

Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid

Customer Services
Executive Director: Douglas Hendry



Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT
Tel: 01546 602127 Fax: 01546 604435
DX 599700 LOCHGILPHEAD
1 February 2017

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **OBAN LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE** will be held in the **CORRAN HALLS, OBAN** on **WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2017** at **10:30 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director of Customer Services

BUSINESS

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - (a) Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee - 9th December 2016 (Pages 1 - 6)
 - (b) Special Oban Common Good Fund - 20th January 2017 (for noting) (Pages 7 - 8)
- 4. PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME**
- 5. LOCALITY PLANNING UPDATE**

Verbal update by the Locality Planning Manager
- 6. GRAB TRUST UPDATE**

Verbal update by GRAB Project Manager
- 7. NEW SCHOOLS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT - OBAN HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE**

(Pages 9 - 16)

Report by Schools Development Project Manager
- 8. GRASS CUTTING - PROPOSED CHANGES** (Pages 17 - 22)

Report by Head of Roads and Amenity Services

- E1 9. KERRERA SCHOOL HOUSE** (Pages 23 - 26)
Report by Special Projects and Quality Improvement Manager
- E1 10. GANAVAN UPDATE** (Pages 27 - 32)
Report by Special Projects and Quality Improvement Manager
- E1 11. LISMORE SCHOOL HOUSE** (Pages 33 - 38)
Report by Special Projects and Quality Improvement Manager

The Committee will be asked to pass a resolution in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public for items of business with an “E” on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part I of Schedule 7a to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The appropriate paragraphs are:-

- E1 Paragraph 8** The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services; and
- E1 Paragraph 9** Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

Oban Lorn & The Isles Area Committee

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon	Councillor Kieron Green
Councillor Alistair MacDougall	Councillor Neil MacIntyre
Councillor Iain MacLean	Councillor Roderick McCuish (Chair)
Councillor Julie McKenzie	Councillor Elaine Robertson (Vice-Chair)
Graeme Forrester, Area Committee Manager (Clerk)	

Contact: Danielle Finlay, Senior Area Committee Assistant - 01631 567945

**MINUTES of MEETING of OBAN LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE held in the
CORRAN HALLS, OBAN
on FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2016**

Present:

Councillor Elaine Robertson (Chair)

Councillor Neil MacIntyre
Councillor Julie McKenzie
Councillor Kieron Green

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon
Councillor Iain MacLean
Councillor Alistair MacDougall

Attending:

Graeme Forrester, Area Committee Manager
David Clements, IOD Programme Manager
Michael Casey, Schools Development Project Manager
Ross McLaughlin, Property Development Manager
Lyndis Davidson, Network and Standards Manager
Janice Mitchell, Acting Head Teacher of Tobermory High School
Charlie Strachan, Pupil, Tobermory High School
Niamh Sweeney, Pupil, Tobermory High School
Graham Wilks, Head Teacher of Tiree High School
Peter Bain, Head Teacher of Oban High School
Alistair McGregor, Chief Executive of ACHA
Iona MacPhail, Regional Manager, ACHA
Maureen Evans, Youth Worker
Sarah Lawler, North Argyll Youth Forum
Beth Jamieson, North Argyll Youth Forum

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Roddy McCuish.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES**(a) Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee - Wednesday 12th October 2016**

The minute of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee held on 12th October 2016 was approved as a correct record.

Councillor Devon updated the Committee that dental provision on Mull has been granted funding for 1 year.

Councillor Green, Chair of the Integration Joint Board advised that COSLA guidance provides for payment of travel time to care staff.

Councillor Robertson confirmed that access to the sports pitch which was brought up at the previous meeting by Mr Martin has been referred to the

Disability Forum with a meeting scheduled for the new year.

Councillor Devon asked if there was any update on the street boards legislation. The Area Committee Manager agreed to look into this and circulate an update to Members.

Councillor Green asked Councillor McKenzie for an update on the Skateboarding Group. She confirmed they have now had their first meeting with their full committee of partners which will meet monthly to discuss locations, and will soon issue to the press further details.

Councillor Robertson asked for an update in regard to the street furniture which was brought to the previous meeting for discussion. The Area Committee Manager advised that an advert will be put on the Council's website alerting community groups to the sale. He suggested that local members are in a good position to notify community groups.

(b) Oban Common Good Fund - 17th November 2016 (for noting)

The minute of the Oban Common Good Fund held on 17th November 2016 was noted.

4. PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

Mr Leady asked the Committee to improve the Oban to Connel Back Road. The Committee agreed to forward the concerns to the Roads Service for consideration.

Gerry Fisher asked the Committee their views on discussion at Council regarding actions taken by the Standards Commission for Scotland. Members responded individually to Mr Fisher's questions.

Mairi Maclean raised concerns regarding flooding in the Glenshellach area. The Committee recognised issues regarding flooding and agreed to put forward their concerns on this matter to the Planning Service.

Ian Dougall queried the process followed to agree to site pontoons in Oban. Mr Dougall was advised of an ongoing consultation event taking place in Oban regarding this matter.

5. GERMAN EXCHANGE

Students from North Argyll Youth Forum gave a presentation to the Committee on their recent German Exchange trip.

They spoke about the places they visited each day and explained a statistical investigation undertaken comparing lifestyles in Scotland and Germany. It was noted that the return leg of the exchange was planned, and members expressed an interest in hearing more about this in due course.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the presentation and congratulated the presenters on the high quality of content and the style of their presentation.

(Ref: Report and Presentation by North Argyll Youth Forum dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

6. SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORTS

(a) Tiree High School

The Head Teacher of Tiree High School took the Committee through a progress update report on the school's achievements in the 2015/2016 session.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

(Ref: Report by Head Teacher of Tiree High School dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

(b) Tobermory High School

The Acting Head Teacher of Tobermory High School introduced the Head Boy and Head Girl to the Committee, and took the Committee through a progress update report on the school's achievements in the 2015/2016 session.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

(Ref: Report by Head Teacher of Tobermory High School dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

(c) Oban High School

The Head Teacher of Oban High School took the Committee through a progress update report on the school's achievements in the 2015/2016 session.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

(Ref: Report by Head Teacher of Oban High School dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

7. NEW OBAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Schools Development Project Manager took the Committee through a report on the progress of the new schools redevelopment project in partnership with Hub North Scotland Ltd to build a new secondary school in Oban.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report and congratulated Mr Casey, Mr Bain and all the pupils involved.

(Ref: Report by Schools Development Project Manager dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

8. ACHA

The Chief Executive of ACHA gave a presentation to the Committee.

He spoke about the Investment Programme in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, the reactive repairs and cyclical maintenance, employment and the new homes which are being built in the area to suit all circumstances.

Decision

The Committee noted the presentation and praised the staff at ACHA for their professionalism, the way they deal with cases and their speedy responses.

(Ref: Presentation by ACHA dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

9. AREA PLAN SCORECARDS

A report presenting the Area Scorecard, with performance for financial quarter 2 of 2016-17 (July-September 2016) was considered.

Decision

The Committee noted the performance presented on the Scorecard.

(Ref: Report by IOD Programme Manager dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

10. ROADS REVENUE BUDGET AND ROADS ACTIVITIES 2016/17 - 2ND QUARTER UPDATE

A report which follows-on from reports presented at earlier Committees, providing provided information on the road maintenance revenue budget and activities being delivered, was considered.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

(Ref: Report by Roads Performance Manager dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

11. PARKING REVENUE/INCOME

The Network Standards Manager provided an update to the Committee on parking revenue/income figures for on and off street parking.

Decision

The Committee noted the information provided.

(Ref: Verbal update by Network Standards Manager dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

12. CHARITY AND TRUST FUNDS

A report setting out the proposed method for the distribution of the charities and trust funds in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area, was considered.

Decision

The Committee noted the proposed method for the distribution of the charities and trust funds.

(Ref: Report by Finance Manager dated 9th December 2016, submitted).

13. TOWN TWINNING

The Area Committee Manager took the Committee through a report on town twinning which was last reviewed in 2008, at which time it was resolved that the policy in relation to formal links remain unaltered. He advised that they also resolved that if an Area Committee wished to establish any additional informal twinning link, they should do so without any staff or financial resource from the council. He confirmed that Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee noted this recommendation in 2008, and have since had discussions about existing and potential new twinning links, most recently in October 2015 and a new approach has recently been made requesting a new link be formed between Oban and the City of Anacortes, Washington, USA.

Decision

The Committee:

1. noted the information provided; and
2. agreed to write to the City of Anacortes to advise of the position.

(Ref: Report by Area Governance Manager dated 3rd October 2016, submitted).

14. COMMEMORATION OF WORLD WAR ONE

The Area Committee Manager took Members through a report on the Commemoration of World War One.

