

CONVENTION OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS – MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2019 (PAPER 3)

UPDATE ON COHI 2020 PROJECTS (SPOTLIGHT ON SKILLS)

1. The seven themes identified by CoHI as being critical to delivering a strong and vibrant economy in the Highlands and Islands are:
 - Digital
 - Transport
 - Skills
 - Talent Attraction
 - Marine
 - Energy
 - Housing
2. Work has been undertaken by the CoHI Senior Officers' Group (SOG) to progress these work-streams within an overall project structure. The annual reporting structure requires an update to CoHI at the autumn meeting.
3. CoHI members will receive an update presentation on each of the projects on 28 October, drawing out what has been achieved through collaboration that might otherwise not have been possible. There will also be a spotlight on skills, focussing on the refreshed Highlands and Islands Skills Investment Plan and the collaborative work led by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) in this refresh.

LOOKING FORWARD

4. The seven thematic projects were developed and contextualised in terms of a 2020 horizon. This is the last CoHI meeting before 2020 therefore the discussion will focus on moving forward, and factoring in emerging priorities.
5. These projects, and any future projects, sit in a challenging context with a changing funding/policy landscape and ongoing uncertainty around Brexit. This, however, does not negate the importance of continued collaboration on common challenges.