

The Highland Council

Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee 3 October 2016

Agenda Item	3
Report No	SR/15/16

Developing Local Priorities for Isle of Skye and Raasay

Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Development

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the local strategic priorities for the Isle of Skye and Raasay.

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 there will be opportunity, through the development of local community partnerships, to consider wider shared priorities at a later date.

2. Developing the Local Priorities for Isle of Skye and Raasay

- 2.1 At a Ward Business Meeting held on the 25th July 2016, Members were asked to give thought to key local issues for the Ward. Members were asked to consider:
 - Local priorities for the Isle of Skye & Raasay
 - Priorities that reflect the geographical diversity of the Isle of Skye and Raasay
- 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 roads, housing, amenity services, tourism, transport, infrastructure, participatory budgeting.
- 2.3 This was followed by a discussion at a Ward Business Meeting on the 29th August 2016 and the draft Isle of Skye and Raasay 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 is no immediate Resource, Legal, Equalities, Climate/Carbon Clever, Gaelic or Rural Implications in the report. However, the draft priorities may 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 the Isle of Skye and Raasay and
- II. Agree that the draft priorities will be further refined following discussion at a future meeting.

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

Date: 21 September 2016

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Draft Isle of Skye and Raasay Priorities

Isle of Skye and Raasay Draft Local Strategic Priorities – September 2016

Strengthening Local Democracy

- Continued development of the Area Committee and use of increased delegated powers to bring democracy closer to our communities
- Encourage the development of the Ward Forum in partnership with Community Councils
- Support the development of an effective Community Partnership for Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross
- Where they wish to, ensure communities are able to fully participate in the development and delivery of services and assets
- Support Participatory Budgeting through available resources to encourage community engagement and participation in decision making

Tourism

- Work with partners, including agencies, land owners, tourism groups and communities to identify and support solutions that address issues created by the growing number of visitors to the Ward

Infrastructure

- Lobby to increase investment through the capital plan with a view to improving road, air and ferry links from the Ward, including Uig Ferry Terminal, Portree Link Road and Ashaig Airfield
- To prioritise and approve maintenance programmes for roads and bridges that improve the standard of the Ward road network, including improved car parking
- Support work towards achieving effective broadband and mobile coverage within the Ward
- Work with Emergency Services to encourage the establishment of a purpose built facility to house Police, Fire and Ambulance Services in Portree

Education

- Lobby to increase investment through the capital plan with a view to improving the school estate for the Ward, including new builds for Broadford and Dunvegan primary schools
- Support work towards ensuring that the Local Area and WiFi Networks provide an effective and increased bandwidth for all schools.

- Attract and retain suitably qualified and experienced staff for all schools in the Ward
- Develop opportunities for further and higher education through links to UHI, vocational education and training within the Ward

Employment

- Support opportunities to develop employability skills at a Ward level, including growing your own in relation to the care sector

Housing

- Work with partners to review and increase the number of affordable homes including Council and housing association houses, low cost home ownership and mid-market rent homes
- Support community led initiatives to deliver housing to meet local need

Community Works

- Explore how community works, including grounds maintenance, burial grounds, public conveniences and traffic management can be best delivered to meet the needs of the Ward

Transport

- Work with partners to find the best solutions to deliver Community Transport across the Ward
- Lobby public transport providers to improve services for communities across the Ward including flexibility of timetabling to ensure onward connections are integrated

Health

- Support development of quality local care provision and access to care at home
- Support the redesign of health & social care services to improve access to quality healthcare for all residents in the Ward including the delivery of a new hospital