

Committee	Finance and General Purposes Committee		
Date paper prepared	20/06/2022	Date of committee meeting	29/06/2022
Subject	Centre for Sustainable Seafood – Progress and Recruitment of Director		
Author	Brendan Hall		
Action requested	For approval		
Purpose of the paper	The paper provides an update on progress with establishing the Centre for Sustainable Seafood at UHI Shetland and asks for approval to proceed with the appointment of a Director for the Centre		
Brief summary of the paper	<p>UHI has approved the establishment of the Centre. Engagement with industry bodies has resulted in some pump-priming funding being made available. A funding bid will be submitted to the UK Seafood Fund to further underpin the establishment of the Centre.</p> <p>The funding received from the industry stakeholders is sufficient to cover the indicative salary of a Director/Chair of the Centre, but not the full employment costs and overheads. FGP are asked to approve the commencement of the recruitment process for a Director/Professorial Chair.</p>		
Consultation	A stakeholder group of industry bodies has been closely involved with the development of the Business Case and have also fed into the development of the membership and Terms of Reference for an Advisory Group for the Centre. UHI Academic Partners and other research Centres have also been extensively consulted as part of the approval process.		
Resource implications	The intention is to appoint the Director/Professorial Chair on a permanent basis, meaning that the Centre will have to quickly become self-sustaining under the appointee's leadership. This incurs a level of financial risk to UHI Shetland.		
Risk implications	A significant initial outlay will be required to progress the appointment of the Director and the establishment of the Centre. While this is offset to a significant degree by the funding provided by stakeholders and the prospective UK Seafood Fund bid, there is still a significant level of risk associated with the project – particularly after Year 1, when it is likely that stakeholder funds will not be available. A risk register demonstrating how risks are being managed is included in the paper. Appointment of a suitable candidate to the Director position will be essential to reduce ongoing risks.		

Link with strategy	The Centre supports the delivery of both UHI Shetland’s Strategic Plan and the UHI Daring to be Different Strategy. There is also strong alignment with the aims of the UHI Islands Strategy.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	The recruitment process will proceed in line with the UHI Shetland policies and procedures to ensure equality and fairness.
Island Community Impact	N/A
Paper status	<input type="checkbox"/> Open – The paper may be circulated to non-members of the committee and published online without restriction. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted – The paper must not be circulated to non-members or published online until after the committee meeting. <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential - The paper must not be circulated beyond the committee members and should not be published online. [Please note papers may still be subject to Freedom of Information requests – see below].
Freedom of information	Open If closed/ withheld, select date this will become ‘open’: Enter a date.