

Our vision is to have a sustainable population and socially and economically thriving communities with a focus on our quality of life, natural heritage, and Gàidhlig language and culture.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION SERVICE BUSINESS PLAN

For the Period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. I am pleased to introduce the Service Business Plan (SBP) for 2025/26 which sets out our outcomes and priorities for the coming year. The SBP is the main annual business planning document for the service. It reflects the Comhairle's key priorities as set out in the Corporate Strategy 2024-2027 and provides an overview of the service's principal areas of activity.
- 1.2. The Economic and Community Regeneration service provides a range of support both internally to the Comhairle and externally to the community. The mission of the Service is to facilitate and support the economic, environmental, and social development of the Outer Hebrides through business, community and social enterprise support, maximising external funding from all available sources, and developing and delivering key innovative projects across the creative, cultural, tourism, and traditional sectors underpinned by forward thinking, professional and efficient Planning and Building Standards services.
- 1.3. The five service areas within Economic and Community Regeneration help to ensure that the Comhairle operates successfully in an increasingly complex and challenging environment, and although diverse, each service is essential to the running of the council and the delivery of its vision, values, and priorities.
- 1.4. **Business Gateway** – The Outer Hebrides Business Gateway is a publicly funded service providing access to free business support / impartial advice to start-up and existing businesses in Scotland. The service aims to provide personalised, accessible and timesaving business support to businesses, so that they can improve at their own pace through actionable solutions and tools. A range of workshops and webinars are delivered with a focus on digital enablement and skills.

The Comhairle's Business Gateway service also administers a range of grant and loan initiatives aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs, fishery investment, business start-up and general business development.

- 1.5. **Economic and Community Development** develops and delivers strategy, programmes and programmes to stimulate economic growth, innovation and development. The Service consists of the Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme; Project & Sectoral Support focusing on Fisheries and Marine Resources, Crofting and Land Resources (including access and biodiversity), Space, Tourism, Renewable Energy, Cultural & Creative Industries, Islands Deal Projects; and management of a portfolio of Economic Development sites and properties.

The Service manages a range of funding streams to support economic regeneration and maximise leverage of external funding; develops strategic relations with business, external funding partners and agencies and the community; undertakes lobbying activity and responds to consultations and policy proposals on issues affecting the local economy.

- 1.6. **Gaelic, Heritage and Culture** is currently organised around two operational areas:
 - **Museums, archive and archaeology services** collects, documents, preserves and provides access to the heritage of the Outer Hebrides, holding the collections in trust for the community. Activities are delivered to professional standards which align with national policy and legislative requirements. Access to the collections to support learning and leisure is provided through programmes and activities that encourage increased participation and sustain community confidence in Gaelic language, heritage and culture. Services are provided across the Outer Hebrides.
 - **Sgioba na Gàidhlig** is responsible for the promotion and development of Gaelic, the preparation of the Comhairle's Gaelic Language Plan and submissions to Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Gaelic Language

Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) for funding towards Gaelic development work. The team also provides translation services to Comhairle departments and Reports to Comataidh Buileachaidh Plana Cànan.

- 1.7. **Housing** – The Comhairle’s Housing Services Team provides an integrated housing service centred around the development, delivery, and review of the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The LHS is the Comhairle’s key strategic document relating to Housing and supports and informs the Comhairle’s role as the Strategic Housing Authority for the area. The LHS sets out the Comhairle’s approach to Affordable Housing Programme (through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan), the provision of the statutory Homelessness Service, and Private Sector Housing matters relating to Empty Homes, house condition, medical adaptations and Fuel Poverty.

The Housing Service is responsible for a number of Statutory duties including the development of the LHS, the provision of a Homelessness Service, the provision of a Section 72 Statement (to articulate the strategy to address adaptations and Below Tolerable Standard houses) and the issuing of various Orders and Notices relating to Private Sector Housing condition.

- 1.8. **Planning and Building Standards** is currently organised around two operational areas:

- **Planning Services** – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar as the Planning Authority for the administrative area of the Western Isles has a statutory duty to deliver the planning functions enacted under the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (The Act) (as amended), and its related and subordinate legislation. The Act requires that every Planning Authority:
 - prepares and adopts a Local Development Plan;
 - make Planning Decisions in accordance with its Development Plan (unless material considerations indicate otherwise); and
 - enforces the law of Planning, at its discretion, where it determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

The Planning Service is responsible for Development Planning, Development Management (Planning and related applications) and Enforcement. Tasks include preparing, monitoring and reviewing the Local Development Plan and associated Supplementary Guidance. The Service provides pre planning advice, determines planning and related applications and takes planning enforcement action as required.

