

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **City of Inverness Area Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glen Urquhart Road, Inverness on Monday, 17 November 2025 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Mr C Ballance	Mrs J Hendry
Mr I Brown	Ms E Knox (Remote)
Mr M Cameron	Mrs I MacKenzie (Remote)
Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair (Remote)	Mr R MacKintosh
Mr A Christie	Ms K MacLean (Remote)
Ms H Crawford (Remote)	Mr D Macpherson
Mr D Fraser (Remote)	Mr D McDonald
Mr K Gowans	Mrs M Reid
Mr A Graham	Mrs T Robertson
Dr M Gregson	

In attendance:

Mr D Haas, Senior Community Development Manager
 Mr M Greig, Community Development Manager
 Mr L Hannah, Community Development Manager
 Mr J Kelman, Programme Manager (Property)
 Mr K Forbes, Property Manager (Estates Management)
 Ms A Mitchell, Principal Housing Manager
 Mr N Osborne, Climate Change Manager
 Ms P Betts, Common Goods Find Officer
 Ms L MacKellaich, Road Safety Officer
 Miss J MacLennan, Joint Democratic Services Manager
 Mrs K Arnott, Committee Officer

Also in attendance:

Mr A McLean, Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue
 Ms A Howie, Head Teacher and pupils (Cauldeen Primary School) (Remote)

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 I Brown in the Chair

Business

1. Calling of the Roll and Apologies for Absence **Gair a' Chlàir agus LeasePlan**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr B Boyd, Mr D Gregg, Mr A MacKintosh and Mr A Sinclair.

2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement **Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/ Aithris Fhollaiseachd**

The Committee **NOTED** the following Transparency Statements:-

Items 5, 6, 7, 9b, 10, 12i, 12ii and 12 iii – Mr A Christie

3. Presentation – Cauldeen Primary School – Visit to 10 Downing Street Taisbeanadh – Bun-Sgoil a' Challtainn – Tadhal gu 10 Sràid Downing

The Committee received a presentation from Ms A Howie, Head Teacher at Cauldeen Primary School, accompanied by a group of P7 pupils. The presentation was prepared by Jorgie-Jayne, Isabella, Caitlyn, Cassie and Emily. They outlined their experience of visiting 10 Downing Street and meeting the Prime Minister.

The group travelled from Inverness to London. Security procedures were explained, and pupils described seeing Larry the cat and learning about the rules for visitors. They attended the “Lessons at 10” session, created by Akshata Murty, where they learned about the role of Cabinet meetings and the layout of the Cabinet Room. The group met the Prime Minister in the garden during lunch and had a photograph taken with him. Pupils also shared learning about the Gunpowder Plot and its historical significance.

Members commended the pupils for an excellent and engaging presentation and thanked the Head Teacher for supporting the visit. It was acknowledged that the experience provided valuable insight into national government and encouraged interest in politics. Appreciation was expressed, and the Provost invited the pupils to visit Inverness Town House before Christmas, with an offer to arrange a tour and refreshments.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation from the pupils of Cauldeen Primary School and **AGREED** that arrangements be made for the pupils to visit Inverness Town House before Christmas.

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

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/36/25 by the Local Senior Officer for Highlands.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- the report was welcomed and commended the work of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in prevention and community engagement;
- appreciation was expressed for initiatives such as BikerDown, which provided practical training for motorcyclists on how to respond at the scene of an accident. Members observed the high demand and positive feedback for the course;
- the young driver safety programme was praised for its importance in reducing road traffic collisions and fatalities. It was highlighted that the initiative was being rolled out across Inverness schools and might expanded to other areas;
- concern was raised about the continuing number of road traffic collisions and their emotional and financial impact. Reference was made to a recent fatal accident on the Road to the Isles and the need to review crash barrier standards;
- the significant cost of a fire-related fatality was discussed, confirmed as approximately £1 million per incident. It was observed that the service now responded to a wider range of emergencies, including road traffic collisions (RTCs), water rescues and rescues from height;
- support was expressed for the continuation of Community Safety Advocates and

partnership working with Police Scotland and the Highland Council to address anti-social behaviour and improve community safety;

- a query was raised regarding the impact of vaping compared to smoking on fire-related incidents. Officers advised that vaping had overtaken smoking in prevalence but had not resulted in a noticeable change in fire-related injuries or casualties; and
- Members emphasised the importance of sustained funding and collaboration to maintain service capacity and deliver prevention programmes effectively.

