

**CARBON REDUCTION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT - Report by Chief Executive**

**Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide information on HLH's work, including joint work with THC on carbon reduction.

It is recommended that Directors:

- i. note the work to reduce HLH's carbon footprint to date; and
- ii. note that there is further work underway with The Highland Council (THC) to develop HLH's approach to carbon reduction.

**1. Business Plan Contribution**

1.1 High Life Highland's (HLH) purpose is Making Life Better. The HLH Business Plan contains eleven Business Outcomes which support the delivery of this purpose, and this report supports the following highlighted outcomes from the Business Plan:

1. Seek to continuously improve standards of health and safety.
2. **Commit to the Scottish Government's zero carbon targets and maintain the highest standards in environmental compliance.**
3. Use research and market analysis to develop and improve services to meet customer needs.
4. Increase employee satisfaction, engagement and development to improve staff recruitment and retention.
5. Improve the financial sustainability of the company.
6. Value and strengthen the relationship with THC.
7. Develop and deliver the HLH Corporate Programme and seek to attract capital investment.
8. Use research and market analysis to develop and deliver proactive marketing and promotion of HLH and its services.
9. Initiate and implement an ICT digital transformation strategy across the charity.
10. Develop and strengthen relationships with customers, key stakeholders and partners.
11. Deliver targeted programmes which support and enhance the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the population and which contribute to the prevention agenda.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 HLH has had investment, from THC and funding sources available to THC, which has allowed carbon reduction measures to be implemented. **Appendix A** lists the HLH properties highlighted in blue along with the carbon reduction measures in each and the annual carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) saved (tonnes). The appendix lists work completed between the date range September 2020 to March 2023.

## 3. Energy Audit Programme

- 3.1 THC has an energy team as part of its Climate Change and Energy, Performance and Governance reporting to the Climate Change Manager within THC's Place Service. The Climate Change Manager and energy team are keen to work together with HLH to work on a carbon reduction plan which includes HLH. THC is developing a strategic approach across its buildings, and HLH has been included in its net Zero Strategy Group and thematic groups.

- 3.2 As part of the energy audit programme THC is developing a data analysis system for its buildings and HLH and THC have jointly worked on a survey, the purpose of the initial surveys has been fact finding for relevant information for individual sites, this is to support the planned site audits/energy surveys. As part of the energy audit programme THC is developing a data analysis system for its buildings and HLH and THC have jointly worked on a survey, the purpose of the initial surveys has been fact finding for relevant information for individual sites, this is to support the planned site audits/energy surveys. The survey results are being analysed by THC's energy team and are expected to be shared with HLH late September 2024.

- 3.3 Work is also underway on a data analysis tool for energy consumption and carbon reporting. Reduction measures will follow the government framework which is broken down by energy consumption type and will provide carbon reporting as follows:

- Scope 1 – direct emissions, e.g. from burning fuel in vehicles or boilers.
- Scope 2 - emissions from the use of electricity.
- Scope 3 - includes emissions associated with the goods and services bought, financial services such as investments, and others such as waste or transportation.

- 3.4 A carbon dashboard is being developed (**Appendix B**) which provides information on carbon emissions per property. When complete it is expected that it will form a basis for planning and prioritising further carbon reduction actions.

- 3.5 THC plans to complete energy surveys for some sites and then use these to inform wider improvements and HLH will work with THC as this is developed.

## 4. Training

- 4.1 **Senior Management Training** - To ensure that work being undertaken has overall organisational support, THC has developed a senior management

workshop with the Royal Scottish Geographic Society and HLH staff have been invited to that. This will inform the wider actions to be included in the strategy which relates to behaviour and non-property related measures as well as wider staff training (below).

- 4.2 **Organisation Wide Training** – There is a training course for staff which will be developed by THC following the Royal Scottish Geographic Society workshop to provide context and support for staff.

## 5. **Net Zero Ambassadors**

- 5.1 A network of Net Zero Ambassadors is being developed which may tie in with the RPO role for HLH properties. This will be developed by HLH following further development work by THC on the role. HLH will determine how best to integrate the requirements into the RPO function, or possibly identifying a new requirement for this ambassador role within HLH.
- 5.2 THC and HLH will work together with HLH's Marketing Team on staff communications. HLH Countryside Rangers are already engaged in this initiative.

## 6. **Future Planning**

- 6.1 Future planning will be developed within the context of the energy audit programme described above which will result in THC prioritising efficiency measures and programmes across its estate. THC has responded positively to developing systems which provide information on HLH properties which will inform organisation and individual targets.
- 6.2 At this stage, the focus is on property and training measures. Future plans will include individual actions which will be developed through staff and the Net Zero Ambassador element of the programme.

