

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WESTERN ISLES ENTERPRISE BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 9th MAY 2005 AT 1700 HRS IN THE WESTERN ISLES ENTERPRISE BOARDROOM, STORNOWAY

Present: Murdo MacIennan Chair
Angus Campbell
Neil Campbell
Isobel Graham
Finlay Macdonald
Rachel Mackenzie
Calum Maclean
Hector Stewart
Alex Tearse

In Attendance: Donnie Macaulay
Lorna Macaulay
Archie Macdonald
Neil Mackinnon
Iain Morrison
Catherine Maclean

Observers: -

2.05.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Murdo MacIennan's interest in agenda item 2.05.7 (Connected Communities) was noted.

Angus Campbell's interests in agenda item 2.05.6 (An Lanntair), agenda item 2.05.6 (National Training Contracts) and agenda item 2.05.06 (Bridge Centre) were noted.

Alex Tearse's interests in agenda item 2.05.6 (An Lanntair) and agenda item 2.05.7 (Connected Communities) were noted.

Neil Campbell's interest in agenda item 2.05.6 (National Training Contracts) was noted.

2.05.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Murdo Macdonald.

2.05.3 MINUTE OF MEETING HELD 7TH FEBRUARY 2005

The minute of the meeting held 7th February 2005 was approved, proposed by Alex Tearse and seconded by Calum MacLean.

2.05.4

MATTERS ARISING

10.04.4 Matters Arising

D Macaulay confirmed D R Macleod was willing to join the Board and it was hoped to meet with him soon to complete the necessary documentation.

10.04.4 Matters Arising

D Macaulay advised the Board that the G S Hall project proposed for Tarbert had not yet started. Discussions with the company are ongoing.

01.05.10 Other Business

Bridge Centre

D Macaulay advised members that the HISTP Application had been approved for this project. Additional funding has also been approved by CnES.

2.05.5

BUDGETS/TARGETS

5.1 2004/05 Year End Out-Turns

D Macaulay advised members that out-turns are yet to be ratified by HIE. WIE appears to have met all but 4 of the targets set. A presentation is likely to be available by HIE Strategy Team on LEC and network performance against targets at a later date.

Members were updated on the demise of Morrison Engineering Ltd, and staff confirmed there was no business proposal of a similar type under consideration at this stage. D Macaulay confirmed he will discuss with Stornoway Port Authority to ensure co-ordination of effort should a business proposal emerge at the slipway facility.

5.2 2005/06 Targets & Budget

D Macaulay advised members that the WIE Budget for 2005/06 has been provided by HIE. The budget breakdown per programme will be finalised shortly, and this will be circulated to members on completion.

OPERATIONAL REPORT**Biolitech**

A Macdonald advised members that WIE are to meet with Managers from Biolitech on Thursday 12th May to continue discussions on the way forward for the company. He confirmed that WIE effort was focussed on a business activity which would secure continuity of employment at Breasclete.

An Lanntair

D Macaulay advised members that funding partners are maintaining close contact with An Lanntair, and with partner agencies, as the building project moves towards completion, recognising the need for updated business planning scenarios to address reduced revenue support now available.

Stolt/MH

D Macaulay confirmed, following confirmation of closure of the Stolt factory at Scalpay last week that WIE, together with Jobcentre Plus and CnES, are to meet with Stolt employees this week, as part of the PACE initiative.

He also advised that ongoing effort is being made to identify a future tenant for the Scalpay factory.

National Training Programmes

L Macaulay spoke to this paper. Members acknowledged the achievements of 2004/05 and expressed their support for continued action, given the high level of demand locally for vocational training and clear evidence of skills shortages in key sectors in the Western Isles.

Large Projects List

D Macaulay spoke to this paper confirming the spreadsheet is integral to the WIE planning process. He advised that a significant proportion of the larger approved projects would be completed in 2005/06. The schedule was subject to regular updates, and input from members was welcomed.

Approval of Audited Accounts

Members agreed to delegate approval of the audited accounts to the Internal Audit Committee.

Risk Register

Members highlighted the continuing impact of transport costs on the business development process, and the need to consider this in the context of the Risk Register.

Members asked that a presentation be provided by Hi-Trans on their future strategy for transport in the Western Isles. Staff to take this forward.

Corporate Governance

Chair reminded members of the need for vigilance with regard to corporate governance issues, and a copy of the Network's Conflict of Interest policy was provided to all members.

2.05.7

UPDATES

(i) Camcal

D Macaulay spoke to this paper outlining the updated position for the company. Members expressed concern that the market had not yet developed as forecast. Despite good progress being achieved with yard commissioning, the critical importance of progress in the market overall was highlighted, as was the need for the company to secure contracts shortly.

(ii) Arnish

N Mackinnon spoke to members on this update paper. He advised that the "All Energy" conference is to be held in Aberdeen at the end of May and WIE will attend, aiming to generate interest in Arnish. Discussions are ongoing with Port Authority relating to quay management arrangements. Approval of the quay as a secure facility under the International Shipping and Port Security Code has now been confirmed.

(iii) Connected Communities

N Mackinnon spoke to members on this paper and highlighted the key milestones, progress to date, legal, and technical challenges encountered during the construction process. Changing market conditions in relation to broadband service provision were also highlighted.

2.05.8

A O B

MP

Members asked that Chief Executive arrange an early informal meeting involving members as available and the MP.

Network Conference – Aviemore

D Macaulay reminded members of the HIE Network Conference to be held in Aviemore on 16/17 June and asked for members to consider participation. Staff to contact Members to clarify.

HIE Board Visit

D Macaulay advised members that the HIE Board are to visit the Western Isles on 27/28 June and asked as to members availability. Staff to contact members to clarify.

DONM

The date of the next WIE Board meeting is 8th August 2005. Members suggested an interim lunch time meeting to update members in advance of the HIE Board visit. Provisional dates suggested were 21,23 and 24 June. D Macaulay to pursue, dependent on availability of board members.

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Signed
Chairman

Catherine Maclean
Head of Executive Office
10/05/05