



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway on Wednesday 11 December 2019 at 9.30am.

PRESENT	Mr Roddie Mackay (Chairman) Mr Alasdair Macleod (Vice-Chairman) Mr Paul Steele Mr Uisdean Robertson Mr John Mitchell Mr Norman A MacDonald	Mr Angus McCormack Mr Charlie Nicolson Mr Gordon Murray Mr Donald F. Crichton
APOLOGIES	Mr Kenneth Macleod	Mr Kenny John Macleod
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Calum Macmillan (by vc) Mr Iain A MacNeil Mr Donald Manford (by vc) Mr Iain M Macleod Mr Paul Finnegan	Mr Angus Morrison Mr Norman MacDonald Mr Rae Mackenzie Mr Calum Maclean Mr John Mackay
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Malcolm Burr Mr Robert Emmott Mr Bernard Chisholm Mr Norman Macdonald Mr Iain Mackinnon Mr Joe Macphee Mr Tim Langley	Ms Rebecca Macleod Mr Angus Murray Mr David Macleod Mrs Doileag Macleod Mr Nigel Scott Mrs Fiona Maciver Mr David Lewis Chisholm

Prayer The Meeting was preceded with prayer, led by Mr Calum Maclean.

MINUTES

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| Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 | 1. The Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 was approved . |
| Declaration of Interest | 2. Mr Gordon Murray declared an interest in Item 28 as his wife was employed by the company mentioned in the Report. |
| Minute of Meeting of Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership of 21 November 2019 | 3. This item was withdrawn. |
| Minute of Meeting of Comataidh Buileachaidh Plana Canan of 2 December 2019 | 4. The Minute of Meeting of Comataidh Buileachaidh Plana Canan of 2 December 2019 was noted and items 5, 7 and 8 were recommended for approval . |

Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 5 December 2019

5. The Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 5 December 2019 was **noted.**

Performance Management 2018/19

6. With reference to item 6 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 the Chief Executive, the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources, the Head of Accountancy and Exchequer Services and the Director for Investment Delivery each submitted a Report which provided an overview of Business Plan performance and other related performance issues to the end of the second quarter 2019/20.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Business Plan Performance Monitoring Quarter 2 Reports for the Chief Executive’s Department, Strategic Finance, IT and Internal Audit and Accountancy and Exchequer Services and Investment Delivery.

Transformational Change: Implementation Team Progress Update

7. * With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 26 June 2019 the Director for Education, Skills and Children’s Services and Transformational Change Lead submitted a Report which provided a summary of the work undertaken to progress the Transformational Change (TC) between July 2019 and November 2019. A summary of the main Transformational Change activities between July 2019 and November 2019 were detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report. Appendix 2 to the Report provided a summary of reports submitted to the Comhairle between July 2019 and November 2019 and Appendix 3 to the Report provided a summary of progress on the Transformational Change Implementation Action Plan to November 2019.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the progress in the Action Plan in Appendix 3 to the Report.**
- (2) authorise the Chief Executive and the Transformational Change Lead Officer to develop guidance in support of the governance model in Appendix 6 to the Report; and**
- (3) authorise the Chief Executive and Transformational Change Lead Officer to establish community governance models with a view to developing initial Community Area Action Plans, as described in Appendices 8 and 7 to the Report respectively.**

Service Redesign: Waste and Transport Services

8. With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 the Head of Municipal Services submitted a Report providing an update on Service Redesign for Waste and Transport Services. In regard to Waste and Cleansing Services the Report stated that the implementation of the landfill ban on biodegradable municipal waste had been extended from 1 January 2021 to 1 January 2025. Although there was no guarantee that a sustainable, compliant solution would be found, this would provide an opportunity to work with other Highland and Island local authorities and explore opportunities for collaboration.

The Report detailed proposals for the roll out of the Barvas waste and recycling collection trials which appear to have been accepted by the community and there had been no complaints to date. A start date for the new services would be determined by the availability of a suitable demonstrator vehicle that could be available for an extended period if required. The vehicle intended for the Uist recycling collection trials was currently being built and it was expected to be available to allow the trials to start in February 2020.

In relation to Transport Services, the Report stated that the Lewis and Harris school and public bus services commenced on 14 October 2019, resulting in savings of over £1.2M each year of the seven year contract. The Report indicated that work had commenced as detailed in the timetable at paragraph 6.4 on the procurement process for the Uist and Barra school and public bus contracts which were due to end in March 2020. This would explore the use of Community Transport to provide more sustainable evening transport services and also identify any gaps in service that cannot be accommodated by the timetabled public bus services.

