



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Council Offices,
Stornoway on Wednesday 29 November 2023 at
2.00pm.

PRESENT

Mr Paul Steele (Leader)	Mr Robert Mackenzie
Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE (Depute Leader)	
Mr Kenneth John Maclean	Mr Norman Misty Macdonald
Mr Iain M Macleod	Mr Kenneth Macleod
Ms Susan Thomson	Mr Donald F Crichton
Mr Uisdean Robertson	Dr Frances Murray
Mr Paul Finnegan	Mr Norman Macdonald

APOLOGIES

Mr Grant Fulton

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Iain A MacNeil	Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Mustapha Hocine	Mr Rae Mackenzie
Mr Angus Morrison	Mr Angus McCormack
Mr Ranaid Fraser	Mr Finlay M Stewart
Mr Iain M Macaulay	

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mr Norman Macdonald
Mr Calum Iain Maciver	Mr Dan Macphail
Mr Tim Langley	Ms Norma Skinner
Mr Calum Mackenzie	Ms Anna Hulme
Mr Donald A Macleod	Mrs Fiona Knape
Mr Jack Libby	Mr Graeme Miller
Mrs Emma Macsween	Mrs Linda Cunningham
Mr Sandy Gomez	Mr James Mackinnon
Mr Derek Mackay	Mrs Marina Macaulay

Prayer

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

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023	1	The Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023 was approved .
Declaration of Interest	2	There were no declarations of interest.
Minute of Meeting of Community Safety Board of 22 November 2023	3	The Minute of Meeting of the Community Safety Board of 22 November 2023 was noted and items 3, 4, 5 & 6 were recommended for approval .

Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 23 November 2023	4	The Minute of Meeting of Human Resources Sub-Committee of 23 November 2023 was noted.
Minute of Meeting of Budget and Strategy Board of 23 November 2023	5	The Minute of Meeting of the Budget and Strategy Board of 23 November 2023 was noted and the recommendation at item 2 was recommended for approval.
Minute of Meeting of Comataidh na Gàidhlig of 28 November 2023	6	The Minute of Meeting of Comataidh na Gàidhlig of 28 November 2023 was noted and items 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were recommended for approval.

CORPORATE MATTERS

Cyber Incident Update	7	The Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided details of the cyber attack on the Comhairle's Information Technology systems, the response and management of the recovery process. The Report stated that the Comhairle was being supported by Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre and Scottish Government as work continued to gain a fuller understanding of the details of the attack.
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Services were currently working at pace on comprehensive plans to ensure services recover/rebuild while continuing to deliver key services. The service recovery process was likely to be in place for months and would require some redistribution of tasks and duties, including the possibility of a delay or postponement of certain areas of work and the incurring of additional costs once the details of the recovery processes for each Service become clear.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle notes:

- (1) the criminal cyber-attack on the Comhairle's IT systems on 7 November 2023; and**
- (2) the current and anticipated response as set out in paragraphs 6.1 to 8.3 of the Report.**

Corporate Policy and Outcome Delivery Report	8	With reference to item 7 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 June 2023 the Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Partnership and Community Care submitted reports which provided progress on corporate policy matters and detailed the half year progress of the 2023/24 Departmental Strategic Priorities. The Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Partnership and Community Care took the Committee through their respective remits.
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It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle notes the half-year progress of the 2023/24 Departmental Outcome Delivery Plans.

STRATEGY

Draft Corporate Strategy 2024-2027 9

With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 June 2023 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which detailed the draft Corporate Strategy for 2024-2027, which had been updated to reflect the comments received during the consultation period. The Report stated that the draft Corporate Strategy had four priority areas and a set of strategic outcomes. It was stated in the Report that the actions required to deliver the strategic outcomes were detailed in the Business Plans, other strategies and policy and procedures. A set of outcome measures would be used to report progress annually to the Committee.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the draft Corporate Strategy 2024-27, appended to the Report.

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information in terms of Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Comhairle).

Islands Deal Reviewing Deliverability Growth Update: 10*

With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 June 2023 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which outlined a process for reviewing the deliverability of projects within the Islands Growth Deal and sought delegated authority to the Comhairle's representatives on the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee and Islands Growth Deal Programme Board to progress any recommendations for change arising from this process.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) notes the proposals for assessing deliverability of projects within the Islands Growth Deal;**
- (2) note the type of change that is likely to emerge, and the potential impact this may have on the suite of Islands Deal projects in the Western Isles; and**
- (3) agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive as the Comhairle's representatives on the Islands Growth Deal Programme Board, in consultation with the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee, to agree any changes to the Outer Hebrides Islands Growth Deal Projects as a result of the review of project deliverability.**

Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy 11

With reference to item 11 of the Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval of the Comhairle's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plans. The Report stated that, as part of the development of the Comhairle's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) set out the long-term plan for the entire local authority area to decarbonise heat and improve energy efficiency. The revised LHEES and the revised draft Delivery Plan were appended to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) consider the responses from public consultation and the proposed amendments to the draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan; and**
- (2) approve the revised Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan appended to the Report.**

