

Highland Council Corporate Resources Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Commercial Board** held in Committee Room 2, Council Headquarters, Inverness on Wednesday 16 May at 2.00 pm.

Present

Mr Gordon Adam
Mr George Cruickshank
Mr Laurie Fraser
Mr Richard Gale

Mr Jimmy Gray
Mr Derek Louden
Ms Maxine Smith

Officials in attendance

Mr D Yule, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources
Mr E Foster, Head of Corporate Finance and Commercialism, Finance Service
Mr A Maguire, Head of Development & Regeneration, Development & Infrastructure Service
Mr A Summers, Head of Environmental and Amenity Services, Community Services
Mr M Bailey, Principal Project Manager, Commercial & Efficiency Team, Corporate Resources Service
Ms R Cleland, Corporate Communications Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Mr M Kelly, Project Manager, Commercial & Efficiency Team, Corporate Resources Service
Ms K Foster, Graphic Designer, Chief Executive's Office
Mrs L Dunn, Principal Administrator, Chief Executive's Office

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Corporate Resources Committee. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Board.

MR G ADAM IN THE CHAIR

BUSINESS

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Ms D Mackay, Mr A Rhind and Mr P Saggars.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

There was circulated the Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 April 2018, the terms of which were **APPROVED**.

4. Exclusion of the Public

The Board **RESOLVED** that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the matter for discussion would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

5. Commercial Strategy/Vision

The Chairman of the Commercial Board advised that he was still awaiting an update regarding development of a decision making mechanism with associated delegated powers and consequently the strategy could not be finalised until this had been received.

The Chairman advised that he would endeavour to receive an update for the next meeting and the Board **NOTED** the position.

6. Commercial Opportunities

There had been circulated a copy of the presentation by the Commercial & Efficiency Team on the progress of the current portfolio of Commercial opportunities which included an update on the following projects CI2, CI4, CI7, CI8, CI9, CI10 and CI13.

Following detailed discussions, the Commercial Board **NOTED** the update and also:-

- i. **AGREED** that the Head of Head of Roads and Transport obtain a definitive answer from Transport Scotland in regard to CI4 and that this be reported to the next meeting;
- ii. **NOTED** that a workshop would be held in regard CI4 and the feedback from this be reported to a future meeting;
- iii. **NOTED** that a Business Case would be presented to a future meeting in regard to CI7;
- iv. **NOTED** that the Fees and Charges Policy would be presented to Corporate Resources Committee for approval on 29 August 2018;
- v. **NOTED** that an update and presentation would be made at the next meeting in regard to CI13;
- vi. **AGREED** that a meeting be scheduled within the next two weeks in regard to CI3 and that the information previously requested in regard to the Council's industrial land at Inverness Airport and the associated lease information be collated and circulated to the relevant attendees prior to this meeting; and
- vii. **AGREED** that a further project (CI14) be added to the portfolio for further investigation.

7. Commercial Property Investment

There had been circulated Report by the Head of Development and Regeneration which provided background information for discussion relating to the Highland Council expanding its investment portfolio to deliver more commercial opportunities.

The Head of Development & Regeneration presented his report in detail during which he also responded to questions and comments raised by the Board.

Following detailed discussions, the Commercial Board **NOTED** the report and **AGREED** that the Head of Development & Regeneration seek commercial prospects based on the parameters set out in the report and that viable opportunities be presented to the Board for consideration.

8. Highland Augmented Reality

There had been circulated Report by the Corporate Communications Manager which provided an update on the Council's application of Augmented Reality (AR) technology.

The Corporate Communications Manager made a presentation at the meeting during which she provided further information on the project; explained the potential economic benefits to the Highlands; and provided further information on the associated set-up costs as well as outlining the support required going forward to maximise the project potential. In addition, she also gave a demonstration of the AR technology and explained how the project had potential for growth and to be replicated across the whole of the Highlands. The Corporate Communications Manager advised that the application would be launched at Expo North on 27/28 June 2018.

At this point, Mr Gray left the meeting (3.30 pm).

Following a short question and answer session, the Board welcomed the project, which they felt was extremely innovative. The Board further recognised the potential benefits, which included income generation as well as promoting the Highlands and boosting tourism, which could be achieved and recommended that a Business Case be presented with a view to supporting the development of the project.

The Commercial Board **NOTED** the update and **AGREED** that a Business Case be submitted to a future meeting for consideration.

The meeting was closed at 4.00 pm.