

The Highland Council
Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee
6 September 2016

Agenda Item	4
Report No	BSAC/12/16

Developing Local Priorities for Badenoch and Strathspey

Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Development

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the local strategic priorities for Badenoch and Strathspey.

1. Background

- 1.1 Building on the localism agenda and increased delegation of decision making to local committees, each local committee was asked by the Leader to consider developing a set of strategic Council priorities for their area.
- 1.2 It is important to note that these are Council priorities and that there will be opportunity, through the development of local community partnerships, to consider wider shared priorities at a later date.

2. Developing the Badenoch and Strathspey Vision

- 2.1 The Chair of the Area Committee contacted the Badenoch and Strathspey Members by e-mail on 7th June 2016 asking that they to give thought to the key issues for Ward 21. Members were asked to consider:
 - Local priorities for the ward
 - Priorities that reflect the geographical diversity of Badenoch and Strathspey
- 2.2 Members were also asked to distinguish between Council priorities and those that would need partnership discussion and agreement. Council priorities might for example be around economic development, housing, tourism, biosphere, roads, transport, participatory budgeting.
- 2.3 This was followed by a discussion at a Ward Business Meeting on 8th August 2016 and the draft Badenoch & Strathspey local priorities are now as shown in appendix 1.
- 2.4 A further meeting will be scheduled to refine the area priorities and these will be reviewed by a future Area Committee.

3. Implications

- 3.1 There are no immediate resource, Legal, Equalities, Climate Change/Carbon Clever, Gaelic or Rural implications in the report. However the vision sets out ambitions which would have a positive impact on many of these themes.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- i) consider and agree these as the draft local priorities for Badenoch and Strathspey and
- ii) agree that the draft priorities will be further refined following discussion at a future meeting.

Designation: Michelle Morris, Depute Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Development

Date: 26 August 2016

Author: Liz Cowie, Ward Manager, Nairn and Badenoch & Strathspey

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Draft Badenoch and Strathspey Priorities

Ward 21 Badenoch & Strathspey Draft Local Strategic Priorities – August 2016

Community / Localism

- .Development of an effective Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership and aim to achieve local Community Planning in practice
- .Support community asset transfer to benefit local communities (i.e. Former Folk Museum, Kingussie)
- .Back and support the development of strong and resilient communities throughout the Ward
- .Support Participatory and local budgeting initiatives to encourage broader community participation
- .Continued development of a successful Area Committee

Housing

- .Create an environment where people can afford to live and work in the Ward
- .Review of provision of affordable housing and address policy change where required
- .Increase the range of affordable rented accommodation
- .Legislative change required to designate land exclusively for affordable house

Economic Prosperity

- .Economic regeneration and development – proactive business connections need to be promoted
- .Address lack of available land for development of light industrial units / programme of developing starter and development units, and support for business incubation concept
- .Ensure Tourism out with Aviemore and busier areas is supported and developed
- .Delivery of the Cairngorm and Glenmore Strategy
- .Work to ensure prosperity across the Ward with economic drive to focus initially on areas with the highest need such as South Badenoch
- .Ensure that Highland Council jobs stay in the Ward

Education

- .Attract and retain suitably qualified and experienced staff for all Ward Schools
- .Consideration of development of 3 – 18 campus
- .Seek opportunities to develop further and higher education / links to UHI / vocational education and training to offer broader learning opportunities at a local level
- .Strengthening learning partnerships e.g. with Cairngorms Learning Partnership
- .Focus on skills and employability in a Ward context

Health

- .Successful delivery of a new hospital for Badenoch and Strathspey
- .Redesign of services to improve access to quality healthcare for all residents of Ward 21
- .Support development of quality local care provision and access to care at home services
- .NHS Integrated Healthcare that delivers at a local level

Transport

- .Broader integrated transport across the ward and links beyond the ward
- .Lobby for rail commuter services, appropriate fares and improved services that run on time
- .Safeguard services and improve bus links
- .Rail project development
- .Further improve connectivity as a result of the A9 Dualling Programme

Infrastructure / A9

- .Delivery of A9 Dualling Project
- .Ensure effective partnership working throughout
- .Ensure input from community representation
- .Ward road network standard improved from current to excellent

Partnership Working

- .Work with partner organisations to create a change agenda for Badenoch and Strathspey that is dynamic and ambitious