FINANCE AND POLICY

Budget Update	Strategy	12	This item was withdrawn.
Second Quarter Capital Monitoring		13	<p>With reference to item 12 of the Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023 the Chief Financial Officer submitted a Report which provided an update on the progress of the 2023-28 Capital Programme as at 30 September 2023. It was stated in the Report that, since the initial programme had been set, in February 2023, a further £8m had been awarded to the Comhairle by the Scottish Government towards a number of different projects. It was further stated, in the Report, that projects totalling £28.2m had been carried forward from the 2018-23 Capital Programme and as at 30 September 2023, £8.2m of expenditure had been incurred, largely on projects carried forward from 2018-23. The full breakdown was provided in the Appendix to the Report.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the capital expenditure to 30 September 2023 as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.</p>
Second Quarter Revenue Monitoring		14	<p>With reference to item 13 of the Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023 the Chief Financial Officer submitted a Report which detailed the Comhairle's forecast revenue outturn for 2023/24. The unaudited accounts for 2022/23 showed that the Comhairle held reserves of £2.9m earmarked reserves for the forward budget strategy, in addition to its current policy of holding £3.5m in reserves.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the financial position to date; (2) approve the recommendation of the Budget Board to fund the cost of £20k replacement communications equipment for the resilience team from the Services Support Fund, as detailed in Appendix 2; and (3) agree to make representations to COSLA to demand that the Westminster Government provide sufficient funding to local authorities to mitigate the disastrous results of inflation as a direct result of last year's mini budget, noting that no such mitigation has been received by the Scottish Government to be passed on to local councils to date.
Half Year Treasury Report 2023/24		15	<p>With reference to item 15 of the Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023 the Chief Financial Officer submitted a Report which provided a summary of the Treasury Management activity during the first six months of 2023/24. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24, which was approved by the Comhairle on 26 April 2023, included the Prudential Indicator estimates for the year. The indicators had been updated to reflect the changes to date and were detailed in the Report.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.</p>
Community Services – Full Cost Recovery 2024-25	Care	16	<p>With reference to item 18 of the Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023 the Head of Partnership Services and Community Care submitted a Report which detailed the impact of introducing full cost recovery for Comhairle Community Care services and recommended that the full cost recovery be included in the budget setting process for 2024/25/. The fees and charges were explained in paragraph 5.1 of the Report and it was stated that, in the event of introducing full cost recovery, the Comhairle would continue to follow CoSLA guidance on charges.</p>

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle include full cost recovery for adult social care residential related services in the budget setting process for 2024/25.

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information in terms of Paragraph 5 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Comhairle).

Residential
Placements for
Children and Young
People

17*

With reference to item 19 of the Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023 the Head of Children's Services/Chief Social Work Officer submitted a Report which provided details of the outturn position in relation to specialist residential placements for children and young people for the financial year 2023/24 and of the budgetary position. Appendix 1 to the Report highlighted the projected under and overspend figures for 2023/24.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the projected financial position for specialist residential provision for 2023/24.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Goathill
Development:
Project Update
(Design and
Construction
Delivery)

18

With reference to item 13 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 September 2022 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided an update and overview of the recently completed Goathill Development, focussing on design and construction delivery aspects. Appendix 1 to the Report provided an aerial overview of the site and its constituent parts. It was stated in the Report that the award winning facility had received national recognition and reflected the vision to provide exemplar dementia care and extra care for service users. In addition to this, the project delivered various social and community benefits during the construction phases. Further detail was provided in the Report and the Contractor's Social Value Report was appended to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information in terms of Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Comhairle).

Goathill
Development:
Commercial
Update

19*

With reference to item 13 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 September 2022 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided an update and an overview of the financial position of the project and sought approval for the Chief Executive to be granted delegated authority to conclude commercial settlement with the Contractor.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- (1) the Comhairle note the Report; and**
- (2) the Chief Executive be granted authority to agree, if possible, a settlement with the contractor, on such terms as he deems appropriate, in conjunction with the Leader, Convener and the Depute Leader.**

Barra and Vatersay Community Campus Project	20	With reference to item 17 of the Minute of Meeting of 14 June 2023 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided an update on progress associated with the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus project. The Report stated that in order to make meaningful progress with the report it must secure significant additional funding, political support and/or a change in strategy and possible scope.
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It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.

RELATED MATTERS

Outer Hebrides Local Child Poverty Action Report 2022/23	21	The Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval of the Outer Hebrides Local Child Poverty Action Report 2022-2023 and the Action Plan for the following year.
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It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Outer Hebrides Local Child Poverty Action Group Report 2022-23 and the priorities for 2023-24.

Chief Social Work Officer Report	22	The Chief Executive submitted a Report concerning the Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) on the statutory work undertaken during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
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It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Chief Social Work Officer Report 2022/23.

Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Compliance Report	23	With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 30 November 2022 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval to submit the completed Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Compliance Reporting Template 2022/23 to the Scottish Government and provided an overview of the Comhairle's progress on Climate Change, covering Governance, Emissions and Projects, Climate Change Adaptation, Procurement and wider influence across the local authority area.
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It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approves the submission of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Compliance Reporting Template 2022/23.

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places	24	It was agreed to withdraw this item.
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British Sign Language Plan 2024-2030	25	The Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval of the draft Comhairle nan Eilean Siar British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2024-2030 for public consultation. It was stated in the Report that feedback would be used to inform the final draft before it was presented to the Comhairle for approval.
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It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the requirements of the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 for public bodies in Scotland to publish BSL plans every six weeks, the second of which is to be published by April 2024; and**
- (2) approve the draft BSL Plan 2024-2030, appended to the Report, for consultation.**

Reports Outstanding	26	There were no reports outstanding arising from decisions of the Committee.
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