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

- (1) that the implementation of the landfill ban on biodegradable municipal waste has been extended to 2025;
- (2) the programme for the Barvas kerbside waste and recycling trials and the Uist kerbside recycling trials provided in Paragraph 5.2 and 5.8 to the Report;
- (3) the programme for the tender process for Uist and Barra school and public bus services provided in Paragraph 6.4 to the Report; and
- (4) the programme for the review of Community Transport.

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.

Economic
Development
Service
Redesign
Update

9. * With reference to item 1(c)(iii) of the Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2019 the Head of Economic Development and Planning submitted a Report providing an update on Service Redesign proposals in relation to Economic Development, including Libraries and Heritage for 2020/21. The Report stated that the Service Redesign savings for Economic Development, Heritage, Libraries and Energy/Strategy Unit amounted to £612,000 for 2019/20 and 2020/21. A summary of the current Service Redesign savings were detailed in the Report and stated that savings of £306k for 2019/20 had been achieved. Savings of £138k were to be achieved in 2020/21 and £168K for 2021/22.

The Report provided an update on progress across the various service functions and outlined a range of options in relation to Library Services and Heritage Services. Other Service Redesign activity had included a review regarding the future strategic direction for service activity and options for consideration were set out in the Report. The Report noted that in relation to the future of the Library Service the Sustainable Development Strategic Member Officer Working Group and the Budget Board had supported Option 2.

It was indicated that a further Report would be provided to the February 2020 Committee series setting out the final options across all service areas for consideration by Comhairle.

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

- (1) note the progress with the development of Service Redesign Options for Economic Development, Libraries and Heritage Service functions;
- (2) agree to prepare a future vision for the use of the Stornoway Library building and other town centre buildings and to consult with all affected staff as appropriate regarding options; and
- (3) note Option 2 as the preferred option as detailed at paragraph 6.12 of the Report regarding the future of the Library Service.

Risk
Management
Update

10. With reference to item 10 of the Minute of Meeting of 6 March 2019 a Joint Report was submitted by the Chief Executive and the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources seeking approval of the Risk Management Policy and Strategy and Strategic Risk Register. The Report stated that the recent restructuring within the Comhairle had provided an opportunity to improve the risk management framework which was reflected in the revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy in Appendix 1 to the Report and as detailed in paragraph 2.1 to the Report.

The Report further detailed priorities for the following year including the development of LearnPro's risk management courses for all staff; procurement and implementation of an incident reporting system; and development of a new Business Continuity Management Programme.

The Comhairle's Strategic Risk Profile was shown in the risk matrices at Appendix 2 and in the detailed risk register at Appendix 3 to the Report. It was proposed to Report back to the Comhairle in June on a review of the previous year, priorities for the coming year, and risk maturity.

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

- (1) the Risk Management Policy and Strategy at Appendix 1 to the Report; and**
- (2) the Strategic Risk Register at Appendix 3 to the Report.**

Crown Estate 11. With reference to item 16 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 the Director for Finance, Assets and Resources submitted a Report concerning the revenues arising from the Crown Estate and how these should be applied. The Report stated that the Budget Board had discussed options for the distribution of this funding at its meetings on 23 October and 19 November 2019 and the recommendations of the Budget Board, which took into account the feedback from the community conversations over the last year, were detailed in the Report. The proposed priorities for investment were detailed in Appendix C to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree:

- (1) to distribute the £1.702m of Crown Estate revenues as follows:**
 - (i) £100k be allocated for the delivery of regional marine planning and Crown Estate asset management;**
 - (ii) £30k to support the development of a Community Partnership Board or other community governance model in each of the identified areas in Appendix B. The essential components of this being that they must be a formally constituted group with the capacity to deliver services on behalf of their community (£360k in total); and**
 - (iii) £22.5K (£15K for Lewis and Harris; £7.5K for Uist and Barra) to support athletes with mainland travel costs, and**
 - (iv) £97.5k per ward for infrastructure works and £38k for community projects (£1,242k).**
- (2) that the Chief Executive be authorised to establish such governance arrangements as deemed necessary for the allocation of funding for Community Partnership Boards or other community governance models and to manage the funding for Infrastructure and Community Projects; and**
- (3) that decisions on spending the Infrastructure and Community Projects funding be approved by a majority of the Members in each Ward and, where Community Partnerships are established, in consultation with them.**

