



# A WEEK THAT **MEANS BUSINESS**



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Later this month marks the return of a full Highland Business Week for the first time in three years. I and the rest of the Chamber team are looking forward to this opportunity to come together and recognise the strength, resilience and diversity of the Highland business community; and, judging by the response we've seen, many of you are too.

Running a business in the current climate brings many pressures. It always has done, of course, but, having survived Covid, it can feel particularly challenging at present with rising prices, soaring energy costs and recruitment difficulties. As a private business in our own right, we understand this. Nevertheless, as anyone in business will tell you, where there are challenges, there are also opportunities and where there are setbacks, there are rewards. Highland Business Week is a place where many positive developments are initiated and cemented. So it matters.

Time is an increasingly precious commodity these days and many of us have altered our priorities as a result of recent events. It can be difficult to make room for external business activities when we're busy with the day to day. Yet, we all recognise the old adage about working in our business rather than on our business. With a deliberately concentrated programme of events, Highland Business Week





represents a perfect opportunity to step away from the desk, shop or factory floor for a short while and return with a different perspective. Being away from our usual environment can be a great way of helping us to think differently, sparking our creativity and leading to new ideas.

The Highland Spotlight exhibition, one of the anchor events of Highland Business Week, is unique in bringing a wide range of businesses together under one roof. Not only does it represent an opportunity to actually do business – whether at the event itself or in the months that follow – by meeting many new buyers and suppliers, it is a place where collaborations and partnerships are formed, where new connections are made and where existing business relationships are strengthened. It is a fantastic showcase of the many varied businesses we have in the region. I say this often because I firmly believe it is true – whatever goods or services you may need to support the operation of your business, you will find them in the Highlands.

Highland Business Week is also a time when we recognise business success. We may not generally be very good in this country at blowing our own trumpets, but taking the time to enter awards such as the Highland Business Awards is a valuable exercise in itself, giving us an opportunity to step back and reflect on our



achievements with our teams. Of course, there is the added bonus that we may end up being shortlisted or even winning, bringing additional profile and recognition for our business. I'm always so impressed by the achievements of the many businesses and individuals who are represented at the Highland Business Awards. This is an event that enables us to come together, learn from one another, celebrate success and inspire us all to achieve. You can read about this year's finalists on pages 32 and 33.

Elsewhere in the week, we have further networking opportunities as well as seminars and workshops from Inverness Chamber of Commerce members on a variety of topical business subjects, demonstrating the expertise that exists in our region and giving us the opportunity to learn and expand our knowledge. Some events are in person while others are virtual so, however you like to get together and whatever time you have, there is something in the programme for everyone.

Inverness Chamber of Commerce exists to connect, support and represent our members and the wider Highland business community. We look forward to engaging with many of you during Highland Business Week as we continue to do just that.



# HIGHLAND BUSINESS WEEK

26-30 SEPT



HIGHLAND SPOTLIGHT

HIGHLAND BUSINESS AWARDS