The Committee **NOTED** the attached Area Performance Report.

**5. Yearly Annual Report on Inverness City Centre Business Improvement Bid
Aithisg Bhliadhnail mu Thagradh Leasachadh Gnothachais Meadhan Baile Inbhir Nis**

Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item in his capacity as a Non-Executive Director on Inverness BID. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/37/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive - Place.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- the contribution of Business Improvement District (BID) to city centre upkeep and community safety was commended. Reference was made to initiatives such as floral displays, hanging baskets, street pastors, taxi marshals, and seasonal campaigns including Easter and Christmas. BID's role in supporting events such as vintage car displays and improvements to the Victorian Market was highlighted;
- it was observed that BID had provided significant support to businesses during consultations on Academy Street proposals and had reflected Members' views to the Highland Council. Concern was expressed that a formal response from the Council had not yet been provided;
- the importance of BID in assisting tourists and visitors was highlighted. Concern was raised about the increase in graffiti across the city and surrounding areas, and it was suggested that a report would be brought back on options to address graffiti through partnership working;
- Members stressed the need for continued collaboration with BID to maintain a welcoming and attractive city centre. It was suggested that opportunities be explored for an in-person visitor information service following the closure of VisitScotland's Tourist Information Centre, recognising that not all visitors rely on digital platforms;
- the potential to expand the BID area or establish a new business district for the Longman was discussed. It was confirmed that BID boundaries were reviewed at renewal and that any new BID must be business-led;
- the need to embrace new technologies and consider initiatives such as a digital café was raised, alongside recognition of BID's role in supporting intergenerational activities and employment opportunities;
- the gull management project was discussed. Officers confirmed that work was ongoing with BID, Nature Scot and specialists to develop a plan for next year, with early action required to ensure delivery;

- concern was expressed regarding the cost of levy collection and the complexity of the process. It was observed that the Council provided a high level of service with collection rates above 90%, despite the administrative challenges; and
- Members emphasised the importance of securing sustainable funding to support BID and related initiatives, particularly in light of uncertainty around national funding streams such as the Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

The Committee:

- NOTED** that a Members Briefing was held on 9 October 2025 with BID representatives;
- NOTED** the work detailed in the report;
- NOTED** the ongoing development of partnership working in the key areas identified;
- AGREED** that a report be brought back on measures to address graffiti across the city and surrounding areas; and
- AGREED** the future annual report format would include a presentation by representatives of the BID Board, in future. This would also be applied to any other relevant operational BIDs within the remit of the Committee.

6. Town House Feasibility Study Action Plan Plana-gnìomha Sgrùdadh Iomchaidheachd Taigh a' Bhaile

Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item in his capacity as a Non-Executive Director on Inverness BID. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/38/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive - Place.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- several Members spoke of the importance of maintaining the Town House as an iconic
- historical and civic centre for the people of Inverness;
- concern was expressed that there were areas of dampness, gutters requiring maintenance, peeling paint and attention was drawn to the challenges of maintaining an old building, and to the maintenance programme that was in place;
- it was suggested that the intended £400k saving to the Council from removing office staff from the Town House had not been fully realised, and it was pointed out that the savings to the Council were a loss to the Inverness Common Good Fund, which owned the Town House, and of which all Council Members were trustees. Assurance was provided that correct governance had been followed in relation to all decisions regarding the Town House, including the decision by the Council to stop using it for office space. However, it was pointed out that since this decision, some space within the Town House had been used for short term office accommodation and Members urged that should the Council require office space in Inverness, that the Town House be considered;
- an explanation was sought, and provided, for Police Scotland using the building without paying rent, this having been part of a negotiated agreement, with benefit to the city centre of Inverness of having a localised police presence;
- with reference to the age of the building, many of the challenges to modern use of the it as office space were referred to, including lack of compliance with modern

accessibility legislation and challenges around electrical cabling and the use of technology. The benefits of the use of the venue for weddings and other events were highlighted;

