



CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Item 4.2
IJB- 23 June 2026

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
STORNOWAY AND THROUGH
MICROSOFT TEAMS ON
THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2026 AT
2.00PM.

Voting Members Present:

Prof. Annetta Smith
Ian McCorquodale
Calum Maclean
George Murray
Karen France Macleod
Kenneth M Macleod

Non-Executive Director, NHSWI (Chair)
Non-Executive Director, NHSWI
CnES Councillor (Vice Chair)
CnES Councillor
Non-Executive Director. NHSWI
CnES Councillor

Non-Voting Members Present:

Emma MacSween
Debbie Bozkurt
Donald E MacLeod
Michael Stewart
Clare Carolan
Dena Macleod
Donald MacAulay

Interim Chief Officer, IJB
Chief Financial Officer, IJB
Senior Accountant, CnES
Interim Chief Social Work Officer
Primary Care Assistant Medical Director
Hebridean Housing Partnership
Scottish Ambulance Service

In Attendance:

Tim Langley
Shona Hadwen
Yvonne Maciver
Dean McConnell

Chief Officer, Law and Governance, CnES (Standards Officer)
Principal Administrator, CnES
Administrator, CnES
Scottish Government



1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Naomi MacDonald	NHSWI Non-Executive Director
Susan Thomson	CnES Councillor
Iain A MacNeil	CnES Councillor
Malcolm Burr	Chief Executive, CnES
Michelle MacPhail	Corporate Business Support Manager

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

4.1 IJB Minute of 25 February 2026

The Board considered the minute of the meeting of 25 February 2026.

Decision: The Minute of the meeting of 25 February 2026 was approved.

Action: No further action.

4.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Action Points as at 26 March 2026

Emma MacSween, Interim Chief Officer provided an update on the actions outstanding as at 26 March 2026 with particular reference to the following:

- Minutes of the Strategic Planning Group – The Strategic Planning Group met on 10 March 2026 with an Agenda focused on the Scheme, Performance Reports and associated information. It was agreed at the SPG meeting that Locality Plans that have been produced for Barra, Harris and Uist would be shared with the SPG in order that the membership get a view of the issues that are pertinent in each area. This would be central in terms of drafting the Strategic Plan. It was noted that work was needed to re-invigorate the Locality Group in Lewis and it was intended to try to re-establish one in the future.



Decision: It was agreed to note the update provided and the updates in the Action Tracker.

Action: Interim Chief Officer to lead on the re-establishment of the Lewis Locality Planning Group.

5. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

5.1 Continuation of Appointment of Chairperson

Tim Langley, Standards Officer submitted a Report seeking authorisation to suspend Standing Orders limiting the appointment of the Chairperson to 2 years in order to allow continuity of the role of Chairperson until after the local government elections in May 2027.

The Report stated that the current Chairperson was appointed by the NJS Board to the position with effect from 1 July 2024 for a two-year term meaning that Prof. Annetta Smith would be required to stand down by 30 June 2026 by which time, in accordance with the Boards's Standing Orders a new appointment is required to be made by the Comhairle.

However, local government elections are due to take place in early May 2027, so the term of office of all current serving Councillors would end at that point. Therefore, an appointment to Chairperson by the Comhairle in the meantime might cause unnecessary uncertainty in the continuity of the position of chairperson.

It was recommended that the Board agree to suspend Standing Order 3.2 and approve the continuation of the current appointment of Chairperson to 30 June 2027.

Decision: It was agreed to suspend Standing Order 3.2 and approve the continuation of the current appointment of Prof. Annetta Smith as Chairperson to 30 June 2027.

Action: No action required.

6. STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE

6.1 Strategic Commissioning Plan Update

Emma MacSween, Interim Chief Officer submitted a Report which provided the Board with an update on the status of the interim Strategic Plan, previously shared at Board Development Day in August 2025.

The Report stated that during the August 2025 IJB development sessions, an interim Strategic Plan was presented for consideration. In terms of governance processes and consultation as per the statutory guidance, the due diligence in progressing with the interim Plan had not been completed. Subsequent discussions at the Service Management Team and Integrated Corporate Management Team have concluded that a revisiting of the proposed actions would be beneficial in terms of clarity of intent and appropriateness for a strategically orientated document.