Budget Strategy Update 12. With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 the Director for Finance, Assets and Resources submitted a Report in respect of the latest position with the Scottish Budget and the next stages of implementing the Comhairle's Budget Strategy in the light of the Service Redesign savings in the current financial year. Two options, set out in Appendix B to the Report, provided ways of realising savings that could be implemented in 2020/21 and it was recommended that the Comhairle agree, in principle, to these. Appendix C provided an initial list of areas where service reductions could be made to address the budget shortfall. The Appendix indicated that these may overlap with planned redesign work and, if implemented, could impact on transformational change.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the update on the Budget Settlement process;**
- (2) note that the Chief Executive has implemented management arrangements to expedite the delivery of service redesign;**
- (3) agree, in principle, the savings proposals in Appendix B to the Report, subject to detailed proposals forming part of the 2020/21 Budget;**
- (4) note that the Integration Joint Board Financial Strategy will be considered by the Budget Board; and**
- (5) note the outcomes of the Members Seminar on 4 December 2019 in relation to the savings options in Appendix C to the Report.**

Half Year Treasury Report 2019/20 13. With reference to item 17 of the Minute of Meeting of 12 December 2019 the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources submitted the a Report which provided a summary of the Treasury Management activity during the first six months of 2019/20. The Report stated that the indicators had been updated to reflect the changes to date and this was detailed at paragraph 10 of the Report.

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

Second Quarter Capital Monitoring 2019/20 14. With reference to item 10 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources submitted a Report which provided an update on the progress of the 2018-23 Capital Programme as at 30 September 2019. The Report stated that projects totalling £13.8m had been carried forward from the 2013-18 Programme and the delivery of these was ongoing and details of progress per project was included within the capital monitoring.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the capital expenditure to 30 September 2019.

Second Quarter Revenue Monitoring 2019/20 15. With reference to item 11 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources submitted the a Report which provided a summary of the financial performance to the end of September 2019 as detailed in Appendix A to the Report. The forecast outturn showed a projected deficit of £370k.

The unaudited accounts for 2018/19 showed that the Comhairle had balances of £5.8k earmarked for the forward Budget Strategy, in addition to the £3.5m minimum retained as policy. It was stated in the Report that the delay in realising savings and the planned use of £1.6m in 2019/20 would reduce the amount available to support future budget setting exercise to £2.4m.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the forecast outturn for 2018/19;**
- (2) agree the use of the Assets, Finance and Resources Department's unallocated carry forward as detailed in Appendix C to the Report; and**
- (3) that the sum of £170K from the earmarked funding for housing be held in Balances to avoid any undue delay to the project.**

Schedule of Rates and Charges at Comhairle Piers and Harbours

16. With reference to item 1(f) of the Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2019 the Head of Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report seeking approval of a revised Schedule of Rates and Dues at Comhairle Piers and Harbours for the year 2020//2021 subject to consideration of the financial model in the revenue estimates process. The Report stated that it was proposed that there be a flat rate increase of 3.6% across all sections of the rates and dues. This increase was made up of the 2.6% Retail Price Index (RPI) in August 2019 and a further 1% in recognition of Comhairle additional compliance and revenue constraints.

The Report further stated that Transport Scotland had previously indicated that port upgrade works at Lochmaddy would be fully funded by capital grants and that an increase of the ferry harbour dues would not be required. Subsequently, Transport Scotland had stated that only costs incurred prior to the construction phase would be fully capital grant funded. Therefore construction phase costs would receive 80% Capital Grant funding and the Comhairle would be required to fund the remaining 20%. At a meeting on 2 October 2019, the Comhairle agreed that the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources be delegated authority to approve the prudential borrowing once the tenders for Lochmaddy had received.

Therefore it was proposed that all costs incurred by the Comhairle in relation to the Lochmaddy project be funded through prudential borrowing and that the resultant repayments be recovered through an increase in the harbour dues levied on ferry operations. The construction phase was expected to begin in January 2020 and therefore any prudential borrowing costs incurred by the Comhairle up to 31 March 2020 would be added to the Harbour dues 2020/21, and subsequent borrowing costs added to dues within the appropriate financial years.

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

- (1) there be a 3.6% uplift across all sections of the Comhairle's Schedule of Rates and Dues with effect from 1 April 2020, subject to consideration of the financial model in the revenue estimates process; and**
- (2) that delegation be granted to the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources to set the Schedule of Rates and Dues at Comhairle Piers and Harbours 2020/21.**

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely: information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Comhairle).

