

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

25th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday, 28 September

Pre-budget scrutiny – Scottish Government Budget 2023-24

Introduction

1. When the Committee considered its work programme in June, members agreed to take a dual approach to its pre-budget scrutiny and to focus on the impact of the resource spending review on the rural affairs and islands budget and on the [£4 million funding package announced as part of the £30 million Islands Programme](#), established to support the implementation of the National Islands Plan.
2. With respect to the Islands Programme, the Committee agreed to focus its pre-budget scrutiny on the extent to which the Scottish Government's islands budget could support population growth on those islands deemed vulnerable to depopulation.
3. To inform this approach, the Committee wrote to the, [Scottish Futures Trust](#) (SFT, who support the delivery of the Islands Programme) and the [six islands local authorities](#) seeking further information on the new competitive process and investment panel relating to the allocation of the £4m capital funding for the islands programme for 2022-23.
4. [Responses from SFT and four local authorities](#) (North Ayrshire Council, Argyll and Bute Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Orkney Islands Council) are published on the Committee's webpages.

**Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee clerks,
September 2022**