

(18) Mr K Gowans

To the Leader of the Council

Further to my successful motion in December 2020 when Members agreed to support “The Highland Council undertakes to achieve “Living Wage” designation status for the Highland Council Area to provide benefit and support for lower paid employees”, an update was provided to the Council in May. Since then, there have been no further updates on this very important initiative. What tangible evidence is there that any further progress has been made to date?

Given the pressures facing the economic development team in supporting employability and wider economic recovery, it has not been possible to move this initiative on further since the last report in May. I can give a commitment that the matter will be raised at the next Highland Economic Recovery Partnership and the views of business leaders taken on board, following which a realistic and achievable programme of work will be developed and communicated to Members. A key priority of this Council remains to support the business community in Highland to recover from the economic shock all businesses have suffered from, in a way that supports fair pay and delivery of the aspirations of the motion that was agreed.