

**Minutes of Meeting** of the Adult and Children's Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Wednesday 22 May 2013 at 10.05 am.

**Present:**

**Highland Council:**

Dr D Alston, Mrs I Campbell, Mr A Christie (Chair), Mrs M Davidson, Ms J Douglas, Mr B Fernie, Mr B Gormley, Mr K Gowans, Mr M Green, Mr E Hunter, Mrs L MacDonald (Vice Chair), Mrs D Mackay, Mr G MacKenzie, Mr T MacLennan, Ms L Munro, Mrs M Paterson, Mr M Rattray, Mrs F Robertson, Ms G Ross, Mr G Ross, Ms J Slater, Ms K Stephen, Ms A Taylor

**NHS Highland:**

Mrs M Duncan, Dr M Somerville

**Religious Representatives:**

Ms M McCulloch, Rev C Mayo, Mr G Smith

**Non-Members also present:**

Mr A Baxter, Mr B Clark, Mr J Gray, Mr R Laird, Mr A MacLeod, Mr D Millar, Mr A Rhind, Mr R Saxon, Mrs G Sinclair

**In attendance:**

Mr H Fraser, Director of Education, Culture and Sport  
Mr B Alexander, Director of Health and Social Care  
Mr D Yule, Director of Finance  
Mr R MacKenzie, Head of Support Services, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Mr C MacSween, Head of Education, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Ms S MacLeod, Head of Health, Health and Social Care Service  
Ms F Palin, Head of Social Care, Health and Social Care Service  
Ms K McAvoy, Area Manager West, Health and Social Care Service  
Ms A Gordon, Resource Manager Fostering & Adoption, Health and Social Care Service  
Ms S Russel, Principal Officer – Nursing, Health and Social Care Service  
Ms A Tissington, Nurse Consultant Health Protection, NHS Highland  
Ms R Binks, Quality Improvement Manager, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Ms N Murray, Catering and Cleaning Manager, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Mr D McCartney, Quality Improvement Officer - Inverness Area, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Mrs Y Cairns, ICT in Schools Development Officer, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Mr E Foster, Finance Manager (Education, Culture and Sport and Health and Social Care)  
Mr C Munro, Highland Children's Forum (Third Sector)  
Ms A Darlington, Action for Children (Third Sector)  
Ms V Gale, Care and Learning Alliance (Third Sector)

Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Chief Executive's Office  
Mrs R Daly, Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Office

**Also in attendance:**

Ms S Macleod, Highland Youth Parliament (Youth Voice)  
Ms B Nicolson, Highland Youth Parliament (Youth Voice)  
Mr F Allmond, Highland Youth Parliament (Youth Voice)  
Chief Superintendent J Innes, Police Scotland  
Mrs T Sinclair, Head Teacher, Tarradale Primary School  
Mrs M Mackenzie, Head Teacher, St Clements School  
Mrs J Bentley, Head Teacher, Marybank Primary, Strathgarve Primary  
Mrs A Graham, Acting Head Teacher, Cannich Bridge Primary  
Mr I Abbot, Youth Development Officer (Participation), High Life Highland  
Ms A Anthony, Senior Youth Development Officer (Participation), High Life Highland

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.**

**Mr A Christie in the Chair**

**Preliminaries**

Prior to the commencement of formal business the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Mrs M Duncan, NHS Highland and Ms A Taylor, Youth Convener to their first meeting of the Adult and Children's Services Committee.

**Business**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**Leisgeulan**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs B McAllister and Mr D Hendry, Highland Council and Mrs G McCreath, NHS Highland.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

**Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

The Committee **NOTED** the following declarations of interest:-

Item 5 - Ms J Douglas, Mr K Gowans, Mr T MacLennan (Non-financial)  
Item 9 - Ms J Douglas, Mr K Gowans (Non-financial)  
Item 12 - Ms J Douglas, Mr K Gowans (Non-financial)  
Item 14 - Ms J Douglas, Mr K Gowans (Non-financial)  
Item 21 - Ms J Douglas, Mr K Gowans (Non-financial)  
Item 22v – Mr G Ross (Non-financial)  
Item 25 - Mr B Gormley, Mr K Gowans, Ms J Douglas, (Non-Financial)

Ms G Ross declared a non-financial interest in those items which might raise discussion on Thurso High School, as her husband was a teacher at the School, and advised that if there was any specific discussion in relation to Thurso High School she would leave the room.

Dr D Alston declared a non-financial interest in those items relating to integrated health and social care services as a Board Member of NHS Highland but, in terms of the dispensation granted by the Standards Commission, remained to participate in discussion.

### **3. Developing Youth Participation Com- pàirteachas Òigridh ann an Dealbhadh Seirbheis**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-41-13 \(90kb pdf\)](#) dated 11 March 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which provided an update on Youth Participation in Highland. The report accompanied a presentation by Ms Ainya Taylor, Youth Convener, Mr S Macleod, Ms B Nicolson and Mr F Allmond of Highland Youth Parliament (Youth Voice) and Chief Superintendent Julian Innes, Police Scotland, outlining their experience and the benefits of youth participation.

Youth participation involved young people in policy development, service planning and service delivery. It was of benefit to the Council and public organisations because it allowed them to improve services based on the views of young people and encouraged organisations to design services which properly met the needs of young people. Youth participation supported the current focus on preventative expenditure by taking account of service users' views at an early stage of service design. It encouraged young people to take an interest in politics and in how local and national decisions were managed.

The Police Service had taken steps to test whether responses to their community consultation surveys were also in line with the views of young people in Highland. This had been carried out through interactive engagement with young people at the Badaguish Outdoor Centre and which concluded that the views of young people generally tallied with other responses but highlighted that there were some priorities specific to young people: drugs, alcohol abuse and road safety. In addition, improved engagement between the Police Service and young people had emerged as a key theme. Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would also attend the Youth Voice Conference in June.