## 7. **Reporting**

- 7.1 The creation of performance information will be included in the development of this area of work. This is likely to start with annual progress reporting and be developed to include more regular reporting at site level to inform managers and staff of ongoing progress.
- 7.2 Large companies are legally required to report carbon emissions and as HLH's approach to reporting is developed reference will be made to the government guidance on this which can be seen at this [link](#). HLH is currently classed as a medium sized company, however, taking this proactive approach will mean that should HLH be subject to the requirement in future that work towards meeting the requirement will have started.
- 7.3 Consideration will continue to be given to net zero reporting as this area of work develops. At this stage it is considered that strategy development and reporting

should be direct to the HLH Board, maintaining the focus of the Health and Safety and Environmental Compliance Committee on safety and compliance.

## **8. Implications**

- 8.1 Resource Implications – HLH has no capital investment allocation at present and will work with THC to achieve improvement to the property estate. Other resource implications and potential savings will be developed over time. Any savings achieved will be delivered to Council budgets in accordance with the extant property agreement in place between the two parties.
- 8.2 Legal Implications – Work in this area will support net zero obligations.
- 8.3 Risk Implications – At this stage in the development of HLH’s approach to net zero there are no new risks which have been identified for inclusion in the risk register.
- 8.4 Equality Implications – there are no new equality implications arising from this report.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Directors:

- i. note the work to reduce HLH’s carbon footprint to date; and
- ii. note that there is further work underway with The Highland Council (THC) to develop HLH’s approach to carbon reduction.

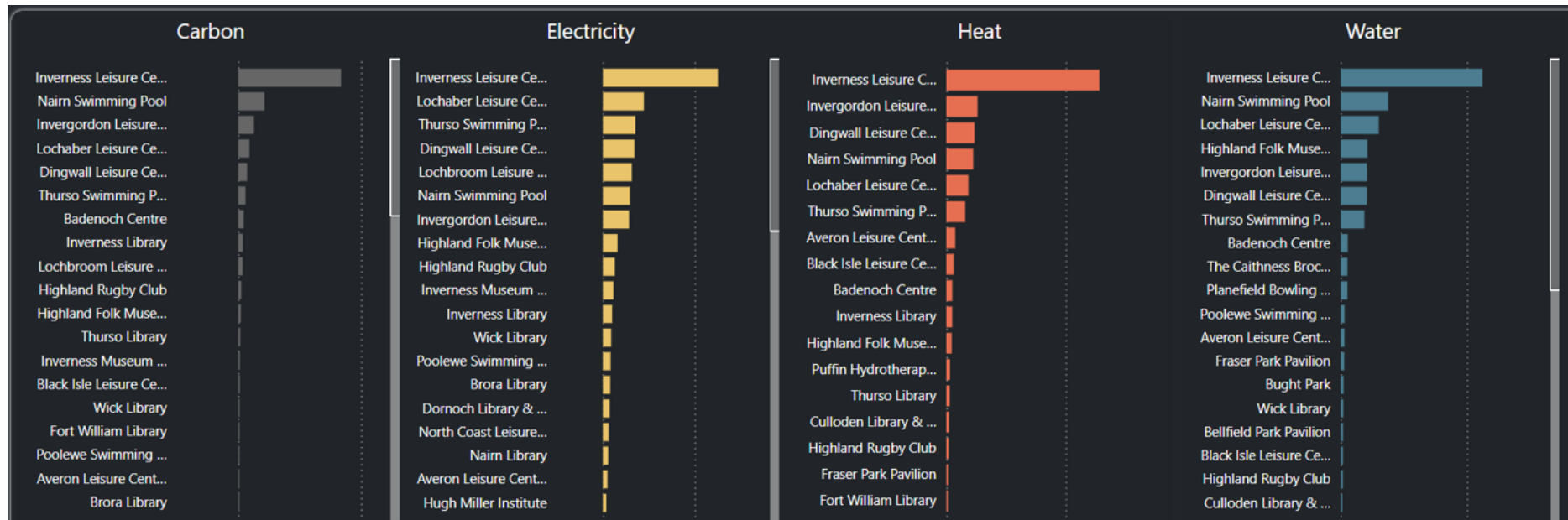
Designation: Chief Executive

Date: 20 August 2024

Author: Douglas Wilby, Director of Corporate Performance  
Craig Steedman, Head of Estates and Environment

**Appendix A:  
Council carbon reduction measures with HLH properties highlighted in blue**

## Appendix B – Example HLH Carbon Dashboard (Note that this is a work in progress)



SERS Project Name	THC contracts/lots	Breakdown	SERS code	Loan	Status
LED Phase 1 Group 1	LED Phase 1 Group 1	<b>B&amp;S LOT2 (5sites)</b>	CHHC01P160	623,865.47	Commissioned
		Grantown Grammar			
		Abernethy			
		Carrbridge			
		Grantown PS			
		Craig Mclean Centre			
		<b>LOT 9- Tain &amp; Easter Ross</b>			
		South Lodge			
		Inver PS			
		Tarbat PS			
		Milton PS			
		<b>LOT 10 - Cromarty</b>			
		Ardross			
		Coulhill			
		Obsdale			
		Bridgend			
		Newmore			
		<b>Other Sites</b>			
		Averon Leisure Centre			
		Dornoch PS			
Inverness Leisure CAR PARK					
Inverness HQ CAR PARK					
<b>Total</b>					
LED Phase 1 Group 2	LED Phase 1 Group 2	<b>Ullapool LOT1</b>	CHHC01P161	676,335.18	Commissioned
		Ullapool High School & Hostel			
		Lochbroom			
		Ullapool PS			
		<b>B&amp;S LOT3 (6sites)</b>			
		Kingussie High			
		Kingussie PS			
		Gergask PS			

