



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR: 25 SEPTEMBER 2024

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 25 SEPTEMBER 2024

At its meeting on 25 September 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 19 June 2024	1	(a) The Minute of Meeting of 19 June 2024 was approved.
Minute of Meeting of 18 July 2024		(b) The Minute of Meeting of 18 July 2024 was approved.
Declaration of Interest	2	Mr Iain M Macleod and Mr Kenny Macleod declared an interest in Item 10 as they were Board Members of Tighean Innse Gall.
Minute of Meeting of Budget and Strategy Board of 19 August 2024	3	The Minute of Meeting of the Budget and Strategy Board of 19 August 2024 was noted.
Minute of Meeting of Community Safety Board of 18 September 2024	4	The Minute of Meeting of the Community Safety Board of 18 September 2024 was noted and the recommendations at items 3-6 were recommended for approval.
Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 23 September 2024	5	The Minute of Meeting of the Human Resources Sub-Committee of 23 September 2024 was noted.
Minute of Meeting of Comataidh na Gàidhlig of 24 September 2024	6	The Minute of Meeting of Comataidh na Gàidhlig of 24 September 2024 was noted and the recommendation at item 5 was recommended for approval.
Local Governance: Single Authority Model	7	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the progress of work with Scottish Government towards the development and implementation of a single authority model of local governance in the Western Isles.
Cyber Incident Update	8	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the update on recovery from the cyber attack on the Comhairle's Information Technology (IT) systems.

Capital Outturn 2023-24	9	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the capital expenditure as detailed in the Appendix to the Report; and (2) that the Chief Financial Officer would circulate an update on Capital Outturn to Elected Members.
Crown Estate Revenues Round 5 – Pan Island Distribution	10 *	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) support Tighean Innse Gall with funding of £65,310; (2) support Macaulay College with funding of £34,471; and (3) note that Tighean Innse Gall and Macaulay College intend to submit applications for further support from any Pan Island Competitive Fund within year 6 of the Crown Estate Revenue Fund.
Strategic Risk	11	<p>It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee’s interests were concerned, that the Comhairle approve the Strategic Risk Register at Appendix 2 of the Report.</p>
Residential Placements for Children and Young People	12 *	<p>It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee’s interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the financial position for specialist residential provision for 2023/24.</p>
Barra and Vatersay Community Campus	13	<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 Report: and (2) agrees the revised project governance arrangements as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report with both Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh Elected Members appointed as members of the Project Board.
Customer Service Strategy	14	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the updated Customer Service Strategy set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; (2) the Customer Care Standard as set out in Appendix 2 to the Report; and (3) that an update on the arrangements to ensure security and safety of Comhairle staff is submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee.
Communications Strategy	15	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) approves the Communications Policy, appended to the Report; (2) approves the creation of brand guidelines by November 2024; (3) approves the undertaking of a review of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar social media accounts and new social media policy by November 2024; (4) approves the creation of an Emergency Communications Plan by November 2024; and

		(5)	would engage directly with the communications team on external and internal communications.
Digitalisation Strategy – Progress Report	16		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the report and the progress that has been made to date on the implementation of the Digitalisation Strategy.
Draft Business Travel and Expenses Policy	17		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Draft Business Travel Policy, Draft Expenses Policy and Employee Expenses Rates appended to the Report.
Post Entry Training and Expenses Policy	18		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the revised Post Entry Training and Education Policy and related Training Agreement.
Hybrid Working Policy	19		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Hybrid Working Policy appended to the Report.
Spaceport 1 Project Update	20	*	<p>It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the update on progress since April 2024; (2) note the confirmed pre-construction costs in Tables 1 and 2, and the overall financial position of the enabling infrastructure phase of the Spaceport 1 project; (3) approve funding of £600k from the Comhairle’s Islands Deal capital match fund to lever in financial support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and secure the £1m allocation from the Islands Growth Deal; and (4) agree to award the construction contract, subject to ongoing discussions with Highlands and Islands Enterprise of their financial contribution to the enabling infrastructure phase of the Spaceport 1 project.
Request for Support – Jo Cox Foundation	21		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle do not make a contribution to the Jo Cox Foundation.
Reports Outstanding: Progress	22		It was agreed to note the Report.