



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR: 1 MAY 2024

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: 23 APRIL 2024

At its meeting on 23 April 2024, the Sustainable Development Committee considered the business referred to below. The Committee has approved the recommendations detailed for approval by the Comhairle. Where the Committee has exercised delegated powers or used the conditional delegation provisions for any item, this is stated.

Items marked with an asterisk* were considered with the press and public excluded from the Meeting.

<i>Item Title</i>	<i>Agenda Number</i>	<i>Committee's Decision</i>
Minute of Meeting of 6 February 2024	1	The Minute of Meeting of 6 February 2024 was approved.
Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2024	2	The Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2024 was approved.
Declaration of Interest	3	There were no declarations of interest.
Archaeology Service Update (UHI presentation)	4	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) notes the ongoing work within the Comhairle's Archaeology Service; and (2) notes the positive impact of the new HER database.
Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2024/25	5	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle approve the Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2024/25.
Business Continuity Plans	6	It was agreed to recommend, insofar and the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.
Heritage Service Pricing Policy	7	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) approve the updated Heritage Service Pricing Policy; and (2) note the efforts of Heritage Service staff to generate income from a range of sources where staffing capacity permits.
Museum Service Update	8	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) note the impact of the cyber attack on the Heritage Service; and (2) note the impact of reduced Accreditation status.

Scottish Government Consultation – Investing in Planning : A consultation on resourcing Scotland’s planning system	9	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree that the Consultation response be delegated to the Depute Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Sustainable Development Committee.
Islands Deal: Islands Centre for Net Zero (Outer Hebrides) and Energy Update	10	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee’s interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report and continue to support the work of the Islands Centre for Net Zero (Outer Hebrides) and its delivery plans, in coordination with the Comhairle’s Energy strategy for Uist and Barra.
Energy Developments Update	11	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the establishment of the Major Development Forum; (2) agree to establish a Major Development Oversight Board with the following membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader and Depute Leader • Chair and Vice-Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee • Chair and Vice-Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee • Member from Stornoway Wards – Cllr Angus McCormack • Member from West Side Ward – Cllr Kenneth Macleod (Convener) • Member from the Lochs Ward -Cllr Robert Mackenzie
Local Housing Strategy: Early Engagement Survey	12	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the outputs of the Local Housing Strategy Early Engagement Survey at Appendix 1 to the Report.
Housing Supply Target	13	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Housing Supply Target outlined in the Housing Supply Target Working Paper at Appendix 1 to the Report in support of the forthcoming Local Housing Strategy 2024-2029.
ECO4: Flexible Eligibility Scheme	14	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) approves the reintroduction of the ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Scheme on a trial basis, and (2) gives delegated authority to the Depute Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of Sustainable Development, to put the administrative procedures in place to operate the ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Scheme.
Housing Funding Agreements 2024/25	15	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the continuation of Housing Grant Funding for The Energy Advisory Service in 2024/25 to the sum of £39,000.

Addressing Depopulation Action Plan (ADAP)	16	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) welcome the ADAP as a first step to address the issues influencing depopulation and be involved in its Delivery Group; and (2) continue to support the work of both the HIREP Population Working Group and the Uist Repopulation Zone Working Group.
Uist Repopulation Zone Update	17	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) note the Report; and (2) agree to discuss future funding options for tackling housing issues in Uist.
Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill Update	18	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) note the progress of the Bill through the Scottish Parliament; and (2) establish a Short-life Working Group to oversee policy developments, consultation and implementation.
VisitScotland and Gaelic Tourism Strategy Update	19	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) note the Report; and (2) support the delivery of the Gaelic Tourism Strategy for Scotland 2024-29.
National Good Food Nation Plan: Consultation	20	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle, approve the proposed response, focused on island-specific issues and other points raised during consultation events in Uist and Lewis.
Islands Growth Deal Food & Drink Programme Update	21	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle notes the progress of the Islands Growth Deal Outer Hebrides Food and Drink Programme.
Business Gateway Grant Scheme: CERGS Replacement Business Support Scheme	22	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agrees to transfer £200,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to create and fund the Outer Hebrides Business Development Scheme (OHBDS) initially.
Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development Indicators Framework Report 2022-23.	23	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development Indicators Framework 2022-23 Report.

Spaceport 1 Project Update*	24	<p>It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the update on progress with Spaceport 1 project; (2) note expenditure to date; and (3) agree expenditure of £419,600, funded from revenue resources, pending draw down of funds from the Islands Growth Deal and from the Comhairle's Islands Growth Deal Capital allocation, to allow the project to progress to construction tender publication.
Reports Outstanding	25	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.