

**The Highland Council**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee** held in the Courtroom, Grantown Courthouse, Grantown-on-Spey/remotely on Monday 29 August 2022 at 10.30 am.

**Present:**

Mr J Bruce  
Mrs M Cockburn

Mr R Jones  
Mr B Lobban

**In attendance:**

Mrs K Lackie, Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance  
Mr L Hannah, Ward Manager, Communities and Place  
Mr R Porteous, Roads Operations Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy  
Ms D Sutton, Amenity Services Manager, Communities and Place  
Mrs L Dunn, Principal Administrator, Performance and Governance

**Also in attendance:**

Ms M Dickson, Area Manager, NHS Highland  
Chief Inspector A MacLeod, Police Scotland  
Inspector C Johnstone, Area Commander, Police Scotland

**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. Appointment of Chair  
Cur Cathraiche an Dreuchd**

Mr R Jones, seconded by Mrs M Cockburn proposed that Mr B Lobban be appointed as Chair of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee. There being no other nominations, this was duly **AGREED**.

It was further **AGREED** that Mr Lobban would be Chair for a limited period of time and thereafter, Mr R Jones would take over the position.

At this point, Mr B Lobban assumed the position of Chair.

Mrs M Cockburn, seconded by Mr J Bruce, proposed that Mr Jones be appointed as Vice Chair of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee and this was duly **AGREED**.

**2. Apologies for Absence  
Leisgeulan**

There were no apologies for absence.

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

Item 9 – Mr B Lobban

**4. Recess Powers  
Cumhachdan Fosaidh**

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 30 June 2022 did not require to be exercised in relation to the business of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee.

**5. Appointments to Sub-Committee, Working Groups etc  
Cur an Dreuchd gu Fo-Chomataidhean, Buidhnean-obrach is eile**

The Committee **AGREED** that Mrs M Cockburn be appointed to the Badenoch and Strathspey Community Partnership.

**6. Appointments to Outside Bodies  
Cur an Dreuchd gu Buidhnean on Taobh A-muigh**

The Committee **AGREED** the following appointments to Outside Bodies:

- i. Badenoch & Strathspey Local Access Forum – Mr R Jones
- ii. Explore Abernethy – Mr B Lobban

**7. Police Area Performance Report  
Poileas – Geàrr-chunntas air Coileanadh Sgìreil**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/10/22 by the Area Commander.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- the need for drivers to be more mindful and respect of cyclists was welcomed, however it was indicated that cyclists also had a duty to take personal responsibility to ensure that they were cycling safely. Confirmation was provided that provision was being made for Police Scotland to attend and engage with local schools on cycling safety;
- concern was expressed that there had been five fatalities on the A9, three of which had been at the same junction, and assurance was provided that Police Scotland would work collaboratively with the Council and Transport Scotland in order to improve safety, particularly in respect of this junction;
- confirmation was provided that there was a local Domestic Abuse Taskforce which was fully resourced;
- there was a need to promote and encourage the public use of the 101 telephone service which also enabled local data to be collated and trends to be identified. This point was acknowledged and it was reported that another alternative option was to complete and submit an online form which could be accessed on the Police Scotland website. This was a very effective option which was prioritised and dealt with reportings in the same manner as a telephone call. A media release could be issued to promote both of these methods;
- it was thought that drugs would have had a dedicated heading within the report. Concern was expressed at the volume of class A drugs in the community and the consequences of this in respect of mental health. Further information was provided in response to this and the action that was being taken to prevent the supply of drugs whilst recognising there was scope to improve this target. The difficulties in policing the supply of drugs,

which were now often sourced online/via mobiles was recognised. It was acknowledged that the trend for drug driving was increasing and there was a testing procedure for this;

- community policing, particularly outwith Aviemore was welcomed. The importance of Police officers attending community council meetings was emphasised and assurance was provided that the Police would endeavour to attend and each area would have a designated officer;
- the Fraud advice initiative was welcomed and further information was provided in regard to this along with assurance that this could be extended to other areas; and
- confirmation was provided that the Area Commander and Area Committee Members would exchange their contact details.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020 – 2023 Year 2, attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022; and
- ii. **AGREED** that the Area Commander and Area Committee Members exchange contact details.

