

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee** held in **The Glass Room, Kingussie Courthouse, Kingussie/Remotely** on 19 January 2026 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
Mr S Hunter, Road Safety Officer
Mr S Grant, Roads Operations Manager
Mr A Lawrie, Principal Repairs Officer
Ms A Tanner, Community Heritage Officer
Ms A Morrison, Project Manager (Whole Family Wellbeing)
Ms R Ross, Committee Officer

Also in attendance:

Inspector C Johnstone – Area Inspector (Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn)

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 not declarations of interest or transparency statements.

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

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/01/26 by the Area Commander (South Highland Area Command), Police Scotland.

The Area Inspector (Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn) provided an introduction to the report highlighting road safety, drink and drug driving offenses, assaults, domestic offenses, drug possession and acquisitive crime.

During discussion the following points were raised:-

- concerns were expressed over the issue of drug driving, and it was queried if a multi-agency approach was being taken to deal with this,

- in response to a question, the Area Inspector undertook to provide Mrs Cockburn with a breakdown of the demographic of drug driving offenders;
- it was queried how much time school liaison officers spent with secondary school pupils as it was important to educate young people about drug misuse and Police Officers were best placed to do this; and
- information was sought, and provided, about the process of roadside drug testing.

The Committee **NOTED** progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2023–2026 Year 1 in Annex A to the report, for the period covering 01 April 2025 – 31 December 2025.

4. Glentrium 40mph Speed Limit Order Òrdugh Casg Astair 40msu Ghlinn Truim

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/02/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

The Speed Limit Order was welcomed and would be of benefit to the majority of road users.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** the background to the proposed 40mph Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and the representations received;
- NOTED** the objections made to “The Highland Council (C1137, Glentrium) 40mph Speed Limit Order 2025”; and
- subject to i) and ii) above **APPROVED** the making of the 40mph Speed Limit TRO (Appendix 3).

5. Prime Markings A939 Grantown to Nairn Route Prìomh Chomharran A939 Slighe Bhaile nan Grandach gu Inbhir Narann

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/03/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

- confirmation was sought, and provided, that this scheme would be monitored and could make the case for a wider roll out if it was successful;
- it was suggested that the Prime Markings scheme needed to be considered as a strategy going forward and that it would be useful to have other projects ready to go in the event that a wider roll out was approved;
- in response to a question, it was clarified that the road markings were relatively new and were accepted within Scotland; and
- it was suggested that the B9007 should be considered for future inclusion within the Prime Markings scheme.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** the background to the proposed Perceptual Rider Information for Maximisation of Enjoyment and Expertise (PRIME) sign and road marking’s introduction; and

- ii. **APPROVED** the installation of PRIME signage and road markings at six locations on the A939 Grantown to Nairn Road.

6. Area Roads Capital Programme 2026/27 Prògram Calpa Rathaidean Sgìreil 2026/27

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/04/26 by Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

- an update was sought, and provided, on the situation at Church Terrace in Newtonmore and the Roads Operations Manager undertook to provide Members with a further update once more information became available;
- it was queried whether there was sufficient resource to deal with the additional inspections and repairs needed due to the effects of severe weather;
- it was highlighted that the Re-design Board would be discussing changes to the formula for funding for roads repairs and it was suggested that Members pay close attention to this as there was pressure from certain areas to have the formula revised to their benefit which could be to the detriment of the Badenoch and Strathspey area;
- information was sought, and provided, on how the quality of road surfacing work done by contractors was checked and what guarantees were in place if this failed;
- it was requested that information about the condition of bridges be included alongside information about roads in order to provide a clearer picture of the total amount being spent by the Council on roads and associated infrastructure; and
- Mr R Jones, seconded by Mr B Lobban proposed the following amendment which was accepted by the Committee:-

Jonathan's Brae in Kingussie is the only safe pedestrian route from the majority of the East End of Kingussie to the High Street shops, transport links, Doctors surgery and schools.

It has come to light that Highland Council does not own Jonathan's Brae and therefore will not maintain it.

This amendment asks that Highland Council will approach Jonathan's Brae owners, Dochfour Estate, to begin negotiations to take control of the Brae and report back to Ward 20 Councillors with a view to bringing the surface of the Brae up to an acceptable standard for continued public use.

The Committee:-

- i. **APPROVED** the rolling programme of Capital schemes as listed in Appendix 2, which would be a multi-year programme;
- ii. **NOTED** that the Area budget would be available after the February 2026 Economy and Infrastructure (E&I) Committee;
- iii. **NOTED** that the rolling programme may require to be updated once results from the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey have been received and considered; and
- iv. **AGREED** that Highland Council would approach Jonathan's Brae owners, Dochfour Estate, to begin negotiations to take control of the Brae and report

back to Ward 20 Councillors with a view to bringing the surface of the Brae up to an acceptable standard for continued public use.

7. Housing Repairs Performance and Capital Report Aithisg Coileanaidh is Calpa Càradh Rathaidean

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/05/26 by Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion the following points were raised:-

- it was queried whether the times for emergency and non-emergency repairs were skewed by Inverness figure, and was suggested that it would be useful to see how the Badenoch and Strathspey figures compare with other rural areas;
- confirmation was sought, and provided, that detailed records were kept of repairs needed on voided properties and that costs for these were recouped where appropriate; and
- information was sought, and provided, on how the success of the Energy Performance Certificate Scheme was monitored, and whether the housing team worked with the Handy Person Scheme on the provision of aides and adaptations in properties.

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2025 – 31 December 2025.

8. Community Regeneration Funding Application Iarrtas Maoinachaidh Ath-nuadhachadh Coimhearsnachd

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/06/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the Community Regeneration Funds (CRF) currently available in Badenoch and Strathspey; and
- ii. **AGREED** the approved CRF grant award of £5,316.26 to Newtonmore Village Hall.

9. Whole Family Wellbeing Programme – Local Partnership Network Overview Prògram Sunnd Teaghlaich Bhàideanach is Shrath Spè

There is circulated Report No BSAC/07/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – People

During Discussion the following points were raised:-

- the work of the of the Whole Family Wellbeing Team was welcomed and the importance of working collaboratively with partners, including the Cairngorm National Park Authority, was emphasised;
- there were concerns about families struggling with food and energy insecurity that needed to be addressed;
- the Aviemore and Glenmore Trust Café was an important resource, however it was a significant distance outside Aviemore and was difficult to access by

public transport in the evenings, and many of the most vulnerable people did not have access to their own transport;

- there was a perception that Badenoch and Strathspey was an affluent area but the report identified it as the area with the third highest level of deprivation in the Highlands and it was important that this was recognised;
- the difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteers and staff for Youth Spaces such as the one in the Badenoch Centre, was highlighted; and
- it was suggested that the Project Manager (Whole Family Wellbeing) be invited to a future Ward Business Meeting.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** the strategic alignment of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme (WFWP) with national and local policy priorities, including The Promise, GIRFEC and the Integrated Children’s Services Plan;
- NOTED** the identified needs in Badenoch and Strathspey and the role of the Local Partnership Network Group in addressing these; and
- AGREED** to support the development of collaborative proposals under Element 2 of the WFWP funding framework.

10. Ward Discretionary Fund Update Cunntas air Maoin fo Ùghdarras Uàird

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

Applicant	Project Title	Amount
Newtonmore Tennis Club	Junior Club Night	£500
Kincraig and Vicinity Community Council	Drumguish Defibrillator	£900

11. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated for noting Minutes of Meeting of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee held on 3 November 2025, which were approved by the Council on 11 December 2025 which were **NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am