

The Highland Council
No. 2 2022/2023

Minutes of Meeting of the Highland Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Thursday, 9 June 2022 at 10.30 am.

1. Calling of the Roll and Apologies for Absence
A' Gairm a' Chlàir agus Leisgeulan

Present:

Mr C Aitken	Ms E Knox
Ms S Atkin	Ms L Kraft
Mr M Baird	Mr B Lobban
Mr A Baldrey	Mr P Logue
Mr C Ballance	Mr D Louden
Dr C Birt	Mr A MacDonald (remote)
Mr B Boyd	Mr W MacKay (remote)
Mr R Bremner	Mr G MacKenzie
Mr I Brown	Mrs I MacKenzie
Mr J Bruce	Mr S Mackie
Mr M Cameron	Mr A MacKintosh
Mrs I Campbell	Mr R MacKintosh
Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair	Mrs A MacLean (remote)
Mr A Christie	Ms K MacLean
Mrs M Cockburn	Mr T MacLennan
Ms T Collier	Mr D Macpherson
Ms H Crawford	Ms M MacCallum
Ms S Fanet	Mrs B McAllister
Mr J Finlayson (remote)	Ms J McEwan
Mr D Fraser	Mr J McGillivray (remote)
Mr L Fraser	Mr D Millar
Mr R Gale	Mr H Morrison (remote)
Mr K Gowans	Mrs P Munro (remote)
Mr J Grafton	Mr C Munro
Mr A Graham	Ms L Niven
Mr M Green	Ms M Nolan
Mr D Gregg	Mr P Oldham
Mr R Gunn (remote)	Ms S Rawlings (remote)
Mrs J Hendry	Ms M Reid
Ms M Hutchison	Mr M Reiss
Mr A Jarvie	Mr A Rhind
Mrs B Jarvie	Mrs T Robertson
Ms L Johnston	Mr K Rosie
Mr R Jones	Mr A Sinclair
Mr S Kennedy	Ms M Smith
	Mr R Stewart

In Attendance:

Chief Executive

Acting Depute Chief Executive and Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

Executive Chief Officer, Education and Learning

Executive Chief Officer, Health and Social Care

Executive Chief Officer, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

Executive Chief Officer, Property and Housing

Mr B Lobban in the Chair

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs L Saggors, Mrs M Paterson and Ms K Willis.

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

The Council **NOTED** the following declarations of Interest:-

Item 3b - Mr I Brown, Mr A Christie and Mrs T Robertson.

3. **Committee Structure/Remuneration** **Structar na Comataidh/Iocadh**

(a) Committee Structure/Governance Arrangements

There had been circulated Report No. HC/7/22 dated 2 June 2022 by the Acting Depute Chief Executive & Executive Chief Officer for Performance and Governance.

Some Members expressed disappointment at the proposal for the remit of the Tourism Committee to revert to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee, the latter already having a considerable brief, given that tourism played an important part in the economy of the Highlands. Other Members, whilst acknowledging the important role the Tourism Committee had played in the previous Council in dispersing the grants which had come forward as a result of the increase in “staycations” during the Covid 19 pandemic, much of this had now been devolved to Area Committees. It would however not preclude, if the Economy and Infrastructure Committee so determined, the establishment of a dedicated Sub Committee or Working Group or for the position to be revisited at some point in the future if it was felt that tourism was not receiving the prominence it deserved.

Thereafter, Mr P Logue, seconded by Ms M Smith, **MOVED** that recommendation 3a iii be deleted.

As an **AMENDMENT**, Mr R Bremner, seconded by Mr A Christie, moved the recommendations as detailed in the report.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 21 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 50 votes, with no abstentions, and the **AMENDMENT** was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion

Mr J Bruce, Ms H Crawford, Mr R Gale, Mr R Gunn, Mr A Jarvie, Mrs B Jarvie, Mr S Kennedy, Mr P Logue, Ms M MacCallum, Mr A MacDonald, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr S Mackie, Mr A MacKintosh, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister, Ms J McEwan, Ms M Nolan, Mr M Reiss, Mr A Sinclair, Ms M Smith, Mr R Stewart.

For the Amendment

Mr C Aitken, Ms S Atkin, Mr M Baird, Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Dr C Birt, Mr B Boyd, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr M Cameron, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr A Christie, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms T Collier, Ms S Fanet, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr K Gowans, Mr J Grafton, Mr A Graham, Mr M Green, Mr D Gregg, Mrs J Hendry, Ms M Hutchison, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Ms E Knox, Ms L

Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr D Louden, Mr W MacKay, Mr G MacKenzie, Mr R MacKintosh, Mrs A MacLean, Ms K MacLean, Mr T MacLennan, Mr J McGillivray, Mr D Millar, Mr H Morrison, Mrs P Munro, Mr C Munro, Ms L Niven, Mr P Oldham, Ms S Rawlings, Ms M Reid, Mr A Rhind, Mrs T Robertson, Mr K Rosie.

