

## The Highland Council

Minutes of the special meeting of the **Economy and Infrastructure Committee** held remotely on **Thursday, 8 July 2021** at **9.30 am**.

### **Present:**

Mr R Balfour	Mr D Louden
Mr B Boyd	Mr A MacInnes
Mr I Brown	Mr W MacKay
Mrs C Caddick	Mr D MacLeod
Mrs H Carmichael	Mr J Finlayson (substitute)
Dr I Cockburn (substitute)	Mr D Rixson
Mr J Gray	Mrs T Robertson
Mr A Henderson	

### **Non-Members also present:**

Mr A Christie	Mrs E McAllister
Mrs M Davidson	Mr G MacKenzie
Mr B Lobban	

### **Officials in Attendance:**

Mr M MacLeod, Executive Chief Officer - Infrastructure & Environment  
Ms K Lackie, Executive Chief Officer - Performance & Governance  
Mr E Foster, Head of Corporate Fin & Commercialism  
Mr C Howell, Head of Infrastructure  
Mr A MacIver, Principal Engineer Strategy and Testing  
Mr M Mitchell, Service Finance Manager  
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Chief Executive's Office  
Ms Fiona MacBain, Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Office

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.**

### **Mrs T Robertson in the Chair**

#### **1. Apologies for Absence** **Leisgeulan**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr P Saggars, Mr K Gowans and Mr C Munro.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest** **Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Update**

The Head of Infrastructure gave a presentation on the background to the harbour redevelopment, the proposals for the harbour and the benefits the redevelopment would bring, and the funding arrangements for the project.

### 3. Exclusion of the Public Às-dùnadh a' Phobail

The Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

### 4. Uig Harbour Redevelopment

A presentation was given by the Head of Infrastructure on proposed changes to funding arrangements and the grant offer, risks to the Council, and a summary of the options for action.

There had been circulated to Members only Report No. ECI/30/21 dated 2 July 2021 from the Executive Chief Officer (Infrastructure and Environment).

Following the presentation the Committee **AGREED** to suspend Standing Order 35.

During discussion, Members considered various issues, including the following:-

- the increased costs and reputational damage that would be incurred if there was a further delay to the harbour redevelopment;
- the poor state of the existing facilities and the economic benefits of the redevelopment;
- the reasons for the changes to the usual grant offer for this type of project;
- the mechanics of how and when the additional capital required would be funded and repaid, and assurance that this project would not impact on the Council's capital programme;
- assurance was sought, and received, that all dredging undertaken was compliant with relevant legislation;
- the current harbour dues at Uig, not including the additional costs of the redevelopment, would continue to be amended in line with the usual annual negotiations to cover required maintenance;
- reference was made to the SSE plans to upgrade transmission lines from Uig to Fort Augustus;
- information was sought, and provided, on the funding arrangements for the Western Isles Council's element of the project; and
- assurance was sought, and provided, that there was no financial risk to the Council over those stated in the report – which were described as typical in such grant offers.

The Committee **AGREED** the recommendations as detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 11am.