He advised that the Argyll and Bute World War One Steering Group was formed to develop a commemoration programme to mark the centenary of the First World War for the Argyll and Bute Area. He confirmed the Group is made up of elected members nominated by Area Committees, representatives of community councils,

representatives of community groups and organisers of individual commemoration events. He advised the Group is overseeing a programme of commemoration events marking each year of the First World War, sited across the authority area and having particular regard to elements of the armed forces or community impacted by World War One in the Argyll and Bute area. The Group has also monitored progress towards laying a commemorative paving stone to mark the awards of the Victoria Cross for four individuals either from or with particular links to Argyll and Bute.

Decision

The Committee:

1. Noted the work of the World War One Commemoration Steering Group; and
2. Noted the Council's involvement in the project to lay a commemorative paving stone for each recipient of a Victoria Cross for action during World War One.

(Ref: Report by Area Committee Manager dated 29th November 2016, submitted).

The Council resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the press and public for the following 2 items of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8&9 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

E1 15. FORMER PUBLIC TOILETS - DERVAIG

The Committee considered a report in regard to a third sector asset transfer of the former public toilets and surrounding ground at Dervaig, Isle of Mull.

Decision

The Committee agreed the recommendations at 3.1 and 3.2 of the report.

(Ref: Report by Social Enterprise Development Officer dated 15th November 2016, submitted).

E1 16. BALEMARTINE PLAYING FIELD

The Committee considered a report in regard to the third sector asset transfer – Balemartine Playing Field.

Decision

The Committee agreed the recommendations at 3.1 and 3.2 of the report.

(Ref: Report by Social Enterprise Development Officer dated 15th November 2016, submitted).

**MINUTES of MEETING of SPECIAL OBAN COMMON GOOD FUND held in the CORRAN
HALLS, OBAN
on FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY 2017**

Present: Councillor Elaine Robertson (Chair)
Councillor Neil MacIntyre Councillor Kieron Green

Attending: Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
David McGregor, Simmers and Co
Marri Malloy, Chair of Oban Community Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor MacDougall and Dugald Cameron.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

The Council resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the press and public for the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

E1 3. OASIS

In absence of attendance by OASIS, the Trustees agreed to postpone consideration of item until the next meeting of the Oban Common Good Fund on 15 February.

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

OLI AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY SERVICES
CUSTOMER SERVICES

8 February 2017

**NEW SCHOOLS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
OBAN HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with progress on the Council's Schools Redevelopment Project in partnership with hubNorth Scotland Ltd (hubNorth) to build a new secondary school in Oban.
- 1.2 The project continues to make good progress. The steel frame for the main school building has been completed with the construction of the secondary steelwork, roofing works and the installation of the concrete floors continuing.
- The appointment of a contractor and construction of the new grass pitch on the existing blaise pitch at Mossfield is currently on schedule for completion during February - April 2017.
- 1.3 Progress on the construction of the new school building is illustrated in a series of photographs in Paragraph 4.3.
- 1.4 The second quarterly newsletter was made available prior to the end of the last school term and a dedicated website provided by Morrison Construction is now available at www.ohsproject.co.uk
- 1.5 The second Considerate Contractor inspection took place on 14th December 2016. The site gained an excellent inspection report, with the executive summary available for Members as Appendix 1 hereof.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

OLI AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY SERVICES
CUSTOMER SERVICES

8 February 2017

**NEW SCHOOLS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
OBAN HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE**

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report provides Members with progress on the Council's Schools Redevelopment Project in partnership with hubNorth Scotland Ltd (hubNorth) to build a new secondary school in Oban.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 The new Oban High School Redevelopment Project is a Design Build Finance and Maintain (DBFM) Project being delivered as a part of the Scottish Government's Schools for the future Programme pipeline with hubNorth Scotland Ltd, the Council's project partner.

4.2 Key Programme Dates

The key contract programme dates for Oban High School are:

Date	Description	Comment
May 2016 – March 2018	Phase 1 – Construction of new school building	
March/April 2018	Oban High School Decant	Pupils/staff move into new school building
April 2018 – February 2019	Phase 2 External Works	Demolition of existing school buildings, construction of car park, bus drop- off and landscaping
February 2019	Phase 2 Completion	All works completed and whole school availability

At this stage in the Phase 1 construction period, there is no change to the intended programme.

As part of the Planning approval for the new school, a compensatory grass pitch is a planning requirement and this needs to be delivered as part of the project for the new Oban High school. This is a matter that has been reported previously to the Council's Policy and Resources committee and the local area committee.

