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DORNOCH BID NEWSLETTER

DORNOCH BUSINESS WASTE & RECYCLING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



Dornoch BID is carrying out a short **market research exercise** to understand whether there may be interest in exploring a possible group approach to waste and recycling services in the Dornoch area. This is **not a tender process**, and no suppliers have been selected. Participation does not commit any business to changing provider or entering into any agreement. The purpose is simply to gather information on:

- Current waste and recycling arrangements
- Typical costs and service types used locally
- Key priorities (cost, reliability, recycling performance, etc.)
- Interest in whether a voluntary group purchasing approach could be beneficial

If there is sufficient interest, the next step would be to assess whether a co-ordinated approach could offer practical or cost benefits for participating businesses. Please complete the **short survey (5-10 minutes)**. All responses will be treated as confidential and will be summarised in anonymised form only.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT BUSINESS GROWTH

Earlier this week a meeting was held with colleagues from the five **Highland BIDs** and Scotland's Towns Partnership to discuss opportunities and challenges facing our towns and communities. The conversation focused on place development, supporting visitor destinations and the importance of collaboration in helping communities thrive. It was valuable to share experiences, exchange best practice and explore how we can work more closely to strengthen our local economies and enhance the experience for both residents and visitors across the Highlands.

SUPPORT CAMPAIGN - CUT HOSPITALITY VAT TO 10%



The UK hospitality sector is facing rising costs, including energy, food, staffing, and one of the highest VAT rates in Europe. On **1 July**, the industry will unite behind the **#VATstheProblem** campaign, calling on Government to **reduce VAT from 20% to 10%** to support pubs, restaurants, cafés, hotels, and venues.

A lower rate would help protect jobs, support investment, and strengthen local economies. The campaign has already gained over **225,000 signatures**, with a target of 1 million. **Sign the petition** and **add your support HERE**.

PROPOSED TOURISM VISITOR LEVY UPDATE



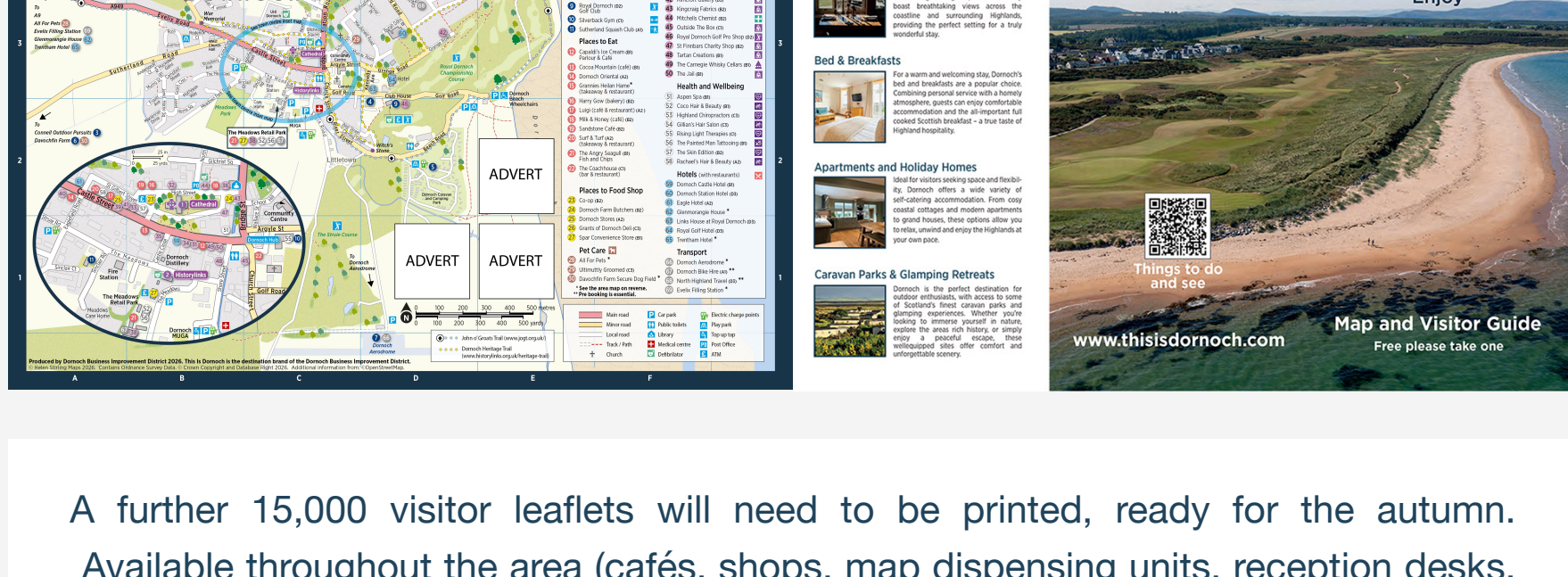
Highland Council (HC) has issued a further update on its Visitor Levy proposals following an industry roundtable meeting held on 18 May. HC confirmed that **no decision has yet been made** on whether a Visitor Levy will be introduced.