Increased engagement with young people had led to a direct impact on policing activity in the Highlands, particularly in relation to road safety in the vicinity of schools and test purchases for the sale of alcohol to underage individuals. Feedback to young people explaining how they had influenced policing in their areas would also be prioritised.

Members welcomed the presentation, the enthusiasm and commitment of the Youth Parliament and during discussion, the following comments were made:-

- it was very encouraging that the Police Service had taken action on the views expressed by Highland Youth Voice and that this would be fed back to the young people involved. It was clear that the most successful method of engaging with young people was to meet, listen and respond;
- the issue of transport was a significant barrier to youth engagement in the Highlands and further consideration of this would be beneficial;

- it was important to appreciate that all topics considered by Ward Forums could be pertinent to young people and would benefit from their input and views;
- the Highland Youth Parliament had previously been criticised for not having been representative of young people and it was encouraging now to see increased engagement with it. Information was requested on what steps were being taken to expand the Highland Youth Parliament and to increase awareness of it;
- information was requested on how barriers were being broken down between the Police service and young people who might be drawn to illegal or antisocial activity;
- Youth Voice involvement in the Council's budget consultation had been particularly valuable and the Council's Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee looked forward to hearing feedback from young people on matters relating to democratic representation and elections and to scrutinise the Highland-wide Police Plan;
- it was important to capture the views of young people and to draw their attention to social and health inequalities;
- the benefits of consulting with young people on all aspects of Council work should be stressed and staff should be trained and provided with necessary resources to consult with young people as a matter of course; and
- it was acknowledged that the young people who might benefit most from engagement through Highland Youth Voice were hard to reach and so it was important to ensure that consultation with these young people was taking place. In this regard, it was intended that the Director of Education, Culture and Sport would report to a future meeting of the Committee how the coverage of Youth Voice could be increased to include hard to reach young people.

Responding to these and other comments it was confirmed that good practice in youth engagement and participation was embedded in the way the Council and Committee operated. Young people were regularly consulted and invited to present their views and, in this way, created their impact on Council policies. It was disappointing, but not surprising, to hear that, in the past, youth participation had been less inclusive and representative. It was felt that much progress had been made in recent years with youth participation now seen as a central consideration with widely recognised benefits. Engagement with all age ranges had made a significant impact on how policy was developed and this was complemented by Pupil Councils and through the Curriculum for Excellence, which educated children in the democratic processes.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the presentation on youth participation by young people and Police Scotland;
- ii. **AGREED** that the Director of Health and Social Care work with the youth participation structures to ensure that young people were involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of For Highland's Children 4; and
- iii. **AGREED** to request a report to a future meeting regarding transport for young people.

#### **4. Membership of Sub-Committees** **Ballrachd Fho-chomataidhean**

The Committee **AGREED** the following:-

- Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee – Ms K Stephen to replace Ms L Munro
- Criminal Justice Sub-Committee – Ms L Munro to replace Ms K Stephen
- Culture and Leisure Contracts Scrutiny Sub-Committee – Mr M Green to replace Mr W Mackay
- Education Transport Entitlement Review Sub-Committee – Mr M Green to replace Mr W Mackay

#### **5. Revenue Budget 2013/14 – Monitoring** **Buidseat Teachd-a-steach 2013/14 – Sgrùdadh**

##### **Declarations of Interest:**

**Ms J Douglas and Mr K Gowans declared non-financial interest in this item on the grounds of being Directors of High Life Highland but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.**

**Mr T MacLennan declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds of being the Chair of Lochaber Care and Repair but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.**

##### **i. Education, Culture and Sport** **Foghlam, Cultar agus Spòrs**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-42-13 \(32kb pdf\)](#) dated 13 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport setting out the 2013/14 Education, Culture and Sport revenue budget and which confirmed that detailed monitoring of the 2013/14 Budget would not commence until the end of May. The initial management focus would be to address the budget pressures that emerged during the previous financial year. The near final outturn position for 2012/13 would be available in early June and would identify any underlying budget pressures that had to be addressed in the current financial year.

The savings target for 2013/14 amounted to £2.624m and it was assumed that appropriate management action would ensure that this savings target would be achieved.

Responding to questions, it was confirmed that all groups that had taken part in the budget consultation had received individual feedback on the outcomes and details were contained also on the Council's website. It was also confirmed that some budget pressures such as those relating to food costs had been known for some time. An action plan was being prepared which would identify the full range of pressures and would consider how the Council would address them.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the current financial position.

## **ii. Health and Social Care** **Slàinte agus Cùram Sòisealta**

There had been circulated [ACS-44-13 \(105kb pdf\)](#) dated 13 May 2013 by the Director of Health and Social Care setting out the revenue monitoring statement for the Health and Social Care Service budget for the first month of the new financial year for which, at this early stage, it was not possible to identify any significant budget variance.

During discussion, the following comments were made:-

- reference was made to the 5% annual population increase in elderly people and that voluntary organisations were expected to provide their vital services in terms of preventative care on stand-still budgets; and
- concerns were expressed that the Adult Services budget was no longer available for Members' scrutiny.

In response it was confirmed that the Adult Services budget was reported to the NHS Board, NHS Highland Health and Social Care Committee and the NHS Improvement Committee. Reports could also be fed into the Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on this budget.

It was explained that all authorities were addressing the financial challenge of social care across Scotland. In Highland an additional £1m had been invested in services for older people as part of shifting the balance of care. Work was on-going with NHS Highland to establish preventative services and reports would be submitted to future meetings. All of this activity was material to the discussions underway with the Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee. It was also explained that a consultation exercise was progressing with a view to a report being submitted to the August meeting of the Committee evaluating the whole preventative spend agenda against expected outcomes.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED**:-

- i. the first budget monitoring report of the 2013/14 financial year; and
- ii. preventative spend funding of £0.05m in 2013/14 and 2014/15 for Children First.

