

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Redesign Board of the Highland Council** held in Committee Rooms 1 & 2, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on 4 June 2026 at 2pm.

Members present:

Mr R Bremner
Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair
Mr A Christie
Mr J Edmondson
Mr J Finlayson
Mr D Fraser
Mrs J Hendry

Ms B Jarvie
Mr B Lobban
Mr G MacKenzie
Mr D Macpherson
Mrs M Reid
Mrs T Robertson
Ms L Saggars
Mrs C A Stewart, GMB

Non-Members present:

Mr M Baird
Dr C Birt
Mr R Gale
Ms C Gillies

Mr K Gowans
Ms M Hutchison
Mrs A MacLean
Mrs M Ross

Participating Officials:

Mr A Gunn, Assistant Chief Executive, Corporate
Mrs S Armstrong, Chief Officer - Revenues and Commercialisation
Mr M Bailey, Strategic Lead - Commercialisation
Ms L Lallah, Business Management Analyst
Mr S Bone, Business Development Lead
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer

Mr B Lobban in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mr S Cameron, Mr M Green, Mr A MacKintosh, Mr B Boyd, Mr D Macpherson, and Mr J Gibson (UNISON).

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

There were none.

3. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The Board **NOTED** the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2025, which had been approved by the Council on 26 March 2026.

4. Redesign Board Forward Plan Plana Air Adhart a' Bhùird Ath-dhealbhachaidh

There was circulated Report No RDB/05/26 by the Chief Officer, Revenues & Commercialisation.

During discussion, the importance of follow-up on prior Redesign Board projects to allow post-project discussion was emphasised, including recalling operational projects to the Redesign Board to sense check and scrutinise progress. Clarity was sought and provided on the standard process for projects to be considered and recommended by the Board, presented to the Council for approval, then implemented and/or monitored via the relevant Strategic Committee, as appropriate.

The Board **NOTED** the report and the Redesign Board work programme.

5. Food in Schools Project

Pròiseact Biadh ann an Sgoiltean

There was circulated Report No RDB/06/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate.

A presentation was provided on a recent focus group that had been held at Inverness High School with teaching and non-teaching staff, and a workshop with pupils. Issues covered had included preferences, nutrition, menu choices and next steps.

Members thanked the school staff and pupils for their participation and welcomed the frontline feedback, especially from the school pupils themselves. Issues raised during discussion included the pupils' thoughts on the availability of seating for consuming their lunch, which it was acknowledged was very dependent on the individual school and the ages of the pupils.

In response to a request for a second Member for the sub-group, Mrs M Reid was proposed.

The Board:

- i. **NOTED** the progress to date; and
- ii. **AGREED** to appoint Mrs M Reid to the Food in Schools Working Group.

6. Good Food Nation Plan

Plana airson Dùthaich a Tha Math a Thaobh Biadh

There was circulated Report No RDB/07/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- assurance was provided that food suppliers and grow-your-own initiatives would be included in the project, that religious food considerations would be taken into consideration, and that information from the Association of Service Solutions in Scotland (ASSIST FM) would be taken into account;
- it was thought that current demand for allotments exceeded availability;
- assurance was sought and provided that appropriate child health and nutritional/dietetic representation was to be involved, and attention was drawn to there being emerging issues which might not be included in government guidance. In this regard, specific reference was made to emerging reports about

the potential longer-term health impacts of the consumption of red meat. It was confirmed that while discussions on this were taking place at national level, the Working Group would follow Scottish Government national policy and guidance in the development of the Good Food Nation Plan (GFNP);

- clarification was sought and provided that the Food in Schools project would form part of the GFNP;
- concern was expressed at the potential duplication of effort and outcome anomalies as a result of the Council and NHS Highland having to produce separate plans, and it was suggested that a joint Plan, produced in collaboration with the Community Planning Partnership, would be preferable. In response, attention was drawn to the intention to hold 6-weekly joint meetings between the Council and NHS Highland to ensure their Plans were aligned, and to a consultation that had been held at the early stages of the initiative which had resulted in the Scottish Government requiring separate plans for Local Authorities and Health Boards;
- it was queried whether perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were being taken into consideration and this would be looked into outwith the meeting;
- information was sought and provided on consultation plans for the GFNP; and
- it was queried how private facilities such as private care homes, schools and healthcare facilities would be impacted by the GFNP initiative.

The Board **NOTED** the progress to date.

The meeting ended at 2.50pm.