

**The Highland Council
Chief Officer Recruitment Panel**

Minutes of Meeting of the Chief Officer Recruitment Panel held in Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Wednesday 23 September 2026 at 12.30p.m.

Present:

Mr A Christie
Mr J Finlayson
Mr K Gowans
Ms L Kraft (substitute)

Mr B Lobban (Chair)
Mr D McDonald
Mrs T Robertson

Officials in attendance:-

Mr A Gunn, Assistant Chief Executive, Corporate
Ms J Sikkema, HR manager, Corporate

Mr B Lobban in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr R Bremner.

2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement

There were none.

3. Exclusion of the Public

The Panel **Resolved** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Appointment of Chief Officer Corporate Finance

There had been circulated to Members only the undernoted documents.

- a) Shortlist note for Chief Officer Corporate Finance post;
- b) Interview times;
- c) the Chief Officer Corporate Finance job description and person specification;
- d) Psychometric feedback report;
- e) copies of the applications submitted by the candidates;
- f) Briefing note - Protection of disability related information
- g) Candidate scoring sheet;
- h) a scenario and interview questions.

The panel proceeded to interview the candidates.

Following consideration, the Panel **appointed:**

Melanie Barnes to the post of Chief Officer Corporate Finance.

The meeting ended at: 3.05pm.