

Stòras Secures £5m Boost for Lochboisdale Port of Entry

Stòras Uibhist has secured a £5m boost to help deliver the Lochboisdale Port of Entry Project.

HIE has awarded a grant of just over £5m to Stòras Uibhist towards the planned £9.9m development of Lochboisdale Harbour on the Isle of South Uist. CnES has already committed £625k to the project and further funding is being actively pursued.

Phase 1 of the project includes a 1.26km road and two causeways to link Gasaigh Island with Lochboisdale through the Rubha Bhuailt peninsula. This phase will open up access to land for business development and community housing on Rubha Bhuailt, as well as creating infrastructure for the fisheries and aquaculture industries.

Phase 2 of the project is expected to include commercial development, a commercial pier and associated facilities, in addition to a new ferry pier on Gasaigh Island.

Stòras Uibhist will establish a new company, Lochboisdale Development Ltd, to deliver the project, which has been a key local priority for 10 years.

HIE plans to support the project with a dedicated team of specialist staff and advisers to help ensure that the development creates the 126 full-time equivalent jobs anticipated in the long-term plans, helping the local economy to grow and diversify.

Angus MacMillan, Chairman, says, 'In a report dated 1837, Fleming suggested that Lochboisdale was an ideal location for all the projects that Stòras Uibhist is looking to deliver. However, community ownership of South Uist Estate has ensured that this project will be delivered within six years. We thank the Board and employees of HIE who have shown great belief in the ability of a community company to deliver a project of this size. HIE has shown today that it is prepared to address the considerable disadvantages of the fragile areas of the Highlands and Islands.'

Huw Francis, Chief Executive of Stòras Uibhist added, 'The Directors and staff of Stòras Uibhist have worked since before the buyout to secure the funding for the delivery of this project, which has been a long-held aspiration of the community. This major project will deliver significant benefits to the community, by creating jobs and revitalising the local economy'.