

### Financial Assessment of Motions

- iii. The current policy on access with trailers to recycling centres is causing confusion, inconvenience and additional un-necessary cost to householders. For example, old bricks, broken slabs and rockery stones (aka rubble) are acceptable in a car but not by trailer or van.

We therefore ask that the Council conducts a review of the Entry Guidance, Recycling Centres (HWRC) Conditions of Entry for trailers and vans, with a view to making the centres more accessible to householders disposing of non-commercial waste on their own behalf, and thereafter trial the revised guidance for a three-month period.

**Signed** Mr A Graham Mr A Christie Mr M Baird Mr J Grafton Mr R Gunn  
Mrs T Robertson Mr R Gale

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion itself is not anticipated to have a direct financial implication to the Council. Should there be a decision arising from that review, there may be financial implications at that stage to be assessed. Prior year budgetary savings in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 were linked to restrictions on acceptance of waste at Council recycling centres. The proposed three month trial could have additional costs associated with increased tonnage, additional setup/signage and other costs, and potential for loss of income generation.

- iv. No Mow May

To encourage biodiversity and address the nature emergency, and to save the Council's limited financial and staff resources, this Council agrees to support Plantlife's "No Mow May" campaign by publicising it and by not cutting verges and other green spaces until later in the year, except where it is necessary for public and road user safety.

**Signed** Ms K Willis Mr A Baldrey

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion is anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council. A more detailed assessment would be required to understand implications for staff and vehicles/plant/equipment costs which are largely fixed costs at this time. Any costs associated with, and the ability of existing machinery to deal with consequential higher growth areas, would also need assessed.

- v. Highland Council negotiation with renewable energy companies

The use of our natural resources for the generation of power is vital to the whole of the United Kingdom economy. The combined income from all renewable energy

schemes in the Highlands continues to grow year on year and will only accelerate with the numerous wind, hydro and solar plants projected to come on line.

Despite this whilst some individual communities have benefitted to some extent from these developments there has been no fiscal, strategic benefit to the Council area as a whole despite the massive profits being generated.

Highland Council will begin negotiations with all renewable energy producers in order to provide a fair financial settlement which will be invested in facilities and infrastructure Highland wide and which will make a real difference to the lives of all of the people of the Highlands.

Signed Mr R Jones Mr M Green Mr B Lobban

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

The motion itself is not anticipated to have a direct financial implication to the Council, however, subject to the outcome of negotiations, and any decisions thereafter, there may be financial implications which arise i.e. potential for additional income and scope for investment if successful negotiations are achieved.

- vi. We, the undersigned, ask that Highland Council investigates the idea of placing High Fire Risk signs in locations at risk, similar to other countries in National Park type areas.

These signs would operate in a similar fashion to the existing ice warning signs that are in position, being covered up out of the high-risk season. Secondly, to investigate whether the existing NADICS signs on trunk routes could be utilised in a similar fashion.

This suggestion is made recognising the increase in dry Spring weather and the massive hill fire that previously occurred on the Caithness and Sutherland Border and, this year, the fire near Cannich.

**Signed** Mr M Reiss Mr A Christie Mrs H Crawford Ms J McEwan

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion itself is not anticipated to have a direct financial implication to the Council. Any subsequent decision following investigation, to install additional signage in localities which would be Council responsibility to install and maintain, would be expected to have a financial implication.

- vii. Council notes official Scottish Water figures showing that sewage was dumped at least 952 times in Highland.

Understands that across Scotland only 4% of sewage overflow points are monitored (144 out of 3,614), compared to around 90% in England, so the actual figure will be much worse!

Council believes that the local environment and everyone who uses our rivers and beaches deserve the highest possible protection;

Notes calls from campaigners for every sewage dump to be properly recorded and published, the introduction of legally binding targets for reducing these overflows, the upgrading of Scotland's ageing sewage system, an end to dumping around Scotland's best beaches and a faster process for the protection of bathing waters.

Council requests that the Council leader contacts both Scottish Water and the Scottish Government to endorse these calls, set out the council's concern and to request an urgent update on the situation in Highland.

**Signed** Mrs T Robertson    Mr D Gregg    Mr A Graham    Mr M Baird    Mr J Grafton    Ms J McEwan    Mr R Gunn    Mr R Gale    Miss M MacCallum    Mr A MacDonald

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion is not anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

- viii.** At the recent Community and Places meeting and following the presentation of the Highland Policing Plan, we were told that Northern Division, as a result of budget cuts, will be losing 9 officers from the Highlands and on top of that the overtime budget will be cut by 50% further reducing the availability of Police Officers across the region.

The steady reduction in Police numbers over a period of years since the introduction of Police Scotland has led to a serious lack of front-line Police Officers. For example, often we have been told that there are no officers on duty in large parts of the Highlands with officers sent long distances to cover emergency calls.

The recent "Highland Cops" programme on television highlighted the vast and unique geography of the Highland "Beat" and the challenges faced by officers to provide an effective Police service in the region.

When the new Chief Superintendent gave a presentation to the Council on his appointment, he made much of how the TV programme would help to recruit officers, however the reality is that rather than recruiting additional officers we are facing a reduction that will significantly impact the level of Police availability on the ground. In addition due to the sheer size of the area and the ever reducing number of Police Officers communities are not getting equitable access to Police resources resulting in a significant risk as a result of response times, particularly in remote and rural locations.

While it is noted that Police Officers do a tremendous job given the very limited resources on hand the Policing model for the Highlands is clearly not fit for purpose. That being the case this council calls upon the Leader to write to the Justice Minister to insist that the proposed cuts to Police Numbers and overtime availability are cancelled and that a review of Policing numbers is carried out as a matter of urgency.

**Signed** Mr R Gunn Mrs T Robertson Mr D Gregg Mrs T Robertson Mr M Baird Mrs A MacLean Mrs J McEwan

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion is not anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

**ix.** Action towards Net Zero

If the Net Zero strategy is to succeed, and we are to meet our legal commitments, it is essential that the Net Zero Strategy is central to all decision-making in the Council.

To achieve this, this Council therefore agrees that the Chair of the Climate Change Committee, or if not available their depute, attend meetings of the Senior Leadership Group and the forthcoming Budget Review Group, to promote the Net Zero Strategy in all political decision-making and to ensure the action required to meet our Net Zero targets is embedded across all Council activities.

**Signed** Mr C Ballance Mr R MacKintosh

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion is not anticipated to have a direct financial implication to the Council, insofar as participation in the Group meetings, being non decision making forums, could not result in a financial implication arising. Any implications associated with the Net Zero Strategy would be considered as part of any formal reports and recommendations to relevant Committee/Council.

**x.** Allotments

We note that the Council is currently reviewing its allotments policy.

To further progress the aims of The Highland Council's food growing strategy for the Highlands, Highland Council therefore asks council officers to include in this review a list of existing and potential sites for council-owned and managed allotments sites throughout the Highlands, designed to encourage and enable new allotments. The proposals should also include draft plans to invite and support registrations of interest from interested individuals and groups.

**Signed** Mr R Mackintosh Ms K Willis

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion itself is not anticipated to have a direct financial implication to the Council. Any decision on review outcome, were additional allotments to be made available, could lead to additional financial implications at that time. Detailed assessment of costs of enabling new allotments and the income generation opportunities, would be required at that stage.