

Motions: 25 June 2026

MOTION 1

Council notes:

This Council recognises that, while anyone can experience abuse, the evidence shows that women and girls are disproportionately affected. To help reduce this widening inequality, Highland Council commits to the following:

- Investigate accreditation with White Ribbon UK to address issues like sexism and harassment, raising awareness, and fostering a positive, respectful culture where men are part of the solution.
- Carrying out a Highland wide version of the 'just say mate' campaign, taking the onus off women by encouraging men and boys to stand up to their friends and family when they see misogyny.
- Providing training to all councillors on misogyny, focusing on recognising misogyny, empowering all to speak up against misogyny and how to address this issue.
- Report back to full council by March 2027 on progress made and the next steps to be taken.

Signed: Ms M MacCallum

Mr P Logue

MOTION 2

Almost all windfarm, development these days now involves turbines over 150m, the height at which aviation lighting is required. Aviation lights, peppered across the Highland sky will ruin any dark sky policy, damaging dark sky tourism, which has potential to play a significant role during the quieter, dark winter months.

There is now technology which only switches on when aircraft are passing nearby, so-called Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS). However, to deploy ADLS it is currently necessary to obtain CAA approval to designate the airspace surrounding the wind farm as a 'Transponder Mandatory Zone' (TMZ) which would also require all aircraft operating therein to be carrying and operating a transponder. The vast majority of aircraft do already carry a transponder.

Council therefore asks officers to lobby the Civil Aviation Authority to designate the Highlands as a Transponder Mandatory Zone.

Signed: Mr C Ballance

Ms K Willis

MOTION 3

The Highland Council:

1. Notes the cross-party motion passed by the Scottish Parliament on the 5th November 2025 (S6M-19512), regarding serious patient safety concerns within Scotland's maternity services and the need for improved oversight and accountability;
2. Further notes that, following the downgrading of the consultant-led maternity unit at Caithness General Hospital in 2016, women and families in Caithness can face journeys of approximately 100 miles to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness in order to access consultant-led maternity care;
3. Recognises the continuing concerns expressed by local communities, clinicians, campaign groups and elected representatives regarding the safety, accessibility and sustainability of maternity services in Caithness and the wider Far North;
4. Believes that rural and remote communities must have equitable access to safe, high-quality maternity care and that service design must properly reflect the realities of geography, weather conditions, transport infrastructure and workforce challenges in the Highlands;
5. Calls on the new Scottish Government to implement the full intent of the Parliamentary motion by commissioning, without delay, a fully independent review of maternity services in Caithness, chaired outwith NHS Highland's leadership team and fully independent of Scottish Government oversight.

Signed: Mr S Mackie

Mr R Gunn

MOTION 4

This Council notes:

- That Council has agreed the Highland Youth Parliament ask that climate change and environmental education is a part of the core curriculum for all young people.
- That Council has agreed to “Embed the voice of young people within the Council’s approach to climate change, energy and community resilience, recognising the long-term impact of these decisions on future generations, and to develop mechanisms to ensure that youth perspectives are reflected in policy development, investment planning and programme delivery.”
- Service Priority 1.3 in the Council’s Education and Learning Service Plan (2023/24) to work towards Net Zero carbon targets by investing in the development of the curriculum rationale and design to improve children and young people’s understanding of the benefits of acting on climate change.
- The target date of September 2026 in the Council’s Education and Learning Service Plan (2023/24) to develop a promotional plan to support the Learning for Sustainability agenda in the context of the school curriculum, connecting with the Council’s Net Zero Strategy.

The Council agrees:

- That the *Education Improvement Plan and Raising Attainment and Achievement Strategy* is updated by the Education Service, with the support of the Climate Change and Energy Team, to ensure that all pupils develop a strong understanding of climate science, environmental stewardship, and the transition to a low-carbon economy, recognising the central role of Highland in Scotland’s transition to Net Zero, the renewable sector, and the opportunities this presents for future skills, careers, and regional economic development.
- That opportunities are explored by the Education Service, with the support of the Climate Change and Energy Team, to strengthen links between schools, local industry and the regions renewable energy, environmental, and engineering sectors to support knowledge-based learning and awareness of emerging pathways.