Conservation and enhancement of built heritage resources is supported through advice and other measures. Staff provide advice and information on socio economic matters, have technical expertise in mapping and GIS, and undertake specific projects. The service participates in pre application advice, meets customers and conducts site visits for the purposes of the assessment and determination of approximately 550 planning and related applications per annum.

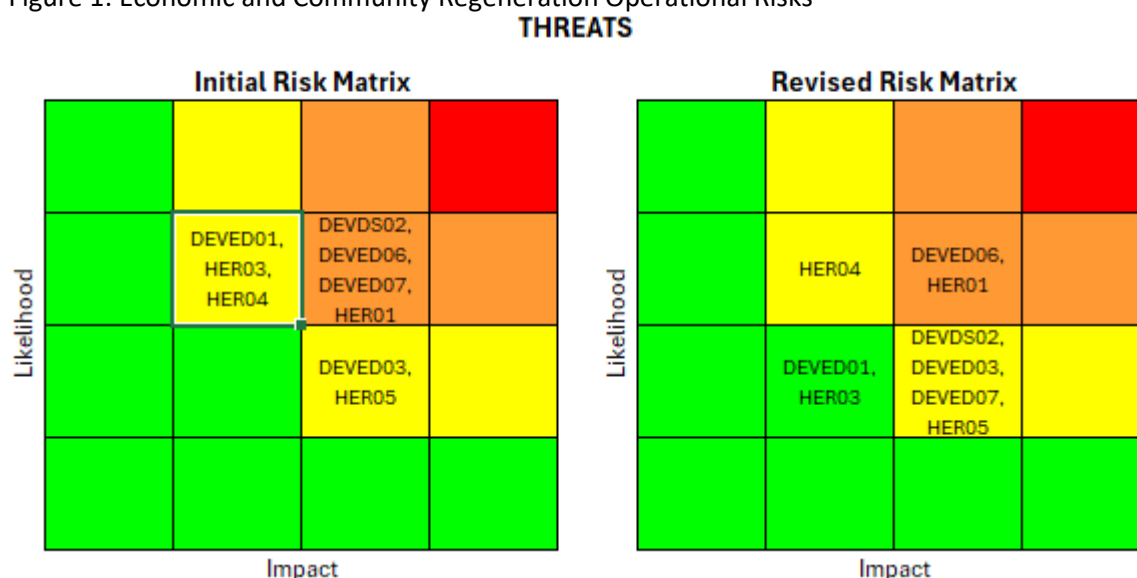
- **Building Standards** – The Building Standards team is responsible for determining Building Warrants and Certificates of Completion; ensuring the making safe or removal of dangerous buildings; providing a Building Standards advisory service to customers; supporting the Comhairle’s Private Sector Housing Scheme of Assistance; and, promoting improvements to sustainable building techniques and access for the disabled.

Anne Murray
Chief Officer, Economic & Community Regeneration

KEY AREAS OF RISK FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

- 2.1 The Comhairle currently recognises three levels of risk:
- Strategic risk aligned to the Comhairle's Corporate Strategy;
 - Operational risk aligned to Service Business Plans; and
 - Project risk concerned with specific projects.
- 2.2 **Operational risks** represent threats that may affect the achievement of SBP actions, and Economic and Community Regeneration has identified significant risks for the coming year, and these shall be reviewed periodically.
- 2.3 The Initial Risk Matrix at Figure 1 represents the current risk profile of the Service, and the Revised Risk Matrix represents the target risk profile once risk actions have been successfully implemented. Paragraph 2.4 contains a list of identified risks, categorised by risk treatment.

