

ISLANDS GROWTH DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held through
Microsoft Teams, on Friday, 14 July 2023
at 9.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Emma Macdonald, Shetland Islands Council (Chair)
Cllr Paul Steele, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Vice-Chair)
Cllr David Dawson, Orkney Islands Council

APOLOGIES Cllr James Stockan, Orkney Islands Council
Cllr Dennis Leask, Shetland Islands Council
Cllr Donald Crichton, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director
Mr Calum Iain MacIver, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Ms Elaine Mackenzie, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Mr Gareth Waterson, Orkney Islands Council
Ms Hazel Tait, Shetland Islands Council
Mr Jan Riise, Shetland Islands Council
Ms Kirsty Laing, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Ms Louise Shearer, Shetland Islands Council
Ms Maggie Sandison, Shetland Islands Council
Mr Neil Grant, Shetland Islands Council
Mr Oliver Reid, Orkney Islands Council
Mr Tim Langley, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

MINUTES

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| Minute of Meeting of 10 May 2023 | 1 | The Minute of the Meeting of 10 May 2023 was approved . |
| Declaration of Interest | 2 | There were no declarations of interest. |
| Programme Management Office Resourcing | 3 | With reference to item 5 of the Minute of the Meeting of 8 March 2023, Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which detailed recent communication with the Scottish and UK Governments regarding the resource implications of delivering the Islands Growth Deal. The Report noted that a letter was issued from the Chair of the Programme Board to representatives of the Scottish City Region and Growth Deal Delivery Board (SCRGDDB) between Scottish and UK Governments, which sought additional resourcing for the Programme Management Office. The response from the Scottish and UK Governments reaffirmed the position that both Governments have adopted for all Growth Deals, which is that no additional funding in relation to the programme management costs for the Islands Deal will be available.

It was agreed to note the communication with the Scottish and UK Governments regarding additional resourcing to deliver the Islands Deal. |
| Subsidy Control Assessments | 4 | Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which provided an update on subsidy control assessments for Islands Growth Deal funding. The Report noted that subsidy control assessments would be done in line with Final Business Case approval being sought, but that due to timing, this had not been possible to do this when the funding was approved within the Islands Centre for Net Zero (ICNZ) Final Business |

Case in April 2023. A subsidy control assessment has now been carried out in line with the agreed process.

The Report indicated that 'no subsidy' position has been agreed for the Islands Deal funding in relation to the Islands Centre for Net Zero to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council, Community Energy Scotland (CES), Heriot Watt University (HWU) and the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC).

The Report further noted that the level of commonality in terms of a number of investments within the Islands Deal, along with the resources required to undertake subsidy control assessments, means that there may be value in exploring establishment of a scheme to cover elements of the Islands Deal funding.

It was agreed:

- (1) to note that the subsidy control assessment for the Islands Centre for Net Zero has been completed; and**
- (2) that amendments be made to streamline the process, including exploration of the benefits of establishing an approved subsidy scheme for elements of the Islands Deal funding.**

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of item 5 on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely information relating to the amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by a partner under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.

Quarterly Claim and Performance Report Grant and 5

Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director, submitted a Report which sought approval of the March – June 2023/24 Quarterly Claim and Progress Report for the Islands Deal. The Report noted that there had been a reduction in the projected level of funding drawn down by the Islands Deal in 2023/24, but this money was not lost from the Deal and would be allocated to projects in later years.

It was noted that Ms Anne Murray, Islands Deal Programme Director would meet with representatives from partner agencies to consider mitigation against projects which were off-track and would provide an email update to the Joint Committee in advance of its next meeting.

It was agreed to approve the March – June 2023/24 Quarterly Claim and Progress Report.

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Ms Emma Macdonald, Shetland Islands Council/ Chair noted that the Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee was due to meet on 26 July 2023. In discussion, it was agreed to cancel the meeting on the basis that there were no pressing issues which required consideration. The Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee will next meet on Wednesday, 30 August 2023 at 4.00pm. The meeting would be held through Microsoft Teams.

Ms Macdonald noted that with reference to the Standing Orders, this would be her last meeting as Chair, and in line with the Standing Orders, Mr James Stockan would be appointed as Chair. Ms Macdonald thanked colleagues for their support during her time as Chair and wished Mr Stockan well in his role as Chair.