

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee** held remotely on 20 May 2024 at 10.30 am.

**Present:**

Mr C Birt  
Mrs I Campbell

Mrs E Kraft  
Mr P Logue

**In attendance:**

Mr C Sharp, Housing Repairs Manager North  
Mr W MacKinnon, Community Development Manager  
Ms M Ross, Principal Housing Officer  
Mrs O Marsh, Committee Officer

**Also in attendance:**

Station Commander Mr B Liversedge, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Item 3)  
Chief Executive Mr M Dickson, Scottish Ambulance Service (Item 4)  
Interim Head Mr S Gorman, Scottish Ambulance Service (Item 4)

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

**Ms L Kraft in the Chair**

### Business

**1. Apologies for Absence  
Leisgeulan**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement  
Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/Aithris Fhollaiseachd**

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements.

**3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Seirbheis Smàlaidh is Teasairginn na h-Alba**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/07/24 by the Local Senior Officer for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- the increase in Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) staff numbers was welcomed;
- Members would encourage community councils to contact and engage with the SFRS in their local areas;
- it was queried if the SFRS carried out First Responding;

- it was questioned if callouts for fire alarms had reduced due to the installation of modern type alarms, such as heat detectors in kitchen areas rather than smoke alarms; and
- regarding wildfires, information was sought as to what preventative works were planned to combat these especially in view of Access Rangers funding not currently in place this year.

The Committee **NOTED** the attached Area Performance Report.

#### **4. Presentation – Scottish Ambulance Service Update Taisbeanadh – Cunntas às Ùr mu Sheirbheis Ambaileans na h-Alba**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/08/24 by the Interim Head of Service (SAS) (Highland).

The Interim Head of SAS gave an overview on the service across Highland focusing on Triaging, Mental Health, Community Responders, Advanced Practice and performance measurements.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- thanks were expressed for the informative and comprehensive presentation of the SAS;
- information was sought on how many times a defibrillator had been used in Highland or at local Ward level within the last year and how many persons had been discharged from hospitals successfully. In this regard SAS confirmed they would source this information, which would likely be a Highland wide statistic, to share with Members;
- information was sought, and provided, on the typical waiting time for ambulances to arrive when called for and if the SAS liaised with any First Responders who had been dispatched in order to give the patient the best care when they arrived;
- regarding response times for Wester Ross, information was sought whether these had increased or decreased;
- clarification was sought, and provided, on how local communities could get involved with the provision of First Responders, who would they contact and what the governance was around this provision; and
- Members welcomed the defibrillator location application (app) and endorsed its use in Highland.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the Scottish Ambulance Service Triage and Response model;
- ii. resources available across remote and rural Highland; and
- iii. the establishment of a National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Care through NHS Education for Scotland as the strategic delivery partner.

#### **5. Housing Performance Report – 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 Aithisg Coileanaidh Taigheadais – 1 Giblean 2023 gu 31 Màrt 2024**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/10/24 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- Members thanked officers for the report;
- regarding homelessness, information was sought, and provided, on the Policy for identifying and management of homeless persons;
- regarding rough sleepers, it was queried if there was a systematic way to identify them, counsel and care for them;
- clarification was sought, and provided, on how tenants reported issues with repairs or request new installations, such as kitchens;
- it was queried if the Housing Service liaised with local Housing Associations, and if the joint register was still in place; and
- regarding anti-social behaviour, it was queried what mechanisms the Housing Service had in place to deal with this issue. In this regard it was suggested that a follow up MS Teams session with officers to discuss this issue would be arranged.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024; and
- ii. **AGREED** to set up an MS Teams discussion session with Members regarding Housing mechanisms for anti-social behaviour.

**6. Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Ward Discretionary Budget Buidseat fo Ughdarras Uàird Rois an Iar, Shrath Pheofhair agus Loch Aillse**

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Ward Discretionary Fund applications had been approved since January 2024:-

- Achnasheen Amenities Association Consultation - £30.00
- Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association - Dornie Community Garden – £128.99
- Skye & Lochalsh Community Care Forum - Young Carers New Building Project - £300
- Wester Loch Ewe Community Council - Local Place Plan - £400
- South West Ross Drama Association - One Act Play Festival - £500
- Auchtertyre Primary Parent Council - Faces and Stories - £1,565
- Community Food Initiatives North East - Fare Share in Highland - £132
- Kyle Community Council - Kyle Spruce Up 2024 - £1,924.90
- Coigach Community Development Company Ltd – Growing Achiltibuie - £500
- Strathpeffer Community Council - £300
- Sheildaig Community Association – Multi-use Games Area Maintenance - £400

**7. Minutes**  
**Geàrr-chunntas**

The Committee **NOTED** the Minutes of Meeting of the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee held on 29 January 2024 which had been approved by the Council on 14 March 2024.

The meeting concluded at 11.35am