

Item 9 - Question Time

To the Leader of the Council

“How will the Council support UNESCO currently designated and other aspiring territories and how will the Council seek to achieve the United Nations 17 goals for sustainability?”

Response to Mr Farlow

The Highland Council has supported the three existing designated UNESCO sites namely, the Lochaber, and North West Sutherland Geo-Parks and the Wester Ross Biosphere, through a mix of officer time and finance.

The Environment manager currently sits on the “Peatland Partnership” and “Flows to the Future” project which is considering making an application for UNESCO World Heritage status for the Flow Country. The financial and resource implications of such a bid will be a key consideration.

The UNESCO 17 goals for sustainability are very wide-ranging. The most relevant ones for the Council are Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy, Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth, Goal 11 – Sustainable cities and communities, Goal 13 – Climate Action, Goal 14 - Life below water and Goal 15 - life on land. They are being pursued through a number of actions in the Highland First programme which is monitored on a regular basis.