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| HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND  REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS  20 June 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 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. 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.** | **Opportunities for Directors to Represent HLH – Update** |
| 2.1 | Directors were circulated with invites to the following events:   * Highland Young Musicians Night of Wind and Strings – 27 March 2019 * Annual Highland Young Musicians Youth Music Festival – 30 March 2019 * The Gathering, Northern Meeting Park – 1 June 2019 * HLH Inaugural Staff Long Service Awards – 19 June 2019 * HLH Annual Staff and Volunteer Awards – 20 June 2019 * Highland Adult Literacies Partnership event – 21 June 2019 * Highland Youth Parliament Conference – 24/25 June 2019 * Piping Inverness – 29 June 2019 * Red Hot Chilli Pipers – 5 October 2019 |
| **3.** | **Sportscotland funding agreement** |
| 3.1 | The relationship with sportscotland continues to be strong. A new 4 year investment has been confirmed by sportscotland, the major funding contributor for the Active Schools programme. An annual sportscotland contribution of  c.£1.07M together with c£400K from HLH budgets sustains an active school officer presence in each of the 29 associated school groups and Community Sports Hub and Leadership Development Officers. |
| **4.** | **Newton Rooms** |
| 4.1  4.2  4.3 | The purpose of Newton Rooms are to encourage more young people into studies and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).  Following the opening of one of Scotland’s first Norwegian style learning centres (Newton Room) in HLH’s Youth Area at Caol Community Centre, Fort William, HLH is continuing its support of this initiative along with HIE, confirming and approval has been given by the Science Skills Academy (SSA) to Dingwall Town Hall becoming a site for the next Newton Room in Highland. This will be the third Newton Room in the Highland area, with the third being placed within Thurso College.  These facilities will become part of a network of Newton Rooms being created in the Highland region by the SSA, a partnership project led by HIE, funded by the Scottish Government with £3M from the Inverness and Highland City-Region deal. Other organisations involved in the initiative include Skills Development Scotland, the University of the Highlands and Islands, The Highland Council and NHS Highland. |
| **5.** | **Museums – Parliamentary Reception** |
| 5.1  5.2 | To mark International Museums Day on 14 May Museums & Galleries Scotland (MGS) were given a parliamentary reception at Holyrood, hosted by Colin Beattie MSP. The aim was to celebrate the contribution museums make to Scottish communities, highlighting the positive effect that they have on people’s lives and well-being and generally advocate for the sector.  MGS invited a number of museum institutions along to present case studies etc. on their work- including Inverness Museum and Art Gallery and Highland Folk Museum which highlighted the two ongoing initiatives ‘House of Memories’ and ‘Shinty Memories and Material Culture’ respectively. |
| **6.** | **Staff Recognition** |
| 6.1 | Every year Youth Link Scotland, the national agency for youth work, hosts the **National Youth Work Awards.** The event celebrates youth work and the youth workers who make a difference in the lives of young people. This year John Taylor, HLH Area Youth Services Officer, was shortlisted in the “Digital Youth Work” category.  Throughout 2018 John supported a group of young people – some of the ambassadors for the Year of Young People (YoYP) in Highland - who wanted to show the world what it is like to be young in Highland. They developed and ran 3 dedicated social media platforms for YoYP: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.  Based upon and supported by sector leading youth work practice surrounding HLH digital participation from YoYP 2018, John then applied to be part of the Youth Link Scotland delegation at the Finnish Youth Work Conference in Turku, Finland in late March and after a rigorous selection process was the sole Scottish Local Authority Youth Work representative at the event. |
| 6.2 | **Community Leisure UK Awards** – at the end of May, HLH young people’s volunteering Leadership Programme won the Innovation award at the bi-annual Community Leisure UK Awards ceremony in Manchester. Directors will be aware that the Programme supports young people from senior primary age onwards to help out, plan, lead and train other young people in activity, with the opportunity to gain formal qualifications along the way.  With over 2,500 young people in or having been through the Programme, it is growing rapidly each year.  The Programme has been developed and led via the Active Schools team, supported by sportscotland and has now grown to be offered through all services delivered by HLH.  Libraries for example has seen significant growth in young leaders this year and there is huge potential for the music tuition service to run with it in the next few years  The next step forward is that an HLH developed qualification has just received formal SQA certification and HLH will be able to start to offer the HLH branded qualification from the next intake in August.  This also opens to potential for the [HLH branded] qualification to be offered on a national basis in the future – of this, more later…  Many staff and managers have contributed to the success of the Programme but the originator and now full time development officer for it is Elizabeth MacDonald. |
