

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee (Comataidh an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus Ratharsair) held remotely on Monday, 22 May, 2023 at 10.30 am.

Present:

Mr J Finlayson
Mr D Millar

Mr C Munro
Mr R Stewart

Officials in attendance:

Mrs F Malcolm, Head of Integration, Adult Social Care, Health & Social Care
Mr W MacKinnon, Ward Manager, Communities and Place
Ms J Bruce, Principal Housing Officer, Housing & Property
Mr A Bryce, Project Officer Active Travel, Infrastructure & Environment
Mr S Manning, Principal Traffic Officer, Infrastructure & Environment
Mr A Macleod, Policy Officer, Performance & Governance
Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager Community Regeneration, Infrastructure & Environment
Ms M Gray, Project Officer Community Regeneration, Infrastructure & Environment
Mr A MacInnes, Interim Senior Committee Officer, Performance & Governance

Also in attendance:-

Ms L Bussell, Director of Nursing, NHS Highland

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.

**1. Apologies for Absence
Leisgeulan**

There were none.

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

There were none.

**3. Minutes
Geàrr-chunntas**

There had been circulated for information, Minutes of Meeting of the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee (Comataidh an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus Ratharsair) held on 30 January and 27 February, 2023 which were approved at the Highland Council meeting held on 9 March, 2023, the terms of which were **NOTED**.

**4. Housing Performance Report
Aithisg Choileanaidh Taigheadais**

There was circulated Report No. SR/8/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

Following commentary on the report by the Principal Housing Officer, Members scrutinised the report and noted that the following information would be provide to them:-

- whether there was a correlation between the increase in average time for emergency repairs being completed and average re-let times.
- whether it was known to the Council that repairs were required prior to tenants leaving properties.
- whether there was a full complement of staff within the Housing maintenance team and whether there was difficulty in hiring contractors to undertake repairs;
- was any tenant satisfaction feedback on the quality of repairs carried out on properties.

The Committee otherwise **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

**5. North Skye – Health and Social Care Infrastructure Update
Ceann a Tuath an Eilein Sgitheanaich – Cunntas às Ùr mu Bhun-structair
Slàinte is Cùraim Shòisealta**

There was circulated Report No. SR/9/23 by the Head of Integration Adult Social Care.

Following commentary on the report by the Head of Integration Adult Social Care and supplemented with comments by the Director of Nursing, NHS Highland, the following main points were raised by Members: -

- The communities of Skye and Raasay wished to see the implementation of the recommendations in Sir Lewis Ritchie’s report on primary care out of hours services and there was frustration on how slow progress had been. The community were looking for progress in relation to urgent care in Portree, community bed provision and staffing in Portree and Broadford hospitals.
- Urgent care provision had been suspended due to staffing challenges and a sustainable model was being looked at for North Skye and it was hoped this would be implemented soon. In terms of bed capacity there were massive recruitment challenges of registered staff particularly at Home Farm care home.
- It was welcomed that in recognition of the significance of the work required as a result of the Sir Lewis Ritchie report, Scottish Futures Trust have become involved with a view to assisting agencies and the local community in setting the direction for the future delivery of health and social care services in North Skye in particular.
- Several years ago there had been moves to close Portree hospital and there had been a significant community effort to save the hospital and this led to Sir Lewis Ritchie reviewing the situation. Sir Lewis’s report was not an aspiration but a binding document which NHS Highland Board committed too and was part of the business case to build the new Broadford hospital. Sir Lewis’s report had some success particularly in Raasay and Glenelg, but areas remained outstanding i.e. provision of urgent care in Portree Hospital and future community bed provision. The

agencies involved under the auspices of the Scottish Futures Trust required to take these outstanding issues forward.

- The closure of Budhmor care home was of huge concern to communities. It was a big challenge in keeping smaller care homes open and this was covered in the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership strategic plan.
- The plans for social housing in Portree required a model that was fit for purpose and deliverable. It was hoped that the Scottish Futures Trust would look at the infrastructure issues such as provision of housing, care villages and cluster housing to support people in appropriate housing.
- There was a need to make the health and social care sector more attractive as a career. There was ongoing work to make it an attractive profession such as working with University of Highlands and Islands on an apprenticeship scheme.
- There was a need for a better view of Home Farm care home. It had changed significantly since NHS Highland took it over and it was hoped that people would want to work there and were comfortable with their families being there.
- There was a will for all agencies to work together to resolve the health and social care needs of Skye and Raasay and communities wanted to see progress as soon as possible.

The Committee **NOTED** the contents of the report.

6. Highland Quiet Routes – Pilot Project Report Slighean Sàmhach na Gàidhealtachd – Aithisg Tùs-Phròiseict

There was circulated Report No. SR/10/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment.

Following consideration, the Committee:-

- i **NOTED** the contents of the report; and
- ii **APPROVED** the 'Armadale to Tormore Quiet Route' and 'Raasay (Inverarish) Quiet Route', including Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders reducing the speed limit on 60 mph sections of both routes to 40mph for a period of 18 months.

7. Local Allocation of Parking Income Sònrachadh Teachd-a-steach Parcaidh Ionadail

There was circulated Report No. SR/11/23 by the Interim Depute Chief Executive.

The Programme Manager provided a summary of the report during which it was advised that an application for match funding for an application submitted to the Islands Infrastructure Fund for 7 road improvement schemes on Isle of Skye and Raasay and EV Chargers at the Old Man of Storr had been unsuccessful. Members were very disappointed that the application had not been successful. They believed it was a very strong application for improving roads for tourism and communities. The bid involved a lot of Officers time to prepare the application and Officers were commended for their work on this. It was important to continue with investment to improve road infrastructure in the area which was a priority for communities.

