

**The Highland Council  
No 6 2021/2022**

Minutes of **Special Meeting** of the **Highland Council** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on **Thursday, 3 March 2022** at 10.30am.

**1. Calling of the Roll and Apologies for Absence  
A' Gairm a' Chlàir agus Leisgeulan**

**Present:**

Mr C Aitken	Mr A Henderson
Mr G Adam	Ms E Knox
Mr B Allan	Mr A Jarvie
Mr R Balfour	Mr B Lobban
Mrs J Barclay	Mr D Louden
Mr B Boyd	Mr D Mackay
Mr R Bremner	Mrs D Mackay
Mr I Brown	Mr W MacKay
Mr J Bruce	Mr G MacKenzie
Mrs C Caddick	Ms A MacLean
Mrs I Campbell	Mr D Macpherson
Miss J Campbell	Mrs B McAllister
Mrs H Carmichael	Mr J McGillivray
Mr A Christie	Mr H Morrison
Dr I Cockburn	Mr C Munro
Mrs M Cockburn	Ms L Munro
Mrs M Davidson	Mrs M Paterson
Ms S Fanet	Mr M Reiss
Mr J Finlayson	Mr A Rhind
Mr M Finlayson	Mr D Rixson
Mr D Fraser	Mrs F Robertson
Mr L Fraser	Mrs T Robertson
Mr R Gale	Mr K Rosie
Mr K Gowans	Mr P Saggars
Mr A Graham	Ms M Smith
Mr J Gray	Ms J Tilt
Ms P Hadley	

**In Attendance:**

Chief Executive	Executive Chief Officer, Performance & Governance
Executive Chief Officer, Communities & Place	Executive Chief Officer, Property & Housing
Executive Chief Officer, Health & Social Care	Executive Chief Officer, Resources & Finance
Executive Chief Officer, Infrastructure & Environment	

**Mr B Lobban in the Chair**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A Baxter, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Ms K Currie, Mr C Fraser, Mr J Gordon, Mrs L MacDonald, Mr A MacInnes, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr S Mackie, Mr A Mackinnon, Mr C MacLeod, Mr D MacLeod, Mr R MacWilliam, Mr N McLean, Mrs P Munro, Ms E Roddick, Mr A Sinclair, Mr C Smith and Mrs C Wilson.

### **Preliminaries**

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, the Convener drew attention to the barbaric invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, which he intended to consider as an urgent item at the Council meeting on 10 March 2022. As such, he urged Members, between now and then, to give consideration to what financial support the Highland Council could offer to the people of Ukraine. A Minute's Silence was then held to reflect on the atrocities being committed.

The Convener also paid tribute to the late Councillor Tom Heggie, Nairn Ward Member and Vice Chair of the Education Committee, who had passed away suddenly in the previous week. Mr Heggie would be a loss to all who had known him, and condolences were expressed to his family and friends.

## **2. Transparency Statements Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

The Council **NOTED** the following in respect of Item 3 -

The undernoted Members declared connections to the issues detailed but, having applied the objective test, did not consider that they had an interest to declare:-

Mr A Christie, as the General Manager of Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau and as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Highland

Mr G Adam, as a Council appointed Director of Eden Court

Mrs A MacLean, as a Board member of the Sight Action Board

Mrs I Campbell, as a Board member of both Eden Court and High Life Highland

Mrs M Paterson, as a Board member of Eden Court

Miss J Campbell, as a Board member of Eden Court

Mrs M Cockburn, as a Council appointee to the Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau

Mrs L Munro, as a Board member of High Life Highland and Chair of the Kinlochbervie Citizen's Advice Bureau

Mrs F Robertson, due to her involvement with Blysthwood Care and would leave if any specific discussion of that organisation

Mr K Gowans – would leave the Chamber if any specific discussion of High Life Highland

## **3. Revenue Budget 2022/23 to 2024/25 Buidseat Teachd-a-steach agus Cis Comhairle**

There had been circulated Report No. HC/1/22 dated 21 February 2022 by the

Executive Chief Officer (Resources & Finance).

The Council Leader introduced the budget proposals and thanked the SNP Group for their constructive collaboration. The budget settlement had been disappointing, a sentiment shared by 31 other Local Authority leaders, and this was being communicated to the Scottish Government. With investment being a key priority, attention was drawn to the proposals for a further £5.5 million of revenue funding for roads, and £2 million for climate change initiatives. Early intervention in conjunction with place-based planning was also a key priority to invest in communities for the future.

The Budget Leader summarised the background to the budget proposals and the impact on the economy of Brexit, Covid-19, rising costs and the war in Ukraine.

In this regard, he praised staff and communities for their response to the pandemic, paid tribute to those who had lost their lives and hoped that the next Council would continue the recently adopted Health and Prosperity Strategy and continue with new ways of working. He also provided a breakdown of the headline figures in the proposed budget and highlighted the financial risks facing the Council in the coming years. The proposed use of Council reserves to fund some of the budget proposals, including Covid-19 related costs and additional investment in roads, climate change initiatives, innovation and education and early intervention work, would reduce the reserves to £12m (which was 2% of the overall budget) and the aim would be to build them back up to 3%.

Dr I Cockburn voiced support for the collaborative budget and emphasised the importance of Members working together for the benefit of the Highlands in the face of the many challenges being faced. He also highlighted the importance of additional roads investment and the opportunities for the Highlands to become a major centre for renewable energy, with particular reference to hydrogen production.

Mr A Jarvie referred to the number of complaints received from Highland residents in relation to the poor condition of the roads and suggested that £195m was required to bring them back up to standard – with the cost to the Council of borrowing this sum having been assessed as approximately £12m per year. He considered it a matter of regret that the Council had not done more to improve road maintenance in previous years, noting the significant increase in costs in the current year, and proposed an alternative budget which would allocate an additional £15m towards roads to be funded from a Senior Management Restructure and a reduction in funding to Eden Court. His budget proposals also resisted proposals to reduce public transport and proposed a 25% reduction in the fees for brown bin uplifts to encourage uptake of the service.

Ms M Smith thanked the budget leaders for their work and referred to the need to think creatively about how to fund road improvements in future, pointing out the importance of roads to the economy and the current poor state of repair of many Highland roads, with particular reference to the need for £2m per annum to maintain Ross and Cromarty roads alone. She suggested that the school transport contracts required review and urged the implementation of a cross party working group on this matter. Other key priorities were identified as play parks and wind farm development.

During general discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- gratitude was expressed to the Members and Officers involved in preparing the budget proposals, recognising the amount of work involved;
- advice on Education issues would be presented in due course following a national review, and it was important to have a sustainable Highland policy to support innovation in Education, involving all key stakeholders, including employers and the business world to ensure young people were prepared for the world of work;
- caution was urged in relation to the assumptions and risks contained in the budget proposals, including rising consumer price inflation, the Council's high levels of debt and loan charge payments, and increasing energy costs;
- the proposal to increase investment in roads was welcomed and particular attention was drawn to the poor state of repair of roads in Easter Ross, with particular examples provided of roads with high numbers of potholes. More resources were urgently required to tackle this issue;
- concern was expressed by some Members that they had not been consulted on the proposed budget, and attention was drawn to key areas which required investment, including housing and roads, and the need to be more imaginative in terms of sourcing funding. One suggestion being made was to hold a roads or housing summit, to which national contractors and stakeholders could be invited. In relation to attracting external funding, attention was drawn to High Life Highland's arm's length organisation status;
- the rural roads in Highland required additional resources and urgent attention. Improving the rural road network would help to reduce rural depopulation;
- Highland had around 12% of Scotland's road network but only 6% of the Scottish roads budget, and Highland only spent around 32% of the average expenditure on its roads. The Council required an analysis of its road network and to consider allocating funding based on need rather than by area;
- it was suggested that £26m per annum was required to maintain Highland roads in their current condition, and the cost of road maintenance and improvement was likely to increase;
- Scottish Government road related underspend should be challenged;
- it was felt that the far North of Scotland was losing out with regard to the budget and engagement should be undertaken with campaign groups, Caithness Roads Recovery and Caithness Health Action Team;
- consideration should be given to helping to deal with the challenges of the rising cost of energy bills for Highland residents, especially the most vulnerable;
- road maintenance required a sustainable increase in funding over a period of time, rather than a one-off funding package;
- consideration should be given to Highland producing its own energy, to help tackle rising fuel and energy prices, and for the Council to have a stake in such endeavours, to help reduce costs and tackle fuel poverty;
- concern was expressed at the long list of issues detailed for the £2m climate change allocation in the proposed budget, and it was suggested that the entirety of that allocation should go into green hydrogen production, with any excess from this being used to fund the other green initiatives;
- in relation to road maintenance, it was important to engage with utility companies about any damage caused by their vehicles or work, and similarly to ensure

developer contributions and appropriate conditions were attached to any planning applications which could have a detrimental impact on the road network;

- Members were called on to lobby the government about the unfairness of Council tax not being income-based;
- Council expenditure on road maintenance had increased in recent years but not by a sufficient amount;
- the importance of school transport, which was a statutory requirement of the Council, was emphasised;
- a balanced budget had to cover many interconnected priorities and, while it was acknowledged that additional housing was required, this would also require infrastructure to create fully functioning communities;
- when preparing the budget, all opportunity costs and possible impacts had to be taken into consideration and attention was drawn to the work of the Redesign Board which had been considering asset rationalisation and roads issues. Members were urged to get involved in the work of the Board, hoping it would continue after the forthcoming election;
- there was little point continuing to provide public transport in areas where it was not being utilised;
- attention was drawn to the avoidance of further savings cuts, including to winter maintenance, and to any compulsory redundancies;
- it was suggested that the figures in the alternative budget proposals did not contain enough detailed information; and
- it was thought unlikely that a 25% reduction in the brown bin fee would result in a 25% increase in uptake of the service.

Mr Jarvie having confirmed that he wished to table specific details of his alternative budget proposal in respect of a proposed senior management restructure, the Council **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting to allow consideration of his proposal on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act. In this respect, all senior members of staff left the Chamber at this point.

Upon conclusion of the private debate, and having returned to public session, Mr A Christie, seconded by Dr I Cockburn, **MOVED** the recommendations as detailed in the report.

As an **AMENDMENT**, Mr A Jarvie, seconded by Mr P Saggars, moved the alternative budget proposals, the full details of which had been circulated to Members.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 46 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 6 votes, with no abstentions, and the **MOTION** was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes having been cast as follows:-

#### **For the Motion**

Mr G Adam, Mr C Aitken, Mr B Allan, Mr B Boyd, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mrs C Caddick, Mrs I Campbell, Miss J Campbell, Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Christie, Dr I Cockburn, Mrs M Cockburn, Mrs M Davidson, Ms S Fanet, Mr J Finlayson, Mr M Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr R Gale, Mr K Gowans, Mr A Graham, Mr J Gray, Ms P Hadley, Mr A Henderson, Ms E Knox, Mr B Lobban, Mr D Loudon, Mrs D

MacKay, Mr W MacKay, Mr G MacKenzie, Mrs A MacLean, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister, Mr J McGillivray, Mr H Morrison, Mr C Munro, Ms L Munro, Mrs M Paterson, Mr A Rhind, Mr D Rixson, Mrs F Robertson, Mrs T Robertson, Mr K Rosie, Ms M Smith and Ms J Tilt.

### **For the Amendment**

Mr R Balfour, Mr J Bruce, Mr A Jarvie, Mr D MacKay, Mr M Reiss and Mr P Sagers.

### **Decision**

Members: -

- i. **AGREED** £10m of investment in a 'Sustainable Highland' as described in Section 17 and Appendix 1 of the report;
- ii. **AGREED** the Council Tax rates for 2022/23 as illustrated in Appendix 6;
- iii. **NOTED** that the Council would apply the Scottish Government funded £150 Cost of Living Award as a Council Tax credit to all eligible persons;
- iv. **AGREED** the new budget savings proposals for 2022/23 as summarised in Appendix 10;
- v. **NOTED** that the previously agreed budget savings were no longer deliverable as described in Section 15 and Appendix 8 of the report;
- vi. **APPROVED** the payment of £1.5m to High Life Highland in the financial year 2021/22 and the creation of a £1m earmarked reserve held for the purpose of providing financial support to High Life Highland if they were not able to further mitigate their forecast deficit for 2022/23;
- vii. **AGREED** the removal of the savings proposal relating to High Life Highland in October 2021 as outlined in Section 9.10 ;
- viii. **AGREED** the use of reserves to fund Covid-19 pressures as described in Sections 11.4 and 16.4;
- ix. **AGREED** the planned use of reserves for investment and addressing Covid-19 budget pressures as described in Section 19.2: and
- x. **AGREED** a medium-term target level for non-earmarked General Fund reserves of 3% of the Council's annual revenue budget and to increase the reserve to this level over the course of 2022/23 if circumstances permitted.

The meeting ended at 1.20pm.

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Housing and Property Committee** held Remotely on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 10.30am.

### Present:

Miss J Barclay	Mr A Henderson (substitute)
Mr R Bremner	Mr A Jarvie
Miss J Campbell	Mrs B McAllister
Mr M Finlayson	Mr D Mackay
Mr C Fraser	Mrs A MacLean
Mr L Fraser	Ms J Tilt
Mr A Graham	

### Non-Members also present:

Mrs M Davidson	Mr G MacKenzie
Mr B Lobban	Mr D Macpherson
Mr D Louden	Mr T Robertson

### Officials in Attendance:

Mr M Rodgers, Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property  
 Mr D Goldie, Head of Housing and Building Maintenance, Housing and Property  
 Mr A Maguire, Head of Development and Regeneration, Infrastructure, Environment & Economy  
 Mr B Cameron, Housing Policy and Investment Manager, Housing and Property  
 Mr J McHardy, Housing Development Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy  
 Mr M Mitchell, Service Finance Manager, Resources and Finance  
 Mrs L Dunn, Principal Administrator, Performance and Governance  
 Ms A Macrae, Committee Administrator, Performance and Governance  
 Mrs O Bayon, Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council.  
 All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.**

**Mr L Fraser in the Chair**

## BUSINESS

### 1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr B Allan, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr C MacLeod, Mrs F Robertson, Ms E Roddick and Mr P Saggars.

### 2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

The Committee **NOTED** the following declarations of interest:-

Item 6: Mr C Fraser (non-financial)

**Declarations of Interest: Mr R Bremner declared a non-financial interest relating to all items on the agenda as a Board Member of Albyn Housing Society Ltd but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

**Declarations of Interest: Mr L Fraser declared a non-financial interest relating to all items on the agenda on the grounds he undertook work for the Housing Service in Nairn but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion on the basis this work was so remote and minor it would not impinge on his work on the Committee.**

**3. Good News  
Naidheachdan Matha**

The Committee was advised that the Council's Housing and Development team collected the top prize in the Housing and Regeneration Category at the SURF (Scottish Regeneration Forum) awards earlier this month. The award was for the development of six houses that were a "steppingstone" between living entirely independently in the community and the Telford Centre Care Home in Fort Augustus. This involved an innovative design for flexible, adapted properties to support residents with increasing needs to stay at home and live independently for longer. The Council staff worked closely with the NHS and with the local Community Company, who kindly provided some of the land needed to enlarge the Care Home garden sufficiently for the six units that had been built.

The Committee congratulated the Housing and Development teams for their success and **NOTED** the good news.

**4. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Non-HRA Budget Monitoring Statement to 30 September 2021  
Aithris Sgrùdaidh Buidseat Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais agus Neo-thaigheadais gu 30 an t-Sultainn**

There had been circulated Report No HP/20/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- the potential for budget figures on loan charges and central support costs to be provided during the course of the year rather than being reported at the year end to provide Members with better information on spend;
- an assurance was sought and provided that in relation to the figures for staff costs and travel, the sheltered housing services had continued to be delivered within the constraints of the emergency Covid guidelines around face to face contacts;
- further information was sought and provided on the projected overspend on homelessness due to repairs and maintenance expenditure associated with an increase in the number of properties used as temporary accommodation;



- an explanation was sought and provided on the reasons for the increased number of properties used as ‘decants’ over the course of the year, and on how any additional costs were funded;
- in relation to delays with re-letting of empty garages and garage sites identified for environmental improvements, it was confirmed that an update would be provided to the next round of local committees. An update would also be provided at an area level on the volumes, performance indicators and timescales for carrying out adaptations;
- clarification was sought and provided on the slippage in the rental stream associated with new build programme due to the pandemic and that Covid related funding had not been available to reclaim any loss of income on the HRA;
- the potential for future reports to include an overview at strategic level in relation to areas of service delegated to local committees, for example repairs and maintenance. It was confirmed the presentation of future reports would be reviewed in consultation with Members to ensure that it contained the right balance of strategic/area information;
- concern at the impact on HRA Service delivery as a result of reduced staff costs. It was explained that vacancies continued to be filled when they arose and that further discussions could be held with Members locally on recruitment and new ways of working if required;
- confirmation was sought and provided that a response would be provided directly to Mr D Mackay on a specific refurbishment project in Ormlie, Thurso; and
- an explanation was sought and provided on the process for reporting on repairs and maintenance in terms of using the earmarked balances to meet any overspends on the budget.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- APPROVED** the budget position on the Housing Revenue Account and non-Housing Revenue Account 2021/22 for the period to 30 September 2021;
- NOTED** that updates would be provided to the next round of Area Committees on delays with re-letting of empty garages and garage sites identified for environmental improvements and also on adaptations; and
- NOTED** that the presentation of future reports would be reviewed to ensure that it contained the right balance of strategic/area information.

