

Item 9 - Question Time

To the Chair of the Planning, Development & Infrastructure Committee

“Do you agree with me that a growing and vibrant economy in the Highlands is even more important to the wellbeing of the people who live here in times of uncertainty and reducing public funding. Since becoming the lead member for Economic Development and Regeneration, have you formed a view on what are the key issues for economic growth development in our area which you will be championing in the next 8 months?”

Response to Mr Prag

The Council's Highland First Programme sets out a wide range of activities that the Council will undertake to help our communities realise their full potential. A growing and vibrant economy is central to this. Caithness is at present experiencing an increase in work and investment and I shall continue to champion this pattern across the Highlands to make the most of our existing facilities, not least Kishorn Yard as an example in my own ward. Through the City Region Deal, progress will be made in preparing our young people for the world of work, providing advisory services to growing businesses or securing vital economic infrastructure.

This work continues for this Council Administration and I trust will remain a priority for the next.

BREXIT has introduced uncertainty, and our objective over the coming months is to ensure that those representing our interests are aware of the challenges and opportunities faced to enable our economy to grow and be sustainable.