

Outcome 1 – Housing

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.

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.

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.

Outcome 2 – Digital

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.

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. 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. 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.

Outcome 3 – GFG Alliance Lochaber

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.

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 & 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.

Outcome 4 – Air traffic control

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.