

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Redesign Board of the Highland Council** held in Committee Room 2, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Tuesday, 1 May 2018 at 11.15am.

Present:

Mr B Lobban (Chair)	Mr A Christie
Mr A MacKinnon	Mr R Bremner (VC)
Mr M Reiss	Mr D Louden
Ms M Smith	Mr J Gibson
Dr I Cockburn	Mr P MacPherson
Mr G MacKenzie	

Also Present:

Mr M Finlayson	Mrs L MacDonald
Mrs P Munro	Mr J Gray

Officials in attendance:

Mr S Barron, Chief Executive
 Mrs C McDiarmid, Head of Policy and Reform
 Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
 Ms R Cleland, Corporate Communications Manager
 Mr R Bain, Ward Manager
 Mr A Bruce, Service Delivery Manager
 Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs M Davidson, Mr L Fraser, Mrs C Wilson, Mr C Smith, Mrs C Caddick, Mr A Jarvie and Mr A Sinclair.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

3. Review of Car Parking

There had been circulated Report No. RDB/3/18 dated 27 April 2018 by the Inverness City Area Manager which confirmed that, as part of the Council's Redesign Programme, a comprehensive peer review of car parking had been undertaken. As such, Appendix 1 to the report contained a copy of the main report and detailed the findings which supported the development of Car Park Services to formulate an all-inclusive policy to enhance the ability to manage the Parking Estate and deliver on localism.

In this regard, and prior to discussion, the Chair advised that it was now intended that this review would be taken in two stages on the basis that Members could raise issues in relation to any of the current 60+ recommendations within the circulated report at this meeting, with further work done on the proposals which would then be continued through the Board in workshop(s) before coming back to

a further formal meeting of the Board and submission of final recommendations to the Council. Ideally, this would be the Council meeting at the end of June.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- in relation to Chapter 6 (Stakeholder & Staff Views), and specifically the proposal to agree a Communications Plan as part of the process to be followed when applying the revised policy and to include consultation with local bodies, it would help to also include consultation with Community Councils;
- in regard to Chapter 5 (Council's Parking Estate – Identifying Additional Parking Opportunities), and specifically the development of a database to show all land currently under the control/ownership of the Council used for car parking, this should include fuller and more detailed information on the car parks missing from the list and those of uncertain status . Also, in terms of the identification of sites currently used for car parking, there should be consideration also given to the use of vacant land where possible;
- there was a concern in relation to the reputational risk to the Council arising from the lack of consultation with certain communities over the decisions made at the Council meeting when the budget was set and in this respect it was highlighted that in future consultation before implementation was key;
- an apology was offered by Mr A MacKinnon to Mr G MacKenzie (and accepted) in relation to comments which had been made in a Board workshop about Mr MacKenzie's previous involvement in discussion on this issue at the Council meeting in February;
- a breakdown of the capital costs of implementation of proposals in each area, along with associated information on the staffing/operational running costs and income targets, would be helpful;
- there were concerns about the potential impact on small car parks across the Highlands where it was suggested that there might only be very limited financial gain;
- in regard to Chapter 7 (Parking Revenue and Commercialism Opportunities), and specifically consideration of the expansion of lorry parks, mobile homes and coach parking facilities with the application of a charge for use, it was suggested that this should include reference to working in conjunction with partners;
- in relation to Chapter 9 (Recommended Pricing Strategies and Business Processes, and specifically the recommendation for improvement of car park management technology, it was suggested that this should also include reference to information and signage;
- there was a need for further and more detailed information on rates associated with individual car parks and this should be provided for a future Board workshop;
- in response to a query as to what was planned for future consultation exercises, it was noted that there would be full involvement of Local Committees in each case and that a consistent template would be used across the Highland area in this regard which could be adjusted to local circumstances as necessary;
- opportunities for discussion of future proposals at a Ward level should also be considered for inclusion;

- feedback from communities in areas where car parking charges had already been implemented would be helpful;
- further detail on the criteria to be used in terms of the inclusion of car parks in future was needed; and
- in relation to Chapter 2 (Car Parking Vision) and specifically the rolling out of benefits from the new policy across the Highlands and utilising Local Committees and Community Partnerships in this respect, it was suggested that reference should instead be made to rolling out the new policy (with no reference to benefits). It was noted that this linked to Chapter 8 (Delivering on Localism) and specifically the identification of a Communication Plan which engaged communities effectively and highlighted benefits whilst also accounting for any concerns.

Thereafter, the Board **NOTED** the findings as detailed in the report and attached appendices.

The Board also **AGREED**:-

1. the following changes to the current recommendations in the report:
 - a. Recommendation 2/06 – link this to rec 8/06 and rec 6/01 and remove reference to ‘the benefits’;
 - b. Rec. 5/01 – include land we use for car parking but do not own;
 - c. Rec 5/02 – include land identified with partners which could have dual use;
 - d. Rec. 5/03 – include sites to be sold or developed for other use which could be used for car parking instead
 - e. Rec. 6/01 – link to rec 2/6 and 8/6
 - f. Rec 7/07 – include reference to working with partners
 - g. Rec 9/07 – include information and signage
 - h. include a recommendation that the final and agreed proposals should be reviewed after a period of one year.
2. that the team would proceed with work to draft:
 - a. a revised policy using the findings from the review;
 - b. revisions to the Scheme of Delegation setting out the decisions to be made at Local and City Committees and those to be made at Strategic Committees;
 - c. the options on the formula for retaining income locally and regionally;
 - d. the template report for Local Committees to use to help with their decision-making;
 - e. the timescale proposed for implementation.

This work would come back to a workshop for consideration and prior to a formal meeting of the Board where it would agree its recommendations for Council, ideally for the Council meeting in June 2018.

3. That the Board should look at the operating model for car parking. This should include consideration of rates treatment so further information should be provided on current rates charged and the likelihood of those being reviewed where charges were introduced.

The meeting ended at 12.10pm.