**5. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Monitoring Report to 30 September 2021**  
**Aithisg Sgrùdaidh Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais gu 30 an t-Sultainn**

There had been circulated Report No HP/21/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- the plans to recover the slippage on the HRA Capital Programme and anticipated timescales taking into account the ongoing challenges with Covid-19 and Omicron variant and the potential for further restrictions;

- related to the above, a session be arranged for Members to consider in more detail the challenges faced by the construction industry going forward in terms of labour and materials shortages and to consider mitigating actions to deliver projects;
- concern that budgets had been reprofiled to reflect actual spend and the need for details of the original budget be provided in reports to allow Members to monitor on an ongoing basis where over/underspends were occurring;
- an explanation was sought and provided that Scottish Government had announced new grant levels for new builds, details of which were provided. The effects of Covid-19 on the new build programme continued to be closely monitored on an ongoing basis and while the spend for Quarter 2 in the report appeared low, there had been significant increase in spend in September 2021, details of which could be reported to Members separately; and
- in relation to the slippage on heating/ energy efficiency and external fabric budget lines and concern about rising energy costs and increasing fuel poverty, an update was sought and provided on the steps being taken to prioritise and accelerate heating replacements where this was possible due to the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Thereafter, the Committee **APPROVED** the budget position on the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2021/22 for the period to 30 September 2021.

**6. Property & Facilities Management Services Revenue Monitoring Report to 30 September 2021**  
**Aithisg Sgrùdaid Teachd-a-steach Sheirbheisean Rianachd Cuid-seilbh & Ghoireasan gu an t-Sultainn**

**Declarations of Interest: Mr C Fraser declared a non-financial interest in this item as a trustee of Cromarty Courthouse but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No HP/22/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

The Executive Chief Officer Housing & Property advised that the topic of listed buildings had been the subject of questions by Mr C Fraser to the Council on 28 October 2021, specific details of which he provided. This included whether a comprehensive report could be submitted to the Committee to detail what could be done with these types of buildings. Members were being asked to consider this matter and to provide officers with a steer on the way forward.

In discussion, it was suggested that for future planning it would be appropriate that Listed Buildings be a standing item on future agendas until further notice. It was hoped the Executive Chief Officer Housing & Property would be given sufficient financial and staffing resources to accomplish this onerous task. The report should include a number of issues including how listed buildings were heated and their associated running costs. It should also compare the performance of the heating system in each unique building and consider how

appropriate these systems were for that building. On the conclusion of this report, there would be a need to consider the significant cost to the Council, who had legal obligations as owner of these buildings, and to identify all potential sources of funding such as grant funding.

Thereafter, reference was made to the importance of identifying a single point with an appropriate remit to be responsible for the maintenance of listed buildings, given the lack of clarity on this matter in the past. It was confirmed that if a listed building was owned by the Council then the corporate landlord was responsible for investment, repair and maintenance. There was currently no discrete revenue or capital budget line for listed buildings, and they were included amongst all the other assets which the Council had to maintain.

Thereafter, the Executive Chief Officer Housing & Property confirmed he would have discussions with Mr C Fraser offline as to the content and shape of future reports.

During further discussion, the following main points were raised:

- details be provided on the number of vacancies within the Service, concern being expressed at pressure this was placing on existing staff and the impact on internal and external income generation. It was confirmed an update on vacancies would be provided directly to Mrs A MacLean;
- the importance of capturing all the additional costs and future pressures associated with Covid-19 and the ability to reclaim monies back from the UK and Scottish Government and other sources;
- whether the extension of free school meal provision would impact on income generation. It was explained that some of the impacts would be offset by the Scottish Government, the details of which were being considered and any implications would be reported back to a future Committee;
- the Council's statutory responsibility for the maintenance and repair of Common Good Fund assets where the Fund could not afford to meet the cost of their upkeep. It was confirmed that further clarification would be sought on this matter;
- a summary was sought and provided on the challenges and mitigating actions being taken in response to the key areas of overspend on the budget set out in section 1.2 the report; and
- related to the above, the need to consider all opportunities to increase income generation, for example taking a more commercial approach to catering and cleaning services.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED**:

- i net spend at the end of Quarter 2 totalled £37.740m;
- ii based on the best available information to date, a service budget gap of £1.553m to the end of 2021/22 was presently forecast;
- iii mitigation measures had identified £0.380m of Non-Domestic Rates relief which once applied to the budget would improve the final outturn position;
- iv almost every area of service relied on income to pay for services, and this continued to be disrupted this year because of ongoing Covid impacts;
- v the budget gap might change positively or negatively depending on the application of expenditure and recruitment controls, adjusting services to

meet previously agreed budget savings; in-year income recovery, identifying new income and procurement opportunities, drawing down any further Government grant support and any new Covid related recovery costs; and

- vi further adjustments might be made in future quarterly reporting to reflect the updated apportionment of costs and savings across the new Service structure.

The Committee also **AGREED** that Listed Buildings be a standing item on future agendas.

## 7. **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Plan 2022-2027** **Plana Calpa Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais 2022-2027**

There had been circulated Report No HP/23/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- clarification was sought and provided on the approach to adaptations in upstairs toilets/bathrooms and that works were dependent on any technical challenges and the individual circumstances of the tenant;
- the additional costs of bringing some listed buildings up to the Scottish Government's energy efficiency standards, the need for energy performance certificates renewals on some of these properties, and to ensure heating systems were appropriate for the building and the tenant. It was acknowledged that new energy performance certificates would be required for some buildings. Further discussions maybe required with the Scottish Government where the energy efficiency standards could not be achieved due to the nature of the listed building;
- confirmation was sought and provided that Changeworks had been asked to compare both the performance levels of heating systems and the impact on tenant fuel bills and that their overall analysis would be reviewed by officers recognising the importance of mitigating the effects of fuel poverty. There would also be wider discussions on heating options and issues of affordability balanced against the Council's climate change responsibilities and reports on this matter would be brought forward to future meetings of the Committee;
- information was sought and provided on the engagement undertaken with tenants on undertaking adaptations to allow disabled and elderly tenants to remain in their current tenancy and with a view to minimising disruption; and
- details were sought and provided on the extensive rent consultation undertaken with tenants with a focus on capital investment the results of which would be reported to the Committee in January 2022 as part of the HRA Revenue Estimates 2022/23.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- i. **APPROVED** the overall HRA Mainstream Capital Budget of £88.599m for 2022-2027;
- ii. **APPROVED** the investment priorities for both the Mainstream and New Build programmes as set out in section 5 of the report;

- iii. **APPROVED** the disaggregation of resources to Local Committee level set out at section 6 of the report; and
- iv. **AGREED** that discussion be held with Local Members on the specific projects and local priorities with Area Committees agreeing their capital programme for 2022/23.

**8. Property Capital Monitoring Statement and Progress Update  
Aithris Sgrùdaidh Calpa Cuid-seilbhe agus Cunntas às Ùr air Adhartas**

There had been circulated Report No HP/24/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- clarification was sought and provided regarding the capital programme summary at Appendix 1 to the report which contained revised budget figures that only reflected the amount spent rather than identifying any under/overspend. Therefore, a revised format was requested to include current performance against the original set budgets and confirmation was provided that a previous appendix format which indicated details such as original budget, revised budget, spend to date, progress, etc would be reintroduced;
- information was requested and provided regarding the re-roofing project at Dalneigh Primary School and the timeline for completion; and
- regarding Education projects with a Red status (for which there was an underspend of £12.707M) it was queried, and an explanation was provided, if these delays were due to either a lack of officer capacity or contractor's capacity. Confirmation was also provided that an update on the Nursery Annex at Dingwall Primary School would be provided to Mrs A MacLean.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the:

- financial position for the 2021/22 financial year as of 30 September 2021, and the estimated year-end forecast; and
- progress made with the Education and Strategic Asset Management projects in the Council's capital programme.

**9. Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-2027  
Plana Tasgaidh Taigheadais Ro-innleachdail 2022-2027**

There had been circulated Report No HP/25/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- in terms of the Strategic Priorities, concern was expressed that there was not sufficient Later Life adapted properties across the Highlands and that the minimum provision of 10% of affordable houses built to a "wheelchair liveable standard" would not be sufficient to meet the rising demographic across Highlands of people aged between 45–64. It was requested that future committee reports should contain actions to address adapted housing requirements and ensure sufficient provision of lifelong homes;

- an explanation was sought and provided regarding the reduction of Scottish Government grant in 2022/23 compared with 2021/22;
- the success of The Highland Housing Development Hub was recognised, in this regard it was queried if this model was replicated by other local authorities;
- although it was recognised that some sites were not viable to progress, concern was expressed that the housing pressures in these areas would remain;
- it was queried if Highland Council liaised with NHS Highland, community planning partners, and other third sector organisations to source land available for further developments;
- the commitment in respect of developments in Tain and Easter Ross was welcome and a request was made for further discussion with officers regarding additional opportunities for social housing on Council land in this area;
- it was confirmed that the Scottish Government had not requested a return of any unspent grant funding;
- further information was provided on the new housing development at Spean Bridge which had reported drainage problems; and
- an update was requested and would be provided to Mr A Henderson outwith the meeting on the Eigg investment project.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- **APPROVED** the Strategic Housing Investment Plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report, for submission to the Scottish Government in draft form pending consideration by Area Committees; and
- **AGREED** the indicative planned investment programme to 2027 contained in Appendix 2 to the report, subject to further discussion by Area Committees.

## 10. Housing Performance Report Aithisg Coileanaidh Taigheadais

There had been circulated Report No HP/26/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- Housing officers were thanked for their continued hard work in engaging and supporting vulnerable tenants throughout the COVID pandemic;
- Members acknowledged that rent arrears had gone up in the last quarter, adding that this might be a result of financial pressures due to increased energy prices which would continue to rise. In view of this, ongoing support was required for tenants in fuel poverty;
- the number of homelessness presentations in the last quarter were at their highest number. In this regard, cooperation levels between the community planning partners and the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan were queried;
- the number of homelessness presentations was increasing but the number of people in temporary accommodation was reducing and further explanation was sought, and provided, on how this and the housing waiting list was being managed; and

- the £297K Scottish Government contribution to establish a Tenant Grant Fund in Highland was welcomed.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

Prior to closing the meeting, the Committee expressed their appreciation to Mr Mitchell for all his excellent work over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

The meeting was closed at 1.30pm.

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Gaelic Committee** held **Remotely** on Thursday 16 December 2021 at 10.30 am.

### Present:

Mr G Adam  
Mr R Bremner  
Mrs I Campbell  
Miss J Campbell  
Mr A Henderson  
Mr A MacInnes

Mr D MacKay  
Mr G MacKenzie  
Mr C Munro  
Mrs M Paterson  
Mr D Rixson

### Non-Members also present:

Ms S Fanet  
Mr K Gowans

Mr D Macpherson

### In attendance:

Ms K Lackie, Executive Chief Officer – Performance and Governance  
Ms L Walker, Gaelic Development Manager  
Ms J MacDonald, Senior Gaelic Translation Officer  
Ms M A MacLeod Mitchell, Gaelic Development Officer  
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator

### Also in attendance:-

Ms F Dalgetty, Fèis Rois  
Mr A Donald, Fèis Rois  
Mr J Graham, Chief Executive Officer, An Comunn Gàidhealach  
Mr A Campbell, President, An Comunn Gàidhealach

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.**

### Mr C Munro in the Chair

## Business

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr J Gordon, Ms E Roddick and Mr A Sinclair.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Item 3 - Mr C Munro and Mr A Henderson (both non-financial)  
Item 4 – Mr D Rixson (non-financial)  
Item 5 – Mr A Henderson (non-financial)  
Item 6 – Mr C Munro (non-financial)  
Items 7 and 8 – Mr C Munro (financial)



Mr R Bremner also declared non-financial interests in any item which might relate to his connection with the following organisations: Caithness & Sutherland Provincial Mòd, Caithness Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach, Melvich Gaelic Choir, Atomaig Piseag (Gaelic Choir) and the Local Organising Committee – Mòd Ghallaibh 2010.

### 3. Good News

#### Declarations of Interest:

**Mr C Munro declared a non-financial interest as close family members had taken part in a local Blas concert and he himself had participated in a local community project also performed at a Blas event, but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

**Mr A Henderson also declared a non-financial interest as a close family member had taken had been involved in the Small Halls Tour, but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

The Chair conveyed the following items of good news:-

- the Scottish Government had awarded Highland Council a £900k capital grant for investment in two Highland schools. Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar had been awarded £650K for a 2 classroom extension - increasing the number of classrooms to 6 – and £250k had been awarded towards the new primary school building at Dunvegan;
- GLAIF funding had been approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) for a Gaelic cultural project in the Gairloch area. The project would be delivered by the Highland Council Gaelic team in partnership with Gaelic Education staff and key Gaelic and Cultural organisations;
- Alzheimer Scotland West Highland was successful at the BnaG Daily Record Scottish Gaelic Awards. The Highland Council Gaelic Team had supported the initiative and provided support to people living with dementia whose first language was Gaelic. Gaelic Medium pupils from Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh and Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar had engaged in the project;
- the Royal National Mòd had taken place in Inverness between 8-16 October and had been hugely successful, as would be detailed later on in the agenda;
- Fèis Rois, who would shortly be giving a presentation to the Committee, had celebrated 30 years of the Adult Fèis;
- the 2021 Blas Festival had taken place between 19-27 November with 33 live events across the Highlands and Islands. Fèisean nan Gàidheal's agreements with Creative Scotland, HIE and Bòrd na Gàidhlig meant funds from those bodies were also available to Blas. Concerts were organised with partner promoters in each community and Fèisean nan Gàidheal also collaborated with SEALL's Festival of Small Halls, Fèis Rois and Tobar an Dualchais. In addition to the main concert programme, 9 events, all from Highland venues, were livestreamed and were currently still available to view on myplayer. 4 events had been sold out prior to the start of the festival and Fèisean nan Gàidheal predict that the box office income had exceeded predications. Around 125 musicians Had been employed.

The Committee **NOTED** the Good News.

#### 4. Highland Culture Collective - Fèis Rois

**Declaration of Interest: Mr D Rixson declared a non-financial interest as secretary of Mallaig Heritage Centre but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in any discussion that might arise.**

**PP**

Ms Fiona Dalgetty and Mr Artair Donald from Fèis Rois gave a presentation on the Highland Culture Collective and Fèis Rois. Fèis Rois was a Ross and Cromarty District Council project starting in 1986 and had transferred to charitable status in 1990. It was best known for working with adults and young people and providing residential music making courses. However, it was also known for its Ceilidh Trail, commissions, partnership projects, weekly classes and its work with schools. It now also provided one-to-one music lessons for Care Experienced Young People.

Continuing, details of national and International projects such as "Dandelion" were provided. This had meant Fèis Rois had developed long standing partnerships in countries such as France, Romania, Canada and Australia. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the Adult Fèis had been cancelled but, in its place, an online offering had been provided.

Turning to the Highland Culture Collective, it was explained that this was a £300k project running from July 2021 to September 2022, Fèis Rois being the lead partner. 6 full time jobs had been created with 5 Artists In Residence, Artair Donald being the Drama Artist in Residence. Mr Donald detailed the work he was doing in Mallaig and Acharacle and with Lochaber High School and his plans to expand and further engage with schools in Newtonmeore, Kingussie, Dingwall, Inverness and Farr.

Members commended the plethora of work Fèis Rois undertook and which enabled the Gaelic Language and Culture to be accessible in communities. It provided a whole range of activities to all ages and the energy and enthusiasm was to be applauded. It's close association with Eden Court had been particularly successful and it was hoped this engagement would continue, especially as the theatre had now appointed a Gaelic Officer. Eden Court also had its own in-house production facility and the deepening co-operation was to be welcomed. Such shared partnerships were invaluable, especially when funding was reduced.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation.

#### 5. Royal National Mòd 2021

**Declaration of Interest: Mr A Henderson declared a non-financial interest as a close family member was involved with An Comunn Gàidhealach concert, but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

**PP**

There had been circulated Report No. G/18/21 dated 1 December 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

The 2021 Royal National Mòd was the first face-to-face Mòd since the Glasgow Mòd in 2019. Over 3,500 people had attended with 21 “live” competitions taking place involving 70 “live” competitors. 4 showcase concerts had been held, as well as 25 fringe events, and 16 choirs had been brought together to perform. In terms of its online offering, 86 competitions took place with 415 competitors, The Mòd had attracted 199 items of media coverage, all of which were positive and supportive. An external Independent Evaluation was currently taking place, the results of which would be reported to Highland Council, but it was important to recognise that the benefits were not solely monetary but also in terms of the health benefits, tackling social isolation and the positive promotion of Highland. The online element had been particularly welcomed by those who were housebound and those living overseas. The contribution of volunteers to enable not just the Royal National Mòd to take place but the smaller provincial Mòds was also acknowledged.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the RNM full programme for 2021; and
- ii. **AGREED** that a detailed report was submitted to the next meeting of the Gaelic Committee which would include a financial update and the findings and outcomes of the Consultancy and Media Evaluation Reports.

