

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Redesign Board of the Highland Council** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on 30 August 2023 at 2pm.

Present:

Mr B Boyd	Ms B Jarvie
Mr R Bremner	Mr R Jones
Ms G Campbell-Sinclair	Mr B Lobban
Mr A Christie	Mr G MacKenzie
Mr D Fraser (substitute for Ms Reid)	Mr C Munro
Mr M Green	Mrs T Robertson
Mrs J Hendry	Ms L Saggars (remote)
Ms M Hutchison (remote)	Ms M Smith
Mr P Logue	

Non-Members present:

Mr M Baird	Mrs A MacLean (remote)
Mr J Bruce (remote)	Ms K MacLean (remote)
Ms S Fanet	Mr T MacLennan (remote)
Mr J Finlayson (remote)	Mr D Macpherson (remote)
Mr R Gale	Mr J McGillivray (remote)
Ms L Johnstone (remote)	Mr D Millar (remote)
Mr S Kennedy	Mr P Oldham (remote)
Ms E Knox (remote)	Mrs M Paterson
Mr R MacKintosh	Ms K Willis (remote)

Trade Union reps present:

Mr J Gibson, UNISON
Mr P MacPherson, GMB

Officials in attendance:

Ms K Lackie, Interim Chief Executive
Mr M MacLeod, Interim Depute Chief Executive
Mr A Gunn, Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Mr M Rodgers, Executive Chief Officer, Housing and Property
Ms A Clark, Head of Community Support, Contact and Engagement
Mr J Shepherd, Head of ICT & Digital Transformation
Mr G Morrison, Policy Manager
Mr R Campbell, Property and Facilities Management, Housing and Property
Mr D Scott, Service Lead, Corporate Improvement and Redesign
Mr D Summers, Principal Transport Officer
Ms L Burnside, Project Officer
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Leisgeulan

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mrs M Reid (substituted by Mr D Fraser), and Mr C Aitken.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

There were none.

3. Recess Powers Cumhachdan Fosaidh

The Board **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 29 June 2023 did not require to be exercised in relation to the business of the Redesign Board.

4. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The Board **NOTED** the minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2023, which had been approved by the Council on 29 June 2023.

5. Redesign of Highland Council – Work Programme Update Ath-dhealbhadh Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd – Cunntas às Ùr mun Phrògram Obrach

There had been circulated Report No RDB/10/23 by the Interim Depute Chief Executive.

During discussion, assurance was sought and provided that use of an Under-22 bus pass for transportation to and from school did not affect any statutory rights to school transport. Clarification on the pilot project that was being planned for two secondary schools was provided.

The Board **NOTED**:

- i. the Work Programme Update; and
- ii. the proposed series of Redesign Board Workshops to be scheduled for 2023

6. Home to School Transport Entitlement Review Ath-sgrùdadh air Làn-chòir air Còmhdhail Dachaigh gu Sgoil

There had been circulated Report No RDB/11/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure & Environment.

During discussion, the following issues were considered:

- confirmation was provided that the gradient of a road was not taken into consideration when calculating suitability of a walking to school route, only distance and road safety;
- in relation to the availability of senior officials for transport appeals, information was sought on the approximate number of transport appeals that took place per year, which was one to two; and
- clarification was sought and provided that if option 1 was approved, ward Members could be informed about relevant appeals.

Mr A Christie, seconded by Mrs T Robertson, **moved** to approve Option 2 in the report. Mr B Lobban, seconded by Mr R Bremner, **moved as an amendment**, to approve option 1.

There were 6 votes for the motion and 9 for the amendment, with no abstentions, so the **amendment** was **carried**, the votes having been cast as follows:

For the motion: Mr A Christie, Mrs B Jarvie, Mr P Logue, Mrs T Robertson, Mrs L Sagers, Ms M Smith.

For the amendment: Mr B Boyd, Mr R Bremner, Mrs J Hendry, Ms M Hutchison, Mr R Jones, Mr B Lobban, Mr G MacKenzie, Mr C Munro, Mr D Fraser.

The Board **AGREED** to recommend:

to the Council for inclusion in the next update of the Scheme of Delegation:-

- i. an updated remit for any review of school transport provision process as outlined in this report;
- ii. replacement of the Education Transport Entitlement Review Sub-Committee with a panel of senior officers (Option 1);
- iii. an update to the Home to School Transport Policy to reflect these changes, and to include reference to external complaints processes;

to the Council:-

- iv. an update to the eligibility criteria for transport to Gaelic Medium education where catchment boundaries have been defined; and
- v. an update to the eligibility for transport to denominational education in line with the approach recommended for Gaelic Medium.

7. Public Sector Reform

Ath-leasachadh san Roinn Phoblaich

There had been circulated Report No RDB/12/23 by the Depute Chief Executive.

The Board:

- i. **NOTED** the update; and
- ii. **AGREED** to hold a Member workshop to consider the three competencies and develop views on what “asks” the Council should make of the Scottish Government as well as considering how to help facilitate individual and community engagement in Democracy Matters 2 when it was launched.

8. Exclusion of the Public

Às-dùnadh a’ Phobail

The Board RESOLVED that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

9. Asset Management – Headquarters Old Building Stiùireadh So-mhaoin – Seann Togalach na Prìomh Oifis

There had been circulated to Members only Report No RDB/13/23 by the Interim Depute Chief Executive.

Following discussion, the Board **NOTED** the report.

10. Community Support and Engagement: Structure Review Taic agus Com-pàirteachas Coimhearsnachd: Ath-sgrùdadh Structair

There had been circulated to Members only Report No RDB/14/23 by the Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place.

Issues covered during discussion included how to best meet community needs and facilitate place-based decision making and the need to be clear on roles and responsibilities to ensure tasks were allocated to appropriate posts. A future report on progress would be presented to the Board in due course.

The Board:

- i. **NOTED** the background and approach to the review;
- ii. **NOTED** the learning outcomes and design principles developed; and
- iii. **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Council the proposed structure for the Community Support and Engagement team set out at appendices 2 and 3.

The meeting ended at 3.05pm