## **6. Capital Expenditure 2013/14 – Monitoring** **Caiteachas Calpa 2013/14 - Sgrùdadh**

### **i. Education, Culture and Sport** **Foghlam, Cultar agus Spòrs**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-43-13 \(119kb pdf\)](#) dated 14 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which advised the near final outturn expenditure position for the 2012/13 Education, Culture and Sport Capital programme along with information on the 2013/14 programme. The report also sought approval for a range of new projects and informed Members of progress on several prioritised feasibility studies as well as the Sustainable School Estate Review. Finally, there were proposals to address various communication issues and several specific matters for which actions were recommended for approval.

During discussion, Members made a range of comments, including:-

- information was requested on timescales for the completion of the swimming pool changing facilities at Culloden Academy;
- regarding the proposed replacement of school playing fields with multi-use games areas, there was a request for further reassurance that the Council was making appropriate choices. Further, reassurance was sought on whether the Council was increasing its own expertise to make these decisions or whether there was a need to access external specialist expertise;
- there had been support expressed for the upgrade of Thurso swimming pool. In addition, the proposal for a feasibility study for Thurso High School running track was particularly welcomed and so too was the work proposed for Mount Pleasant and Pentland Primary Schools;
- assurance was sought that the Committee would soon be in a position to consider the all-weather pitch at Lochaber High School;
- it had been understood that a report would be presented to the Committee addressing public access to school sports pitches and it was hoped that the Council would not need to consider charging groups or individuals to use them; and
- it was suggested that dialogue should be held with Elected Members to devise an appropriate communication strategy for Electoral Wards.

Responding to these and other comments, it was confirmed:-

- in terms of extensive and flexible community use, all-weather pitches and multi-use games areas for community use were the most appropriate strategic way forward. Maintenance of grass pitches now extended beyond cutting grass and involved maintenance work on an annual basis which had a cost implication. It was expected that there would be a contract in due course for the care and maintenance of pitches alongside maintenance of multi-use games areas;
- it was intended that a briefing note would be presented to the August meeting of the Committee regarding use of school sports pitches;
- levels of costs were being considered for Lochaber High School all-weather pitch in comparison with the original proposal and the intention was to bring a proposal to the August meeting of the Committee; and
- it was confirmed that Service Directors had been asked to provide Outline Business Cases for the ten year capital programme and this had included the Dornoch Sport Facility and would be brought before the Council in June.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- NOTED** the near final outturn expenditure position for the 2012/13 Capital programme as detailed in Section 2 and Appendix 1 of the report;
- NOTED** the status of the Capital programme from 2013/14 to 2015/16 as detailed in Section 3 of the report;
- APPROVED** the recommended actions in relation to the Thurso schools;
- APPROVED** the proposed new projects as detailed in Section 4 of the report;
- NOTED** the status of the prioritised feasibility studies as detailed in Section 5

- and Appendix 2 of the report;
- vi. **NOTED** the status of the Sustainable School Estate Review as detailed in Section 6 of the report;
  - vii. **NOTED** the proposed measures to improve communication with Ward Members as detailed in Section 7 of the report;
  - viii. **AGREED** that the Head of Support Services meet with Members prior to finally determining a communication system for Electoral Wards;
  - ix. **APPROVED** the recommendation to purchase a replacement coach for the Sutherland School Transport fleet as detailed in paragraph 8.1 of the report; and
  - x. **AGREED** that Mrs G Sinclair be provided with information as to the timescale for the completion of the changing rooms at Culloden Academy.

## **ii. Health and Social Care** **Slàinte agus Cùram Sòisealta**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-45-13 \(58kb pdf\)](#) dated 14 May 2013 by the Director of Health and Social Care which provided an update on progress to date with the Health and Social Care Capital Programme, a monitoring report on expenditure as at 30 April 2013 and an update on work being undertaken on fire safety and other health and safety capital works.

During discussion, Members commented on a need to pay closer attention to investigating the roof conditions of properties being renovated under the Capital Programme. This comment was raised particularly in relation to the current project at Invernevis House and other projects which had not identified the need for roof repairs until close to the end of the project.

Following discussion, the Committee:-

- i. **APPROVED** the report and budgetary position;
- ii. **AGREED** that an update on progress at Urray House be provided to Mrs M Paterson;
- iii. **AGREED** that information be provided to Mr T MacLennan on the full costs of replacing the roof at Invernevis House; and
- iv. **AGREED** that information be provided to Mrs M Davidson on the number of beds currently out of use in formerly Council run Care Homes.

## **7. Adult and Children's Services Budgets** **Buidseatan Sheirbheisean Inbheach agus Chloinne**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-46-13 \(35kb pdf\)](#) dated 2 May 2013 by the Director of Finance which provided a reconciliation of the budget for Adult Services that transferred to NHS Highland and provided an update on other financial issues relating to Integrating Care in the Highlands.

During a summary of the report, it was explained that the Council had agreed a final budget quantum for Adult Care Services in March 2013 when Members had also requested a budget reconciliation and an outline of the changes that had been made during 2012/13. The report summarised the main adjustments to the core budget which reassured Members that this had



been a robust and challenging process which had taken significant time to complete. A brief explanation was offered as to why the budget figure and year end estimate for the commissioned Adult Care Services differed from the quantum figure and it was confirmed that a briefing paper for Members would be issued clarifying this situation more fully.

During discussion, Members raised a range of issues, including:-

- Members recognised the importance of fully understanding and scrutinising the budget figures;
- NHS had almost a £2m overspend at the end of the financial year which was fully rectified by the time of the final reconciliation due to the receipt of £1m from the Highland Council and £1m transitional funding from the Scottish Government. It was unclear at what point Councillors might be advised during the current financial year if the situation reached crisis point again in the Adult Social Care budget and it was emphasised that scrutiny of this would be particularly important in the first few years following integration. Integration of services had involved two different cultures of financial management – the NHS budget was used to receiving Scottish Government budget feeds throughout the financial year whereas the Council received a budget which it was expected to manage. As Members were no longer able to scrutinise the Adult Social Care budget, this presented a potential financial risk. The Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee received only exceptions reports which did not cover financial considerations;
- there appeared to be a change to the definition of shifting the balance of care. It had originally been understood that this meant moving money from acute services into the community but this had not actually taken place. Clarity on this was a priority as the current situation was no longer acceptable; and
- since national guidance and regulation to deliver policy outcomes was still awaited, a suggestion was made as to whether this should be highlighted to Highland MSPs to assist in formulating the guidance.