The Report further stated that in addition, the rapidly evolving national agenda associated with Sub National Planning and the associated remit of Delivery Committees (SPDCs) required to be considered as a



significant development when undertaking strategic planning. Similarly, the national frameworks pertaining to service renewal and population health require to be addressed. From a local perspective, the Health Needs Assessment produced in 2025 provided further data to be interrogated when considering strategic priorities to address current and future health and social care service priorities.

The Appendix to the Report provided the Action Plan which was integrated into the interim Strategic Plan presented last August at the Development Day. There were updates provided against each action to help provide some context for the Board's consideration on the various issues. The Report recommended that in order to provide some continuity in terms of priorities to be carried forward, the following strategic themes be included in the drafting of the substantive Strategic Plan:

- Community Rehabilitation
- System flow (admission avoidance and discharge without delay)
- Digital Innovation
- Dementia
- Frailty
- Barra and Vatersay Community Campus
- Primary Care and Integrated Teams
- Palliative Care

The Interim Chief Officer highlighted that these key themes would be alongside all delegated services that would be included in the Plan. The next step would be to draft a substantive document for further consideration, bringing incremental aspects of the plan to members attention which would go through the Strategic Planning Group. This process would be done over the next few months and presented to the Board at a later date.

Members welcomed the detailed action plan and asked questions relating to dentistry cover in the Uists and Barra, and the new Walk-In Centres. Clare Carolan, Associate Medical Director, informed members that a bid had been submitted to Scottish Government which had been successful. The project will be operational on a phased basis. It was noted that this is only for a year and is particularly aimed at dealing with increases in temporary residents. The process was explained in detail and members were afforded the opportunity to ask further questions.

Decision:

- 1. It was agreed to note the Report and the status of the Interim Plan.**
- 2. The Board agreed to the priority areas as detailed above and at section 2.3.1 of the Report to feature in the drafting of the substantive Strategic Plan.**

Action: **The Interim Chief Officer would provide a refreshed Strategic Commissioning Plan for final approval at a future meeting of the Board.**

7. FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

7.1 Budget 2026-27 and 3 Year Plan

Debbie Bozkurt, Chief Financial Officer submitted a Report which stated that in accordance with the Western Isles Integration Scheme, the IJB is required to approve a balanced budget on the basis of the funding delegated by NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES). This has been an extremely challenging process with both of the IJB's parent bodies experiencing significant financial pressure.



The 2026/27 budget initially required for the delegated and set aside functions is £89.554m which results in an initial budget gap of £4.140m. After earmarked reserves are included, anticipated Scottish Government Grants, reserves and savings including unavoidable vacancies (for both partners), brings the net budget to a break-even position.

The appendix to the Report contained full details on due diligence, a summary of the 25/26 Budget Proposal, Savings Proposals, the Three-Year Plan, Risks and Recommendations.

In discussion, the Chief Financial Officer provided a summary of the key risk areas to the budget and highlighted the ongoing impact of this on the budget for future years. It was noted whilst both partner bodies monitor costs closely, enabling the IJB to break even each year, the projected budgets for the next three years could change considerably depending on an injection of funding from the Scottish Government or through COSLA. The unknown variable of cost pressures would also contribute to changes in the financial forecast particularly with the reality of an ageing demographic which would need more long-term social care support and an increase in demand for NHS services.

In summary it was noted that with the level of gap predicted over the next three years, changes in service would need to be made over and above some of the choices that will need to be made to allow the Board to break even in 2026/27. Work linking long-term strategies for Health and Social Care would need to start immediately, specifically as many would need to be consulted on and would possibly trigger change in management processes in both partners.

Decision: It was agreed that the IJB:

- a) Approve the break-even budget position for 26/27;
- b) Note the 3-year gaps at paragraph 14 of the Appendix
- c) Note the ongoing cost pressures and risks that will need to be mitigated where possible.

Action: No further action required.