Figure 1: Economic and Community Regeneration Operational Risks



- 2.4 The Service has identified 9 threats, and these are listed below categorised by Risk Treatment:

Risks retained (acceptable level of risk)

5 risk identified are at an acceptable level and will continue to be monitored:

- DEVED003 Proposed new grid connection to the Outer Hebrides does not materialise.
- DEVED006 Uncertainty of availability or access to External Funds or Funding Programmes.
- HER01 Comhairle unable to financially support Gaelic organisations in the Outer Hebrides at the current level.
- HER04 Unable to adequately capture historical archaeological finds.
- HER05 Fail to achieve Museum re-accreditation for Museum nan Eilean Lews Castle and Lionacleit, and accreditation for Tasglann nan Eilean.

Risks reduced (action will be taken to reduce the risk to an acceptable level)

4 risks identified will be reduced:

- DEVED001 Declining financial and staff resources to enable delivery of all Business Plan and service objectives.
 - *Risk action:* Prioritise workload as per the Sustainable Development Committee Work Plan.
- DEVDS002 Ongoing reliance on a small number of existing qualified staff.
 - *Risk action:* Development and implementation of workforce plan across services.

- DEVED007 Funding for Medical Adaptations is fully spent before the end of the Comhairle's 5-year Capital Programme.
 - *Risk action: Seek to increase the funding allocation in the Capital Programme.*
- HER03 The condition in which existing Museum nan Eilean collections are stored has detrimental impact on collections.
 - *Risk action: Seek funding for collections resource centre, identify other measures to improve environmental conditions in existing facilities.*

2.5 Elected Members can view the full risk register in the Comhairle's performance management system, Interplan, within the Integrated Risk Management (IRM) module.

DELIVERING THE SERVICE BUSINESS PLAN AND ACHIEVING BEST VALUE

Strategic Outcomes

3.1 Economic and Community Regeneration contribute to the strategic outcomes listed in Table 1 to support the delivery of the Comhairle's Strategic Priorities.

Table 1: Service alignment to Strategic Outcomes

LOIP	Strategic Priorities	Strategic Outcomes
1. Local Economy and Employment	1.1 Strengthen the local economy	1.1.1 Development projects associated with the Islands Deal are delivered. 1.1.2 Digitalisation supports the local infrastructure, customer engagement and business development. 1.1.3 Investment in our buildings and infrastructure maximises effectiveness of available internal and external funding source. 1.1.5 Growth in small and medium sized businesses demonstrated.
2. Population and Connectivity	2.1 Support children, families, and young people	The Service does not directly contribute to the strategic outcomes within this priority.
3. Housing and Community	3.1 Support caring and resilient communities and quality of life	3.1.1 The Gaelic language, natural heritage and cultural of our communities is supported and promoted. 3.1.3 Planning and infrastructure meet the needs of our communities. 3.1.4 Our communities are safe, inclusive, and resilient. 3.1.5 Reduce inequality and poverty and promote social mobility.
4. Governance Framework	4.1 Deliver Community Leadership	4.1.1 Communities are empowered and continue to be at the heart of our decision making. 4.1.2 Reduction in our carbon footprint and development of an island route map to net zero.

Best Value

- 3.2 In working towards the 10 strategic outcomes, the service aims to ensure that there is good governance and effective management of resources, with a focus on improvement, to deliver the best possible outcomes for the public and to make arrangements for the reporting to the public of the outcome of the performance of its functions. Table 2 lists the service outcomes established to support the delivery of the SBP and to achieve Best Value.

Table 2: Service Outcomes

Delivering the SBP and achieving Best Value
<p>Service Outcomes</p> <p>The service demonstrates that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• works with partners to provide support in Growth and Future Industries, through the Islands Deal;• proactively regenerates the Outer Hebrides' local economy and communities;• supports the development of business and community enterprises;• leads on strategic projects which contribute direct investment into the economic and social infrastructure across the Outer Hebrides;• provides the highest standards of integrity and inclusion, stimulate learning and improve cognitive function; and• plans strategically for meeting current and future housing need and demand.