## 6. Progress Against Gaelic Language Plan 3

**Declaration of Interest: Mr C Munro declared a non-financial interest as he had children in Gaelic Medium Education who were benefitting from some of the activities detailed in the report but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No. G/19/21 dated 1 December 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- it was good to see that many of the indicators had been RAG rated as Green (on target);
- Councillor Rixson was involved with the Locality Planning for Caol and he offered any help he could in developing marketing and awareness to promote the benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic;
- further progress on developing a Gaelic portal on the Council’s website would be welcomed as it was anticipated that greater use would be made of such a tool going forward; and

- in Lochaber great use had been made of the Ranger Service in dealing with the huge influx of visitors. Their interaction with the public had been well received and it was suggested that this also provided an opportunity for them to promote the Gaelic Language and Culture.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the progress made in both monitoring and implementing GLP3 on a quarterly basis utilising the (PRMS) support delivery of GLP3; and
- ii. the progress and challenges regarding the implementation of some enabling actions in the Plan.

## 7. Gaelic and Gàidhlig Medium Education Update

**Declaration of Interest: Mr C Munro declared a financial interest as a close family member was employed as a Gaelic Medium Education teacher but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No. G/20/21 dated 1 December 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- Members commended the good work undertaken to develop Gaelic Medium Education (GME), particular reference being made to the extension of the Bunscoil in Lochaber where there had been significant pressures. This had been achieved despite the many challenges that the Covid pandemic had brought;
- the Council was committed to ascertaining the feasibility of a 3-18 GME campus in Inverness and this could possibly be provided in conjunction with other initiatives; and
- there was appreciation for the contribution of Education Officers, Head Teachers and Teaching Staff which had seen the number of Secondary Gaelic Learners in Highland grow in each of the last three years, in contrast to the rest of Scotland where the numbers had declined.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the increasing pupil numbers across provision of Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Education in Highland; and
- ii. the areas of current and future development in Education including the progress of the GME Catchment Consultation process.

## 8. Gaelic Specific Grant Report

**Declaration of Interest: Mr C Munro declared a financial interest as a close family member was employed as a Gaelic Medium Education teacher but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No. G/21/21 dated 1 December 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- the project with Airm Àite na h-Alba and GME schools was a superb way of also engaging with local communities and Members asked to see, in the future, a sample of the output. There was merit too in expanding this to Secondary Schools;
- increasing climate change awareness in GME would generate positive publicity and was a worthwhile project to pursue;
- the formation of the Gaelic Committee and the challenges faced over the last 18 months could not be underestimated;
- the Gaelic Committee was now better placed to gauge the Council's performance against its Gaelic Language Plan (GLP). It was not solely about the here and now but the future going forward;
- Highland Council was the best performing local authority in helping the Scottish Government meet its own GLP targets and the aims and objectives contained in the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act. It was important that the Council was in a good position to secure continued funding in the future in terms of the ascertaining the number of Gaelic learners etc. It would be useful for Members to have sight of forecasts of numbers and what funding requirements would be required to ensure it was well positioned as future GLPs were developed; and
- there needed to be a focus on not just Gaelic speakers but new Gaelic speakers as this was the key aim of the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act. The Highland Council needed to demonstrate how it could help contribute to this over the next 5-10 years.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the 3 projects outlined in the Gaelic Specific Grant bid;
- ii. the ambitious programme of work that the grant would help to support and that these might need to be adjusted should the full amount not be secured; and
- iii. the application was still under consideration by the Scottish Government with a decision expected early in the New Year.

## 9. Capital Investment and 3-18 Feasibility

There had been circulated Report No. G/22/21 dated 6 December 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

Capital Planning was not just for the immediate future but for the medium and longer term and it was important to take consideration of where GME would not only be instigated but expanded and to what extent this would challenge any Capital Plan and investment the Council took forward. This was vital if the number of Gaelic learners and speakers were to be increased.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the Council's capital investment in GME;
- ii. and welcomed the recent investment from the Scottish Government; and
- iii. the draft terms of reference for a feasibility study for the expansion of 3-18 Gaelic Medium provision in Inverness.

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm

## Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Geàrr-chunntas coinneamh **Comataidh na Gàidhlig** a chumadh **air astar** air Diardaoin 16 Dùbhlachd 2021 aig 10.30m.

### An làthair:

Mgr G Adam	Mgr D MacAoidh
Mgr R Bremner	Mgr G MacCoinnich
A' Bh-uas I Chaimbeul	Mgr C Rothach
A' Bh-uas S Chaimbeul	A' Bh-uas M NicPheadrais
Mgr A MacEanraig	Mgr D Rixson
Mgr A MacAonghais	

### Neo-Bhuill cuideachd an làthair:

A' Bh-uas S Fanet	
Mgr C Gowans	Mgr D Mac a' Phearsain

### A' frithealadh na coinneimh:

A' Bh-uas K Lackie, Àrd-Oifigear Gnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas  
 A' Bh-uas L Walker, Manaidsear Leasachaidh na Gàidhlig  
 A' Bh-uas J NicDhòmhnaill, Prìomh Oifigear Eadar-theangachaidh  
 A' Bh-uas M A NicLeòid Mitchell, Oifigear Leasachaidh na Gàidhlig  
 A' Bh-uas S NicIlinnein, Prìomh Rianaire

### Cuideachd a' frithealadh na coinneimh:-

A' Bh-uas F Dalgetty, Fèis Rois  
 Mgr A Donald, Fèis Rois  
 Mgr S Greumach, Àrd-Oifigear, An Comunn Gàidhealach  
 Mgr A Caimbeul, Ceann-suidhe, An Comunn Gàidhealach

**Tha rionnag air iomall na duilleige a' comharrachadh moladh a thèid chun na Comhairle. Tha co-dhùnidhean gun chomharra fo ùghdarras na Comataidh.**

### Mgr C Rothach anns a' Chathair

## Gnothach

### 1. Leisgeulan

Ghabhadh leisgeulan às leth Mhgr I Ghòrdain, na M-uas E Roddick agus Mhgr A Mhic na Ceàrdaich.

### 2. Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

Cuspair 3 – Mgr C Rothach agus Mgr A MacEanraig (an dithis neo-ionmhasail)  
 Cuspair 4 – Mgr D Rixson (neo-ionmhasail)  
 Cuspair 5 – Mgr A MacEanraig (neo-ionmhasail)

Cuspair 6 – Mgr C Rothach (neo-ionmhasail)  
 Cuspair 7 agus 8 – Mgr C Rothach (ionmhasail)

Dh'fhoillsich Mgr R Bremner com-pàirt neo-ionmhasail cuideachd ann an cuspair sam bith a dh'fhaodadh buntainn ris a' cheangal aige ris na buidhnean a leanas: Mòd Ionadail Ghallaibh is Chataibh, Meur Ghallaibh a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich, Còisir Ghàidhlig na Mealbhaich, Atomaig Piseag (Còisir Ghàidhlig) agus Comataidh Eagrachaidh Ionadail Mòd Ghallaibh 2010.

### 3. Naidheachdan Matha

#### Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt:

**Dh'fhoillsich Mgr C Rothach com-pàirt neo-ionmhasail seach gun robh buill dhen teaghlach dlùth aige air com-pàirt a ghabhail ann an consairt ionadail Blas agus gun robh e fhèin cuideachd air com-pàirt a ghabhail ann am pròiseact coimhearsnachd ionadail agus air cluiche aig tachartas Blas, ach, às dèidh dha an deuchainn a thathar a' mìneachadh ann am Paragrafan 5.2 agus 5.3 de Chòd Giùlain nan Comhairlichean a chur an gnìomh, cho-dhùin e nach robh a' chom-pàirt aige a' cur bacadh air bho bhith an lùib na deasbaireachd.**

**Dh'fhoillsich Mgr A MacEanraig com-pàirt neo-ionmhasail cuideachd seach gun robh ball dhen teaghlach dlùth aige air com-pàirt a ghabhail ann an Cuairt nan Tallaichean Beaga, ach, às dèidh dha an deuchainn a thathar a' mìneachadh ann am Paragrafan 5.2 agus 5.3 de Chòd Giùlain nan Comhairlichean a chur an gnìomh, cho-dhùin e nach robh a' chom-pàirt aige a' cur bacadh air bho bhith an lùib na deasbaireachd.**

Dh'innis an Cathraiche na naidheachdan matha a leanas:-

- Bha Riaghaltas na h-Alba air tabhartas calpa £900k a thoirt do Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd airson a thasgadh ann an dà sgoil sa Ghàidhealtachd. Bha Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar air £650K fhaighinn airson dà sheòmar-teagaisg a leudachadh – ag àrdachadh àireamh nan seòmraichean-teagaisg gu sia – agus bha £250k air a thoirt seachad mar phàirt de chosgais an togalaich bun-sgoile ùir ann an Dùn Bheagan;
- Bha maoineachadh GLAIF air aontachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) airson pròiseact cultarach Gàidhlig ann an sgìre Gheàrrloch. Dheigheadh am pròiseact a libhrigeadh le Sgioba Gàidhlig Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd ann an com-pàirteachas le luchd-obrach Foghlam Gàidhlig agus prìomh bhuidhnean Gàidhlig is cultair;
- Bha Alzheimer Scotland na Gàidhealtachd an Iar air soirbheachadh aig Duaisean Gàidhlig na h-Alba aig BnaG Daily Record. Bha Sgioba Gàidhlig Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd air taic a thoirt dhan iomairt agus air taic a thoirt do dhaoine air a bheil seargadh-inntinn agus aig a bheil a' Ghàidhlig mar chiad chànan. Bha sgoilearan Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann am Bun-Sgoil Phort Rìgh agus Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar air a bhith an lùib a' phròiseict;
- Bha am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail air a bhith ann an Inbhir Nis eadar 8–16 Dàmhair agus air a bhith fìor shoirbheachail, mar a thèid aithris nas fhaide air adhart sa chlàr-ghnothaich;
- Bha Fèis Rois, a bhiodh a' toirt seachad taisbeanadh dhan Chomataidh an-ceartuair, air 30 bliadhna de dh'Fhèis nan Inbheach a chomharrachadh;



- Bha Fèis Blas 2021 air gabhail àite eadar 19-27 Samhain le 33 tachartas beò air feadh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean. Bha aontaidhean Fèisean nan Gàidheal le Alba Chruthachail, Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' ciallachadh gun robh maoin bho na buidhnean seo ri fhaotainn cuideachd airson Blas. Chaidh consairtean a chur air dòigh le luchd-brosnachaidh com-pàirteach anns gach coimhearsnachd agus cho-obrach Fèisean nan Gàidheal cuideachd le Fèis nan Tallachan Beaga air SEALL, Fèis Rois agus Tobar an Dualchais. A bharrachd air prìomh phrògram nan consairtean, bha naoi tachartasan, uile bho aitreabhan sa Ghàidhealtachd, air an sruthadh beò agus bha iad fhathast rim faotainn air myplayer. Bha ceithir tachartasan air na tiogaidean uile a reic ro thoiseach na fèise agus bha Fèisean nan Gàidheal an dùil gun robh teachd-a-steach oifis nan tiogaidean air a bhith na b' fheàrr na bhathar an dùil. Bha mu 125 neach-ciùil air cosnadh fhaighinn.

**THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR** do na Naidheachdan Matha.

#### 4. Co-chomann Cultar na Gàidhealtachd – Fèis Rois

**Foillseachadh Com-pàirt:** Dh'fhoillsich Mgr D Rixson com-pàirt neo-ionmhasail mar rùnaire air Ionad Dualchais Mhalaig ach, às dèidh dha an deuchainn a thathar a' mìneachadh ann am Paragrafan 5.2 agus 5.3 de Chòd Giùlain nan Comhairlichean a chur an gnìomh, cho-dhùin e nach robh a' chom-pàirt aige a' cur bacadh air bho bhith an lùib na deasbaireachd.

**PP**

Thug a' Bh-uas Fiona Dalgetty agus Mgr Artair Donald bho Fhèis Rois taisbeanadh seachad mu Cho-chomann Cultar na Gàidhealtachd agus Fèis Rois. B' e pròiseact a thòisich ann an 1986 le Comhairle Roinneil Rois is Chromba a bh' ann am Fèis Rois agus bha e air gluasad gu inbhe carthannais ann an 1990. B' ann airson a cuid obrach le inbhich is daoine òga agus airson a bhith a' tabhann chùrsaichean còmhnaidheach airson ceòl a dhèanamh a b' fheàrr a dh'aithnicheadh an Fhèis. Ach, bha i cuideachd aithnichte airson a Slighe Cèilidh, coimiseanan, pròiseactan com-pàirteach, clasaichean seachdaineach agus a cuid obrach le sgoiltean. Bha i a-nis a' toirt seachad leasan ciùil aon-ri-aon do Dhaoine Òga a bha no a tha ann an cùram.

A' leantainn air adhart, chaidh fiosrachadh a thoirt seachad mu phròiseactan nàiseanta is eadar-nàiseanta a leithid 'Dandelion'. Bha seo air ciallachadh gun robh Fèis Rois air com-pàirteachasan leantainneach a leasachadh le dùthchannan a leithid na Frainge, Romàinia, Canada agus Astràilia. Mar thoradh air Covid-19, bha Fèis nan Inbheach air a cur dheth ach bhathar air tachartas air-loidhne a thoirt seachad na h-àite.

A' tionndadh gu Co-chomann Cultar na Gàidhealtachd, chaidh mìneachadh gur e pròiseact £300 mìle a bha seo, a' ruith bho Iuchar 2021 gu Sultain 2022, le Fèis Rois na prìomh chom-pàirtiche. Bhathar air sia dreuchdan làn-ùine a chruthachadh le còignear luchd-ealain air mhuinntireas, agus b' e Artair Donald an Neach-ealain Dràma air Mhuinntireas. Dh'innis Mgr Donald mun obair a bha e a' dèanamh ann am Malaig agus ann an Àth Tharracail agus le Àrd-Sgoil Loch Abar agus mu na planaichean a bh' aige airson leudachadh is tuilleadh ceangail a thogail le sgoiltean ann am Baile Ùr an t-Slèibh, Ceann a' Ghiùthsaidh, Inbhir Pheofharain, Inbhir Nis agus Fàrr.

Rinn Buill moladh air an obair lionmhor a bha Fèis Rois a' gabhail os làimh agus a bha a' toirt cothrom do chànan is chultar na Gàidhlig a bhith ruigsinneach ann an coimhearsnachdan. Bha an Fhèis a' toirt seachad raon ghnìomhan do gach aois agus bha a spionnadh is a sunnd rim moladh. Bha a dlùth dhàimh le Eden Court air a bhith gu h-àraid soirbheachail agus bhathar an dòchas gun leanadh an ceangal seo, gu h-àraid seach gun robh an taigh-cluiche a-nis air Oifigear Gàidhlig fhadastadh. Cuideachd, bha goireas riochdachaidh aig Eden Court fhèin agus bha e iomchaidh fàilte a chur air co-obrachadh nas doimhne. Bha com-pàirteachasan co-roinnte a leithid seo luachmhor dha-rìribh, gu h-àraid nuair a bha maoineachadh air a lùghdachadh.

**THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR** dhan taisbeanadh.

## 5. Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2021

**Foillseachadh Com-pàirt: Dh'fhoillsich Mgr A MacEanraig com-pàirt neo-ionmhasail seach gun robh ball dhen teaghlach dlùth aige an lùib consairt leis a' Chomunn Ghàidhealach, ach, às dèidh dha an deuchainn a thathar a' mìneachadh ann am Paragrafan 5.2 agus 5.3 de Chòd Giùlain nan Comhairlichean a chur an gnìomh, cho-dhùin e nach robh a' chom-pàirt aige a' cur bacadh air bho bhith an lùib na deasbaireachd.**

**P**

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/18/21 le ceann-latha 1 Dùbhlachd 2021 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas.

B' e Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2021 a' chiad Mhòd aghaidh-ri-aghaidh bho chaidh Mòd Ghlaschu a chumail ann an 2019. Bha còrr is 3,500 neach air a bhith an làthair agus bha 21 co-fharpais 'bheò' air gabhail àite le 70 farpaiseach 'beò'. Chaidh ceithir consairtean mòra a chumail, agus 25 tachartas air lomall a' Mhòid, agus bha 16 còisirean air tighinn còmhla airson seinn. A thaobh na bhathar a' tabhann air-loidhne, chaidh 86 co-fharpais a chumail le 415 farpaiseach. Bha am Mòd air 199 brath naidheachd a bhrosnachadh, agus iad uile math is taiceil. Bha Measadh Neo-eisimeileach bhon taobh a-muigh ga dhèanamh an-dràsta, agus dheigheadh cunntas a thoirt do Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd. Bha e cudromach toirt fa-near nach ann a-mhàin a' buntainn ri airgead a bha na buannachdan ach cuideachd gun robh buannachdan slàinte ann, gun robhar a' cur aghaidh ri aonaranachd sòisealta agus gun robhar a' cur air adhart ìomhaigh na Gàidhealtachd. Bhathar air fàilte mhòr a chur air an taobh air-loidhne, gu h-àraid am measg dhaoine nach b' urrainn an dachannan fhàgail agus am measg dhaoine a bha a' fuireach thall thairis. Chaidh aithne a thoirt cuideachd do shaor-thoilich a bha a' dèanamh na h-uimhir, cha b' ann a-mhàin airson a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail ach cuideachd airson nam Mòdan sgìreil.

