



The first High Life Highland (HLH) Board meeting of 2014 took place in Dingwall on Thursday 27th February.

Chair and vice Chair elected and new Directors welcomed -

With a packed agenda Directors tackled appointing a new Chair and Vice-Chair. After hearing supporting statements Lawrence Young and Donald McLachlin were elected to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. One of the new Chair's first duties was to welcome two new Directors, Ms Jenny Clarke and Mr Ian Ross as Independent Directors to the Board of High Life Highland.

Jenny spent ten years working at Cairngorm Mountain and is currently Operations Lead Manager at Glenmore Lodge whilst Ian is Chair of Scottish Natural Heritage, a lecturer at Inverness College UHI and a current board member of the Scottish Police Authority. Jenny Clarke was appointed as a Director of the Trading Company and Drew Millar reappointed for a second term. It was also agreed that former director Ms Linda Kirkland should be appointed as an External Member, to the Finance and Audit Committee.

10 year capital plan, interim position –

The Principal Estates Manager covered capital projects funded by The Highland Council (THC) that are currently underway or planned in the next three years, and projects approved for the following two years with an indicative capital plan for the following five years. Directors agreed that it was crucial for HLH to have a close working relationship with THC especially during the early design phase of each of the projects.

Standing items –

Reports on finance, human resources and performance statistics were followed by an update from the Chief Executive on various issues, projects and opportunities.

Chief Executive's verbal updates –

1] The Highland Youth Voice Conference due to be held at the Gaelic College, Sabhal Mor Ostaig – 18-20 June 2014 will include a debate on the upcoming referendum for independence. Directors were invited to attend where possible. There has also been a request for 3 Directors to form a panel at the October conference alongside the Chief Executive and Head of Performance to answer questions on High Life Highland.

2] Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has agreed that HLH qualifies as a "managed account" and has agreed to recognise HLH as a "community enterprise with growth potential". Directors welcomed the news and looked forward to seeing positive outcomes as a result of the partnership with HIE.

3] The Highland Council has asked HLH to operate Ferrycroft Visitor Centre in Lairg for a year's trial and following positive meetings with local Members and the Community Council, it has now been confirmed that the centre will be open for visitors from Saturday 5 April in time for the school Easter holidays.

4] Following a successful 12 month trial HLH has also been asked to manage the Community facilities at the Leanaig Centre in Conon Bridge.

5] Discussions with the Management Committee of Hilton Community Centre have resulted in HLH being asked to adopt the management of their facility in full. Under the new agreement HLH will be responsible for the operation of the facility programme including all income and expenditure.

6] An update on the pilot trialling the introduction of coffee pods into libraries was given.