

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee** held in **Courtroom, Grantown Courthouse, Grantown-on-Spey/Remotely** on 3 November 2025 at 10.30 am

Present:

Mr J Bruce
Ms M Cockburn

Mr R Jones
Mr B Lobban

In attendance:

Mr L Hannah, Community Development Manager
Ms C Mackenzie, Principal Housing Officer
Mr R Bartlett, Principal Traffic Officer
Ms R Ross, Committee Officer

Also in attendance:

Inspector C Johnson, Police Scotland
Area Group Commander K Stevenson, SFRS

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/Transparency Statement Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/ Aithris Fhollaiseachd

There were no Declarations of Interest or Transparency Statements.

3. Police - Area Performance Report Poileas - Geàrr-chunntas air Coileanadh Sgìreil

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/19/25 by the Area Commander (South Highland Area Command), Police Scotland.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- the hard work of the police in Badenoch and Strathspey was commended as the increase in detection rates was due to an increase in police activity;
- concern was expressed about the increase in fraud and the anxiety it was causing in communities and, it was queried whether the police could monitor social media regarding fraud and scams;
- it was queried whether there would be resource to provide education for young people on the prevention of hate crime;

- information was sought and provided on the activity undertaken by the Harm Prevention Officer, and the possible reasons for the increase in breach of bail conditions offences;
- it was a retrograde step to provide such widespread statistics which made it difficult to see what was happening locally;
- the increase in drug offence arrests was welcomed;
- it was understood that it was very difficult for Police Officers to attend Community Council meetings and this meant that there was not much communication between the Police and communities;
- in response to a question, it was confirmed that mobile patrols in Badenoch and Strathspey did not carry defibrillators although defibrillators were carried in roads policing and armed response vehicles; and
- the work of the wildlife officer was commended and, in response to a question, the Inspector undertook to provide details of the wildlife and domestic animal offences during the reporting period.

The Committee **NOTED** progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2023–2026 Year 1 attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 01 April 2025 – 30 September 2025.

4. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Performance Report Aithisg Seirbheis Smàlaidh is Teasairginn na h-Alba

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/20/25 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- thanks were extended to former Senior Chief Officer, Nick Nethercott for his work with the Committee and best wishes were extended to him for his new role;
- it was important to highlight the fact that the reporting of deliberate fires had increased and that as summers became hotter and longer, the setting of deliberate, outdoor fires was something everyone should be concerned about;
- the public appreciation for the work done by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was emphasised;
- the community engagement work undertaken during the summer was commended;
- information was sought and provided on virtual reality driving courses, and the ongoing work to update the Community Asset Register; and
- the praise for game keepers, local estates and communities for their help during wildfires was welcomed.

The Committee scrutinised and **NOTED** the Area Performance Report.

5. Housing Performance Report – 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 Aithisg Choileanaidh Stiùireadh Taigheadais R2 2025/26

There is circulated Report No BSAC/21/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- information was sought and provided on the reasons for the increase in the number of homeless presentations;
- concern was expressed that during quarters one and two no houses had been allocated to anyone on the general housing list and, the Principal Housing Officer undertook to provide Mr Lobban with more information on the reasons for this;
- it created a feeling of despair when people who had been on the housing list for an extended period of time felt like they had no chance of being allocated a house;
- in response to a question, it was confirmed that the number of homeless presentations in Badenoch and Strathspey were in line with the rest of Highland;
- the low number of antisocial behaviour incidents was welcomed and the housing team was commended for their hard work in this area, although the importance of continuing to support tenants was highlighted; and
- on the point being raised, it was confirmed that the housing team were working to build relationships with local police and conducting joint visits concerning antisocial behaviour where appropriate.

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025.

6. Badenoch and Strathspey Area Place Plan Update
Cunntas às Ùr mu Phlana Àite Sgìre Bhàideanach is Shrath Spè

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/22/25 by the Chief Officer, Housing and Communities.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- the amount of detail in the housing part of the paper was commended and it was suggested that this level of detail should be included in housing reports;
- the importance of looking at the information in detail to decide what next steps needed to be taken was emphasised;
- the importance of linking the Area Place Plan with the NHS Highland District Plan for Badenoch and Strathspey and insuring the public had an understanding of both plans and how they would affect them, was highlighted;
- although the population of people 65 and older in Badenoch and Strathspey was increasing the population of children was declining steeply. It was vital that something was done to help increase the working-age population otherwise some schools would no longer have a sufficient number of pupils to remain sustainable;
- it was requested that future versions of the report included a focus on small businesses, as ensuring that Badenoch and Strathspey was an attractive place for people to set up and run small businesses would encourage younger people to move to, or remain in, the area; and
- in response to a question, it was confirmed that the report would be shared with Community Councils.

The Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** to adopt the Badenoch and Strathspey APP, using it as a tool to inform and support decision making about Badenoch and Strathspey;
- ii. **AGREED** to support and promote the plan where possible in terms of its consideration within other plans, strategies, development and funding opportunities across or impacting the Badenoch and Strathspey area; and
- iii. **NOTED** the next steps for progressing the work set out in the plan.

7. Aviemore Primary School – Developer Contributions
Bun-Sgoil na h-Aghaidh Mòire – Tabhartasan Luchd-leasachaidh

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/23/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

The Committee **AGREED** that this item be withdrawn pending further discussion between Members and officers.

8. Ward Discretionary Budget
Buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàird

During discussion it was stated that an increase in the amount of money available in the ward Discretionary fund would be welcomed.

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Ward Discretionary Fund applications had been approved since the last meeting of the Committee:-

Applicant	Project Title	Amount Paid
KHS Parent Council	All-terrain Wheelchair	£318
Fèis Spè	October Fèis Week 2025 – Loch Insh water sports	£1,250

9. Invitation to Pay Income
Teachd a-steach bho Chuireadh gus Pàigheadh

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/24/25 by Chief Officer Operations and Maintenance.

During discussion the following points were raised:-

- in response to a request, the Principal Traffic Officer undertook to provide Members with information on the income of shared car parks with Forestry Land Scotland, the compulsory charged carpark in Aviemore and on street parking;
- information was sought and provided on the reasons for the annual loss of £350 from Ardvonie carpark in Kingussie and the Principal Parking Officer undertook to liaise with Members to address several concerns about the carpark and to arrange a site visit;

- attention was drawn to the high income from car parking in Carrbridge and the low income from the carpark in Grantown, although it was often very busy, and more information on this was requested; and
- a future update was requested on the Spey Street carpark was requested.

The Committee **NOTED** the earmarked funds for this Committee from the Invitation to pay Parking of £2,546.51.

10. Minutes

Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated the Minutes of Meeting of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee held on 4 August 2025 which were approved by the Council on 18 September 2025, which were **NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am.