



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Council Offices,
Sandwick Road, Stornoway, and via MS Teams
on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 2.00pm.

PRESENT

Mr Donald Crichton (Chair)	Mr Kenneth Macleod
Mr Norman Macdonald (Vice Chair)	Mr Donald Macsween
Mr Iain A MacNeil	Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Paul Steele	Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE
Mr Uisdean Robertson	Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Robert Mackenzie	Mr Rae Mackenzie
Mr Angus Morrison	Mr Angus McCormack
Mr Norman Misty Macdonald	Dr Frances Murray
Mr John Norman Macleod	

APOLOGIES

Mr Mustapha Hocine	Mr John A Maciver
Mr Grant Fulton	

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Kenneth J Maclean	Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
Mr Iain M Macleod	Mr George Murray
Mr Ranald Fraser	Mr Finlay M Stewart
Mr Calum Maclean	

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mr Tim Langley
Mr Murdo Mackay	Mr Iain Kennedy
Ms Morag Ferguson	Ms Alison MacCorquodale
Ms Fiona Maciver	Ms Shona Hadwen
Mr Derek Mackay	Mr Sandy Gomez
Ms Anne Macdonald	Mr Iain Watson

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, extended sincere condolences to Mr Calum Iain Maciver, Depute Chief Executive on the recent loss of his mother.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, further extended sincere condolences to Mr Mustapha Hocine on his recent family bereavement.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, sent best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr John A Maciver who was currently recovering from surgery.

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Angus Morrison.

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting 1
of 28 November
2023

The Minute of the Meeting of 28 November 2023 was **approved**.

Declaration of Interest 2 There were no declarations of interest.

FISHERIES

Fishing Quotas – Consultation on the allocation of Scottish Additional Quota from 2024 3 The Depute Chief Executive submitted a Report seeking homologation of the Comhairle’s response to the Scottish Government consultation on the allocation of Scottish additional quota for 2024, which closed on 11 January 2024.

The Report stated that on 19 October 2023 the Scottish Government opened a consultation seeking views on how it should allocate a portion of additional Scottish fish quota, stating that sea fish quotas are a national asset. The additional quota was issued to the UK as a result of the UK leaving the European Union.

The Comhairle’s response to the consultation was appended to the Report. The proposed response was circulated to the Primary Industries Member Officer Working Group in advance – for finalising and approval – prior to formal submission. It was proposed that the Comhairle’s response be homologated, given that the closing date of 11 January 2024 preceded the current Committee Series.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) homologate its response to the Scottish Government Consultation on allocation of additional quota, as appended to the Report; and**
- (2) write to the relevant Scottish Minister reiterating the points made in the consultation response and seeking a meeting to discuss further the possibility of a pilot scheme whereby the quota could be administered for the open fleet across Na h-an Eileanan Siar.**

PLANNING

Biennial Review of Planning Enforcement Charter 4 With reference to item 7 of the Minute of the Meeting of 2 February 2022 the Depute Chief Executive submitted a Report seeking approval of the biennial review of the Comhairle Planning Enforcement Charter, a requirement of Section 158A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

The Report stated that Section 158A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (the Act) required that all Planning Authorities prepare and publish an Enforcement Charter whenever Scottish Ministers direct or whenever it thinks appropriate to do so; but in any event within two years after last publishing or republishing it.

The Report further stated that there were no substantive revisions proposed in this 2024 version of the Charter and it was presented to the Comhairle for consideration and approval prior to its submission to Scottish Ministers.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve for re-publication the Planning Enforcement Charter, as set out in the Appendix to the Report; and, subject to Scottish Ministers approval, adopt the Charter as its current statement of Planning Enforcement Policy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Creative Industries 5
 Organisation
 Revenue Funding
 2024/25

With reference to item 12 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2023 the Chief Executive submitted a Report concerning funding agreements with the creative industries organisations in 2024/25.

An Lanntair, Taigh Chearsabhagh, the Hebridean Celtic Festival (HebCelt), Ceòlas, the Eilean Dorcha Festival and the seven Western Isles Fèisean are a long-standing feature of the islands' cultural heritage and have successfully delivered activities as anticipated in terms of their 2023/24 funding agreements.

A number of the festivals being supported by the Comhairle have received year-on-year support over an extended period. The Comhairle took a decision to phase out the funding to the festivals and events over the three years to 25/26. Since then, officers have engaged with organisations receiving both economic development and Sgioba na Gàidhlig funding to gauge the impact this approach would have on the organisations. Following that exercise it was proposed to retain the Sgioba na Gàidhlig funding at 2023 levels as there was provision in the budget to do so for HebCelt, Ceòlas and the Fèisean. Eilean Dorcha Festival has not been in receipt of Sgioba na Gàidhlig funding in the past but has been supported through Crown Estate Funding to purchase a marquee, that would contribute significantly to future sustainability of that music festival and this support represents an annual saving to the festival in excess of the annual grants received in the past.

The funding to An Lanntair and Taigh Chearsabhagh, the recognised RFO's (organisations receiving regular annual funding from Creative Scotland) was proposed to continue at 2023 levels. Those RFO's were currently engaged with Creative Scotland (CS) on future annual funding awards and the outcome of the Stage 1 application to CS was due by the end of January. The funding proposed for the remaining arts organisations was detailed in the Report.

It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the recommendations at 3.1 of the Report, and**
- (2) defer a decision on future funding agreements to the Budget Setting meetings on 20 February 2024.**

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 as defined in Paragraph 9 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely, any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Comhairle in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

Spaceport 1 – 6*
 Project Update

The Depute Chief Executive submitted a Report which provided an update on progress with the Spaceport 1 project, sought agreement as to the mechanism by which the operator of Spaceport 1 would be appointed and the extent of the Comhairle's involvement in the construction element of the project.

The Spaceport 1 Project Board had met on 29 January 2024 and had agreed that Option 2 was the preferred option and progressing these workstreams would be key to demonstrating progress and to attracting investment from the public and private sectors.

It was agreed to recommend that, insofar as the Committee’s interests were concerned, the Comhairle:

- (1) note the update on progress with the Spaceport 1 project, and
- (2) agree the Spaceport 1 Project Board’s recommendation that Option 2 is the preferred way forward in terms of the appointment of the spaceport operator and delivery of the construction phase of the project.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Reports Outstanding	7	The Depute Chief Executive submitted a Report detailing those Reports outstanding arising from the decisions of the Committee.
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It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.