Decision

The Council:-

- i. **NOTED** that the governance arrangements remained largely unchanged at this stage, with the potential to review again in the autumn;
- ii. **AGREED** to the establishment of the Climate Change Committee, comprising 14 Members;
- iii. **AGREED** the remit of the Tourism Committee be reverted to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee, with the Committee determining how best to deliver its tourism remit; and
- iv. **AGREED** the Recovery Improvement and Transformation Board be disbanded.

The Council **APPROVED** the following Committee Structure and the membership lists which had been tabled in each case (other than for the Pensions Board, Local and Regulatory Committees)

(i) Strategic Committees

1. Communities and Place Committee
2. Corporate Resources Committee
3. Economy and Infrastructure Committee
4. Education Committee
5. Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee
6. Housing and Property Committee

(All of the above would comprise 18 Members and would meet quarterly)

(ii) Pensions Committee – 11 Members – half yearly meetings

(iii) Pensions Board – 2 Members and 1 substitute – half yearly meetings – and 1 representative from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, 1 representative for the other Employers and 4 Trade Union representatives.

(iv) Audit & Scrutiny Committee – 14 Members – quarterly meetings

(v) Gaelic Committee – 14 Members – quarterly meetings

(vi) Climate Change Committee - 14 Members – quarterly meetings

(vii) Local Committees – quarterly meetings

1. Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee
2. Black Isle Committee
3. Caithness Committee
4. City of Inverness Area Committee
5. Dingwall & Seaforth Area Committee
6. Easter Ross Area Committee
7. Isle of Skye & Raasay Committee
8. Lochaber Committee
9. Nairnshire Committee

- 10. Sutherland County Committee
- 11. Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh Committee

(viii) Regulatory Committees

North Planning Applications Committee (16 Members – 8 meetings per year)
South Planning Applications Committee (16 Members – 8 meetings per year)

Planning Review Body (PRB) (6 Members – 7 meetings per year)

(b) Remuneration for Senior Councillors

Declarations of Interest – Mr A Christie as Leader of the Opposition, Mrs T Robertson as she was to be nominated as Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and Mr I Brown as Leader of the City of Inverness and Area Committee declared interests in this item and, in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of the revised Code of Conduct, left the meeting for this item.

On a Point of Order having been raised, the Convener, having sought the advice of the Head of Legal and Corporate Governance, explained that, while a list of proposed office bearers had been tabled, these were indicative only at this stage.

There had been circulated Report No. HC/8/22 dated 2 June 2022 by the Chief Executive.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- clarification was sought as to the remit of the new post of Senior Strategic Chair and its corresponding remuneration;
- it was questioned why the remuneration for the Chair of Audit and Scrutiny was less than the other Chairs. In response, it was explained that this was because the Audit and Scrutiny Committee was not a Strategic Committee and it had fewer Members;
- it was questioned why the City of Inverness and Area now had a Leader, Depute Leader, Provost and two Depute Provosts when there were fewer meetings proposed;
- it was noted that the remuneration for Area Chairs had been removed, with the exception of the City of Inverness and Area. Some members said that this failed to recognise the importance of Area Committees and showed a lack of respect of the remote and rural Highlands and the diverse communities they represented. There was already a perception that much was focused on Inverness. Highland Council needed to be inclusive and demonstrate due deference to the many small communities that made the Highlands so unique. At this juncture, Mr Gale, having indicated that he was to move a motion reflecting this position, stated that he would donate his remuneration to charity if he was elected Chair of his Area Committee;
- the proposed increase of Senior Councillors salaries of 15% sent out the wrong message to constituents living in the remoter parts of Highland, especially when Area Chairs were no longer to be paid. There was evidence that people in remote areas wanted to be heard and the remuneration of Area Chairs would be a symbolic move towards this;
- the rationale whereby Vice Chairs were now to be paid whilst Area Chairs were not, was sought;
- there was perhaps a misconception around the workload of Area Chairs which was not as heavy as strategic chairs and some members said it was a privilege to be

appointed an area chair – Chairs should be encouraged to be proactive and to take things forward;

- it was suggested that the boundaries of the City of Inverness and Area Committee might merit being revisited;
- others contended that a Chair of a 3 or 4 Member Area Committee did not merit an additional uplift unlike the City of Inverness and Area which had 23 Members;
- paying 11 Area Chairs would incur additional costs and savings would need to be identified elsewhere; and
- the salary of the Leader and Convener was set out in legislation and Highland Council was entitled to have up to 19 further Senior Councillors, the total amount payable being £511,316. However, the Administration had sought to limit this to 15 Senior Councillor positions, equating to £381,000.

