

Agenda Item	5
Report No	N/7/18

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Nairnshire Committee

Date: 13 June 2018

Report Title: Local Priorities for Nairn and Nairnshire

Report By: Head of Policy and Reform

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the local strategic priorities for Nairn and Nairnshire which were revised following discussion with the Council Leader in 2017.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Consider and approve the local strategic priorities for Nairn and Nairnshire.
 - ii. Agree to promote these with the wider Council membership and as part of the Council's Programme 2017-22.
 - iii. Note that there will be opportunity, through the development of the local community partnership and engagement with community bodies and communities, to consider wider shared priorities over the Council's term.
 - iv. Note that further work will be done in 2018 to identify how the local priorities agreed can be supported by staff and any other Council resources. This will include considering how best to measure progress. Some priorities are already well aligned to the Council's Programme.

3 Background

- 3.1 Building on the Localism agenda and increased delegation of decision making to local committees, each local committee was asked by the Leader to consider developing a set of strategic council priorities for their area.
- 3.2 There will be opportunity, through the development of the local community partnership and other engagement with community bodies and communities, to consider wider shared priorities over the Council's term.

4 Developing the Local Priorities for Nairn and Nairnshire

- 4.1 Priorities for the area had previously been agreed at the Nairnshire Area Committee on 7 December 2016. Following discussion with the Council Leader in September 2017 on key issues in the area, the priorities have been revisited by Members over the last 8 months and revised local priorities are attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The local priorities reflect the Council's Programme; Local Voices-Highland Choices. It has themes around: a place to live; a place to learn; a place to thrive; a welcoming place; and a redesigned Council. The Nairn and Nairnshire area can contribute to the development of Highland along these themes and take forward specific actions to improve the local area.
- 4.3 Some of the priorities focus on Council action and some require engagement with others, including lobbying activity.

5 Implications

- 5.1 There are no immediate Legal, Risk or Gaelic implications at this stage. Action to support these priorities will bring positive impacts for the Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) and for the environment (Climate Change / Carbon Clever).
- 5.2 There will be resource impacts including staff time. In 2018 work will be done to understand how best to direct staff time and other resources to support Members' priorities and how to measure progress against them.

Designation: Head of Policy and Reform

Date: 29 May 2018

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Background Papers: Appendix 1 – Nairn and Nairnshire Priorities

WARD 18 LOCAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES – MAY 2018

Community / Localism – A Place to Live and a Redesigned Council

- Continue to strengthen the Nairnshire Committee through development of the localism agenda, and enhance and strengthen local decision making, taking account of the outcomes from the Commission on Highland Democracy
- Continue to proactively and effectively manage the Nairn Common Good Fund and seek opportunities to maximise the Fund, through an investment strategy, to benefit the local community
- Maximise opportunities to access benefits from the Inverness and Highland City / Region Deal
- Greening Nairn – support local and national environmental initiatives that will improve and enhance the environment in our Ward
- Support the CAB King Street Project as a key initiative to improve services to the community

Partnership Working – A Place to Live

- Work with partner organisations to create a dynamic change agenda for Nairn and Nairnshire
- Work with partners and the community to support the Nairn and Nairnshire Community Partnership to achieve effective Community Planning for the Ward, and to address inequalities through partnership working
- Work with partners to continue to improve bathing water quality to achieve top status for Nairn's beaches.

Housing Development - A Place to Live

- Focus on bringing forward development of key sites across Nairn and Nairnshire to deliver for the housing needs of our community
- Work with lead officers and partners to exceed the Highland Council's target for provision of 130 affordable homes in Nairn over the next 5 years
- Promote and support opportunities to increase the range of affordable rented accommodation, including local 'FIT' housing initiatives (the 'FIT House' concept is a technology enabled smart house that promotes wellbeing and preventative health solutions)
- Upgrade and improve existing housing stock to the best possible standard and to be barrier free where possible

Education – A Place to Learn

- Prioritise upgrading and / or replacement of Nairn Academy, and ensure that all Ward 18 education estate provision is fit for purpose
- Develop closer working with the Associated School Group (Nairn Academy, Millbank Primary, Rosebank Primary, Auldearn Primary, Cawdor Primary) to support implementation of the Early Years Strategy and also to seek solutions to reducing the attainment gap in our Ward schools
- Support the highest standards for our children to learn and thrive in all Ward schools seeking new opportunities, and promoting use of technology and ICT
- Seek opportunities to develop further and higher education provision in Nairn with UHI, Inverness College and Moray College, including promotion of locally based Modern Apprenticeships
- Explore and support opportunities for local Campus development including vocational training and new business facilitation
- Support skills and employability initiatives in a Ward context to offer choices to younger people

Economic Development and Prosperity – A Welcoming Place, a Place to Live and a Place to Thrive

- Progress economic development and regeneration initiatives for Nairn and Nairnshire with key targets and timelines including:
 - Support for a Business Improvement District (BID) for Nairn

- Town Centre and High Street regeneration
- With partners create, deliver and implement a Tourism Strategy and Action Plan
- Investigate Augmented Reality (AR) portals for Nairn
- Regeneration of the harbour area through creation of an improvement strategy
- Support for a new Business Park
- Further development of commercial units
- With HIE and other public sector partners, support development of business and employment opportunities

Broadband and Connectivity – A Place to Thrive

- Ensure delivery of next generation superfast Broadband to all areas of Nairnshire – look at innovative solutions including wireless broadband
- Continue to lobby to ensure that mobile phone providers bring minimum 4G to all areas of Nairnshire (**partly achieved**)
- Support development of Nairn as a Wi-Fi town (**achieved in Town Centre**)

Transport and Infrastructure – A Place to Thrive

- Support rapid development and delivery of the A96 Bypass
- Capitalise on strengthening connectivity as a result of dualling of the A96 including:
 - working to ensure maximisation of gain of net benefits for Nairn as a result of the bypass
 - progressing integrated transport initiatives
 - improved rail commuter services both in and out of Nairn
 - improved links to Inverness Airport
 - improved walking and cycling routes
- Deliver a connected Coastal paths network through capitalising on opportunities presented by A96 dualling and work with Transport Scotland and other partners to achieve this.

Health and Social Care – A Place to Thrive

- Support the maximisation of key hospital services at the Nairn Town and County Hospital as the main hub for delivery of health services for the Nairn Community
- Encourage patient transport initiatives to meet patient and family needs
- Promote quality local community based care provision and access to care at home services