

**OUTCOMES FROM THE CONVENTION OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS – 12 MARCH 2018 – MILLPORT-  
UPDATED OCTOBER 2018**

<b>Housing</b>	<b>SG Lead</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p>CoHI members agreed that each Local Authority would ensure mid-market rent opportunities are highlighted in Strategic Housing Investment Plans submitted to Scottish Government to further develop opportunities for key worker accommodation across the CoHI area.</p> <p>CoHI members also agreed there is a need for there to be a real understanding between Scottish Government and local authorities to allow a cohesive approach to planning to be developed in relation to the steps necessary to accelerate investment.</p> <p>Community Planning Partnerships should identify exact local need and potential models with SG. Local Authorities will also consider available Public sector owned land and the use of CPO powers and other potential planning issues to secure land for housing and develop new housing pilots.</p>	<p>Mairi Ross Grey</p>	<p>Local Authorities will be submitting SHIPs to Scottish Government at the end of October and revised guidance on their preparation was issued in Summer 18. It is for Local Authorities themselves to highlight opportunities for key workers. Some examples of collaboration have been highlighted in Highland and Moray .</p> <p>Local solutions lie with Local Authority leads to ensure delivery. Examples include the Highland Council led Housing hub which brings planners closer to the development processes and encourages effective partnership working.</p> <p>Prior to advertising on the open market, all disposing bodies which are subject to the Scottish Public Finance Manual and the NHS Scotland Property Transactions Handbook must notify SG Property Division of the surplus asset in order that it can be internally advertised through a process known as 'the trawl'</p> <p>More Homes Division within Scottish Government work closely with Local Authorities to establish if those surplus public sector assets are suitable for affordable housing. Procedures are in place for Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords to purchase surplus assets suitable for affordable housing directly from the disposing body.</p>

Digital	SG Lead	Update
<p>CoHI members welcomed the ambition, nature and scale of the Scottish Government's R100 and 4G Infill Programmes and the achievements secured in part by CoHI joint working. Members reaffirmed the rationale for continuous improvement through further, faster, integrated and innovative national and local developments and that progress would be best served by further collaborative working - including HIE participation in the rollout of R100 - and regular review in this forum with a focus on the issue of future proofing.</p> <p>Bi-lateral meetings between Scottish Government and each local authority will be arranged to address identified and differentiated local challenges. SG to explore potential of leveraging the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN) infrastructure serving schools and other public buildings.</p> <p>UK Government Ministers and the CEO of Ofcom will be invited to attend the next CoHI meeting to seek to further enhance joint working. This would provide an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of continuing and proportionate investment by UK Government in addition to the funding provided by Scottish Government to R100.</p>	<p>Colin Cook/Andy Manson</p>	<p>Clive Downing and Duncan Nisbet from the Scottish Government's R100 team have now held discussions with all Scottish Local Authorities – including the 8 within the HIE region – to discuss R100 and the challenges presented.</p> <p>Both Ofcom and the UK Government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will participate in CoHI. Ofcom will be represented in person by Huw Saunders, their Director of Network Infrastructure, and Jonathan Ruff, their Regulatory Affairs Manager. DCMS's Henry Shennan, their Deputy Director for Broadband and Telecoms Market, will join via video-conference.</p> <p>Scottish Ministers have written on a number of occasions to Matt Hancock MP, asking that the UK Government consider increasing their contribution to R100 to £90 million. This is despite the fact that an equivalent percentage of funding to that contributed by them for the DSSB programme would actually be closer to around £218 million.</p> <p>They have also recently met with Mr Hancock's successor, Jeremy Wright MP, and again raised the issue. At present, the UK Government's contribution to the initial £600 million investment is just £20.99 million – 3.5% of the total. It is also worth noting that the Scottish Affairs Committee have backed our call for a greater funding contribution from the UK Government.</p>

