

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WESTERN ISLES ENTERPRISE BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2005 AT 1700HRS IN THE WESTERN ISLES ENTERPRISE BOARDROOM, STORNOWAY

Present: Murdo MacIennan
Neil Campbell
Finlay Macdonald
Rachel MacKenzie
Calum Maclean
Donald R Macleod
Hector Stewart
Alex Tearse

In Attendance: Donnie Macaulay
Lorna Macaulay
Archie Macdonald
Donnie Morrison until Agenda Item 5.05.5
Gillian Morrison
Iain Morrison

5.05.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Murdo MacIennan's interest in agenda item 5.05.5 Connected Communities was noted.

Alex Tearse's interest in agenda item 5.05.5 Connected Communities was noted.

Donald R Macleod's interest in agenda item 5.05.6, 6.3 Operational Report (Camcal Ltd) was noted and he left the meeting during discussion of this agenda item.

5.05.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Isobel Graham, Murdo Macdonald and Angus Campbell.

5.05.3 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD 19TH SEPTEMBER 2005

The minute of the meeting held 19th September 2005 was approved by Calum Maclean and seconded by Neil Campbell.

5.05.4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

Item 4.05.5 Transport Issues
Donnie Macaulay confirmed that the National Transport Strategy consultation document has now been received and a response will be drafted. It was agreed WIE Board Members would be consulted by E Mail on this, prior to submission.

5.05.5 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Presentation by Donnie Morrison, WIE Global Connections

Donnie Morrison presented Members with a comprehensive update on the Connected Communities project. Members welcomed the information and clarification on issues relating to competitive protocols, pricing and timescales for the service.

5.05.6 MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

6.1 HALF YEAR REPORT

i) WIE TARGETS TO SEPTEMBER 2005

Donnie Macaulay highlighted the target areas where concentrated effort is required to achieve the targets. Members noted the report.

ii) WIE APPROVALS APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2005

Members noted the approvals.

6.2 BUDGETARY UPDATE

Donnie Macaulay updated Members on continuing efforts and management of budget spend and forecasting.

6.3 OPERATIONAL REPORT

Following the re-structured financial package, the Network has subscribed to additional equity in Camcal Ltd. WIE has also acquired the bending rolls at Arnish.

Board Members agreed for Donnie Macaulay to take forward the issue of a Youth Observer to the Board, ensuring issues relating to sensitive information and commercial confidentiality are addressed.

6.4 WIE RISK REGISTER

Gillian Morrison updated Members on the current risk register. Members noted the register.

5.05.7 UHI/LCC BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Members agreed to carry forward this agenda item. Neil Campbell agreed to remain as representative for interim period.

5.05.8 MIGRANT WORKERS

Lorna Macaulay spoke to the paper. Employers have reported consistently high standards of work, and strong work ethic of those workers currently in post.

Hector Stewart spoke of his experience of employment of migrant workers and confirmed that it was a positive experience. Issues relating to communication including health and safety, and signage, require attention.

Members stated a balance is necessary between migrant and local workers and also suggested the aim should be to have migrant workers settling in the Western Isles as opposed to working for a period and then returning home or moving on.

Lorna Macaulay is to pursue development in the areas of work identified in the report.

5.05.9 NETWORK ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

Murdo MacLennan and Donnie Macaulay highlighted some of the key issues from the document. They stated the HIE Chair and Director of Strategy recently met with the Deputy First Minister and it was agreed HIE would progress their proposals.

Members stated they would need more information before constructive comments would be made, but highlighted the continuing important role of the private sector in economic development at a strategic level. Murdo MacLennan to liaise with Board members after the LEC Chairs meeting scheduled for 7 December 2005.

5.05.10 AOB

Meeting dates for 2006 will be circulated in due course. Members requested six scheduled meetings with two being primarily for strategy.

With no further business, the meeting was closed.

Signed: *M. MacLennan*Chair

Date: *23/1/06*

Gillian Morrison
Head of Executive Office
15 November 2005