The ASSC welcomed HC's **measured, evidence-led approach**, noting that key work is still underway, including updated national guidance and a new economic impact assessment. They highlight that any future decision fully considers tourism's value to the Highland economy, including **9.4 million visitors** and **£2.1bn in spend (2024)**, alongside potential impacts on demand, competitiveness, and small business viability.

The key dates are:

- **25 June 2026** – Councillors have a progress update report
- **Sept 2026** – Potential scheme brought forward for approval to consult
- **Autumn/Winter 2026** – Possible statutory consultation (subject to approval)
- **Earliest implementation** – Likely 2028, if agreed

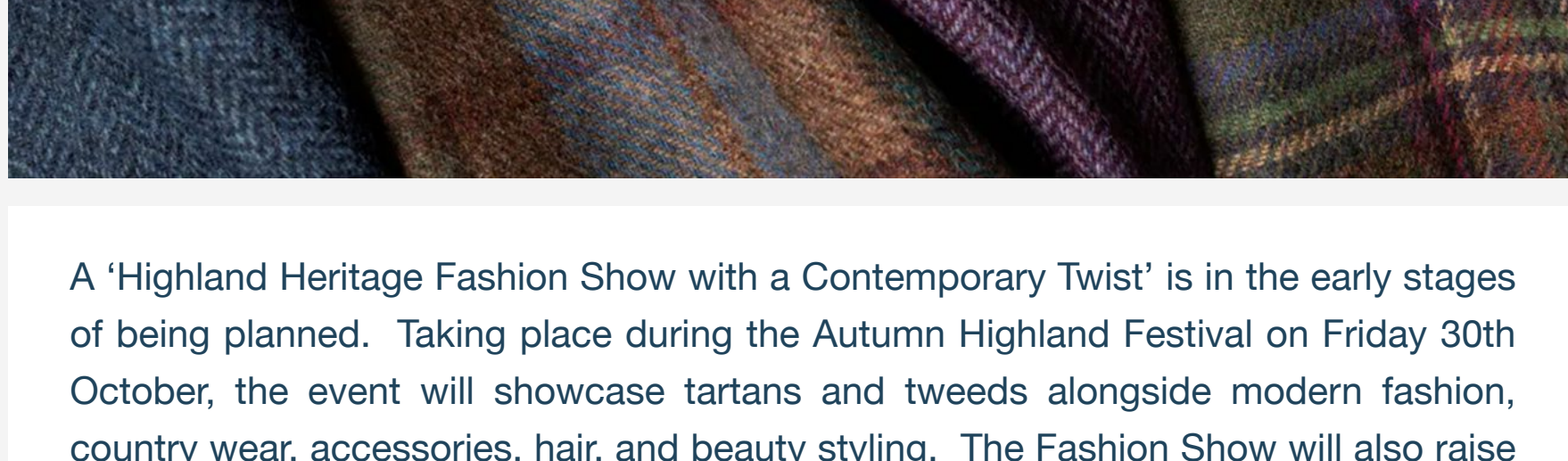
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



A further 15,000 visitor leaflets will need to be printed, ready for the autumn. Available throughout the area (cafés, shops, map dispensing units, reception desks, visitor welcome packs and online), the popular maps help keep visitors informed about what there is to 'See and Do' in and around Dornoch.

There are still 3 advertising spaces remaining (40m x40mm) available on a first come first served basis for £300 each. This excellent opportunity will raise awareness of your business, reaching thousands of visitors planning and enjoying their stay in the area. The A3 tear-off downloadable desk pad version will also include the adverts. To reserve a space/discuss further, please get in touch. **Visitor leaflets/desk pads are available to BID members from Historylinks Museum.**

HIGHLAND HERITAGE FASHION SHOW WITH A CONTEMPORARY TWIST



A 'Highland Heritage Fashion Show with a Contemporary Twist' is in the early stages of being planned. Taking place during the Autumn Highland Festival on Friday 30th October, the event will showcase tartans and tweeds alongside modern fashion, country wear, accessories, hair, and beauty styling. The Fashion Show will also raise funds for local charities, and there will be a heritage-themed interval, in partnership with Historylinks Museum and CATU (Celtic Arts and Traditions Unit).