<p>In advance of that next meeting, local authority Leaders and Ministers will urgently prepare and send a letter to the UK Government to make a persuasive case on funding.</p>		
<p><b>GFG Alliance Lochaber</b></p>	<p><b>SG Lead</b></p>	<p><b>Update</b></p>
<p>CoHI members asked for an exploration into areas of engagement which can be made between CoHI and the Lochaber Delivery Group (for example regarding Oban airport) to learn lessons from the GFG Alliance experience in Fort William and to maximise the strategic economic opportunities within the wider Highlands and Islands.</p> <p>Members recognised the value and impact of those co-ordinated actions and endorsed the ambition of applying that model in a proactive way to other strategic opportunities in the Highlands &amp; Islands. Members agreed to reflect on what those opportunities might be, for discussion at the next CoHI. HIE will provide a paper setting out some suggestions for discussion built around assets and opportunities.</p>	<p>Fraser Lawson</p>	<p>At the request of CoHI, HIE has facilitated an exercise drawing input and suggestions from each Local Authority in relation to this work. A paper seeking to update CoHI on the process undergone over the last 6 months involving the input received from CoHI members and the various considerations around, and implications of, identifying local priority projects, will be discussed at the October meeting.</p>

<b>Air traffic control</b>	<b>SG Lead</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p>CoHI members welcomed the HIAL presentation and highlighted the importance of responding to real or perceived concerns about the centralisation, safety and resilience of the ATC modernisation proposal scheduled for implementation in 2028. HIAL provided reassurance that a new system could only be introduced with the agreement of the CAA who would require certain levels of resilience to be built in. HIAL would continue to keep local authorities informed as the modernisation programme progresses and made clear that it would be business as usual in the meantime.</p>	<p>Gary Cox</p>	<p>Work ongoing. Following a detailed study and consultation with staff, HIAL Board has decided in principle that Digital Air Traffic Control Centre will be located in Inverness. Appointment of Programme Director and Head of Communications expected soon to ensure ongoing communications with staff, airport customers and other interested parties is done well.</p>

**OUTCOMES FROM THE CONVENTION OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS (30 OCTOBER 2017) – OBAN)**

<b>Scotland's Place in Europe- Protecting the interest of H &amp; I</b>	<b>SG Lead</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p>COHI asks Scottish Government to continue to recognise the specific nature of the impact of Brexit on the Highlands and Islands (particularly in relation to loss of EU funding and impact, regulation and trade tariffs, and the importance of migration, including to support the future labour market and skills) and that these continue to be reflected in Scottish Government policy and negotiations, keeping COHI members involved in, and informed about, developments, including regional arrangements. COHI members agreed to do more - in a co-ordinated, structured way, with support from the Scottish Government - to raise local awareness and understanding and in parallel to lobby the UK Government.</p>	<p>Steven Bunch/Kathryn Gosling/Jesse Daniels</p>	<p><i>Scotland's Place in Europe: People, Jobs and Investment</i> presented the latest analysis by the Scottish Government of the implications of Brexit. It recognises some of the particular issues which affect rural areas, and that the interests of Scotland, including rural communities, are served best by Scotland remaining with the EU or at least remaining in the Single Market and Customs Union.</p> <p>It recognises the role of migration in supporting and strengthening Scotland's rural communities and economy, and the recently published discussion paper 'Scotland's population needs and migration policy' encourages an open discussion around migration and how a tailored migration system might work.</p> <p>The Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations has met with businesses in rural areas to discuss the impact of Brexit, for example in Campbeltown earlier this year and recently in Arran when the Cabinet met.</p> <p>Through our Brexit Stakeholder Engagement Fund, we have funded Scottish Rural Alliance to consult across Rural Scotland.</p> <p>We will continue to reach out and engage with businesses, civic organisations, government administrations, and with people across Scotland to limit as far as possible the damage of Brexit</p>

