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| HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND  REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS  14 June 2018 | AGENDA ITEM 14 REPORT No HLH /18 |

## **CHair/chIEF EXECUTIVE’S UPDATES - Report by Chief Executive**

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| **Summary** The purpose of this report is to provide Directors with information and the opportunity to discuss issues affecting HLH and its work at an early stage.  It is recommended Directors comment on and note the updates. |

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| **1.** | **Business Plan Contribution** |
| 1.1 | This report supports the highlighted Business Outcomes from the High Life Highland (HLH) Business Plan:   1. **To advance sustainable growth and financial sustainability** 2. **Deliver the Service Delivery Contract with THC** 3. **Improving staff satisfaction** 4. **Improving customer satisfaction** 5. **A positive company image** 6. **Services designed around customers and through market opportunities** 7. **Sustain a good health and safety performance** 8. **A trusted partner** |
| **2.** | **Opportunities for Directors to Represent HLH – Update** |
| **2.1** | **Youth Parliament Conference June – 14-15 June 2018 - ’Young People’s Rights’ theme** |
| 2.1.1  2.1.2  2.1.3  2.1.4 | Directors were invited to hold the dates 14 and 15 June to attend part of the Highland Youth Parliament (HYP) annual conference if possible at the Inverness College University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).  HYP is the elected youth parliament for the Highlands, and includes young people from all 29 Highland Secondary Schools and Local Youth Forums. The HYP conference is a young person-led event at which approx. 80 young people from across the Highlands meet with Service Directors, Lead Officers and Elected Members from The Highland Council, High Life Highland and partner agencies, in order to influence decision making that impacts Highland’s young people.  The conference, in the Year of Young People 2018, will be a celebration of Highland young people and all they are involved in. The event will also be themed around young people’s rights and we hope to have sessions on young people rights relating to issues of importance to young people in Highland including support for young people’s mental health, LGBTi and Additional Support Needs issues, sexual health, care experienced young people and transport and connectivity. It is also hoped to involve Highland MSYPs [those that represent Highland at Scotland wide meetings] in this session, with support from the Scottish Youth Parliament, linking in with their ‘Right Here Right Now’ Campaign.  There will also be sessions on the Highland Youth Work Policy and the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan which will give young people an opportunity to comment on these plans as they develop. |
| **2.2** | **“Coming Home” – Exhibition April 2018** |
| 2.2.1  2.2.2 | *Coming Home* was a travelling exhibition and events programme developed by High Life Highland in collaboration with the Highland Museums Forum to commemorate the end of the First World War in the Highlands.   It was the culmination of a four year programme of World War One events and activities delivered by High Life Highland museums, libraries and archives including the [Am Baile](http://www.ambaile.org.uk/en/pages/ambaile.html) Great War Newspaper Digitisation project, WWI Heritage Collection drop-in days at the [Highland Archive Centre](https://www.highlifehighland.com/archives-service/) and the *Next of Kin* exhibition at [Inverness Museum and Art Gallery](https://www.highlifehighland.com/inverness-museum-and-art-gallery/).  Directors Ian Ross, Donald Somerville and Duncan Macpherson attended this exhibition opening at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery on 1 April 2018. The exhibition will continue its tour throughout 2018 with opportunities for Directors to attend as detailed below:  [Cromarty Courthouse Museum](http://www.cromarty-courthouse.org.uk/) – 16th May to 17th June  [Fortrose Community Library](https://www.highlifehighland.com/libraries/fortrose-community-library/) – June 2018  [Nairn Museum](http://www.nairnmuseum.co.uk/) – 20th June to 20th July  [Inverness Library](https://www.highlifehighland.com/libraries/inverness-library/) – July 2018  [Highland Folk Museum –](https://www.highlifehighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum/) 25th July to 26th August  [Thurso Library](https://www.highlifehighland.com/libraries/thurso-library/) – August 2018  [Museum of the Isles, Skye](http://www.clandonald.com/) – 30th August to 29th September  [Wick Library](https://www.highlifehighland.com/libraries/wick-library/) – September 2018  [Grantown Museum](http://www.grantownmuseum.co.uk/) – 4th October to 31st October  [Portree Library](https://www.highlifehighland.com/libraries/portree-library/) – October 2018  [Highland Archive Centre](https://www.highlifehighland.com/highland-archive-centre/) – November 2018  [Fort William Library](https://www.highlifehighland.com/libraries/fort-william-library/) – December 2018  [Nairn Library](https://www.highlifehighland.com/libraries/nairn-library/) – January 2019  [Badenoch Library](https://www.highlifehighland.com/libraries/badenoch-library/) – February 2019 |
