

Council Headquarters
Glenurquhart Road

Inverness

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4 June 2014

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Dear Member

A meeting of the **Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee** will take place in **The Chamber, The Court House, High Street, Nairn** on **Wednesday 11 June 2014** at **10.30 am**.

**Webcast Notice:** This meeting will be filmed and broadcast over the Internet on the Highland Council website and will be archived and available for viewing for 12 months thereafter.

You are invited to attend the meeting and a note of the business to be considered is attached.

Yours faithfully

**Michelle Morris**

**Depute Chief Executive/**

**Director of Corporate Development**

**Business**

## Apologies for Absence

**Leisgeulan**

## Declarations of Interest

**Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

Members are asked to consider whether they have an interest to declare in relation to any item on the agenda for this meeting. Any Member making a declaration of interest should indicate whether it is a financial or non-financial interest and include some information on the nature of the interest. Advice may be sought from Officers prior to the meeting taking place.

**MAIN PAPERS – PART 1**

## Presentation: Cairngorms National Park Authority

**Taisbeanadh: Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a’ Mhonaidh Ruaidh**

There will be a presentation by Grant Moir, Chief Executive, Cairngorm National Park Authority, on the work of the National Park, key challenges and opportunities for the future and the potential for further joint working with Highland Council.

## Community Challenge Fund – Area Update (PP 1-4)

**Maoin Dùbhlan Coimhearsnachd – Fios as Ùr airson na Sgìre**

There is circulated Report No NBS/09/14 dated 17 May 2014 by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Development which explains that the Community Challenge Fund was launched in January 2013. The report provides Members with an opportunity to consider the interest in the fund at a local level and also to discuss how the fund can best be promoted and utilised within the local area.

The Committee is invited to:-

1. note the take up of the fund to date in Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey;
2. note the changes made to the fund and the approach to promoting the fund agreed by the Council in March 2014;
3. consider what other potential services it could envisage communities taking on locally; and
4. consider how the Community Challenge Fund could be promoted and used to best effect within the Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey area.

## Rural Poverty – Research Briefing (PP 5-10)

**Bochdainn Dùthchail – Brath Rannsachaidh**

There is circulated Report No NBS/10/14 dated 10 May 2014 by the Head of Policy and Reform which explains that, in 2013, two papers considering rural poverty were published; *A Minimum Income Standard for Remote Rural Scotland*; and *Local Incomes and Poverty in Scotland*. The report provides Members with a summary of the methodology and findings of both research studies.

The Committee is invited to note:-

1. the findings of both research papers; and
2. that a rural proofing tool has been drafted, assisted by the findings of the research studies. There will be opportunities to use the tool in 2014.

## Update on Nairn Town Centre Action Plan

**Fios às Ùr mu Phlana-gnìomh Meadhan Baile Inbhir Narann**

Members will recall that, in late 2013, the Council was successful in a bid to the Scottish Government for grant funding towards the undertaking of design workshop events (“charrettes”) aimed at the regeneration of Town Centres and, in particular, the steps required to increase footfall and investment in the town. Nairn was one of three towns in Highland that comprised the funding bid, the other two being Tain and Fort William.

The Nairn Town Centre Action Plan Event took place on 30 April and 1 May 2014 in the Court House, Nairn and featured a number of different sessions aimed at drawing out issues relating to the need for improvements to the Town Centre. The event was well attended, with the format giving people the opportunity to drop in and out of sessions as they pleased. The availability of the online questionnaire also allowed those who could not attend in person the ability to contribute to the outcomes. Suggested proposals were assessed for viability and deliverability and, through a collective assessment, refined the final proposals for inclusion in the Action Plan. A pamphlet was prepared and distributed that highlighted these preferred main proposals which will guide the preparation of the Action Plan. A full draft Action Plan which will update, inform and supplement existing work will be presented to the Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee on 25 September 2014.

## Workskills and Development - Update (PP 11-17)

**Sgilean-obrach agus Leasachadh – Fios às Ùr**

There is circulated Report No NBS/11/14 dated 28 May 2014 by the Director of Development and Infrastructure which summarises recent employability related activity in the Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area and asks Members to comment on the priorities identified for development in the current year. Members are also asked to confirm the award of three grants from the Deprived Area Fund and agree to the delegation of decisions for the balance of funds in 2014/15.