The appointment of a contractor and construction of the new grass pitch on the existing blaise pitch at Mossfield is currently on schedule for completion during February - April 2017 to allow sufficient time for construction and growing season to ensure that the planning condition can be met.

4.3 Construction Update

The construction of the new building is progressing well, with the following works taking place since the previous update report provided to Members on 9 December 2016. Namely:

- Main steelwork frame erection has been completed;
- Installation of all pre-cast stairs complete;
- Erection of secondary steelwork has commenced (cladding supports), first works being to the Sports Hall;
- Roofing works continue;
- Application of intumescent paint to steelwork; and
- Powerfloating to concrete floors.

Photographs 1 - 10 illustrate the progress made since December 2016.



Photograph 1 – The gable end of the new school building behind McCall Terrace. This marks the completion of the structural steelwork.



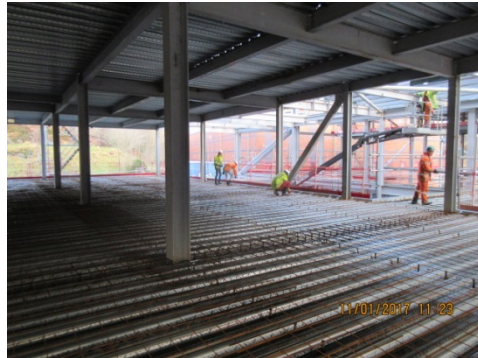
Photograph 2 – View of completed steelwork from rock outcrop



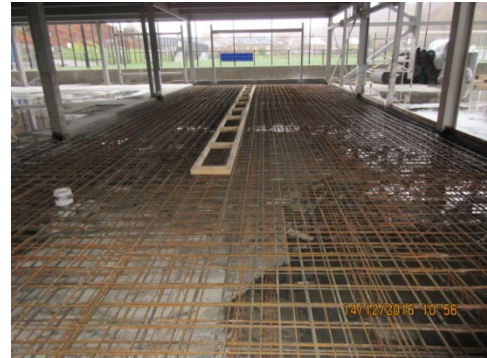
Photograph 3 Following completion of main structural steelwork the steel erector has now commenced the erection of the external mild steel starting with the sports hall



Photograph 4 Following completion of main structural steelwork the roof construction is ongoing



Photograph 5 Reinforcing installed to 1st and 2nd floor



Photograph 6 Reinforcing installed to Ground Floor PE fitness Room



Photograph 7 Perimeter formwork erected for ground floor slab



Photograph 8 Placement of concrete to ground floor



Photograph 9 Concrete placement complete to music department on ground floor



Photograph 10 Intumescent paint applied to internal steelwork

4.4 Future Building Works

The site has recommenced works as of 9th January following the Christmas shutdown. Future works planned include:

- secondary steelwork support prior to the installation of the external cladding;
- fire protection to steelwork (intumescent paint);
- roofing and flooring works; and
- installation of power-floated floor slabs.

4.5 Communications

The second quarterly newsletter was made available through the school website prior to the end of the last school term. Separately, Morrison Construction has now launched a dedicated website for the Oban High School project. This can be accessed directly through

www.ohsproject.co.uk

or as a direct link from Oban High School's own Facebook page.

4.6 Health, Safety and Environmental Matters

Since the previous project update report provided to Members in December 2016, the inspection of the site regarding performance on Environmental matters found the works to be compliant. There have been no issues raised and with no RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) accidents or injuries.

4.7 Considerate Contractor Scheme

Following an initial site visit on 8th August 2016, a follow up inspection was carried out on 14th December 2016, and the executive summary of the report is detailed as Appendix 1 hereof. Morrison Construction continue to provide through this project an excellent example of a professionally managed and organised construction site.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The project to deliver new schools on a design, build, finance, and maintain basis in respect of Oban High School is now in the construction phase. This report provides highlight reporting in relation to the progress of Phase 1, the construction of the new school building.

5.2 A compensatory grass pitch is a planning requirement and this needs to be delivered as part of the project for the new Oban High school. The appointment of a contractor and construction of the new grass pitch on the existing blaise pitch at Mossfield is currently on schedule for completion during February - April 2017.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Policy The Council delegated all matters in respect of the provision of the new school facilities to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee.

Financial The Project is been delivered within the financial envelope agreed by the Council in its Capital Plan and Revenue Outlook at the budget meeting of 11 February 2016.

Legal The Project Agreement was signed on 24 March 2016.
HR None at present.

Equalities None at present.

Risk The Council, in partnership with hubNorth Scotland Ltd, continues to monitor the progress of the Project to ensure completion of construction of the schools within the Scottish Government's end date of March 2018.

