



## **SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS FRAMEWORK REPORT 2023-2024**

Report by Chief Officer, Economic & Community Regeneration

### **PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Comhairle following publication of the Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development Indicators Framework Report 2023-2024.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development group (SLAED) is the network of economic development services across all 32 Scottish Local Authorities. SLAED works with the Scottish Government Improvement Service and Local Authorities to develop an annual Economic Development Indicators Framework which provides evidence of the contribution that local authorities make to Scotland's economy through their economic development activities and provides a basis for collating consistent data.
- 2.2 The SLAED Economic Development Indicators Framework provides an overview of performance across Local Authorities and a set of measurable benchmarks which can be used to better understand impact, allocation of resources and identify potential areas for improvement.
- 2.3 Data sought for the majority of the 34 Economic Development Indicators is collected directly by the Improvement Service from a range of nationally collated statistics. The Comhairle's Economic Development Indicators Return for 2023-2024 is appended - and more detailed analysis, by Council area and indicator type, is provided in the full annual report:  
[SLAED Indicators Framework Report 2023-24](#)
- 2.4 The Comhairle's 2023-24 Return identifies several indicators where the Eilean Siar area appears to have been performing well against the national average, for example:
- [OP5] '*Percentage of Marketable Employment Land*' (100%).
  - [OC5] '*Business Survival Rate (3-Year)*' - 2020-2023 - (61.5%).
  - [OC8] '*Town Vacancy Rate*' (3.3%).
  - [WE3] '*Percentage Participation in Education, Employment & Training by 16-19-year olds*' (96.8%)
  - [WE5] '*Percentage of Good or Very Good Life Satisfaction*' (89.6%).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Comhairle note the Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development Indicators Framework 2023-24 Report.

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Appendix: Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Economic Development Indicators Return - 2023-24

Background Papers: [SLAED Indicators Framework Report 2023-24](#)

## IMPLICATIONS

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

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	Indicates benefits of Comhairle expenditure on economic development.
Legal	None
Staffing	Indicates the total staffing resource across the Comhairle which is deployed for the purposes of local economic development.
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities	None
Corporate Strategy	The SLAED framework provides consistent data and evidence on the Comhairle's economic development activities which support the delivery of the Comhairle's four main strategic priorities: economy and jobs; communities and housing; education, skills and training and quality of life, wellbeing, and health.
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	The Comhairle's 2023-24 Return was developed in consultation with a range of colleagues across Comhairle departments.

## BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development group (SLAED) is the network of economic development services across all 32 Scottish Local Authorities. SLAED works with the Scottish Government Improvement Service and Local Authorities to develop an annual Economic Development Indicators Framework which provides evidence of the contribution that local authorities make to Scotland's economy through their economic development activities and provides a basis for collating consistent data. This is the eleventh year this framework report has been published.
- 5.2 The SLAED Economic Development Indicators Framework provides an overview of performance across Local Authorities and a set of measurable benchmarks which can be used to better understand impact, allocation of resources and identify potential areas for improvement. More detailed analysis, by Council area and indicator type, is provided in the report, which was published on 5 March 2025: [Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Indicators Framework Report 2023-24](#)

## SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS FRAMEWORK 2023-24

- 6.1 Data sought for the majority of the 34 Economic Development Performance Indicators is collected directly by the Improvement Service from nationally collated statistics. The Comhairle has no role in collating the following Performance Indicators for its annual Return: I1; A1; A3; OP2; OP3; OP6; OC10C7; OC9; OC10; OC12; and IG1-10. The Comhairle provides information to the Improvement Service on eight Performance Indicators: I2; A2; OP1; OP4; OP5; OC8; OC11; and OC13.
- 6.2 The Comhairle's Economic Development Indicators Return for 2023-2024 is appended to this Report.

- 6.3 The Comhairle return identifies several indicators where the Eilean Siar area appears to have performed well against Scotland as a whole, for example:
- [OP5] '*Percentage of Marketable Employment Land*' (100%).
  - [OC5] '*Business Survival Rate (3-Year)*' - 2020-2023 - (61.5%).
  - [OC8] '*Town Vacancy Rate*' (3.3%).
  - [WE3] '*Percentage Participation in Education, Employment & Training by 16–19-year olds*' (96.8%)
  - [WE5] '*Percentage of Good or Very Good Life Satisfaction*' (89.6%).

## **CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The Outer Hebrides performed well in several key areas of the Economic Development Performance Indicators Report.