

**Communities and Place Committee
13 August 2026**

Item 4: Good News

Inverness Registration Office

Pleased to share that Jane Embleton has passed all 3 exam papers for the Certificate of Proficiency in the Law and Practice in Registration in Scotland, and is now a fully qualified Registrar. Jane has been with the Inverness Registration Office since August 2022, starting first on Reception, and then joining the team as Assistant Registrar. Jane will be formally awarded with her Certificate at the next AGM of the Association of Registrars of Scotland. Congratulations Jane!



Waste and Recycling APSE Gold Award 2026

It is a pleasure to confirm that the Council has been successful in achieving the Waste and Recycling APSE Gold Award 2026 for the Waste Service Change project. This is an outstanding accomplishment and a testament to the dedication, professionalism, and teamwork demonstrated across the service whilst we transitioned to the new collection system for waste and recycling. The project has seen significant changes and improvements to waste being recycled and supported the continued modernisation of the service to meet the future challenges.



Environmental Health

Great progress in workforce planning in Sutherland with 2 officers successfully passing professional courses.

Susan Messem, Trainee Environmental Health Officer has completed her academic training by gaining a first class BSc (Hons) degree in Environmental Health from the University of the West of Scotland. Susan will be sitting her EHO professional qualifications later this year.

Lauren Hayhurst, Trainee Food Safety Officer, has completed her academic training by passing the Certificate of Higher Education in Food Safety & Food Legislation from the University of Birmingham. Lauren will now complete her practical training before sitting her professional exams.

Congratulations to both Susan and Lauren on their achievements!

Local Democracy Comes to Life for Young Learners

Members of the Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee in May were delighted to welcome pupils from Ben Wyvis Primary School who joined remotely as part of their learning about democracy and parliament.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity for young people to see local democracy in action, observing first-hand how elected Councillors debate issues, make decisions and represent their communities.

By connecting classroom learning with real-life civic participation, the experience helped bring democracy to life and encouraged pupils to understand the important role local government plays in shaping places and supporting communities.

The session highlighted the Committee's commitment to engaging with younger generations and inspiring future active citizens, giving pupils an early insight into how their voices can influence the places where they live, learn and grow.