MEASURES AND ACTIONS

- 4.1 The next Best Value thematic focus is transformation, and the Accounts Commission will be auditing councils' plans for transformation as part of the 2024/25 annual audit. As set out in their [Transformation in councils](#) report (2024), "councils must prioritise and progress the delivery of their plans for transformation." The Commission's [Local government in Scotland: Financial bulletin 2023/24](#) (2025) highlights that "Scotland's councils continue to face severe financial pressures. The need to consult with communities, clearly communicate the impact on local services, whilst working together to shape and deliver urgently needed transformation, is more important than ever."
- 4.2 In December 2024, the Account's Commission published a new Statutory Performance Information Direction. [Direction 2024](#) requires the Comhairle to report information about its performance in a way that enables the council to draw comparisons and make judgements in relation to the Comhairle's performance over time in comparison to other councils. The performance measures for the Service are detailed in Tables 3 - 9.
- 4.3 The Corporate Strategy was reviewed in 2023 to ensure that it continues to state and communicate the ambition, aspirations, and commitments of the Comhairle. The overarching aim and ambition of the Corporate Strategy 2024-2027 is to retain and increase the population of the Outer Hebrides. It takes account of national priorities and local needs but does not include actions to achieve its strategic outcomes as these have been developed by the Corporate Management Team and included in the appropriate SBP for monitoring and reporting to ensure that the Comhairle's mission is achieved. The actions for the Service are detailed in Tables 10 - 17.

How we will measure our performance

- 4.4 The tables below are grouped by Strategic Priority and include the Corporate Strategy 'Measures of Success' Strategic Outcome KPIs that the service contributes to, the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) SPIs that the service have prioritised for improvement, and the LPIs chosen by the service to strengthen its focus on improvement.
- 4.5 Each performance measure includes the baseline year and data, the target for 2025/26, and the aspirational target for 2030. The latest corporate performance reports are available on the Comhairle's [Best Value Performance Reporting](#) web page.

Strategic Priority 1.1 Strengthen the local economy.

Strategic Outcome: 1.1.1 Development projects associated with the Islands Deal are delivered.

Table 3: Performance Measures

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2025/26	Target 2030	Service
1.1.1.CD028 Proportion of Island's Deal projects delivered.	2022/23 6.25%	14%	18%	Economic and Community Development
1.1.1.CS01-2 - CD100ai (SLAED:I1): Economic Development and Tourism Expenditure (Capital Spend).	2019/20 £1,431	£1,000	£1,000	Economic and Community Development
1.1.1.CS01-2 - CD100aii (SLAED:I1): Economic Development and Tourism Expenditure (Revenue Spend).	2019/20 £9,533k	£9,500k	£9,500k	Economic and Community Development
1.1.1.CS05 - CE159: Match funding (£) received for Islands Growth Deal projects specific to the Outer Hebrides (3-island's Target £235 million).	2023/24 £ 5.268m	£7.3m	£40m	Economic and Community Development
1.1.1.CS06 - CE160: Number of sustainable jobs (FTE) created in the Outer Hebrides from Islands Growth Deal projects (3-Island's Target 1300 12).	2023/24 3	5	250	Economic and Community Development
1.1.1.CS07 - CE161: Percentage of Islands Growth Deal projects completed.	2023/24 0	5%	70%	Economic and Community Development
1.1.1.CS08 - CE174 Percentage increase in economy from Outer Hebrides Islands Growth Deal sectoral projects (one KPI for each sectoral project).	GVA 2021 £584.9M	N/A	8%	Economic and Community Development

Strategic Outcome: 1.1.2 Digitalisation supports the local infrastructure, customer engagement and business development.

Table 4: Performance Measures

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2025/26	Target 2030	Service
1.1.2.CS06 - CD138: Business Gateway: Number of Digital Health Checks undertaken. (Trend)	2020/21 28	N/A	N/A	Business Gateway
1.1.2.CS07 - CD139: Business Gateway: Number of businesses benefitting from intensive 1-2-1 digital support. (Trend)	2020/21 15	N/A	N/A	Business Gateway

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2025/26	Target 2030	Service
1.1.2.CS08 - CD140: Business Gateway: Number of Digital Skills webinars delivered. (Trend)	2020/21 21	N/A	N/A	Business Gateway

Strategic Outcome: 1.1.3 Investment in our buildings and infrastructure maximises effectiveness of available internal and external funding source.

Table 5: Performance Measures

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2025/26	Target 2030	Service
1.1.3.CS01 - CD076 (DD076) (LGBF: ECON9, SLAED:OC8): Town Vacancy Rates.	2019/20 5.5%	5.5%	6%	Business and Regeneration Support

Strategic Outcome: 1.1.5 Growth in small and medium sized businesses demonstrated.

