

## 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 6 February 2023 at 10.30 am.

### Present:

Mrs M Cockburn  
Mr R Jones

Mr B Lobban

### In attendance:

Mr L Hannah, Ward Manager, Communities and Place  
Mr R Porteous, Roads Operations Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy  
Mr R MacLeod, Service Lead Housing Investment/Building Maintenance, Housing & Property  
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer, Performance and Governance  
Ms R Ross, Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

### Also in attendance:

Inspector C Johnstone, Area Commander, Police Scotland  
Mr C Simpson, Head of Visitor Services & Active Travel, Cairngorms National Park  
Mr M Ferguson, Director of Planning & Place, Cairngorms National Park

**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 items 1 – 3, Mr R Jones in the Chair items 4-10**

## BUSINESS

### 1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr J Bruce.

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

The Committee **NOTED** the following Declarations of Interest:-

Item 8 (in relation to Cairngorm Mountain Trust) – Mr B Lobban  
Item 8 (in relation to Kingussie Camanachd Club) – Mr R Jones

### 3. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair Suidheachadh Dreuchd Chathraiche agus Iar-Chathraiche

It had been agreed at the meeting held on 29 August 2022, that the Mr Lobban would be Chair for a limited period of time and thereafter, Mr R Jones would take over the position.

The Committee **NOTED** that Mr Jones would take over as Chair with immediate effect.

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

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/01/23 by the Area Commander.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- information was sought and provided on the demographic of people convicted of drink and drug driving offences;
- it was questioned whether more education was needed to raise awareness of the problem of driving under the influence of prescription drugs;
- concern was expressed at the prevalence of motor bikes and scramblers in Grantown Woods, on the Speyside Way and on the Dava Way, some of which appeared to have lessened and others would be investigated;
- it was queried whether the reduction in number of offences was down to better behaviour or lack of resources for detection;
- it was queried whether difficulty to gaining intelligence about who was involved in drugs issues had led to the decrease in drug related offenses recorded;
- it was commented that there was less community policing than communities would like and that local people not knowing their local police officers could make it more difficult to gather intelligence;
- in response to a request, Inspector Johnstone offered to report back on whether the post of Harm Prevention Officer had been extended;
- information was sought and provided on bike thefts and thefts from bike shops, which was thought had been zero in the previous 6 months;
- in response to a question about the increased number of sexual crimes it was suggested this might be in part due to national campaigns to make it easier for victims to report offences; and
- the police were thanked for their support during the Camanachd Cup and Final Fling.

The Committee **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.

#### 5. **Cairngorms 2030 (Heritage Horizons) Projects** **Pròiseactan (Heritage Horizons) a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh 2030**

There was a presentation given by the Head of Visitor Services and Active Travel, Cairngorms National Park Authority.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- it was suggested that since the project would be making use of council infrastructure, greater collaboration with Members would be preferable. Definition of roles and responsibilities in relation to joint working was key;
- it was clarified that no plans had yet been finalised and that communities and Community Councils had been involved to gather information on what the public would like to see from the project. The development stage would be starting in the following weeks and efforts would be made to involve Members in this;
- it was suggested that consideration be given to Member representation on the wider strategic transport group for the Park;

- the importance of providing affordable and accessible activities for locals and visitors was emphasised; and
- the involvement of schools in the project was welcomed.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** the presentation; and
- AGREED** a meeting be arranged between the CNPA and Council Officers, to identify opportunities for partnership working and collaboration between CNPA and HC in respect of Active Travel projects in Badenoch & Strathspey

## 6. **Area Roads Capital Programme 2023/24** **Prògram Calpa Rathaidean Sgìreil 2023/24**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/02/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- the differences between inlay, overlay and surface dressing were explained;
- it was clarified that a contingency budget would be decided once the final budget allocation was known;
- in response to a question about filling potholes, it was clarified that temporary repairs were often needed in the winter due to weather conditions; and
- it was clarified that there was one dedicated road inspector shared between Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey.

The Committee:

- APPROVED** the proposed 2023/24 Area Roads Capital Programme for Badenoch and Strathspey Area; and
- AGREED** to provide a Frequently Asked Questions document to Members to help them explain road maintenance processes to members of the public.

