

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

PLANNING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

13 August 2008

Agenda Item	
Report No	

TOURISM PROJECT GROUP

Report by Director of Planning & Development

SUMMARY

This paper recommends changes to the composition of the Council's Tourism Project Group to ensure both cross-party and cross-service representation and clarifies the group's remit.

1. Introduction

1.1 At their meeting on 15 August 2007 the Planning Environment and Development Committee agreed to set up a cross-service Tourism Project Group with the remit "to co-ordinate the delivery of Council Services supporting tourism and to act as a sounding board for the Council to consider its representations from the Scottish Executive and VisitScotland on changes in the delivery of tourism." Mrs I McCallum, along with the Chairman was nominated to represent this Committee and it was agreed that a representative from each of the Transport, Environmental and Community Services and Education, Culture and Sport Committees be sought. Subsequently Mr R Pedersen was appointed to represent the TECS Committee and Ms J Douglas to represent the ECS Committee.

2. Proposal

2.1 In order to accommodate both cross-party and cross-service representation on the Tourism Project Group it is proposed that Member representation on the group be increased to eight. Membership should be in line with political balance while retaining Member representation from the Transport, Environmental and Community Services (TECS) and the Education, Culture and Sport (ECS) Committees. It is proposed that six Members from the PED Committee be appointed with one Member each from the TECS and ECS Committees.

2.2 It is also recommended that the remit of the group be extended. At the current time its remit is to co-ordinate the delivery of Council Services supporting tourism and to act as a sounding board for the Council to consider its representations from the Scottish Government and VisitScotland on changes in the delivery of tourism. It is proposed that this remit is extended to include the monitoring of the Partnership Agreement with VisitScotland and the Council's Tourism Development budget. This will allow for ongoing monitoring prior to an annual report to the Planning, Environment and Development Committee.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Committee is recommended to agree:
a) to the change to the composition of the Tourism Project Group and to appoint six Members from the PED Committee;

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">b) to seek one Member from each of the Transport, Environmental and Community Services and Education, Culture and Sport Committees,c) to extend the remit of the Tourism Project Group to include monitoring of the Partnership Agreement with VisitScotland and the Council's Tourism Development budget. |
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Signature:

Designation: Director of Planning & Development

Date: 31 July 2008

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