

# ISLANDS GROWTH DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held through Microsoft Teams on Monday, 14 July 2025 at 11.00am.

PRESENT	Ms Emma Macdonald, Shetland Islands Council (Chair) Mr Paul Steele, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Mr Dennis Leask, Shetland Islands Council Mr Kristopher Leask, Orkney Islands Council
APOLOGIES	Mr Donald Crichton, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Ms Heather Woodbridge, Orkney Islands Council
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	Ms Kathlene Morrison, Islands Deal Programme Director Ms Anne Murray, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Ms Charlene Macmillan, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Ms Elaine Mackenzie, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Mr Gareth Waterson, Orkney Islands Council Mr Jan Riise, Shetland Islands Council Ms Kirsty Laing, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Ms Maggie Sandison, Shetland Islands Council Mr Neil Grant, Shetland Islands Council Mr Oliver Reid, Orkney Islands Council Mr Sweyn Johnstone, Orkney Islands Council

## MINUTE

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| Minute of Meeting of 21 May 2025 | 1. | The Minute of the Meeting of 21 May 2025 was <b>approved</b> .   |
| Declaration of Interest          | 2. | There were no declarations of interest.  |
| Annual Conversation              | 3. | With reference to item 5 of the Minute of the Meeting of 21 May 2025 the Islands Deal Programme Director submitted a Report which provided a summary overview of the 2025 Islands Growth Deal Annual Conversation. The Report noted that representatives from the Scottish and UK Governments Growth Deal Teams had met with the Chief Executives from each local authority, and the Programme Director on 29 August 2025. |

The meeting considered an overview of the achievements and challenges which the IGD had experienced in 2024/25. These included approving and supporting five Business Cases into delivery whilst also undertaking the Deliverability Review, experiencing project and FBC development delays and continued underspend; these issues will continue into 25/26 however mitigations have, and are, being put into place to reduce or negate these risks.

Several actions had been agreed to be taken forward, which include:

- Match funding successes, outline of values, where these have come from and any learning about how these have been achieved.
- Vulnerabilities in some of the partner organisations – specifically capacity in e.g. academic partners.
- Reset process – confirmation of the process and iterations.
- Prioritisation of Business Cases to identify where possible any sequencing/preferences around prioritisation.

**It was agreed to note the Report.**

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of item 4 and 5 on the grounds of the amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the 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.

Quarter 1 25/26 4.  
Overview Report

The Islands Deal Programme Director submitted a Report which detailed the Quarter 1 Report from April to June 2025. The Report provided a summary overview of the quarterly financial spend forecast across projects, including current status and Grant Claim for the quarter. The Programme Director noted that the expected draw down had been less than forecast due to some delays in payments but is anticipated to be recouped in quarter 2 as projects progress. It was noted that claims submission dates had been brought forward to allow for greater time for review and analysis.

**It was agreed to note the Report.**

Islands Growth 5.  
Deal – Grant Offer  
Letter 2025-26

The Islands Deal Programme Director submitted the Islands Growth Deal – Grant Offer Letter 2025-26. The letter detailed the offer to give Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (“the Grantee”) a Grant for the Islands Growth Deal (“the Programme”) totalling £9,720,490. The grant for 2025-26 is made up of £494,953 for revenue expenditure only and £9,225,537 for capital expenditure only.

**It was agreed to note the letter.**