Around 150 guests are expected, with participating businesses gaining valuable promotion via marketing, social media, press coverage. Expressions of interest from fashion, textile, accessory, country wear, hair and beauty businesses are now being invited. Please email dornochbid@thisisdornoch.com for more details.

DOWNLOAD THE LATEST 'WHAT'S ON' POSTER



Please download, print and share our 'What's On' poster. It's an effective way to help ensure visitors can discover the many great events taking place during their stay and what else is planned during the year. Copies are available if you contact the BID.

Also, remember to collect **Dornoch Beer and Music Festival** posters/flyers from the The Coach House Bar and Restaurant. Click on their poster above for more details.

[DOWNLOAD YOUR 'WHAT'S ON' POSTER HERE](#)

DORNOCH JOBS FAIR - 10TH JULY EMPLOYERS INVITED TO GET INVOLVED



Local employers, support organisations and jobseekers will come together on **Friday 10 July (10am-1pm)** at **Dornoch Community Centre (Social Club)** for the Dornoch Jobs Fair. Organised by Highland Thrive, Work Life Highland, Highland Council Employment Service and Dornoch BID, the event will connect people with **live job opportunities, training, and career support** across the area.

12 employers and **6 support organisations** are confirmed, covering hospitality, tourism, care, construction, public sector and more. The event is open to those looking for work, considering a career change, returning to work, seeking seasonal work, or preparing to leave school and enter the workforce. In addition to meeting employers/discussing vacancies, visitors will be able to access advice and support from a range of organisations offering employability, training and skills support.

The Jobs Fair will also provide valuable information for employers and businesses. Representatives will be available to discuss apprenticeship opportunities and funding available through the Highland Employer Recruitment Offer (HERO), helping businesses understand the support available when recruiting and developing their workforce. The event is **free, drop-in, and open to all**, including jobseekers, career changers, seasonal workers and school leavers. No booking required. For more info, email: luke@highlandthrive.org

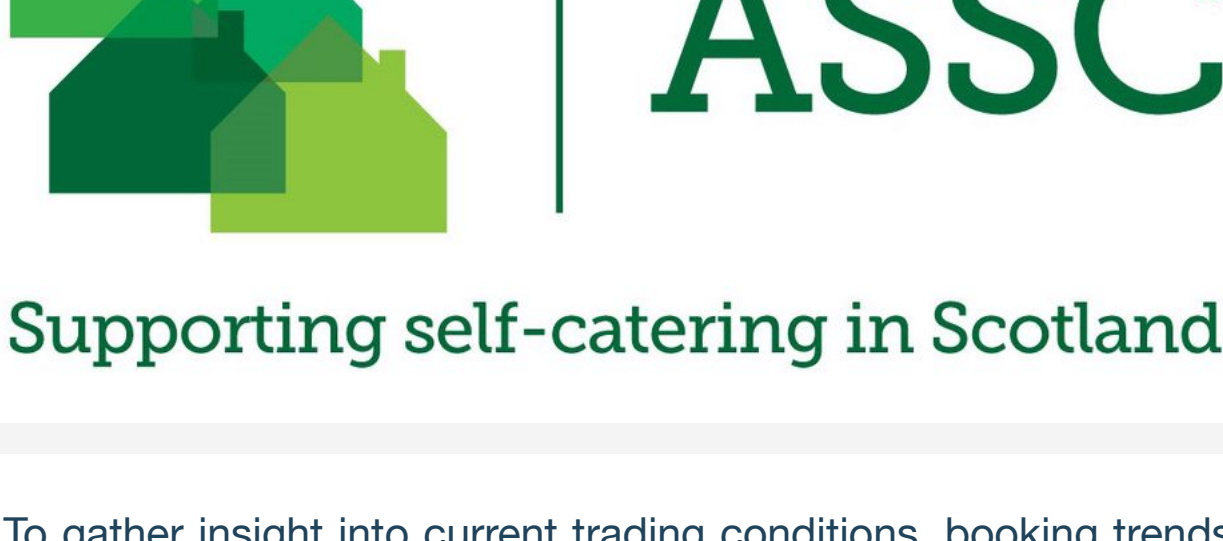
HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM - GET INVOLVED



Historylinks Museum is at the heart of Dornoch's heritage story, with great events coming up and lots happening behind the scenes. They're inviting BID members to **help spread the word** by displaying museum leaflets for visitors. Please collect some if you can, perhaps when collecting your supply of visitor leaflets. New members are welcome at Historylinks Museum. **Learn more about this in the Newsletter below.**

[READ THE LATEST NEWSLETTER](#)

ASSC SPRING BAROMETER SURVEY



Purpose: To gather insight into current trading conditions, booking trends, business confidence and expectations for the season ahead.

