

## **The Highland Council**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee** held remotely via Microsoft Teams on 9 February 2022 at 10.30 am.

### **Present:**

Mrs I Campbell  
Dr I Cockburn

Mr A MacInnes

### **In attendance:**

Mrs D Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager, Communities and Place

Mr R MacLeod, Housing Manager (North), Property and Housing

Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager

Mr R MacLeod, Area Housing Manager – North

Ms H Cameron, Education Officer,

Mr A Webster, Principal Regeneration Officer

Mr C Howell, Head of Infrastructure

Mr I Moncrieff, Roads Operations Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

Mr D Mackenzie, Corporate Communications and Engagement Officer, Chief Executive's Office

Mrs A MacArthur, Administrative Assistant, Performance and Governance

### **Also in attendance:**

Group Commander A McKinley, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.**

## **Business**

### **1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr D MacLeod.

### **2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

Item 4 – Mrs I Campbell (non-financial).

### **3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Seirbheis Smàlaidh is Teasairginn**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/001/22 dated 27 January 2022 together with the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Performance Report by the Local Group Commander for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

During discussion, the following responses had been given:-

- the recruitment levels in Achiltibuie and Applecross were low, an indication of the figures for station availability in previous years would be helpful.

The Group Commander A MacKinley thanked the Committee for their continued support in raising the profile of recruitment in the area and the Group Manager gave appreciation to the full-time, primary employers of the retained fire station staff and the time given to attend incidents.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

#### **4. Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Assessment of Applications Maoin Coimhearsnachdan Cladaich na Gàidhealtachd – Measadh Iarrtasan**

**Declaration of Interest: Mrs I Campbell declared a non-financial interest in relation to HighLife Highland as she was a Board Member and did not take part in this item.**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/002/22 dated 19 January 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

The Committee thanked the Programme Manager and her team for the detailed information provided and the high level of scrutiny involved in relation to the applications for the fund.

The Committee:

i. **APPROVED:**

a. Lochcarron Community Development	£18,500
b. Outdoor Access Trust	£30,000
c. An Talla Solas	£27,000
d. Welcome to Ullapool	£3,500

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ii. **AGREED**, as the meeting was not quorate, to recommend **APPROVAL** to the Highland Council of:

- e. HighLife Highland Ullapool Youth Space £14,550

#### **5a. Housing Performance Report Aithisg Dèanadais a thaobh Taigheadais**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/008/22 by the Executive Chief Officer dated 4 February 2022 by the Director of Community Services which provides Members with information on how the Housing Section performed in relation to the Scottish Social Housing Charter and other performance indicators during the period up to 31 December 2021.

During discussion, the following responses had been given:-

- Brian Cameron from the Climate Change Working Group managed the HRA Capital Programmes. The replacement programme for heating was targeted at the oldest heating systems first. If there was an issue with the function of a heating system, and these systems were beyond economical repair, the heating system would be looked at on that basis; and
- a breakdown of the different types of heating systems now utilised in Council houses would be brought to the ward business meeting.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

#### **5b. Housing – Garages Taigheadas – Garaidsean**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/003/22 by the Executive Chief Officer - Housing and Property dated 4 February 2022.

During discussion, the following responses had been given:-

- a breakdown on the garages held in the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh area was to be undertaken and would be taken to the ward business meeting.

The Committee **AGREED** a 1% rent increase to apply to Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh garages and garage sites for 2022/2023.

#### **6. Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust Urras Foghlaim Rois is Chromba**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/004/22 dated 28 January 2022 by the Area Care and Learning Manager.

During discussion, the following responses had been given:-

- on a query on the amount of interest received from the fund, feedback would be brought to the ward business meeting on the investments of the fund; and
- the award of applications had been delegated to officers.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

#### **7. Place Based Investment Programme Prògram Tasgaidh Stèidhichte air Àite – Riarachaidhean Maoineachaidh gam Moladh**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/005/22 dated 3 February 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

The Community Housing Trust, Strathpeffer Development of the Square and the Kyle and Lochalsh Trust Viking Network applications had not been eligible for the fund under the criteria.

The Committee:

- i. **AGREED** to offer a Place Based Investment Programme grant to:
  - a. Strathpeffer Residents Association (New Play Park) £50,500
  - b. Aultbea Hall £8,630.40
- ii. **AGREED** delegated authority to the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy in consultation with the Area Committee Chair to allocate any uncommitted PBIP grant to approved PBIP beneficiaries in the first instance and then TCF Grantees thereafter

## 8. **Place Based Investment Fund Maoin Tasgaidh Stèidhichte air Àite**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/006/22 dated 24 January 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer – Communities and Place.

The Committee:

- i) **AGREED** to allocate £12,647 from the remaining Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh (WRSL) Place-Based Investment Fund as follows:
  - a) £6,323 to support the provision of play equipment in the WRSL Ward in consultation with amenities staff; and
  - b) £6,323 to support the provision of public toilet facilities in the ward.
- ii) **NOTED** that next steps to progress the play provision work will include confirmation of any other funding available, identification of play priorities across the area, scale of repairs required or type of equipment to be installed based on the budget available and consideration of ongoing maintenance associated with any equipment installed. This will involve the amenities team and communities.

## 9. **Area Roads Capital Programme Prògram Calpa Rathaidean Sgìreil 2022/23**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/007/22 dated 18 January 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

During discussion, the following responses had been given:-

- Glenelg Road would be inspected and essential remedial works to the potholes in the road would be undertaken. The Glenelg Road could be added to the list under the red line for any additional monies that would become available;
- there was currently ongoing dialogue with the Forestry and SSE led by Robin Pope, a full report on the status of this would be sent to Members following this meeting; and
- the status of the Achmore Road would also be given to Members.

The Committee:

- i. **APPROVED** the proposed 2022/23 Area Roads Capital Programme for Wester Ross Strathpeffer Lochalsh Area; and
- ii. **AGREED** to include the road at Glenelg below the red line on appendix 2 of the report and to inspect the road and undertake essential remedial work to the potholes.

**10. Minutes  
Geàrr-chunntas**

The Committee **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee held on 4 November 2021 which were approved by the Council on 10 December 2022.

**11. Urgent Business  
Comfort Scheme Application  
Aithisg Dèanadais a thaobh Taigheadais**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/009/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place dated 8 February 2022.

The Committee **AGREED** the proposed additional temporary Comfort Scheme.

The Chair thanked the Ward Members and officers for the smooth running of the Committee. The Ward Members thanked Dr Cockburn for his work as Chair.

The meeting closed at 11.45 pm.