



# RURAL INVERNESS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## CONTENTS

Section 1	Introduction	page 3	
Section 2	Vision	page 5	
Section 3	Local Action Group	page 7	
Section 4	Rural Inverness	page 12	
Section 5	Strategic Context	page 26	
Section 6	Community Engagement	page 46	
Section 7	Development Opportunities	page 50	
Appendix A	Highland LEADER target groups	Appendix E	Public Engagement
Appendix B	Highland Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)	Appendix F	Consultees and Respondents
Appendix C	SNH designated areas	Appendix G	Other sources of information
Appendix D	Biodiversity Action Plan Priority habitats		

## Section 1: Introduction

- The Community Development Plan has been prepared by the Rural Inverness Local Action Group (LAG), a sub-group of the Inverness Partnership.
- LEADER Programme is the catalyst for the preparation of the Community Development Plan, but the scope of the plan is wider.
- The Inverness Partnership has been allocated a total of £785,309 in funds for the support of eligible LEADER projects up to December 2011.
- The Rural Inverness Local Action Group (LAG), will review the progress being made on the implementation of this Community Development Plan .
- On successful implementation of this Round One allocation, there will be the opportunity to bid for further funding in a second round through to 2013.

## Section 2: Vision

*“enable people living in the Rural Inverness Wards of The Highland Council to realise their ambitions to live in communities where they can fulfil their personal, social and economic potential”.*

Helping to create -

*“... a network of strong, competitive and sustainable local communities”.*

The Community Development Plan provides evidence of the currently assessed needs, opportunities and characteristics of the area as well as matching with other local, regional and national programmes, strategies and activities which are currently operating in the area.

The Plan will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it continues to reflect the needs of the local communities.

## Section 3: Local Action Group

The current membership of the Rural Inverness LAG is as follows:

PRIVATE / VOLUNTARY SECTOR		PUBLIC SECTOR	
Anne Angus	CVS Inverness	Marie Mackintosh	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
George Hawco	Abriachan Forest Trust	Ben Leyshon	Scottish Natural Heritage
Graeme Ambrose	Destination Loch Ness	Helen Carmichael	Councillor, Ward 13 The Highland Council
Lucy Fraser	Albyn Housing	Roderick Balfour	Councillor, Ward 18 The Highland Council
Stewart Nicol	Inverness Chamber of Commerce	Jim Crawford	Councillor, Ward 20 The Highland Council
Youth representatives x 3	tbc	Molly Doyle	Community Councils Representative
<i>LAG membership was approved by the Inverness Partnership in September 2008</i>			

- Membership of the LAG will be reviewed annually.
- Work with local groups to maximise opportunities offered through LEADER and other funding streams.
- Consider and make decisions on applications seeking grant assistance.

## Section 4: Rural Inverness

The Rural Inverness area is designated as Ward 13 (Aird & Loch Ness), and the rural parts of Wards 14 (Inverness West), 18 (Culloden & Ardersier), and 20 (Inverness South).

### Rural Inverness: 21 data zones

Physical Features  
Demography and Population  
Health  
Housing  
Economy/Employment  
Education, Skills and Training  
Community Organisation  
Development Priorities



Red zone is excluded:  
Inverness City, Southton,  
Culloden, Ballloch

### Development Priorities

- Community and economic development planning
- Support for target groups
- Capacity building
- Facility improvements
- Services improvements
- Access improvements
- Preservation, conservation and environmental improvements
- Health and wellbeing improvements

## Section 5: Strategic Context

- Scottish Government's Economic Strategy (GES, November 2007)
- Single Outcomes Agreement (SOA)
- The Highland Council's "Strengthening the Highlands" Programme 2009 -2011; Local Plan, Services
- The Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP)
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)
- The Highlands and Islands Social Enterprise Zone (HISEZ)
- Highland Community Planning Partnership
- NHS Highland
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- Northern Constabulary
- Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Scottish Water
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Historic Scotland
- National Trust for Scotland
- British Waterways Scotland
- Community Energy Scotland
- Other EU-supported Programmes

## Section 6: Community Engagement

- Partnership and networking organisations
- Community Councils, Community Associations and Development Groups
- Community Participatory Appraisals (CPA)
- Community Conversation (CC)
- National Standards for Community Engagement