Signed: Ms K Willis

Mr C Ballance

Assessments of Notices of Motion: 25 June 2026**MOTION 1****Section 95 Officer assessment of financial implications:**

This motion is **not** anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council. There will however be officer time associated with progressing the actions proposed, and it is assumed that promotion and related activity around campaigns would be within existing tools and resources e.g. social media/online.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Area for Assessment	Assessment Summary
Equality	Positive impact <i>Summary of assessment</i> The motion is likely to have a positive impact upon women and girls through raising awareness of misogyny across Highland and in the wider community.
Poverty	Positive impact <i>Summary of assessment</i> Misogyny is a form of gender based violence and evidence suggests that whilst women in all income groups are affected, there is a greater prevalence in lower income households. Raising awareness is therefore likely to have a positive impact on women and girls in lower income households.
Human Rights	Positive impact <i>Summary of assessment</i> The motion is likely to have an indirect positive impact on human rights through promoting equality, dignity, and freedom from degrading or discriminatory behaviour.
Children's Rights	Positive impact <i>Summary of assessment:</i> Increasing the awareness of the opportunities available in the renewables industry could have a positive impact on children's rights by increasing the choices for young people.
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	No impact.

Summary of Assessment

A summary of the integrated screening is outlined above. The motion proposes a number of actions focused on raising awareness of misogyny across Highland, both within the Council and the wider community. The screening suggests that this is likely to have a positive impact on women and girls.

MOTION 2

Section 95 Officer assessment of financial implications:

This motion is **not** anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Area for Assessment	Assessment Summary
Equality	No impact
Poverty	No impact
Human Rights	No impact
Children's Rights	No impact
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	No impact

Summary of Assessment

A summary of the integrated screening is outlined above. The motion proposes the Council writes to the Civil Aviation Authority to designate the Highlands as a Transponder Mandatory Zone. There is therefore no direct impact as a result of the motion.

MOTION 3

Section 95 Officer assessment of financial implications:

This motion is **not** anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Area for Assessment	Assessment Summary
Equality	No impact
Poverty	No impact
Human Rights	No impact
Children's Rights	No impact
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	No impact

Summary of Assessment

A summary of the integrated screening is outlined above. The motion proposes to write to the Scottish Government seeking a full independent review of Maternity Services in Caithness. There is therefore no direct impact as a result of the motion.

MOTION 4

Section 95 Officer assessment of financial implications:

This amendment is anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

There would be financial costs associated with research and consultancy to progress aspects of the amendment included the proposed reforms. It is incumbent upon the Local Authority to comply with national guidelines, deliver the prescribed core curriculum areas (literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, and RME), and uphold national assessment standards. The amendment may introduce a risk that the service may deviate from the expectations articulated by the Scottish Government, which could have the potential for implications for grant funding arrangements given there have been “directions” from Scottish Government around aspects of the grant funding settlement for education.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Area for Assessment	Assessment Summary
Equality	No impact
Poverty	Positive impact <i>Summary of assessment:</i> Increasing awareness of the potential careers opportunities and strengthening the links between schools and industry has the potential to have a positive impact on the choices of young people and socio-economic prospects.
Human Rights	No impact
Children’s Rights	Positive impact <i>Summary of assessment:</i> Increasing the awareness of the opportunities available in the renewables industry could have a positive impact on children’s rights by increasing the choices for young people.
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	Positive impact <i>Summary of assessment:</i> Increasing awareness of climate science and transition to net zero is likely to have a positive climate impact.

Summary of Assessment

A summary of the integrated screening is outlined above. The amendment is anticipated to have a positive impact on poverty and children’s rights in relation to raising the awareness of the careers opportunities within the renewables sector but also a positive climate impact as a result of raising awareness of climate issues with young people.