Responding to these comments, it was stressed that it was the Council's responsibility to define outcomes for integration and consider whether the right quantum of financial support was handed over to NHS to deliver these services. The business of managing and scrutinising the budget for Adult Services was now the responsibility of NHS Highland and not the Council. The NHS Highland Health and Social Care Committee had mechanisms for monitoring expenditure against budget – through the Improvement Committee and another through regular financial reporting to the Committee itself.

Regarding shifting the balance of care, both organisations remained committed to this, but it was important to recognise that this was a complex issue that required ongoing and full consideration. This had to include a shift from acute and institutional services to the community services, but there was on-going discussion regarding the details of this.

Reassurance was given that Council officials were working closely with their NHS counterparts to agree a budget protocol which would require a regular exchange of financial information. Any financial risk to the Council would of course be raised with Members and action taken to protect the Council. Discussions had been held to ensure that robust monitoring procedures were in place and included in the budget protocol would be clarification on how NHS Highland would engage with the Council's budget process from this financial year onwards.

After discussion, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the reconciliation of all budget movements and that a number of issues remained to be resolved at both a local and national level; and
- ii. **AGREED** to provide a written briefing to Members explaining how the total budget quantum, in 2012/13, of £86.902m compared with the £88.505m referred to in the 2013/14 Revenue Report.

## **8. Performance Report – Children’s Services Aithisg Dèanadais – Seirbheisean Chloinne**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-47-13 \(123kb pdf\)](#) dated 13 May 2013 by the Director of Health and Social Care which provided an update on the performance framework for Children’s Services at the end of 2012/13.

During discussion, Members commented on a number of areas in the performance framework as follows:-

- Indicator 3 - while accepting that it was a national target, the aim of ensuring access to a Primary Mental Health worker within a 26 week timeframe was still too long. It was felt that information should also be provided about whether these children were accessing other services;
- Indicators 4 and 5 - it was unclear how self-evaluation could address variances encountered in the level of information from the large number of agencies inputting to Children’s Plans and what on-going training had been established to address this;
- Indicator 7 - the percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks was disappointing;
- Indicator 29 - while supporting the proposed reduction in placement moves for Looked After Children, it was recognised that this was a complex issue and perhaps should not be assessed solely on the number of moves. Some moves might prove necessary and a more qualitative assessment might be more helpful;
- Indicator 34 – the reduction in the number of offences by young people were remarkable;
- Indicator 36 - with regard to supporting Looked After Children through the Family Firm scheme, it was understood that the Barnardo’s Children’s charity was currently undertaking a piece of work on this theme in relation to children with high level support and further information was requested on what shape this might take; and
- Indicator 41 – it was pleasing to see a reduction in the number of Looked After Children in Out of Authority Placements.

In response, it was clarified in relation to Indicators 4 and 5 – Child’s Plans – these had been ragged green and amber respectively. Audit analysis to date had focussed on how effective the Plans were in defining needs and identifying appropriate services and had now permitted the Council to roll out Version 2. This had already been accomplished within schools and was now being introduced to Health staff and would be written into the new Social Work Management Information system. A further audit of Version 2 would take place together with refresher training following the summer period.

Regarding Looked After Children and placement moves, there were particular challenges caused by Highland geography and a more sophisticated measure had been sought. Measures were now being considered to assess the number of moves over time periods. Regarding the Family Firm, regular reports had been submitted and input had been received from Barnardo's and the Director was keen to update the Committee.

A detailed report on the Primary Health Indicators outlining the challenges on how well or not Highland Council and NHS Highland were at meeting timelines would be presented to the August meeting of the Committee. While the 26 week target was the current national timeframe, this would reduce to 18 weeks by the end of 2014. This was the focus of significant work between the Council and NHS Highland.

The figures cited for breastfeeding were based on June 2012 figures, it being explained that the time lag was a feature of the method by which data was collected. This area of work was subject to an intensive focus through the Early Years Collaborative and, while it might appear a disappointing figure, Highland nonetheless performed well compared with the rest of Scotland.

Following discussion, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the performance information contained in the report; and
- ii. **AGREED** that the report to be submitted to the next Adult and Children's Services Committee detailing the Primary Mental Health Service also address the challenges involved in meeting the timescales at which young people gained access to a Primary Mental Health Worker.

#### **9. For Highland's Children 4 Airson Clann na Gàidhealtachd 4**

##### **Declarations of Interest:**

**Ms J Douglas and Mr K Gowans declared non-financial interests in this item on the grounds of being Directors of High Life Highland but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.**

There had been circulated joint Report No [ACS-48-13 \(61kb pdf\)](#) dated 13 May 2013 by the Directors of Education, Culture and Sport and Health and Social Care which provided an update on progress made in developing the Integrated Children's Service Plan.

The Committee **NOTED** that there would be detailed discussion on the Children's Services Plan at the for Highland's Children's 4 Community Care Seminar on 6 June 2013.

#### **10. New Primary School North of the River Wick Bun-sgoil Inbhir Ùige a Tuath**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-49-13 \(4872kb pdf\)](#) dated 13 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which provided details of the contractual process to be followed as a result of the new primary school north of the River Wick being built on a design and build basis by Hub North Scotland Limited and sought approval for the proposed capital affordability cap figure.