## 8. **Adult Social Care Provision in Badenoch & Strathspey Solar Cùraim Shòisealta Inbheach ann am Bàideanach & Srath Spè**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/11/22 dated 15 August 2022 by the NHS Highland Area Manager.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- confirmation was provided that it was felt that the 14 places per day at the Glen Centre would be sufficient to meet demand for day care but this would continue to be monitored. The increasing energy prices could cause an upsurge in demand and thus services might need to be scaled up. The creative and flexible approach with other initiatives such as community led hubs and Shared Lives being adopted was welcomed. The Shared Lives pilot had been working well in other parts of the country and the feasibility study for the Highlands was due to be published in September 2022;
- further information would be provided to Mrs M Cockburn on the number of out of Area Placements that were being supported in different NHS areas that needed be returned to the local area;
- it was clarified that it was not possible to provide day care from the Wade Centre and Grant House at present due to the risks with cross-infection and that access to services was currently being provided with users being transported to the Glen Centre in Aviemore. However, concern was expressed that services were being transferred to Aviemore and at the environmental impact of operating buses to transport service users. It was explained that the situation would be reviewed subject to a change in Government advice in respect of Covid-19. It was further clarified that as a result of the pandemic, planned respite had been ceased but that provision for emergency respite continued. It was hoped that guidance would be issued soon on resuming planned respite and there was a desire to ensure that as part of this priority would be given to local residents.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED**:

- i. the changes to Care Home and Care at Home provision;
- ii. a change to Day Care provision; and
- iii. the ongoing challenges in recruiting to adult social care posts across all sectors.

**9. U2284 Coire Na Ciste Road Partial Deletion**  
**U2284 Dubhadh Às Pàirt de Rathad Choire Na Ciste**

**Declaration of Interest: Mr B Lobban declared an interest in this item as he was a director of Cairngorm Mountain Scotland Limited and, in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of the revised Code of Conduct, he left the meeting for this item.**

**Mr R Jones assumed the position of Chair for this item.**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/**12**/22 dated 16 May 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

During discussion, a number of points were confirmed including that there would be no cost implication to the Council in respect of this; that Cairngorm Mountain Scotland Limited would be responsible installing the motor home facilities; and the Council had co-ownership and first priority access to the snow-blower which would be retained at the Council's depot.

Thereafter, the Committee **APPROVED** the proposed partial deletion of the U2284 Coire Na Ciste Road, Cairngorm.

**10. Winter Service Plan 2022/23**  
**Plana Seirbheis Geamhraidh 2022/23**

There had been circulated Joint Report No BSAC/**13**/22 dated 8 August 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

In response to a question, the Committee was advised that Transport Scotland's trunk road operator Bear Scotland was responsible for the winter maintenance of trunk road pavements in Kingussie, Newtonmore, Cromdale and the mainline in Dalwhinnie. It was felt that clear messaging was required to ensure that the public was aware of the Council's responsibilities in respect winter maintenance. It was further indicated that the public communications also needed to include messaging on the importance of ensuring that residential streets were kept clear to enable access for winter maintenance vehicles. Confirmation was also provided that there was sufficient staff for the Duty Officer rota.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- i. **APPROVED** the Winter Service Plan for 2022/23; and
- ii. **NOTED** that Covid-19 and driver's hours regulations would potentially have an impact on the winter service provided.

## 11. Glenmore PC Update Fios às Ùr mu Ghoireas Poblach a' Ghlinne Mhòir

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/14/22 dated 10 August 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place. A further update was provided at the meeting by the Amenity Services Manager and in summary she advised that there were three options to overcome the drainage blockage. Namely, a full replacement at an estimated cost of £25,000; to install a pumping station approximately £7,000 plus an annual maintenance charge that would be dependent on the level of use; and installation of a treatment block which would cost approximately £10,000. The Project Team felt that the treatment block was the most viable option. However, there was also a further option of changing the modular unit to a composting system, i.e. without any drainage.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- in regard to option 3, it was felt that £10,000 was a reasonable sum for the project;
- the timeline demonstrated that this was a lengthy process and in view of this it was recommended that a Lean review should be undertaken;
- it was confirmed that composting toilets would require maintenance. The view was expressed that composting might not be a popular choice with the public however a further view was expressed that there were many misconceptions with composting toilets. It was queried whether this should be discussed with the National Park as composting toilets would align with their environmental values and therefore might be the best solution; and
- disappointment was expressed at the difficulties being experienced with the project and any potential landownership issues were concerning. However, these needed to be overcome and it was essential that the toilets were operational by Spring 2023.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the progress made to date with the Glenmore PC project;
- ii. **AGREED** to consider supporting additional funding for the unexpected drainage works; and
- iii. **AGREED** that the toilets must be operational by Spring 2023.

## 12. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated and **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee held on 15 February 2022 which were approved by the Council on 10 March 2022.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.