HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee:	**Lochaber Area Committee**
Date:	**11 April 2018**
Report Title:	**Lochaber Local Priorities**
Report By:	**Head of Policy and Reform**

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report sets out the priorities agreed at Lochaber Area Committee on 4 October 2017 with proposed actions and timelines set out to achieve their delivery.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to review the actions and timescales proposed and to suggest any further amendment or activity considered appropriate to achieve the local priorities.

3. Background

3.1 Lochaber Members originally set out their priorities for the area in November 2015, having identified them through community consultation and discussion with partners via the Lochaber Community Planning Partnership. They were endorsed again at the Lochaber Committee held on 19 October 2016. In October 2017, Members again reviewed them against the backdrop of significant economic growth in a number of sectors including tourism and manufacturing and the Council's new Programme.

3.2 It is important to note that while these are local Council priorities, they have been drafted on the basis of a shared understanding of the concerns and priorities of the community and partners, and that for some, the actions to address them will be taken forward in partnership.

4 Developing the Lochaber Priorities

4.1 The priorities for the area are set out at **Appendix 1.** They cover a wide range of sectors encompassing transport, tourism, education, health, housing and leisure and predominantly seek to develop capital projects which will impact positively on the economic and social wellbeing of the area. The challenges posed by rurality are also recognised.

4.2 Most priorities can only be achieved with partnership working and the Council seeks to use its position to influence, encourage and motivate those who can support the delivery of these priorities.

4.3 All of the Lochaber Priorities deliver against the priority themes within The Highland Council Programme ie A place to live - A place to learn - A place to thrive - A welcoming place - A redesigned council. This report provides Members with an opportunity to discuss these key issues, to consider whether any amendments should be made and to set out a timetable for review on progress against each priority.

5 Implications

5.1 Resource implications: A number of the priorities require resourcing to take these forward. However, these are either seeking external funding or it is proposed these are taken forward within existing resources

Community implications (equality, poverty, rural): The priorities were originally developed following consultation with the local community. A number specifically aim to positively address rural, poverty and equality issues.

There are no immediate Legal, Climate Change/Carbon Clever, Risk or Gaelic implications in the report. However, the priorities may have a positive impact on many of these themes.

Designation: Head of Policy and Reform

Date: 28 March 2018

Author: Dot Ferguson

Background Papers: None

LOCHABER PRIORITIES – DRAFT PLAN – APRIL 2018

Priority A		A82 realignment
Why?		Creating a realigned A82 will deliver more effective traffic movement and reduce the negative impact on the local economy
Partners		Transport Scotland / Hitrans / Lochaber Chamber of Commerce / Highland Council / private sector
Progress Reported to		Lochaber Delivery Group A82 Partnership - traffic congestion working group
How?		▪ Achieve agreement with all partners to support process ▪ instigate appropriate studies; selection of most appropriate solution ▪ determine costs / consents (including landowner) / funding sources
Timeline?		HC to commission by the end of 2017 (complete AECOM appointed) – report due by June 2018
		Lobby for funding for full STAG (Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance) and make case for inclusion in STPR (Strategic Transport Project Review)

Priority B		Transport Infrastructure
Why?		A more efficient and joined up transport system will provide a trunk road network fit for purpose as well as the infrastructure to create a multi-modal hub allowing sea, rail and road transport to work seamlessly and offering a safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists. A long-term sustainable solution for crossing the Corran Narrows will also be investigated.
Partners		Hitrans / Transport Scotland / private sector
Progress reported to		Hitrans Board; Highland Council - Economy, Development and Infrastructure Committee; Highland Council Lochaber Area Committee

How?		- Work with partners to map and develop opportunities - To engage with the local community and relevant interest groups to determine plans which maximise benefit to the local area - Work with partners to identify appropriate funding sources
Timeline		1-2 years for initial studies

Priority C		Tourism Infrastructure
Why?		Working with partners and local communities we will pursue the creation of improved tourism infrastructure, adding value to the local economy
Partners		Lochaber Chamber of Commerce / private sector / third sector / Community Councils / community organisations / Police Scotland / landowners
Progress reported to		Highland Council Lochaber Area Committee; Tourism Forum
How?		- Facilitate discussions with stakeholders to identify problems and potential solutions - Develop relevant action plans with funds identified
Timeline?		- Consultation with tourism service and infrastructure providers by end-2018 - Action plan development 2019

Priority D		Rural and Coastal Recognition
Why?		With partners we will lobby the Scottish Government in order to achieve the same recognition for remote rural areas and coastal communities to benefit from the Scottish Government's Islands Deal.
Partners?		Public sector partners; communities
Progress reported to?		Highland Council; Lochaber Area Committee

How?		■ Support the ongoing Highland Council work to: ■ review the evidence base on rural poverty and inequality; promote use of rural impact assessments and to lobby for equal status for rural proofing ■ Contact the Minister for Local Authorities and Housing for advice on how best to engage the Scottish Government
Timeline?		Reviews and lobbying throughout 2018