- an explanation was sought, and provided, for the proposed Project Board being officer-only at this stage and plans for wider community and stakeholder engagement and collaboration in future were summarised. Initial plans were for the Project Board to report to every City of Inverness and Area Committee;
- the Town House's proximity to the Castle was considered key to its future, and once the Castle Visitor Experience was operational, consideration could be given to possible complimentary uses of the Town House, including the provision of catering facilities, though attention was also drawn to the catering provided within the newly refurbished Victorian Market;
- there were many vacant office spaces for rent in and around the city centre, making the Town House a less attractive option for office use, given its drawbacks;
- recent Open Doors events at the Town House had been popular and were welcomed;
- the improvements to the external stonework of the building were welcomed and an explanation sought, and provided, of any implications for the future use of the building that might have arisen as a result of the external funding obtained for the exterior improvements;
- several Members considered that the use of the Town House for residential accommodation was not appropriate;
- information was sought, and provided, on the investment strategy work planned for the building the following year, which it was hoped would not interfere with taking advantage of any 'quick wins' for income generation;
- if the Town House was to be used as a tourist attraction, it was hoped that local people would not have to pay the same high entry fees etc, and that appropriate care was taken of the valuable artefacts within the building; and
- it was suggested that public money, in addition to Common Good Fund money, had been spent on the Town House.

Following discussion, officers explained many of the challenges with the Town House, including ongoing maintenance, accessibility, electrical and heating systems, and the many constraints as a result of the age of the building.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the factors considered when assessing the viability of current and future uses of the Town House;
- ii. **NOTED** structure of the Feasibility Study and how the Town House has been broken down into zones each with their own business models in terms of future development;
- iii. **NOTED** the resource implications for the Inverness Common Good Fund of the potential investment programme required to realise the vision in the feasibility study both in terms of recommended staffing models and refurbishment programmes;
- iv. **NOTED** the recommendations of the Feasibility Study noting that a further report would be taken to the next appropriate meeting of the Committee updating on the potential of implementation and seeking budgetary approval for phased delivery of any works programme in accordance with available resources, noting that steps will be taken to ensure maximisation of available third-party funding sources;
- v. **AGREED** to the setting up of an officer Project Board; and

- vi. **NOTED** the need to reappraise the ICGF Investment Strategy in the light of any works that may be recommended for progress by the Project Board.

7. Housing Management Performance Report Q2 2025-26 Aithisg Coileanaidh Stiùireadh Taigheadais – Q2 2025/26

Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item in his capacity as General Manager of Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/39/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place. There was commentary on the report by Principal Housing Officer during which it was highlighted that the majority of rent arrear cases were below £500 and over the next 6 months targeted focus within the Housing team would be on the management of low level balances, identifying opportunities for early intervention and working with colleagues in the Welfare team.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- there had been an increase in homeless presentations. Housing Options Officers worked with service users to ensure they were being provided with the correct advice for their circumstances. In Highland and across Scotland one of the main reasons for homeless presentations was the difficulty in accessing the private rental sector;
- there had been an increase in housing allocations in Inverness this year mainly due to a number of new build developments. It was suggested that the Council could be a victim of its own success in sorting out homeless cases, as this could attract more homeless presentations. It was advised that the demand for allocations was mainly driven by local residents. Also, an opinion was made that the Council might want to be cautious about substantial rent increases in light of the high amount of rent areas.
- there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour cases, and it was queried if this was down to improved reporting of these incidents. It was also welcomed that there had been an increase in the number of anti-social behaviour complaints that had been resolved. There had been a focus on training of the Housing team on recording incidents in the system and tenants, through community engagement events, had been encouraged to make complaints which could account for some of the increase in anti-social behaviour incidents reported;
- more information was requested on the number of rent arrears cases that had been written off and the duration of rent arrears. In terms of homeless presentations, there was a shortage of larger types of accommodation and an analysis of the waiting list on what housing type was being requested was sought. This would help the Council decide on what type of accommodation to focus future housing investment;
- it was queried if the information in the report was shared with Tenant Associations and feedback on their ideas and suggestions would be useful. The Council's Tenant Participation Officers worked closely with Housing Management Officers and there were also tenants' newsletters with information on housing improvements and progress and inviting them to give their views on housing matters;
- it was queried how many rental arrears cases were due to universal credit payments not being made. An undertaking was given to provide Members with information on

