

The Highland Council

**Nairnshire Committee
7 December 2016**

Agenda Item	4
Report No	N/24/16

Developing Local Priorities for Nairnshire

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Development

Summary

This report asks Members to approve the final draft local strategic priorities for Nairnshire as outlined in Appendix 1.

1. Background

- 1.1 Building on the localism agenda and increased delegation of decision making to local committees, the Nairnshire Area Committee considered a draft set of local strategic priorities at the Area Committee held on 21 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 Nairnshire 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 Nairnshire.
- 2.2 This was followed by a discussion at a Ward Business Meeting on 12 August 2016 and this feedback was used to draft the Nairnshire local strategic priorities.
- 2.3 A further meeting was held on 4 November 2016 at which Members discussed the draft priorities in detail and clarified and refined them. These updated priorities are attached as Appendix 1. 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

The Committee is asked to approve the local strategic priorities for Nairnshire as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.

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

Date: 18 November 2016

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

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Nairnshire Local Strategic Priorities

Ward 19 Nairn Draft Local Strategic Priorities – November 2016

Economic Development and Prosperity

- Create a blueprint for Nairnshire for economic development and regeneration with key targets and timelines including:
 - Delivering on Town Centre and High Street regeneration
 - Supporting development of a Business Improvement District (BID) for Nairn
 - Delivery and implementation of a tourism action plan
 - Regeneration of the harbour area through creation of a development strategy
 - Support for a new Business Park
 - Further development of commercial units
 - Support for development of local employment and training opportunities
- Work to maximise the benefits of the Inverness City and Region deal for Nairnshire

Broadband and Connectivity

- Ensure delivery of next generation Broadband to all areas of Nairnshire
- Lobby to ensure that mobile phone providers bring minimum 4G to all areas of Nairnshire
- Support development of Nairn as a Wi-Fi town

Community / Localism

- Continue to strengthen the Nairnshire Committee through development of the localism agenda
- Working with partners and the community, support the development of an effective Nairnshire Community Partnership to achieve effective Community Planning and address inequalities through partnership working
- Continue to proactively and effectively manage the Nairn Common Good Fund and seek opportunities to maximise the Fund to benefit the local community
- Continue to support participatory and other local budgeting initiatives to empower wider community participation in decision making

Transport and Infrastructure

- Support rapid development and delivery of the A96 Bypass
- Capitalise on strengthening connectivity as a result of dualling of the A96 including:
 - progressing integrated transport initiatives
 - improving rail commuter services both in and out of Nairn
 - improving links to the airport
 - improved walking and cycling routes
- Deliver a connected Coastal paths network through capitalising on opportunities presented by A96 dualling working with Transport Scotland and other partners to achieve this
- Continue to lobby and work toward improving the bathing water quality to achieve top status for Nairn's beaches
- Also address fundamental water and sewerage infrastructure issues
- Continue well established partnership working on key transport and infrastructure projects with community representation

Housing Development

- Focus on development of key sites in Nairnshire to deliver the housing needs of our community
- Provision of affordable housing and increase the range of affordable rented accommodation

Health and Social Care

- Support the maximisation of key hospital services at the Nairn Town and County Hospital as the main hub for delivery of health services for the Nairn Community
- Ensure patient transport services meet patient and family needs
- Protect NHS Healthcare provision for Nairnshire
- Protect quality local care provision and access to care at home services

Education

- Seek opportunities to develop further and higher education provision in Nairn with UHI, Inverness College and Moray College
- Explore local Campus development
- Seek solutions to reducing the attainment gap
- Ensure education estate provision is fit for purpose
- 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 Nairnshire

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