

# Corporate Campaigning Priorities

The Council's Corporate Plan has as its first main theme "**Representing the Highlands**". This recognises that the Council is elected to represent the needs of the Highlands to the Governments in Edinburgh, London and Brussels as well as to deliver services effectively. Its central aim is to secure Government policy which increasingly reflects the distinct needs of the Highlands.

Within this role of representing the Highlands, the Council identified a number of campaigning priorities which fall under three broad headings

- A Highland infrastructure programme which will lay the foundations of future prosperity;
- Recognition in government policy of the costs of sustaining rural communities and public services in doing so; and
- A programme to reshape the Highland economy

These broad themes reflect the key issues affecting the wellbeing of the Highlands.

## INFRASTRUCTURE



- Encourage the Scottish Executive to undertake **Road Improvements** to the A9, A96, upgrade the A82 & improve the single track network in the Highlands
- Secure **Infrastructure Investment For Inverness**, especially support for the Link Road Project
- Secure adequate resources to implement the Highland **Waste Management plan**
- Secure **Increased Investment In Water & Sewerage** services in order to address development constraints
- Secure good **Road, Rail & Air Routes** linking communities within and outwith Highland
- **Secure Investment in Sporting & Cultural Facilities** from national bodies together with promoting cultural industries
- Seek investment in **Modern Community Schools** across the Highlands

## COST OF SUSTAINING RURAL COMMUNITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES



- Ensure a **Fairer Allocation of Financial Resources** which recognises super-sparsity and rural deprivation.
- Secure additional resources to reflect the needs of a **growing older population**
- Support for Local Government involvement in the distribution of **EU Structural Funding**
- Reduce the **Regulatory and Inspection burden** imposed on local authorities
- Secure measures to reduce the financial burden experienced by **Fuel Dependent Communities** & alleviate fuel poverty
- Maintain and develop **Essential Rural Services** including provision of adequate filling stations, dentistry, childcare and postal services
- Protect **Air Services** to & from the Highlands with a Public Service Obligation

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## RE-SHAPING THE HIGHLAND ECONOMY



- Seek continuing investment to tackle the shortage of **Affordable Housing**
- Protect the environment in the Highlands by ensuring controls on the sea movement of **Hazardous Cargoes**
- Protect the environment through effective controls for the storage and disposal of **Hazardous Waste**
- Work with partners to mitigate the impact of **Climate Change** and seek resources to implement **flood prevention & Coastal Protection** measures
- Secure a strategic shift in ownership and management of **Land and Marine Resources**. Improve the means to increase community ownership. Secure additional resources to implement the access provisions of the Land Reform Act
- Seek continued support for the development of the **University of the Highlands & Islands**
- Support for Highland to become a centre of engineering research and development in **Renewable Technologies**
- Ensure renewable energy developers provide increased **Community Benefit** and supporting community ownership of renewable energy schemes
- Seek legislation and subsidies that take account of the nature of **Farming & Crofting** in the Highlands and assist local agricultural industry to develop new methods of delivering local food products in the Highlands & beyond
- Support for fishing communities & encourage the development of **Sustainable Fishing**
- Seek investment in a Highland Centre of Excellence in **Nuclear Decommissioning** technologies
- Support for cluster approach to the development of **Biomedical, Creative & Cultural industries**
- Support for Implementation of the public sector **Job Dispersal Policy**
- Reduce taxation burdens on **Tourism** businesses
- Ensure controls on development of **GM Crops**

For more information on our campaign priorities please contact our Parliamentary Officer on 01463 702547 or email [gordon.morrison@highland.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.morrison@highland.gov.uk)