Thereafter, Mr R Bremner, seconded by Mr B Lobban, moved the proposed senior councillor structure and associated remuneration as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

As an **AMENDMENT**, Mr R Gale, seconded by Mrs B McAllister, **MOVED** that, in order to ensure equality across the Highlands, the Council carry out a review of the remuneration of Senior Councillors and that review would include a recognition of the role that Area Committees played in the localism agenda. Pending the outcome of that review the remuneration of the Chair of the Inverness Committee and that of the Vice Chairs of Strategic Committee would be suspended. The result of the review would be presented to the Full Council at the first meeting following the Summer Recess.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 38 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 30 votes, with no abstentions, and the **AMENDMENT** was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion

Ms S Atkin, Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Mr B Boyd, Mr R Bremner, Mr M Cameron, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms T Collier, Ms S Fanet, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr K Gowans, Mr M Green, Mrs J Hendry, Ms M Hutchison, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Mr S Kennedy, Ms E Knox, Ms L Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr D Louden, Mr W MacKay, Mr G MacKenzie, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Millar, Mrs P Munro, Mr C Munro, Ms L Niven, Mr P Oldham, Ms M Reid, Mr A Rhind, Mr K Rosie.

For the Amendment

Mr C Aitken, Mr M Baird, Dr C Birt, Mr J Bruce, Ms H Crawford, Mr R Gale, Mr J Grafton, Mr A Graham, Mr D Gregg, Mr R Gunn, Mr A Jarvie, Mrs B Jarvie, Mr P Logue, Ms M MacCallum, Mr A MacDonald, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr S Mackie, Mr A MacKintosh, Mrs A MacLean, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister, Ms J McEwan, Mr J McGillivray, Mr H Morrison, Ms M Nolan, Ms S Rawlings, Mr M Reiss, Mr A Sinclair, Ms M Smith, Mr R Stewart.

Decision

The Council **APPROVED** the proposed senior councillor structure and associated remuneration as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

4. Appointment of Office Bearers Cur an Dreuchd Luchd-oifis

Nominations for the Senior Member posts were tabled by the Administration and the Council **AGREED** as follows:-

Chair of Communities and Place – Mr G Mackenzie
Chair of Corporate Resources Committee – Mr D Louden
Chair of Economy and Infrastructure Committee – Mr K Gowans
Chair of Education Committee – Mr J Finlayson
Chair of Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee – Mr D Fraser
Chair of Housing and Property Committee – Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair
Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee – Mrs T Robertson
Chair of Climate Change Committee – Mr K Rosie
Chair of Gaelic Committee – Mr C Munro
Chair of Pensions Committee – Mr T MacLennan
Vice Chair of Communities and Place – Mr H Morrison
Vice Chair of Corporate Resources Committee – Mr C Munro
Vice Chair of Economy and Infrastructure Committee – Mr M Green
Vice Chair of Education Committee – Mr D Millar
Vice Chair of Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee – Mrs M Cockburn
Vice Chair of Housing and Property Committee – Mr L Fraser
Vice Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee – Mr A Jarvie
Vice Chair of Climate Change Committee – Ms K Willis
Vice Chair of Gaelic Committee – Mr R Bremner
Vice Chair of Pensions Committee – Mr D Louden

**5. Appointment of Members to Planning Application Committees
Cur Bhall an Dreuchd gu Comataidhean Iarrtais Dhealbhaidh**

The Council **AGREED** that membership of Planning Application Committees should comprise 1 Member from each 3 Member Ward and 2 Members from each 4 Member Ward as follows -

North Planning Application Committee (Wards 1-11) – 16 Members
South Planning Application Committee (Wards 12-21) – 16 Members

In accordance with the above, the Council **APPROVED** the nominations from the respective Wards as had been tabled as follows:-

North Planning Application Committee

Substantive Members – Ms S Atkin, Mr M Baird, Mr R Bremner, Mrs B Campbell, Ms T Collier, Mr R Gale, Ms L Kraft, Mrs A MacLean, Ms J McEwan, Mr D Millar, Mrs M Paterson, Mr M Reiss, Mr A Rhind, Mr K Rosie, Ms M Smith and Mr R Stewart

Substitute Members – Mr C Birt, Mr A Jarvie, Mr S Kennedy, Ms M MacCallum, Mr S Mackie, Mr H Morrison, Mr C Munro, Ms L Niven, Ms M Nolan and Ms S Rawlings.

South Planning Application Committee

Substantive Members – Mr C Aitken, Mr M Cameron, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr R Jones, Mr B Lobban, Mr A MacDonald, Mrs I Mackenzie, Mr A MacKintosh, Mr T MacLennan, Mr P Oldham, Ms M Reid.

Substitute Members – Mr J Bruce, Ms S Fanet, Mr K Gowans, Mr D Gregg, Mrs B Jarvie and Mrs T Robertson.

For those Wards which were still underrepresented, Members were encouraged to approach their Ward Manager, it being highlighted that appointment to a Planning Application Committee was not done on a political basis.

The Council also **AGREED**:-

- i. that a Special Meeting of the North Planning Applications Committee take place on 29 June 2022 at the conclusion of the Special Highland Council; and
- ii. that both Planning Application Committees should appoint their own Chairs at their first meetings.

**6. Appointment of Members to the Planning Review Body
Cur Bhall an Dreuchd chun na Buidhne Ath-bhreithneachaidh Dealbhaidh**

The Council **AGREED** that the membership of the Planning Review Body (PRB) should comprise 6 Members as follows:-

- a. the respective Chairs of the North and South Planning Applications Committees who would act as Chair/Vice Chair of the PRB;
- b. two further members from both of the North and South Planning Applications Committee to be identified at the first meetings of both Committees;
- c. no Council Ward would have more than one member on the PRB; and
- d. no first-time elected members.