Table 6: Performance Measures

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2025/26	Target 2030	Service
1.1.5.CS01 - CD159 (SLAED: I2): Economic Development Staffing – estimated.	2019/20 36.56	24	24	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5.CS02 – CD158 (SLAED OC4): New Business Starts per 10,000 Working Age Population. (Trend)	2019 48	N/A	N/A	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5.CS03 - CD160 (SLAED:OC5): Business Survival Rate (min 3 Years).	2015-18 63%	62%	62%	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5.CS04 - CD161 (SLAED: A1): Number of Attendees at Business Gateway Events. (Trend)	2019/20 459	N/A	N/A	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5.CS05 - CD162 (SLAED: OP1): Number of Businesses Supported by Council Economic Development Activity. (Trend)	2019/20 340	N/A	N/A	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5.CS06a - CD163a (SLAED: IG4b): Gross Value Added (GVA) by Growth Sector per head (Employment): Financial and Business Services.	2018 41,996	53,000	53,000	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5.CS06b - CD163b (SLAED: IG4d): Gross Value Added (GVA) by Growth Sector per head (Employment): Energy (Trend).	2018 111,560	N/A	N/A	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5.CS06c - CD163c (SLAED: IG4e): Gross Value Added (GVA) by Growth Sector per head (Employment): Sustainable Tourism.	2018 15,853	16,000	16,000	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5.CS06d - CD163d (SLAED: IG4f): Gross Value Added (GVA) by Growth Sector per head (Employment):	2018 47,643	50,000	50,000	Economic and Community Development

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2025/26	Target 2030	Service
Creative Industries (incl. Digital)				
1.1.5.CS07 - CD119 (DD063a) (SLAED:OC9): Number of Business Gateway start-ups that are Trading (Trend).	2019/20 57	N/A	N/A	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5 - CD007: Business Gateway: Number of new business enquiries dealt with.	2021/22 1,340	280	280	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5 - CD014 (DD020): Number of jobs created/safeguarded.	2014/15 109	45	45	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5 - CD015 (DD019): Number of existing businesses supported to achieve growth.	2017/18 22	5	5	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5 - CD016 (DD021): Number of young people supported in business.	2017/18 16	40	40	Economic and Community Development
1.1.5 - CD017 (DD022): Number of new business start-ups.	2014/15 44	35	35	Economic and Community Development

Strategic Priority: 3.1 Support caring and resilient communities and quality of life.

Strategic Outcome: 3.1.1 The Gaelic language, natural heritage and culture of our communities is supported and promoted.

Table 7: Performance Measures

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2024/25	Target 2030	Service
3.1.1.CS02 - CE155: The percentage of adults who have attended or visited a cultural event or place in the last 12 months.	2019 63.1%	70	75	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture
3.1.1.CS03 - CE156: The percentage of adults who participated in a cultural activity in the last 12 months.	2019 78.6%	82	90	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture
3.1.1.CS04 - CE157 (SPI: C&L5c): Percentage of adults satisfied with museums and galleries.	2017-20 43%	80%	80%	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture
3.1.1.CS09 - CD046iib (LGBF: C&L3): Number of Museum and Gallery Visits.	2019/20 83,787	94,000	100,000	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture
3.1.1.CS11 - CE158: Percentage of the Eilean Siar population with no skills in Gaelic.	39% Census2011	42	45	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture
3.1.1.CD046ii (LGBF: C&L3): Net cost per museum visit. (NB: 2020/21: £28.38)	2010/11 £4.27	£6	£4	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture
3.1.1.CE028: Number of Organisations receiving financial assistance from the Sgioba na Gàidhlig Small Grants Budget (Trend KPI).	2014/15 26	20	20	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2024/25	Target 2030	Service
3.1.1.CE032b: Level of funding secured from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, excluding the “Clasaichean Coimhearsnachd” project. (Trend).	2014/15 £109,900	N/A	N/A	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture

Strategic Outcome: 3.1.3 Planning and infrastructure meet the needs of our communities.

