The Highland Council

Agenda Item	**9**
Report No	**SR/34/26**

Committee: **Isle of Skye and Raasay**

Date: **30 November 2026**

Report Title: **Portree Waste Transfer Station**

Report By: **Assistant Chief Executive - Place**

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report details the completion of the extension to the Portree Waste Transfer Station and waste diverted from treatment or disposal since its opening.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to **note** the completion of the project and how it is supporting the Highland Council's recycling performance.

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** – There are no resource implications.

3.2 **Legal** – There are no legal implications.

3.3 **Risk** – There are no risk implications.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – There are no health and safety implications.

3.5 **Gaelic** – There are no Gaelic implications.

4 Impacts

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

4.3 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5 Development of Extension to the Portree Waste Transfer Station

5.1 During 2023, the Highland Council was successful in its bid to the Recycling Improvement Fund that would support the modernisation of its household recyclable and non-recyclable waste service.

5.2 The award funded a number of elements including both additional bins for recycling and food waste collections as well as capital investment for the further development of waste transfer station infrastructure at the Seater Landfill and the Portree Waste Transfer Station.

5.3 The Portree Waste Transfer Station was identified as requiring further development as there existed only one enclosed building for non-recyclable waste and one open structure that was currently utilised for storing mixed "comingled" recyclables.

5.4 The changes being implemented required that the Council could separate the recyclables into two separate elements:-

- Fibres (being card and paper).
- Containers (being plastic tubs, trays, bottles and metals tins and cans).

5.5 The existing infrastructure was insufficient to keep this waste separated and also protected from the elements; in particular for paper and card which required to be kept as dry as possible to ensure the maximum resale value was achievable.

5.6 As such a project was conceived to utilise part of the remaining space at the site to construct a new building that ensured recyclables could be stored and protected from the elements.

5.7 The total build cost was approximately £1.3m for the development of the new building. The majority of this was constructed in 2025, but the completion and commissioning was delayed due to the storms that occurred in early autumn of 2025.

5.8 The building consists of a concrete pad and 'push walls', steel cladding and reinforced roller shutter doors as well improved lighting to ensure that it can be utilised in all weathers.

5.9 Additionally, the building provided an improved surface and drainage for this area of the site to ensure the waste was managed in accordance with environmental standards set by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).

5.10 The building was fully commissioned by 1 April 2026 and has now been fully operational since this time. The site will hence continue to support the wider recycling performance of the Council which was 45.8% for 2025.

5.11 Since becoming operational during the first six months the new building has accepted:-

- 433.600 tonnes of Fibres.
- 201.820 tonnes of Containers.

5.12 Photos of the completed site are provided in **Appendix 1.**

Designation:	Assistant Chief Executive - Place
Date:	9 November 2026
Author:	Ian Braker – Strategic Lead (Waste Strategy and Operations)
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Photos of the new building

APPENDIX 1 – Photos of the Waste Transfer Station Building