The Council also **AGREED** that the first meeting of the PRB be held on Monday 27 June 2022.

**7. Appointments to Highland and Western Isles Valuation Joint Board
Cur an Dreuchd gu Co-Bhòrd Luachaidh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean Siar**

The Council was required to appoint 8 substantive and 8 substitute Members to the Highland and Western Isles Valuation Joint Board.

In this regard, nominations in accordance with the agreed formula had been tabled at the meeting as follows:-

Substantive Members - Mr B Boyd, Mr M Cameron, Ms T Collier, Mr L Fraser, Mr A Graham, Ms J McEwan, Mr S Mackie and Mrs M Paterson.

Substitute Members – Mr J Bruce, Mr A Christie, Mrs M Cockburn, Mr M Green, Mr B Lobban, Ms K MacLean, Mr P Oldham and Mrs T Robertson.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** the membership of the Valuation Joint Board as detailed.

**8. Local Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff (LNCT)
Comataidh Barganachaidh Ionadail airson Luchd-obrach Teagaisg**

It was proposed that the membership of the LNCT should comprise of 10 Members including the Chair and Vice Chair of the Education Committee, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Corporate Resources Committee and 6 other Members of the Education Committee – 10 Members in total.

In this regard, nominations in accordance with the agreed formula had been tabled at the meeting as follows:-

Ms S Atkin, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms H Crawford, Mr J Finlayson, Mr J Grafton, Mr A Jarvie, Mr D Louden, Mr D Millar, Mr C Munro and Ms S Rawlings.

Decision

The Council **APPROVED** the membership of the LNCT as detailed.

9. Appeals Committees Comataidhean Ath-thagraidhean

Members were advised that they were required to sit on Appeals Committees from time to time to deal with appeals against the refusal of placing requests or the exclusion of pupils from school in accordance with S28D (1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1981. Membership was drawn from all Members of the Council, would include persons who were not Members of the Council and would vary according to the nature and location of the appeal. The Appeals Committee could not be chaired by a Member of the Education Committee.

Decision

The Council **NOTED** the position as detailed.

10. Standing Orders Relating to the Conduct of Meetings Gnàth Riaghailtean a' Buntainn ri Giùlan Choinneamhan

There had been circulated Report No. HC/9/22 dated 2 June 2022 by the Acting Depute Chief Executive and Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance.

Prior to debate, the Convener indicated that, as he was required to enforce Standing Orders during debates, he would not take part in any vote.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- if Standing Orders were now reflecting what took place both in Holyrood and the UK Parliament, it was queried if this now also meant the non-involvement in political matters by the Convener. In response, the Convener stressed that, in the role of Convener, he carried out his duties fairly across the Chamber and without bias. As an individual Elected Member he would however take part in debate and would be involved in the political activities and direction of the authority. There was provision in Standing Orders for the Convener to be Chair or Vice Chair of a Committee which might have a political function;
- in response to a question, it was explained that the removal of a supplementary question during Public Question Time was to prevent inappropriate questions from being raised; and
- it was appropriate to review Standing Orders and to reflect on Members' conduct and the proposed changes covered a variety of issues. They would assist with formal Committee meetings going forward. There had been engagement across the Group Leaders prior to finalising the amendments and there had been a general consensus that this was the right way forward.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** the revisions to Standing Order Relating to the Conduct of Meetings highlighted in Appendix 1 and summarised in section 4 of the report.

11. External Appointments Cur an Dreuchd on Taobh A-muigh

(a) Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) Co-chruinneachadh Ùghdarrasan Ionadail na h-Alba

The Council had been invited to appoint 5 Members to the Convention.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint the following 5 Members to the Convention – Mr R Bremner, Mr A Christie, Mr J Finlayson, Mr K Gowans and Mr B Lobban.

The Council also **AGREED** that, following CoSLA meetings, a briefing note be circulated to all Members of the Council.

(b) Appointment – NHS Highland Board Cur an Dreuchd – Bòrd NHS na Gàidhealtachd

The Council had been invited to nominate a Senior Member to serve on the Board of NHS Highland. This nomination would require to be approved by the Cabinet Secretary.

In this regard, nominations were received as follows:-

Mrs M Cockburn
Mr R Gunn.

On a vote being taken, Mrs M Cockburn received 39 votes and Mr R Gunn received 28 votes, with 2 abstentions, the votes cast having been as follows:-

Votes for Mrs M Cockburn

Ms S Atkin, Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Dr C Birt, Mr B Boyd, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr M Cameron, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms T Collier, Ms S Fanet, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr K Gowans, Mr M Green, Mrs J Hendry, Ms M Hutchison, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Mr S Kennedy, Ms E Knox, Ms L Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr D Louden, Mr G MacKenzie, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Millar, Mr C Munro, Mrs P Munro, Ms L Niven, Mr P Oldham, Ms M Reid, Mr A Rhind, Mr K Rosie.

