

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee** held in **Kingussie Courthouse /Remotely** on 26 August 2024 at 10.30 am

Present:

Mr J Bruce
Ms M Cockburn

Mr R Jones
Mr B Lobban

In attendance:

Mr D Haas, Senior Community Development Manager
Ms F Shearer, Area Education and Learning Manager
Mr S Grant, Senior Engineer
Ms A Tanner, City Heritage Project Officer
Mr S Manning, Principal Traffic Manager
Ms R Ross, Committee Officer

Also in attendance:

Inspector C Johnstone, Police Scotland
Ms A MacIver, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Mr J Turner, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

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

Business

1. **Apologies for Absence** **Leisgeulan**

There were no apologies for absence.

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

The Committee **NOTED** the following transparency statement:-

Item 10 - Mr B Lobban

3. **Recess Powers** **Cumhachdan Fosaidh**

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 27 June 2024 did not require to be exercised in relation to the business of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee.

4. Police Area Performance Report Poileas – Geàrr-chunntas air Coileanadh Sgìreil

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/011/24 by the Area Commander (South Highland Area Command), Police Scotland.

Inspector C Johnstone, Police Scotland provided a summary of the key points of the report and an additional summary of factors that led to the A9 being closed.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- it was emphasised that speeding in villages was still a serious problem;
- in response to a suggestion that placing marked speed control vans close to junctions could be useful in preventing accidents, Inspector Johnstone undertook to raise this with the Camera Safety Unit;
- in response to a question, it was confirmed that the directives on how speeding was dealt with came from the Roads Policing Unit;
- on the point being raised, it was confirmed that the post of Harm Prevention Officer was secure for at least three more years;
- in response to a question; it was confirmed that there had been 16 missing children in the last year and there were currently no outstanding missing children;
- information was sought and provided on how drug offenses were dealt with in the Badenoch and Strathspey area, and the Reducing Acts of Terrorism training was being used in schools and communities; and
- disappointment was expressed that Community Liaison Officers had been unable to attend Community Council meetings or local events however, it was understood that this was due to resourcing issues.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2023–2026 Year 1 attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 01 April 2023 – 31 March 2024; and
- ii. the change in format necessitated by a reduction in back-office capacity to prepare additional area committee reports.

In terms of Standing Order 9 it was agreed that item 10 be considered at this stage.

10. Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Community Development Update Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean – Cunntas air Leasachadh Coimhearsnachd

Transparency Statement – Mr B Lobban as a director of Cairngorm Mountain (Scotland) Ltd.

There was a presentation from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Highlighting the work being done with partners around Community Development.

- it was important to continue to highlight the work done by the Newton Rooms;

- it was essential that the Council worked with HIE and other partners to improve public transport links in Badenoch and Strathspey; and
- information was sought and provided on the help available for businesses who had stopped trading with or importing from Europe due to new regulations; the impact that Scottish Government funding cuts would have on HIE's ability to support projects in Badenoch and Strathspey; the transition to net zero; the Cairngorm funicular railway; and whether work was being done to help with apprenticeships in the construction industry and attracting more trades people to the Badenoch and Strathspey area.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation and that close liaison would take place between HIE, the Council and other relevant agencies in respect of promoting economic development activities with a focus on advancing Public Transport provision in particular.

5. Education Update - Grantown Grammar Cunntas Foghlaim – Sgoil-ghràmar Bhaile nan Grandach

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/012/24 by the Area Education & Learning Manager, Education & Learning.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- information was sought and provided on the anticipated effects of falling school roles, the numbers of placing requests in Badenoch and Strathspey and, preparation for vaccination programmes in schools; and
- on the point being raised, it was confirmed that early years education numbers were being tackled to help with forward planning and that these would be provided to Members.

The Committee scrutinised and **NOTED** the content of the report.

6. Education Update - Kingussie High School Cunntas Foghlaim – Àrd-Sgoil Cheann a' Ghiùthsaidh

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/013/24 by the Area Education & Learning Manager, Education & Learning.

The Committee scrutinised and **NOTED** the content of the report.

7. Winter Service Plan 2024/25 Plana Seirbheis Geamhraidh 2024/25

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/014/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- thanks were expressed for the quick action in introducing emergency measures to close the Glentruim Road to all but local residents following the closure of the A86;
- the importance of communications around gritting routes was emphasised;

- information was sought and provided in the refilling of grit bins;
- the Roads Operations team was commended for the excellent work it did during the winter months;
- on the point being raised regarding winter gritting, it was clarified that there were currently enough contactors on the standby list but more would always be welcome; and
- it was queried whether information on the Community Self Help scheme had been given to Community Councils.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Winter Service Plan for 2024/25.

8. **Community Regeneration Fund Assessment of Application Measadh air Iartas airson Maoin Ath-bheothachadh Coimhearsnachd**

There is circulated Report No BSAC/015/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- on the point being raised, it was confirmed that there had been several applications including automatic door opening mechanisms for buildings such as village halls as they were a way to make older buildings more accessible;
- it was suggested that the funding could be approved on the condition that the applicant secured available match funding;
- a suggestion was made that only the £5,700 funding for legal services be approved as this seemed to be the most essential part of the application;
- in response to a question, it was confirmed that if the project failed the assents would not sit with the Council;
- on the point being raised it was confirmed that if the applicant was unable to raise match funding within the deadline given, other applications could be invited for the remaining funds; and
- in response to a question it was confirmed that there was £9,169 capital funding available from the Place Based Investment Fund and £6,948 revenue funding available from the UK shared prosperity fund.

The Committee **AGREED** to grant £5,700 revenue funding for legal expenses, and the available £9,169 capital funding on the condition that, in respect of the capital funding, match funding was secured by the applicant within 28 days.

9. **Glenmore Waiting and Loading Restrictions Consideration of Objections Beachdachadh air Gearanan mu Bhacaidhean Feitheimh is Luchdachaidh a' Ghlinne Mhòir**

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/016/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- the restrictions recommended in the report were the most positive solution available initially and could be revisited in the future;

- the Parking Management team was commended for their work on this project and in responding to public objections;
- it was queried whether the new parking regulations could allow the black and white barrier posts to be removed;
- information was sought and provided on the functionality of the parking meters; and
- the creation of a new post for a dedicated parking officer for Badenoch and Strathspey was welcomed.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Order as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report having it been altered and reduced in severity from the original proposals issued for Public Consultation and following feedback from consultees.

11. Ward Discretionary Budget Buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàird

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. that no Ward Discretionary Fund payments had been made since 3 June 2024; and
- ii. the available Ward Discretionary Fund balance was £14,600.

12. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated for noting Minutes of Meeting of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee held on 3 June 2024 which were approved by the Council on 27 June 2024 which were **NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 12.40 pm.