Stornoway Deep Water Port

17.* The Director for Education, Skills and Children's Services and Transformational Change Lead submitted a Report which detailed a request by Stornoway Port Authority to use its borrowing powers to support the development of a Deep Water Port in Stornoway.

The Report stated that the Comhairle would need to obtain security for the loan as providing a loan of this scale to the Port Authority would expose the Comhairle to a degree of risk. The main risks to the Comhairle were outlined in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree:

- (1) that provided the Chief Executive is satisfied that it does not expose the Comhairle to an unacceptable risk, he be authorised to enter into a loan agreement with Stornoway Port Authority, on such terms and conditions as he shall determine, in consultation with the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources; and**
- (2) the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources be authorised to make such arrangements as he considers appropriate, including Prudential Borrowing, to finance the loan to Stornoway Port Authority.**

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 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 or residence of any particular child in accordance with a supervision requirement made in respect of that child under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

Residential
Placements for
Children and
Young People

- 18.* With reference to item 14 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019, the Executive Head of Children's Services and Chief Social Work Officer submitted a Report advising the Comhairle of the position with regard to Specialist Mainland Placements for Children and Young People, and of the budgetary implications arising from these placements. The Report indicated that the Department was undertaking a review of services to reduce the current forecast overspend on local residential provision.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the projected financial position for specialist residential provision for 2019/20.

Customer
Services

19. The Head of Accountancy and Exchequer Services submitted a Report which outlined the proposed strategic approach to Customer Services. The Report stated that the Customer Service Strategy was being reviewed within the context of the current financial challenges facing the Comhairle and in line with the Corporate Strategy and Transformational Plan.

The Strategic Aims were detailed in the Report and the Customer Care Standards were detailed at Appendix 1 to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree:

- (1) to continue to promote and embed the corporate Customer Care Standards;**
- (2) to ensure that measuring customer satisfaction is a key consideration when evaluating performance and informing service design;**
- (3) to note the proposals on revised opening hours and wider channel shift initiatives; and**
- (4) in principle, to migrate activities that include a customer service element into the corporate team.**

Community
Council
Challenge
Funding 2019/20

20. With reference to item 26 of the Minute of Meeting of 6 March 2019 the Chief Executive submitted the a Report which provided an update on the projects funded through the Community Council Challenge Fund for 2019/20. Details of the types of projects eligible for funding were outlined in the Report and it was stated that the Comhairle had received twelve applications for Challenge Funding from Community Councils during 2019/20 and details of the projects, the grant awarded and the total project costs were detailed in the Report.

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

Bus na
Comhairle –
Vehicle
Replacement

21. The Director for Assets, Finance and Resources submitted a Report which sought authority to purchase a replacement public services bus through Prudential Borrowing. The current Bus na Comhairle fleet was summarised in the Report and the outcome of a recent condition survey which had been undertaken by the Garage Services Unit and the findings were summarised in the Appendix to the Report. It was proposed, in the Report, to purchase a used low floor bus of 30-37 seats capacity and sourced through a search of the UK bus and coach market.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree:

- (1) to the replacement of the Plaxton Centro vehicle registration YN07 KGU with one used low floor bus; and**
- (2) that it be funded by Prudential Borrowing of £17,300 per annum over a seven year period.**

Standing Orders – Budget Setting Process 22. A Joint Report was submitted by the Chief Executive and the Director for Assets, Finance and Resources proposing an amendment to Standing Order 65 to provide greater notice of amendments which suggest significant changes to the Comhairle's Budget Strategy. The Report detailed at its meeting of the Budget Board of 28 August 2019 considered a report, *Review of Budget Board*, which considered how the Budget Board, after a two year period of operation, discharged its responsibilities, and whether any changes were required to its structure and remit. The Board considered that the budget-setting process would benefit from earlier consideration of amendments to the Budget Strategy Report, and it was agreed that the Chief Executive and Director for Assets, Finance and Resources would submit a Report for this series of meetings.

This Report set out proposals to ensure that both officers and the Budget Board had sufficient time to consider and, if desired, for members to respond to proposed amendments of significance to the recommendations within the Budget Strategy Report, or which suggest a different budget strategy altogether. The suggested process and amendment to Standing Order 65 was detailed in Paragraph 4.5 of the Report.

