

ISLANDS GROWTH DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held through Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 26 November 2025 at 9.00am.

PRESENT Ms Emma Macdonald, Shetland Islands Council (Chair)
Mr Kristopher Leask, Orkney Islands Council
Ms Heather Woodbridge, Orkney Islands Council
Mr Paul Steele, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

APOLOGIES Mr Dennis Leask, Shetland Islands Council
Mr Donald Crichton, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE Ms Kathlene Morrison, Islands Deal Programme Director
Ms Anne M. Murray, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Ms Elaine Mackenzie, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Ms Erik Knight, Orkney Islands Council
Mr Gareth Waterson, Orkney Islands Council
Mr Jan Riise, Shetland Islands Council
Ms Kirsty Laing, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Oliver Reid, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Sandy Gomez, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Tim Langley, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Welcome and Apologies Ms Emma Macdonald, Shetland Islands Council (Chair) welcomed attendees to the meeting, and the above apologies were noted.

MINUTE

Minute of Meeting of 10 November 2025 1. The Minute of the Meeting of 10 November 2025 was **approved**.

Declaration of Interest 2. There were no declarations of interest.

Schedule of Meetings 2026 3. Ms Kathlene Morrison, Islands Growth Deal Programme Director submitted a draft schedule for Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee meetings for 2026. The Schedule follows similar alignment to the 2025 dates:

- Friday, 16 January 2026 at 11.00am (Microsoft Teams)
- Monday, 23 February 2026 at 11.00am (Microsoft Teams)
- Tuesday, 14 April 2026 at 11.00am (Microsoft Teams)
- Wednesday, 27 May 2026 at 9.00am (Microsoft Teams)
- Tuesday, 14 July 2026 at 11.00am (Microsoft Teams)
- Wednesday, 26 August 2026 at 9.00am (Microsoft Teams)
- Wednesday, 14 October 2026 at 11.00am (Microsoft Teams)
- Monday, 23 November 2026 at 11.00am (Microsoft Teams)

It was agreed to approve the Schedule for the Islands Growth Deal Meetings in 2026, with a recognition that meetings are subject to change, and that additional meetings of the Joint Committee could be required.

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of item 4 on the grounds of the amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by partners under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.

Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to partners in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

Islands Growth Deal: Financial Plan 4.

Ms Kathlene Morrison, Islands Growth Deal Programme Director submitted a Report which detailed the current financial position of the Islands Growth Deal. The Report noted that The Islands Growth Deal (IGD) is currently in its third financial year of operation. Since Deal signing, eight Full Business Cases (FBCs) have been approved, which have in turn supported the implementation of 21 projects spanning the three island groups. Of the eight projects, the Acarsaid Pier development within the Outer Hebrides Food and Drink Programme has been completed, as had the Outer Hebrides Campus Redevelopment; both projects are now in their benefits realisation phase.

The Report further detailed the financial drawdown by projects and areas of financial slippage, with a recognition that in liaison with both the UK and Scottish Governments, the PMO will continue to monitor the financial status of the Islands Growth Deal and support the drawdown of project funding. A financial update report will be provided on to the Joint Committee on a quarterly basis.

It was agreed to note the Report.

Date of Next Meeting 5.

The Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee will next meet on Friday, 16 January 2026 at 11.00am. The meeting will be held through Microsoft Teams.