

The Outer Hebrides Community Appraisal Survey – Supplementary report for South Uist and Eriskay

Research report for
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar &
South Uist and Eriskay Community Planning Partnership



Ipsos MORI

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Introduction

This report contains the findings of the South Uist and Eriskay Community Planning Partnership area questions included in the Outer Hebrides Community Survey 2007. This survey was conducted by Ipsos MORI Scotland on behalf of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership.

The survey was the first island-wide survey designed to gather information from all residents to inform the future development of the islands and local communities. It represented the key consultation device for the Partnership in their commitment to actively engage with local residents towards improving community vitality throughout the Western Isles.

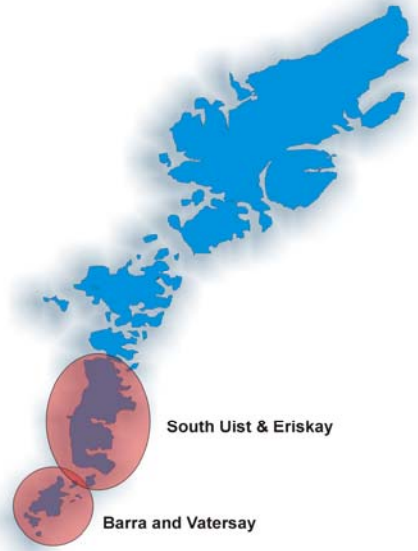
As part of this, the South Uist and Eriskay sustainable community area included a number of questions that were asked only of South Uist and Eriskay residents. These include: perceptions of a number of suggested developments in South Uist and Eriskay; support for the provision of housing on common grazing land in the area; prospective household use of facilities at the new pool complex in South Uist; perceptions of the role of the church in the local community; and levels of support or opposition for the construction of a fixed link between Harris and North Uist.

Structure of the report

All households in the Outer Hebrides were invited to participate in the Community Survey by completing a paper questionnaire. Thirteen different versions of the questionnaire were designed, comprising of a core section of questions asked of all households in the Outer Hebrides and an additional section specifically designed to inform the unique local issues and challenges of each Sustainable Community Area. The additional section for South Uist and Eriskay enabled local residents to be asked about issues that were specific to the local community (see figure 1 for boundaries of the South Uist and Eriskay Sustainable Community Area).

Figure 1: Boundaries for South Uist and Eriskay Sustainable Community Area

South Uist & Eriskay Sustainable Community Area
Barra and Vatersay Sustainable Community Area



The core report documents the major findings from questions contained in the core section of the questionnaire and indicates the overall picture of residents across the whole of the Outer Hebrides. This report provides supplementary analysis of the results from the questions asked specifically of residents in South Uist and Eriskay. The data tables, available from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, also provide a comparison of responses to the core questionnaire between residents on South Uist and Eriskay and those in the rest of the Outer Hebrides.

South Uist and Eriskay Community Questions

This chapter focuses on the responses from residents living in South Uist and Eriskay regarding a number of topics specific to their local area. It details their views on a number of suggested developments in South Uist and Eriskay and the construction of a fixed link between Harris and North Uist. It considers their opinions towards the provision of new housing on common grazing land in the area. In addition, it outlines whether they would be interested in using a number of facilities if they were provided at the Benbecula Community Centre. Finally, it considers residents' perceptions of the role of the church in the local community.

Satisfaction with living in the Outer Hebrides

At the start of the questionnaire, residents were asked if they were satisfied with living on the islands. Most residents (90%) living in South Uist and Eriskay are satisfied with the islands as a place to live. The overall satisfaction level across the Outer Hebrides was 94%. This difference is not statistically significant.

Around half (48%) say they are very satisfied, while 43% say they are fairly satisfied with the islands as a place to live. Only 4% of residents who returned a questionnaire say that they are dissatisfied.