Às dèidh sin:-

- i. **THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR** do làn-phrògram a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail airson 2021; agus

- ii. **DH'AONTAICH** a' Chomataidh gun deigheadh aithisg mhionaideach a thoirt chun na h-ath choinneimh de Chomataidh na Gàidhlig agus gum biodh seo a' gabhail a-steach cunntas ionmhasail agus toraidhean is builean nan Aithisgean Co-chomhairleachaidh is Measaidh a thaobh nam Meadhanan.

## 6. Adhartas mu Choinneamh Plana na Gàidhlig 3

**Foillseachadh Com-pàirt:** Dh'fhoillsich Mgr C Rothach com-pàirt neo-ionmhasail seach gun robh clann aige ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig agus iad a' faighinn buannachd à cuid de na gnìomhan a tha air am mìneachadh san aithisg, ach, às dèidh dha an deuchainn a thathar a' mìneachadh ann am Paragrafan 5.2 agus 5.3 de Chòd Giùlain nan Comhairlichean a chur an gnìomh, cho-dhùin e nach robh a' chom-pàirt aige a' cur bacadh air bho bhith an lùib na deasbaireachd.

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/19/21 le ceann-latha 1 Dùbhlachd 2021 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas.

Rè an deasbaid, thog na Buill na puingeann a leanas:-

- Bha e math faicinn gun robh mòran de na taisbeanairan air an comharrachadh Uaine (air targaid);
- Bha an Comhairliche Rixson an sàs ann am Planadh Àite airson a' Chaoil agus thabhainn e cuideachadh sam bith a b' urrainn dha a thoirt seachad ann a bhith a' leasachadh margaidheachd agus a' togail aire mu bhuannachdan dà-chànanaidh tron Ghàidhlig;
- Dheigheadh fàilte a chur air tuilleadh adhartais ann a bhith a' leasachadh portal Gàidhlig air làrach-lìn na Comhairle seach gun robhar an dùil gun deigheadh barrachd feum a dhèanamh de dh'inneal a leithid seo a' dol air adhart; agus
- ann an Loch Abar bhathar air barrachd feum a dhèanamh de Sheirbheis an Luchd-raoin ann a bhith a' dèiligeadh ris an àrdachadh mhòr ann an àireamhan luchd-tadhail a' tighinn a-steach. Bhathar air gabhail gu math ris an eadar-obrachadh aca leis a' phoball agus chaidh beachdachadh gun robh seo a' toirt cothrom dhaibh cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh cuideachd.

**THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR**:-

- i. dhan adhartas a chaidh a dhèanamh ann a bhith a' sgrùdadh is a' buileachadh Plana na Gàidhlig 3 air stèidh ràitheil, le bhith a' cleachdadh PRMS airson taic a thoirt do libhrigeadh PnG3; agus
- ii. dhan adhartas is dha na dùbhlain a tha an lùib a bhith a' buileachadh cuid de ghnìomhan comasachaidh a' Phlana.

## 7. Cunntas às Ùr air Foghlam Luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig agus Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig

**Foillseachadh Com-pàirt:** Dh'fhoillsich Mgr C Rothach com-pàirt ionmhasail seach gun robh ball dhen teaghlach dlùth aige ag obair mar thidsear ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, ach, às dèidh dha an deuchainn a thathar a' mìneachadh ann am Paragrafan 5.2 agus 5.3 de Chòd Giùlain nan Comhairlichean a chur an gnìomh, cho-dhùin e nach robh a' chom-pàirt aige a' cur bacadh air bho bhith an lùib na deasbaireachd.

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/20/21 le ceann-latha 1 Dùbhlachd 2021 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas.

Rè an deasbaid, thog na Buill na puingean a leanas:-

- Rinn Buill moladh air an deagh obair a bhathar a' gabhail os làimh gus Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (FtG) a leasachadh, agus thugadh iomradh sònraichte air an obair-leudachaidh aig Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar far an robh cuideaman susbainteach air a bhith ann. Chaidh seo a choileanadh a dh'aindeoin gach iomadh dùbhlán a bha air tighinn an cois Covid;
- Bha dealas aig a' Chomhairle dèanamh cinnteach à ion-roghnachd campas FtG 3-18 ann an Inbhir Nis agus math dh'fhaodte gum faodadh seo a bhith air a sholarachadh ann an co-bhann ri iomairtean eile; agus
- Bhathar a' toirt buidheachas seachad airson na bha oifigearan foghlaim, ceannardan sgoile agus luchd-obrach teagaisg air a dhèanamh airson àireamh Luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig ann an àrd-sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd fhàs anns gach aon de na trì bliadhna a chaidh seachad, agus seo eu-coltach ris a' chòrr de dh'Alba far an robh na h-àireamhan air lùghdachadh.

**THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR**:-

- i. dhan àrdachadh ann an àireamhan nan sgoilearan thar solar Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig agus Foghlam Gàidhlig anns a' Ghàidhealtachd; agus
- ii. do na raointean leasachaidh làithreach is teachdail ann am Foghlam, a' gabhail a-steach an adhartais ann am pròiseas Co-chomhairle Sgìrean-sgoile FtG.

## 8. Aithisg Tabhartas Sònraichte na Gàidhlig

**Foillseachadh Com-pàirt:** Dh'fhoillsich Mgr C Rothach com-pàirt ionmhasail seach gun robh ball dhen teaghlach dlùth aige ag obair mar thidsear ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, ach, às dèidh dha an deuchainn a thathar a' mìneachadh ann am Paragrafan 5.2 agus 5.3 de Chòd Giùlain nan Comhairlichean a chur an gnìomh, cho-dhùin e nach robh a' chom-pàirt aige a' cur bacadh air bho bhith an lùib na deasbaireachd.

**PP**

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/21/21 le ceann-latha 1 Dùbhlachd 2021 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas.

Rè an deasbaid, thog na Buill na puingean a leanas:-

- b' e dòigh fìor mhath a bh' anns a' phròiseact le Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba agus sgoiltean FtG gus ceangal a thogail le coimhearsnachdan ionadail agus dh'iarr Buill sampall de thoradh a' phròiseict fhaicinn san àm ri teachd. Bha luach ann cuideachd seo a leudachadh gu àrd-sgoiltean;

- bhiodh follaiseachd mhath an lùib a bhith a' togail aire mu atharrachadh na gnàth-shìde ann am FtG agus b' fhiach am pròiseact seo a leantainn;
- bho chaidh Comataidh na Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh, bha iomadh dùbhlán air a bhith ann sna 18 mìos mu dheireadh agus bu chòir a bhith mothachail mun a seo;
- bha Comataidh na Gàidhlig a-nis ann an suidheachadh na b' fheàrr gus coileanadh na Comhairle mu choinneamh a Plana Gàidhlig (PnG) a mheasadh. Cha b' ann a-mhàin mun àm làithreach a bha seo ach cuideachd mun àm ri teachd;
- b' e Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd an t-ùghdarras ionadail a b' fheàrr a bha a' coileanadh ann a bhith a' cuideachadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba gus targaidean a' Phlana Ghàidhlig aige fhèin a choileanadh agus amasan is mion-amasan ann an Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba).
- Bha e cudromach gun robh a' Chomhairle ann an suidheachadh math gus maoinachadh leantainneach a chosnadh san àm ri teachd, a thaobh a bhith a' dèanamh cinnteach à àireamhan luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig is eile. Bhiodh e feumail do Bhuill ro-aithrisean de dh'àireamhan fhaicinn agus fios air a' mhaoineachadh a bhiodh a dhìth gus dèanamh cinnteach gun robh i ann an deagh shuidheachadh fhad 's a bhathar a' leasachadh Phlanaichean Gàidhlig san àm ri teachd; agus
- Chan ann a-mhàin air luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig a dh'fheumadh fòcas a bhith ach cuideachd air luchd-labhairt ùra na Gàidhlig seach gur e seo prìomh amas Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba. Dh'fheumadh Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd sealltainn mar a dh'fhaodadh i cuideachadh gus cur ris a seo thar nan 5-10 bliadhna air thoiseach.

#### **THUG a' Chomataidh FA-NEAR:-**

- i. do na trì pròiseactan a tha air am mìneachadh ann an iarrtas Tabhartas Sònraichte na Gàidhlig;
- ii. dhan phrògram obrach mòr-mhiannach ris am bi an tabhartas a' cur taic agus gura dòcha gum feum seo atharrachadh mura faighear an t-sùim iomlan; agus
- iii. gu bheil Riaghaltas na h-Alba fhathast a' beachdachadh air an iarrtas agus gu bheil dùil ri co-dhùnadh tràth sa Bhliadhna' Ùir.

### **9. Tasgadh Calpa agus Ion-dhèantachd 3–18**

**PP**

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/22/21 le ceann-latha 6 Dùbhlachd 2021 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas.

Cha b' ann a-mhàin airson an ama ri teachd a bha dìreach air thoiseach a bha Planadh Calpa ach cuideachd airson na meadhan-ùine is na fad-ùine agus bha e cudromach

ealla a ghabhail, chan ann a-mhàin do far an deigheadh FtG a thòiseachadh ach cuideachd far an deigheadh a leudachadh agus gu dè an ìre chun am biodh seo na dhùbhlan do Phlana Calpa no tasgadh sam bith a bheireadh a' Chomhairle air adhart. Bha seo riatanach ma bha àireamh luchd-ionnsachaidh is luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig gu bhith air am meudachadh.

**THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR**:-

- i. do thasgadh calpa na Comhairle ann am FtG;
- ii. agus chuireadh fàilte air an tasgadh o chionn ghoirid bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba; agus
- iii. do na dreachd chumhaichean iomraidh airson sgrùdadh ion-dhèantachd a dhèanamh airson solar Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig 3-18 a leudachadh ann an Inbhir Nis.

Chrìochnaich a' choinneamh aig 12.35f.

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee** held remotely on Tuesday 21 December 2021 at 10.30 am.

### Present:

Mr J Bruce  
Mrs M Cockburn

Ms P Hadley  
Mr B Lobban

### In attendance:

Ms K Lackie, Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance  
Ms L Cowie, Ward Manager, Communities and Place  
Miss M Murray, Committee Administrator, Performance and Governance

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.**

### Mr B Lobban in the Chair

#### 1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

There were no apologies for absence.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

The Committee **NOTED** the following declarations of interest:-

Item 3 – Ms P Hadley and Mr B Lobban (both financial)

#### 3. Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan – Highland Council Response Plana Com-pàirteachas Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh – Freagairt Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**Ms P Hadley declared a financial interest in this item as a member of the Cairngorms National Park Authority Board but, in terms of the dispensation granted by the Standards Commission, remained to take part in the discussion.**

**Mr B Lobban declared a financial interest as a Director of Cairngorm Mountain Scotland Ltd and undertook to leave the meeting if discussion arose in that regard.**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/21/21 dated 13 December 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- Members commended officers from the Cairngorms National Park Authority and the Council for the close partnership working that had taken place in developing the Plan;

- in relation to risk implications, lack of accommodation was a significant risk within the Badenoch and Strathspey Ward. In that regard, the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance highlighted that there was a strong paragraph on housing in the general comments, which Members concurred captured the point raised;
- it was important to ensure that large landowners did not carry out restoration/reforestation programmes simply for tax benefit purposes and as a means of excluding members of the public from the land. Discussion ensued in that regard, during which it was commented that many wealthy landowners were preserving estates and there was very little profit being made. In addition, it was highlighted that there was a statutory “right to roam” in Scotland and the only reason landowners could prohibit access to their estate was if it was a matter of safety. However, reference having been made to precedent elsewhere in Scotland, it was suggested that an addition be made to the Council’s submission, in the general comments, reflecting Members’ concerns regarding the potential to restrict public access to the countryside and emphasising the need to protect public access rights, balanced against the protection of land and reforestation. This was supported, and it was suggested that agriculture also be included;
- in relation to Objective A16, livestock overgrazing needed to be managed sensitively. It was important to get the balance right and ensure that farmers and crofters were not negatively affected. In addition, it was necessary to explore new and innovative ways of working in conjunction with partners and the agricultural community. In that regard, the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance drew attention to the response to Objective A7, which Members were content covered the points raised;
- in relation to transport, it was necessary to look at the whole scope of provision;
- in relation to Action A2, there had been problems locally in terms of Tree Preservation Orders being overlooked in planning decisions, and it was suggested that it was necessary to strengthen the Council’s comments. Following discussion in that regard, it was proposed that an additional sentence be added as follows: “In addition, a commitment should be given that Planning Committees should not override the provision of Tree Preservation Orders without due consideration.”

Thereafter, the Chair having expressed thanks to all those involved, the Committee **AGREED** the Council’s submission as set out at Appendix 1 to the report subject to:-

- i. an addition to the general comments reflecting Members’ concerns regarding the potential to restrict public access to the countryside and emphasising the need to protect public access rights, balanced against the protection of land, reforestation and agriculture; and
- ii. under Actions and Policies, an additional sentence in relation to A2 as follows: “In addition, a commitment should be given that Planning Committees should not override the provision of Tree Preservation Orders without due consideration.”

The meeting concluded at 10.55 am.



## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Education Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Thursday 24 February 2022 at 10.35 am.

### Present:

Mr G Adam	Mr K Gowans
Mr C Aitken	Mr A Graham
Mrs I Campbell	Mr G MacKenzie
Mrs M Cockburn	Mr C Munro (video conferencing)
Mr J Finlayson (Chair)	Mr M Paterson (substitute)
Mr D Fraser	

### Religious Representatives:

Mr R Finlay  
Ms S Lamont  
Mr W Skene

### Non-Members also present:

Ms S Fanet	Mr B Lobban
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### In attendance:

Ms D Manson, Chief Executive  
Ms N Grant, Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning  
Ms A Jansson, Head of Service, Primary Education  
Ms F Grant, Head of Service, Secondary Education  
Mr B Porter, Head of Education Resources  
Mrs F Shearer, Area Education and Learning Manager (South)  
Ms A MacPherson, Workforce Planning and Staffing Manager  
Ms M Garson, Senior Lead Skills, Employability and Prosperity  
Ms L Walker, Education Support Officer  
Mr I Jackson, Education Officer, Resources  
Ms L Gordon, Head Teacher, Highland Virtual Academy  
Ms J Douglas, Care and Learning Alliance (Third Sector)  
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator (video conferencing)  
Miss M Murray, Committee Administrator

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.**

### Mr J Finlayson in the Chair

### Tributes to Councillor Tom Heggie

Prior to the commencement of formal business, tributes were paid to the late Councillor Tom Heggie, Nairn Ward Member and Vice Chair of the Education Committee, who had passed away suddenly the previous day. Members spoke of his sense of humour, deep religious faith, honesty, integrity and calm, measured and “no nonsense” manner. He had been a

dedicated family man who had been also been passionate about serving his community, which he had done throughout his working life as a teacher, Minister and Councillor. He would be a loss to many and condolences were expressed to his family and friends.

Thereafter, the Committee observed a minute's silence in tribute to Mr Heggie.

## **Business**

### **1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A Jarvie, Ms E Knox, Mr S Mackie, Mr R MacWilliam, Mrs P Munro, Mrs F Robertson, Mr A Sinclair and Ms A Johnston.

### **2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Good News/Outstanding Achievements Naidheachdan Matha/Coileanaidhean Air Leth**

Ms L Walker, Education Support Officer, summarised the outstanding achievements by pupils and schools since the previous meeting of the Committee as set out on the This is Highland website, a link to which had been circulated to Members in advance of the Committee.

The Committee **NOTED** the outstanding achievements.

### **4. School Covid Update Cunntas às Ùr air Covid do Sgoiltean**

The Area Education and Learning Manager (South) provided a verbal update on the following issues:

- infection rates of Covid were declining but with occasional clusters of infection which were being managed with NHS Highland's Health Protection Team;
- the disruption to families and to children's education that was caused when classes were sent home to isolate was recognised and work was underway to reduce the times when this would be necessary;
- schools were well placed to deliver online learning as required and to support staff with measures to try to mitigate the impact of staff absences and keep schools open where possible;
- as part of the phased approach to easing mitigations in schools, the Council's position was being updated in line with national guidance reviews, while maintaining the focus on supporting wellbeing, learning and teaching;
- a summary was provided of imminent changes to regulations, which included the lifting of the requirement for secondary school pupils and teachers to wear face coverings, the lifting of restrictions on school assemblies and the relaxation of guidance on school visits; and

- positives to have emerged from lockdowns included improvements to digital learning and the creation of a virtual learning platform called HOPS: Highland's Online Primary School.

The Chair thanked all school staff and pupils for their efforts during the Covid crisis and the Committee **NOTED** the position.

## **5. Highland Schools Interim Review of Actions for Attainment Ath-sgrùdadh Eadar-amail air Gnìomhan airson Buileachadh do Sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd**

There had been circulated Report No EDU/1/22 dated 20 January 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning.

The Chair thanked those Members who had attended the attainment workshop the previous week which he hoped had helped them to understand the attainment journey young people followed in all Highland schools and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings. The report expanded on that and showed what was being put in place to improve attainment following the discussions that took place at the previous meeting of the Committee.