<b>What Makes a Thriving Rural Economy</b>	<b>SG Lead</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p>COHI asks Scottish Government with partners to ensure the alignment of investment and strategic priorities across the public sector with the objective of creating a cohesive, shared, agenda that guarantees the development of a vibrant, diverse and thriving rural economy for all. Key elements of this include housing, digital and mobile infrastructure, and transport.</p>	<p>Lynsey Thomson</p>	<p><b>Housing</b> Key to Rural Scotland achieving a vibrant, diverse and thriving economy is the provision of the necessary infrastructure to enable its development. Please find below an update on those key infrastructure elements that were identified by the COHI in October 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing-</b> Earlier this year the Scottish Government launched the £150 million Building Scotland Fund. Through this we are making available £70 million, this financial year, and £80 million over the next two financial years - directing it towards the development of housing, modern industrial and commercial property and business-led research and development.</li> <li>• As the precursor to the Scottish National Investment Bank this Fund will have a focus on projects and investments that support sustainable economic growth, reduce carbon and sustain and create places.</li> <li>• This Fund will stimulate investment and boost the supply of much needed housing - helping to build a Scotland that is innovative, inclusive and attractive as a place to live and work.</li> </ul> <p>All tenures of housing are eligible for the Fund and non-public sector organisations with projects that would benefit from the Fund are encouraged to complete the Expression of Interest form on our website. Specific housing criteria have also been developed to supplement the general criteria available on our website and these are available on request.</p>

	Andrew Manson	<b>Digital and Mobile Infrastructure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Through DSSB, more than 181,000 premises across the Highlands and Islands now have access to fibre, pushing coverage significantly beyond what commercial investment alone would have delivered. However, we recognise that some in our communities have not benefitted from improved speeds or access.</li><li>• SG has committed to providing every home and business in Scotland with broadband at 30 Megabits per second and above by the end of 2021. £600 million is being invested in the initial procurement for our Reaching 100% programme. This procurement – split into three lots – is now well underway and we aim to award contracts in 2019.</li><li>• R100 will create a truly national fibre network by driving fibre into some of our most remote rural and island communities. This will be the platform for a wide range of digital connectivity, including 4G and superfast broadband today; and 5G and ultrafast broadband tomorrow. To help achieve this, we are mandating coverage in key locations, all within the North lot of the procurement.</li><li>• We also recognise the vital importance of high quality and reliable mobile services across the Highlands and Islands, essential in social and economic terms. Through our ground-breaking Mobile Action Plan, developed in collaboration with the mobile industry, SG has set out how we are working to improve mobile coverage across Scotland. A critical part of the Plan was the development of our Scottish 4G Infill (S4GI) programme, designed to tackle some of the not-spots remaining after commercial deployment. S4GI will invest up to £25 million, including £10 million ERDF funding in the Highlands and Islands, to build future-proofed and open access masts. Of the initial 16 sites, 11 are in the Highlands &amp; Islands.</li></ul>
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	Alan Runcie	<p><b>Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Scotland appreciates the fundamental need for efficient transport connectivity in our rural economy. We are progressing through a review of the National Transport Strategy (NTS), which will set out the evidence base for future transport needs, including identifying consistent or different needs between rural, coastal, islands, city, and urban areas.</li> <li>• A draft vision and outcomes for the 'NTS 2' has now been developed and is being trailed with stakeholders – the vision statement is: <i>Scotland will have a cleaner, inclusive and accessible transport system helping to deliver a healthier, prosperous and fairer nation for communities, businesses and visitors</i></li> <li>• Four national working groups composed of key stakeholders from across Scotland – looking at the key themes of Enabling Economic Growth; Tackling Inequality; Delivering Greener and Healthier Transport; and Delivering Safe and Resilient Transport - submitted policy proposals this summer to Transport Scotland to inform the draft 'NTS 2' this summer. These proposals will be formally assessed for viability, relevance and affordability between now and January 2019. Thereafter, policy proposals which pass the assessment process will be extensively tested with stakeholders.</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement in rural and island communities is an important element of on-going work during the review, with events held around Scotland - for example in Nairn, Thurso, Stornoway, Orkney and Arran – for target engagement groups e.g. older and younger people. Stakeholder engagement will continue in the first half of 2019.</li> <li>• Transport Scotland is committed to aligning the new 'NTS 2' with the emerging policy and legislative landscape in Scotland including the Economic Strategy, Planning Bill, Climate Change Plan, Digital, local governance review, Enterprise and Skills review, City and Region Growth Deals and the Transport Bill. We will take into account their impact on the transport landscape by ensuring that key areas of work</li> </ul>
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		<p>within the NTS review, including Transport Governance, complement these developments whilst also delivering the outcomes that we want for Transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A formal public consultation will take place on the draft NTS 2 from mid 2019. NTS 2 will be published in its final form by the end of 2019.</li> <li>• NTS 2 will provide a strategic framework against which the question of transport investment priorities can then be appraised. Consequently, our intention is to effect a seamless transition from NTS2 to Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) 2 (under which auspices those transport investment priorities will be appraised), with STPR2 development aligned with the development of National Planning Framework (NPF) 4. The second STPR will include consideration of future investment needs not just of Scotland's trunk road and rail networks but also infrastructure to support active travel, ferry and bus travel across the whole country including island connectivity.</li> </ul>
<b>Highlands and Islands Post 2020</b>	<b>SG Lead</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p>COHI members approved further work by the COHI Senior Officer Group as broadly outlined in the tabled Future of CoHI post-2020 paper. All COHI partners to be involved in all priorities, particularly the emerging marine proposition, given shared objectives. COHI agreed an annual summary report on implementation progress to more proactively shape the agenda of future meetings on growing vibrant communities across the Highlands and Islands through population growth, inclusive growth, and investment in</p>	<p>Emma Lopinska</p>	<p>The Senior Officer Group (SOG) agreed that 7 key areas (Digital; Transport; Skills; Talent Attraction; Marine; Energy; and, Housing) remain crucial to delivering a strong and vibrant economy in the Highlands and Islands. Separate projects have been established for each of these, and individual project plans produced.</p> <p>All 7 projects have aligned aims with oversight being provided by the SOG as a whole. It remains the case that all 7 must be viewed with the continued impact of Brexit and a post-EU operating environment in mind.</p> <p>As projects develop and approach key milestones, CoHI agendas will reflect the development of this work and will be tailored to allow specific updates to be provided to Convention Members at opportune Spring and</p>

