to accept the anticipated offer of combined LEADER and Convergence Funding of £3.25 million for the period 2007/08-2013 on behalf of the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group. The Report provided further information in relation to LEADER and Convergence funding awards to the Outer Hebrides for the period 2008-2013 and the implications for the Comhairle. It was indicated in the Report that the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group had been disappointed with the methodology for calculating the awards and the level of funding awarded.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) **it be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Vice-Convenor, the Chairman of Sustainable Development Committee and the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, to accept the proposed combined offer of LEADER and Convergence funding of £2.8m on behalf of the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group;**
- (2) **the Comhairle agree to act as lead agency for the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group and approve the match funding detailed in the Appendix to the Report and agree in principle to the higher level of matching funding totalling £6.9m with a view to accessing additional EU funds in later rounds;**
- (3) **it be agreed that the LEADER programme be delivered in-house as outlined in item 7.2 of the report;**
- (4) **the LEADER Match Fund for LEADER capital and revenue projects, be addressed as part of the Comhairle's overall match fund; and**
- (5) **representations continue to be made at a political level in relation to the methodology used for calculating LEADER and Convergence funding, the level of award and the decision making process.**

BEST VALUE

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 Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Comhairle and information relating to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Comhairle in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services would be disclosed.

Mrs Morag Munro declared an interest in the following item, as an employee of Harris Voluntary Service, and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

Grounds
Maintenance
Strategic Best
Value Review
L10.281

38* With reference to item 40 of the Minute of Meeting of 13 December 2007 the Director of Technical Services submitted a Report which detailed the outcome of the Best Value Review in relation to Grounds Maintenance. It was suggested, in the Report, that there was sufficient interest to recommend that the service be competitively tendered as a single contract package for the whole area for a four year term and tenders should be sought on a fixed price basis for the full contract duration. It was also suggested that, in order to make the tender affordable, three alternative specifications be sought for each element of the Contract.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the service should be competitively tendered and advertised in OJEU and the appropriate public sector portal as a single contract package for the whole area (except as modified by (2) below);**
- (2) provided that the pilot scheme in the Point area was successful, consideration be given to negotiating a 4 year Service Level Agreement with Staran for these sites, the approximate annual value was currently in the order of £6,500;**
- (3) the contract duration should be 4 years with no provision to extend;**
- (4) the contract should be on a fixed price basis for the full contract duration;**
- (5) a Contract Guarantee bond should be required for 10% of the contract value and should not be reduced on an annual value basis;**
- (6) tenders be invited on the basis of up to three alternative specifications for each area; and**
- (7) the Chief Executive be authorised to explore with Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) possible options for transferring financial and management responsibilities for Grounds Maintenance of land currently in HHP ownership while retaining the works and contract management with the Comhairle.**

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

Application for
Inclusion in
Standing Lists
of Approved
Contractors
PR31.07

39 With reference to item 25 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Director of Technical Services submitted a Report which proposed the inclusion of H2O Cost Reduction Services in the plumbing and other specialist works approved lists of contractors.

It was agreed to recommend that the Contractors detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report be included in the Standing Lists of Approved Contractors.

Application for
Inclusion in
Standing Lists
of Approved
Sub-
Consultants
PR31.07

40 With reference to item 25 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Director of Technical Services submitted a Report which proposed the inclusion of the civil and structural engineering sub-consultants as detailed in the Appendix to the Report subject, in some cases, to confirmation of their level of public liability insurance cover being received.

It was agreed to recommend that the Sub-Consultants detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report be included in the Standing Lists of Approved Sub-Consultants.

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 Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Comhairle and information relating to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Comhairle in the course of negotiations for

a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services would be disclosed.

Standing
Approved Lists
of Contractors:
Construction
Skills
Certification
Scheme –
Progress
PR31.07

41*

With reference to item 34 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 February 2008 the Director of Technical Services submitted a Report which detailed the results of site visits and a desktop survey in relation to compliance with the requirement to have the appropriate level of registration in relation to the Construction Skills Certification Scheme. It was stated in the Report that some contractors had indicated that they were experiencing difficulty in securing appropriate training from Construction Skills and had approached alternative training providers. It was indicated in the Report that it was necessary, under Health and Safety Executive requirements, that all contractors demonstrated substantial compliance with the Construction Skills Certification Scheme and that if this was not the case, the contractors could be removed from Comhairle lists.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) progress to date on this matter be noted; and**
- (2) the Director of Technical Services be authorised to carry out investigations detailed in the Report and report back to the August series of meetings in relation to specific issues of non-compliance.**

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 Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely, information relating to the amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Comhairle under any particular contract for the acquisition of property and information relating to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Comhairle in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services would be disclosed.

