**Islands Act** –lead in co-ordinating the various workstreams relating to implementing the Islands Act. This has focused taking forward the Islands Programme which represents £30 million of capital investment to support the delivery of the National Islands Plan.

Highland has been successful in securing funding for projects for Eigg, Isle of Canna, Skye, Raasay, Muck and Rùm. In addition, Raasay has been included as one of the first six islands to become a Carbon Neutral Islands.

The Team

Policy Manager - Gordon Morrison

Policy Officer - Angus MacLeod

Policy Intern - Euan Armstrong

Leadership Support Officer - Marlene MacRae

Leader’s Secretary - Rebecca Munro

Convener’s Secretary – Vacant

Opposition Support - Mirella Czechowicz

***Non Sibi Sed Aliis***

Performance and Governance Service

**Leadership Support and Corporate Policy**

Providing support to the political leadership of the council and corporate policy development.

Leadership Support

**Administrative Support -** provide direct support to the Leader and Convener and also to the Leader of the Opposition.

Support the Administration’s business meetings, group meetings, and provide effective liaison and co-ordination between senior members and officers to ensure the efficient delivery of council business.

Co-ordinate arrangements for meetings of the Convention of the Highlands and Islands, prepare briefings for COSLA Leaders and Executive Board meetings, Cities Alliance, and other strategic meetings.

**Political and Diplomatic Engagement** – support the political leadership in their engagement with Ministers in the Scottish and UK Governments, co-ordinate ministerial meetings and visits, and support engagement with MSPs and MPs.

Assist with campaigning on specific issues through preparation of ministerial letters and briefings. Examples include levelling Up Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the bid for a Green/Free Port.

Support diplomatic visits to the Highlands. Previously had visits from a number of Consul Generals based in Scotland.

Provide a weekly political and parliamentary briefing on what has been happening in parliament and government as well as highlighting opportunities to respond to consultations and to give parliamentary evidence.

Corporate Policy Development

**Electoral Boundary Reviews** –facilitate engagement with Boundaries Scotland and the Boundary Commission for Scotland on their reviews of ward and parliamentary boundaries.

**Water Safety** - Scotland’s Drowning Prevention Strategy requires councils to develop and promote water safety policies by 2026. In Highland, a Water Safety Policy is being developed which formalises the Council’s approach to water safety management for its own land ownership.

**Rural Public Services** – undertake research on the provision of rural public services such as banking services, rail services. Undertake engagement with Ofcom on BT public call boxes reviews and Royal Mail on provision of post boxes.