



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday 7
February 2024 at 9.30am.

PRESENT

Mr Uisdean Robertson (Chair)	Mr Donald F Crichton
Mr Kenneth J Maclean	Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Iain A MacNeil	Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Iain M Macleod	Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
Mr Paul Steele	Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE
Mr Paul Finnegan	Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Angus Morrison	Mr George Murray
Mr Ranaid Fraser	Mr Finlay M Stewart
Mr John Norman Macleod	
Mr Kenneth Macleod	

APOLOGIES

Ms Susan Thomson (Vice-Chair)	Mr John A Maciver
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MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Mustapha Hocine	Mr Angus McCormack
Mr Robert Mackenzie	Dr Frances Murray
Mr Norman Misty Macdonald	Mr Norman Macdonald
Mr Donald Macsween	

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mrs Shona Hadwen
Mr Calum Mackenzie	Mrs Katie Macaskill
Mr David Macleod	Mrs Fiona Maciver
Mr Kenneth Morrison	Mr Sandy Gomez
Mrs Elaine Mackenzie	Mr Iain N Campbell
Mrs Linda Cunningham	Ms Vikki Trelfer (HITRANS)

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE.

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 29 November 2023	1	The Minute of Meeting of 29 November 2023 was approved .
Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 10 November 2023	2	The Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 10 November 2023 was noted .
Minute of Meeting of Hebrides Ferry Stakeholder Group of 5 December 2023	3	The Minute of Meeting of Hebrides Ferry Stakeholder Group of 5 December 2023 was noted .

Declaration of Interest of 4 There were no declarations of interest.

TRANSPORTATION

Active Travel 5 With reference to item 5 of the Minute of Meeting of 1 December 2021 and item 4 of the Minute of Meeting of 30 November 2022 the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report providing an update on the development of a Delivery Plan for the Outer Hebrides over the past twelve months. The Report stated that Scottish Government funding for active travel was set to increase nationally to £220m in 2024/25, with a requirement for funding bids to be linked to an Active Travel Strategy and Masterplan delivery.

The Report further stated that, during 2022, HITRANS had funded the development of a series of locality-based Masterplans for active travel in the main settlements across the Outer Hebrides and was also able to provide additional funding for improved and extended footways to access the Lochmaddy Pier development from the village, with works completed in the autumn of 2023. In 2023, HITRANS again provided funding for consultants ARUP to assist the Active Travel Working Group in developing a Delivery Plan for the recommendations outlined in the Stornoway Active Travel Masterplan, to enable a funding bid to begin delivery in 2024/25 to be prepared. The Comhairle was also successful in a bid to the Active Travel Transformation Fund in 2023/24, and some of the Masterplan recommendations were being taken forward in Stornoway and Lochboisdale this financial year.

Ms Vikki Trelfer, HITRANS Active Travel Officer had been working closely with the Active Travel Working Group at the Comhairle and presented an update on the Outer Hebrides Active Travel Delivery Plan and the Stornoway Active Travel Delivery Plan to the Committee. Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the progress to date and the development of approved active travel strategies and masterplans to delivery plans.

FERRY SERVICES

The Chairman ruled that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the following item be considered as a matter of urgency in order to allow the Comhairle to take a view on the matter prior to the next Series of Meetings

Public Consultation on the Next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services Contract (CHFS3) 6 The Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval for a draft response to the Public Consultation on the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services Contract (CHFS3). The Report stated that the current Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service contract (CHFS2) was due to expire on 30 September 2024 and that the Consultation Statement invited “views on potential ferry service improvements through the CHFS3 contract”.

The Report further stated that, in a statement to the Scottish Parliament on 16 November 2023, the Minister for Transport had set out Scottish Ministers’ preferred procurement route for the next CHFS contract (CHFS3), which was to explore a direct award through a ‘Teckal arrangement’ in accordance with the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015. A due diligence process would establish the feasibility of direct award from a financial, operational, and legal perspective. The draft Comhairle response was provided in the Appendix to the Report and the Public Consultation would remain open for responses until 8 March 2024.

It was intimated at the meeting that the Islands Connectivity Plan – Strategic Approach Paper and Vessels and Ports Plan Public Consultation had been published on 1 February and would be open for responses until 3 May. A Report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for Members to consider a response to the consultation.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the draft response to the public consultation for the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services Contract (CHFS3), as set out at Appendix 1 to the Report.

BUS SERVICES

Evening
Services

Bus 7

With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 20 September 2023, the Head of Municipal Services submitted a Report to consider options for alternative provision of evening bus services in Broadbay and Westside areas of Lewis. The Report stated that the current seven-year contracts for school and public bus services in Lewis and Harris were awarded in October 2019. Although the operator designed contract for Ness and North Lochs included the provision of evening bus services, Broadbay and Westside evening bus service were not part of this contract and had operated on an ad hoc basis since 2019. The total cost of operating these services was £130k per annum.

The Report further stated that a review of Community Transport carried out by TAS Ltd had not identified any potential community transport-based solution to evening bus services. As Broadbay and Westside evening bus services were non-statutory and not part of a long-term contract, it was proposed that the continuation of these services were considered as part of the current budget savings process. The current budget provision extended only to the end of March 2024.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the Report; and**
- (2) agree that the continuation of the Broadbay and Westside public bus evening services be considered as part of the budget savings process and to design a peak passenger evening service, in consultation with passengers and operators with a view to making a budget saving using alternative funding sources.**

HARBOUR BOARD

Designated Persons
Report 8

With reference to item 7 of the Minute of Meeting of 21 April 2023 the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report providing an update on the Designated Person Report from August 2023. The Report stated that the Port Marine Safety Code (the Code) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publication Safety in Docks: Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) related to the marine and shore side safety of harbours. The Code required an annual internal audit and a three-year independent external audit to verify compliance.

The Report further stated that the Designated Person had carried out a visit to the Isle of Barra in March 2023 and to Uist in August 2023. An Action Plan for both Designated Persons Reports was provided as Appendix 1 and 2 to the Report and outlined how the observations and recommendations of each Report were being taken forward.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the External Audit Action Plan included at Appendix 1 to the Report; and**
- (2) note the External Audit Action Plan at Appendix 2 to the Report.**

ASSET MANAGEMENT

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 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Comhairle) would be disclosed.

Disposal of Surplus Assets 9*

With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 29 November 2023 the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report providing an update on progress with the disposal of surplus assets. An update with the current position in respect of each property declared as surplus was detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

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

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Reports Outstanding 10

The Chief Executive submitted a Report detailing those Reports outstanding arising from the decisions of the Committee.

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