Table 8: Performance Measures

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2025/26	Target 2030	Service
3.1.3.CS04 - DD061 (LGBF: ECON3): Average time (weeks) taken to deliver a commercial (business and industry) planning application decision.	2019/20 9.53 weeks (about 2 months)	*8.67 weeks	*8.67 weeks	Planning and Building Standards
3.1.3.CS06 - CE162: Total number of Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) approvals. (Trend)	2019/20 20	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.3.CS07 - CE163: Total number of AHSP site starts (point of contractor commencing on site). (Trend)	2019/20 165	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.3.CS08 - CE164: Total number of AHSP completions. (Trend)	2019/20 79	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.3.CS09 - CE165: Total number of AHSP actual spend (£m). (Trend)	2019/20 £8,393m	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.3.CD010A (DD065A): Percentage of building warrants and amendments to building warrant issued (following a first or subsequent report) within 10 working days.	2018/19 95%	90%	90%	Planning and Building Standards
3.1.3.CD011A (DD067A): Percentage of first reports issued within 20 working days.	2017/18 98%	95%	95%	Planning and Building Standards

Strategic Outcome: 3.1.5 Reduce inequality and poverty and promote social mobility.

Table 9: Performance Measures

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2025/26	Target 2030	Service
3.1.5.CS01 – CE166: Application assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. (Trend)	2019/20 122	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.5.CS02 – CE167: Households reassessed as homeless within one year, as a proportion of all households assessed as homeless.	2019/20 4%	3%	2.5%	Housing
3.1.5.CS03 - CE168: Number of households in temporary accommodation, as at 31 March.	2019/20 60	50	30	Housing
3.1.5.CS04 - CE169: Percentage of households in B&B temporary accommodation, as a prop of all households in temporary accommodation, as at 31 March.	2019/20 8%	0%	0%	Housing

Measure (KPI title)	Baseline	Target 2025/26	Target 2030	Service
3.1.5.CS05 - Number of households with children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation, as at 31 March. (Trend)	2019/20 15	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.5.CS05 - CE170: Number of children in temporary accommodation, as at 31 March. (Trend)	2019/20 25	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.5.CS07 - CE177: Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation, by household type: All (Trend)	2019/20 291 Days	200 days	120 days	Housing
3.1.5.CS08 - CE178: total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation, by household type: Single Person (Trend)	2019/20 296 Days	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.5.CS09 - CE179: Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation, by household type: Single Parent (Trend)	2019/20 243 Days	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.5.CS10 - CE180: Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation, by household type: Couple (Trend)	2019/20 408 Days	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.5.CS11 - Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation, by household type: Couple with Children (Trend)	2019/20 408 Days	N/A	N/A	Housing
3.1.5.CS12 - CE182: Proportion of households assessed as unintentionally homeless or threatened with homelessness securing settled accommodation - RSL (Housing Association).	2019/20 74%	77%	80%	Housing
3.1.5.CS13 - CE106: Percentage of households fuel poor (Trend).	2017-2019 40%	N/A	N/A	Economic and Community Development
3.1.5.CS14 - CE183: Percentage of households extreme fuel poor (Trend).	2017-2019 24%	N/A	N/A	Economic and Community Development
3.1.5.CS15 - CE184: The median fuel poverty gap for fuel poor households adjusted to 2015 fuel prices (annual amount that would be required to move the household out of fuel poverty (Trend).	2017-2019 £1,350	N/A	N/A	Economic and Community Development
3.1.5.CS16 - CE185: The proportion of households under-occupied with two or more bedrooms over the minimum Bedroom Standard requirement. (Trend)	2017-19 52%	N/A	N/A	Housing

What actions we will take

- 4.6 The SBP strengthens the links with the Corporate Strategy and the LOIP. The actions take into consideration the key areas of risk identified at section two whilst focusing on progressing the strategic outcomes.

Strategic Priority: 1.1 Strengthen the local economy.

Strategic Outcome: 1.1.1 Development projects associated with the Islands Deal are delivered.

Table 10: SBP Actions

Action	Service
1.1.1.3 Deliver Primary Industries strand of Islands Deal Programme.	Economic and Community Development
1.1.1.4 Progress Green Hydrogen production for on-island use in heat and transport through delivery of OH Energy Hub project.	Economic and Community Development
1.1.1.5 Lead the delivery of the Spaceport 1 project.	Economic and Community Development

Strategic Outcome: 1.1.5 Growth in small and medium sized businesses demonstrated.

