

## Item 9 - Question Time

To the Leader of the Council

“What progress has the Administration made towards the compilation of a comprehensive land, property, and asset register for the Council?”

### Response to Mr R Laird

Section 94 of The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires each relevant authority to publish a register of land which it owns or leases, “to the best of its knowledge and belief”. This will help community bodies to know what might be available through asset transfer and who owns any property they might be interested in. The Scottish Government has committed to ensuring that all public sector land is included on the Land Register by 2019, which will ensure that more accurate information is available. In the meantime, relevant authorities are required to publish the information they have at present “to the best of their knowledge and belief”, which should cover the majority of their property (*Extract from the recent “Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 - Consultation on Draft Regulations” (March 2016)*).

The Council’s Development and Infrastructure (DI) Service maintains the CPAM-Property Information System that is intended to contain all of the Council’s land and property interests/holdings (including operational and non-operational; leasehold; common good), which are understood to have been amalgamated from the former district council’s and regional councils’ property registers (both paper and electronic) as part of the formation of Highland Council back in 1996. The detail on individual buildings and sites are added on an on-going basis (when available) along with leases, disposals, condition, suitability, running costs, energy usage, to assist the DI Service in managing the property estate.

Scottish Government guidance regarding the land and property [asset](#) information that has to be published, and in what format, is anticipated later this year. The DI Service will look to follow this Scottish Government guidance (when available) to determine the format and content of the “register of land which the Council owns or leases” that is to be made publicly available.

The Council has also recently approved (12 May 2016) a temporary post of ‘Common Good Funds Officer’<sup>1</sup> whose key task will be “to review existing records and to capture accurately and confidently full details of all of the assets of the respective common good funds”, which will also contribute to the Council meeting a number of new obligations in the management of Common Good Fund Assets that are coming into force under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> The Highland Council (12<sup>th</sup> May 2016) ; Item 16; Ref: HC/23/16: Common Good Funds Officer

The Council's Community Services also has asset management systems for Housing, Roads, Bridges, Street Lighting, Piers and Harbours and to support amenity services for Grounds, Play Areas, Public Conveniences and War Memorials. Additionally there is a register of vehicles and large plant owned, leased and hired by the Council.

The Council's ICT Services have an asset database (maintained by Fujitsu) of all the Council's ICT assets.