

**The Highland Council**

**Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee  
16 November 2016**

Agenda Item	<b>4</b>
Report No	<b>BSAC/20/16</b>

**Developing Local Priorities for Badenoch and Strathspey**

**Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Development**

**Summary**

This report asks Members to approve the final draft local strategic priorities for Badenoch and Strathspey as outlined in appendix one.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Building on the localism agenda and increased delegation of decision making to local committees, the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee considered a draft set of local strategic priorities at the Area Committee held on 6 September 2016.
- 1.2 At this meeting Members agreed that the draft local priorities would be further refined following discussion with the appropriate officers at a future meeting to be arranged, and reported to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

**2. Developing the Badenoch and Strathspey Vision**

- 2.1 Members had been asked to consider local priorities for the ward and also to consider priorities that reflect the geographical diversity of Badenoch and Strathspey.
- 2.2 This was followed by a discussion at a Ward Business Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and this feedback was used to draft the Badenoch & Strathspey local strategic priorities.
- 2.3 A further meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October at which Members discussed the draft priorities in detail and clarified and refined them. These updated priorities are attached as Appendix One. Members are now asked to consider these and to approve them for adoption.

**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) agree these as the local strategic priorities for Badenoch and Strathspey

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

Date: 3 November 2016

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

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Badenoch and Strathspey Local Strategic Priorities

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

### Community / Localism

- .Development of an effective Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership. Our aim is to achieve integrated service planning with and for the local Community
- .Support community asset transfer to benefit local communities
  - Actively work to support and progress the transfer of the Former Folk Museum, Kingussie to the Am Fasgadh Regeneration group
- .Back and support the development of strong and resilient communities throughout the Ward
  - Continue to support development of community resilience initiatives
- .Support participatory and local budgeting initiatives to encourage broader community participation
  - First event to run on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

### 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
  - By utilising Scottish government financial initiatives
- .Support designation of land exclusively for affordable housing

### Economic Prosperity

- .Economic regeneration and development – proactive business connections need to be promoted by, with and through THC, Business Gateway, HIE, CBP, CNPA
- .Work with partners to specifically address:
  - The lack of available land for development of light industrial units
  - The need to progress a programme of developing starter and development units
  - The business incubation concept
  - How to take advantage of the opportunities presented by A9 dualling
- .Ensure tourism outwith Aviemore and busier areas is encouraged and developed
- .Delivery of the Cairngorm and Glenmore Strategy
  - Including the redevelopment of outdoor education facilities in the Glenmore area
- .Ensure prosperity is spread across the Ward:
  - Initial economic drive to focus on areas with the highest need such as South Badenoch
- .Ensure that Highland Council jobs stay in the Ward
- .Delivery of high speed broadband to all premises in the Ward as a key driver for economic growth

### Education

- .Attract and retain and support suitably qualified and experienced staff for all Ward Schools
- .Consideration innovative ways of providing educational management such as 3 – 18 campus concept
- .Develop further and higher education:
  - Strengthen links to Inverness College / UHI
  - Vocational education
  - Training to offer broader learning opportunities at a local level
- .Maximise opportunities created through the new hospital development in B & S in areas such as life science, research and training
- .Strengthen and support local learning partnerships e.g. with Cairngorms Learning Partnership
- .Focus on skills and employability relevant to the local employment market:
  - Expand involvement of business and trades in skills for work opportunities
  - Utilise existing facilities such as the Janitors House in Grantown on Spey
  - Creation and development of an 'Academy' system e.g. for Care and Tourism

### Health

- .Support the NHS in successful delivery of a new hospital for Badenoch and Strathspey
- .Support successful redesign of services to improve access to quality health and social care for all residents of Ward 21
- .Ensure quality local care provision and access to care at home services:

- Provision of palliative and end of life care
- Dementia and dementia friendly communities
- Support adults with additional support needs through local provision e.g. Caberfeidh Horizons / The Meeting Place

.NHS Integrated Healthcare that delivers at a local level

.Support the development of Telecare and home based digital diagnosis

.Tackle social isolation

### **Transport**

.Promote the introduction of an integrated transport system across and beyond the Ward

.Rail Services - continue to lobby for:

- Additional rail commuter services
- Appropriate and discount fares
- Improved reliable timetables
- Increase carriage capacity, especially for longer distance journeys – including provision for wheelchairs users, luggage, and bikes

.Bus services

- Security of routes and service
- Better integration of bus and rail
- Accessibly for mobility
- Condition reliability of fleet

.Support the Rails to Grantown Project as a means to improve economic activity for the Ward

### **Infrastructure**

.Delivery of high speed broadband to all premises in the Ward as a key driver for economic growth

.Continue to support and input to delivery of A9 Dualling Project, ensure effective partnership working throughout and input from local communities

.Deliver a Ward road network to an improved standard

.Continue to recognise the unique climatic and geographical challenges in the Badenoch & Strathspey Ward

.Ensure appropriate winter services support to promote the economic development of Badenoch & Strathspey

.Delivery of a safe, accessible and fully connected off road network between communities that link the communities in B & S