During discussion, the following issues were considered:

- school staff, pupils and parents were thanked for their effort, commitment and achievements during the challenges presented by the Covid crisis;
- it was important that workstreams were followed through to a conclusion and Members were urged, post-election, to improve their scrutiny of the issues dealt with in the report, at Area Committees and Ward Business Meetings as well as at the Education Committee, which would in turn support their schools and local communities. Attendance at training, workshops and seminars was encouraged. The attainment report should include detail on the next steps to be taken and be recommended as a standing item for the Committee after the Council election in May 2022;
- further information was sought, and provided, on the roles of the Quality Assurance Moderation Support Officers;
- it would be helpful if the Collaborative Lead Officers could introduce themselves to Members and outline their plans;
- engagement with the Highland Mindfulness Group and other relevant third sector groups should be considered, with it being confirmed that several such collaborations were underway;
- information was sought, and provided, on efforts to tackle Highland's relatively poor position in national education league tables. Benchmarking against other local authorities with accurate data was important;
- Education leaders were thanked for their improved collaborative working with Health and Social Care and it was hoped mitigation would be sought for any challenges with developing this further;
- it was hoped any new measures reduced, rather than increased, bureaucracy in schools and in particular for teachers, to maximise time spent teaching rather than dealing with excessive paperwork; and
- it was suggested that the curriculum had narrowed as a result of the Curriculum for Excellence but attention was drawn to increases in additional areas such as digital learning and the outdoor curriculum.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the planned collaborative engagement, support and challenge provided to primary schools as outlined in the report through officer standardised attainment meetings;
- ii. **AGREED**, as a result of Primary attainment meetings, Head Teachers and officers would co-construct actions for improvement;
- iii. **NOTED** the actions resulting from the secondary school-based SQA attainment meetings in November and December 2021 which aimed to accelerate improvements in attainment across our secondary schools; and
- iv. **AGREED** to continue to seek updates on the impact of the action plans on improving educational outcomes and improvement for the children of the Highland Council.

## 6. Update on the Highland Virtual Academy Cunntas às Ùr mu Acadamaidh Bhiortail na Gàidhealtachd

There had been circulated Report No EDU/2/22 dated 22 January 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning.

During discussion, the following issues were considered:

- the success of the Highland Virtual Academy (HVA) was commended and assurance was sought, and provided, that all schools had the opportunity to engage with the HVA for senior level pupils. Attention was drawn to the HVA's key role during Covid and the positive feedback received from pupils and parents;
- the development of the teaching of Gaelic through the HVA was welcomed although it was disappointing there were no certified courses as yet;
- the usefulness of the HVA for language teaching in general was highlighted, citing the benefits of bi-lingualism and the enthusiasm for other cultures this promoted; and
- it was suggested the HVA could provide the Council with income generating opportunities, for example through offering out of authority learning.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the progress made with regards attainment and achievement in the Highland Virtual Academy (HVA) and the plans for continuing to support Highland schools through the HVA; and
- ii. **AGREED** consideration be given to using the Highland Virtual Academy as a means of generating income by offering services outwith Highland.

## 7. Presentation: Young Carers – a celebration of activities undertaken in Skye and Lochalsh

**Taisbeanadh: Luchd-cùraim Òga – a' comharrachadh ghnìomhan a rinneadh anns an Eilean Sgitheanach is Loch Aillse**

Mr T Breen, Head Teacher, Portree High School, and representatives of Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers gave a pre-recorded presentation during which it was explained that Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers provided support to current and former young carers in the Skye and Lochalsh area. Since its establishment in 2000 the service had

supported approximately 1500 young carers and their families, and currently supported over 50 young carers. Detailed information was provided on how young carers were supported; service goals; indicators of success and how they were recorded; and how support had been provided during Covid when meeting in person had not been possible. The presentation concluded with contributions from two young carers as to how they had been supported over the past two years and how they had benefited from that support.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- Members welcomed the presentation and commended the young people involved. The Chair confirmed that a link to the presentation had been circulated to Members, should they wish to view it again;
- reference was made to Badenoch Young Carers which was just getting up and running. Members emphasised the need to ensure there was a consistent approach to supporting young carers across Highland and that areas that did not yet have a robust system in place learned from the expertise of areas like Skye and Lochalsh;
- young carers were an integral part of community care and support provision;
- provision like Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers demanded a lot of time in terms of fundraising;
- it having been queried whether all young carers in Highland were being supported to access Young Carer Statements, the Chair confirmed that a report in that regard had been presented to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing (HSCW) Committee, and that he, the Chair of the HSCW Committee and third sector representatives had discussed the importance of ensuring there was consistency across the authority. He added that it was not just a school issue but rather it was about all agencies working together to support young people.

The Committee otherwise **NOTED** the presentation.

## **8. Ambitious Highland – My Future, My Success Gàidhealtachd Àrd-amasach**

There had been circulated Report No EDU/3/22 dated 13 January 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- Members welcomed the important report and looked forward to seeing how work progressed;
- the link between Skills Development Scotland and tertiary education establishments was welcomed. Applications to tertiary education establishments had reduced significantly in recent years, probably as a direct result of Covid and the uncertainty as to whether learning would be face-to-face, blended or online, and there was a lot of work that could be done as we moved out of the pandemic to encourage people to take up courses. It was added that there had also been an increase in the number of young people who had started college courses then decided it was not for them because of the mode of delivery;
- the importance of being ambitious was emphasised;
- there were huge opportunities in Highland in terms of hydrogen, STEM subjects and growing a creative economy and it was important to align learning and teaching with

the future employment needs of the area to ensure there were quality jobs for young people which would help to retain the population;

- there was something for every young person and it was necessary to triage and direct them;
- some Members had been approached by young people looking to get into crofting/agriculture and it was queried whether that could be facilitated online;
- information was sought, and provided, as to where the funding for the plan was coming from, how much funding was required and whether regular monitoring statements would be provided;
- it was important that regular progress reports were provided in respect of the five workstreams identified;
- it was good to see that the role of the voluntary youth sector had been recognised in the report and it was queried whether, following the local government elections, an induction could be provided on third sector youth work so that Members fully understood how partners worked together to support young people. In addition, an invitation was extended to Members to attend their local youth work group and it was suggested that they get in touch with their local group directly or contact Ms J Douglas, Care and Learning Alliance. The Chair confirmed that he would pass on the request for an induction to his successor;
- it was great to see the skills for work pathway recognised in the report;
- it was asked that early years and ELC partner providers be involved in the development, roll out and usage of “talking tubs”;
- the support for apprenticeships was welcomed and a plea was made that foundation apprenticeships be promoted well in schools. Attending foundation apprenticeships gave young people the impetus and opportunity to continue to engage in school by learning valuable work and life skills; and
- opportunities were increasing in the ELC sector, particularly in rural areas, and a plea was made that ELC be included when looking at expanding education and training opportunities.

Thereafter, the Committee-

- i. **APPROVED** the detailed plan “My Future, My Success” as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- ii. **AGREED** that future reports would be brought back to the Education Committee detailing the progress made for people across the five workstreams identified.

## 9. Revenue Budget Monitoring for Quarter 3 of 2021/22 Sgrùdadh Buidseat Teachd-a-steach airson Cairteal 3 de 2021/22

There had been circulated Report No EDU/4/22 dated 19 January 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning.

The Chair reminded Members that this report related to the current financial year and Quarter 3 forecasts, and any questions relating to next year’s budget were a matter for the full Council on 3 March. He was pleased to see that despite the ongoing challenges being faced the report showed the Quarter 3 position being stable and a slight improvement over Quarter 2 and, in particular, High Life Highland’s position improving in year. Members would also be pleased to note the update in the report regarding Scottish Government funding and staffing arrangements.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- information was sought, and provided, as to what the Schools General and Learning and Teaching budgets comprised, and the Head of Education Resources confirmed that he would provide a more detailed response to Councillor Graham outwith the Committee;
- in relation to the First 100 Days' additional Scottish Government funding, disappointment was expressed that no details had been provided of the plans that the report indicated were in place. In addition, given that the Education Committee would not meet again until after the local government elections in May, it was requested that Members be briefed as to how this matter was developing to allow scrutiny to take place. The Workforce Planning and Staffing Manager summarised the appointments that had been made to date and undertook to provide a follow-up briefing as requested. On the point being raised, it was confirmed that the staffing formula was still in place and the appointments referred to were in addition to that, which was welcomed. Members commented that, to allow Ward Members to be more informed, it would be useful to see the staffing formula and core allocation for individual schools. In that regard, the Executive Chief Officer explained that discussions had taken place with secondary Head Teachers regarding a new staffing formula which would be presented to the full Council in June for ratification. Members emphasised the need for fairness and equity of provision across the school estate, including addressing over-staffing, as well as an element of flexibility to address situations that arose in individual schools or Associated School Groups.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the forecast revenue position for the 2021/22 financial year, including the additional scrutiny and management action being taken and the risks and uncertainties set out within the report; and
- ii. the progress update provided in relation to budget savings delivery.

In terms of Standing Order 9, the Committee **AGREED** to consider item 11 at this stage.

#### **11. Statutory Consultation on Relocation of St Clements School Co-chomhairle Reachdail mu Ath-shuidheachadh Sgoil an Naoimh Cliamhainn**

There had been circulated Report No EDU/6/22 dated 14 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- a new St Clements School was long overdue and Local Members warmly welcomed the report and the recommendation to proceed to statutory consultation;
- as stated in paragraph 4.4 of the report, a new school building would provide an opportunity to place the needs of every child at the centre of the school's design. The new school would offer good quality accommodation that provided a safe, healthy and visually stimulating environment, flexible teaching spaces, better facilities for visiting specialists, and a healthier, less stressful environment;
- it could not be overstated how much of a lift the proposal had given the town of Dingwall and the St Clements educational community; and
- thanks were expressed to the officers who had worked so hard to bring the proposal to fruition, and to Members across the Council for their consistent support and recognition of the need for St Clements School.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** to proceed to statutory consultation on the basis of the proposal attached to the report.

**10. Statutory Consultation on Gaelic Medium Catchment Areas for Plockton Associated School Group**  
**Co-chomhairle Reachdail mu Sgìrean-sgoile Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig airson Buidheann Sgoiltean Co-cheangailte a' Phluic**

There had been circulated Report No EDU/5/22 dated 10 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning.

During discussion, it was commented that these consultations were formalising what had, in some instances, existed for many years. Thanks were expressed to officers for their thorough and professional approach, their engagement with Local Members and the progress that had been made with what was a statutory obligation on the Council. In relation to the geography of Plockton Associated School Group, it was clear that Gaelic Medium provision was in one extremity of the proposed catchment area, an issue that would potentially be raised as part of the consultation process. In response, it was confirmed that if representations were received in that regard they would be considered. However, relocation would require a separate consultation. The Chair added that it was interesting to see that young people wanted to attend Gaelic Medium Education in Plockton from further afield than had previously been the case, and that it might be that expansion be sought.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** to proceed to statutory consultation on the basis of the proposal attached to the report.

**12. Review of Statutory Consultation Exercise to Establish a Gaelic Medium Catchment Area for Newtonmore Primary School**  
**Ath-sgrùdadh air Eacarsaich Cho-chomhairle Reachdail airson Sgìre-sgoile Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a Stèidheachadh airson Bun-Sgoil Bhaile Ùr an t-Slèibh**

There had been circulated Report No EDU/7/22 dated 12 January 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning.

During discussion, Local Members thanked officers for their diplomacy and the way in which meetings had been managed, particularly the change from face to face to virtual meetings at short notice.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the proposal set out within the Consultation Report (Appendix 1 of the report) and associated appendices;
- ii. **NOTED** the representations received (Appendices 3i-3iii of the report) and the report from Education Scotland (Appendices 4 and 5 of the report); and
- \* iii. **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the Council that it create a Gaelic Medium catchment area for Newtonmore Primary School on the basis set out at paragraph 1.2 of the report.



**13. Review of Statutory Consultation Exercise to Establish a Gaelic Medium Catchment Area for Acharacle Primary School**  
**Ath-sgrùdadh air Eacarsaich Cho-chomhairle Reachdail airson Sgìre-sgoile Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a Stèidheachadh airson Bun-Sgoil Àth Tharracail**

There had been circulated Report No EDU/8/22 dated 10 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the proposal set out within the Consultation Report (Appendix 1 of the report) and associated appendices;
- ii. **NOTED** the representations received (Appendices 3i-3xiii of the report); and the report from Education Scotland (Appendices 4 and 5 of the report); and
- \* iii. **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the Council that it create a Gaelic Medium catchment area for Acharacle Primary School on the basis set out at paragraph 1.2 of the report.

At the conclusion of formal business, the Education Spokesperson for the Opposition expressed appreciation to officers for the hard work they had done in bringing reports forward to the Committee and the courteous, prompt and efficient manner in which they had responded to queries. He also thanked the Chair for his inclusive approach to chairing the Committee, as well as his humour and empathy. The Opposition had always been given the opportunity to raise issues and meet regularly with the Chair and Vice Chair, which had been important for the smooth running of the Committee.

The Chair reciprocated, thanking Members for their support and contributions during his tenure. Overall, Members had worked collaboratively and put aside any political disagreements to do the best for young people and staff in educational settings, which was the priority. He also thanked officers and school staff for their efforts during what had been a difficult time, particularly over the last two years, and Democratic Services staff for their support.

The meeting concluded at 12.55 pm.

**The Highland Council  
Sutherland County Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the Sutherland County Committee held remotely on Monday 28 February 2022 at 10.30am.

**Present:**

Mr R Gale

Mr H Morrison

Mrs D Mackay

Ms L Munro

Mr J McGillivray

**Officials in attendance:**

Ms F Duncan, Executive Chief Officer, Health and Social Care

Mr P Tomalin, Ward Manager, Communities and Place

Mr C Howell, Head of Infrastructure, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

Ms J Sutherland, Roads Operations Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

Mr A Webster, Regeneration Team Leader, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

Ms A Donald, North Area Manager, Education and Learning

Ms K Van Voornveld Head Teacher, North Coast Campus, Education and Learning

Mr B Cameron, Housing Policy and Investment Manager, Housing and Property

Mrs M Grant, Principal Housing Officer, Housing and Property

Ms A Macrae, Committee Administrator, Performance and Governance

**Also in Attendance:**

Station Commander P Farrell and Group Commander M Humphreys, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr R Gale in the Chair**

**1. Apologies for Absence  
Leisgeulan**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Ms K Currie.

**2. Declarations of Interest  
Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

Items 7 and 10: Mr R Gale

**3. \* Additional Urgent Item  
Russian Invasion of Ukraine**

The Chair **AGREED** to consider an additional urgent item to allow the support of the Highland Council to be sought on the need for the UK Government to act urgently and without delay to close travel loopholes to and from Russia

It was reported that at the weekend a private jet, registered in Estonia, had flown from Inverness to Moscow. Its journey had started the previous day when it departed Moscow to Geneva. It then flew to Amsterdam and on to

Inverness from where it flew to Moscow. There was a need to query as to why was this allowed, who was on this round trip to Moscow, and what was their business. Russian planes, including private jets, were banned from UK airspace and so what had been witnessed was the exploitation of a loophole which required to be closed rapidly. This was at the same time a Russian oil tanker was due to dock in Orkney.

This incident has been referred to Westminster and it was understood would be raised in Parliament. However, it also brought into sharp focus the reach of Putin's evil regime and the role everyone needed to play against the man who has invaded Ukraine, threatened Scandinavian neighbours and placed his nuclear force on special alert.

Like the rest of the free and civilised world people in the Highlands had been sickened and appalled by the invasion and stood firm with the people of Ukraine. Every act of unity counted, and at every level, there was a need to do all possible to support the people of Ukraine. The UK Government was required to act urgently and without delay to close loopholes to ensure the Highlands did not provide a back door for travel to and from Russia and the full support of Highland Council was sought on this matter.

\* The Committee **AGREED** that the full support of the Highland Council be sought on the need for the UK Government to act urgently and without delay to close travel loopholes and ensure the Highlands did not provide a back door for travel to and from Russia.

#### 4. **Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Performance Report** **Aithisg Dèanadais Ionadail Seirbheis Smàlaidh is Teasairginn na h-Alba**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/01/22 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland.

During discussion, Members raised the following main points:-

- concern at the availability at Tongue Fire Station and the potential to base a full-time member of staff in the area to provide additional resource and focus on a more concentrated recruitment drive;
- the main challenges around recruitment in rural areas was an ageing population, resulting in a lack of potential recruits and concern in relation to the school roll projections going forward;
- the need to reduce the age at which young people could join the service and the importance of considering the challenges around retaining staff;
- confirmation that the open days hosted by the Service held in Bettyhill and Tongue had attracted a number of recruits and arrangements would be made to repeat these events;
- the role of Members in assisting the Service with recruitment locally; and
- the Station Commander and his staff be thanked for their work in keeping the public safe, while recognising the challenges the Service faced in the area.

The Committee following scrutiny, **NOTED** the Area Performance Report.

**5. North Coast Campus Overview**  
**Sealladh Coitcheann air Campas a' Chost a Tuath**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/02/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning.