During discussion, Members welcomed the progress that had been made and commended officers for the way in which they had engaged on this project. Local meetings had raised the key issue of the name of the new school – Wick North Primary School already existed and the new school, which although north of the River Wick, needed to have its own name. It was felt that this would be important to engender ownership for pupils, parents and teachers. It was also suggested that there might have been Gaelic implications which should have been recorded in the report and that this be considered for future reports.

Responding to these comments, it was confirmed that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Stakeholders Group at the end of June which would include proposals for transitions, staffing, safer routes to school and consideration of the names of the new school. It was suggested that a local naming competition might be held to find a suitable solution.

The Committee:-

- i. **APPROVED** the New Project Request document as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- ii. **AGREED** that the approval of the related Stage 1 submission from Hub North Scotland Limited be approved under delegated powers by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Housing and Property Services, the Director of Education, Culture and Sport and the Director of Finance on the basis that the affordability cap figure approved within the New Project Request document was not exceeded.

## **12. Curriculum for Excellence – The Highland Literacy Strategy Curraicealam airson Sàr-mhathais – Ro-innleachd Litearrachd na Gàidhealtachd**

In terms of Standing Order 18, the Committee **AGREED** that this item be taken at this point in the proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest:**

**Ms J Douglas and Mr K Gowans declared non-financial interests in this item on the grounds of being Directors of High Life Highland but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-51-13 \(40kb pdf\)](#) dated 13 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which explained that, to equip Highland's young people for life in the 21st century, provision must enable all to acquire the talking, listening, reading and writing skills needed to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. In so doing, provision must take account of a wider

‘21st century’ definition of literacy. It must be available from pre-birth to adulthood. It must identify and support all learners – but particularly those at risk. It must embrace information technology in all its forms.

The Literacy Strategy had been structured to align with the Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing strategies. It was supported by a comprehensive package of resources, many developed in Highland. In partnership with parents, practitioners would use these resources to meet individual learner needs and develop excellence in their own schools, within associated school groups and across their communities.

During discussion, Members welcomed the strategy, the appointment of the Literacy Development Officer and the training that was associated with this programme. Curriculum for Excellence now drew attention to the need for literacy as a core area throughout the curriculum. It had been helpful to hear from employers that literacy skills had been a weakness and this would direct effort to assist in this area. Further, links in the strategy to transitions were particularly important. It was queried whether the Council was confident it could move forward in improving listening skills.

The Literacy Strategy would also play a particularly helpful role in reducing health inequalities and it was important to identify those pupils who struggled with literacy. In this connection, it was queried whether literacy attainment was included in the Child’s Plan and whether it could be monitored in that way. Further, it was also queried whether there were geographical areas causing greater concern and whether resources were directed appropriately.

Responding to these and other comments, it was confirmed that monitoring and analysis of literacy and core skills started in early years and continued throughout mainstream education. Class teachers were asked to monitor and track the areas of literacy with which pupils might be experiencing problems and interventions were in place in direct correlation with this information. Achievement was also monitored on a geographical basis and resources allocated according to need.

The Committee **NOTED** the Highland Literacy Strategy.

## **11. Facilities Management Project – Progress Report and Proposed Implementation Plan**

### **Pròiseact Rianachd Ghoireasan – Aithisg Adhartais agus Plana Buileachaidh a Thathar a’ Moladh**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-50-13 \(479kb pdf\)](#) dated 10 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which provided feedback on the introduction of the Facilities Management (FM) operating model in Badenoch and Strathspey from July 2012 and an update on implementation in the Black Isle/Dingwall area from October 2012. The report also provided details of the proposed FM rollout plan to all Areas over the next 2 year period.

Mrs T Sinclair, Head Teacher, Tarradale Primary School and Mrs J Bentley, Head Teacher, Marybank and Strathgarve Primaries provided a brief outline of their experiences to date of the FM Project. It was emphasised overall that the positive outcomes of the FM Project

would grow over time and that the current negative experiences would not be insurmountable. There were many positive aspects to the Project, namely:-

- the new approach introduced flexibility to direct FM staff within the ASG and maximise the benefit of the wide range of staff skills;
- the new system could facilitate a team approach to certain larger tasks; and
- the system aimed to balance out janitorial time in schools. Many schools now had a frequent janitorial presence where previously this had not been the case.

There were still some areas which required further consideration particularly in relation to improvements in communication between Team Leaders/Janitors and Head Teachers, namely:-

- communication was key to ensure that a janitor was present to monitor work being undertaken as it was not appropriate to depend on a Head Teacher to do this. This sometimes took Head Teachers out of meetings or could even put demands on them during teaching time;
- some relatively simple tasks still required contractors to be brought in which was time consuming and expensive;
- budgetary constraints prevented some tasks from being undertaken; and
- it could be argued that facilities management had reduced a sense of ownership and loyalty individual schools and janitors could no longer get to know pupils in smaller schools.

It was recognised that the janitor had been central to the life of schools but previously in Highland only 44 of the 180 primary schools had benefited from janitorial support. The modernisation programme meant that janitorial services were now balanced more evenly over all schools. The programme was about adopting a common sense sharing of skills and time in a formal setting and it was clear that there was a need to pay attention to communication and information exchange.

During discussion, Members welcomed the report and the information presented by the Head Teachers and made a range of comments as follows:-

- it was hoped that parents, Parent Councils and teachers could play a larger role in developing the FM project and receive the necessary feedback;
- the report had not indicated a strong commitment to fix the problem of communications and it was hoped that a report could be presented focussing specifically on this aspect of the project;
- it was not clear what collaborative working would mean for secondary schools, especially those with primary schools close by – it was requested that a list be provided of the schools that would be considered;
- in terms of the arrangements to deal with emergency situations such as the cleaning up of bodily fluids, assurances were sought that there would be a practical, appropriate and immediate response;
- it was encouraging that health and safety issues with janitors should now be addressed through the new system;
- where Primary Schools had previously had a fulltime janitor, this was clearly a loss in service and it was important to consider how to manage the change as perceptions and realities in such schools could be vastly different;

- the consultation exercise for Kinmylies Primary School had not involved the Parent Council who still had concerns and it was hoped that they could benefit from a separate briefing; and
- it was clear that the janitorial role was immeasurable and invaluable and could not easily be compared with the new role of facilities management and it was therefore queried whether savings had been created with facilities management.