The Committee is invited to:-

1. agree the award of Deprived Area Funds as follows:-
* Nairn & District Citizens Advice Bureau – £5,000
* Nairn River Community Council - up to £5,000
* Nairn Academy – £5,000;
1. agree that the award of the balance of funds for 2014/15 be delegated to the Director of Development and Infrastructure in consultation with the Area Leader; and
2. comment on the provision of Employability Services in the area.

## Maintenance Programme for Roads and Bridges (PP 18-22)

**Prògram Gleidhidh airson Rathaidean agus Dhrochaidean**

There is circulated Report No NBS/12/14 dated 16 May 2014 by the Director of Community Services which invites Members to approve the Maintenance Programmes for Roads and Bridges for the Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area for 2014/15.

The Committee is invited to approve the Maintenance Programmes for Roads and Bridges for the Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area for 2014/15.

## Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Programme (PP 23-26)

**Prògram Rothaireachd, Coiseachd agus Sràidean nas Sàbhailte**

There is circulated Report No NBS/13/14 dated 22 May 2014 by the Director of Community Services which invites Members to approve the projects delivered through the Scottish Government funding for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets for the Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey area, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Committee is invited to:-

1. approve the Safer Routes to School Project set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
2. note that the Road Safety Unit will continue to work with schools to develop further Safer Routes to School Projects for future years.

## Housing Performance Report - 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 (PP 27-31)

**Aithisg Dèanadais Taigheadais – 1 Giblean 2013 gu 31 Màrt 2014**

There is circulated Report No NBS/14/14 dated 20 May 2014 by the Director of Community Services which provides information on housing performance indicators during the year 2013/14.

The Committee is invited to scrutinise the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

## Nairn Common Good Fund – Update Report (PP 32-34)

**Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Aithisg Ùrachaidh**

Members will recall that, at the previous meeting of the Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee, the Committee was asked to note the ongoing review of the Nairn Common Good Fund.

In that regard, there is circulated joint Report No NBS/15/14 dated 29 May 2014 by the Director of Finance and the Acting Head of Community and Democratic Engagement which seeks to update on the review process and on progress made to date.

The Committee is invited to:-

1. note progress with the ongoing review of the Nairn Common Good Fund;
2. note the conclusion of the lease for the former Links Shelter;
3. agree that the rental increase for the Lochloy Caravan Park be implemented from October 2013; and
4. note the next steps and agree that further update reports be brought back to the Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee.

## Kingussie High School Associated School Group Overview (PP 35-57)

**Sealladh Coitcheann air Buidheann Sgoiltean Co-cheangailte Àrd-sgoil Cheann a’ Ghiùthsaich**

There is circulated Report No NBS/16/14 dated 28 May 2014 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which provides an update of key information in relation to the schools within the Kingussie High School Associated School Group and useful updated links to further information in relation to these schools.

The Committee is invited to scrutinise and note the content of the report.

## Minutes (58-68)

**Geàrr-chunntas**

There are circulated for noting Minutes of Meeting of the Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee held on 19 March 2014, which were approved by the Council on 8 May 2014.

1. **Exclusion of Public**

**Às-dùnadh a’Phobaill**

**The Committee is invited to resolve that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.**

**MAIN PAPERS – PART 2**

## Request for Sale of Land at Balmakeith Industrial Estate, Nairn (PP 69-71)

**Larrtas airson Fearann a Reic aig Àrainn Gnìomhachais Bhaile Mac Càidh, Inbhir Narann**

There is circulated to Members only Report No NBS/17/14 by the Director of Development and Infrastructure in relation to a request for sale of land at Balmakeith Industrial Estate, Nairn.

The Committee is invited to consider the request as set out in the report.

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| **Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey****Area Committee Membership** |
| Ms J DouglasMr D FallowsMr L FraserMr M Green | Mr B LobbanMr C MacaulayMrs L MacDonaldMr G Rimell |