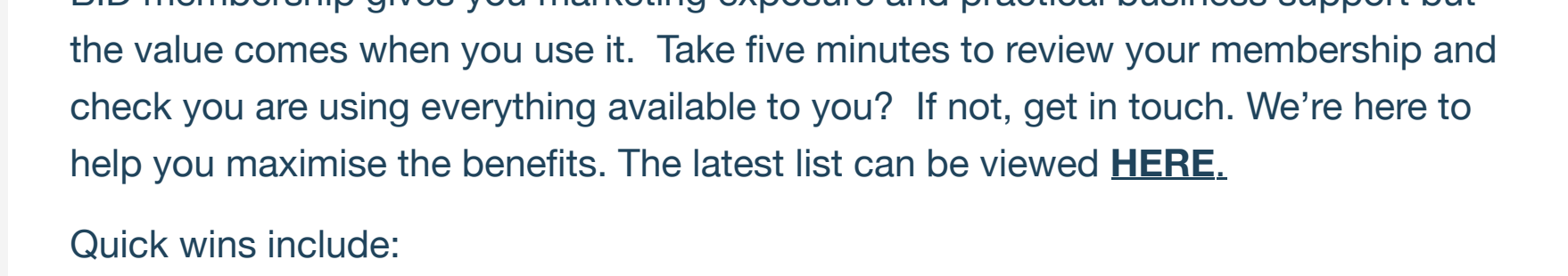
Who should complete it: Self-catering operators and businesses across Scotland. Time required: Less than 10 minutes.

Closing date: Midnight on **28 June 2026**.

Why it matters: The findings will help inform the ASSC's and Dornoch BID's advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders, including VisitScotland, the Scottish Tourism Alliance and the Scottish Government.

[TAKE THE BAROMETER SURVEY](#)

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!



BID membership gives you marketing exposure and practical business support but the value comes when you use it. Take five minutes to review your membership and check you are using everything available to you? If not, get in touch. We're here to help you maximise the benefits. The latest list can be viewed **HERE**.

Quick wins include:

- ✓ Check your website listing is up to date
 - ✓ Tag @thisisdornoch on social media to reach 20k+ followers
 - ✓ Share your special offers, events or late availability
 - ✓ Use our professional images to promote your business
- Beyond marketing, don't forget:
- Networking events to build connections
 - WhatsApp groups for quick updates and support
 - Regular newsletters to keep you informed
 - Strong lobbying voice representing your interests

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

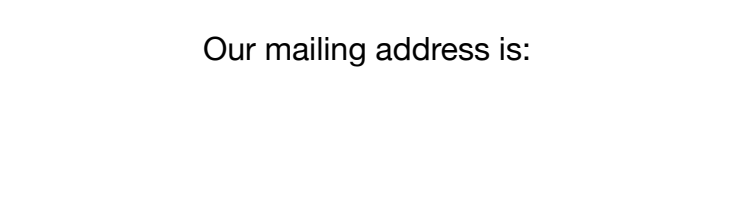
Stay up to date - The Minutes of the BID Board meetings are saved at the base of the website home page.

WhatsApp Groups - There are Retail, Accommodation, Restaurant and Professional Services WhatsApp groups. **A General BID Group has also been added.**Please text 07471 200103 to have your number added to the relevant group(s).

'Dornoch BID' Facebook Page - This is for member communications, business updates, funding opportunities, consultations, a behind-the-scenes look at how we support businesses, plus the latest on local projects and ways to get involved in our community. Please follow @dornochbid on Facebook and tag us to re-share your updates. Give this page a like and/or leave a comment.

'This Is Dornoch' Facebook and Instagram - Follow @thisisdornoch on Facebook and @visitdornoch on Instagram and discover local shops & services, seasonal events, town news, community celebrations, and tourism campaigns bringing visitors to the town. Remember to tag us to re-share your posts and please share our posts.

Get in touch - Email DornochBID@thisisdornoch.com to discuss any membership matter and/or to arrange a call or meeting with Sharon, Dornoch BID Manager.



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