Procurement of
New Hardware
for Council
Tax/Benefits
Section

42

The Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report which sought approval for the procurement of a new hardware platform for the Council Tax/Benefits system. It was indicated in the Report that in November 2002 the iWorld Council Tax/Benefits system was upgraded to the then latest version and the system required a hardware update in order to support it. It was further indicated that the latest proposals included a significant change that would require the current hardware platform to be replaced and due to the rollout programme and support window for the current version, the upgrade would require to be completed by Mid September 2008.

It was agreed to recommend that the purchase of a new server from Northgate Information Systems Ltd for the processing of Council Tax/Benefits by funding its purchase from Prudential Borrowing be approved.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Organisational
Reviews
M02.07

43

The Chief Executive submitted a Report which detailed the outcome of discussions which had been ongoing for some time with trade unions regarding the procedure to be followed for organisational reviews. The Report indicated that it was proposed that three documents, namely, a local protocol establishing the principle surrounding the undertaking of reviews, the detail of the workforce change procedure and a summary in relation to employee consultation and consultation were required.

It was agreed to recommend that the Procedure for undertaking Organisational Reviews, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the Report, be approved subject to the inclusion of a review procedure, as recommended by the Local Government Employee Joint Consultative Committee.

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 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to a particular employee, former employee or

applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office holder or former office holder, or applicant to become an office holder under, the Comhairle would be disclosed.

Children's
Services
Department
M02.07

44*

With reference to item 38 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 February 2008 the Chief Executive submitted a Report concerning the proposal to establish a new Children's Services Department and the ongoing consultancy work being undertaken by Mr Ian Gamble, Consultant. It was stated in the Report that proposals had been identified, as part of the overall review of the Comhairle's organisational structure, establishing the principle of a new Children's Services Department comprising the existing Education Department and the Children and Families Service from the Social Work Department. It was indicated in the Report that the new Department would be established on 1 January 2009.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) subject to the approval by the Comhairle of the Report by Mr Ian Gamble, the post of Director of Education be disestablished and the postholder declared redundant;**
- (2) subject to the approval by the Comhairle of the Report by Mr Ian Gamble, the post of Director of Children's Services be established;**
- (3) subject to the approval by the Comhairle of the Report by Mr Ian Gamble,**
- (4) the structure of the Children's Services Department be considered by the Comhairle on 30 October 2008;**
- (5) the Chief Social Work Officer be granted delegation to appoint an Interim Head of Children and Families Services through direct selection or using an appropriate professional body; and**
- (6) the Chief Social Work Officer lead the current review into integration of Children's Services in relation to social work related matters.**

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 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office holder or former office holder, or applicant to become an office holder under, the Comhairle would be disclosed.

Review of
Organisational
Structures
M02.07

45*

With reference to item 27 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Chief Executive submitted a Report in relation to the future structures of the Comhairle's Departments. It was stated in the Report that the future structure of the Comhairle would consist of the following departments:

- Chief Executive's Department
- Finance and Corporate Resources Department
- Development Department
- Social and Community Services Department
- Technical Services Department
- Children's Services Department (in principle)

Details of the consultation exercise undertaken, forward direction for the Comhairle, financial implications and future considerations were outlined in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) (i) in relation to the Chief Executive's Department;**
 - (a) all aspects relating to energy strategy be subject to further consultation within the next three months;**

- (b) the Arts and Culture and Single Funding remits remain within the allocated Sections and be subject to review within the next six months;
 - (c) the post of Assistant Director, Environmental Health, Uist & Barra transfer to the Chief Executive's Department, with all environmental health and waste management duties charged back to the relevant department, subject to a detailed SLA;
 - (d) the post of Management Services Officer be made redundant and the funding transferred to the Chief Executive's Department, all details subject to a further report to Human Resources Sub Committee; and
 - (e) the placing of the Asset Planning Manager within the Comhairle's structure should be reconsidered due to the corporate value of the post.
- (ii) in relation to ex Sustainable Communities Department:
- (a) the Waste Management function transfer to the Technical Services Department as the preferred model of service delivery for client/contractor units;
 - (b) the postholder currently acting as Principal Administrative Officer be appointed on a permanent basis and subject to Job Evaluation and transfer to the Waste Management Section, Technical Services Department;
 - (c) the Senior Administrative Assistant (vacant post) transfer to the Social and Community Services Department;
 - (d) the Administrative Assistant (vacant post) transfer to the Waste Management Section, Technical Services Department;
 - (e) the Secretary transfer to the Development Department;
 - (f) the Customer Care Officer transfer to the Development Department;
 - (g) the Electronic Services Delivery Officer transfer to the Development Department, and
 - (h) the Uist based support staff employees will transfer to the Chief Executive's Department managed by the Assistant Director, subject to recharging and a suitable SLA being in place.
- (iii) in relation to the Finance and Corporate Resources Department:
- (a) the Stores Function transfer from the COU to the Procurement Section, subject to the separation of procurement and operational aspects with the date of transfer no later than 31 December 2008;
 - (b) the issues regarding possible future links to CRM and Faire be subject to further consultation;
 - (c) any Facilities Management function transfer to the Technical Services Department, subject to further consultation on aspects relating to building security; and
 - (d) the COU transfer to the Technical Services Department.
- (iv) In relation to the Technical Services Department, subject to the approval of 3.1 (ii) (a) and 3.1 (iii) (c),
- (a) the post of Assistant Director be redesigned and retitled as Head of Estates;