The Head Teacher gave a detailed presentation on the recovery and growth within the Campus following the pandemic and the ongoing challenges.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- the significant challenges around staffing and support service allocations and reductions due to pupil numbers falling below set thresholds was recognised by Members;
- the policy in relation to the staffing allocation model required to be changed as a priority so that it took account of rurality and the impact of reducing pupil numbers on smaller schools in terms of the curriculum and subject choices available to pupils;
- the Head Teacher and staff be commended on the energy, positivity and a strong drive forward within the Campus in challenging times and on being creative in terms of seeking to overcome some of the challenges outlined in collaboration with local Members and officers;
- concern at the delay in approving the applications for the supply list, and for this matter to be addressed urgently. It was explained that a main issue around the delays was in relation to references being received. The North Area Manager advised she would follow up on this matter;
- confirmation there was some sharing of teachers with neighbouring secondary schools although there were challenges in terms of timetabling and staff already being at the minimum for non- contact time and the lack of capacity at other schools. Any further opportunities and creative solutions to this issue would be welcomed by the Campus;
- support for the Head Teacher in relation to the Care Inspectorate visit to Tongue Primary School and noting the robust discussions that had taken place with the Inspectorate in respect of this visit;
- confirmation that the ECO Health and Social Care would have discussions with the Manager and Head Teacher in relation to the roll out of trauma champions and materials by the Council across Highland to ensure the Campus was actively involved; and
- the Head Teacher and staff be highly commended on doing an excellent job in the face of significant challenges.

The Committee following scrutiny, **NOTED** the content of the report.

**6. Area Roads Capital Programme 2022/23**  
**Prògram Calpa Rathaidean Sgìreil 2022/23**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/03/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- the Ward 4 Allocation budget be used to undertake improvements to pavements, specific reference being made to locations at the Back Road, Golspie and the Free Church, Brora. The introduction of a dropped kerb at Col Bheinn Road, Brora was also sought to improve disabled access;
- the budget allocation for Sutherland compared well with other areas in Highland;
- confirmation was sought and provided that if there was an underspend on the current Ward Allocation budget this could be carried forward to the next financial year;
- the potential to address an animal welfare issue associated with a cattle grid and fencing at Achintoul from the ward allocation budget. It was confirmed that this matter was being investigated in conjunction with the estate with a view to resolving the issue;
- it was recognised the Keoldale Ferry Road was being undermined by sea water and therefore the works required may be more extensive than anticipated;
- confirmation was sought and provided that officers were investigating the need for works on the Skerray loop road;
- the quality of the works undertaken on the Struie Road and other routes in the area and also in relation to winter maintenance be welcomed and Members appreciation be conveyed to the Roads Team in this regard;
- the allocation of any additional monies for roads approved at the Council's budget meeting on 3 March 2022 be considered at a Ward Business Meeting;
- an assurance was provided that programming works were being undertaken with intention of ensuring the budget and any additional allocation was fully spent and this included supplementing the inhouse resource with external contractors for some works; and
- the improvements being delivered to the A897 Helmsdale/Strath Road were excellent and had been welcomed by the local community.

The Committee **APPROVED** the proposed prioritised Area Roads Capital Programme for the Sutherland Area.

## 7. **Placed Based Investment Programme Prògram Tasgaidh Stèidhichte air Àite**

**Declaration of Interest:- Mr R Gale declared an interest in this item as a Trustee of the Go Golspie Development Trust and left the meeting for the determination of this item.**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/04/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

The Committee **AGREED:-**

- i to award the Golspie YMCA project £30,000 for delivery in 2022/23 subject to Scottish Government approval to carry over funds into the next financial year; and

- ii that the Council write to the Scottish Government to request permission to carry over the £76,964 uncommitted PBIP grant into 2022/23 and that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Sutherland County Committee outlining the Scottish Government's decision and any associated recommendations if the response is favourable

## 8. **HRA Capital Programme 2022/23** **Prògram Calpa HRA 2022/23**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/05/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, Members raised the following main points:-

- an assurance was provided that there was a high level of compliance with the new fire safety legislation in Council houses across Sutherland. It was confirmed the up to date figures would be circulated to Members once available;
- whether in terms of heating options, tenants using solid fuel would continue to be able to opt out of works to renew heating systems. It was explained that the Council would have to take a policy decision going forward on whether this element of tenant choice should be retained or whether a more robust approach be taken to meet climate change and energy efficiency targets and this would feed into Committee papers at a later date; and
- the challenges in rural areas, where tenants with all electric systems had no alternative option available in power outages, and concern at the potential impact on older tenants and those with young families. In addition, there was a need to take into account of the significant increase in the cost of electricity and removal of the energy cap.

The Committee:-

- i **NOTED** the allocation of resources to Sutherland Area as set out at section 5.7 of the report;
- ii **NOTED** the guideline investment priorities as set out in sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the report.;
- iii **AGREED** the proposed one-year HRA Capital Programme for Sutherland 2022-23 as set out in Appendix 1;
- iv **NOTED** the position relating to the current year HRA Capital Programme; and
- v **NOTED** that updates on the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme will continue to be provided through ward briefings and at future Local Committees as requested by local Members, in addition to reporting to Housing and Property Committee.

## 9. **Housing Revenue Account: Garage Rents 2022/2023** **Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais: Màil Gharaidsean 2022/23**

There is circulated Report No SCC/06/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

The Committee **AGREED** that a 1% rent increase be applied to Sutherland Garages and Garage Sites in 2022/23.

**10. Sutherland Place Based Investment Fund  
Prògram Tasgaidh Stèidhichte air Àite Chataibh**

**Declaration of Interest:- Mr R Gale declared an interest in this item as a Trustee of the Go Golspie Development Trust and left the meeting for the determination of this item.**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/07/22 by the Interim Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

The Committee **AGREED:-**

- i £10,000 of the Place Based Investment Fund for Ward 1 to Dornoch Firth Group for the Sutherland Cares Counselling Service;
- ii £10,000 of the Place Based Investment Fund for Ward 4 to Dornoch Firth Group for the Sutherland Cares Counselling Service;
- iii £23,500 of the Place Based Investment Fund for Ward 4 to Helmsdale and District Community Association for the Helmsdale Play SPACE project; and
- iv £23,500 of the Place Based Investment Fund for Ward 4 to Go Golspie Development Trust for King George V Playpark Refurbishment.

**11. Poverty in Sutherland  
Bochdainn ann an Cataibh**

The Chair gave a verbal report on this item during which he advised that the issues around poverty in Sutherland were being exacerbated by significant increases in the cost of fuel and food, national insurance and a steady rise in the rate of inflation. It was important the Committee retained a focus on all poverty related issues including the impact of the proposed 3% increase in Council tax, albeit this was a lower increase than many other local authorities and the Scottish Government was providing mitigation in terms of bands A to D. There was a need to continue to work with and support the Sutherland Community Partnership locally and for the Council to be aware of what it could do to alleviate the impacts of poverty going forward.

In discussion, concern was expressed at the unprecedented number of children and people in work living in poverty in the area. The Council and Sutherland Community Partnership were doing sterling work on the ground but the power to lift people out of poverty and tackle the underlying problems rested with national government. Sutherland's wealth of natural resources was generating vast amounts of renewable energy, however the area was faced with some of the highest energy charges nationally and there was a need for renewables to contribute significantly more resources to support local communities. It was hoped that the new Committee would continue to work with the Sutherland Community Partnership, raise awareness of the issues and have poverty as a standing item on the agenda.

Thereafter, it was reported that Sutherland Members had allocated funding to the CABx also to be accessed by people in work. The focus of the CABx was on offering help and the need to get this message out to the public and encourage them to access services. The impact of increases in fuel costs was particularly significant in Sutherland, given that people had to frequently travel

great distances by private transport due to necessity to access work and services. It was also suggested that the Council Tax was unfair and should be based on the ability to pay and not on the banding of the property.

The Committee **NOTED** the verbal update.

**12. Annual Report 2020/21, Proposed Budget 2022/23 and Quarter 3 Monitoring Statement 2021/22**  
**Aithisg Bhliadhnail 2020/21, Buidseat ga Mholadh airson 2022/23 agus Aithris Sgrùdaidh Cairteil 3 2021/22**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/09/22 by the Interim Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and Executive Chief Officer Resources and Finance.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the Dornoch Common Good Fund Annual Report and Accounts for 2020/21;
- ii. **AGREED** the Dornoch Common Good Fund Annual Budget for 2022/23; and
- iii. **NOTED** the position of the Dornoch Common Good Fund, as shown in the Q3 monitoring statement against budget.

**13. Minutes**

There was circulated and **NOTED** Minutes of the Sutherland County Committee held on 22 November 2021 which were approved by the Council on 10 December 2021.

In conclusion, the Chair indicated this was the last meeting of the Committee before the Council elections in May 2022. He thanked the officers who had supported and presented to the Committee and for the standard of reports received. He thanked all Members for their support and paid tribute to Ms K Currie, Mrs D Mackay, and Ms L Munro who had indicated they would not be seeking re-election and wished them well for the future.

In response, Members advised that the Committee had worked collaboratively and collectively and operated in a courteous and respectful manner. Good wishes were conveyed to those Members who were seeking re-election and special thanks extended to the Ward Manager for the support he had provided to Members over the period.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.



## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Gaelic Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 10.30 am.

### Present:

Mr G Adam	Mr D MacKay
Mr R Bremner (VC)	Mr G MacKenzie
Mrs I Campbell	Mr C Munro
Miss J Campbell	Mrs M Paterson
Mr A Henderson (VC)	Mr D Rixson

### In attendance:

Ms K Lackie, Executive Chief Officer – Performance and Governance  
 Ms L Walker, Gaelic Development Manager  
 Mr I Jackson, Education Officer (VC)  
 Ms M A MacLeod Mitchell, Gaelic Development Officer  
 Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator (VC)  
 Mr A MacInnes, administrative Assistant

### Also in attendance:-

Ms J Dunlop, Director, World Gaelic Week (VC)  
 Mr G McFarlane, Administrator, World Gaelic Week (VC)  
 Mr J Graham, Chief Executive Officer, An Comunn Gàidhealach  
 Mr A Barnett, Mod Convener and Director, An Comunn Gàidhealach

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.**

### Mr C Munro in the Chair

## Business

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A MacInnes, Ms E Roddick and Mr A Sinclair.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

The Committee **NOTED** the following:-

Item 5 – Mr A Henderson (Declaration of Interest)  
 Mr R Bremner – (Transparency Statement) in any item, given his connection with a number of Gaelic organisations, but having read the reports and considered the content, he did not believe these connections amounted to a Declaration of Interest.

### 3. Good News

The Chair conveyed the following items of good news:-

- two Gaelic posts within the Council were currently being advertised, namely, Gaelic Youth Engagement Officer and Graduate Intern (Gaelic and Social Media).
- the Inverness Castle and *Spirit of the Highlands and Islands* project team had implemented Gaelic language in various project outputs. The project had received funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to create two new Gaelic Advisor posts within the project team to provide guidance on the inclusion of Gaelic language and culture in project outputs and in the design of the new visitor attraction in Inverness Castle.
- the Council's financial contribution had enabled Fèisean nan Gàidheal to attract additional funding from Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and HIE to run the Blas Festival. This year's festival had included partnership working with Tobar an Dualchais, VisitScotland, National Library of Scotland, SEALL's Festival of Small Halls and St Andrew's Fair Saturday.
- of the 91 submissions this year to FilmG, 49 were from Highland schools. The Chair also informed the Committee of the various Highland winners and their categories.
- West Highland Way Project, and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park had made initial contact with the Gaelic Team to seek support and advise on using and including Gaelic within their project Gaelic People, Place and Passion which would form part of the Year of Scotland's Stories. The aim was to bring Gaelic to a wider audience and celebrate the use of the language along the West Highland Way, especially as part of the route was within the Highland area.

The Committee **NOTED** the Good News.

#### 4. World Gaelic Week

There had been circulated Report No. G/1/22 dated 16 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance. Ms Joy Dunlop, Director and Mr Grant McFarlane, Administrator of World Gaelic Week gave a presentation on the first World Gaelic Week which was to be held between 21-27 March 2022.

The purpose of World Gaelic Week was to celebrate the Gaelic Language and Culture. It aimed to increase the uptake and use of Gaelic and the number of learners and to promote a positive image of Gaelic. An official Programme of events had been drawn up in collaboration with other partners, both in person and online. Local community events were also going to take place and, to assist such events, resources in the form of a toolkit were available. A resource pack had also been prepared for schools, both in Gaelic and English Medium. It was hoped as wide a range of programme as possible could be achieved so that there would be something for everyone to take part in. Gaelic played an important role and had a significant positive effect on the economy and, looking towards Gaelic Week, it was important to highlight existing activity.

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- amongst the events being explored by the Gaelic Team, the development of a “Gaelic phrase/place name of the day” promoted on Social Media Platforms was welcomed. This would grab attention and was a good way to get visitors to the area to interact;
- during the Covid pandemic and the various lockdowns, Gaelic speakers had less opportunity to interact with each other and Gaelic Week would reinvigorate this by providing an opportunity to get back together;
- further information was sought about the “Tea & Shortbread in the Garden, Portree” event and whether or not this required to be booked in advance; and
- additional information on the timetable would be useful.

The Chairman having thanked Ms Dunlop and Mr McFarlane, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the World Gaelic Week initiative; and
- ii. **AGREED** the proposed Highland Council events which would contribute to the World Gaelic Week initiative.

## 5. Royal National Mòd 2021

**Declaration of Interest:- Mr A Henderson declared an interest as fees to artistes were listed and family members had received payment and, in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of the revised Code of Conduct, left the meeting.**

There had been circulated Report No. G/2/22 dated 1 December 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- congratulations were extended to all those involved in running a successful Mòd in difficult circumstances. Those who had attended the Mòd had enjoyed it immensely and it was pleasing to see the Special Gathering had been able to go ahead;
- the online offering had been well received by people of all ages;
- the Mòd had had a good economic benefit for Inverness during what was an inordinate time;
- a creative approach had been adopted when the need to look for alternative venues had arisen and this was to be commended; and
- the Royal National Mòd in 2021 had taken place in a very different way than before. The Council’s own Gaelic Team were to be commended for the support they had shown. The Mòd this year was to take place in Perth and it was important that the lessons learnt from 2021 were taken forward and allow the continuation of the hybrid model to allow participants to take part remotely.

The representatives from An Comunn present referred to the previous item and informed Members that they too were taking part in World Gaelic Week. Turning to the Mòd it was pointed out that the report before Committee today was not just an economic statement but also an event evaluation. The hybrid model had allowed participants and attendees to take part from around the world and this was only to be welcomed and encouraged. The challenges involved were acknowledged but the help of Highland Council, both financially and in kind, was much appreciated.

The Chair having wished An Comunn best wishes for their preparation for the 2022 Perth Royal National Mòd, the Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. .
  - i. the findings of the Royal National Mòd Evaluation; and
  - ii. the Innes and Campbell Communications report.

## 6. Progress Against Gaelic Language Plan 3

There had been circulated Report No. G/3/21 dated 16 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- with reference to the Gaelic Garden at the redevelopment of Inverness Castle Project, there were synergies with the aims of the Council's Climate Change Working Group and many historical writings about the use of flowers and herbs in medicine were referred to. There was huge interest in this, offering tremendous possibilities;
- one of the commissions, submitted to Spirit:360 (an artists' commissioning programme to develop unique pieces based on stories submitted to the *Spirit of the Highlands and Islands*), was to write and record a piece of traditional Scottish music inspired by feral goats. Reference was made to poetry written by an emigrant to Canada called "Of Goats and Men", full of place names of the writer's home country of Scotland. Goats had been important in our medieval economy with goat hair from Rum even being transported to America for wigs;
- it was important to be mindful of the upcoming National Census. Given Highland's position, in terms of Gaelic Medium Education, Gaelic speakers etc, it was vital to ensure that the results of the census generated a fruitful outcome in terms of funding. Lobbying had taken place with the Scottish Government about the how best to shape the census questions but there had been no change as to how to gather this information to ensure a good return. It was questioned how the Council could evidence this better; and
- the Chair informed Members that Bòrd na Gàidhlig had been working with the Scottish Government about how to evidence success.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the progress made in both monitoring and implementing Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) 3 on a quarterly basis utilising the Performance and Risk Management System support delivery of GLP3;
- ii. the progress and challenges regarding the implementation of some enabling actions in the Plan;
- iii. that challenges were largely due to the pandemic, which had impacted some projected project implementation and completion dates. However, the Gaelic Team had and continued to endeavour to adapt to an on-line or a blended approach to deliver the enabling actions.

## 7. Gaelic Language Plan Renewal

There had been circulated Report No. G/4/22 dated 16 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

In introducing the report and in referring to the previous item, officers indicated that as part of the Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) Renewal, there was an intention to issue a survey, post the Council elections, to provide a baseline in Highland and this would allow the Council to measure the impact of the next iteration of the GLP.

Members reflected on the progress on what had been achieved since the Council's first GLP in 2008, the first in Scotland, to the position reached in 2022. It was important to reflect on the progress which had been made and evidence that in GLP4. If the Council provided opportunities in terms of education and learners this had to be evidenced regarding how progressive and sustainable it was. Highland Council had worked hard to get where it was in terms of promoting Gaelic and it was vital to do everything to support it. Progression from Primary Gaelic Medium Education into Secondary Gaelic Medium Education still remained an issue but, by working with partners, there were opportunities to be grasped to benefit pupils in the 12-18 age group.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the process for Gaelic Language Plan renewal;
- ii. **NOTED** the planning implications and challenges regarding the renewal process;
- iii. **AGREED** that Gaelic language plans were unique to each public authority and subsequent editions of Gaelic language plans should show incremental progress towards delivery of the corporate service aims over time; and
- iv. **AGREED** that the Gaelic Committee review that the measures in place, or needed to be put in place, to monitor effectively the sustainability and progressive increase in the number of Gaelic speakers, and their continued use of the language and the opportunities afforded them.