the proportion of rent arrears that were universal credit and by tenants that were working. It was recognised that the more rental that was paid in full the more money there would be in the Housing Revenue Account for general repairs and improvements on the Council's housing stock;

- concern was expressed that more than half the tenants in Culloden and Ardersier were in rent arrears. Given the cost-of-living crises, it was difficult to see how this could be resolved. In terms of help provided to those tenants in rental arrears, it was advised that referrals were made to third sector agencies, for example, in order that they could get help with their energy costs. Referrals were also made to the Council's Welfare team. There was a need to ensure that rent arrears repayment plans were affordable and sustainable for tenants; and
- it was queried if the Council had a policy for employees who were in tied accommodation and what plans were in place to secure their future housing needs. It was advised that Janitors were able to stay in their accommodation after they retired. The Housing Options team would also assist employees if they were at risk of losing their home.

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

8. Common Good Consultation on the Proposal to dispose, by lease, and change the use of an area of undeveloped land at the former landfill site at East Longman, Inverness

Comhairliche Math Comon air Moladh faighinn cuidhteas, tro aonta, agus cleachdadh atharrachadh a thaobh raon de thalamh neo-leasaichte air seann làrach lionadh-talmhainn aig an Longman an Ear, Inbhir Nis

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/40/25 by the Assistant Chief Executives Corporate and Place in relation to the outcome of the common good consultation on the proposal to dispose, by lease, and change the use of an area of undeveloped common good land at the former landfill site at East Longman, for the development of a green hydrogen production facility. This was considered by the Inverness Common Good Sub-Committee with recommendations being put forward for approval to the City of Inverness Area Committee. The report responded to a request made by the Sub Committee to allow further opportunities with key officers for questioning at the City Committee prior to final decisions being taken.

In discussion, it was confirmed that the lease would be specifically for green hydrogen and if there was an attempt to put blue hydrogen into the mix this would require a change in lease. Also, as various objectors had requested, the strip of land which could be used for a coastal path be maintained, was not part of the lease.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the Sub-Committee considered the outcome of the common good consultation as contained in Appendices 1-4 of the report;
- ii. **NOTED** the minutes of the Sub-Committee meeting including recommendations; and **APPROVED** the proposal, subject to Sheriff Court consent.

9. Inverness Common Good Fund Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis

a) Financial Monitoring Q2 for 2025/26

Sgrùdadh Ionmhasail R2 airson 2025/26

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/41/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive - Place.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- information was sought, and provided, regarding the Victorian Market operation variance figures, including the £100k subject to cost recovery and questioned the draw down from reserves of £225k. It was acknowledged the estimated variance column accounted for all income expenditure and was inclusive of the Victorian Market deficit;
- Members queried the Community Events budget monitoring, not stating which event the expenditure referred to. It was asked whether an events plan for the remainder of the year could be made available. It was highlighted any detailed reporting would release confidential details which involved payments to contractors which was exempt information, nevertheless, could be circulated confidentially to Committee Members following the meeting; and
- reference was made to Item 2.1 of the report the report and reference to Section 8 was queried. It was confirmed this was reported in error and should refer to Section 7.

