

## **Item 7 – Question Time**

### Response – to Mr Drew Hendry

In response to your question –

The Highland Council has contributed £7,000 to support the inquiry being undertaken by the Royal Society of Edinburgh on facing up to climate change. Through this work, a meeting is scheduled to discuss Scottish inputs into the UK Government position on Climate Change at the Copenhagen Summit. The meeting is on 22 October. Unfortunately, due to the short notice, we are unable to send a representative from Highland Council (school holidays and clashes with other commitments in the diary). The key issues of the meeting will be published within a week as an RSE briefing paper and we will have an opportunity to feed into this. Parallel to this, the Council is inputting into the RSE inquiry into facing up to Climate Change and have submitted our thoughts on where and how the inquiry should gather evidence, including an offer to use Highland Region as an example study area.

Our work with the Scottish Climate Impacts Partnership – a key focus of the Copenhagen Convention will be to accord adaptation the same level and priority of support as mitigation. We are working closely with UK Climate Impacts Partnership (UKCIP) and the Scottish Climate Change Impact Partnership (SCCIP) in the development of our Adaptation Strategy for Highland. We intend to run a workshop for partners within Highland exploring the use of Climate Scenarios tools and how they can assist in future planning for weather events. This is scheduled for early 2010.

Our work towards actions to mitigate will be through the reporting framework of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act which is widely seen as the strongest Climate Change legislation in the world and far more ambitious than many of the other industrialised countries participating in the Copenhagen Convention. We will continue to engage with the Sustainable Scotland Network, CoSLA and our Community Planning partners on matters relating to Climate Change.

We will report the outcomes of the Copenhagen Convention and the implications for the Council to a future meeting of the Climate Change Working Group.

The matter is also on the agenda for the forthcoming Convention of the Highlands & Islands.