

## 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 7 November 2022 at 10.30 am.

### Present:

Mr J Bruce  
Mrs M Cockburn

Mr R Jones  
Mr B Lobban

### In attendance:

Mr L Hannah, Ward Manager, Communities and Place  
Mr R Bartlett, Road Safety Technician, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy  
Mr J Mitchell, Principal Housing Officer, Housing & Property  
Mrs L Dunn, Principal Administrator, Performance and Governance

### Also in attendance:

Mr B Milne, Group Commander 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.**

**Mr B Lobban in the Chair**

## BUSINESS

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

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. **Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report** **Aithisg Coileanaidh Comataidh Sgìreil Smàlaidh agus Teasairginn na h-Alba**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/**15**/22 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- responding to concerns raised regarding staffing levels, it was acknowledged that recruitment was challenging with a key issue being a lack of availability of candidates due to their primary employment being out with the local area. However, assurance was provided that the Service was continuously working diligently to actively recruit to local communities to improve station and fire appliance availability. In addition, Member support was requested with promoting recruitment opportunities;
- there was a desire for people to relocate to the area and join the Fire Service but they were being hindered due to difficulties in securing rented

accommodation. The Fire Service was therefore encouraged to work collaboratively with the Council's Housing team. It was also suggested that the Fire Service reach out to the Ukrainians that had been relocated to the area and had expressed an interest in joining the Service;

- the initiatives Preparation 1 and 2 were commended. Confirmation was provided that Preparation 1 had been undertaken in schools but it was highlighted that school leavers were unable to join the Fire Service until they were aged 18;
- further information was sought and provided that there had been no responses required to any bonfire related instances across the area; and
- assurance was provided that equipment was strategically located across areas and that in the case of an emergency, resources were automatically mobilised by the Control Room to other stations to ensure appropriate cover.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** and scrutinised the Area Performance Report.

#### 4. **Grantown on Spey Traffic Calming in support of 20 mph Speed Limit Socrachadh Traftaig Bhaile nan Granndach mar thaic do Chasg Astair 20 msu**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/**16**/22 dated 7 October 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- Further information was sought and provided on the impact of the report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 10 November 2022 on the early adoption of 20mph speed limits in Highland. It was explained that this report would result in 20mph speed limits being introduced across the Highlands and roads would be assessed thereafter to determine if fixed traffic calming measures were still required. On that basis, it was therefore proposed not to proceed with the construction of the traffic calming measures in Grantown on Spey as set out in the report. Members indicated they were committed to 20mph speed limits for towns and villages but it was felt that the impact of this should be monitored over the trial period in the first instance prior to implementing fixed traffic calming measures;
- it was indicated that slower speeds would be welcome on the High Street but it was explained that the fixed traffic calming measures being proposed in the report did not affect this area; and
- the reduction in speed limits to improve safety was welcomed. It was also proposed that discussions be held with the Chair of Education to ascertain if any further measures might be necessary at Grantown Primary School including exploring the pilot currently being conducted in respect of drop-off zones.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the objection made in accordance with the regulations and not withdrawn and **AGREED**:

- i. not to proceed with the construction of the traffic calming in Grantown on Spey;
- ii. to support the early adoption of 20mph speed limits in Highland as being presented to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee on 10 November 2022; and

- iii. that further work be undertaken to support Grantown Primary School including exploring the pilot currently being conducted in respect of drop-off zones.

**5. Housing Performance Report – 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022**  
**Aithisg Coileanaidh Taigheadais – 1 An Giblean 2022 gu 30 An t-Sultainn 2022**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/**17**/22 dated 18 October 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, concern was expressed at the increasing level of rent arrears and the need to make every effort to support tenants to ensure they did not lose their home was emphasised.

It was indicated that a number of local authorities were experiencing an increase in repairs due to maltreatment by tenants. It was explained that there was not a breakdown of this metric in respect of repairs but assurance was provided that support and advice was provided to tenants as part of the Tenant visits process. In addition, confirmation was also provided that all staff were trauma informed/trained.

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022.

**6. Street Names - Aviemore**  
**Ainmeachadh Sràide – An Aghaidh Mhòr**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/**18**/22 by Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

During discussion, it was indicated that the name put forward for street 4 was not appropriate and it was therefore proposed that this should be named as Lairig Ghru View. It was also suggested that further advice should be provided to community councils regarding street naming. It was indicated that the change to the process, whereby community councils and developers propose names, had not been helpful and it would be better if the Council could have more direct involvement. The Ward Manager proposed that he discuss the content of the Street Naming Protocol with the Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG) Team to explore whether the Protocol could be strengthened regarding appropriate street naming.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** that the:

- i. name for street 4 as shown on Appendix 1 to the report be Lairig Ghru View; and
- ii. Ward Manager discuss the content of the Street Naming Protocol with the CAG Team to explore whether the Protocol could be strengthened regarding appropriate street naming.

**7. Minutes**  
**Geàrr-chunntas**

There had been circulated and **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee held on 29 August 2022 which were approved by the Council on 22 September 2022.

The meeting concluded at 11.10am.