communities and (particularly digital and transport) infrastructure.		Autumn meetings. A general written update covering all 7 projects will be provided annually to Convention members at Autumn meetings.
<b>Digital/Rural Connectivity</b>	<b>SG Lead</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p>COHI members agreed that a detailed update on the points raised by members around digital connectivity will be provided by Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise by the end of 2017.</p> <p>On the issue of fixed wireless broadband provision, members agreed that HIE and Scottish Government officials should meet with local authorities by the end of 2017 to explore the possibility of interim solutions, providing better connectivity now while R100 is deployed, can be progressed.</p>	Andrew Manson/Robbie McGhee	<p>We are engaging with local authorities through a series of round table discussions on connectivity, hosted by Mr Ewing. The Cabinet Secretary has already written to LA CEOs and Leaders to highlight these events.</p> <p>One means of delivering an interim solution is through the Better Broadband voucher scheme, now extended until 31 December 2018 at least. SG and HIE understand that wireless broadband providers are increasingly supporting these. This has formed part of discussions about the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal. HIE are engaged with several wireless providers through their account management process. As some providers are clients of Business Gateway, there are opportunities for LAs to engage directly.</p>
<b>Health and Social Care Integration</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Update</b>
CoHI asks Scottish Government and partners to work together to consolidate the stories of success and to articulate the impact of service change; to ensure that we are effectively communicating programmes of change to build	Charlie Hogg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SG supported an event in December 2017, led by Health and Social Care Scotland, bringing together senior leaders and management teams from health and social care across the country to identify options for future models of collaboration and how to take this forward. Communications and engagement was a key theme and a number of ideas were discussed on</li> </ul>

confidence across our communities about the value of that change; and to coproduce with communities to build new models of delivery.