- (b) the Building Maintenance Contractor function, Lewis and Harris (COU) transfer into the Estates Section;
 - (c) the Estates Section take responsibility for Facilities Management;
 - (d) Roads Maintenance including operational aspects of winter maintenance, Street Lighting and Bus Operation, Lewis/Harris (COU) transfer into the Transportation Section;
 - (e) in relation to the Bus Contract, the Chief Executive, in consultation with Audit Scotland, be authorised to enter into a best value arrangement in relation to such bus routes as should be deemed appropriate by him;
 - (f) in relation to the Bus Contract, the Director of Technical Services only enter into competitive bidding for bus routes other than those under the best value arrangement to regulate the market on the basis of the benchmark established;
 - (g) the Fleet Management Section, Lewis/Harris (COU) transfer to the Waste Management Section;
 - (h) the ex-COU functions for the Uist/Barra area be managed through the Contracts Manager (Uist/Barra);
 - (i) the Head of Resources (COU) transfer to the Technical Services Department Management Team to support the financial framework of the Department, and line manage the Business Management function and all administrative staff;
 - (j) the post of HHP Contract Manager be established, the grade subject to job evaluation; and
 - (k) the post of HHP Contract Co-ordination Assistant be established, the grade subject to job evaluation.
- (2) the effective date of the changes for departments be 1 July 2008 with the exception of the Children's Services Department;
- (3) additional reports requiring contractual changes be referred to the Human Resources Sub-Committee and subject to further consultation; and
- (4) interim arrangements be delegated to the Chief Executive.

HOUSING

The Chairman declared a non pecuniary interest in the following item as Chairman of the Western Isles Credit Union.

Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 Consultation H01 46

The Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Report which sought the agreement of the Comhairle as to the nature of the proposed response to the Scottish Government's Consultation exercise on draft guidance relating to the implementation of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 and agreement of arrangements for submission of the response by 1 July 2008.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the issues highlighted in the Report as being of particular significance or serious concern to the Comhairle be endorsed and that they be reflected in the Comhairle's submission to the Guidance Consultation exercise;
- (2) the Director for Sustainable Communities be granted delegated authority to finalise the detailed response to the consultation on the basis

discussed at the Housing Strategy Member Officer Working Group and that further information be sought on the role of the National Lending Unit and the possible role for credit unions and representations be made in relation to the particular implications for croft housing and the possible reinstatement of the crofters' loan scheme and that the narrative be strengthened to reflect the potential implications for the Western Isles and to issue the response to all Members by Friday 27 June 2008 and thereafter submit it to the Scottish Government by 1 July 2008; and

- (3) the Director for Sustainable Communities review the Housing Services team workloads and remits in preparation for the introduction of new legislation and that a Report be prepared for a future Comhairle meeting.

Affordable Housing Investment Programme 2008/09
H10

47

The Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Report concerning the Affordable Housing Investment Programme for 2008/09 and changes to the methodology for allocating Housing Association Grant. It was indicated in the Report that the allocation of funding for 2008/09 of £4.13m was a substantial reduction from the £6.45m awarded for 2007/08 and would impact on the Comhairle's ability to meet the objectives of its local housing strategy.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) **note the Affordable Housing Investment Programme of £4.1m for 2008/09 as shown at Appendix 1 to the Report; and**
- (2) **make representations to The Scottish Government to express serious concern at the reduction in Affordable Housing Investment Programme funding levels for the Western Isles and the changes to the Housing Association Grant calculation assumptions.**

Local Housing Strategy – Submission Requirement Update
H01

48

With reference to item 21 of the Minute of Meeting of 13 December 2007 the Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Report which detailed arrangements to review the Local Housing Strategy in 2008 and sought approval to commission consultancy support to assist the Comhairle in developing a fully revised Local Housing Strategy for the period 2009-2014.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) **a Report charting progress towards the targets of the Local Housing Strategy 2004-2009 be prepared for the August 2008 series of meetings;**
- (2) **it be noted that there was no requirement to make a formal LHS Update submission in 2008 to the Scottish Government; and**
- (3) **delegated authority be granted to the Director for Sustainable Communities to produce a consultancy brief for the development of the Local Housing Strategy 2009-2014 and in consultation with the Housing Strategy Member/Officer Working Group seek three competitive quotes through the Tender Direct Portal and appoint the most appropriate consultancy firm following the normal assessment procedure.**

It was further agreed to recommend that the Director for Sustainable Communities be requested to continue sending revised and updated information on the Local Housing Strategy to the Scottish Government notwithstanding that there was no formal requirement to submit this information in 2008.