Table 11: SBP Actions

Action	Service
1.1.5.1 Deliver Business Gateway services to support business start-up and growth.	Business Gateway
1.1.5.2 Deliver internal and external business support funding programmes.	Business Gateway
1.1.5.3 Support growth and resilience within the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.	Business Gateway

Strategic Priority: 3.1 Support caring and resilient communities and quality of life.

Strategic Outcome: 3.1.1 The Gaelic language, natural heritage and cultural of our communities is supported and promoted.

Table 12: SBP Actions

Action	Service
3.1.1.1 Implement the Comhairle's Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	Economic and Community Development
3.1.1.3 Support the local tourism industry develop a new visitor strategy up to 2030.	Economic and Community Development
3.1.1.9 Retain and renew formal partnerships with British Museum and National Museums Scotland, including loan agreements, and seek opportunities for partnerships with other museums and archives (local and national).	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture
3.1.1.13 Review and deliver the Comhairle's Gaelic Language Plan	Gaelic, Heritage and Culture
3.1.1.15 Support growth and resilience within the local Crofting and Agricultural Sector	Economic and Community Development

Strategic Outcome: 3.1.3 Planning, and infrastructure meet the needs of our communities.

Table 13: SBP Actions

Action	Service
3.1.3.3 Develop, monitor, and review the Comhairle's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2024-2029.	Housing
3.1.3.7 Undertake preparatory work for new Local Development Plan.	Planning and Building Standards

Strategic Outcome: 3.1.4 Our communities are safe, inclusive, and resilient.

Table 14: SBP Actions

Action	Service
3.1.4.17 Support safe, inclusive, and resilient local communities by the maintenance of an effective building standards service as set out in the Scottish Government Verification Performance Framework and the Verification Operating Framework	Planning and Building Standards

Strategic Outcome: 3.1.5 Reduce inequality and poverty and promote social mobility.

Table 15: SBP Actions

Action	Service
3.1.5.2 Support the delivery of the Outer Hebrides Fuel Poverty Strategy and explore the concept of a Local Energy Economy for the Outer Hebrides.	Economic and Community Development

Strategic Priority: 4.1 Deliver Community Leadership.

Strategic Outcome: 4.1.1 Communities are empowered and continue to be at the heart of our decision making.

Table 16: SBP Actions

Action	Service
4.1.1.8 In line with the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 encourage communities to inform the Development Plan and participate in the Planning process by prompting preparation by communities of Local Place Plans.	Planning and Building Standards

Strategic Outcome: 4.1.2 Reduction in our carbon footprint and development of an island route map to net zero.

Table 17: SBP Actions

Action	Service
4.1.2.3 Support renewable energy development, maximising local socio-economic benefit.	Economic and Community Development

RESOURCING THE PLAN

- 5.1 The funding and staffing resources identified to implement our SBP is summarised in Tables 18 - 20 as per the budget approved by Comhairle in February 2025 and the annual budget setting salary estimates exercise.

Revenue Budget 2025/26

- 5.2 Economic and Community Regeneration has a Net Revenue Budget of £3,307,266, which is allocated across the service within the sections detailed in Table 18.

Table 18: Net Revenue Budget by Service Profile 2025/26

Detail	£	%
Economic and Community Development, Business Gateway	818,022	25
Gaelic, Heritage and Culture	1,089,325	33
Housing	481,810	15
Planning and Building Standards	918,109	28
Total	3,307,266	100%

Capital Budget 2025/26

- 5.3 The Service has a Capital Budget of £4.49m which is allocated within the Service across the projects detailed in Table 19.

Table 19: Capital Budget

Capital Programme 2025/26 Projects	£ million	%
Regeneration Capital Grant fund	1.20	27
Gaelic Capital Fund – Cnoc Soilleir	1.80	40
Place Based Investment Programme	0.09	2
Islands Growth Deal (CNES Match Fund)	1.00	22
Medical Adaptation Grants (Major and Minor)	0.40	9
Total	4.49	100

Service Employees

- 5.4 Economic and Community Regeneration have 79.53 FTE employees working across the service within the sections listed in Table 20. We support these employees to deliver their duties through a range of policies including personal appraisal and a robust training framework.

Table 20: FTE Employees

Service Profile	Number of FTE employees	%
Economic and Community Development & Business Gateway	19.17	24
Gaelic, Heritage and Culture	13.45	17
Housing	20.70	26
Planning and Building Standards	26.21	33
Total	79.53	100