The Committee:

- i. scrutinised and **NOTED** the financial monitoring report to 30 September 2025 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- ii. **AGREED** the allocation of funds from the Victorian Market Maintenance budget to support the outlined in Section 8 of the report.

b) Grants Applications over £10,000 Iarrtasan Tabhartais os cionn £10,000

Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item in his capacity as a Non-Executive Director on NHS Highland. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/42/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

Members praised the work of Blythswood over the past 2 years acknowledging having a food bank as well as support from the Trussell Trust was of great help to local communities. People having to rely on foodbanks was concerning and it was stressed funds may need reviewed in the future.

The Committee **APPROVED** the following grant applications for funding:-

- (a) Blythswood Care - £25,000 (funded from the Winter Payments Budget but, in the event of insufficient funds, reserves would be used);
- (b) Operation Respect Festive 2025 - £11,272 (funded for the Operation Respect Campaigns Budget); and
- (c) Inverness in Bloom (Community Grow Project) - £69,429 (subject to the final decision by the City of Inverness Area Committee on 2 February 2026 once the Inverness Common Good Fund budget for 2026/27 was approved).

10. Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis - Part Time 20mph Speed Limit Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis - Pàirt-ùine 20msu astair

Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item in his capacity as Non-Executive Director on Inverness BID. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/43/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive - Place.

Members acknowledged the need to address the issue of speeding in the area but there were concerns over how this would be enforced. Due to the various local amenities, including a store, restaurant and school, members of the public, including school pupils, crossed at various points of the road. Enforcement wise, the use of flashing warning signs would help to encourage public awareness of a school being in the area.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the background to the proposed Part Time 20mph Traffic Regulation Order and the representations received;
- ii. **NOTED** the objections made to “The Highland Council (Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis) (Part Time 20mph Speed Limit) Order 2025”; and
- iii. subject to i) and ii) above **APPROVED** the making of the Part Time 20mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

11. Invitation to Pay Income Cuireadh airson Pàigheadh (Nì Cuairt-iomraidh)

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/44/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive-Place.

The Committee **NOTED** the earmarked funds for this Committee from the invitation to pay parking of £57,054.18.

12. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

Mr A Christie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item in his capacity as Non-Executive Directors on NHS Highland and Inverness BID. However, having applied the objective test, reviewed his position in relation to the item and any personal connection, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

The following Minutes were circulated for noting or approval as appropriate: -

- i. City of Inverness Area Committee held on 18 August 2025 for - **NOTED**;
- ii. Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee held on 27 October 2025 - **APPROVED**;
- iii. City Strategy – Stakeholder Working Group meeting held on 9 October 2025 – **NOTED**.

In relation to the City of Inverness Area Committee Minutes a request had been made for a report on Rural Bus Services. The Senior Community Development Manager undertook to investigate with colleagues when this would be available and to report back to Members.

13. Notices of Motion Brathan Gluasaid

There had been circulated separately in Booklet A Notice of Motion and Amendment received by the Chief Officer – Legal and Corporate Governance.

That the City of Inverness Area Committee request from Officers a report on the availability of public toilets in the City Centre, with a view to extending this availability.

The Council recognises:

- That the provision of public toilets is not a statutory duty of local authorities under the Public Health (Scotland) Act (2008). There has been a decline in the number of public toilets in Scotland over the last fifteen years.
- That the Council's Mealmarket Close toilets were closed in 2018.
- That many businesses and services provide toilets which are publicly available. Examples include the Victorian Market, Eastgate Centre, Eden Court, the Bus and Train Stations, and the Museum & Art Gallery. Cafes, restaurants, pubs and other businesses are also very accommodating of reasonable requests.
- Nevertheless, there remains a significant gap in provision, and there is a problem that lanes, vennels and doorways in the City Centre are unfortunately being used as urinals, presumably in emergency situations. This causes public health hazards and is damaging to the city centre environment in multiple ways.

The Council therefore resolves:

- To recognise the universal right to an adequate standard of living and sanitation under Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).
- To recognise that lack of access to public toilets, especially for older people or people with disability, can prevent them enjoying public spaces and enjoying community life. This lack applies equally to residents and visitors.
- And, in consequence, to seek to ensure access to clean, safe, and appropriate facilities that support human dignity and public health.
- To request that officers investigate issues regarding the availability of public toilets in Inverness City Centre and produce a report exploring mechanisms to increase provision.

