

ISLANDS GROWTH DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held through Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 10 August 2022 at 3.00pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Emma Macdonald, Shetland Islands Council (Chair)
Cllr Paul Steele, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Vice-Chair)
Cllr James Stockan, Orkney Islands Council
Cllr David Dawson, Orkney Islands Council
Cllr Donald Crichton, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Cllr Dennis Leask, Shetland Islands Council

APOLOGIES

Mr Calum Iain MacIver, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Tim Langley, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Gavin Mitchell, Orkney Islands Council

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director
Ms Charlene Macmillan, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Gareth Waterson, Orkney Islands Council
Ms Inga Burton, Orkney Islands Council
Mr John Mundell, Orkney Islands Council
Ms Kirsty Laing, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Ms Kimberley Daly, Scottish Government
Ms Maggie Sandison, Shetland Islands Council
Mr Malcolm Burr, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Neil Grant, Shetland Islands Council
Mr Sweyn Johnston, Orkney Islands Council
Mr Walter McConnachie, Scottish Government

MINUTES

Minute of Meeting of 22 June 2022	1	The Minute of the Meeting of 22 June 2022 was approved.
Declaration of Interest	2	There were no declarations of interest.
Full Deal Documents and Signing Arrangements	3	Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which sought approval of the draft Full Deal documentation and to identify the Joint Committee's preferred location for signing Full Deal. The Report stated that Scottish and UK Government have advised that a date for Full Deal signing should be possible at the end of November / beginning December 2022, assuming the current trajectory of OBC approvals remains on track. Both Governments are currently checking Ministerial availability so that a preferred date can be confirmed.

The Report further stated that both Scottish Government and UK Government have indicated that it is for the Growth Deal partners to identify a location for signing Full Deal. The preference is that this be done in person, with contingency arrangements in place should travel prove to be an issue for any of the signatories. The Full Deal document should be signed by the Leader of each of the three partner local authorities, along with the nominated minister from UK and Scottish Government. The main consideration in respect of location is that it will need to have Growth Deal projects in the vicinity which offer a balance of funding from both Scottish and UK Government, as this would be

reflected in the associated programme of visits and communications around the signing event.

In discussion, it was recognised that there could be challenges in relation to facilitating an in person signing of the Full Deal at the end of November / beginning December 2022, due to existing Committee schedules, national meetings and adverse weather conditions, which could impact on travel and site visits. Following discussion, it was agreed that Orkney Islands Council would host the signing of the Full Deal.

It was noted that the Islands Growth Deal Programme Board had approved amendments to Growth Deal documents at the Board meeting of 3 August 2022.

It was agreed:

- (1) that Orkney would host the Full Deal signing;**
- (2) to approve the draft Full Deal documents at Appendix 1 to the Report;**
- (3) to the amendments to Growth Deal documentation outlined at Appendix 2 to the Report, subject to further advice from each Councils' lead on legal and governance matters;**
- (4) to note that final versions will be presented to the Programme Board and the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee in advance of Full Deal sign off; and**
- (5) to note that, in conjunction with this, the Programme Board and Joint Committee will be asked to approve final versions of all Outline Business Cases.**

Outline Business Case – Orkney World Heritage Gateway 4

With reference to Item 3 of the Minute of the Meeting of 17 December 2021, Mr Gareth Waterson, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, Orkney Islands Council, and Ms Anne Murray, Islands Growth Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which sought approval to submit the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Orkney World Heritage Gateway Project to Scottish and UK Government.

Ms Inga Burton, Programme Manager Islands Deal, Orkney Islands Council noted that the Orkney Heritage Gateway is an Orkney specific project, led by Orkney Islands Council and project partners (Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and Historic Environment Scotland) which seeks to provide a world-class, innovative solution to heritage management and sustainable tourism at the Heart of Orkney World Heritage Site, enabling exceptional engagement with and connection to the sites and their history for visitors and residents, and protecting the outstanding value of the heritage for generations to come. It was noted that the Project Board had met and responded to initial feedback from Orkney Islands Council with the OBC updated by consultants and endorsed by the Programme Board for direct submission to Scottish and UK Government.

The Report detailed the funding ask of £6.5m from the Islands Growth Deal towards a total project cost of £12.132m, resulting in an Islands Deal intervention rate of 53.6%. The Report further stated that the revised outline for the project was anticipated to increase employment opportunities.

It was agreed:

- (1) to approve the submission of the Orkney World Heritage Gateway Outline Business Case to Scottish and UK Government;**
- (2) to note that the OBC 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.**