CoHI asks Scottish Government to continue to support on-going change and innovation in the governance of health and social care; and to hear back from partnerships about how those models are developing

ways to improve how we tell the story of integration. The outputs and next steps from that event are currently being developed.

- The Scottish Government (SG) has commissioned a leadership development programme for the Integration Authority Chief Officers from the Kings Fund. Part of this work is focused on how to develop the public narrative and use stories to demonstrate impact and build confidence. This work continues to develop and broaden as the programme continues.
- A quarterly reporting framework has been developed for the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Social Care (MSG) covering six agreed priorities that support the ambitions set out in the Scottish Government's Health and Social Care Delivery Plan. The SG and COSLA wrote to all Integration Authorities in November 2017 asking for updates on their objectives against the priorities, including OBDs. These plans are now being analysed and the SG is working with Health and Social Care Partnerships to jointly provide an overview for the March MSG on progress and ambitions for improvement.
- The SG have been working with partners since Autumn 2017 to agree practicalities that can address their concerns with respect to what is required of them to implement some areas of the integration legislation. Officials are currently preparing a shared statement to progress action, which will be agreed with all key partners.
- The SG meet with the Integration Authority (IA) Chief Officer, IA Chief Finance Officers and Integration Managers networks on a regular basis to discuss specific issues and hear from partnerships how models of integration are developing.
- The SG also undertake partnership engagement meetings with the senior leadership team of each Integration Authority on at least an annual basis to exchange updates and hear about progress and challenges directly from each partnership.

CoHI asks Scottish Government to consider remote and rural issues in respect of workforce strategies and planning

- The SG and COSLA are currently working with Integration Joint Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs to strengthen their network and provide support to enable them to continuously develop their leadership roles.
- In relation to the COHI region the SG are working with the IAs to keep a watching brief on any new iterations of integrations schemes and provide support to partnerships where appropriate.
  
- Current work is ongoing in relation to workforce planning. For example, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport announced £7.5 million in 2018-19 to recruit and retain GPs, of which £2 million is to specifically support remote and rural initiatives, particularly in rural areas. Support will be available for all 160 rural and remote practices, including 'golden hello' payments of £10,000 to GPs taking up their first post in a rural practice and relocation packages of up to £5,000. Further details on how the GPs will be recruited will be in the Scottish Government's forthcoming Primary Care workforce plan.
- Parts one and two of the National Health and Social Care Workforce Plan both contain recommendations that consider recruitment and retentions issues and how to help ensure the future sustainability of the remote and rural workforce in both the NHS and social care workforce. Together with part three (primary care workforce plan) these plans allow each of the systems to take stock and move forwards together.

Education Reform	Lead	Update
<p>Scottish Government will work with COHI partners to bring further focus to the impact of rural deprivation on educational attainment and consider what further support can be put in place.</p>	<p>Bill Scott-Watson</p>	<p>The Northern Alliance (the Regional Improvement Collaborative formed of the 8 highland and island authorities) has included a workstream on sustaining rural education and exploring the impact of rural poverty on educational attainment in their updated Improvement Plan, submitted to SG last month. This includes further work to consider possible alternative measures of deprivation which are more suited to rural contexts. SG is providing financial support (and Education Scotland are providing staffing resource) to the Alliance to take forward their plan. <i>[NB – funding bid not yet confirmed as of 3/10 but expect approval by mid-October]</i></p>

