



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

2 OCTOBER 2024

COMHAIRLE @ 50 MEMBER OFFICER WORKING GROUP

Report by Chief Executive

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to seek approval for the establishment of a Comhairle @ 50 Member Officer Working Group to support the authority's plans to mark 50 years since the inception of the Comhairle in May 1975. It is recommended that the Convener and four members be appointed to be on the MOWG.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar was formed in 1975 and it is considered that it would be appropriate to have a group which would coordinate events relating to this milestone, including a proportionate civic event to mark the 50th anniversary on 16 May 2025.
- 2.2 There are two main proposed elements to marking the 50th year of the Comhairle. The first, a civic reception for all current and ex-Members in addition to current and ex-officials. The second, a publication, both online and print, of 50 Comhairle 'moments' looking back at the highs and some of the lows over the last 50 years. It is anticipated that the publication will be made available for sale.
- 2.3 Consideration is also being given to having Comhairle @ 50 as the theme for Dìleab 2025 to ensure that pupils across the Western Isles can reflect on the impact the island authority has had on the area, including the achievements of capital investments in infrastructure, including causeways, bridges and schools.

It is proposed to establish a Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) to support the plans to mark 50 years of the Comhairle. With the short timescale for completing the work it is recommended that the Convener, Leader and up to four other Members ensuring a geographic spread across the islands are appointed to the MOWG. The Chief Executive will appoint officers to the MOWG. Progress will be reported back to Elected Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Comhairle:

- (a) **Approve the establishment of a Comhairle @ 50 Member Officer Working Group.**
- (b) **Approve the two main proposed elements to mark 50 years of the Comhairle; and**
- (c) **Appoint the Convener, Leader and up to four other Members to the MOWG ensuring a geographic spread across the islands.**

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IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	Any sums remaining in this year's civic budget will be put towards the costs incurred.
Legal	None
Staffing	Staffing resources will be required to support the Comhairle's plans
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities	None
Corporate Strategy	None
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None