Responding to these comments, it was explained that, with the Secondary sector, the Project aimed to move away from exclusive working arrangements across the Associated School Group and was part of a wider exercise exploring where practical skills could be best used. It would be appropriate to establish key performance indicators to manage performance and record communications and response times as part of the roll out of the process. There was a need to ensure that there was a way of measuring how this was progressing.

It was confirmed that schools had procedures in place to deal with emergency situations, particularly in relation to the cleaning up of bodily fluids. It was also confirmed that there were no savings benefits from the FM Project as it was being operated on a cost neutral basis.

Following discussion, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the evaluation of phase 2 and the related actions;
- ii. **NOTED** that the evaluation of phase 3 would be reported to the Adult and Children's Services Committee in November 2013;
- iii. **AGREED** the implementation programme outlined in Appendix 6 to the report;
- iv. **AGREED** that consultation would begin on the proposal to transfer line management of all existing primary school janitorial staff to Catering, Cleaning and FM in advance of the FM rollout programme being completed and that a further update be reported to the Adult and Children's Services Committee in November 2013;
- v. **AGREED** that consultation be undertaken with Head Teachers of secondary schools that had primary schools, either on the same campus or immediately adjacent, in order to establish how the FM model would be implemented and that a further update be reported to a future meeting of the Committee;
- vi. **AGREED** that a report be submitted to the Adult and Children's Services Committee on 25 September 2013 addressing the communication issues which had been highlighted;
- vii. **AGREED** to provide Ms J Douglas with a list of schools that were to be involved in the next phase; and
- viii. **AGREED** that a briefing be made available on the Facilities Management Project for Kinmylies Parent Council.

### **13. Monitoring, Tracking and Reporting of Pupil Progress and Achievement**

**Sgrùdadh, Leantainn agus Aithris a thaobh Adhartas is Coileanadh Sgoilearan**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-52-13 \(38kb pdf\)](#) dated 13 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which provided information on emerging approaches in Highland to monitor and track pupil progress and achievement and how the E1 Managing Information System could be used to facilitate this.

Mrs Y Cairns, ICT in Schools Development Officer, made a brief demonstration of the E1 Managing Information System. The system recorded and could monitor both academic and wider achievement, pupil attendance, provide a snapshot of recent achievements and detail where specialist supports were in place.

During discussion Members welcomed the development of the system in schools and the potential uses of the information collected which should lead to more effective evaluation. It was particularly significant that the system permitted the input of evidence which could be useful for HMI Inspectors in identifying positive outcomes. It was welcomed that the system would have a positive input to Individual Education Plans and Child Plans and was particularly impressive in that it could provide information on specific and individual support required. In this connection, however, assurance was sought on the reliance of using GLOW.

The system would be a huge support to those children not in full time education, however, it could only be as good as the information put into it. It was vital to the Additional Support Allocation Model that the system was properly informed and used. It was suggested that this system might be particularly helpful for supply teachers in charge of pupils with additional support needs and could provide assistance prior to entering the classroom.

Responding to queries it was clarified that permissions for access to the system were on a needs basis with different layers of confidentiality and access as appropriate. Access to the system was discussed at a strategic level and not determined on an ad hoc basis.

The Committee **NOTED** the progress made to date in tracking and monitoring pupil progress and achievements and **AGREED** to support the further development of the E1 Managing Information System.

#### **14. School Lets - Proposed Pilot Project**

##### **Gabhaltasan Sgoile – Pròiseact Piolait a Thathar a' Moladh**

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

**Ms J Douglas and Mr K Gowans declared non-financial interests in this item on the grounds of being Directors of High Life Highland but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.**

**Ms J Douglas declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds of being a Girl Guide Leader but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that her interest did not preclude her involvement in the discussion.**



There had been circulated Report No [ACS-53-13 \(39kb pdf\)](#) dated 13 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which proposed changes to the current operating model for school lets and that a centralised management and administrative system be introduced on a pilot basis from August 2013.

During discussion, Members made a range of comments as follows:-

- the school facilities belonged to the community and it was suspected that there would be greater savings to be found if more trusted people could have access to keys to the schools – this would obviate the need to incur costs for janitorial overtime;
- the proposed centralised management and administrative system represented significant investment and it was suspected that savings would be sought as an outcome – it was not clear what system might be in place prior to any future proposals being put in place;
- while the report appeared simply to seek improved information gathering, it did not offer justification for this or scope out reasons. This led to fears that changes might already be designed but were not indicated at this stage;
- it was felt that this would streamline the process and the report aimed to give improved public access;
- there was a request for further clarity with how the Council would engage with young people, what kind of organisations would be contacted and what geographical spread would the information gathering process cover;
- community groups should be consulted from the outset and with a view not to impact on the quality of any programmes they might already have planned;
- insurance charges and responsibilities meant that keys could not be made available to any member of the community and this was part of the reason for the proposed pilot project;
- the cost of utilities and administration costs were rising and this impacted on making buildings accessible, safe and sustainable; and
- the pilot should not be about saving money in terms of the levels of subsidy the Council wished to provide but should recognise the benefits of allowing community groups to use schools and take a holistic approach with outcomes for communities being of the predominant motivation.

Responding to these comments it was clarified that the report did not intend to explore details, rather it sought a mechanism for improved management information gathering to inform the next stage proposals for the school lets system which would be implemented in August 2014. During the course of the academic year, information gathering would commence and with input from Local Members and local communities so that there would be well thought out and workable proposals for August 2014. It was also explained that liaison would be undertaken with the Youth Convener, Community Groups, Community Councils and users groups. The consultation would be on a Highland-wide basis and explore both urban and rural areas.

