



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

EDUCATION, SPORT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Minute of Meeting held in Cnoc Soilleir,
Daliburgh, Council Offices, Stornoway on
Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at 1.30pm.

PRESENT

Mr Paul Finnegan (Chair)	Mr Kenneth J Maclean
Mr Mustapha Hocine (Vice-Chair)	Mr Paul F Steele
Mr Iain M Macleod	Mr Grant Fulton
Ms Susan Thomson	Mr Ranald Fraser
Mr Robert Mackenzie	Mr Kenneth Macleod
Mr Norman Misty Macdonald	Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Donald Macsween	Mr Rae Mackenzie
Mr Malcolm K Macdonald	Dr Frances Murray
Mr Angus McCormack	Mr Finlay M Stewart
Mr George Murray	Rev Hugh Stewart
Mr Norman Macdonald	

APOLOGIES

Father Michael Macdonald	Rev Bruce Jardine
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MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Iain A MacNeil	Mr Uisdean Robertson
Mr Angus Morrison	Mr John N Macleod
Mr Donald Macsween	Mr Donald F Crichton
Mr John A Maciver	Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Duncan Macinnes MBE	Mr Gordon Murray
Mr George Murray	

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mr Calum Iain MacIver
Mr Donald A Macleod	Ms Mary Clare Ferguson
Mr Jack Libby	Ms Fiona Macinnes Begg
Ms Morag Fletcher	Ms Sally Kane
Mr Iain G Smith	Mr Neil Macleod
Mr Derek Mackay	Ms Anne Macleod
Ms Fiona Maciver	Ms Marina Macaulay
Ms Shona Hadwen	Mr Steven Ferguson

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Finlay M Stewart.

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 6 February 2024	1	The Minute of the Meeting of 6 February 2024 was approved .
Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2024	2	The Minute of the Meeting of 20 February 2024 was approved .
Declaration of Interest	of 3	Mr Gordon Murray declared an interest in item 12 as a Lecturer of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at the University of the Highlands and Islands North, West and Hebrides and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Service Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2024/25	4	The Chief Executive submitted a Report seeking approval of the Comhairle's Service Business Plans 2024/25. The Comhairle approved the five-year Operational Plan and associated Service Business Plans (SBPs) 2022-2027 in February 2022 that were prepared in accordance with the Corporate Strategy 2022-2027. The Report stated that SBPs were developed, reviewed, and monitored periodically in the Comhairle's electronic performance management system, Interplan. The organisational structure, as per Interplan March 2024, was provided at Appendix 1 to the Report and the Draft SBPs and Operational Risk Registers 2024/25 followed this structure.
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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	The Chief Executive submitted a Report providing an update on the status of Business Continuity Management across the Comhairle. The Report stated that risks that resulted in a disruption to service, required continuity strategies in place to allow the service to continue with minimum disruption to service users. Services were asked to prepare Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) for their most critical activities, therefore in the event of an incident causing service disruption, the BCP can be immediately actioned.
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It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of item 6 on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 5 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to the adoption, care, fostering or education of any particular child or relating to the supervision or residence of any particular child in accordance with a supervision requirement made in respect of that child under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

Residential Placements for Children and Young People	6	With reference to item 3 of the Minute of the Meeting of 6 February 2024, the Head of Children's Services submitted a Report advising of the position with regard to Specialist Residential Placements for children and young people and of the budgetary implications arising from these placements.
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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 2024/25.

Bairns Hoose Project Update	7	With reference to item 4 of the Minute of the Meeting of 6 February 2024, the Head of Children's Services submitted a Report which provided an update in relation to the development of a Bairns Hoose in the Outer Hebrides and detailed the potential change in location. The Report noted that Members had been informed at the February series of meetings that it was intended to locate the Bairns Hoose on the ground floor of the St Lennan's Centre, and that this proposal required the relocation of groups currently using the facility and remodelling of the interior to the required specification.
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The Report indicated that whilst progressing this work, the Comhairle's Planning Officers have indicated that there could be planning issues or restrictions with this location. To ensure that the pace of the project can be maintained, the project team are in the process of considering the Education Development Centre (EDC) on Kenneth St/Cromwell St as an alternative location.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report and the potential change of location from St Lennans Centre to the Education Development Centre for the Outer Hebrides Bairns Hoose.

