

Local Advisory Committee annual report to the Board of Management.

Chair: Joanna Peteranna on behalf of LAC: Outer Hebrides Date: 17/03/2025

(1) What is going well?

The LAC is receiving detailed updates from senior management of the college therefore members are well informed as to the plans and progress being made towards the post-merger priorities. It is clear that much work is being done and that there is a genuine commitment by senior management to be present and engaged in places throughout the college network.

(2) What needs the Board's attention?

The pace of progress on some topics appears slow. Development of courses to align with local economic opportunities needs to accelerate otherwise the opportunity for the college will be lost as the private sector will look elsewhere to deliver their requirements. Marketing of existing courses and college locations requires further attention if the college is to increase student numbers and fulfil its stated ambition of contributing to population growth.

(3) What are your recommendations for what we should be doing?

As above. Increased pace on new course development and much more visibility of the college through marketing efforts.

(4) What are the developments within your community of which the Board should be aware?

The major investments in renewable energy projects in Lewis will bring an estimated £8.5Bn of spend over the coming years. There is a major skills requirement associated with these projects and therefore a significant opportunity for the college.

Uist and Barra must not be forgotten during this period of enormous economic shift for Lewis and Harris and will require particular attention to ensure that they are not left behind. A specific action plan for Uist and Barra would be beneficial.