		Newtonmore PS Deshar Badenoch Leisure Centre <b>LOT 13 Wick</b> Canisbay School Dunbeath Primary School Lybster Primary School Thrumster Primary School Watten Primary School Keiss Primary School Helmsdale Primary School <b>Total</b>			
<b>LED Phase 1 Group 5</b>	<b>LED Phase 1 Group 5</b>	<b>North LOT 11B</b> Farr Primary & Secondary North Coast Leisure <b>LOT 12 North Sutherland</b> Melvich Primary School Tongue School Halkirk Primary School Reay School <b>LOT 14 Thurso</b> Catletown Primary School Mount Pleasant School Bower Primary School Crossroads School Thurso High School <b>Total</b>	CHHC01P195	523,222.17	Commissioned
<b>River Ness Hydro</b>	<b>River Ness Hydro (16-year)</b>	River Ness Hydro (16-year)	CHHC01P199	642,643.13	Commissioned
	<b>River Ness Hydro (10-year)</b>	River Ness Hydro (10-year)	CHHC01P225	345,612.04	Commissioned
		<b>Total</b>		988,255.17	
<b>HLH - Lot 7 Inverness &amp; Nairn</b>	<b>HLH - Lot 7 Inverness &amp; Nairn</b>	<b>Lot 7 HLH Inverness &amp; Nairn (HHM)</b> Nairn Library Nairn Swimming Pool Cameron Youth Club	CHHC01P218	50,691.09	Commissioned



		Inverness Museum and Art Gallery			
		<b>Total</b>			
<b>HLH - Lot 8 Lochaber &amp; Inverness</b>	<b>HLH - Lot 8 Lochaber &amp; Inverness Nairn and Culloden LOT 8B</b>	<b>Lot 8 HLH Lochaber &amp; Inverness (EJ Park)</b>	CHHC01P219	362,852.31	Commissioned
		Lochaber Leisure Centre			
		The Leven Centre			
		Duncan Forbes Primary			
		Balloch Primary			
		Highland Archive Centre			
		<b>Nairn and Culloden LOT 8B</b>			
		Golspie Swimming Pool			
		Inverness Leisure - Sports Hall			
		Kinmylies			
		Muritown Primary School			
		Croy Primary School			
		Auldearn Primary School			
		Daviot PS			
		<b>Total</b>			
<b>HLH - Lot 9 Invergordon &amp; Black Isle</b>	<b>HLH - Lot 9 Invergordon &amp; Black Isle</b>	<b>Lot 9 HLH Invergordon &amp; Black Isle (SWL)</b>	CHHC01P220	97,546.15	Commissioned
		Invergordon Leisure Centre			
		Black Isle Leisure Centre			
		Fortrose Community Theatre			
		Dingwall Swimming Pool			
		<b>Total</b>			
<b>HLH - Lot 10 Sutherland</b>	<b>HLH - Lot 10 Sutherland</b>	<b>Lot 10 HLH Sutherland (Dunbar)</b>	CHHC01P221	286,809.68	Commissioned
		Dornoch Library			
		Portmahomack Pavilion			
		Tain Royal Academy (T.R.A.C.C.)			
		Brora Primary School			
		Golspie Primary School			
		Lairg Primary School			
		Gledfield Primary School			
		Rogart Primary School			
		Bonar Bridge Primary School			
		<b>Total</b>			
<b>HLH Pool covers</b>	<b>HLH Pool covers</b>	Poolewe Swimming Pool	CHHC01P224	16,613.13	Commissioned
		Thurso Leisure Centre			
		North Coast Leisure Centre			

		<i>Total</i>			
HLH Pool covers Lot 2	HLH Pool covers Lot 2	Thurso Swimming Pool	CHHC01P228	4,378.05	Commissioned
		Lochaber Swimming Pool			
		<i>Total</i>			

Commissioned Date	Comments	Annual kWhrs Saved	% kWhrs Saved	Annual £ Saved	Annual CO2 Saved (Tonnes)
11/09/2020					
	Unable to isolate savings within Lot				
	Unable to isolate savings within Lot				
	09/04/2021				
Unable to isolate savings within Lot					



20/03/2023		184,841	63.00%	25,877.74	46.8
20/03/2023		56,167	52	8,986.72	14.22
20/03/2023		172,955	69	24,213.70%	43.79
22/09/2022		391,035.00	100	3,910.35	25.24

27/03/2023		80,695.00	100	806.95	7.92
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