

Communities and Place Committee

Thursday 29 January 2026

Good News Items

Communities and Place Winter Weather Response

Since the New Year, particularly challenging winter weather conditions have required a collective response across the Service, with teams supporting our Roads colleagues throughout this period.

Fleet staff have worked exceptionally hard to keep gritters operational and to ensure that all other winter fleet vehicles were fully serviced and ready for use.

Colleagues in Waste, Amenities, and Bereavement Services have continued to deliver essential services wherever possible, while also providing valuable support through footpath gritting and replenishing grit bins.

Along with many notes of thanks and praise received from members of the public, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all operatives, along with their supervisors and managers, for their commitment and hard work.





New Waste Shredders

Waste Management have recently completed the procurement of two industrial waste shredders. The shredders were delivered to Highland on the 22 December. The shredders will be operated in Caithness at the Seater waste transfer site and in Inverness at the Longman waste transfer site. The shredders will process bulky residual waste such as unwanted items of furniture. The shredders will significantly help in realising haulage efficiencies through achieving higher payloads of the waste that we transport.



Inverness Crematorium Recent Audit

A very positive report has been received from the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities following an inspection of Inverness Crematorium in October 2025. The inspector found that the Crematorium complied with the three key areas of compliance and found an excellent level of service provision. The audit involved scrutinising 6 separate key areas of service delivery, through discussion and review of more than 80 points of interest. The 3 key areas of compliance audited:

1. The Cremation Regulations 2009, relating to statutory documentation;
2. The Defra Process Guidance notes 5/12, relating to cremation;
3. The Code of Cremation Practice, relating to all aspects of the service.

Training Success

Congratulations go to two members of the team at the Crematorium, Neil Cooper and Jamie Balfour, who have recently passed their Training and Evaluation Scheme for Crematorium Technicians.

Letters to lost loved ones Post box

Good feedback has been received on the new post box installed at the Crematorium in early December. Located within the peaceful memorial garden, the post box provides a private, secure way for families to send letters and cards to those no longer with us and a quiet space for reflection and sharing memories. This hopefully will provide comfort to those coping with loss and a special way to honour and remember loved ones all year round. The post box is sensitively and discreetly serviced by our Crematorium team to always ensure the utmost care and confidentiality.