## 8. Supporting and Growing Gaelic in our Communities - Workshop

There had been circulated Report No. G/5/22 dated 16 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance.

The workshop was proposed to take place in April 2022 but it was questioned, with the forthcoming Highland Council elections in May 2022, if this was the best time to carry out a workshop, given the potential of Councillors either leaving or not be re-elected. However, other Members felt that there was considerable experience within the current Council which would help inform and develop GLP4. Post elections, there would be other issues needing to be addressed and it would be better to start the process as soon as possible rather than delay it any further.

There was a huge thirst for Gaelic at the moment and it was important to move forward at pace with it. Staff and Members should also be encouraged to participate to comment on the issues raised at the workshop and to encourage Gaelic to be better incorporated into Council meetings. Pupils of Portree High School were to be involved in the workshop and this was a positive move regarding how best to involve schools and pupils in the development of the Plan.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the outline of the workshop; and
- ii. **AGREED** the proposed outcomes.

At the conclusion of formal business, the Chair reflected on the last 18 months of the Gaelic Committee and thanked Members for their sincerity when giving their view during that time. He thanked the Gaelic Team for their work undertaken during a challenging time and to Democratic Services for their support and advice.

The meeting concluded at 12.40 pm

## Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Geàrr-chunntas coinneamh **Comataidh na Gàidhlig** a chumadh ann an Seòmar na Comhairle, Prìomh-Oifis na Comhairle, Rathad Ghlinn Urchadain, Inbhir Nis air Diciadain 2 Màrt 2022 aig 10.30m.

### An làthair:

Mgr G Adam	Mgr D MacAoidh
Mgr R Bremner (Co-labhairt Bhidio)	Mgr G MacCoinnich
A' Bh-uas I Chaimbeul	Mgr C Rothach
A' Bh-uas S Chaimbeul	A' Bh-uas M NicPheadrais
Mgr A MacEanraig (Co-labhairt Bhidio)	Mgr D Rixson

### A' frithealadh na coinneimh:

A' Bh-uas K Lackie, Àrd-Oifigear Gnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas  
 A' Bh-uas L Walker, Manaidsear Leasachaidh na Gàidhlig  
 Mgr I Jackson, Oifigear Foghlaim (Co-labhairt Bhidio)  
 A' Bh-uas M A NicLeòid Mitchell, Oifigear Leasachaidh na Gàidhlig  
 A' Bh-uas S NicIllinnein, Prìomh Rianaire (Co-labhairt Bhidio)  
 Mgr A MacAonghais, Neach-cuideachaidh Rianachd

### Cuideachd a' frithealadh na coinneimh:-

A' Bh-uas J Dunlop, Stiùiriche, Seachdain na Gàidhlig (Co-labhairt Bhidio)  
 Mgr G MacPhàrlain, Rianaire, Seachdain na Gàidhlig (Co-labhairt Bhidio)  
 Mgr S Greumach, Àrd-Oifigear, An Comunn Gàidhealach  
 Mgr A Barnett, Neach-gairm a' Mhòid agus Stiùiriche, An Comunn Gàidhealach

**Tha rionnag air iomall na duilleige a' comharrachadh moladh a thèid chun na Comhairle. Tha co-dhùnaidhean gun chomharra fo ùghdarras na Comataidh.**

### Mgr C Rothach anns a' Chathair

### Gnothach

#### 1. Leisgeulan

Ghabhadh leisgeulan às leth Mhgr A MhicAonghais, na M-uas E Roddick agus Mhgr A Mhic na Ceàrdaich.

#### 2. Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

**THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR** do na leanas:-

Cuspair 5 – Mgr A MacEanraig (Foillseachadh Com-pàirt)  
 Mgr R Bremner – (Aithris Fhollaiseachd) a thaobh cuspair sam bith, air sàillibh a' cheangail aige le grunn bhuidhnean Gàidhlig, ach às dèidh dha na h-aithisgean a

leughadh is breithneachadh air an t-susbaint, cha robh e a' creidsinn gun robh na ceanglaichean seo a' tighinn gu bhith nam Foillseachadh Com-pàirt.

### 3. Naidheachdan Matha

Dh'innis an Cathraiche na naidheachdan matha a leanas:-

- Thathar an-dràsta a' sanasachd dà dhreuchd Ghàidhlig taobh a-staigh na Comhairle: Oifigear Com-pàirteachaidh Òigridh na Gàidhlig agus Ceumnaiche Inntearnach (Gàidhlig agus Meadhanan Sòisealta).
- Bha sgioba pròiseict Caisteal Inbhir Nis agus *Sporad na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean* air a' Ghàidhlig a chur an gnìomh ann an diofar phròiseactan. Bha am pròiseact air maoinachadh fhaighinn bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig gus dà dhreuchd Chomhairleach Gàidhlig a chruthachadh ann an sgioba a' phròiseict agus gus stiùireadh a thoirt seachad mu bhith a' toirt cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig an lùib a' phròiseict, gu h-àraid ann a bhith a' dealbhadh an ionaid luchd-tadhail ùir ann an Caisteal Inbhir Nis.
- Bha tabhartas ionmhasail na Comhairle air cothrom a thoirt do dh'Fhèisean nan Gàidheal maoinachadh a bharrachd fhaighinn bho Alba Chruthachail, Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean airson Fèis Blas a ruith. Bha fèis na bliadhna sa air a bhith a' gabhail a-steach obair chom-pàirteach le Tobar an Dualchais, VisitScotland, Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba, Fèis nan Tallachan Beaga aig SEALL agus Disathairne Fèill an Naoimh Anndra.
- De na 91 tagraidhean a chaidh a chur a-steach gu FilmG na bliadhna sa, bha 49 bho sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd. Dh'innis an Cathraiche dhan Chomataidh mu luchd-buannachaidh na Gàidhealtachd agus na h-earrannan san robh iad.
- Bha Pròiseact Slighe na Gàidhealtachd an Iar, agus Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn is nan Tròisichean, air fios a chur gu Sgioba na Gàidhlig airson taic is comhairle a shireadh mu bhith a' gabhail na Gàidhlig a-steach sa phròiseact aca *Gaelic People, Place and Passion* a bhiodh na phàirt de Bhliadhna Sgeulachdan na h-Alba. B' e an t-amas a' Ghàidhlig a thoirt gu luchd-amhairc na b' fharsainghe is an cànan a chomharrachadh thar Slighe na Gàidhealtachd an Iar, gu h-àraid seach gun robh pàirt dhen t-slighe taobh a-staigh sgìre na Gàidhealtachd.

**THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR** do na Naidheachdan Matha.

### 4. Seachdain na Gàidhlig

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/1/22 le ceann-latha 16 Gearran 2022 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas. Thug a' Bh-uas Joy Dunlop, Stiùiriche, agus Mgr Grant MacPhàrlain, Rianaire Seachdain na Gàidhlig seachad taisbeanadh mun chiad Seachdain na Gàidhlig a bha gu bhith air a cumail eadar 21-27 Màrt 2022.

'S e adhbhar Seachdain na Gàidhlig cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig a chomharrachadh. Tha i ag amas air togail is cleachdadh na Gàidhlig agus àireamh luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a mheudachadh, agus deagh ìomhaigh a bhrosnachadh a thaobh na Gàidhlig.



Bhathar air prògram oifigeil thachartasan, an dà chuid gu pearsanta is air-loidhne, a chur air dòigh ann an co-bhann le com-pàirtichean. Bha tachartasan gu bhith a' gabhail àite ann an coimhearsnachdan ionadail agus, airson seo a chuideachadh, bha pasgan ghoireasan ri fhaotainn. Bha pasgan ghoireasan air ullachadh cuideachd airson sgoiltean, an dà chuid sa Ghàidhlig is sa Bheurla. Bhathar an dòchas gum b' urrainnear raon farsaing a stèidheachadh airson a' phrògram gus am biodh rudeigin ann dhan a h-uile duine. Bha a' Ghàidhlig cudromach agus bha buaidh chudromach aice air an eaconamaidh agus, a' coimhead air adhart gu Seachdain na Gàidhlig, bha e cudromach na bha a' gabhail àite a thoirt am follais.

Rè an deasbaid, thog na Buill na puingean a leanas:-

- am measg nan tachartasan a bha Sgioba na Gàidhlig a' cur air dòigh, bhathar an dùil 'abairt/ainm-àite an latha' a chur suas air na meadhanan sòisealta agus chaidh fàilte a chur air a seo. Bhiodh seo math airson aire a ghlacadh agus bhiodh e na dheagh dhòigh air ceangal a thogail le luchd-tadhail chun na sgìre;
- tron phaindeamaig, cha robh na h-uimhir de chothrom air a bhith aig luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig ceangal a thogail le chèile agus bhiodh cothroman ùra an cois Seachdain na Gàidhlig airson tighinn còmhla a-rithist;
- chaidh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh iarraidh mun tachartas 'Tì & Aran-milis sa Ghàrradh, Port Rìgh' agus co-dhiù a bu chòir àiteachan a ghleidheadh ro làimh; agus
- bhiodh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mun chlàr-ama feumail.

Thug an Cathraiche taing dhan Bh-uas Dunlop agus do Mhgr MacPhàrlain, agus às dèidh sin:-

- THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR** do dh'iomairt Seachdain na Gàidhlig; agus
- DH'AONTAICH** a' Chomataidh na tachartasan a tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd an dùil a chumail airson cur ri iomairt Seachdain na Gàidhlig.

## 5. Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2021

**Foillseachadh Com-pàirt: Dh'fhoillsich Mgr A MacEanraig com-pàirt seach gun robh cìsean luchd-ealain air an liostadh is buill teaghlaich air pàigheadh fhaighinn agus, a rèir paragraf 5.6 dhen Chòd Ghiùlain ath-sgrùdaichte, dh'fhàg e a' choinneamh.**

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/2/22 le ceann-latha 23 Gearran 2022 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas.

Rè an deasbaid, thog na Buill na puingean a leanas:-

- chaidh meal-an-naidheachd a chur air a h-uile neach a ghabh com-pàirt ann a bhith a' cur Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail soirbheachail air dòigh ann an suidheachadh dùbhlanach. Bha am Mòd air còrdadh glan ris na bha an làthair agus bha e na thlachd mòr gum b' urrainnear a dhol air adhart leis a' cho-chruinneachadh shònraichte seo;
- bha an taobh air-loidhne dhen Mhòd air còrdadh ri daoine de gach aois;
- bha buannachd eaconamach mhath air a bhith aig a' Mhòd airson Inbhir Nis aig àm anabarrach;
- chaidh dòigh-obrach chruthachail a ghabhail os-làimh nuair a b' fheudar coimhead airson aitreabhan eadar-dhealaichte agus bha seo airidh air moladh; agus

- bha Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2021 air a dhol air adhart ann an dòigh gu math eadar-dhealaichte an coimeas ris na bha àbhaisteach. Bha Sgioba Gàidhlig na Comhairle fhèin airidh air moladh airson na taic a bha iad air a thoirt seachad. Bha Mòd na bliadhna sa gu bhith ann am Peairt agus bha e cudromach gun robhar a' dol air adhart le leasan a chaidh ionnsachadh bho 2021 gus am b' urrainnear cumail a' dol leis a' mhodail mheasgaichte a bha a' toirt cothrom do chom-pàirtichean pàirt a ghabhail air astar.

Thug riochdairean a' Chomuinn a bha an làthair iomradh air a' chuspair roimhe agus dh'innis iad do Bhuill gun robh iadsan cuideachd a' gabhail pàirt ann an Seachdain na Gàidhlig. A' tionndadh chun a' Mhòid, chaidh innse nach b' e dìreach aithris eaconamach a bh' anns an aithisg a bha fa chomhair na Comataidh an-diugh, ach cuideachd measadh tachartais. Bha am modail measgaichte air cothrom a thoirt do chom-pàirtichean is do dhaoine eile pàirt a ghabhail sa Mhòd bho dhiofar àiteachan air feadh an t-saoghail agus bhathar a' cur fàilte air a seo is ga bhrosnachadh. Chaidh na dùbhlain aithneachadh ach bhathar gu mòr an comain Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, an dà chuid a thaobh taic ionmhasail is taic stuthail.

Às dèidh dhan Chathraiche gach deagh dhùrachd a ghuidhe dhan Chomunn is iad ag ullachadh airson Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2022 ann am Peairt, **THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR**:-

- do thoraidhean Aithisg Mheasaidh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail; agus
- do dh'aithisg Innes & Campbell Communications.

## 6. Adhartas mu Choinneamh Plana na Gàidhlig 3

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/3/22 le ceann-latha 16 Gearran 2022 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas.

Rè an deasbaid, thog na Buill na puingeann a leanas:-

- a thaobh a' Ghàrraidh Ghàidhlig aig pròiseact ath-leasachaidh Caisteal Inbhir Nis, bha ceanglaichean aig a seo le amasan Buidheann Obrach Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde na Comhairle agus chaidh iomradh a thoirt cuideachd air sgrìobhaidhean eachdraidheil mu chleachdadh lusain is luibhean ann an leigheas. Bha ùidh mhòr an lùib seo, agus iomadh cothrom;
- b' e aon de na coimiseanan a chaidh a chur a-steach gu Spiorad: 360 (prògram coimiseanachaidh luchd-ealain airson pìosan àraid a leasachadh stèidhichte air sgeulachdan a bhathar air a chur a-steach gu *Spiorad na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean*), pìos ciùil traidiseanta Albannach a sgrìobhadh is a chlàradh, air a bhrosnachadh le gobhair fhiadhaich. Chaidh iomradh a thoirt air bàrdachd a chaidh a sgrìobhadh le eilthireach a Chanada leis an ainm 'Of Goats and Men', agus sin làn ainmean-àite a' buntainn ri Alba, dùthaich an sgrìobhadair. Bha gobhair air a bhith cudromach san eaconamaidh againn sna meadhan-aoisean is fionnadh ghobhar à Rùm ga chur a-null a dh'Ameireaga airson ghruagan-brèige;
- bha e cudromach a bhith mothachail mun Chunntas-shluaigh Nàiseanta a bha gu bhith ann a dh'aithghearr. Air sgàth suidheachadh na Gàidhealtachd a thaobh Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig is eile, bha e riatanach dèanamh cinnteach gun robh toraidhean a' chunntais-shluaigh a' cruthachadh deagh bhuil a thaobh maoinachadh. Bha coiteachadh air gabhail àite le Riaghaltas na h-Alba mun dòigh a b' fheàrr gus ceistean a' chunntais-shluaigh a chumadh ach

cha robh atharrachadh sam bith air a bhith ann a thaobh mar a dheigheadh am fiosrachadh seo a chruinneachadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gun robh deagh thoradh ann. Chaidh ceist a thogail a thaobh ciamar a dh'fhaodadh a' Chomhairle fianais a thoirt seachad ann an dòigh na b' fheàrr; agus

- dh'innis an cathraiche do Bhuill gun robh Bòrd na Gàidhlig air a bhith ag obair le Riaghaltas na h-Alba air dòighean gus fianais a thoirt seachad a thaobh soirbheas.

#### **THUG a' Chomataidh FA-NEAR:-**

- i. dhan adhartas a chaidh a dhèanamh ann a bhith a' sgrùdadh is a' buileachadh Plana na Gàidhlig 3 air stèidh ràitheil, le bhith a' cleachdadh PRMS airson taic a thoirt do libhrigeadh PnG3;
- ii. dhan adhartas is dha na dùbhlain a tha an lùib a bhith a' buileachadh cuid de ghnìomhan comasachaidh a' Phlana; agus
- iii. gu bheil na dùbhlain gu mòr air sàillibh Covid-19, a tha air buaidh a thoirt air cuid dhen bhuileachadh phròiseict is cuid de na cinn-latha crìochnachaidh ris an robh dùil. Ach a dh'aindeoin seo, tha Sgioba na Gàidhlig a' leantainn air adhart le obair air-loidhne no measgaichte airson na gnìomhan comasachaidh a libhrigeadh.

## **7. Ùrachadh Plana na Gàidhlig**

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/4/22 le ceann-latha 16 Gearran 2022 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas.

Ann a bhith a' toirt a-steach na h-aithisg is a' toirt iomradh air a' chuspair roimhe, dh'innis oifigearan gun robhar an dùil, mar phàirt de dh'ùrachadh Plana na Gàidhlig, suirbhidh a chur a-mach, às dèidh taghaidhean na Comhairle, airson bun-loidhne a thoirt seachad airson na Gàidhealtachd agus bheireadh seo cothrom dhan Chomhairle a' bhuaidh a bhiodh air an ath dheasachadh de PnG a thomhas.

Mheòraich Buill air an adhartas a bhathar air a choileanadh bho chiad Phlana Gàidhlig na Comhairle ann an 2008, a' chiad fhear ann an Alba, gu ruige an suidheachadh ann an 2022. Bha e cudromach meòrachadh air an adhartas a bhathar air a dhèanamh agus fianais a thogail air a sin ann am PnG4. Ma bha a' Chomhairle a' toirt seachad chothroman a thaobh foghlam is luchd-ionnsachaidh, dh'fheumadh fianais a bhith ann a thaobh seo agus dè cho adhartach is seasmach 's a bha e. Bha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air obrachadh gu dicheallach airson faighinn chun na h-ìre seo ann a bhith a' cur na Gàidhlig air adhart agus bha e riatanach a h-uile càil a dhèanamh airson taic a chur ris.

