Skye, Lochalsh & Wester Ross Community Partnership

Tuesday, 25th March 2025

10am – 12 Noon

Via Microsoft Teams

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:**

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| Ian Philp – Chair - Highlands & Islands Enterprise | David Swanson – Dev and Active Travel |
| Laura Fisher – Highland Community Planning Partnership | Susan MacLean |
| Richard Gale – Councillor  | Peter Fenton |
| Justyna Leslie – Highland Council | Justyna Leslie – Policy and Investment |
| Jamie Kellas – Highland Community Planning Partnership | William MacKinnon – Vice Chair – Highland Council |
| Yvonne Ross – Highland Council | Allan Bryce – Dev and Active Travel |
| John Douglas | Mamta Patel- Lochbroom & Ullapool Community Trust |
| Catriona Sutherland – Highland Council | Christopher Birt - Councillor |
| Yvonne Boa – Youth Work and Adult Learning | Jean MacRae – NHS Highland |
| Iona MacDonald | Norma Morrison |
| Morag Hannah – Skye & Lochalsh CAB  | Morven Taylor |
| Mairi Annan – Economy and Regenerations  | Mike Hyatt |
| Gill Wilson  | Jessica Clarke |

**Welcome & Apologies:**

Ian Philp, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the apologies received from:

* Calum Munro (Councillor)
* Helen Cameron (Housing Development)
* Jo-Anne - SLCVO
* Gail Matheson
* Drew Millar (Councillor)
* Alistair Danter
* Contin community council
* Hannah Cameron-Ross
* Debbie Murray UHI
* Natasha Hutchison
* James Swinnerton
* Kari Magee

**Review of Previous Actions:**

Action list will be updated with completed items removed ahead of March 2025 meeting.

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| **Agenda Item** | **Action** | **Responsible** | **Status** |
| Previous Actions | Follow up on proposed secretariat support by SLCVO with Community Partnership Core Partners  | Ian Philp/Willie Mackinnon/Laura Fisher/Jo Ford | Ongoing |
| Third Sector Update: HTSI, Wester Ross | Ffyona Mackenzie to be asked for written update on activity for circulation | Laura Fisher | Ongoing |
| Whole Family Wellbeing Update | Data report for Skye, Lochalsh & Wester Ross area to be circulated | Maggie Hume | Ongoing |

**Sutherland Resilience Initiative – Cllr Richard Gale**

* Cllr Gale provided an overview of the Sutherland Resilience Initiative and what it is they are trying to achieve. The SRI aims to tackle some of the long-standing issues across the county of Sutherland, not only related to transport but other issues facing Sutherland, such as depopulation.
* Cllr Gale noted that the SRI has purchased 2 electric cars which enable members of the community to access health and education services based in Inverness and Dingwall.
* Cllr Gale noted that although the SRI was founded by elected members, there is recognition that in future, individuals who are not politically affiliated will be required to take the initiative forward.

**South Wester Ross Car Scheme – Peter Fenton**

* Peter built on Cllr Gale’s presentation and provided an overview of the South Wester Ross Car Scheme. The scheme is funded by the Highland Council and like the SRI, helps individuals across South Wester Ross access dentist appointments, opticians etc.
* Peter emphasised the additional benefits of the scheme: service users make connections with others, i.e. meeting plumber or getting shopping delivered etc. Peter noted that the scheme also helps to alleviate anxiety – service users no longer need to stress when an appointment letter comes through the door.
* There are currently two pilot projects in operation looking at wider transport issues. One is an 8 seater vehicle leased from Highland Council and can be used for sporting and cultural reasons. The other project is used for pantomime, knit and natter, screen machine and local book group.
* The scheme is currently fulfilling around 70 runs per month, however there is recognition that both the age profile of volunteers and volunteer burnout present an issue going forward.

**Landscape Architects – Mike Hyatt**

* Mike talked about the appetite across Skye for active travel options. A report was commissioned by XXX and a number of easy wins were identified, however other routes are more complex. Routes in UIG have been identified and there is a desire to connect Portree and Braes.
* There is presently a lot of activity in southeast Skye, using money from the Paths for All funding stream.
* SSE are developing new tracks for construction purposes and conversations are taking place about whether these tracks could be developed and retained.
* Skye Cycle way are currently working on a safe path between the Skye Bridge and Broadford. Trusts and community groups are developing this but taking on full liability is challenging – insurance, maintenance etc.
* Electric bikes and cars have made travelling longer distances much more feasible, attracting more older people due to this, however better networks are needed in order to keep people away from busy roads. Mike noted that there are currently 300 miles of routes being developed across the island. In Skye people haven’t seen the benefits yet, however the route from Broadford to Skye Bridge may provide this, which may in turn increase momentum for other projects.
* Presentation attached.

**Highland Council Active Travel Team – David Swanson and Allan Bryce**

* David introduced himself to partners in attendance. He has recently taken on the post of project officer with the Active travel team.
* Allan then presented the Active Travel masterplan, including information on the Quiet Routes pilot project. Five sites have been identified and approved by Transport Scotland. An initial quite route has been established in Glencoe, resulting in a 16% decrease in speeds. No accidents have been recorded on the route during the pilot, with the last recorded accident occurring on 20 February 2023. Report is being taken to Lochaber Committee recommending the Glencoe quiet route be made permanent. Allan noted that quiet routes in Raasay and Skye have been approved and are awaiting installation.
* Allan noted there are currently 9 Active travel masterplans across the Highlands. Masterplans look at key data sources, e.g. cost, SIMD, population, public transport, safety etc. Community groups are currently working with HITRANS and Highland Council to fund new projects.

**Highland Community Planning Partnership – Jamie Kellas**

* Jamie provided a brief update from the Highland Community Planning Partnership board. The revised Highland Outcome Improvement plan covers 2024-2027 and focuses on three strategic priorities of people, place and prosperity.
* The chief executive of the Highland Council presented to the board on the Highland Housing Challenge, during which information was provided on regional population projections and the number of new homes required over the next 10 years.
* Active Highland Strategy and Action Plan: A set of eight strategic delivery outcomes for a refreshed Active Highland Strategy have been developed by the Active Highland Strategy Group. The outcomes are focused on getting more people active, ensuring places and spaces are appropriately designed and specifically more children and young people will be more active.
* Developing the Care for People Response: An update on proposed recommendations approved by the Highlands and Islands Local Resilience Partnership regarding the Care for People Response and Approach was presented to the Board. The Care for People workstream aims to plan for and deliver activities that meet the practical and emotional needs that emerge when people’s lives are impacted by an emergency.
* Children and Young People Participation Strategy: An overview of the Strategy was presented to the Board on behalf of the Integrated Children’s Services Planning Board. The vision is of a Highland in which all children and young people feel that they can meaningfully participate in decision making processes and influence change in their own lives and in wider society.

**Date of Next Meeting**

* 25th June 2025 – Online – 10am to 12 Noon
* 24th Sept 2025 - Online – 10am to 12 Noon
* 3rd December 2025 – Online – 10am to 12 Noon

**Action Points:**

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| **Agenda Item** | **Action** | **Responsible** | **Status** |
| **Presentations** | Jamie to circulate all presentations  | Jamie Kellas |  |
| **Partnership Update** | Jamie to circulate the quarterly update | Jamie Kellas |  |
| **Service Availability in SL&WR** | Jean to provide information on services available across SL&WR | Jean MacRae |  |
| **NHS Outreach Services** | Ian to contact Karen Anne Wilson re:  | Ian Philp |  |