The Committee **AGREED** proposals to change the current operating model for school lets as follows:-

- i. from August 2013, provide improved management and financial information to better inform future policy discussion and decision-making by implementing an improved management information system; and
- ii. from August 2014, informed by improved management information and following extensive local consultation:-

- Streamline business processes
- Implement a consistent operating model
- Improve cost management and potentially improve income generation
- Provide an opportunity to pro-actively manage lets
- Reduce/remove an administrative burden from schools

## **15. Professional Update for Teachers** **Fios Proifeiseanta as Ùr do Thidsearan**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-54-13 \(36kb pdf\)](#) dated 10 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which provided information on a new scheme of re-accreditation for teachers registered with the General Teaching Council for Scotland. The report also sought approval to be involved with the General Teaching Council for Scotland in the second phase of a pilot scheme of re-accreditation for teachers entitled “Professional Update”.

During discussion, Members welcomed the report and recognised how challenging this would be to implement through schools. Head Teachers and senior staff should receive all the support they needed to implement it.

It was confirmed that no decision had as yet been taken as to which ASG would be involved in the pilot.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the national developments affecting the statutory registration of teachers in Scotland resulting from the Public Services Reform (General Teaching Council for Scotland) Order 2011;
- ii. **NOTED** the implications for Highland Council; and
- iii. **AGREED** to the involvement of Highland Council in Phase 2 of the General Teaching Council for Scotland Pilot for the Professional Update for Teachers.

## **16. Intensive Fostering Service** **Seirbheis Dian-dhaltachd**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-55-13 \(66kb pdf\)](#) dated 14 May 2013 by the Director of Health and Social Care which described the main elements of the proposed Intensive Foster Care resource and made recommendations about the criteria for carer applicants, including support and fee payments.

During discussion, Members welcomed the report and raised a number of issues, including the following:-

- there were presently between 40 and 50 children in Out of Authority placements which made life more difficult for those children and families. Assurance was sought that the Intensive Foster Care initiative and the many other initiatives currently aimed at this sector would make a difference;
- regular statements of children in Out of Authority placements had been previously requested and it was suggested that this should be provided from the next meeting onwards – this would clarify which initiatives were making the desired impacts;
- a request was made as to how many children were currently in private sector children's residential units in Highland;
- the flexibility of the proposed initiative was particularly welcome, if it demonstrated that more care could be provided in the Highlands and that there was scope for expansion. Assurances were also sought that this would be a cost effective option;
- reassurance was sought that there would be enough support for parents and for birth children and to ensure that this was constantly monitored; and
- the Committee had previously taken a decision to hold a reception for foster carers as a sign of the value the Council put on them and it was stressed that this should take place as a matter of priority.

Responding to these comments, it was explained that there would always be a small percentage of children who required a specialist placement and for whom specialist care could not expect to be met within Highland. The specialist fostering initiative for children in specialist placements sought to ensure that more children could continue to receive support in the Highlands. Two staff had been deployed to oversee the detail of this and support from other agencies would be fundamental.

Following discussion, the Committee:-

- AGREED** the details of the Intensive Fostering Service, as set out in the report; and
- AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the associated changes in staffing establishment to the Finance, Housing and Resources Committee.

The Committee adjourned for lunch at 1.00 pm and resumed at 1.30 pm.

## **17. Trainee Scheme: Public Health Nursing** **Sgeama Foghlamaich: Nursadh Slàinte Phoblaich**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-56-13 \(31kb pdf\)](#) dated 12 May 2013 by the Director of Health and Social Care which set out proposals for a trainee scheme for Public Health Nurses.

Having welcomed the proposals which, it was hoped, would help to address recruitment difficulties, the Committee:-

- AGREED** the proposals for a Public Health Nursing Training Scheme; and
- AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the changes in establishment set out in the report to the Finance, Housing and Resources Committee.

## **18. Criminal Justice Services for Women Offenders** **Com-pàirteachas Òigridh ann an Dealbhadh Seirbheis**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-57-13 \(56kb pdf\)](#) dated 3 May 2013 by the Director of Health and Social Care which provided an overview of the development of services for women offenders provided by Criminal Justice Services, including the redesign of services in line with the recommendations of the Commission on Women Offenders (2012) and following the establishment of the Community Integration Unit (CIU) in HMP Inverness in mid-2010. The report also provided information on the function of an additional social work post recently agreed by the Council, as well as other recent initiatives.

During discussion, Members expressed disappointment regarding the temporary closure of the CIU in Inverness due to a lack of women meeting the strict criteria. The Unit provided valuable support to women offenders and the 5% reconviction rate was commended. It was suggested that the Governor of HMP Inverness be invited to attend a future meeting of the Criminal Justice Sub-Committee to discuss the criteria and the possibility of the Unit being allowed to re-open.

The establishment of a Social Worker post to work exclusively with women offenders was welcomed. However, it was important to ensure that there was adequate cover in place to create a consistent and sustainable service.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the development of services for women offenders;
- ii. **AGREED** that the Governor of HMP Inverness be invited to a future meeting of the Criminal Justice Sub-Committee to discuss the criteria for the Community Integration Unit and the possibility of it being allowed to re-open; and
- iii. **AGREED** to ensure that there was adequate cover in place for the social worker post to create a consistent and sustainable presence.

## **19. Mental Health Officer Service** **Seirbheisean Oifigear Slàinte Inntinn**

There had been circulated Report No [Item 19 ACS-58-13 \(42kb pdf\)](#) dated 7 May 2013 by the Director of Health and Social Care which provided an update on the performance and impact of the Mental Health Officer Service within Highland Council which was established in April 2012.