Bha dùbhlain fhathast an lùib a bhith a' dol air adhart bho Fhoghlam tron Ghàidhlig sa bhun-sgoil gu Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig san àrd-sgoil ach, tro bhith ag obair le com-pàirtichean, bha cothroman ann air am bu chòir greimeachadh airson buannachd a thoirt do sgoilearan ann am buidheann-aoise 12-18.

Às dèidh sin:-

- i. **THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR** dhan phròiseas airson a bhith ag ùrachadh Plana na Gàidhlig;
- ii. **THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR** do na buaidhean is na dùbhlain dealbhaidh a thaobh a' phròiseis ùrachaidh;
- iii. **DH'AONTAICH** a' Chomataidh gu bheil planaichean Gàidhlig àraidh do gach ùghdarras poblach agus gum bu chòir do dheasachaidhean às dèidh làimhe a bhith a' sealltainn adhartas mean air mhean a thaobh a bhith a' libhrigeadh amasan na seirbheis corporra thar ùine; agus
- iv. **DH'AONTAICH** a' Chomataidh gun dèanadh Comataidh na Gàidhlig ath-sgrùdadh air na ceumannan a bha stèidhichte mar-thà, no na ceumannan a bu chòir a stèidheachadh, airson sgrùdadh èifeachdach a dhèanamh air a' mheudachadh sheasmhach is adhartach ann an àireamh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig, agus mar a bha iad a' sìor chleachdadh na Gàidhlig agus na cothroman a bha ann dhaibh.

## 8. A' Toirt Taic dhan Ghàidhlig is Fàs air a' Ghàidhlig sna Coimhearsnachdan Againn – Bùth-obrach

Chuartaicheadh Aithisg Àir. G/5/22 le ceann-latha 16 Gearran 2022 leis an Àrd-Oifigear Ghnìomhach – Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas.

Bhathar an dùil a' bhùth-obrach a chumail sa Ghiblean 2022 ach chaidh ceist a thogail, ri linn taghaidhean Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd sa Chèitean 2022, co-dhiù is e seo an t-àm as fheàrr airson bùth-obrach, seach gum faodadh cuid de Chomhairlichean fàgail is gum faodadh nach biodh cuid eile air an taghadh a-rithist. Ach, bha Buill eile dhen bheachd gun robh eòlas susbainteach taobh a-staigh na Comhairle làithrich a dh'fhaodadh cuideachadh le fiosrachadh is obair-leasachaidh PnG4. Às dèidh nan taghaidhean, bhiodh cùisean eile ann ris am biodhte a' dèiligeadh agus bhiodh e na b' fheàrr am pròiseas a thòiseachadh cho luath 's a ghabhadh an àite dàil eile a chur ann.

Bha ùidh mhòr sa Ghàidhlig aig an àm seo agus bha e cudromach gluasad air adhart le sunnd. Bu chòir luchd-obrach is buill a bhrosnachadh gus com-pàirt a ghabhail is beachdachadh air na cùisean a thathar a' togail aig a' bhùth-obrach, agus airson brosnachadh a thoirt seachad a' Ghàidhlig a thoirt an lùib choinneamhan na Comhairle ann an dòigh na b' fheàrr. Bha sgoilearan Àrd-Sgoil Phort Rìgh gu bhith an lùib na bùth-obrach agus b' e deagh naidheachd a bha seo. Bha e cudromach coimhead ris na dòighean a b' fheàrr gus sgoiltean is sgoilearan a chom-pàirteachadh ann an obair-leasachaidh a' Phlana.

Às dèidh sin:-

- i. **THUG** a' Chomataidh **FA-NEAR** do dhreachd na bùth-obrach; agus
- ii. **DH'AONTAICH** a' Chomataidh na toraidhean a thathar a' moladh.

Aig co-dhùnadh a' ghnòthachais fhoirmeil, mheòraich an Cathraiche air na 18 mìosan mu dheireadh de Chomataidh na Gàidhlig agus thug e taing do Bhuill airson an cuid firinnteachd ann a bhith a' toirt seachad am beachdan tron àm seo. Thug e taing do Sgioba na Gàidhlig

airson na h-obrach a rinneadh tro àm dhùbhlach agus do na Seirbheisean Deamocratach airson an taic is an comhairle.

Chrìochnaich a' choinneamh aig 12.40f.

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Lochaber Committee** held remotely on **Monday, 7 March, 2022 at 9.00 a.m.**

### Present:

Mr B Allan  
Ms S Fanet

Mr A Henderson  
Mr D Rixson

### Officials in Attendance:

Mrs D Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager (Ross, Skye and Lochaber), Communities and Place

Mr M Culbertson, LEADER Development Officer, Infrastructure & Environment Service

Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager, Infrastructure & Environment Service

Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Performance and Governance Service

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council.  
All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.**

## BUSINESS

### 1. Interim Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr A Henderson was unanimously appointed as Chairman for this meeting.

### 2. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A Baxter and Mr N MacLean.

### 3. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

Transparency Statement:-

Item 5 – Mr D Rixson

### 4. Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Assessment of Applications Maoin Choimhearsnachdan Cladaich na Gàidhealtachd – Measadh Iarrtasan

There was circulated Report No. LA/10/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy. Members were asked to consider the application from the Caol Regeneration Company for final start up costs for the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina. This was one of three local applications deferred from round 1 of the fund in 2021. Members were only considering deferred applications at this meeting. All three projects had been contacted and

asked if they were in a position to re-submit their applications. Only Caol Regeneration Company had done so.

Members were invited to agree whether to approve, defer or reject the application. The Committee had £450,818.12 of Crown Estates revenues for distribution within the Lochaber area.

Officers provided details of the application and in particular it was highlighted that the applicant had raised £1.2m in match funding. The applicant had requested £100,000 from Coastal Communities Funding for finishing works for the Marina. If funding was approved then it was intended that the Marina would open in July, 2022 in order to capture the peak season which was critical for their business plan. In terms of the Lochaber Highland Coastal Communities Fund priorities set for round 1 in 2021, the project was not technically in a remote rural area and its main purpose was not to alleviate current pressures caused by visitor numbers. However, it was noted that this grant, if awarded, would come out of the recent round 2 allocation, for which specific priorities had not yet been set.

Members supported the application and the Committee **AGREED** to award Highland Coastal Communities Fund funding as follows:-

Caol Regeneration Company – Thomas Telford Corpach Marina – Final Start Up Costs - £100,000

## 5. Islands Infrastructure Fund – Allocation of Funding

**Transparency Statement: Mr D Rixson made a Transparency Statement in respect of the Foxglove, Isle of Rum Community Trust application in that he had a connection to this application by reason of his position on the Isle of Rum Community Trust. However, having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest to declare as it was a Council appointment and non financial, but nevertheless he decided not to take part in the discussion or decision on this application. Mr Rixson requested that this Statement be recorded in the Minutes.**

There was circulated Report No. LA/11/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy which invited Members to agree recommended projects to receive an award of funding from The Highland Council through the Islands Infrastructure Fund.

Reference was made to an application regarding road maintenance on the Isle of Rum and it was queried why this had not come forward for Islands Infrastructure funding. The reason for this would be checked and a response provided to Councillor Henderson.

It was queried if there would be any outstanding Islands Infrastructure funding available should the projects in the report be approved. It was advised that the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee had already approved projects for funding and should the Lochaber Committee approve the projects in the report, the entire Islands Infrastructure funding would then be allocated. The focus had been on how quickly projects could be delivered in order to make recommendations to Members. If projects were not able to go ahead the money would need to be reallocated, but this was not anticipated.

Members supported the recommended projects and therefore, the Committee **AGREED** the recommended projects outlined in Appendix 1 and shown below to receive an award of funding from The Highland Council through the Islands Infrastructure Fund as per the individual amounts detailed:-

Isle of Canna Hub, Canna Harbour - £42,760

Foxglove, Isle of Rum Trust - £20,000

An Laimhrig Community Hub – Isle of Eigg Trading Company - £50,000

Small Isles Road Infrastructure Improvements - £17,240

The meeting ended at 9.30 a.m.



## The Highland Council

Minutes of Special Meeting of the **Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee** held remotely via Microsoft Teams on 7 March 2022 at 10.30 am.

### Present:

Mrs I Campbell  
Dr I Cockburn

Mr A MacInnes

### In attendance:

Mrs D Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager, Communities and Place

Ms S Lamb, EFF Regional Development Officer, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy  
Mr D Mackenzie, Corporate Communications and Engagement Officer, Chief Executive's Office

Mrs A MacArthur, Administrative Assistant, Performance and Governance

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.**

### Business

#### 1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

There were no apologies for absence.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Assessment of Applications Maoin Coimhearsnachdan Cladaich na Gàidhealtachd – Measadh Iartasan

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/008/22 dated 24 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

The Committee **APPROVED** the following funding:

- a. Ullapool Harbour Trust      £80,000

The Chair thanked members and officers for their support during his term as Chair. This Area Committee had had a very positive benefit for the area. Members thanked each other, the Chair and officers for their support.

The meeting closed at 10.40 pm.

## The Highland Council

Minutes of **Special Meeting** of the **City of Inverness Area Committee** held **remotely** on **Thursday, 8 March 2022** at 9.00am.

### Present:

Mr C Aitken	Mr A Graham
Mr R Balfour	Mr J Gray
Mr B Boyd	Mr A Jarvie
Mr I Brown	Mrs I MacKenzie
Mrs C Caddick	Mr D Macpherson
Miss J Campbell	Mr R MacWilliam
Mrs H Carmichael	Mrs B McAllister
Mrs M Davidson	Mrs T Robertson
Mr D Fraser	

### Officials in Attendance:

Ms A Clark, Head of Policy & Reform  
 Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager  
 Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager  
 Mrs O Bayon, Committee Officer

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.**

**Mrs H Carmichael in the Chair**

### Business

#### 1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr A Christie, Mr K Gowans, Ms E Knox, Ms E Roddick and Mr C Smith.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

The Committee **NOTED** the following connections to this item and the Members concerned confirmed that they would leave as necessary –

Mrs M Davidson – Trustee of Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association  
 Mr D Fraser – Trustee of Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association  
 Mrs Carolyn Caddick – Inshes Park Community Association  
 Mr J Gray – connection to Crown Church  
 Mrs I MacKenzie – connection to Crown Church

### 3. **Placed Based Investment Programme** **Prògram Tasgaidh Stèidhte air Àite**

There had been circulated Report CIA/16/22 dated 24 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

During discussion, it was confirmed that it was proposed that the Ness Hydro Scheme should be refused on this occasion due to the level of funding which had been requested but that there should be encouragement to reapply when further Place Based Investment Programme monies were made available.

Also, it was noted that the Active Botanical Community Garden project had been withdrawn but this was on the basis that the aim was to reapply in future years.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** to invest £79,000 in the Victorian Market, Market Hall and Fish Market refurbishment project;
- ii. **AGREED** to invest £335,499 in the Inverness Campus Sports Development project; and
- iii. **AGREED** to allocate funds to the following projects up to the total of £225,934:-
  - a. Glen Urquhart Public Hall (Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association) £45,000;
  - b. Inshes Wheeled Sports Park (Inshes Community Association) £93,191;
  - c. Crown Church – a community resource (Church of Scotland) £74,343; and
  - d. Ardersier Outdoor Gym (Ardersier Community Hub) £13,400.

The meeting ended at 9.15am.

## Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held remotely on Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 10.30 am.

### Present:

Mr L Fraser  
Mrs L MacDonald

Mr P Sagers

### In attendance:

Mrs A Clark, Head of Service Community Support and Engagement, Communities and Place  
Mr L Hannah, Ward Manager, Communities and Place  
Mr J Mitchell, Principal Housing Officer, Housing and Property  
Mr R Porteous, Roads Operations Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy  
Mrs M Grigor, Finance Manager, Resources and Finance  
Ms L Harrison, Accountant, Resources and Finance  
Mrs L Dunn, Principal Administrator, Performance and Governance

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.**

### Mr L Fraser in the Chair

#### PRELIMINARIES

Prior to commencing the meeting, the Committee **AGREED** that Mr L Fraser be appointed Chair for the meeting.

The Chair made a statement on behalf of the Committee expressing their shock at the tragic loss of their colleague and Area Chair, Mr Tom Heggie. Continuing the Chair stated that he would be hugely missed and the Committee sent their deepest condolences to his family during this difficult time.

#### BUSINESS

##### 1. **Apologies for Absence** **Leisgeulan**

There were no apologies for absence.

##### 2. **Declarations of Interest** **Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

Item 5: Mr P Sagers (Transparency Statement)  
Item 6: Mr P Sagers

##### 3. **Housing Revenue Account: Garage Rents 2022/23** **Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais: Màil Gharaidsean 2022/23**

There had been circulated Report No NC/**01**/22 dated 4 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, it was indicated that maintenance costs would increase as a result of rising inflation and in view of this it was proposed that a 1.5% rent increase should be applied.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** a 1.5% rent increase be applied to Nairnshire Garages and Garage sites.

**4. Area Roads Capital Programme 2022/23  
Prògram Calpa Rathaidean Sgìreil 2022/23**

There had been circulated Report No NC/**02**/22 dated 8 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

During discussion, appreciation was expressed for the allocation that had been made within the programme for strengthening road edges.

The Committee **APPROVED** the proposed 2022/23 Area Roads Capital Programme for the Nairn Area.

**5. Nairnshire Repurposing COVID-19 Fund and Place Based Investment Fund Proposals  
Molaidhean airson Maoin Ath-chleachdaidh COVID-19 agus Maoin Tasgaidh Stèidhichte air Àite Inbhir Narann**

**Transparency Statement: Mr Saggars had a connection to this item by reason of being the Council's appointee as a director of Nairn BID. However, having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest to declare. This was because he had no involvement with the applications made for funding from the Ward's Place Based Investment Fund. He had requested that this Statement be recorded in the Minutes.**

There had been circulated Report No NC/**03**/22 dated 21 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

During discussion, Members welcomed the cross agency working that had been undertaken to deliver this wide range of projects which would contribute to the wellbeing of the community and enhance the town.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** the:

- i. repurposing of £3,200 from the Ward COVID19 Fund to support Amenity Services with repairs and improvements to the Birch Road play area in Nairn; and
- ii. proposed allocation of the Ward's remaining balance of £65,000 Place Based Investment Funds as follows in line with Community Partnership recommendations:
  - Accessibility Projects
    - a) Nairn Access Panel, The Links Beach - £10,000
  - Improving Health & Wellbeing Outcomes
    - b) Health & Wellbeing in Nairnshire Schools - £9,000
    - c) Listening Benches, Nairn Links - £2,000

d) Nairn Community Drop in Hub - £1,000

- Improving Local Infrastructure to Stimulate Economic Growth

- e) Traffic Calming / Pedestrianisation – The Brae Feasibility study £3,000
- f) Gathering places / Market Spaces Nairn High Street - £7,000
- g) Nairnshire Visitor & Experience Centre and Regeneration Hub Nairn Improvement Community Enterprise (NICE) - £5,000
- h) Nairn High Street Vennels Refresh – Nairn BID £7,000
- i) Nairnshire Farmers’ Showfield – Nairn Bowling Club feasibility study £3,000
- j) Nairn Common Good Fund Harbour Street Public Toilets & Motorhome Provision £18,000.

## 6. **Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP)** **Prògram Tasgaidh Stèidhichte air Àite**

**Declaration of Interest: Mr P Saggars declared an interest in this item as he was a director of Nairn River Enterprise Ltd (Green Hive) and, in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of the revised Code of Conduct, he left the meeting for this item.**

There had been circulated Report No NC/**04**/22 dated 22 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

\* As the meeting was no longer quorate, the Committee **AGREED to recommend** to the Council that the:

- i. following applications be offered a Place Based Investment Programme grant:
  - a. Nairn Sports Club Bounce Back - £35,000
  - b. Nairn St Ninian JFC Floodlight Upgrade - £5,094
  - c. Nairn St Ninian Bowling Club Disabled Toilet Renovation - £4,400
- ii. residual funding of £34,234, be awarded to Team Hamish Links Regeneration (Phase 2).

## 7. **Nairn Common Good Fund: Audited Accounts 2020/21, 2021/22 Quarter 3 Monitoring Report and General Update and 2022/23 Budget** **Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann: Cunntasan Sgrùdaichte 2020/21, Aithisg Sgrùdaidh Cairteal 3 2021/22 agus Cunntas Coitcheann às Ùr agus Buidseat 2022/23**

There had been circulated Joint Report No NC/**05**/22 dated 11 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Resources and Finance and Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

During discussion, it was confirmed that the Nairn Common Good Fund budget for 2022/23 included provision for income from the Common Good car parks. It was further clarified that future use of the Harbour Street toilets would form part of the feasibility study and the outcome of this would inform the improvement works required. Discussions were ongoing with the Housing and Property Service regarding a contribution towards the cost of future improvement works. A report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to agree the scope of the feasibility study.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED**:

- i. the Nairn Common Good Fund Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 (Appendix 1) and the final 21/22 Monitoring Statement (Appendix 2);
- ii. the position of the Nairn Common Good Fund and 2021/22 outturn as shown in the Quarter 3 monitoring statement against budget (Appendix 3);
- iii. Nairn Common Good Fund budget for 2022/23 detailed within the report (Appendix 4); and
- iv. as part of the 2022/23 budget, a delegated property maintenance budget with an expenditure authority level of £300.

The meeting was concluded at 11am.