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| HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND  REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS  13 December 2021 | AGENDA ITEM  REPORT No HLH/ /21 |

## **Environmental Policy - Report by Chief Executive**

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| **Summary** The purpose of this report is to present the Board of Directors with a draft Environmental Policy. It is recommended that Directors:   1. review and discuss the contents of the draft Environmental Policy as attached within **Appendix A**; and 2. approve and agree the implementation of the policy from 1 April 2022. |

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| **1.** | **Business Plan Contribution** |
| 1.1 | This report supports the highlighted Business Outcome 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.** | **Introduction** |
| 2.1  2.2  2.3 | The Charity’s Health and Safety and Environmental Compliance Policy has been in place since the Charity was formed in October 2011, this policy has been updated on an ongoing basis as required or at set intervals as detailed within the policy.  The Charity’s Health and Safety and Environmental Compliance Committee has been responsible for the ongoing review of this Policy and recommendations to the board for approval and implementation of the policy at each version update.  It is proposed that this policy be separated, resulting in an individual HLH Health and Safety Policy and a standalone Environmental Policy, this will allow the Charity to further develop an Environmental Strategy to look at the key performance indicators and create an action plan to support the Charity’s aspirations in Environmental Compliance and its contribution to any national or regional targets. |
| **3.** | **Environmental Policy** |
| 3.1  3.2  3.3  3.4  3.5  3.6 | The draft Environmental Policy, included at **Appendix A**, was considered by the Health and Safety and Environmental Compliance Committee at its meeting on 15 November 2021 and agreed , subject to incorporating changes discussed, to recommend it to the HLH Board for approval.  The purpose of this policy, if approved, will be to highlight areas where the Charity is making a positive environmental contribution and to minimise any negative impacts by incorporating consideration of the environment into its planning, decision-making and processes. This will allow the Charity to implement monitoring and reporting systems on the key performance indicators that will be developed within the Environmental Strategy and as outlined within the objectives detailed within the Environmental Policy.  The key objectives of the proposed policy are:   * + To align with Scottish Government and Highland Council’s environment/net zero targets as far as reasonably practicable.   + Make the most efficient and effective use of all resources, encouraging its staff and customers within its community to develop a sustainable approach to the activities it undertakes.   + Encourage and facilitate sustainable modes of transport whilst on HLH business.   + Minimise its carbon emissions where viable and develop and implement effective energy and water conservation measures.   + Reduce overall waste production and increase the reuse and recycle component of its waste stream.   + Apply and review its Sustainable Procurement Policy and support the principles of fair trade.   + Manage its grounds and facilities in an environmentally and biodiversity-sensitive manner.   + Foster environmental partners to support change.   It is envisaged that this version of the Environmental Policy will be further developed over the next 12 to 18 months as both the Policy and Environmental Strategy leads to improvements to the Charity’s environmental performance.  If the policy is approved, the Charity will look to further develop an accompanying operational Environmental Strategy to support the policy and start to gather data to support its and environmental reporting.  If approved, it is recommended that the document is presented to the Senior Management Team early in the New Year, with a view to cascade training taking place and that the “go live” date for this Policy will be 1April 2022. |
| **4.** | **Implications** |
| 4.1 | Resource Implications – there are no additional resource implications arising from this report, however additional resources may be required at a later point, this will be dependent on an agreed Environmental Strategy. |
| 4.2 | Legal Implications – there are no additional legal implications arising from this report. |
| 4.3 | Equalities Implications – there are no additional equality implications arising from this report. |
| 4.4 | Risk Implications - there are no new risks which require to be added to the risk register arising from this report. |

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| **Recommendations**  It is recommended that Directors:   1. review and discuss the contents of the draft Environmental Policy as attached within **Appendix A**; and 2. approve and agree the implementation of the policy from 1 April 2022. |

Designation: Chief Executive

Date: 25 November 2021