It was felt that perhaps another look should be given to the road infrastructure priorities and whether to concentrate investment on roads maintenance rather than

provision of EV charges. Funding for EV charges could be sought from future rounds of the Islands Infrastructure Fund.

The Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** to homologate £81k of the local allocation of income generated as a result of car parking charges in the 2022/23 financial year, along with £44k from the area share of local car parking income for 2021/22 as agreed at Area Committee on 30 January 2023 to road infrastructure improvements, as match funding totalling £125k for an application submitted to the Islands Infrastructure Fund for 7 road improvement schemes on Isle of Skye and Raasay and EV Chargers at the Old Man of Storr; and
- ii. **NOTED** that an application for match funding for an application submitted to the Islands Infrastructure Fund for 7 road improvement schemes on Isle of Skye and Raasay and EV Chargers at the Old Man of Storr had been unsuccessful; and
- iii. **NOTED** that schemes may require to be adjusted for operational reasons or following further discussion with local Members as a result of the unsuccessful bid for Islands Infrastructure grant match funding.

8. **Parking Tariffs Skye Cosgaisean Parcaidh an Eilein Sgitheanaich**

There was circulated Report No. SR/12/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment.

Following a summary of the report by the Principal Traffic Officer, Members made the following main points:-

- Parking charges were also introduced to help with the management of car parking at busy tourist sites
- It was disappointing that the area was not receiving an income from car parking in Somerled Square, Portree. This was a car park that pre dated the policy change and income from these car parks made up part of the Service budget.
- In terms of enforcing no overnight parking for motorhomes, there was flexibility in the working hours of Parking Enforcement Officers and from May onwards there would be evening patrols. Also, there was recruitment underway for 3 additional parking enforcement officers to provide additional cover in outlying areas of Highland. There was also a proposal to have an additional Parking Enforcement Officer to cover Skye in future, making a total of 3 Officers for Skye.
- Consideration be given to installing more signs and using social media to communicate that motorhomes were prohibited from parking overnight in Council car parks. It was highlighted that there were 12 trial sites in Highland for short term stop over points for motor homes which had been introduced as a result of lack of parking spaces for motorhomes to stop overnight. It was also felt that more could be done to engage with travelling websites to highlight available parking for motorhomes.
- There was a wider issue outwith parking income regarding sustainable tourism and the challenges and opportunities that this brought and perhaps

should be considered at a Ward Business meeting or Area Committee in future;

- The environmental impact from waste from motorhome users was a concern. It was hoped that most motorhome users disposed of their waste in a sensible manner and when not, this would be dealt with through enforcement. Strategies were developed with a view to pragmatic solutions to disposing of waste.

The Committee:-

- i) **APPROVED** the introduction and enforcement of Mandatory parking charges at the new Kilt Rock Car Park development as detailed in Item 4;
- ii) **APPROVED** the homologation of changes in parking fees and charges as supported by Isle of Skye and Raasay Members on 13 March 2023 in Item 5 of the report;
- iii) **NOTED** that item 6 of the report is in line with the changes in parking fees and charges agreed at Full Council on 2 March 2023; and
- iv) **NOTED** the income to be earmarked for local committee spend from 2022/23 in Item 7 of the report.

9. Implementation of Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 – Annual Report Buileachadh Achd nan Eilean (Alba) 2018 – Aithisg Bhliadhnail

There was circulated Report No. SR/13/23 by the Depute Chief Executive.

In discussion, the following main points were raised by Members:-

- Skye was the second biggest Island in Scotland and at times some of the Island Authorities did not take recognition of this and they tried to take the majority of funds.
- In terms of the National Islands Delivery Group and the Islands Strategic Group it was queried if there was representatives from the Highland Council on these groups. It was confirmed that the Policy Officer represented the Council on both these groups and the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council attended the Islands Strategic Group meetings. In addition it was proposed to introduce an Islands Transport Forum.
- In terms of depopulation while this may not be happening in Skye the number of economically active people to those who are not was a concern. It was queried what could be done to increase the number of economically active people in Skye. It was advised that the Convention of Highlands and Islands had a focus on depopulation as did the Scottish Government.

The Committee **NOTED** the update and acknowledged the work that had taken place.

10. Street Naming Request – Isle of Raasay Iarrtas Ainmeachadh Sràide – Eilean Ratharsair

There was circulated Report No. SR/14/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

The Committee **APPROVED** the homologation of 1 new street name for a housing development on the Isle of Raasay, as Deer Park - Pàirc nam Fiadh.

**11. Ward Discretionary Budget
Buidseat Fo Ùghdarras Uàird**

The Committee **NOTED** the following Ward Discretionary Fund Grants for Ward 10 in the financial year 2022/23:-

Staffin Primary Parent Council - beach path repair works £1000 Headway Highland – training course £71

Portree & Braes Community Trust, Light Up Portree Sub Group - Autumn Fling, £1410

Poppy Scotland - wreaths Armistice Day £80

Kilmuir Community Trust – Archiving £500

Portree High School - James Dunbar Restoration Project £450

Skye Wind Band – equipment £540

Isle of Skye Pipe Band – equipment £2000

High Life Highland - Portree Youth Club – sessional workers £3000

SEALL - Small Halls Project £500

High Life Highland & Lochalsh, Skye Housing Association - Football Project and Healthy Homes Project £1500

Raasay Heritage Trust – Grid Connection £1000

King George V Playing Field – Fencing & Security £3370

Skye & Raasay Play Parks Maintenance £579

The meeting ended at 12.15 p.m.