

Committee	UHI North, West and Hebrides Board
Subject	Estates and Facilities Project Update
Action requested	<input type="checkbox"/> For information only <input type="checkbox"/> For discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> For endorsement <input type="checkbox"/> For approval
Summary of the paper	The purpose of this paper is to provide F&GP with an update on our Estates Strategy plans and report on status of planned projects
Resource implications	None
Risk implications	Ensuring adequate funding and alignment with SFC for forward infrastructure planning
Date paper prepared	23 rd January 2024
Date of Board / Committee meeting	F&GP 31s January 2024
Author	Debbie Miller, Interim VP Operations
Link with strategy Please highlight how the paper links to the Strategic Plan	
Island communities	The rural and islands college merger may have an impact on the Western Isles and islands covered by West Highland College that is different to other communities. As part of the merger process, the University will undertake an Island Communities Impact Assessment.
Status (e.g., confidential, non-confidential)	Non confidential
Freedom of information	Yes
Consultation How has consultation with partners been conducted?	Consultation with executive, estates and engineering teams involved in the development of grants and sales

RECOMMENDATION

It is request that the committee not the current progress on the development of the estates strategy aligned with the SFC College Infrastructure Strategy Delivery Plan

Estates Strategy and Planning Update

It has been recognised for some time by the SFC, colleges and Audit Scotland that the need for investment in college estates has outstripped available government capital funding for some time. The College Sector Estates Survey was last published in 2017 and recognised that £360M would be required to support backlog maintenance and removals costs. Since that time no alternative funding model has been developed to support College Infrastructure.

The SFC recognising the need to support the college sector, published the College Infrastructure Strategy in November 2022 and the College Infrastructure Strategy Delivery Plan, CISDP, [College Infrastructure Strategy Delivery Plan \(sfc.ac.uk\)](https://www.sfc.ac.uk/College-Infrastructure-Strategy-Delivery-Plan) was published in December 2023. This is a live working document which will be updated regularly as the working group progress the various work packages included.

The Vice Principal Operations currently sits on a delivery group with colleagues from the Scottish Funding Council, college sector, Colleges Scotland and the Scottish Government to support the work of the CISDP. The team are currently focused on work package two which will allow for a new Baseline estate survey to be undertaken, with support from consultancy, to agree the baseline data and assess the various costs and requirements to support colleges going forward. It is estimated this work will be completed by June 2024 depending on the consultancy tendering exercise.

Work package three will run in parallel to work package two and will consider alternative funding models for capital investment.

Internally we are advertising for an Interim Head of Estates to support the Vice Principal as this role has not been filled since the previous Director of Estates moved over to the Programme Director for merger. The Interim Head of Estates will support the Vice Principal with operational management of the estates, facilities and safety teams as we work through our own Estates Strategy in line with the work of the CISPD.

In terms of alignment we will continue to update the strategy seeking alternative funding models for agreed learning centres ensuring we can support digital infrastructure and net zero targets in line with the college infrastructure plan.

The executive team have still to discuss and agree our offering across all of our 19 learning centres and we are currently waiting on the feedback from the survey launched in November for the Ardnamurchan area to help assess our ongoing needs.

Campus Development Updates

Stornoway Campus Redevelopment Project

There are no significant issues to report on this project at this time. There is an ongoing issue with part of the roof in the Stornoway campus for which we are waiting on a quote for works and have set aside a reasonable amount within our capital grant to support.

Mallaig Campus

Funding application submitted Nov 23 awaiting an outcome from the low carbon fund, Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme. The application was submitted via Highland Council.

Fort William Campus Update

This project has been refocused and discussions are at an early stage with HIE with the aim to realise an Enterprise and Skills campus.

Dornoch Campus

I am pleased to advise the committee that the works are currently underway on the Dornoch campus to rectify the internal and external issues following the flood last year. We have no further update on the overall condition of the roof and I am awaiting the surveyors report.

Refurbished An Cotan Nursery

The An Cotan building is undergoing refurbishment internally and externally, with external works delayed due to the weather. Kitchen facilities are being retained rather than removed which has reduced costs and the toddlers toilets are being refurbished for adults. Our first tenants are moving in in March with another interested party in discussion once due diligence has been completed.