Priority E		Marine Infrastructure
Why?		Providing appropriate infrastructure such as pontoons and a breakwater combined with effective management structure (eg a harbour authority) will maximise the potential from marine tourism, including cruise ships
Partners		Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company / Thomas Telford Corpach Marina / HIE / OCUK-Chamber of Commerce
Progress reported to		Lochaber Area Committee Fort William Cruise market development group (pontoons)
How?		■ Facilitate discussions to consider appropriate development in a range of locations ■ Assist with submission of applications for relevant Scottish Government funds
Timeline?		■ Securing of funding – stage 2 Scottish Government Capital Regeneration Fund confirmed Feb 2018 ■ Ongoing support to delivery ■ Support for Cruise Scotland membership

Priority F		STEM Centre
Why?		Supporting West Highland College UHI's ambition to develop a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Centre will ensure that Lochaber continues to strengthen and diversify its education provision, making it well-placed to serve the economy
Partners?		WHC UHI / HC Care and Learning / HIE / private sector / Lochaber Chamber of Commerce
Progress reported to		Lochaber Area Committee
How?		▪ To work with partners to identify appropriate sites / content ▪ To support their applications for funding to other bodies
Timeline?		2019-2020 depending on consents / funding

Priority G		"University Town" experience for Fort William
Why?		By pursuing the development and delivery of services and facilities which support the growing student population which will in turn help grow the economic and cultural diversity of the area.
Partners?		WHC UHI / Lochaber Chamber of Commerce / private sector / third sector / HIE
Progress reported to		Lochaber Delivery Group – attracting workforce Lochaber Community Planning Partnership Lochaber Area Committee
How?		To support WHC UHI as they identify services and facilities required including cinema / expanded community and study library / indoor sports
Timeline?		Ongoing

Priority H	New Belford Hospital – *(rename Redesign of Lochaber health and social care services including new hospital facility)*
Why?	A state of the art health and social care service including a new hospital facility will deliver outstanding health care for the next 50 years and ensure the well-being of the residents and visitors to the area
Partners	NHS; Highland Council; community councils; community groups; third sector organisations
Progress reported to	Redesign local steering group and associated sub-groups - Communications, transport and clinical.
How?	Participation in all relevant working groups as they consider each stage including - draft clinical and care model; Strategic Assessment to Scottish Government; Outline Business Case; Full Business Case
Timeline?	2018-2022

Priority I	Health and Wellbeing – *(rename Health, Wellbeing and equality)*
Why?	The Lochaber Children's, adults and locality plans will improve the skills and well-being of people living and working in Lochaber, particularly the most vulnerable and communities in areas of most need
Partners	Core partners (NHS; HTSI; HIE; PS; SFRS, HC), Community Councils, Community Development Trusts/Co, Access Panel, Transport Forum
Progress reported to	Lochaber Community Planning Partnership Highland Community planning Partnership
How?	Engage in and support the work of the Lochaber Community Planning Partnership
Timeline?	Locality, children's and adults' plans to be delivered throughout 2018-19

Priority J	Increase housing and specialist support provision
Why?	We will work with partners to provide the mechanism to deliver suitable housing with the most appropriate support in areas of identified need. This will deliver for our most vulnerable communities as well as increasing social confidence
Partners?	HC; Housing Associations; community organisations; private sector
Progress reported to	Lochaber Area Committee
How?	- Work with partners to identify and prioritise needs, across Lochaber - Identify, plan and develop appropriate solutions
Timeline	2018 – 2020 (accelerated to meet increased workforce requirements)

Priority K	Multi-use indoor centre
Why?	Support for an all-weather visitor attraction which offers a range of uses for residents and which will extend visitors' length of stay, increasing the economic and social well-being of the area
Partners?	Private sector; third sector
Progress reported to	Own governing bodies Funders
How?	To work positively with existing providers and with businesses / organisations who wish to develop wet weather attractions
Timeline?	Ongoing

Priority L		Participatory budgeting
Why?		Building on the success of the Lochaber pilots, this will strengthen and empower communities to decide together how public monies should be directed
Partners?		Lochaber Community Planning Partnership, Council services; Community Councils; Community organisations; individuals
Progress reported to		Lochaber Area Committee Lochaber Community Planning Partnership
How?		▪ Encouraging communities, Council services (including finance and policy teams) and community planning partners to design and deliver further experiments ▪ directing specific public spend areas and directing geographically based public spend
Timeline		2018-2019

Priority M		Indoor Training Centre
Why?		Assisting the delivery of an Indoor Training Centre will reduce the demands on local pitches which suffer from the extreme wet-weather conditions allowing a greater range of sports to be enjoyed with the resulting health and social benefits
Partners		Lochaber Sports Association (LSA); Lochaber sports clubs
Progress Reported to		Own governing bodies Funders
How?		Work with LSA or others to identify a feasible, funded project
Timeline?		Ongoing

Priority N	Lochaber Common Good Fund
Why?	Establishing a Common Good Fund will enable appropriate projects to be funded via a mechanism which will have direct community input
Partners	Private individuals; commercial companies; third sector
Progress Reported to	Lochaber Area Committee
How?	- establish if there is interest from potential funders - confirm the process for establishment of a Common Good Fund
Timeline?	2018-19

KEY TO PARTNERS

HIE – **Highlands and Islands Enterprise**
OCUK – **Outdoor Capital of the UK**
WHC UHI – **West Highland College University of the Highlands and Islands**
NHS – **National Health Service**
HTSI – **Highland Third Sector Interface**
PS – **Police Scotland**
SFRS – **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**