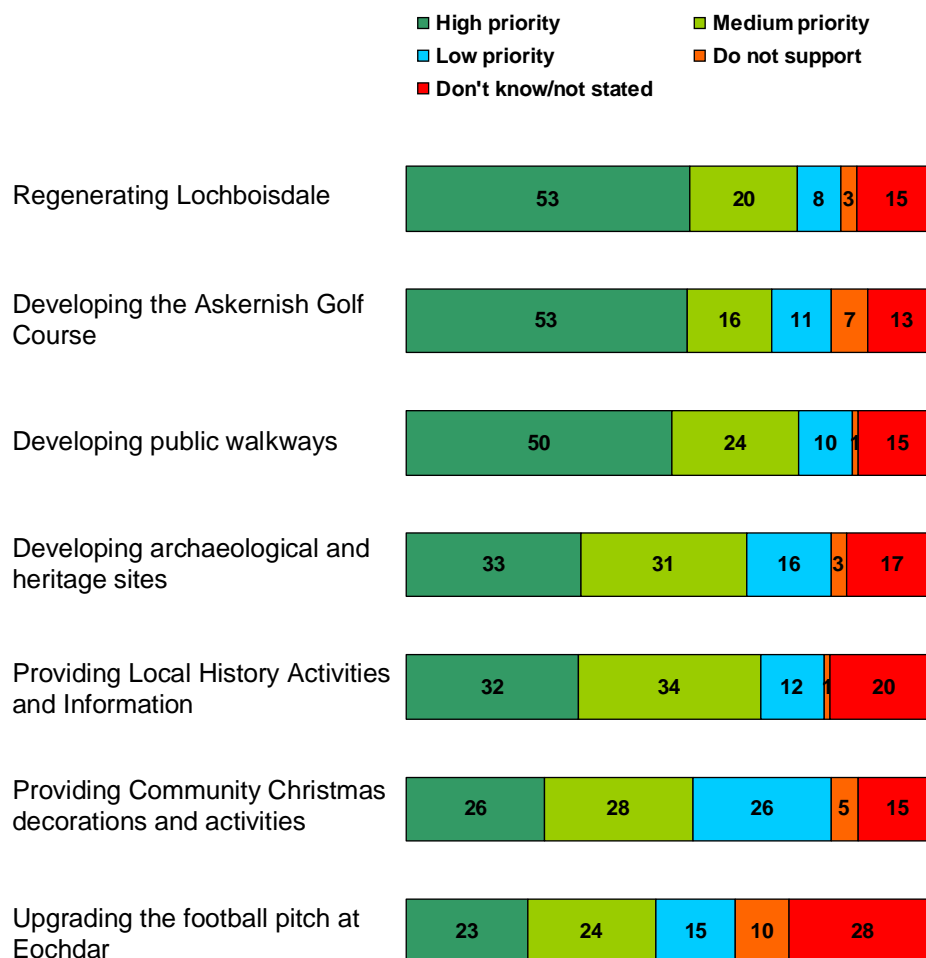
Priorities for a range of suggested development in South Uist and Eriskay

Residents were asked how much of a priority should be given to seven suggested developments in the South Uist and Eriskay area. A majority of residents said that a high priority should be given to the following proposals: developing the Askernish Golf Course (53%); regenerating Lochboisdale (53%); and developing public walkways (50%). (See figure 2).

Residents were less likely to say that high priority should be given to the following proposals: developing archaeological and heritage sites (33%); providing local history activities and information (32%); providing community Christmas decorations and activities (26%); and upgrading the football pitch at Eochdar (23%).

Figure 2: Prioritising developments in South Uist and Eriskay

Q A number of developments have been suggested for South Uist and Eriskay. How much of a priority, if any, should be given to the following in the area?



Base: All respondents (216)

Source: Ipsos MORI

Housing provision on common grazing land in the South Uist and Eriskay area

Around 6 in 10 (60%) of residents support proposals to build new affordable housing on common grazing land. Around 1 in 5 (21%) residents oppose this proposal (see Figure 3).

The majority of residents (54%) also support the provision of new social rented housing on common grazing land. Again, around 1 in 5 (21%) residents oppose this proposal.

Figure 3: Levels of support for provision of housing on common grazing land

Q *In principle, how strongly would you support or oppose the following.....?*



Base: All respondents (216)

Source: Ipsos MORI

These questions were asked in most Community planning areas across the Outer Hebrides (see Table 1).

Table 1: Levels of support by area

In principle, how strongly would you support or oppose the following?