| **3.** | **Moray Leisure Update** |
| 3.1 | Moray Council at a meeting on 16 May agreed to extend the current Moray Leisure Centre lease for a 12 month period in the first instance and to make available a sum of £120K between 2018 and 2020 in order to ensure the recovery plan proposed by HLH can be delivered. This will allow the refurbishment of the gym and other general improvements including introducing Fit Life [the Moray equivalent of the High Life scheme]. There are some conditions including resolving existing staff issues and the continuation of HLH as management agent. |
| **4.** | **Visits from External Organisations** |
| 4.1 | HLH continues to be seen as a model worthy of a visit by Councils seeking to establish an ALEO and by existing similar organisations, with two visits to Inverness from taking place in May. Monmouthshire County Council in Wales took the decision earlier this year to set up an alternative delivery model for their Tourism, Leisure, Culture and Youth Services and Edinburgh City Council are looking at options around extending the delivery of some of their cultural and learning services through an ALEO. |
| **5.** | **MacDonald Aviemore Highland Resort** |
| 5.1  5.2  5.3  5.4  5.5 | The current Agreement with Aviemore Highland Resort where the Council pays a sum to the Resort enabling High Life member access to the pool, end [at the time of writing] on 31 May 2018.    Discussions have been ongoing for the past few months to extend the Agreement for another three years.  Despite the Council’s challenging financial position, it has committed to continuing the Agreement at the same level of payment.  This commitment also reflects equity with payments to other private and third sector bodies funded by the Council, which have faced at best flat cash settlements, but with many having to plan for reductions.    The offer of another three-year arrangement which would have seen the Resort continue to be paid £180K per annum has been rejected by MacDonald Hotels and Resorts. This means High Life cardholders from the local area and across the Highlands are denied continued access to the leisure facilities at the Resort. The Highland Council remains open to discussions however an increase cannot be agreed.    High Life Cardholders will still be able to access other HLH facilities in the Badenoch and Strathspey area.  The effect on HLH is estimated to be the loss of 150-200 members equating to £45-£65K. This cost, if incurred can be covered from the fee no longer paid by the Council to MAHR. |
| **6.** | **Lochalsh Swimming Pool** |
| 6.1 | Following a formal approach by Directors of Lochalsh Swimming Pool Association, discussions are ongoing as to the possibility of HLH assuming responsibility for the day to day operation of the swimming pool in Kyle of Lochalsh. The business case to consider this approach is being prepared and will be submitted to the August HLH Board for Directors to consider. |
| **7.** | **Nevis Centre** |
| 7.1 | Following an informal approach by Directors of Linnhe Leisure on possible joint working, HLH await the outcome of a Linnhe Leisure Board Meeting to hear if its Directors wish to pursue management of the centre by HLH on their behalf. If this formal approach is received, HLH could begin the preparation of a business case. HLH is aware that the roof and the internals of the centre needs significant repair work and as such, the business case preparation would need to be scheduled to coincide with confirmation that this work can be funded and the proposed timescale within which the remedial work could be completed. |
| **8.** | **Indoor Tennis Centre** |
| 8.1 | Following the demise of plans for a Regional Sports Facility, a Stage 1 application is being prepared in advance of the launch of a new strand of funding through Tennis Scotland for the purposes of establishing a network of indoor tennis centres across Scotland. The proposed location of the new centre would be in the rear car park area of Inverness Leisure. In addition to providing new indoor tennis facilities, the funding bid seeks to re-design the reception area within Inverness Leisure, to create new café space and to add enhanced strength and conditioning facilities, an indoor athletics straight and a new multi functional events arena. Early indications from Tennis Scotland are that an application to provide indoor tennis facilities for the Highlands would be well received. |
| **9.** | **Implications** |
| 9.1 | Resource Implications – There are no additional resource implications arising from this report. |
| 9.2 | Legal Implications - There are no new legal implications arising from this report. |
| 9.3 | Equality Implications – There are no new equality implications arising from this report. |
| 9.4 | Risk Implications – There are no new risk implications arising from this report. |

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| **Recommendations** It is recommended Directors comment on and note the updates. |

Designation: Chief Executive

Date: 25 May 2018