7.3 Fees and Charges 2026-27

Emma MacSween, Interim Chief Officer submitted a Report for awareness concerning the setting of fees and charges for social care services. The setting of fees and charges for social care services remains a matter of local authority governance. The proposal to continue with full cost recovery was included in the recommendations given the structural deficit facing the Board.

The sharing of the proposed fees and charges had previously been brought to the IJB for approval ahead of the Comhairle consideration of the matter. Due to the rescheduling of the IJB meeting, the setting of fees and charges was undertaken by the Policy and Resources Committee on 25 March with final approval by the Comhairle on 1 April 2026.

The appendix to the Report set out the framework of charges for 2026/27 for Community Care services, in the context of COSLA guidance on charging for social work services. Personal care delivered to people, regardless of age, has been delivered free of charge since 1 April 2019. People who receive services as a consequence of an Order under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, and other compulsory measures are similarly exempt from charges.



The Comhairle continues to follow COSLA Guidance on charges. The charges relating to residential services set out in the Appendix are the maximum charge for each service, and do not translate into the amount that all individuals would pay towards their care.

The charges for residential care and HWEC (housing with extra care) were re-baselined in 2024/25 to represent full cost recovery at the time, and a 5% inflationary uplift **has** been applied in subsequent years. The Comhairle will continue to follow COSLA Guidance on charges.

The following recommendations in relation to the fees and charges were approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on 25 March 2026 and will go for final approval to the Comhairle on 1 April 2026:

- (a) **the standard weekly charge for Comhairle care homes for the elderly increase from £2,008 to £2,108 per individual room per week;**
- (b) **the standard weekly charge for Housing with Extra Care (HWEC) at Bremner Court, Goathill, Stornoway increase from £1,163 to £1,221 per individual flat per week;**
- (c) **the weekly charge for services relating to HWEC based on service user choice, increase by 5% to: £3.15 for breakfast, £8.40 for lunch and £3.15 for dinner; £10.50 per load of laundry washing and £5.25 per half load; and, £21.00 for a deep clean;**
- (d) **the standard weekly charge for Ardseileach Care Home be increased from £2,781 to £2,920 per individual room per week;**
- (e) **the 2026/27 fee for residential assessment and respite be increased by the percentage increase in pension credit (4.8%) to £193.46 per week;**
- (f) **the rates for the independent care homes for 2026/27 will be:**
 - Bethesda Care Home £1,391 per bed per week for 28 local authority-commissioned beds, with financial provision retained for Free Personal Nursing Care payments, when legally applicable, for the Home's operation of 2 private beds.**
 - Leverburgh Home of Rest £1,268 per bed per week for 14 local authority-commissioned beds with no financial provision retained for Free Personal Care payments for the Home's operation of 1 private bed.**
- (g) **the room hire and other facilities related charges be increased by 5%;**
- (h) **the hourly rate for direct payments be uplifted by the Scottish Government's Adult Social Care Pay Uplift for Personal Assistants for 2026/27 (6.08%) to be £20.52 for one-to-one personal care, and £42.13 and £84.26 for the half-day to full-day rate for Day Care equivalent for adults with learning disabilities depending on assessment.**

Decision: It was agreed to note the proposed fees and charges for social care services.

It was agreed that a Seminar be organized through the Social Work and Social Care Board to discuss the setting of fees and charges and how this is calculated for individuals needing care.

Action: Interim Chief Officer to arrange Seminar at a future date.



8. EVALUATION

	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Were you satisfied with the content of the agenda?	X		
Was there sufficient time to review the papers between receipt and the meeting date?	X		
Were the agenda items placed in the correct order/ prioritization?	X		
Was there sufficient time allocated to all agenda items?	X		
Were the Executive Summaries an accurate reflection of the detailed paper?	X		
Were there sufficient refreshment breaks?	X		
Are there any significant issues which should be escalated to the parent bodies?		X	
Did you consider that the Board/ Committee discharged its duty in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper Scrutiny • Relevant questioning • Constructive challenge 	X		
Do you have any suggestions for improvement or additional comments about this meeting?		X	Comments should be made to Emma MacSween, Interim Chief Officer

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the IJB will be held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 10.00am.