Votes for Mr R Gunn

Mr C Aitken, Mr M Baird, Mr J Bruce, Mr A Christie, Ms H Crawford, Mr R Gale, Mr J Grafton, Mr A Graham, Mr D Gregg, Mr R Gunn, Mr A Jarvie, Mrs B Jarvie, Mr P Logue, Mr A Macdonald, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr S Mackie, Mrs A Maclean, Mr A MacKintosh, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister, Ms J McEwan, Ms M Nolan, Ms S Rawlings, Mr M Reiss, Mrs T Robertson, Mr A Sinclair, Ms M Smith, Mr R Stewart.

Abstention

Mr W MacKay, Mr H Morrison,

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to nominate Mrs M Cockburn to serve on the Board of NHS

Highland.

The Council also **AGREED** to lobby NHS Highland/Scottish Government for increased Council representation on the Board of NHS Highland.

(c) Cairngorms National Park – Local Authority Nominations to the Park Authority Board

Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh – Ainmeachadh Ùghdarrais Ionadail gu Bòrd Ùghdarrais na Pàirce

The Council had been invited to make 2 nominations to be considered for appointment by Scottish Ministers to the Cairngorms National Park Authority Board from 1 October 2022. These appointments would run for five years from 2022 to 2027.

One of the nominees had to be 'local' as defined in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. In this regard, Ministers might only appoint a person as a local Member if that person's sole or main residence was within the National Park, or was a Councillor for an electoral ward, or was a member of a Community Council, any part of whose area was in the National Park. Members would be expected to commit 2-3 days per month to the Park Authority's work.

The Council was therefore invited to nominate 2 Members for submission to Scottish Ministers for appointment to the National Park Authority Board as detailed.

In this regard, a nomination from the Administration had been tabled at the meeting as follows:-

Mr R Jones and Mr B Lobban.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to nominate Mr R Jones and Mr B Lobban for submission to Scottish Ministers for appointment to the National Park Authority Board.

The Council also **AGREED** that remunerated posts be recorded in the minutes, the NHS Highland Board being £8,930 per annum, Valuation Joint Board being £24,467 per annum and the Cairngorms National Park being £226.75 per day.

12. Appointments to Companies
Cur an Dreuchd gu Companaidhean

(a) Highland Opportunity (Investments) Limited
Cothrom dhan Ghàidhealtachd (Tasgaidhean) Earranta

Highland Opportunity (Investments) Limited was a company which created and sustained employment in the Highlands through investment in businesses and community enterprises. The role of Directors was to consider individual investment proposals and decide on their merit and to set out the strategic policy of the company. In this regard, it was considered desirable for Directors to have appropriate business orientated experience. There were no external appointments. There were 6 meetings held during the year.

The Council had been asked to appoint 9 Members to Highland Opportunity (Investments) Limited and there had been circulated Role Profile and Skills Set for Directors

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms H Crawford, Mr M Green, Mr A MacDonald, Mr S Mackie, Mr T MacLennan, Mr P Oldham, Mr A Rhind to Highland Opportunity (Investments) Limited.

(b) High Life Highland High Life na Gàidhealtachd

High Life Highland was a company limited by guarantee (with charitable status) set up and wholly owned by the Council to undertake the delivery of community learning and leisure activities. High Life Highland also had a wholly owned trading subsidiary. The Board of Directors of the main charitable company comprises four Council Directors and eight independent Directors. The Board of Directors of the main trading subsidiary comprises nine Directors, four of whom also serve on the Board of the main charitable company.

The role of Directors was to contribute effectively to the work of the Board and to utilise the necessary business skills in regard to the development of the charity, including financial, legal, personnel, marketing, ICT, property and general management issues. It was desirable that Directors have experience in leading a team within a company or community organisation and an understanding of corporate governance issues. There were 4 meetings of the main charitable company during the year.

In this regard, there was circulated Role Profile and Skills Set for Directors. High Life Highland was also keen to encourage Members with different experiences and points of view on the Board and keen to encourage people who were currently under-represented on Boards such as women, disabled people, those from Black and ethnic minority communities, LGBTI+ people, and people aged under 50.

The Council had been asked to appoint 4 Members to High Life Highland.

In this regard, nominations were received as follows:-

Mrs B Campbell, Ms M Hutchison, Mr A Jarvie, Mrs B McAllister and Ms S Rawlings.

On a vote being taken, Mrs B Campbell received 57 votes, Ms M Hutchison received 40 votes, Mr A Jarvie received 40 votes, Ms S Rawlings received 56 votes and Mrs B MacAllister received 28 votes, the votes cast having been as follows:-

Votes for Mrs B Campbell

Mr C Aitken, Ms S Atkin, Mr M Baird, Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Dr C Birt, Mr B Boyd, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr J Bruce, Mr M Cameron, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms T Collier, Ms H Crawford, Ms S Fanet, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr R Gale, Mr K Gowans, Mr J Grafton, Mr M Green, Mrs J Hendry, Ms M Hutchison, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Mr S Kennedy, Ms E Knox, Ms L Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr P Logue, Mr D Loudon, Mr W MacKay, Mr G MacKenzie, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr S Mackie, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Macpherson, Ms J McEwan, Mr D Millar, Mr H Morrison, Mrs P Munro, Mr C Munro, Ms L Niven, Ms M Nolan, Mr P Oldham, Ms M Reid, Mr M Reiss, Mr A Rhind, Mr K Rosie, Mr A Sinclair, Ms M Smith, Mr R Stewart.

