

# ISLANDS GROWTH DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held through Microsoft Teams, Council Offices, Stornoway on Friday, 29 October 2021 at 2.00pm.

**PRESENT**

Cllr Roddie Mackay (Chair)  
Cllr James Stockan, Orkney Islands Council (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Steven Coutts, Shetland Islands Council  
Cllr Alastair Cooper, Shetland Islands Council  
Cllr Graham Sinclair, Orkney Islands Council

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr Donald Crichton, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms Maggie Sandison, Shetland Islands Council  
Mr Neil Grant, Shetland Islands Council  
Mr Jan Riise, Shetland Islands Council  
Mr John Mundell, Orkney Islands Council  
Mr Gareth Waterson, Orkney Islands Council  
Ms Lorna Richardson, Orkney Islands Council  
Mr Gavin Mitchell, Orkney Islands Council  
Mr Malcolm Burr, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Mr Calum Iain Maciver, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Mr Norman Macdonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Mr Tim Langley, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Mr Neil MacLennan, UK Government  
Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director

## MINUTES

Declaration of Interest 1 There were no declarations of interest.

Election of Chair and Vice – Chair 2 The Chief Executive, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, chaired the Meeting and called for nominations for Chair of the Joint Committee.

Cllr James Stockan, Orkney Islands Council, seconded by Cllr Steven Coutts, Shetland Islands Council, moved the appointment of Cllr Roddie Mackay, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

There were no other nominations.

**The Chief Executive declared that Cllr Roddie Mackay, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, had been duly elected as Chair of the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee.**

The Chairman called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Committee.

Cllr Alastair Cooper, Shetland Islands Council, seconded by Cllr Steven Coutts, Shetland Islands Council, moved the appointment of Cllr James Stockan, Orkney Islands Council.

There were no further nominations.

**The Chairman declared that Cllr James Stockan, Orkney Islands Council, had been duly elected as Vice Chair of the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee.**

Standing Orders	3	A Joint Report was submitted by Ms Anne Murray, Islands Growth Deal Programme Director, Mr Jan Riise, Executive Manager – Governance and Law, Shetland Islands Council, Mr Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services, Orkney Islands Council and Tim Langley, Legal & Procurement Manager, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, which sought approval of Standing Orders for the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee.
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**It was agreed to adopt the Standing Orders at Appendix 1 to the Report.**

Governance Agreement	4	Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which noted the conclusion of the Governance Agreement for the Growth Deal for the Islands. The Report noted the proposals for Island Growth Deal Governance, including the formation of the Joint Committee and that a draft Governance Agreement had been approved by Orkney Islands Council, Shetland Islands Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.
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**It was agreed to note the final version of the Governance Agreement.**

Growth Deal Financial Profile	5	Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which detailed the current profile of Islands Growth Deal expenditure, and emerging requirements around project match funding. The Report noted that Deal funding is expected to be drawn down from the Scottish and UK Government on a flat profile over the ten-year period of the Deal. In the case of the Islands Growth Deal, there will be £10m per annum available over the ten-year period.
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**It was agreed:**

- (1) that each local authority, in liaison with the Programme Director, work to smooth out the expenditure profile for their area, including taking an initial view on the project prioritisation as appropriate;**
- (2) to note that following this exercise, and following further work on the Outline Business Cases, revised proposals on the financial profile will be submitted to the Joint Committee in January 2022.**

Outline Business Cases	6(a)	<u>Outer Hebrides Campus Development</u>  Mr Calum Iain MacIver, Director for Communities, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and Ms Anne Murray, Islands Growth Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which sought approval to submit the Outline Business Case for the Outer Hebrides Campus Redevelopment.
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The Report stated that the project is currently profiled to draw down up to £1.5 million capital funding from the Islands Growth Deal over the first two years of the Deal. £500k match funding is required for the Project.

The Report further stated the investment objectives of the project, which included:

- Transforming local learning opportunities for people in the Outer Hebrides by increasing the range of provision across learning centres through greater use of technologies and mobile equipment.
- Attracting more people to remain to study in the Outer Hebrides through improved learning and teaching facilities, and enhanced student experience.

- Supporting the current and future needs of the economy of the Outer Hebrides by providing access to modern, flexible facilities and equipment, relevant training programmes, research, and innovation.
- Strengthening links with schools through school-college educational opportunities which bridge the gaps between school and college or university and between school and the world of work. In particular, promoting and facilitating education and training in STEM subjects, including engagement with primary school pupils.
- Increasing the resilience of the College through increased student enrolments.

**It was agreed:**

- (1) to approve the submission of the Outer Hebrides Campus Redevelopment Outline Business Case to Scottish and UK Government;**
- (2) to note that the Outline Business Case will be subject to a process of feedback from both Governments;**
- (3) to note that the final version of the Outline Business Case will be presented to the Islands Growth Deal Programme Board and Joint Committee.**

6(b) Shetland Campus

Mr Neil Grant, Director of Development Services, Shetland Islands Council, and Ms Anne Murray, Islands Growth Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which sought approval to submit the Outline Business Case for the Shetland Campus Redevelopment.

The Report stated that the project is currently profiled to draw down up to £2 million capital funding from the Islands Growth Deal over the first two years of the Deal. There is no match funding required for the project to proceed.

The Report further stated the investment objectives of the project, which included:

- Increasing access to learning opportunities in Shetland and improve learners' experiences by 2030.
- developing a highly skilled workforce to support economic development in key growth sectors of Shetland's economy by 2030.
- providing high quality educational, business and community facilities to attract and retain young people in Shetland by 2030.

**It was agreed:**

- (1) to approve the submission of the Shetland Campus Redevelopment Outline Business Case to the Scottish and UK Government;**
- (2) to note that the Outline Business Case will be the subject to a process of feedback from both Governments;**
- (3) to note that the final version of the Outline Business Case will be presented to the Islands Growth Deal Programme Board and Joint Committee.**

6(c) Islands Centre for Net Zero

Mr Gareth Waterson, Interim Executive Director of Finance, Regulatory, Marine and Transportation Services, Orkney Islands Council and Ms Anne Murray, Islands Growth Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which sought approval to submit the Outline Business Case for the Islands Centre for Net Zero to UK and Scottish Governments.

The Report stated that the project is profiled to draw down up to £16.5M capital funding from the Islands Growth Deal. This covers the capital ask required for design, construction and delivery of the various components that make up the ICNZ. A further

commitment of in-kind funding has been made by the partners to the value of £5.2–7.2M. The project is also seeking to secure £11.3–9.3M of competitively won future funds through the delivery timeframe of the project.

The Report further stated the investment objectives of the project, which included:

- Becoming one of the first regions in the UK to reach Net Zero.
- Establishing new “green” jobs within the islands.
- Generating new enterprise and revenue streams, stimulating growth across the supply chain.
- Ensuring decarbonisation has an impact across all the activities in the Deal.
- Creating a globally linked and recognised centre producing innovations of international significance that can be replicated beyond these island groups.

**It was agreed:**

- (1) to approve the submission of the Islands Centre for Net Zero Outline Business Case to Scottish and UK Government;**
- (2) to note that the Outline Business Case will be subject to a process of feedback from both Governments; and**
- (3) to note that the final version of the Outline Business Case will be presented to the Islands Growth Deal Programme Board and Joint Committee.**

Date of Next Meeting

The Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee will next meet on Wednesday, 17 November 2021, at 4.00pm. The meeting will be held through Microsoft Teams.