

## **Item 9 - Question Time**

### Response to Mr A MacLeod

The Scottish Parliament is currently considering the terms of the Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Bill and the Scottish Independence Referendum Bill. The legislation under consideration places the responsibility for the promotion of public awareness and understanding in Scotland about the referendum with the Electoral Commission. Responsibility for making sure that as many 16 and 17 year olds in the Highlands are registered to vote in the referendum will lie with the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), in accordance with any directions given by the Chief Counting Officer (the Convener of the Electoral Management Board for Scotland) who will be responsible for ensuring the proper and effective conduct of the Referendum.

As reported to the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee held on 13 June, the Council is taking active steps to ensure that all 16 and 17 year olds in Highland are aware of the need to register and participate in the Referendum in September 2014.