

6. Notices of Motion

(i) Following concerns raised by the Parent Council of Rogart Primary regarding the PSA hours allocated to the school where they had been reduced by 50% the Sutherland Members requested a breakdown of PSA hours from the Education ASN Manager. This was provided at the ward Business meeting in August and delivered personally by the ASN Manager.

The figures provided were contrary to the information received from parents and as a result there is serious concerns about the allocation of PSA hours not only in Rogart but across the Highlands. There is also concern about the algorithm that is used to assess the need in each school and whether it is right and proper to use such a tool to determine the needs of our most vulnerable children. Furthermore, it is well known that following the pandemic the demand for additional support has increased across the board so to reduce the hours of support staff is clearly contrary to the need that exists.

Given that this support is vital for the wellbeing and education of our most vulnerable children this council will commit to a full review of PSA hours at all schools in consultation with parents as a matter of urgency and to be presented to the first Education Committee in 2024.

Signed:- Mr R Gale Mr J McGillivray Ms J McEwan Mr D Gregg Mrs A MacLean

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

This motion is not anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council. There will be the requirement of Officer time involved in taking forward a review which could impact on other work activity.

(ii) Screen Machine is Scotland's mobile cinema and in September 2023, celebrates 25 years of the service, during which time it has travelled approximately 250,000 miles. It visits more than forty communities each year, from Arran to Orkney, where there is little or no other cultural provision. The service brings the latest cinema releases to local communities, offering blockbusters, independent and family films and ensuring it shows the best of Scottish cinema.

This service is now at risk as the existing machine is reaching the end of its lease. A new Screen Machine will cost approx. £1.4m and need between one year and eighteen months to build. RSS needs the Scottish Government to provide 50% of the cost. That will enable them to pay a deposit and begin the build.

This council recognises the importance of this service and agrees that the Leader will write to the Scottish Government and urge them to provide the 50% funding that will ensure that a new machine can be ordered.

Signed:- Mr R Gale Mr M Baird Mr D Gregg Mr A Graham

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

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

(iii) Highland Council calls upon the Scottish Government to fund NHS Highland sufficiently well to do its job and avoid massive cuts!

1. Review the financial chasm between NHS Highland Services needs to deliver high-quality person-centred care and the associated budget allocated by the Scottish Government.

2. Recognize that:

a. As at the last published financial report of the 30th June NHS Highland had submitted a financial plan to Scottish Government for the 2023/2024 financial year, with an initial budget gap of approaching a hundred million pounds, with actual funding cuts of almost thirty million pounds proposed.

b. No funding source had subsequently been identified to close the associated residual gap of seventy million pounds.

c. The Scottish Government 'Tailored Support' to the NHS Highland Financial Plan entails a review of activities with a view to working with Lead Officers to identify activities that may be reduced or stopped.

Call upon the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to fund NHS Highland sufficiently to do its job.

Call upon the Scottish Cabinet Secretary to acknowledge the devastating effect these cuts will be on a Highland population that is already struggling to access care, dentistry, GP and hospital services across the region.

Signed:- Mr A MacDonald Mr A Graham Mr M Baird Mr D Gregg Mr J Grafton Ms J McEwan Mr R Gale Mr R Gunn Mrs A MacLean

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

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

(iv) In light of the frequency of road accidents, consequent lengthy closures on the A9 North of Inverness and considering that this road is a vital link for all of Highland and Islands to the South; Council instructs the Leader to write to the Scottish Government seeking an early meeting between the Cabinet Minister, the Area Chairs and the Chair of Economy and Infrastructure to discuss the issue.

Signed:- Ms J McEwan Mr M Reiss Mr A Christie Mr R Gale Mr R Gunn Mrs A MacLean Mr A Graham

S95 officer assessment of financial implications.

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