

The Highland Council

Nairnshire Committee
21 September 2016

Agenda Item	4
Report No	N/15/16

Developing Local Priorities for Nairnshire

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Development

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the local strategic priorities for Nairnshire.

1. Background

- 1.1 Building on the localism agenda and increased delegation of decision making to local committees, each local committee has been asked by the Council 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 Nairnshire Priorities

- 2.1 The Chair of the Area Committee asked the Nairn Ward Members to give thought to the key issues for Ward 21. Members were asked to consider:
 - Local priorities for their own ward,
 - Priorities that reflect the geographical diversity of the Ward
- 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 harbours, tourism, biosphere, roads, transport, participatory budgeting.
- 2.3 This was followed by a discussion at a Ward Business Meeting on 12 August 2016 and the draft Nairnshire local priorities are now as shown in appendix 1.
- 2.4 A further meeting will be scheduled to refine the local priorities and these will be reviewed by a future Nairnshire 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 priorities set out ambitions which would have a positive impact on many of these themes.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- i) consider and agree the draft local priorities for Nairnshire, as detailed in appendix 1; 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: 9 September 2016

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

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Draft Nairnshire Local Priorities

Ward 19 Nairn Draft Local Strategic Priorities – September 2016

Economic Development and Prosperity

- A blueprint for Nairn and Nairnshire for economic development and regeneration with key targets and timelines including:
 - Delivering on Town Centre and High Street regeneration
 - Business Improvement District (BID) for Nairn
 - Harbour area regeneration and development strategy to include a 'transit Marina'
 - Support for new Business Park / Commercial Units development
 - Tourism development strategy for the Ward and development of a cohesive and connected quality offering for tourists
- Determine how the Inverness City and Region deal can benefit Nairn and Nairnshire

Broadband and Connectivity

- Ensure that next generation Broadband is brought to all areas of the Ward
- Lobby to ensure that mobile phone providers bring minimum 4G to all areas of the Ward
- Develop Nairn as a wifi town

Community / Localism

- Support development of an effective Nairnshire Community Partnership and work with partners and community to achieve effective Community Planning in practice
- Continue to support Participatory and local budgeting initiatives to encourage wider community participation
- Continue to develop and deliver a successful Nairnshire Committee

Transport and Infrastructure

- Support rapid development and delivery of the A96 Bypass
- Capitalise on strengthening connectivity as a result of A96 Dualling including progressing integrated transport initiatives, improving links to the airport and improving rail commuter services both in and out of Nairn.
- Continue to support and lobby to improve bathing water quality to achieve top quality status and also address fundamental water and sewerage infrastructure issues
- Continue well established partnership working on key transport and infrastructure projects and ensure input from community representation

Housing Development

- Focus on development of key sites in the Ward (e.g. Sandown)
- Provision of affordable housing and increase the range of affordable rented accommodation

Health and Social Care

- Support NHS Healthcare that is continually developed and delivered at a local level
- Ensure development of quality local care provision and access to care at home services

Education

- Seek opportunities to develop further and higher education provision in Nairn
- Focus on skills and employability in a Ward context to offer choice to younger people

Partnership Working

- Work with partner organisations to create a dynamic change agenda for development of Nairn and Nairnshire