

Transition Board – Shetland Merger Project

Committee	Transition Board
Subject	Daring to be different
Action requested	<input type="checkbox"/> For information only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> For approval
Brief summary of the paper	The 2021-25 'Daring to be Different' strategic plan (TB2021-16 strategic-plan-draft.pdf) sets out our ambition for the next chapter in the development of UHI. The document is out for consultation until 6th May. We are invited to respond to this consultation. We can also use the framework for strategic planning for Shetland UHI.
Resource implications [if yes, please provide detail]	No Click here to enter text.
Risk implications [if yes, please provide detail]	No
Date paper prepared	14-Apr-21
Date of committee meeting	21-Apr-21
Author	Jane Lewis
Equality and diversity	No
Status	Non-confidential
Freedom of Information Can this paper be included in 'open' business?*	Yes
Status following the meeting	

Context

'The University of the Highlands and Islands is a new, progressive and innovative University.

We are a partnership of independent colleges and research institutions covering the largest geographical area of any campus-based university or college in the UK. We have the largest student body in Scotland, with almost 40,000 studying with us each year, and we contribute £560 million annually to the region, indirectly supporting 6,200 jobs. As a multiplier effect, the university puts back £4 for every £1 spent into the economies of the Highlands and Islands, Moray and Perthshire.

This strategic plan represents the start of our third chapter. The university partnership is at a critical point in its history; its current strategic plan is being refreshed; it is operating in an intensely competitive and dynamic higher education and research environment, and we face an uncertain future with COVID-19.

Our university's aspirations extend beyond the place-based education we have in our regions and communities and embrace a 'daring to be different' ethos. This ethos will harness our energy and set new ambitions in our areas of strength, namely: tertiary education, research impact, enterprise and engagement.

The Daring to be Different strategic plan signals a shift in thinking, one for which our partnership is well prepared, and sets an ambition of becoming more engaged with our communities and more enterprising in our activity.'

Professor Todd Walker

The draft strategic plan is set out in TB2021-16 strategic-plan-draft.pdf

Consultation questions

The following questions have been asked for responses. If members wish to respond individually they can be completed on the website: <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/about-uhi/strategic-plan/consultation/>

Does the strategic plan and framework set out an ambition for the University of the Highlands and Islands that you would recognise as appropriate and relevant for the next stage of development?

Do the strategic pillars and objectives reflect this ambition?

What would you like to see as the University's biggest achievement over the next five years?

Any other relevant comments?

The Board is asked to consider these questions