### Activities and Outputs:

- 5 community focus groups held – Beauly, Stratherrick, Croy, Invermoriston and Inverness
- 40 attendees with 68 potential project ideas
- 309 CVS Inverness contacts e-mailed
- Information on Highland Council, CVS and Ness Link websites
- Air time on MFR Community Events
- Article in The Hub Magazine
- 160 local groups, Community Councils, regional / national bodies, public agencies
- 64 responses from above (40%)

## Section 7: Development Opportunities

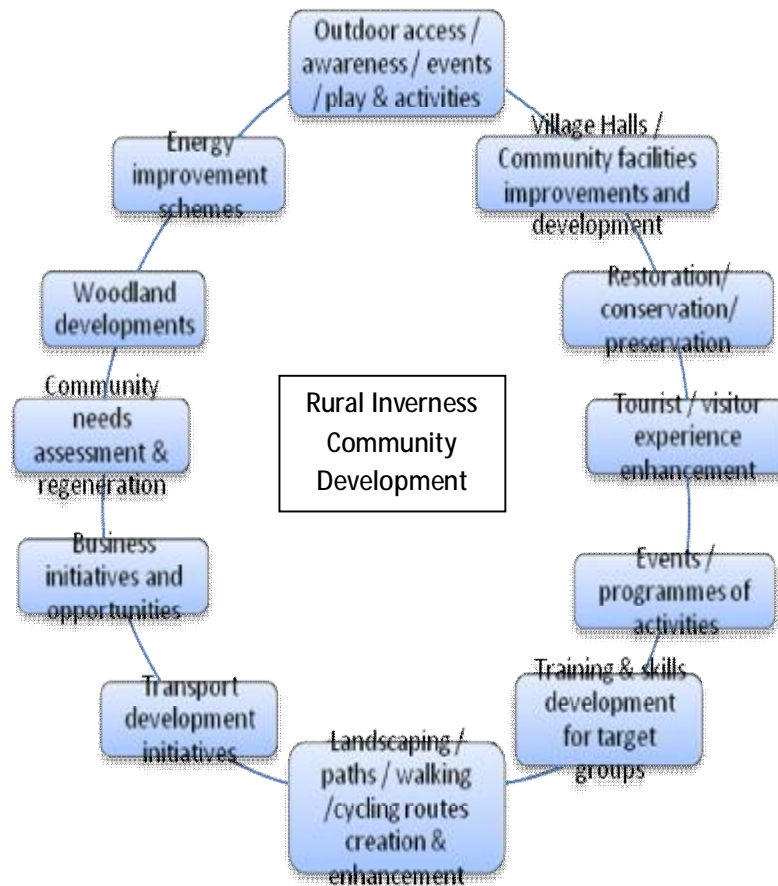
- 78 project ideas lodged -
- 3 'Local Development Strategies' project ideas
- 9 'Culture & Heritage' project ideas
- 8 'Training & Learning Opportunities' project ideas
- 28 'Access to Activities, Facilities & Services' project ideas
- 22 'Land, Environment & Access to the Countryside' project ideas
- 5 'Renewables' project ideas
- 1 'Tourism' project idea
- 2 'Social Enterprise & Micro-Businesses' project ideas

A fair degree of cross-over between themes
--

- The Community Development Plan will need to be kept up-to-date and potential new opportunities, projects and ideas recorded and actioned as they arise.
- The Rural Inverness Local Action Group (LAG) will prioritise funding opportunities to project applications that appropriately address the relevant identified Highland LEADER aims, objectives, targets and themes, as well as assisting those projects that address locally identified needs and help to deliver the Community Development Plan at local level.

Section 7: Development Opportunities (*continued*)

- Types of project ideas coming forward:



NEXT STEPS

“The list of identified potential project ideas (at time of writing) is not a comprehensive list of the projects that might come forward for LEADER, or other, funding. Neither does Inclusion in this list mean that projects will be approved for funding from LEADER or any other source - potential applicants will still have to complete the relevant application process. The list is purely illustrative of the current project ideas being pursued by various groups and organisations across the Rural Inverness area. Additional projects can, and will, no doubt be brought forward as they are developed.”

- Inverness Partnership approves
- Highland LEADER LAG endorses
- £785,309 of funds made available for community development projects

To enquire about and make a LEADER application for funding for your project, go to: [www.highlandleader.com](http://www.highlandleader.com) or contact Martin Culbertson on 01397 707209, e-mail [martin.culbertson@highland.gov.uk](mailto:martin.culbertson@highland.gov.uk)