

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WESTERN ISLES ENTERPRISE BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 8 MAY 2006 AT 1700HRS IN THE WESTERN ISLES ENTERPRISE BOARDROOM, STORNOWAY

Present: Murdo MacIennan Chair
Neil Campbell
Finlay Macdonald
Rachel Mackenzie
Alex Tearse

In Attendance: Donnie Macaulay
Lorna Macaulay
Archie Macdonald
Isabel Macdonald
Gillian Morrison
Kenneth Galloway Careers Scotland
Kenneth Nicolson Youth Observer

3.06.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Neil Campbell's interest in agenda item 3.06.7 Tourism Policy was noted.

Murdo MacIennan's interests in agenda item 3.06.5, 5.3 Operational Report Gaelic Broadcasting and 3.06.6, 6.1 Connected Communities were noted.

Alex Tearse's interest in Agenda Item 3.06.6, 6.1 Connected Communities was noted.

3.06.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Angus Campbell, Isobel Graham, Murdo Macdonald, Calum Maclean, DR Macleod and Hector Stewart.

3.06.3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 6TH MARCH 2006

A revised first page of the minute was circulated showing a noted interest in Agenda Item 2.06.7 Gaelic Broadcasting for Angus Campbell.

The amended minute of the meeting held on 6th March 2006 was approved by Alex Tearse and seconded by Neil Campbell

3.06.4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

2.06.5 Management Information
Operational Report – Donnie Macaulay suggested that consideration of new Board Members be delayed due to the current network restructuring process, especially in relation to the integration of Careers Scotland. Members agreed this recommendation.

LCC/UHI Membership – Members considered the potential links between LEC and LEF membership into the longer term, and agreed to consider this matter further at the next meeting of the WIE Board, to ensure optimum links and co-ordination in membership of each body.

3.06.5 MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

5.1 Year End Report

Donnie Macaulay spoke to the report. Members requested updates on a number of approved projects and noted the report.

5.2 Budgetary Update

Donnie Macaulay spoke to the figures presented and stated that a meeting was scheduled this week with the HIE Director of Finance to discuss the budget for the current financial year.

Members stated that they would be encouraged to see the current years' budget to be reflective of the fragile status of the economy of the Western Isles.

5.3 Operational Report

Donnie Macaulay spoke to the report.

Finlay Macdonald commented on the success of the Who Cares Wins launch held in Stornoway. He congratulated Lorna Macaulay and colleagues on efforts made and the keynote speaker who attended the event.

5.4 Applications Committee Minutes

Members noted the Minutes.

3.06.6 MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATES

6.1 Connected Communities

Archie Macdonald spoke to the paper highlighting the nearing completion of the construction phase and progress relating to orders received.

Finlay Macdonald stated that a Connected Communities Broadband facility on the various ferry routes throughout the islands would be a beneficial service to business commuters and visitors alike. Staff to take this matter forward with Calmac.

6.2 Camcal

Donnie Macaulay updated Members on the re-structured financial package situation regarding the crane foundations and equity. He confirmed that employment levels currently stand at approximately 100 FTE's.

6.3 Arnish

Donnie Macaulay confirmed efforts on completion of Phase 1 Works, and that early planning relating to Phase 2 development was under consideration.

3.06.7 TOURISM POLICY

Isabel Macdonald spoke to the paper confirming the proposed policy emanated from high demand, and a significant number of enquiries relating to tourism sector developments. There was a need to provide detailed advice and guidance to colleagues on WIE priorities in the sector.

Members discussed issues relating to occupancy rates, local requirements and the differing rates of intervention for bed & breakfast and self-catering establishments.

After detailed discussion, members agreed the investment priorities proposed, and highlighted the need to revisit the policy in 2007 following completion of current research in the sector.

3.06.8 CAREERS SCOTLAND – Presentation by Locality Manager Ken Galloway

Ken Galloway presented Members on the history and current status of Careers Scotland. The presentation highlighted the proposed integration of Careers Scotland to the HIE Network and also the differing service which Careers Scotland and the local M:Ploy office provide.

Murdo Maclellan thanked Ken Galloway for his presentation and input.

3.06.9 HIE NETWORK BRANDING

Murdo Maclellan introduced this agenda item, highlighting the preferred English name being HIE Hebrides. Discussion took place relating to the Gaelic version.

Members agreed for Donnie Macaulay to contact HIE Communications & Media team for advice and to organise a session to further progress this issue. Archie Macdonald is also to take the recommendations to the Branding Group.

3.06.10 AOB

Finlay Macdonald asked for an update on An Lanntair's business plan. Donnie Macaulay stated some progress had been made, and the completed plan was anticipated shortly.

With further business, the meeting was closed.