RELATED MATTERS

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 Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Comhairle and information relating to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Comhairle in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services would be disclosed.

Future Plans for the Connected Communities Network DS61 49*

With reference to item 17 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 December 2007 the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and the Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Joint Report in relation to the status of the Connected Communities Network as it affected the development of the Comhairle's own unified communications strategy. It was stated in the Report that it had become apparent, in May 2006, that there was a £1.6million shortfall in revenue between what the pathfinder project was able to allocate and what was required by Connected Communities.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) it be noted that the future plans for the development of the Comhairle's unified Communications Strategy would depend on a robust contract with Connected Communities; and**
- (2) the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources respond to the Forward Strategy of Connected Communities, in line with the current Pathfinder arrangements and on the basis that the Comhairle did not incur additional charges for the service.**

Consultative Customer Service Strategy 2008/11 PR31.01 50

With reference to item 54 of the Minute of Meeting of 13 December 2007 the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources submitted a Report concerning the consultative draft Customer Service Strategy. It was stated in the Report that consultation would take place with Community Councils, Residents Associations, Community Planning Partners and Trade Unions over the summer and the final strategy would be presented to the next meeting of the Comhairle for approval.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the consultative draft Customer Service Strategy 2008-11 be approved;**
- (2) the proposed consultation process be agreed; and**
- (3) progress on the delivery of the Customer Services Project be noted.**

Volunteer Centre Monitoring Report 2007/08 AL04 51

With reference to item 51 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 June 2007 the Director for Sustainable Communities submitted a Report which detailed progress being made by the Volunteer Centre, Western Isles, in working towards their workplan for 2007/08. A self evaluation of progress towards the outcomes identified in the Volunteer Centre's workplan for 2007/08 was appended to the Report. It was indicated in the Report that the Comhairle provided an annual grant of £22,000 to the Volunteer Centre and a summary of progress towards meeting the outcomes of the Volunteer Centre's workplan was provided in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the progress made be noted and that a payment of grant of £22,000.00 for the financial year 2008-2009 be approved.

Bid for Mod nan Eilean Siar 2011 PR13.05.09 52

With reference to item 37 of the Minute of Meeting of 30 August 2006 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought views on a proposal to put forward a bid for the Western Isles to host the Royal National Mod in 2011. The Report stated that the Royal National Mod had last been held in the Western Isles in 2005 and had been one of the most successful Mods ever in terms of entrant and spectator numbers.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) **Comunn Gaidhealach Leòdhais be supported in their bid to attract the Royal National Mod to the Western Isles for 2011 on the basis outlined in the Report;**
- (2) **as part of the Revenue Estimates process funding be allocated on a similar basis to the arrangements for the 2005 Royal National Mod as detailed in the Report.; and**
- (3) **representations be made with partner organisations to seek to ensure that the Mod takes place in the Western Isles at least once every five years.**

Overseas
Travel
M06.03

53 The Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided details of two invitations for Comhairle representatives to travel overseas to Anhui, China and Nova Scotia, Canada. Details of the two invitations were outlined in the Report, together with the financial implications of the trips.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) **in relation to the delegation to Anhui, China, the Comhairle not be represented at Member level but that in kind assistance be provided; and**
- (2) **in relation to the invitation by the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia to Rannsachadh na Gaidhlig 5 and Cruinneachadh nan Gaidheal, the Comhairle be represented by the Convener and Chief Executive, or their nominees.**

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Reports
Outstanding:
Progress
PR33.01.12

54 With reference to item 33 of the Minute of Meeting of 24 April 2008 the Chief Executive submitted a Report in relation to matters outstanding arising from issues from within the remit of the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was agreed to recommend that the Report be noted.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

The Chairman ruled that in accordance with the provision of Section 50B(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency in order to allow the Committee to take a view on the matters prior to the next series of meetings.

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 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office holder or former office holder, or applicant to become an office holder under, the Comhairle would be disclosed.

Children and
Families
Services:
Interim
Arrangements
M02.07

55* The Chief Social Work Officer submitted a Report which outlined interim management arrangements for the Children and Families Services within the current Social Work Department, pending conclusion of the Integrated Children's Services Project. It was stated in the Report that the proposals detailed would be subject to a detailed report on the proposed integrated structure which would be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 30 October 2008.

It was agreed to recommend that the Chief Social Work Officer be granted delegated powers to arrange for the provision of senior management and professional support for the Children and Families Service, either through the appointment of a temporary post or by the acquisition of consultancy services, by such methods as he, in consultation with the Head of Human Resources, may determine.

