



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR: 1 MAY 2024

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 24 APRIL 2024

At its meeting on 24 April 2024, the Policy and Resources 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 7 February 2024	1	(a) The Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2024 was approved.
Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2024 at 2.00pm		(b) The Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2024 at 2.00pm was approved.
Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2024 at 3.00pm		(c) The Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2024 at 3.00pm was approved.
Declaration of Interest	2	There were no declarations of interest.
Minute of Meeting of Budget and Strategy Board of 16 January 2024	3	The Minute of Meeting of the Budget and Strategy Board of 16 January 2024 was noted.
Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2024/25	4	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle approve the Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2024/25.
Business Continuity Plans	5	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.
Islands Deal: Islands Centre for Net Zero (Outer Hebrides) and Energy Update	6	It was agreed to recommend 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.
Cyber Incident Update	7	* It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle notes the detailed update on recovery from the cyber attack on the Comhairle's systems on 7 November 2023.
Capital Monitoring Update 2023/24	8	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) note the capital expenditure as in the Appendix to the Report; and

		(2)	approve the allocation of the £1.3m additional General Capital Grant received in 2023/24 to roads maintenance projects.
Revenue Monitoring Update 2023/24	9		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the financial performance to date.
Crown Estate Revenues – Round 5 Distribution	10		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) approve the allocation for Crown Estate Round 5 Ward distribution; (2) approve the allocations for the Comhairle’s strategic investment as outlined in paragraph 5.7 of the Report; (3) defer consideration of financial support to community groups seeking schools lets until an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed; and (4) prioritise Levelling Up Partnership towards development activity in Uist and Barra.
Prudential Borrowing for Education Fleet Replacement	11		It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle approve the required £224k of Prudential Borrowing to renew the ASN and School Transport fleet, funded by an allocation of £44,061 per annum for six years from within Education and Children’s Services budgets.
Community Care Services – Fees and Charges 2024-25	12		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the fees and charges for 2024/25, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the standard weekly charge for Comhairle care homes for the elderly in 2024/25 increase from £1,287 to £1,912 per individual room per week; (b) setting the standard weekly charge for Housing with Extra Care (HWECC) at Bremner Court, Goathill , Stornoway at £1,108 per individual flat per week; (c) the standard weekly charge for Ardseileach Care Home for 2023/24 be increased from £1,845 to £2,649 per individual room per week; (d) the 2024/25 fee for residential assessment and respite (currently £163.45 per week) be increased by the percentage increase in pension credit (8.51%) to £177.35 per week; (e) the rates for the independent care homes for 2024/25 are not yet agreed as the tendering process is currently in progress. The 2024/25 rates will be brought to the June 2024 Committee Series for approval; (f) the meal provision charges for Day Care and other community-based service users be increased by 5% to £0.87 for tea/coffee and £3.58 per meal for lunch or a cooked meal; (g) the room hire and other facilities related charges be increased by 5%; and (h) the hourly rate for direct payments be £18.51 for one-to-one personal care, £38.01 and £76.03 for the half-day to full-day rate for Day Care equivalent for adults with learning disabilities depending on assessment. This is in line with the Scottish Government’s Adult Social Care Pay Uplift for Personal Assistants.

Residential Placements for Children and Young People	13	* It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the financial position for specialist residential provision for 2023/24.
Barra and Vatersay Community Campus – Update	14	<p>It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) notes the issues, preparatory work and options set out in the Report regarding delivery of the education and leisure elements of the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus; (2) authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Officers for Education and Children's Services, and Property and Infrastructure, to implement with immediate effect exploration of the options set out at paragraph 7.5, if and as approved by the Comhairle; (3) authorises the Chief Executive to prepare, for consideration at the June 2024 meeting of the Committee the necessary revised structures for project management and delivery; and (4) notes that the Chief Executive will continue to advise and liaise with the Leader, Depute Leader, Chair and Vice- Chair of Education, Sport and Children Services Committee, the Members for Barra and Vatersay, the Castlebay School Parent Council and the Barra and Vatersay Area Forum.
Spaceport 1 Project Update	15	<p>* It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the update on progress with the Spaceport 1 project; (2) note expenditure to date; and (3) agree expenditure of £419,500 to allow the project to progress to construction tender publication.
Review of Organisational Structures	16	<p>* It was agreed to recommend that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the post of Chief Officer, Economic and Community Development be established within the Chief Executive's Department and recruitment commence, internally in the first instance; (2) the vacant post of Depute Chief Executive remain on the establishment; (3) the post of Chief Officer, Strategic Finance be disestablished and the post of Chief Financial Officer be made permanent and the current incumbent be matched into the post; (4) the Chief Financial Officer undertake a review of the service structure as part of the on-going workforce planning to enhance professional skills and support within the Service; (5) the Environmental Health and Trading Standards team transfer to the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure;

- (6) the post of Depute Chief Officer, IJB, be made permanent, and the current incumbent be matched into the post;
- (7) the post of Head of Children's Services be made permanent, and the current incumbent be matched into the post; and
- (8) all Chief Officer graded posts are retitled as Chief Officer, replacing Head of Service post titles.

Reports
Outstanding:
Progress

17 It was agreed to recommend that the Report be noted.