

## **Item 10 - Question Time**

### Response to Mrs H Carmichael

The Administration is in regular dialogue with both Scottish and UK Government Ministers to progress the Administration's Programme for the Highland Council.

We are wholly committed to the principle of subsidiarity and have been fully engaged in CoSLA's Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy, including meeting with the Commission Chair, David O'Neill, last week. We have contributed to the consultation on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill which will give people in communities, and those supporting them in the public sector, new ways to make decisions about their future. This complements the work the Administration has done in promoting local decision making and empowering our communities through the introduction of Area Committees, the Community Challenge Fund and the introduction of public petitions.

The Administration is supportive of the work being undertaken by the Islands Area Ministerial Working Group, meets regularly with the Leaders of the Island Authorities at CoSLA, through meetings of the Highlands and Islands Leaders Group and at the Convention of the Highlands and Islands and is kept informed of their discussions.