	Barra and Vatersay	South Uist and Eriksay	Benbecula	North Uist and Bernera	Harris	Paicr and Kinloch	North Lochs	Stornoway	Point	Broadbay	Uig and Bernera	West Side	Ness
<i>Base: All</i>	111	216	105	180	264	110	97	666	217	309	132	377	211
% Support	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Building new affordable housing on common grazing land	59	60	47	48	58	60	53	-	49	51	61	60	46
The provision of new social rented housing on common grazing land	55	54	36	40	52	50	41	-	37	39	55	47	36

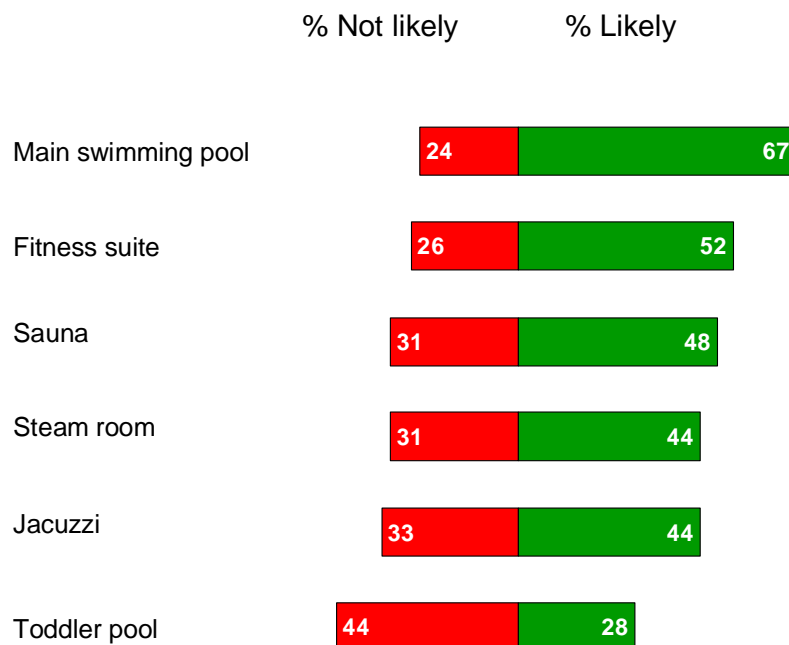
Source: Ipsos MORI

Pool Facilities in South Uist

Residents were asked how likely they would be to use a number of facilities if they were available in a new pool complex in South Uist (see Figure 4). Residents are most likely to say they would use a main swimming pool (67%), with 54% saying they would be very likely to use this facility. Around half of residents say they would use a fitness suite (52%) and sauna (48%). Residents were less likely to say they would use a Jacuzzi (44%) steam room (44%) and the toddler pool (28%).

Figure 4: Using leisure facilities in South Uist

Q *How likely, if at all, would you, or anyone in your household be to use the following facilities if they were available in a new pool complex in South Uist?*



Base: All respondents (216)

Source: Ipsos MORI

Fixed Link between Harris and North Uist

Overall, a majority of South Uist and Berneray residents (69%) support the construction of a fixed link between Harris and North Uist. Over half (56%) strongly support the proposal, while 13% tend to support it. Around one in ten residents (9%) oppose this proposal.

Residents in South Uist and Berneray are more likely than those in other areas to support this proposal.

Table 2: Levels of support by area

<i>How strongly would you support or oppose the construction of a fixed link between Harris and North Uist?</i>					
	All four areas	Benbecula	Harris	North Uist and Berneray	South Uist and Eriksay
<i>Base: Selected Areas</i>	765	105	264	180	216
% Support	63%	66%	60%	58%	69%
% Oppose	15%	11%	17%	22%	9%

Source: Ipsos MORI

The role of the church in South Uist and Eriskay

Residents were asked whether they feel that the role that the church currently plays in decisions affecting the lives of local people is positive, negative or neutral.

The majority of residents (67%) perceive the role that the church currently plays in affecting the lives of local people as positive. Only 2% feel that it is negative, while 10% think the church's role is neither positive or negative, and 17% of residents either say they do not know or do not have an opinion.

Appendix: South Uist and Eriskay Questionnaire