Votes for Ms M Hutchison

Ms S Atkin, Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Dr C Birt, Mr B Boyd, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr J Bruce, Mr M Cameron, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms T Collier, Ms S Fanet, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr K Gowans, Mr M Green, Mrs J Hendry, Ms M Hutchison, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Mr S Kennedy, Ms E Knox, Ms L Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr D Louden, Mr G MacKenzie, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Millar, Mr H Morrison, Mrs P Munro, Mr C Munro, Ms L Niven, Mr P Oldham, Ms M Reid, Mr K Rosie.

Votes for Mr A Jarvie

Mr C Aitken, Mr M Baird, Dr C Birt, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr J Bruce, Mr M Cameron, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr A Christie, Ms T Collier, Ms H Crawford, Mr R Gale, Mr K Gowans, Mr J Grafton, Mr A Graham, Mr A Jarvie, Mrs B Jarvie, Ms L Johnston, Mr S Kennedy, Mr B Lobban, Mr P Logue, Mr A MacDonald, Mr G MacKenzie, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr S Mackie, Mr A MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister, Ms J McEwan, Mr D Millar, Mr C Munro, Ms M Nolan, Ms M Reid, Mr M Reiss, Mr A Rhind, Mrs T Robertson, Mr A Sinclair, Ms M Smith, Mr R Stewart.

Votes for Ms S Rawlings.

Mr C Aitken, Ms S Atkin, Mr M Baird, Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Dr C Birt, Mr B Boyd, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr J Bruce, Mr M Cameron, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr A Christie, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms T Collier, Ms H Crawford, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr R Gale, Mr K Gowans, Mr J Grafton, Mr A Graham, Mr M Green, Mr D Gregg, Mr R Gunn, Mrs J Hendry, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Mr S Kennedy, Ms L Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr D Louden, Mr A MacDonald, Mr G MacKenzie, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr S Mackie, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Macpherson, Ms J McEwan, Mr D Millar, Mrs P Munro, Mr C Munro, Ms M Nolan, Mr P Oldham, Ms S Rawlings, Ms M Reid, Mr M Reiss, Mr A Rhind, Mrs T Robertson, Mr K Rosie, Mr A Sinclair, Ms M Smith.

Votes for Mrs B MacAllister

Mr C Aitken, Ms S Atkin, Mr M Baird, Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Mrs M Cockburn, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr R Gale, Mr J Grafton, Mr A Graham, Mr D Gregg, Mr R Jones, Mr D Louden, Mr A MacDonald, Mr A MacKintosh, Mr R MacKintosh, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister, Ms J McEwan, Mrs P Munro, Ms M Nolan, Mr M Reiss, Mr A Rhind, Mrs T Robertson, Ms M Smith.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mrs B Campbell, Ms M Hutchison, Mr A Jarvie and Ms S Rawlings to High Life Highland.

(c) Eden Court Highlands Cùirt Eden

Eden Court Highlands was a company limited by guarantee and also a registered charity which promoted, maintained, improved and advanced public interest in the Arts. The role of Directors was to maintain, manage and control the Eden Court Theatre complex in Inverness. In addition to meetings of the Eden Court Board, there were a number of Sub-Committee meetings which were held regularly. In addition to Council membership, there were 8 external appointments and 5 meetings held during the year.

In this regard, there was circulated a copy of the Job Description.

The Council had also been asked to appoint 4 Members to the Board of Directors of Eden Court Highlands.

In this regard, nominations were received as follows:-

Ms S Atkin, Mr C Ballance, Mr A Christie, Ms E Knox and Mrs I Mackenzie.

On a vote being taken, Ms S Atkin received 40 votes, Mr C Ballance received 17 votes, Mr A Christie received 50 votes, Ms E Knox received 42 votes and Mrs I Mackenzie received 53 votes with 2 abstention, the votes cast having been as follows:-

Votes for Ms S Atkin

Ms S Atkin, Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Dr C Birt, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr M Cameron, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms T Collier, Ms S Fanet, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr K Gowans, Mrs J Hendry, Ms M Hutchison, Mr A Jarvie, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Mr S Kennedy, Ms E Knox, Ms L Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr P Logue, Mr D Louden, Mr G MacKenzie, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Macpherson, Mr D Millar, Mrs P Munro, Mr C Munro, Ms L Niven, Mr P Oldham, Ms M Reid, Mr M Reiss, Ms M Smith.

Votes for Mr C Ballance

Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms S Fanet, Mr L Fraser, Mr M Green, Ms M Hutchison, Mr D Louden, Mr R MacKintosh, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Macpherson, Mr D Millar, Mrs P Munro, Ms M Reid, Mr M Reiss, Ms M Smith.

