

Committee	UHI North, West and Hebrides Board of Management, Learning, Teaching and Research Committee
Subject	NWH Research and Knowledge Exchange - Draft Strategy
Action requested	<input type="checkbox"/> For information only <input type="checkbox"/> For discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For recommendation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For endorsement <input type="checkbox"/> For approval
Summary of the paper	<p>This paper presents a draft Research and Knowledge Exchange (KE) Strategy for UHI North, West and Hebrides (NWH) for recommendation. The strategy outlines NWH's vision, mission, and strategic priorities for research and KE, aligned with the UHI Strategic Plan and wider regional and global priorities. It sets out a framework for strengthening institutional research culture, building capacity, enhancing regional and global impact, and improving long-term sustainability through collaborative, inclusive, and impactful research and KE.</p> <p>It builds on, and extends, the version previously approved by the NWH Board (significant additional sections include: Where this strategy fits in; Strategic Aims (major revision); Key performance indicators (KPIs); Institutional pre-requisites and enablers</p>
Resource implications	The implementation of the strategy will require sustained staffing, research infrastructure, digital systems, support services, and core research functions. Key dependencies include institutional support, access to external funding, and appropriate policy/process alignment.
Risk implications	Risks include limited staff capacity, uncertainty in external research funding, competing operational priorities, and challenges associated with embedding a research culture post-merger. These are addressed through scenario-based KPI planning and identification of key enablers.
Date paper prepared	26/05/25
Date of Board / Committee meeting	11/06/25
Author	Prof Stuart Gibb, Debbie Miller and Research and KE Management Group
Link with strategy Please highlight how the paper links to the Strategic Plan	This paper directly supports the implementation of the UHI Strategic Plan and UHI's Research, Impact and Knowledge Exchange Plan. It reflects key UHI NWH institutional goals to enhance research impact, community benefit, and sustainability.

Island communities	The strategy prioritises research and KE that is rooted in the needs and opportunities of island and rural communities. It focuses on net-zero transitions, natural capital, responsible tourism, and socio-economic resilience—areas directly relevant to island life and policy agendas for regional development.
Status (e.g., confidential, non-confidential)	Non-confidential
Freedom of information	This paper is suitable for publication under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
Consultation How has consultation with partners been conducted?	The draft strategy has been informed by internal engagement, including contributions NWH research and KE staff, Research and KE Management Group and Executive.

Recommendation – For endorsement