Customer None at present.
Service

Ann Marie Knowles (Acting Executive Director of Community Services)
Douglas Hendry (Executive Director of Customer Services)
Councillor Rory Colville (Policy Lead - Education, Lifelong Learning)

13 January 2017

For further information contact:
Mike Casey (School Redevelopment Project Manager)
Tel: 01586 555917
Michael.casey@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Considerate Constructors Report Summary
Considerate Constructors Scheme
Monitor's Site Report


Project Name	Oban High School				
Contractor Name	Morrison Construction Scotland – Highland				
Onsite contact(s)	Andy Bostwick, Project Manager				
Site ID number	97007	Visit no	2	Visit date	14/12/16

Site description, context and location

Construction of a large new school in the grounds of an existing school in the town of Oban. The existing school is operational but separated from the works area. The entrance to the site is shared with the bus access to the school Houses are present immediately outside the front of the site and also to the rear of the site. Open land, owned by the school, lies to the south. The site offices are located in some existing accommodation at the main site entrance. The majority of the steel frame construction is now complete and more trades have started to arrive on site.

Checklist section	1 st Visit	2 nd Visit		Score descriptor
1. Care about Appearance	8	8	/10	1. Gross Failure 2. Failure 3. Major non compliance 4. Minor non compliance 5. Compliance 6. Good 7. Very Good 8. Excellent 9. Exceptional 10. Innovative
2. Respect the Community	7	8	/10	
3. Protect the Environment	7	7	/10	
4. Secure everyone's Safety	8	8	/10	
5. Value their Workforce	7	8	/10	
Total Score	37	39	/50	

For more information on score descriptors, see "Site Scoring Explained" or visit www.ccscheme.org.uk

Executive Summary

The excellent appearance seen at the initial visit has been maintained, but it is unfortunate that the smokers' area was so untidy at the time of the visit. There are many procedures/checks in place to maintain a high level of site tidiness. The planned involvement with the local schools and community has commenced and there is a feeling of involvement with the local community. There is also a high level of support for the Scheme and also support for sites to exceed Scheme requirements. Display/communication of the site's success in using local supply chain could be promoted. There is evidence of an awareness of environmental matters, but no improvements have been put in place to those areas highlighted at the initial visit. The use of LED lighting and smart meters is good practice. The company's very high expectations of safety on site remain clearly in place and there are many good initiatives to promote safety and improve performance. The company is yet to address FORS/CLOCS through its supply chain. All visitors could be asked for CSCS cards and about medical information. The induction has been amended and posters displayed on Equal Opportunities policy and procedures. The welfare is well equipped and well maintained and much has been done to improve the health and wellbeing of the Workforce. It will be good to see some of the apprenticeships and work placements on site as the works progress. The Project Manager, although still relatively new to the site, had prepared well for the visit. The potentially non-compliant issues noted at the initial visit had been actioned and other improvements had been put in place, improving the overall level of compliance with the Scheme's checklist. This project continues to give a professional image of the company and the industry.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES
AREA COMMITTEE****DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES****8TH FEBRUARY 2017**

GRASS CUTTING – PROPOSED CHANGES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of the budget process for 2016/17 Members considered a range of Service Choices which had been designed to meet the significant reduction in available budget, due to drastically reduced funding.
- 1.2 One of the options that was approved through the budget process was RAMS01i – Reduced/Stop Grass Cutting. This proposal included reducing the frequency of cuts to some places and completely stop cutting grass in others, allowing the grass to grow wild. The specification for this service choice reduced the number of some grass cuts to one per year, carried out in October/November.
- 1.3 This option saved £18,000 as a part saving for 2016/17, and was taken pro-rata across the four administrative areas. The starting point for each of the four areas was different because different frequencies of grass cuts had previously been applied to each area. The 2015/16 frequencies and schedules had varied historically with further local adjustments having been introduced as part of the service review process carried out in 2011/12. The service choice process was carried out over a much shorter timescale than that that of the service review process and consequently did not include the member workshop sessions where members have historically played a significant part in the design of service delivery in their area. The attached appendix details the locations where grass cutting has been reduced to one cut per year.
- 1.4 This Service Choices proposal has resulted in significant representation being received by Elected Members and officers. Being alive to the fact that this is something which matters to our communities it is proposed that the same level of saving is maintained but that the specification is changed as follows:
- Areas removed from the 16/17 schedules will be reinstated
 - Areas cut only once a year in 16/17 will have the frequency increased where appropriate
 - Areas that received a reduced frequency of cuts in 16/17 will have the frequency increased where appropriate
 - Areas which experienced no change in the frequency of cuts in 16/17 will receive a reduced number of cuts

