

**HIGHLAND NHS BOARD
 MEETING OF BOARD**

Tuesday 31st March 2026 at 9.30am
Virtual Meeting Format (Microsoft Teams)

- All Board Member cameras should be turned on
- Use raise hand facility to discuss items – do not use MS Teams chat

AGENDA

Time	1.	Standing Items	
09:30	1.1	Welcome and Apologies	
	1.2	Declarations of Interest Members are asked to consider whether they have an interest to declare in relation to any item on the agenda for this meeting. Any Member making a declaration of interest should indicate whether it is financial or non-financial and include some information on its nature. Advice may be sought from the Corporate Governance office prior to the meeting taking place.	
09:35	1.3	Minute of Previous meeting of 27th January and Action Plan The Board is asked to Approve the minutes of meeting of 27 th January 2026 and Note the action plan.	
09:40	1.4	Matters Arising	
09:45	2.	Chief Executive's Report Fiona Davies, Chief Executive The Board is asked to note the update	
10:00	3.	Spotlight Sessions – Procurement Becky Myles, Head of Procurement The Board is asked to note the update	
10:30	4.	Governance and other Committee Assurance Reports Escalation of issues by Chairs of Governance Committees	
	a)	Finance, Resources and Performance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed minutes of 9th January and 6th February 2026 • Summary of meeting of 13th March 2026 	
	b)	Staff Governance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed minutes of 13th January 2026 • Summary of meeting of 3rd March 2026 	
	c)	Highland Health and Social Care Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed minutes of 14th January 2026 • Summary of meeting of 4th March 2026 	
	d)	Clinical Governance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed minutes of 15th January 2026 • Summary of meeting of 6th March 2026 	
	e)	Area Clinical Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed minutes of 15th January 2026 • Summary of meeting of 6th March 2026 	

	f)	Population Health & Planning Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed minutes of meeting of 14th January 2026 Summary of meeting of 11th March 2026 	
	g)	Audit Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed minutes of meeting of 12th January 2026 Summary of meeting of 10th March 2026 	
	h)	Argyll & Bute IJB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of January 28th January 2026 	
		The Board is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Confirm adequate assurance has been provided from Board Governance Committees and Area Clinical Forum. (b) Note the minutes and agreed actions from the Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board. 	
11:00		COMFORT BREAK	

PERFORMANCE AND ASSURANCE

11:15	5.	Integrated Performance & Quality Report Report by David Park, Deputy Chief Executive Assurance Level Proposed – Moderate The Board is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take Moderate Assurance on performance reporting and note the continued and sustained pressures facing both NHS and commissioned care services. To Consider the level of performance across the system. 	
11:45	6.	Finance Assurance Report – Month 10 Position Heledd Cooper, Director of Finance Assurance Level Proposed – Limited The Board is asked to Examine and Consider the content of the report and take Limited Assurance .	
12:15	7.	Opening Offer to Argyll and Bute IJB Heledd Cooper, Director of Finance Assurance Level Proposed – Moderate The Board is asked to take Moderate Assurance and Approve the opening budget offer to the Argyll & Bute IJB in line with the content of this report	
12:45	8.	Health & Care Staffing Act Q3 & Annual Report Gareth Adkins, Director of People & Culture Assurance Level Proposed – Moderate The Board is asked to take Moderate Assurance and Note the content of the report	
13:00		LUNCH	

13:30	9.	Q3 Whistleblowing Report Gareth Adkins, Director of People & Culture Assurance Level Proposed – Moderate The Board is asked to take Moderate Assurance the content of the report provides confidence of compliance with legislation, policy and Board objectives, noting challenges with timescales due to the complexity of cases	
13:40	10.	Highland Model of Integrations Review – Options Appraisal Phase 1 Outcome Report & Phase 2 Initiation Gareth Adkins, Director of People & Culture Assurance Level Proposed – Substantial The Board is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With regard to the options appraisal, it is recommended that Members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note the outcome of the Phase 1 options appraisal summarised at section 5 and set out in detail at Appendix 2; b) Agree the two options to be taken forward to Phase 2 of the Review: Option A – Lead Agency and Option B – Body Corporate (IJB). 2. With regard to next steps, it is recommended that Members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agree the draft Phase 2 Programme Plan at Appendix 3 including timelines for a final decision and recommendation to Highland Council and the Board of NHS Highland by September 2026; and b) Agree the Communications and Engagement Plan at Appendix 4. c) Note progress with establishing a programme for Phase 2 including initiating appointment of a programme manager. 3. With regard to the NDAS proposal <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a). Agree the high level proposal set out in Appendix 5 and b). Agree the work to be further developed by and remitted to the Person Centred Solutions Portfolio Board. 	
13:50	11.	Argyll & Bute Scheme of Integration Update Gareth Adkins, Director of People & Culture & Evan Beswick, Chief Officer for Argyll & Bute HSCP Assurance Level Proposed – Substantial The Board is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Substantial Assurance • Note that the Integration Scheme has been approved by the SG and that arrangements will now be put in place by the two partner bodies to publish the document. • Note that a similar report will also be tabled at the Argyll & Bute Council and the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to advise of the position. 	
		<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	
14:00	12.	Corporate Risk Register Report by David Park, Deputy Chief Executive Assurance Level Proposed – Substantial	

		The Board is asked to take Substantial Assurance the content of the report provides confidence of compliance with legislation, policy and Board objectives	
14:20	13.	Annual Board & Committee Workplans	
		Nathan Ware, Deputy Head of Corporate Governance	
		The Board is asked to Approve the Board & Governance Committee Workplans for 2026-27	
14:30	14.	Any Other Competent Business	
		Date & Time of Next Meeting	
		26th May 2026	
		Close of meeting	