Signed: Dr M Gregson Mr D Macpherson

An Amendment to this Notice of Motion had also been received as follows:-

To keep the motion to "reasonable requests". Take out from "Nevertheless" and instead write:

The Council notes the number of toilet facilities currently available, as mentioned above, and recognises the valuable service, the cleanliness and availability to the public that

these provide. That the Highland Council's Comfort Scheme is promoted further to Inverness City Centre retailers and services, promoting the financial incentives as well as the potential commercial benefits of encouraging more footfall. That Council will help the public locate the businesses, with Comfort Schemes, by providing additional signage to accompany the existing stickers.

Signed: Mrs J Hendry Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- for those exploring the Inverness riverside it was some distance to walk to the Council's public toilet facilities at Whin Park, which might or might not be open;
- Inverness promoted itself as a welcoming City and providing public toilets had an economic benefit as people would stay longer in the City Centre;
- the expansion of the Comfort Scheme would also benefit businesses as a result of increased footfall;
- as a consequence of the success of the Victorian Market's refurbishment, there was often queues for the toilet facilities, further highlighting the need for city centre facilities;
- the problem of antisocial public urination could be, in part resolved, by increased CCTV and motion lighting;
- it was contended that there were at least 9 public toilets in the city centre offering warm, clean and accessible facilities;
- the Communities and Place Committee on 6 November had been advised that extending the Comfort Scheme across Highland would have a positive impact on both communities and visitors;
- although there was a cost implication to the Amendment, this was an initiative to attract more take-up;
- officers were already looking at cost effective ways of improving signage. In addition, there would be more finger-pointing signage for Inverness Castle, and these would include directions to city centre toilet facilities. Also, work was taking place between Facilities and BID regarding additional signage;
- BID were well placed to notify business of the Comfort Scheme, and their new app could perhaps direct visitors to available facilities. The Council itself could promote the Scheme through its Corporate Communication Team and social media;
- it was still suggested that a report come forward about possibilities beyond the Comfort Scheme, especially on the Cathedral side of the river, especially as it concerned public welfare;
- the possibility of keeping the Whin Park facilities open over the "closed" season was put forward. However, the issues of doing this was likely vandalism and the danger of frozen pipes;
- information was sought, and provided, as to the sources of funding for the Scheme; and
- for clarification, the term "Council" should be replaced with "Committee" as this related to Inverness solely.

Thereafter, the consensus was to incorporate the Amendment into the Notice of Motion, with the clarification that it related to the City of Inverness Area Committee.

The Committee **AGREED** the following:

- That the provision of public toilets is not a statutory duty of local authorities under the Public Health (Scotland) Act (2008). There has been a decline in the number of public toilets in Scotland over the last fifteen years.
- That the Mealmarket Close toilets were closed in 2018.
- That many businesses and services provide toilets which are publicly available. Examples include the Victorian Market, Eastgate Centre, Eden Court, the Bus and Train Stations, and the Museum & Art Gallery. Cafes, restaurants, pubs and other businesses are also very accommodating of reasonable requests.
- The Committee notes the number of toilet facilities currently available, as mentioned above, and recognises the valuable service, the cleanliness and availability to the public that these provide. That the Highland Council's Comfort Scheme is promoted further to Inverness City Centre retailers and services, promoting the financial incentives as well as the potential commercial benefits of encouraging more footfall. That Committee will help the public locate the businesses, with Comfort Schemes, by providing additional signage to accompany the existing stickers.

14. Approval of New Street Name, Ward 13 Inverness West Headache Ainm Sràide Ùr, Guard 13 Inbhir Nis an Iar

There had been circulated Report No CIA/45/25 by the Assistant Chief Officer – Place.

The Committee **AGREED** the street names as Fairweather Road and Lyall Court.

The meeting concluded at 12.40 pm.