

Conference to be told university is in best position to support local development

THE new University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) will be in the best position to support local development in 21st century Scotland, an international conference in Skye will hear this week.

Sabhal Mor Ostaig, which is part of the UHI network, will host the third University Collaboration in Regional Development Spaces (Unicreds) event, which starts tomorrow.

The event is part of the €2million (£1.7m) Unicreds project which aims to develop a model for education and regional development programmes for the European Commission.

The conference will focus on how universities can specialise in regional development and boost the local economy.

Keynote speaker Norman Sharp, a former director of

the higher education quality assurance agency QAA Scotland, and a member of the UHI governing court, will tell delegates that UHI can provide the lifeblood for rural communities. Mr Sharp

said: "This important conference will provide a valuable opportunity for experts to consider the potentially vital role that universities have in supporting rural development."