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Update on 8
Consultation with
Users of the
Ground Floor of St
Lennans Centre

With reference to item 4 of the Minute of the Meeting of 6 February 2024, the Chief Officer for Education and Children's Services submitted a Report which detailed the progress in respect of the consultation with current users of Pointers (ground floor of St Lennans) Centre following the proposal that the building be used for the Bairns Hoose Project.

The Report noted that work has been taken with a view to securing alternative arrangements or accommodation for those currently accessing the Pointers Centre, and that options will be fully explored in the coming weeks and shared with young people and staff. This will be completed as part of a wider consultation on changes to the provisions which is scheduled to take place after the Easter break.

It was agreed to note the Report.

EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

Review of 9
Catchment Areas:
Daliburgh and
Iochdar Schools

The Chief Officer for Education and Children's Services submitted a Report which noted that a request had been received to review and rezone the catchment boundary for two schools in South Uist and sought approval to commence the first informal stage of statutory consultation in relation to the request.

The Report indicated that, following a meeting of Daliburgh Parent Council, the Comhairle received a formal letter from that body requesting a review be undertaken to rezone the catchment of Daliburgh School to include Snishival and all townships south of that point. School catchment boundary rezoning is subject to the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as defined in schedule 1 para. 4 (a) of the Act. The consultation on this matter must be conducted in accordance with the stipulations of the Act; the first stage of which is to seek committee approval to commence consultation at the informal stage.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree to the commencement of the informal stage of the statutory consultation process.

Prudential 10
Borrowing for
Education Fleet
Replacement

The Chief Officer for Education and Children's Services submitted a Report which sought approval for prudential borrowing to cover the balance of costs for renewing the ASN and School Transport vehicle fleet. The Report noted that the vehicles were purchased using elements of revenue funding carried forward from previous financial years with the balance to be financed by Prudential Borrowing now that the process is complete. The fleet of vehicles within Education, Sport and Children's Services had become unreliable, with vehicles breaking down regularly.

The Report further noted that procurement of the new fleet was now complete. Various market options were tested to procure this fleet at the most competitive prices available, tested against government contracts at all times.

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.

RELATED MATTERS

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| Policy on Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour | 11 | The Chief Officer for Education and Children's Services submitted a Report which provided an overview of the context and development of a new policy on Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour. The Report noted that the policy had been developed by Education and Children's Services staff as part of a working group, including ASN Managers, Principal Teachers of Learning Support, and Educational Psychologists. After reviewing existing policies, the group considered the legislative framework, latest Scottish Government Policy and Education Scotland guidance in the making of the new policy. Upon approval, this new policy will replace all existing Comhairle Education and Children's Services behaviour policies other than the existing Anti-Bullying Policy (2016) and Management of Exclusion Policy (2020), both of which remain current and separate, but related, policy areas. |
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It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Positive Relationship and Behaviour Policy.

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of item 12 on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office holder or former office holder, or applicant to become an office holder under, the Comhairle.

Mr Gordon Murray declared an interest in item 12 as a Lecturer of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at the University of the Highlands and Islands North, West and Hebrides and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

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| English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Funding | 12 | With reference to item 7 of the Minute of the Meeting of 7 February 2023, the Chief Officer for Education and Children's Services submitted a Report which provided an update on progress with securing continued funding for English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) provision. The Report noted that the matter had been raised with the Scottish Funding Council, and further meetings were planned with the University of the Highlands and Islands North, West and Hebrides, and that any progress would be brought to the attention of the Committee. |
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It was agreed to note the Report.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

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| Reports Outstanding | 13 | The Chief Executive submitted a Report detailing the Reports Outstanding arising from decisions of the Committee. |
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It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.