



responsibility for islands.

- 3.2 The funding is for the 2022/23 financial year only. The fund is broken down by £1.1 million of resource and £300,000 of capital being released to provide the £1.4 million of funding to island authorities. The fund will be allocated via a direct grant, however, at the time of writing this report, the allocation for Argyll and Bute has not been confirmed.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government engaged with island authority partner providers to explore measures they are already carrying out to support households this winter and to see how support could align and complement what is already being planned.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The £1.4 million Islands Cost Crisis Emergency allocation will support those on islands facing even more significant cost of living challenges. Estimates indicate that Islands are facing around 20% to 66% higher costs of living than the UK average. High fuel costs, a colder climate and the lack of consumer choice is also intensifying the impact of the cost crisis. The delegation recommended will ensure that the Council can distribute this funding as quickly as possible, once confirmed.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy allocation will support those on islands facing even more significant cost of living challenges.
- 5.2 Financial announced.
- 5.3 Legal None.
- 5.4 HR None.
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
- 5.5.1 Equalities None
- 5.5.2 Socio-Economic Duty None
- 5.5.3 Islands The Islands Cost Crisis funding announced by the Scottish Government will help support our island communities who are facing a higher cost of living than the UK average.
- 5.6 Climate Change None.
- 5.7 Risk None.
- 5.8 Customer Service This funding will ensure the Council are supporting our island communities and households across Argyll and Bute.

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Kirsty Flanagan**

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