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

- (1) authorise the Chief Executive to amend Standing Order 65 to require a minimum period of notice to be given to the Proper Officer of amendments to the principal Budget Strategy Report, in terms of the suggested wording in paragraph 4.4 and 4.5 of the Report; and**
- (2) note that the Chief Executive would submit a Report to the next meeting of the Committee regarding the process and timing for review of the Constitutional Documents.**

Procurement Strategy 2019-21 23. With reference to item 23 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 December 2016 the Chief Executive submitted the a Report which sought approval of the Comhairle's Procurement Strategy for 2019/21, which was appended to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Comhairle's Procurement Strategy for 2019/21.

Statutory Annual Procurement Report 2018-19 24. With reference to item 16 of the Minute of Meeting of 12 December 2018 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided an Annual Procurement Report on the Comhairle's regulated procurement activities. The Report detailed the twenty four regulated procurements which had been completed during the financial year 2018/19 and the contribution made towards the achievement of the Comhairle's Procurement Strategy and targets. A forward programme of planned procurements was included in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve:

- (1) the Comhairle's Annual Procurement Report to Scottish Ministers; and**
- (2) the forward procurement programme for the period November 2019 – November 2022.**

European Structural and Investment Funds 25. With reference to item 23 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 the Chief Executive submitted the a Report which provided an update on the current status of the Comhairle's European Social Fund (ESF) Strategic Interventions and to approve match funding in support of the Comhairle's bid to the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) Challenge Fund and the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the Report;**
- (2) approve the sum of £73,000 from the Comhairle's Capital Match Fund and £119,400 from the Comhairle Revenue Match Fund in support of the Comhairle's bid to the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund, on condition of a successful outcome; and**
- (3) approve the sum of £20,000 from the Comhairle's Revenue Match Fund in support of the Comhairle's bid to the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme, on condition of a successful outcome.**

Replacement of European Structural Funds in Scotland Post EU Exit 26. The Chief Executive submitted the a Report which sought delegation to prepare and submit a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the replacement of European Structural Funds in Scotland post EU Exit. The Comhairle's draft response to the consultation on the Replacement of European Structural Funds in Scotland post EU Exit was appended to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group, to finalise and submit the Comhairle's response to Scottish Government's consultation on The Replacement of European Structural Funds in Scotland Post EU-Exit before the deadline of 12 February 2020.

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following two items on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 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).

Former Co-op Building, Castlebay, Isle of Barra – Update 27.* With reference to item 26 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 the Head of Economic Development and Planning submitted a Report providing an update on the current situation regarding the former Co-op Store in Castlebay, Isle of Barra occupied by Bùth Bharraigh. The Report stated that Bùth Bharraigh's Community Asset Transfer request had been validated by officers in the Assets, Finance and Resources Department who continued to assess the request and that as part of that process an advert had been placed in Guth Bharraigh informing the local community of the request and invited responses by 22 November 2019. Road safety analysis of the site had been undertaken by Comhairle Officers and their observations were detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report.

The Report further stated that there remained significant financial and other risks to the Comhairle in considering any other option other than adhering to the contractual agreement with Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund grant, the extant Comhairle decision and the view of the community through Castlebay Community Council.

The Head of Economic Development and Planning further submitted a supplementary Report which provided updates in relation to the Community Asset Transfer request and discussions with the Scottish Government.

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

- (1) note the current situation regarding Bùth Bharraigh and the additional information provide in the Supplementary Report to the Committee;**
- (2) agree that subject to considering of the outstanding information, that the Comhairle proceed to adhere to the grant conditions for the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund , including demolition of the former Co-op Store, Castlebay, Isle of Barra; and**
- (3) authorise the Director for Communities to take the necessary action to implement the Comhairle's decision.**

Mr Gordon Murray declared an interest in Item 28 as his wife was employed by the company mentioned in the Report.

Acres Carpark

- 28.* The Director for Assets, Finance and Resources submitted a Report which provided details of a request to acquire part of the land forming the Acres carpark. The Report stated that the Comhairle had received a request for the acquisition of part of the land in the Acres carpark as detailed in Appendix A to the Report. It was indicated in the Report that the Comhairle had previously chosen to retain this land as the only remaining land it held in Stornoway with the potential for development so that it could be used to realise strategic goals.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the request; and**
- (2) authorise the Director for Finance, Assets and Resources to carry out further investigations in relation to the future use of the Acres carpark and report to future meeting of the Committee.**

Reports
Outstanding:
Progress

29. With reference to item 29 of the Minute of Meeting of 2 October 2019 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which detailed the actions outstanding arising from decisions of the Committee.

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