In response to concerns raised, it was confirmed that there were some gaps in service provision as a result of staff moving to the Council's Mental Health Officer Service and plans were in place to recruit social workers to vacancies in the mental health teams. It was suggested that that information on gaps in provision, including timescales for recruitment, be provided to Members.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the issues raised in the report; and
- ii. **AGREED** that information be provided to Mrs M Davidson regarding gaps in provision and the timescales involved for these being filled.

## **20. Developments in School-based Immunisation Programme Leasachaidhean ann am Prògram Banachdaich nan Sgoiltean**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-59-13 \(42kb pdf\)](#) dated 12 May 2013 by the Director of Health and Social Care which set out requirements for new developments in school based immunisation and provided information on measles immunisation.

During discussion, the Vice Chair referred to recent press coverage and clarified that she had no reservations regarding the flu vaccination. Her comments had related solely to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and the importance of parents being fully informed of potential side effects.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that there was a risk of a measles outbreak as a result of the low uptake in vaccinations following the unfounded MMR scare in the late nineties. Measles was could be a serious disease which could be fatal or lead to long term complications. It was important to promote this message and ensure those at risk were inoculated. Younger children were protected, with immunisation rates having risen to approximately 95-96% in under five year olds. However, immunisation rates were not sufficiently high in ten to seventeen year olds and some adults. Information on local uptake rates and how to get the MMR vaccine was available from the Health Protection team.

The importance of educating parents, particularly in relation to the flu vaccine and the difference between true flu and other illnesses, was acknowledged and it was expected that national materials would be provided. Flu was a serious illness which could have a detrimental impact if contracted at a critical time in a child's education. Whilst the flu vaccine was not quite as effective as some other childhood vaccines, it did provide substantial protection and models indicated that introducing it in primary schools in Highland would lead to in the region of 2000 fewer consultations with GPs, 66 fewer hospital admissions and 12 less deaths. It was clarified that the pilot did not relate to the vaccine itself but to the systems for delivering vaccinations in schools and the logistical issues to be addressed.

Thereafter, having emphasised the importance of Members encouraging MMR vaccine uptake in local communities, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the issues raised in the report; and
- ii. **AGREED** the appointment of a temporary post of Schools Immunisation Project Lead.

## **21. Community Learning and Development Consultation Co-chomhairle Ionnsachadh agus Leasachadh Coimhearsnachd**

**Declarations of Interest:**

**Ms J Douglas and Mr K Gowans declared non-financial interests in this item on the grounds of being Directors of High Life Highland but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No [ACS-60-13 \(73kb pdf\)](#) dated 13 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport which provided information on the Scottish Government's consultation on new legislation to place a responsibility on Local Authority Education Services to coordinate the delivery of Community Learning and Development Services from 1 September 2013.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the direction of the draft legislation; and
- ii. **AGREED** to homologate the response attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

## **22. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas**

### **Declarations of Interest:**

**Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in item 22v on the grounds of being of a family member being in receipt of home care but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interests did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.**

There had been circulated various Minutes of Meetings for noting or approval as appropriate.

During discussion, clarification was provided on a number of specific points. In particular, it was explained that:-

- the Action Plan in relation to the Care at Home service had been received by the Council on 21 May 2013 and would be circulated, as previously agreed, to Members of the Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee;
- a report on the Change Fund, including the bids submitted and the outcomes expected, would be presented to a future meeting of the Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee;
- in relation to the difficulties in recruiting home care workers, this was an issue which required to be taken up by NHS Highland and monitored by the Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee. New thinking was required on how to promote vacancies in particular geographic areas and encourage people to apply; and
- with regard to the flow of information from NHS Highland to Elected Members, a newsletter was circulated to Members following each NHS Board Meeting. If Members had any comments on the detail, these would be relayed to the NHS Press Office which was very receptive to feedback.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED**, and **APPROVED** where necessary, the following Minutes of Meetings:-

- i. Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy Group of [12 February 2013 \(70kb pdf\)](#) ;
- ii. Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee of [21 February 2013 \(67kb pdf\)](#);
- iii. Child Protection Committee of [12 March 2013 \(59kb pdf\)](#);
- iv. Culture and Leisure Contracts Scrutiny Sub-Committee of [2 May 2013 \(37kb pdf\)](#); and
- v. Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee of [2 May 2013 \(61kb pdf\)](#).

The Committee also **AGREED** that:-

- i. the Action Plan in respect of the Care at Home service be provided, as previously agreed, to Members of the Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee; and
- ii. a report be submitted to a future Adult Services Development and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on the Change Fund.

### **23. Exclusion of Public** **Às-dùnadh a'Phobail**

The Committee **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 items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6, 7 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

### **24. Health and Social Care Complaints Review Committee Report** **Aithisg Comataidh Ath-sgrùdaidh Ghearrainean Slàinte agus Cùraim Shòisealta**

There had been circulated to Members only joint Report No ACS/61/13 dated 13 May 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive and the Director of Health and Social Care which set out the findings and recommendations following a Complaints Review Committee on 13 February 2013. The report also provided an overview of the complaints process and highlighted the requirement for decisions of the Complaints Review Committee to be reported to the Adult and Children's Services Committee.

The Committee **AGREED** the recommendations in the report.

### **25. Linnhe Leisure Update** **Fios as Ùr mu Spòrs an Linne Dhuibh**

#### **Declarations of Interest:**

**Mr B Gormley declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds of being a Director of Linnhe Leisure but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.**

**Ms J Douglas and Mr K Gowans declared non-financial interests in this item on the grounds of being Directors of High Life Highland but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion.**

There had been circulated to Members only Report No ACS/62/13 dated 20 May 2013 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport setting out the current situation in relation to Linnhe Leisure Limited.

Following discussion, during which Members emphasised the importance of corporate governance for Boards, the Committee **AGREED**:-

- i. the recommendations as detailed in the report; and
- ii. that the assistance provided by High Life Highland and the Highland Council include support for the Board and not just the management of the Centre.

The meeting concluded at 2.20 pm.