- 1.5 It is recommended that the Area Committee approve the amended grass cutting proposals detailed in the report.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES
AREA COMMITTEE

DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

8TH FEBRUARY 2017

GRASS CUTTING – PROPOSED CHANGES

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report sets out some of the representations received following one of the Service Choices policies RAMS01i (Reduce/Stop Grass Cuts).
- 2.2 This report also seeks approval to amend the previously approved policy and to revert to cutting all areas previously maintained but at a reduced frequency that can be accommodated within the available budget.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee approve the amended grass cutting proposals detailed in the report.

4.0 DETAILS

- 4.1 As part of the budget process for 2016/17 Members considered a range of Service Choices which had been designed to meet the reduction in available budget. Across Roads and Amenity Services the service choice options were varied including: increasing income from a number of sources, innovative solutions such as LED street lighting which reduced the amount of energy consumed, three weekly bin collections which encourage more recycling and reduce the amount of waste to landfill and a number of policy choices which resulted in a reduction in service delivery. All of these proposals having been progressed to ensure that the council can deliver a balanced budget whilst maintaining as many key services as possible.
- 4.2 The £18,000 saving as part of option RAMS01i, as a part saving for 2016/17, was taken pro-rata across the four administrative areas. The starting point for each of the four areas was different because different frequencies of grass cuts had previously been applied to each area. The 2015/16 frequencies and schedules had varied historically with further local adjustments having been introduced as part of the service review process carried out in 2011/12. The service choice process was carried out over a much shorter timescale than that of the service review process and consequently did not include the member workshop sessions where members played a significant part in the design of service delivery in their area.

The attached appendix details the locations where grass cutting has been reduced to one cut per year.

- 4.3 This Service Choices proposal has resulted in significant representation being received by Elected Members and officers. Being alive to the fact that this is something which matters to our communities it is proposed that the same level of saving is maintained but that the specification is changed.
- 4.4 Representations received have generally been relating to the untidiness and general reduction in amenity in areas where grass has not been cut. It is felt that amending the specification would be beneficial and would reflect the views of our communities. This proposed change to specification would have no budget implication as the saving would still be delivered, only in a different way.
- 4.5 The starting point for each of the four areas was different with different frequencies of grass cuts applied to areas historically. The amended specification will continue on this basis, however, all areas previously cut in 2015/16 will be included within the new schedules, In order to make the changes but continue to deliver services within the approved budget the following approach will be taken:
- Areas removed from the 16/17 schedules will be reinstated
 - Areas cut only once a year in 16/17 will have the frequency increased where appropriate
 - Areas that received a reduced frequency of cuts in 16/17 will have the frequency increased where appropriate
 - Areas which experienced no change in the frequency of cuts in 16/17 will receive a reduced number of cuts (regard will be had to high amenity areas)

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report proposes to adjust the specification of grassland maintenance in response to the representations made in response to the representations made following the implementation of changes in 2016/17.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---|
| 6.1 | Policy | This report proposes to change a policy that was agreed through the budget process in 2016. |
| 6.2 | Financial | No financial implication as this proposal is cost neutral. |
| 6.3 | Legal | None known |
| 6.4 | HR | None known |
| 6.5 | Equalities | None known |
| 6.6 | Risk | None known |

6.7 Customer Services None known

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Pippa Milne
Policy Lead Councillor Ellen Morton

January 2017

For further information contact: Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services
Tel: 01546 604324

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Areas included in the 2016 policy to reduce cuts to once per year

**Appendix 1 – Areas included in the 2016 policy to reduce cuts to once per year
To be reintroduced in the 2017/18 schedules.**

Lorn

Lochawe War Memorial
Dalmally War Memorial
Kilmore Cemetery
Kerrera Lodge
Station Square removed as Chord
redevelopment has removed the grass areas.
Lonruodh Cottages - Appin
Benderloch Cemetery - Strimmed
Alma Crescent
Dunollie Castle
The Mounds
Meadow Road

Mull

Beadoun Road
St.Mary's well
Fionnphort Cemetery
Tobermory Masonic Hall
Bunnessan Public Convenience
Salen Public Convenience
Craignure Front Green
Dervaig Public convenience
Dervaig Old Cemetery

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of paragraph(s) 8, 9
of Schedule 7A of the Local Government(Scotland) Act 1973

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