

## Islands Local Authorities meeting – 2 March 2022

Attendees	
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Argyle & Bute
[Redacted]	Shetland
[Redacted]	Orkney
[Redacted]	North Ayrshire
[Redacted]	North Ayrshire
[Redacted]	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
[Redacted]	Highland
[Redacted]	Scottish Government (Secretariat)

### **[Redacted]**

[Redacted]

### **Discussion around concerns from the Island consultation:**

- Small community would be potentially cluttered by a new body. Struggle with idea that national bodies are needed in the way it's described. Do we need to bring in a new national body?
- There were strong opinions about the link to local governance and accountability.
- Needs to be fit for purpose in location. Don't want to cause disruption for citizens as it affects everyone in small communities. Local accountability is critical.
- Key element for Islands is we have locality partnership. It would be good to see an Islands plan and allocation of different pots of grant money.
- Local delivery is a key thing for communities. We want to aim for the maximum amount of local delivery.
- Supportive of outcomes from Feely report. Don't see the progression for outcomes on NCS. Feely says exactly what it is that were trying to do and were trying to do it with communities where they are. Prefer to take a different approach with the things getting in the way. Don't think it leads to a NCS.
- Large parts of Scotland such as Islands and rural communities will struggle with NCS due to market failure and difficulty retaining staff.  
ACTION – Share tier system to get a greater sense of vision.
- Found gaps in the consultation so it was hard to give a focussed response, still not sure what a NCS means.
- Another board in place will be hard to improve things.
- Need more information about the role of chief social worker.

- There is a deep rooted concern about the situation we are driving forward when not knowing what the outcomes are. Why are we not moving these things forward? Need an update on where we are with local governance review. ACTION – Explore timeframe for this. Get a better understanding of timeline.

#### Identifying island specific issues

1. Provision and providers – Very different make up of providers and provision on island communities. Level of public sector provision is higher.
  2. Numbers of public authorities or agencies, cluttered landscapes.
  3. Availability of workforce. Distinctive challenges. Scope and sense. Capturing what is distinctive about islands.
  4. Planning and understanding the niche needs of rural communities and island communities. Community capacity building. Islands supporting themselves. Island off island deliveries. Integrated NHS and HSCP roles on islands to build capacities. Admin staff work across GP's / HSCP / Health Boards.
  5. Local democratic accountability. So stark in small communities. Accountability to people. How we develop good strong policy. Enhance sense of accountability when working in smaller communities because people know people. Increased level of sense on accountability.
  6. Housing is an issue in remote areas. There is a key challenge with house prices in Arran. We should be exploring if this is an additional risk in that.
  7. Level of investment. There is a concern that the the level of investment in these services through an NCS model may be less than is currently made available through local funding decisions.
- There is interest in the ICIA process and what is intended. Engagement is underway. ACTION - Come back with more detail on ICIA process in future.
  - Islands Profiling work - does it have age profiles?

ACTION - Circulate summary on things we can build on.