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| HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND  REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS  11 December 2019 | AGENDA ITEM REPORT No HLH /19 |

## **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:   1. comment on and note the updates; and 2. agree to delegate authority to the Finance and Audit Committee to consider the Strathpeffer Pavilion business case at their February meeting. |

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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. Sustain a high standard of health and safety, and environmental performance 2. **Implement the Service Delivery Contract with THC** 3. **Improving customer engagement and satisfaction** 4. **Improving staff engagement and satisfaction** 5. **Enhance the positive charity image** 6. Be a trusted and effective partner 7. Achieve sustainable growth across the organisation 8. **Develop health and wellbeing across Highland communities** 9. **Develop and promote the High Life brand** |
| **2.** | **Chief Executive – 100 days in post** |
| 2.1 | The Chief Executive will give a verbal update on his first 100 days in post. |
| **3.** | **Opportunities for Directors to Represent HLH – Update** |
| 3.1  3.2 | Directors were circulated with invites to the following events:   * Highland Chamber Orchestra, 15 September 2019 * Red Hot Chilli Pipers – 5 October 2019 * Fron Male Voices Choir – 26 October 2019 * Highland Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Annual Awards – 9 November 2019 * The Bohemians, 3 November 2019 * Mànran, 28 December 2019   Director Ken Nicol kindly agreed to presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to Donna Stewart, Thurso on 7 December 2019 at Thurso Rugby Club. Donna had been unable to attend the Highland Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Annual Awards in Inverness on 9 November and it was important to recognise her commitment and contribution to running in the Caithness area. |
| **4.** | **Awards** |
| 4.1 | Following the resigning of the Armed Forces Covenant in November 2018 and the presentation to HLH at that time of its Bronze Award for the contribution it makes to the lives of those involved in the armed forces, I am delighted to announce that HLH has recently been awarded the Silver Employer Recognition Scheme Award. The award was presented to the Chief Executive at a reception, hosted by the Governor of the Castle, in Edinburgh Castle on 14 November 2019. The purpose of the Covenant is to try as far as possible to ensure that members of the armed forces and their families are not disadvantaged through their involvement and deployment with the forces. |
| 4.2 | Although not overall winners this year, HLH was shortlisted in two categories for the 2019 **Highland Council Quality Awards** as follows:  Category 1 – Delivering On Localism and Making The Highlands An Even Better Place To Live: LeisureLink -  *(High Life Highland)*  Category 2 - Supporting People to Learn and Thrive: Co-production of Highland Youth Work Strategy -  *(Care & Learning, High Life Highland, Highland Youth Parliament)* |
| 4.3  4.3.1 | The **Inverness Royal Academy Cycle Hub** was recently awarded Scottish Mountain Bike Community Project of the Year at the recent Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMBinS) national awards. This award is aimed at groups / associations / people /hubs who come together for the benefit of their local MTB community. In addition IRA has also received a cycle friendly school award by Cycling Scotland.  The purpose of the IRA cycle hub is to grow and promote cycling opportunities within the school and wider community, particularly targeting those who were not engaged in sport and from a deprived area. Key to this was the collaboration between: PE & Nurture base staff; school pupils; Scottish Cycling; Cycling Scotland; HLH Hub Officer; HLH Active School;, HLH Youth Development; Velocity Café & Bike Workshop; Sustrans and The Adventure Syndicate. |
| 4.4 | HLH received a highly commended nomination at the recent Highland Business Awards for Developing the Young Workforce for the work undertaken around its Leadership Programme to 12-25 year olds in preparing for the workplace.  Work is now underway to develop the recently accredited SCQF4 and SCQF 5 level awards system and roll out a pilot. |
| **5.** | **Funding Awards** |
| 5.1 | **Green Health Project** - HLH has secured £197K from LEADER to deliver a series of outdoor events and activities across each Local Community Partnership area in Highland with an 18 month project officer taking up post mid-November. The project is being developed with support of a steering group comprised of: NHS Health Improvement; SNH; HLH; The Highland Third Sector Interface and The Highland Council’s Environment Manager. The events and activities will aim to achieve the following:   * Increase participation in outdoor activity across Highland, with a key focus on targeting individuals who would otherwise be unable or unlikely to participate * Increase partners’, participants’ and providers’ awareness of the health benefits of outdoor activities in their communities * Lay the ground work for more informed future delivery of outdoor activities and associated health benefits by identifying the barriers and opportunities to participation * Demonstrate the impact on mental and physical health and wellbeing to inform future green health activity provision. |
| **5.2** | **Nature Explorers Project** - Scottish Library and Information Council funding of £8K has been secured to deliver STEM education and family learning through libraries and countryside rangers. Piloted in Ullapool, the Nature Explorers project supports independent learning, investigative skills and questioning alongside literacy and numeracy skills. Nature Explorer backpacks have been designed for families, schools and groups to borrow and use to explore the natural world around them. A dedicated nature and science corner has also been created in the library, supported by a nature themed book collection and other nature resources. Over the past six months 156 participants have engaged with the project. After the twelve month pilot period ends (December 2019) there are plans in place to roll out the Nature Explorers project to other libraries and community facilities. |
| **6.** | **Strathpeffer Pavilion Update** |
| 6.1  6.2 | HLH currently manages Strathpeffer Pavilion at the request of The Highland Council for a three year period (ending April 2020) to enable the local community time to raise the funds required to buy the facility from the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (SHBT).  The Community formed a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) known as Strathpeffer Pavilion Community Trust (SPCT). The Trust has been successful in securing £584,550 to purchase the building from the Scottish Land Fund and are progressing dialogue with SHBT re the purchase.  SHBT has indicated to SPCT that one of the conditions of the sale would be that they engage HLH on a fifteen year lease to operate and manage the building on their behalf.  The Trust has approached HLH with this request. It is envisaged that the sale transfer from SHBT to SPCT will complete on 1 April 2020.  In accordance with normal due diligence processes, HLH has initiated the development of the business case to enable the HLH Board to consider this proposal.  A key element of the business case is the commissioning of building surveys to determine any risks to HLH in adopting the proposed lease.  The results of the surveys were received at the end of November and were not able to be fully reviewed in time to complete the business case to present it to the HLH December Board.  To enable the proposed timescale of the proposed sale between SHBT and the community group to progress, it is proposed that the HLH business case be presented to the HLH Finance and Audit Committee in February and that the main Board delegate authority to the Directors on the Finance and Audit Committee to consider its findings and to make a decision on behalf of the Board. |
| **7.** | **Catering Provision** |
| 7.1 | The Chief Executive will provide an update on proposed future changes to the operating arrangement for the catering facilities in Inverness Botanic Gardens and Hilton Community Centre. |
| **8.** | **Implications** |
| 8.1 | Resource Implications – there are no additional resource implications arising from this report. |
| 8.2 | Legal Implications - there are no new legal implications arising from this report. |
| 8.3 | Equality Implications – there are no new equality implications arising from this report. |
| 8.4 | Risk Implications – there are no new risk implications arising from this report. |

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| **Recommendations** It is recommended Directors:   1. comment on and note the updates; and 2. agree to delegate authority to the Finance and Audit Committee to consider the Strathpeffer Pavilion business case at their February meeting. |

Designation: Chief Executive

Date: 27 November 2019