Votes for Mr A Christie

Mr C Aitken, Ms S Atkin, Mr M Baird, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr J Bruce, Mr M Cameron, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr A Christie, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms T Collier, Ms H Crawford, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr R Gale, Mr K Gowans, Mr J Grafton, Mr A Graham, Mr D Gregg, Mr R Gunn, Mrs J Hendry, Mr A Jarvie, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Mr S Kennedy, Ms E Knox, Ms L Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr P Logue, Mr D Louden, Ms M MacCallum, Mr A MacDonald, Mr G MacKenzie, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr S Mackie, Mr A MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister, Ms J McEwan, Mrs P Munro, Mr C Munro, Ms M Nolan, Mr P Oldham, Ms S Rawlings, Mr M Reiss, Mrs T Robertson, Mr A Sinclair, Ms M Smith, Mr R Stewart,

Votes for Ms E Knox

Ms S Atkin, Mr A Baldrey, Mr C Ballance, Dr C Birt, Mr B Boyd, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr M Cameron, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mrs M Cockburn, Ms T Collier, Ms S Fanet, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr K Gowans, Mr M Green, Mrs J Hendry, Ms M Hutchison, Mr A Jarvie, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Mr S Kennedy, Ms E Knox, Ms L Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr D Louden, Mr W MacKay, Mr G MacKenzie, Mr Mackie, Mr R MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Millar, Mrs P Munro, Mr C Munro, Ms L Niven, Mr P Oldham, Ms M Reid, Mr K Rosie, Mr A Sinclair.

Votes for Mrs I Mackenzie

Mr C Aitken, Ms S Atkin, Mr M I Baird, Mr R Bremner, Mr I Brown, Mr J Bruce, Mr M Cameron, Mrs B Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr A Christie, Ms T Collier, Ms H Crawford, Mr J Finlayson, Mr D Fraser, Mr L Fraser, Mr R Gale, Mr K Gowans, Mr J Grafton, Mr A Graham, Mr M Green, Mr D Gregg, Mr R Gunn, Mrs J Hendry, , Mr A Jarvie, Mrs Ba Jarvie, Ms L Johnston, Mr R Jones, Mr S Kennedy, Ms E Knox, Ms L Kraft, Mr B Lobban, Mr P Logue, Ms M MacCallum, Mr A MacDonald, , Mr Graham MacKenzie, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr S Mackie, Mr A MacKintosh, Ms K MacLean, Mr T MacLennan, Mr D Macpherson, Mrs B McAllister, Ms J McEwan, Mr C Munro, Ms M Nolan, Mr P Oldham, Ms S Rawlings, Ms M Reid, Mr M Reiss, Mrs T Robertson, Mr A Sinclair, Ms M Smith, Mr R Stewart.

Abstention

Mr H Morrison

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Ms S Atkin, Mr A Christie, Ms E Knox and Mrs I Mackenzie to the Board of Directors of Eden Court Highlands.

(d) Highland Buildings Preservation Trust Urras Gleidheadh Thogalaichean na Gàidhealtachd

Highland Buildings Preservation Trust was a company limited by guarantee and also a registered charity which restored and returned to use the built heritage of the Highlands and Islands in order to secure a viable, sustainable and appropriate end use for each building and to ensure the ongoing care and preservation of buildings for future generations. The role of Directors was to ensure that the main objectives of the Trust were implemented through the acquisition and preservation of derelict historic buildings and the re-use of any proceeds from the sale of restored buildings on a revolving basis to tackle other projects.

In addition to Council membership, there were 8 external appointments and 6 meetings held during the year.

The Council had been asked to appoint 2 Members to the Highland Buildings Preservation Trust.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mr B Boyd and Mr A Sinclair to the Highland Buildings Preservation Trust.

(e) Nigg Skills Academy Acadamaidh Sgilean Neig

Nigg Skills Academy was a company limited by guarantee which was launched by the Scottish Government in 2012 to provide an annual throughput of modern apprentices in engineering trades. It took on trainees every quarter who spent up to twelve weeks at the Skills Academy, amounting to some 600 hours training. Training then continued in the workplace until the trainees had achieved the standard of award for a Modern Apprenticeship.

This was an industry led initiative and Highland Council was one of the 'standing members' of the company. In this regard, the Council had a Highland wide remit for the education of young people, could act as a neutral body as it was neither a direct

funder or beneficiary of the Skills Academy and had an ongoing interest in employability and tackling youth unemployment.

The Council had been asked to appoint 1 Member (with Substitute) to Nigg Skills Academy.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mr K Rosie to Nigg Skills Academy – with Ms M Reid as Substitute.

13. Appointments to Other Bodies Cur an Dreuchd gu Buidhnean Eile

(a) HiTRANS HiTRANS

HITRANS was the statutory Regional Transport Partnership for the Highlands and Islands and its membership included representatives from the five Councils – Highland, Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar, Orkney, Moray and Argyll and Bute. HITRANS worked with Councils, the Scottish Government, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, transport operators and other stakeholders to improve transport services in the Highlands and Islands. In addition to the Council appointments, there were three non-Council members who were appointed by the Scottish Government following an open advertisement and selection process.