## UPDATED OUTCOMES FROM CONVENTION OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS SHETLAND (20 February 2017)

Energy	Lead	Update
<p>The draft Energy Strategy was open for public consultation for 16 weeks, closing 30 May 2017. We received 254 responses from a broad range of stakeholders, stimulating ideas and debate about these critical issues. The results are now being analysed and, with input from the Scottish Energy Advisory Board, and will be considered in the development of the final strategy.</p> <p><b>We will publish the final Energy Strategy at the end of 2017.</b></p> <p><b>The final Climate Change Plan will be published in early 2018.</b></p>	<p>Kathleen White</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Energy Strategy was published on 20 December 2017, setting out a long-term vision for the future of energy in Scotland. The strategy established six strategic priorities along with a series of near-term actions, in preparation for the major long-term decisions which will be required over the coming decades. Many of these actions are already in train.</li> <li>• On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May this year the First Minister launched the <b>Energy Efficient Scotland</b> Route Map and Transition Programme, setting out the Scottish Government’s vision for all Scottish buildings and marking a significant step in the implementation of the Energy Strategy.</li> <li>• Good progress has also been made towards our ambition to establish a <b>public owned energy company</b> - supporting our efforts to resolve fuel poverty and helping to achieve our climate change targets. An outline business case is being commissioned to investigate options to ensure key outcomes are delivered alongside value for money. The Energy Minister has written to COSLA inviting them, and their member authorities, to work alongside us to achieve our shared goals.</li> <li>• Alongside the Strategy we announced the creation of a <b>£20m Energy Investment Fund</b>, building on the success of the Renewable Energy Investment Fund, and a <b>£60m Low Carbon Innovation Fund</b>, to provide support for renewable and low carbon infrastructure over and above wider interventions to support innovation. The Low Carbon Innovation Fund and wider LCITP programme have</li> </ul>

		<p>already seen significant success, with £40 million being allocated since 2015 to support projects in areas including Glencoe, Aviemore, Stromness and St Andrews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We plan to report on our progress on an interim basis this Autumn, and to publish our first Annual Energy Statement in early 2019.</li> </ul>
<p>The June 2017 Conservative manifesto stated that the UK Government (UKG) would support wind projects in the remote islands of Scotland, where they will directly benefit local communities.</p> <p>On 30 August, Richard Harrington; Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Industry and Energy met with Mr Wheelhouse, industry and local politicians, where he confirmed the UKG intention to fulfil the May 2017 manifesto commitments. It is intended this will be completed through the Contracts for Difference (CfD) process, but will be subject to State Aid clearance.</p> <p><b>A consultation is anticipated for October or November and will continue to seek reassurance over the Secretary of State’s commitment to co-chair, with Scottish Ministers, future meetings of the Scottish Islands Renewables Delivery Forum.</b></p>	<p>Leigh Rafferty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been no further meetings of the Island Renewables Delivery Forum, largely because other matters have been developing in a positive direction.</li> <li>• The consultation referred to took place during the period in question, with State Aid approval for the necessary changes secured in <b>February 2018</b>.</li> <li>• <b>The UK Parliament passed legislation in July 2018 enabling Remote Island Wind (RIW) projects to compete for a Contract for Difference (CfD) as part of future auctions.</b></li> <li>• The UK Government has more recently confirmed that it doesn’t propose to mandate a particular form of community benefit as part of RIW projects’ eligibility to bid for a CfD – on the grounds that such decisions are best taken locally, and that there are existing principles and best practices to guide decisions.</li> <li>• <b>The next auction will take place before May 2019.</b> BEIS is currently consulting on a series of wider changes to CfD issues and contract terms.</li> <li>• The <b>Scottish Government will continue to</b> work closely with all key delivery partners and Island stakeholders. It will focus on what is required to <b>deliver</b> the transmission cables.</li> <li>• A <b>key risk</b> remains the ability of the main anchor projects to <b>compete against offshore wind in Pot 2 of the CfD auction</b></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– SG remains keen to work with key stakeholders on these issues and possible solutions ahead of next year’s auction.</li><li>• The Scottish Energy Minister, <b>Paul Wheelhouse</b>, wrote to <b>Claire Perry in October 2018</b> to acknowledge the publication of the UKG consultation response and to again promote the introduction of additional measures to ensure Remote Island Wind projects are able to secure CfDs in the next auction.</li><li>• SSE Networks submitted Needs Cases to Ofgem for transmission cables from Orkney in March 2018, and from the Western Isles in August 2018; a needs case for the Shetland link has now also been submitted (on Friday 5 October).</li><li>• Scottish ministers have written to Ofgem expressing support for these links, and encouraging a positive response to the proposals.</li></ul>
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