

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Outcomes

Outcome 1

- The Scottish Government will drive forward transformational policies to close the educational attainment gap and achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, working closely with COHI members to deliver better and locally differentiated outcomes for communities across the Highlands and Islands. COHI members will be fully engaged, in particular, in progressing Phase 2 of the Enterprise and Skills Review.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Outcomes

Outcome 2

- Recognising the significant influence of the EU for developments in the Highlands and Islands, and the Scottish Government's commitment to protect Scotland's place in the EU, the government will also seek to develop a more integrated Team Scotland approach involving all Scotland's representatives on the Committee of the Regions.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Outcomes

Outcome 3 - COHI members welcomed prior work to identify priorities for the Highlands and Islands, post-2020, and endorsed the proposals to develop sequenced work plans by the COHI Senior Officer Group and for discussions at COHI meetings in 2017. While recognising the importance, relevance and inter-relationship of all the priorities identified, four themes most likely to deliver a strong and vibrant economy in the Highlands and Islands, at pace are: digital and transport connectivity; education and skills; economic and quality employment opportunities; and community. COHI partners acknowledged the importance of strong, coordinated and focused drive from all in delivering significant economic impact for the Highlands and Islands. The Scottish Government will continue to facilitate this work



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Outcomes

Outcome 4.

- COHI members noted that Ofgem and National Grid highlighted that the issue of electricity network charges is reserved to the UK Government. It was agreed that the UK Government Energy Minister, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, be invited to the next meeting in order to speak on the UK Government's policy position on the distribution of network costs across GB and fuel poverty in the North of Scotland.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Outcomes

Outcome 5

- Mr Ewing highlighted that since the last meeting of COHI, and the letter that had been issued as an action from the meeting, there had been no announcement from UK Government on the Remote Island Wind Contract for Difference. COHI members endorsed another letter be sent from the Deputy First Minister , Angus Campbell, Steven Heddle and Gary Robinson to the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy Greg Clark MSP and this be press released in order to bring attention to the matter in advance of a decision being made.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Outcomes

Outcome 6

- Following informative presentations from Ofcom and HIE, Mr Ewing reflected that there had been tremendous progress on improving digital connectivity but this was not sufficiently well recognised. Copies of both presentations should therefore be circulated to all CoHI members. Mr Swinney noted that Ofcom should advise SG and CoHI as to when they would seek further powers from DCMS as this would be an opportunity for making a strong supportive recommendation to the UK Government.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Outcomes

Outcome 7 - Cllr Norman MacDonald and Seonag Campbell presented an update on partners work delivering against the H&I Skills Investment Plan. The progress was welcomed and COHI's influence on the development of the plan recognised. Contributors recognised the real challenge of replacement demand for skills in areas like Health & Social Care and reference was also made to the introduction and implication of the new Apprenticeship Levy. Members agreed that NHS partners should join the Programme Board and ensure that Sectoral Developments are fully integrated and where possible action is taken to de-clutter and simplify systems.

DFM endorsed this progress and offered continued support for the delivery of actions within the Regional Skill Investment Plan



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The Convention of the Highlands and Islands - Outcomes

- **Outcome 8** - COHI members endorsed the vision for UHI's Strategic development, recognising that the focus on learners, research and place resonated with discussions throughout the day about SG Programme for Government and H&I priorities post-2020. This strategic alignment provides a framework for UHI development and the action of COHI members.