The Council had been asked to appoint 1 Member (with substitute) to HITRANS.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mr K Gowans, the Chair of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee – with the Vice Chair, Mr M Green, as Substitute – to HiTRANS.

(b) Highland Housing Alliance Caidreachas Taigheadais na Gàidhealtachd

The Highland Housing Alliance was formed to help address the need for affordable housing in the Highlands with the objectives of operating a revolving landbanking fund to facilitate the construction of affordable housing, carrying out infrastructure works to enable sites to become available as feasible building sites, developing projects to provide housing (for sale and rent) at market or near market levels, organising, packaging and managing joint developments with housing associations and others and undertaking research, development and other work to improve the housing procurement process in the Highlands with specific reference to the sustainable use of locally sourced products.

The Council had been asked to appoint 1 Member to the Highland Housing Alliance.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair to the Highland Housing Alliance.

(c) KIMO International

KIMO Eadar-nàiseanta

KIMO International (Kommunenenes Internasjonale Miljøorganisasjon) was an association of local authorities, founded in 1990 whose primary aim was to eliminate pollution from the Northern Seas. The organisations key objectives were: exchange information on pollution prevention, clean up and sustainable development; lead by example in improving regional marine environments; lobby national Governments, the European Commission, and others to take effective action on issues affecting Northern Seas; make joint representations against proposals which threaten the quality of the marine environment; and undertake demonstration projects.

The Council had been invited to appoint 3 Members to the UK KIMO Board.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mr C Ballance, Mr K Gowans and Mrs T Robertson to the UK KIMO Board.

(d) NHS Highland Health & Social Care Committee Comataidh Slàinte & Cùraim Shòisealta

The Health & Social Care Committee had responsibility for co-ordinating the planning, development and provision of services by NHS Highland with a view to improving these services where possible. This included the provision of quality, safe and effective care as close to home as possible and ensuring that frontline staff had the opportunity and resources to achieve that objective. The Committee was also closely involved in community planning, with an emphasis on health & quality improvement, and played a key role in the modernisation of health care services along with vital participation in partnerships, integration and re-design.

The Council had been asked to appoint 3 Members to the Health & Social Care Committee.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mrs M Cockburn, Mr D Fraser and Mr R Gunn to the Health & Social Care Committee.

(e) Children's Hearings Scotland – Highland & Moray Area Support Team Èisteachdan Chloinne Alba – Sgioba Taic Sgìreil na Gàidhealtachd & Mhoireibh

The Highland & Moray Area Support Team was responsible for overseeing the functions of the Highland and Moray Children's Panels and the Council had been asked to appoint 1 Member to the Highland & Moray Area Support Team.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mrs P Munro to the Highland & Moray Area Support Team.

(f) The Highland Reserve Forces & Cadets Association Comann Fheachdan & Chaideatan Glèidhte na Gàidhealtachd

The Highland Reserve Forces & Cadets Association was tasked with representing the Reserve Forces (Royal Naval Reserve, Territorial Army and Royal Auxiliary Air Force)

and the three service cadet organisations (Sea, Army and Navy) in the area north of the Forth/Clyde line. The Association provided accommodation (TA centres and cadet buildings), support to recruiting, support to employers of reservists and support to the cadets and wider youth initiatives.

The Council had been asked to appoint 3 Members to the Highland Reserve Forces & Cadets Association.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mr I Brown, Mrs M Paterson and Ms S Rawlings to the Highland Reserve Forces & Cadets Association.

(g) Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances Comataidh Chomhairlean na h-Alba air Stuthan Rèidio-beò

The Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances which was set up by CoSLA, following discussions with the Scottish Government, as a group to co-ordinate the views of Scottish Councils on matters relating to radioactive substances.

The remit of the Group was to act as an interface with the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and regulatory bodies as they consulted on radioactive waste management and clean-up policy and practice and to influence national policy on radioactive waste management in the interests of the communities affected.

The Council had been asked to appoint 1 Member to the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Mr S Mackie to the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances.

(h) Armed Forces and Veterans Champion Curaidh nam Feachdan Armaichte is nan Seann-ghaisgeach

The purpose of the Armed Forces and Veterans Champion was to create links to proactively make contact with armed forces and veterans organisations and maintain contact with the Cross Party Group on Armed Forces Veterans within the Scottish Parliament, to advance interests at a local authority level through assessing the impact that Council initiatives had on the armed forces and veterans and to be a public advocate in the local authority area.

The Council had been invited to nominate 1 Member as Armed Forces and Veterans Champion.

Decision

The Council **AGREED** to appoint Ms S Rawlings as Armed Forces and Veterans Champion.

14. Appointment of Section 95 Duties Suidheachadh Dhleastanasan Earrainn 95

The Council **AGREED** that Section 95 duties should be assigned to the Head of Corporate Finance.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm.