

**Item 12 - Question Time**

To the Leader of the Council

“The Highland Council is a participant in a number of Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP). It would be informative to be reminded as to the purpose of each LLP and who the other partners are in each case, if any, and what financial stake does Highland Council have in each LLP?

Response to Mr J McGillivray

The Council has entered into five Limited Liability Partnerships as follows:

Participation in the Scottish Government’s National Housing Trust (NHT) model which is supported by a Scottish Government guarantee involves four Limited Liability Partnerships. Each of the individual LLPs is designed to create more new mid-market rented houses where there is unmet demand for this type of housing and has separate board meetings, governance and administrative reporting mechanisms relating to board papers, accounts, audits and decision-making process. The main reason for having four separate LLPs in Highland is because they came through separate rounds of procurement. There are ongoing discussions with Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust to amalgamate these LLPs.

There is also SEEMIS LLP which is the provider of the SEEMIS Schools Management Information system to all 32 Scottish Local Authorities. The Council’s membership and payment of annual service fee (19/20 £201k) provides access to the SEEMIS system to all Highland schools, and support from SEEMIS. Other Partners: 31 other Scottish Local Authorities. Financial stake: Council financial contributions to SEEMIS operating costs are formula based, with Highland’s 19/20 contribution representing 4.4%.