

**The Highland Council
Sutherland County Committee**

Minutes of hybrid meeting of the Sutherland County Committee held on Monday 7 November 2022 at 10.30am.

Present:

Mr M Baird

Mr R Gale

Ms M Hutchison

Mr J McGillivray

Ms L A Niven

Officials in attendance:

Ms F Duncan, Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care

Ms A Clark, Head of Community Support & Engagement

Ms J Sutherland, Roads Operations Manager

Mr S Manning, Principal Traffic Officer,

Ms S Murdoch, Common Good Fund Officer

Ms A Macrae, Committee Administrator

Also in Attendance:

Station Commander M Leavey, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Mr R Gale in the Chair

**1. Apologies for Absence
Leisgeulan**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr H Morrison.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Performance Report
Aithisg Dèanadais Ionadail Seirbheis Smàlaidh is
Teasairginn na h-Alba**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/14/22 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland.

In discussion, Members raised the following main points:-

- the increase in the number of accidental dwelling fires in the first six months of the year and whether there was a need for fire prevention training or information to be provided to households. It was confirmed this issue was being targeted by the Service's Community Action Team

- and through its seasonal action plans with a view to reducing the number of incidents;
- confirmation was sought and provided that more detailed information would be provided to Members in relation to the incidents of all deliberate fires in 2021/22;
- the Service be commended on the work undertaken by its crews around road traffic collisions in the area and whether it had the opportunity to feedback to Transport Scotland on road safety. It was noted the Service's Senior Management Team were proactively considering this issue, particularly in light of concerns at the number of fatalities over recent months;
- confirmation was sought and provided that the Service's Community Action Team continued to target those premises identified as vulnerable and high risk in relation to the fitting of domestic alarms under the new fire safety legislation. There had been an issue with the supply of detection equipment and this was being considered at a national level;
- concern at the number of unwanted fire alarms in the area, this having been an issue for a considerable period of time and a request by the Chair that a more detailed breakdown of the figures, including the types of premises, be provided to the next appropriate meeting;
- an update was sought and provided on the position with station recruitment in North and West Sutherland. It was confirmed there were several applicants for each station and it was hoped to fill vacancies within the next six months if the candidates successfully completed the recruitment and training process; and
- in relation to the continuing issues with recruitment at Lochinver, Bettyhill and Bonar Bridge the Service was proactively leaflet dropping, running local engagement sessions and encouraging those individuals in the community with the required availability.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** following scrutiny, the Area Performance Report; and
- ii. **AGREED** that a breakdown of Unwanted Fire Alarms be brought to the next appropriate meeting of the Committee.

4. **Bonar Bridge to Ardgay Speed Limit Proposal 2022** **Moladh Casg-astair Dhrochaid a' Bhanna gu Àird Ghaoithe 2022**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/15/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

- an explanation was sought and provided in relation to the requirement to install traffic calming measures as part of a 40mph limit in accordance with current standards, guidance, and legislation;

- Creich Community Council had indicated they wished progress to be made as soon as possible and were supportive of the recommendation;
- there was a need to move forward on this matter. The extension of the 30mph limit had previously been agreed by the Committee and this together with the proposed reduction of the speed limit on remainder of the road from 60mph to 50mph should be accepted in the first instance. Thereafter, there would be the opportunity to consider and review the impact of those measures going forward through traffic speed assessments; and
- confirmation that the implementation of the relevant traffic regulation order would involve consultation with statutory consultees and the public and any objections received would require to be brought back to a future Committee.

The Committee **AGREED** that the remainder of the national speed limit between Bonar Bridge and Ardgay be reduced to 50mph.

**5. Achmelvich Car Park Mandatory Charging
Cosgaisean Èigheachail Pàirc Chàraichean Achadh
Mhealbhaich**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/16/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that in terms of the enforcement of the mandatory charging, an officer resource for the west coast was now in place, based in Ullapool, who would undertake regular visits to the car park. The local community was supportive of the concept of mandatory charging and regarded it as an additional controlling factor in terms of the operation of the car park.

Thereafter, the Principal Traffic Officer advised that an update on the income generated in relation to the Invitation to Pay car parks would be provided to the Committee at the end of the financial year. This would also include forecasted income for the next financial year.

The Committee **AGREED** the proposal to advertise the necessary amendment of the 2016 off-street Traffic Regulation Order which would prescribe enforcement of mandatory parking charges at the Achmelvich Beach Car Park in Sutherland.

**6. Repurposing Sutherland Place Based Investment Fund and
COVID 19 Funds for Cost of Living Support
Ath-chuimseachadh Maoin Tasgaidh Stèidhichte air Àite
Chataibh agus Maoin COVID 19 airson Taic Cosgais Bith-
beò**

There had been circulated Report No SCC/17/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

In discussion, reference was made to the importance of utilising this funding to help alleviate the impacts of cost of living increases and support individuals and families over the winter months.

The Committee **AGREED** the repurposing of COVID Ward Discretionary and Place Based Investment Funding for cost of living support as detailed in the report.

7. Dornoch Common Good

(a) Consultation on proposal to dispose, by sale, of 56m² or thereby of land at Tigh Ruaraidh, 8 Well Street, Dornoch Co-chomhairle mu mholadh gus faighinn cuidhteas, le reic, de 56m² no mar sin de thalamh aig Tigh Ruaraidh, 8 Sràid an Tobair, Dòrnach

There had been circulated Report No SCC/18/22 by the Acting Depute Chief Executive and Executive Chief Officer – Performance and Governance and Executive Chief Officer – Communities and Place.

Members commented that there had been a thorough consultation on the proposal, the income generated for the Common Good Fund by the sale would be carefully used and that the amount of common land in Dornoch had increased substantially through the acquisition of other sites in Dornoch for public occupancy. The area of land had been used for garden ground for a number of years and the land had served no purpose for the Common Good in terms of wider community benefit and therefore the disposal could proceed on this occasion.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the outcome of the consultation process undertaken as detailed in paragraph 4 and contained in the analysis at **Appendix 1**;
- ii. **APPROVED** the responses to the representations raised in connection with the proposal as contained in the table in **Appendix 1** for publication on the Council's website; and
- iii. **AGREED** the proposal to dispose, by sale, of 56m² or thereby of land at Tigh Ruaraidh, 8 Well Street, Dornoch.

(b) Dornoch Common Good Quarterly Monitoring Aithisg Sgrùdaidh Ràitheil Math Coitcheann Dhòrnaich

There had been circulated Report No SCC/19/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and Executive Chief Officer Finance and Resources.

The Committee **NOTED** the position of the Dornoch Common Good fund at the end of the second quarter of 2022/23.

8. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There was circulated and **NOTED** Minutes of the Sutherland County Committee held on 15 August 2022, which were approved by the Council on 22 September 2022.

The meeting ended at 11.20am.