| **7.** | **Lochalsh Leisure** |
| 7.1 | Since the Board approved the Business Case in December 2018 to transfer the management of Lochalsh Leisure Centre to HLH, it has become apparent in the process of applying for the Public Entertainment License (PEL) that additional work is required to the facility to meet the needs of the License.  HLH staff have been working with the Board and staff of Lochalsh Leisure (LL) to put in place all of the operational arrangements necessary to obtain the License, however the Board of LL has indicated that they have run out of funds to complete the process.  The Board of LL are now in dialogue with the Council to determine if funding can be borrowed to implement the works to enable the transfer to occur.  Until this process is complete and the PEL secured, the transfer has been put on hold. |
| **8.**  8.1 | **Linnhe Leisure**  The Board of Linnhe Leisure had previously approached HLH for the purposes of transferring management of the facility to HLH.  Directors will be aware that as part of the normal due diligence process, HLH commissioned building surveys to identify any significant problems with the fabric of the building.  The surveys indicated many serious issues with the facility. |
| 8.2 | The Highland Council is now working with the Board of Linnhe Leisure to rectify the most serious concerns to enable the facility to remain open.  The Board have also entered into discussions with the Council about the best options for the future of the Nevis Centre, one of which is to demolish the building and seek funding to build a new purpose built centre.  The Board still wish HLH to manage the building on their behalf in the future once all of the issues have been rectified and the future of the facility determined.  A Business Case to consider the transfer will be progressed once the situation becomes clearer. |
| **9.**  9.1 | **Inverness Castle**  The architects and creative design team have been appointed to the project and are now working with HLH cultural staff, the National Galleries of Scotland, the National Museums of Scotland, along with local cultural stakeholders to progress the project to turn the North and South Tower of the Castle into a visitor attraction.  The development of the two towers is phase one of the masterplan which seeks to transform Castlehill into a world class visitor attraction.  Phase two would see a new museum, art gallery and paid for visitor attraction being developed on Castle Street, with phase three focusing on the development of Bridge Street into a venue comprising hotel accommodation, dining and shopping experiences.  Phase one is set to be complete in summer 2023, subject to the timely decant of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service to the new Justice Centre at the end of 2019. |
| **10.** | **Inverness Tennis Centre** |
| 10.1 | The Stage One application for funding to build a four court Indoor Tennis Centre for the Highlands has been successful and the Council has been invited to progress to Stage Two.  HLH are managing the process on behalf of The Highland Council and would operate the facility on their behalf if successful.  The Centre would be connected to the rear of Inverness Leisure and managed by the existing staff on site.  The new Centre would be an excellent addition to the HLH portfolio and provide access to much needed indoor tennis facilities for people in the Highlands. |
| **11.** | **Moray Leisure Centre** |
| 11.1 | The current provision of management consultancy by HLH Managers at Moray Leisure Centre in Elgin has been received very positively by the Board of Moray Leisure Limited (MLL).  During the first year HLH staff have resolved long standing staffing issues and turned around the financial performance of the facility.  The current contract finishes at the end of July 2019. In order to give the Board of Moray Leisure additional time to consolidate the progress and to develop its new Business Plan, Directors of MLL have asked HLH to continue to provide consultancy support until the end of July 2020.  The fee to cover the cost of the consultancy has been agreed with MLL. |
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| **12.** | **Moray Council** |
| 12.1 | Directors will be aware that informal discussions have been ongoing with Moray Council officials and Members regarding the possible delivery of that area’s cultural and leisure services through HLH. Following a more formal approach to The Highland Council, the options for developing a partnership with Moray were discussed at a recent Leadership meeting. The Leadership decided to turn down the offer for discussions at present as there were no particular benefits to the Council and because of financial, reputational and other risks together with current local operational pressures |
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| **13.** | **Implications** |
| 13.1 | Resource Implications – there are no additional resource implications arising from this report. |
| 13.2 | Legal Implications - there are no new legal implications arising from this report. |
| 13.3 | Equality Implications – there are no new equality implications arising from this report. |
| 13.4 | 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: 11 June 2019