## 7. **Housing Capital Programme 2023-27** **Prògram Calpa Taigheadais 2023-27**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/03/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

In response to a comment about providing education and guidance for the most vulnerable tenants, it was confirmed that that Ally Energy had been engaged to provide tenants with guidance about energy and bills.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** the update on the 2022-23 Badenoch and Strathspey HRA Capital Programme at section 5 of the report;
- NOTED** the resources available to Badenoch and Strathspey at 6.7;

- iii. **AGREED** the proposed investment priorities in the HRA Capital Programme for Badenoch and Strathspey 2023-27 as set out in Appendix 1; and
- iv. **NOTED** that updates on the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme would continue to be provided through ward briefings and at future Local Committees as requested by local Members, in addition to reporting to Housing and Property Committee.

**8. Badenoch & Strathspey Repurposing COVID-19 Fund and Place Based Investment Fund Proposals**  
**Maoin Ath-adhbharachaidh COVID-19 Bhàideanach is Shrath Spè agus Molaidhean Maoin Tasgaidh Stèidhichte air Àite**

**Declarations of Interest: Mr B Lobban declared an interest as a Director of Cairngorm Mountain Trust and Mr R Jones declared an interest as a committee member for Kingussie Camanachd Club. They left the meeting during the discussion of these applications.**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/04/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

- Repurposed COVID Funds - Cairngorm Mountain Trust - Badenoch & Strathspey School Skiing 2023 - £4,068

As Councillor Lobban had declared an interest and left the meeting, the meeting was inquorate and no decision could be taken.

- Place Based Investment Funds - Kingussie Camanachd Club - Market Stance Playing Field Upgrade Phase 2 - £10,000

As Councillor Jones had declared an interest and left the meeting, the meeting was inquorate and no decision could be taken.

The Committee:-

**AGREED** the repurposing of the COVID-19 fund as follows:-

- i. Laggan Forest Trust - Cycling Participation Programme Newtonmore, Kingussie & Alvie Primary School Children - £2,500;
- ii. Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey (VABS) – Volunteering Fayre - £2,790; and
- iii. Cairngorms Orchestra – COVID resilience - £1,956.

**AGREED** the place based funding allocations as follows:-

- iv. Am Fasgadh Regeneration Company - Indian Contingent Force K6 Memorial Phase 2 - £14,200
- v. Aviemore & Glenmore Community Trust (AGCT) – Aviemore Ice rink Development - £4,968; and
- vi. Abernethy Bowling Club - Nethy Bridge Bowling Green - £6,000 with the option of an additional £2,000 if the Club's application for funding from the Sports Council was unsuccessful.

**AGREED** that the following applications be deferred to a special meeting of the Committee on a date to be confirmed:-

- vii. Place Based Investment Funds  
Kingussie Camanachd Club - Market Stance Playing Field Upgrade  
Phase 2 - £10,000; and
- viii. Repurposed COVID Funds  
Cairngorm Mountain Trust - Badenoch & Strathspey School Skiing  
2023 - £4,068

**9. Grantown on Spey Common Good Fund –General Update and Proposed Budget 2023/24**

**Maoin Math Coitcheann Bhaile nan Granndach – Cunntas Coitcheann às Ùr agus Buidseat ga Mholadh airson 2023/24**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/05/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

In response to a suggestion that a mandatory payment for pitch/stall holders using the Common Good land at Grantown Square would be preferable to an 'Invitation to pay' scheme, it was clarified that a change of use would be needed in order to do this.

The Committee **AGREED**:-

- i. the Grantown on Spey Common Good Fund Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 (Appendix 1);
- ii. the 'Invitation to Pay' short term ground let proposals in respect of Grantown Square for a trial period of 12 months (Appendix 2);
- iii. the Grantown on Spey Common Good Fund budget for 2023/24 detailed within the report (Appendix 3); and
- iv. to begin the statutory consultation process for a change of use of Common Good Fund land at Grantown Square, on the introduction of mandatory charges in respect of short term lets for pitch/stall holders.

**10. Minutes  
Geàrr-chunntas**

There had been circulated and **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee held on 7 November 2022 which were approved by the Council on 8 December 2022.

The meeting ended at 12.45pm.