

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
SUTHERLAND COUNTY COMMITTEE

30th NOVEMBER 2016

Agenda Item	9.
Report No	SCC/ 26/16

KIMO - 'Pick Up Three Pieces' (Local Initiative)

Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

Summary

This report presents a *brief* summary of the activities of KIMO and focuses on the '*pick up three pieces*' initiative. The Committee is asked to consider and note the activities highlighted below, and note the success of the 'Pick Up 3 Pieces' project and consider its launch in Sutherland

1. Background

- 1.1 The Highland Council is a member of KIMO (Kommunenes Internasjonale Miljøorganisasjon – The Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation), an organisation of European coastal Local Authorities. Founded in 1990 by four authorities. Membership of KIMO has grown and now stands at more than 70 Local Authorities drawn from seven countries with Northern Seas coastlines.
- 1.2 KIMO is committed to the development of sustainable coastal communities by:
 - preventing pollution of the seas and coastal waters of North Western Europe and preserving, improving and enhancing them for future generations;
 - protecting coastal communities from the impacts of marine pollution and climate change; and
 - representing its member local authorities and associated members at an international and national level.
- 1.3 KIMO UK is the national network for members in the UK and represents UK members at the KIMO International Board. The Highland Council is a member of KIMO and KIMO UK
- 1.4 Cllr Greene and Cllr Farlow represent The Highland Council on at KIMO UK's Board meetings
- 1.5 The Council's Planning, Development & Infrastructure Committee is responsible for overseeing the Council's European Engagement activity. Reports are presented annually to this committee detailing the networks the Council engages with. KIMO is one of the European networks included in

these reports.

- 1.6 Committee members can obtain further details of the work of KIMO by visiting the website www.kimointernational.org.

2. KIMO Activities

2.1 Fishing for Litter Scotland (FFLS)

This a very successful project aimed at changing behaviour towards marine litter within the fishing fleet and beyond. The idea is simple; fishermen are given large hardwearing bags to collect marine litter caught in their nets. Harbour and Port authorities move the bags to a dedicated skip funded by the project for responsible disposal

2.2 Net Recycling Scotland

KIMO UK has been piloting 'Net Recycling Scotland' over the summer of 2016 This project ultimately aims to recycle more than 200 tonnes of end of life fishing nets each year.

2.3 Emergency Towing Vessels

KIMO UK has been actively engaged in the effort to retain a UK Government funded Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) in UK waters. KIMO UK continues to lobby for a second ETV to ensure adequate coverage.

2.4 Pick up Three Pieces

- 2.4.1 KIMO UK continues to promote its 'Pick up Three Pieces' initiative. This initiative has been operating very successfully on Orkney for a number of years after it was started by a motivated school teacher. Its aims are simple – to encourage visitors to beaches to collect three pieces of litter each time they visit. This will effect a change in behaviour by raising awareness of the issues caused by marine litter through encouraging active participation. It is estimated that if everyone living near the coast in the Scotland did this once/month, there would be more 55 million pieces of litter on our beaches each year. KIMO UK aims to roll the programme out to its members and beyond. The first actions so far have been to visit primary schools to deliver an interactive lesson on marine litter and invite participation. Children are given a badge to remind them of their commitment. So far, more than 300 school children in Aberdeen City and Shire have heard about the sources of marine litter and its impact on our sea life and beaches. Lesson resource packs will be produced during the next quarter and offered to education authorities. Feedback from schools has been very positive.

- 2.4.2 KIMO UK held stalls at two local events in Aberdeenshire – Stonehaven Harbour Festival during August and Fraserburgh Super Saturday Land and Sea event during September. The Coordinator and volunteers were on hand to explain the importance of reducing marine litter and promote 'Pick up Three Pieces' at both events. In total, more than 400 children and adults received a badge and information about the project at the events demonstrating the success that can be derived from such engagements.

2.4.3 KIMO UK's Coordinator would welcome an opportunity to engage with schools in Sutherland with the aim of delivering a number of presentations and demonstrating how the resource packs could be used by school teachers. It would also welcome invitations to have a stall at community events to explain the importance of tackling marine litter.

2.4.4 Members are asked to support the roll out of 'Pick Up Three Pieces' in Sutherland.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource

Resources to deliver the *pick up three initiative* will be met by KIMO

3.2 Legal

There are no known legal implications arising from this report.

3.3 Equalities

No known equality impacts.

3.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever

Encouraging local people /schools to engage in the 'pick up three' initiative will raise awareness of the marine environment, the impacts of climate change and the need to mitigate these impacts.

3.5 Risk

There are no known risks arising from this report.

3.6 Gaelic

Opportunities for inclusion of Gaelic in the initiative can be explored with KIMO.

3.7 Rural

Local rural communities will be directly engaged in the reduction of coastal litter in Sutherland.

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to:

- note the work of KIMO, particularly the success of the Pick Up 3 Pieces project in Orkney and consider its launch in Sutherland; and
- agree to extend an invitation to the KIMO UK Co-ordinator to make a presentation at a future meeting of the Sutherland County Committee

Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 16 November 2016

Author: Nicole Wallace (Environment manager) 01463 702563

Garry Cameron (Ward Manager) 01408 635335

Background Information: Graham Humphries, KIMO Co-ordinator