



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held in Vatersay Hall, Isle of Vatersay, Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday, 24 April 2024 at 11.30am.

PRESENT

Mr Uisdean Robertson (Chair)	Mr Kenneth Macleod
Ms Susan Thomson (Vice-Chair)	Mr Iain M Macaulay
Mr Kenneth J Maclean	Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
Mr Iain A MacNeil	Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE
Mr Iain M Macleod	Mr George Murray
Mr Paul Steele	Mr Finlay M Stewart
Mr Paul Finnegan	

APOLOGIES

Mr Angus Morrison	Mr John A Maciver
Mr Ranald Fraser	Mr Calum Maclean
Mr John Norman Macleod	Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Donald F Crichton	

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Grant Fulton	Dr Frances Murray
Mr Norman Misty Macdonald	Mr Norman Macdonald
Mr Rae Mackenzie	

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mrs Shona Hadwen
Mr Calum Iain Maciver	Mr Derek Mackay
Mr Calum Mackenzie	Mrs Marina Macaulay
Mr Donald A Macleod	Mrs Fiona Maciver
Mr Adam Hill	Mr Innes Maciver

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer by Mr Finlay Stewart.

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2024	1	The Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2024 was approved .
Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2024	2	The Minute of Meeting of 20 February 2024 was approved .
Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 2 February 2024	3	The Minute of Meeting of HITRANS of 2 February 2024 was noted .
Declaration of Interest	of 4	There were no declarations of interest.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Service Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2024/25	5	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 Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle approve the Service Business Plans and Operational Risk Registers 2024/25.

Business Continuity Plans	6	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 Committee's interests were concerned, that the Comhairle note the Report.

FERRY SERVICES

Public Consultation for Islands Connectivity Plan - Strategic Approach Paper and Vessels and Ports Plan	7	The Chief Executive submitted a Report seeking approval of a draft response to the Public Consultation on Transport Scotland's 'Islands Connectivity Plan Strategic Approach Paper and Vessels and Ports Plan'. The Report stated that Transport Scotland were currently consulting on a new draft Islands Connectivity Plan (ICP), comprising a Strategic Approach Paper and a Vessels and Ports Plan outlining ferry service objectives to 2045. A draft Comhairle response to this consultation had been prepared and was provided as an Appendix to the Report.
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The Report further stated that the draft Comhairle response drew out the following points:

- the draft ICP seemed to be aimed more at managing the *status quo* of ferry services than at supporting the growth of services that the islands required;
- the ICP does not effectively island-proof transport policy;
- priorities revolving around reliability, resilience and capacity bear little resemblance to lived island experience with the ferry service;
- integration with other modes of transport should be better;
- the pace of fleet decarbonisation should be accelerated rather than penalising island travellers by seeking to restrict the number of vehicles carried;
- no account is taken of the effects of the expansion in renewable energy development coming to the islands over the second half of this decade, which will require provision of a dedicated freight ferry on the Ullapool – Stornoway route;
- Road Equivalent Tariff should be retained with additional revenue realised, and deck space released, through higher fares for larger motorhomes; and,
- ferry services are a public good with lifeline services to be supported by Government whatever the cost. To argue for downsizing of ferry services on account of the investment required is disingenuous when railways and roads are also subsidised.

During discussion Members raised various points and comments which the Chief Executive and Strategy Officer would take into consideration when finalising the Comhairle response to the consultation.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) approve the draft response to the Public Consultation for the Islands Connectivity Plan – Strategic Approach Paper and Vessels and Ports Plan, shown at Appendix 1 to the Report; and**
- (2) that the Chief Officer, Asset and Infrastructure would submit a Report to the June 2024 meeting of the Committee in relation to the safety of the Baleshare Causeway.**

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Circular Economy
and Waste Route
Map – Consultation
Response 8

The Head of Municipal Services submitted a Report seeking homologation of the Comhairle response to the Scottish Government's Circular Economy and Waste map to 2030 consultation. The return date for responses to the consultation was 15 March 2024. The Report stated that the Circular Economy and Waste Route map to 2030, being developed by Scottish Government, was committed to moving to a circular economy, based on sustainable consumption and production. This would ensure that maximum life and value from the resources that were used in manufacture could be achieved, unnecessary waste - especially food waste – could be avoided and the economic and energy value of wasted resources and energy could be effectively utilised.

The Report further stated that as an Island authority, it was essential that the response to the consultation highlighted the Island specific challenges that were faced when collecting, transporting and processing wastes. This included materials which may have a significant, direct cost benefit if recycled by a mainland authority but require additional financial resources for an island authority to collect. It was also essential that any additional requirements placed on an Island authority were fully funded.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree to homologate the response to the Scottish Government's Circular Economy Bill and Waste Route map to 2030 consultation, as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

HARBOUR BOARD

It was agreed that the public, including the press, not 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) related to Appendix 3 to the Report only.

Designated
Person's Report 9*

With reference to item 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2024 the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report providing an update on the Designated Person Report form 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.

A visit to the Ports of Leverburgh and Stockinish was carried out in March 2024 and the Designated Person report was provided at Appendix 3. The recommendations from this report would be presented to the June 2024 Series of Meetings.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the External Audit Action Plan included at Appendix 1 to the Report;**
- (2) note the External Audit Action Plan at Appendix 2 to the Report; and**
- (3) note the April 2024 Designated Person Report.**

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Procedural Guide 10
to Surplus
Property/Land
Disposals

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 18 February 2010 and of 8 March 2017 the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure submitted a Report seeking approval to implement an updated Surplus Property/Land Procedure in light of legislative changes and operational experiences. The Report stated that the Surplus Property/Land Procedure was last considered by the Comhairle on 8 March 2017, with the aim of ensuring that the Comhairle's approved procedures and practices remained fit for purpose going forward.

The proposed Surplus Property/Land Procedure sought to ensure that any property/land that was no longer required for the delivery of services was considered within a standard framework and it would enable all interested parties the opportunity to submit offers of expressions of interest as appropriate whilst ensuring that the Comhairle complies with its statutory obligations. The updated procedure was provided at Appendix 1 to the Report.

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:

- (1) note the work undertaken by officers to review and update the Comhairle's approved Surplus Property/Land Procedure in light of legislative changes and operational experiences; and**
- (2) approve the updated Asset Disposal Guide included at Appendix 1 to the Report and agree that it should be implemented with immediate effect.**

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 11*

With reference to item 9 of the Minute of Meeting of 7 February 2024 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:

- (1) notes the Report; and**
- (2) agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure, to agree terms with the Stornoway Trust in relation to the acquisition of a three phase combination saw currently located at Marybank Depot.**

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Reports Outstanding 12

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.