

## Highland wide Local Development Plan - Main Issues Report Consultation Summary and Actions Sheet

Reference Number:	<b>HWLDP-MIR-274</b>
Organisation/Individual:	Caithness Chamber of Commerce – Trudy Morris

**Action:**

Immediate Response Required	
Meeting required with Respondent	
Issue for Area Local Development Plan	
Further Information Required	
Other (Please Specify)	

*If no box ticked - issues raised will be dealt with in preparation of the Proposed Plan.*

**Issues Raised in Response:**

Purpose of Main Issues Report	
NPF2 for Scotland	
Vision for the Highlands	
Inverness and A96	
The A96 Corridor	
Phasing of Development	
Developer Contributions	
East Inverness	
Nairn	
Tornagrain	
Smaller Settlements in A96	
Caithness and North Sutherland	x
Easter Ross and Nigg	
Development of Local Centres	x
Wider Countryside and Fragile Areas	
Population and Housing	
Housing in the Countryside	
Affordable Housing	
Planning for an Ageing Population	
Gypsies/Travellers	
Retailing	
Developer Contributions	
Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage	

Previously used Land	
Wild Land	
Water Environment	
Renewable Energy	x
Flooding	
Waste Management	
Air Quality	
Sustainable Design	
Business and Industrial Land	
Accessibility and Transport	x
Agricultural Land	
Subdivision of Existing Crofts	
Allocation of Inbye Land	
New Crofting Township	
Small Scale New Crofts	
Coastal Development	x
Forestry and Woodland	
Minerals	
Open Space and Physical Activity	
Access to the Outdoors	
Comments on Consultation Process (+ve)	
Comments on Consultation Process (-ve)	

**Key:**

<b>Background</b>	<b>Spatial Strategy</b>	<b>Policy Options</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
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**Notes:**

Need to help Wick and Thurso realise “whole town” plans  
 Emphasis needs to be placed on urgency in identifying onshore locations for marine renewable facilities  
 Key role that transport improvements play needs to be emphasised

Action Sheet Completed by:	SH
Date:	14/12/09

**Kirsty McCreath**

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**From:** Trudy Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 November 2009 09:53  
**To:** David Cowie  
**Subject:** RE: Highland-wide Local development plan - response to consultation from Caithness Chamber of Commerce  
**Importance:** High

Hi David

I hope I can still submit this – I have been on holiday and unfortunately could not get access yesterday to send this.

I would like to submit the following attached document on behalf of the Caithness Chamber of Commerce.

Kind regards

Trudy Morris *CEO*

**Caithness Chamber of Commerce**

**M:** [REDACTED] **E:** [REDACTED]  
Caithness Horizons, Old Town Hall, Thurso KW14 8AJ, Scotland  
**T:** [REDACTED] **E:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.caithnesschamber.com](http://www.caithnesschamber.com)

[CLICK HERE FOR EVENTS IN OCTOBER](#)

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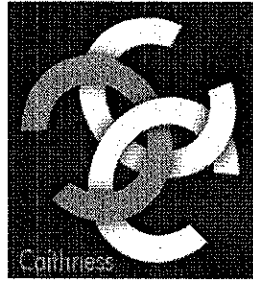
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### Highland-wide Local development plan – response to consultation 09.11.09

**Area-specific issues:**

Agree with main issues report

**Development of Local centres:**

Agree with Main Issues Report but emphasise the need to help the major settlements of Wick and Thurso to realise 'whole town' plans.

**Sustainable Development & Climate Change:**

Renewable/marine energy – agree with Main issues report but emphasise the urgency in identifying onshore locations for marine energy facilities (cross-referencing with the Coastal development Strategy) so that proximity of smaller ports and harbours to the Pentland Firth is recognised.

**Accessibility & Transport:**

Agree with Main issues report but emphasise the key enabling role that transport enhancements have in promoting new economic development.

**Coastal development:**

Agree with Main issues report but emphasise the urgency in identifying onshore locations for marine energy facilities (cross-referencing with the Coastal development Strategy) so that proximity of smaller ports and harbours to the Pentland Firth is recognised.

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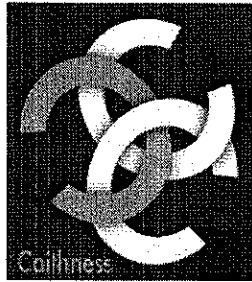
The Chamber works closely with the inter-agency partnership in the area (Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership) and key opportunities have been identified below that are forming a Vision for Caithness – it is important that the Highland-wide Local development plan helps to realise these opportunities.

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### **Marine Energy Opportunities**

Creating sustainable economic growth and local employment by:

- Connecting local companies to opportunities from the wave and tidal industry in the Pentland Firth.
- Identifying and then attracting offshore marine companies to locate in the area.
- Identifying and then attracting businesses with high energy-usage requirements to the area.
- Connecting local companies to opportunities from offshore wind energy development in the North Sea

### **Engineering Opportunities**

Creating sustainable economic growth and local employment by:

- Enhancing workforce skills through focus on science, technology, engineering and maths from primary school onwards.
- Enhancing workforce skills and capabilities through the UHI Engineering Skills Centre in Thurso.
- Identifying and attracting engineering companies involved in research and design development
- Identifying and attracting civil nuclear companies to the area
- Developing the health and safety expertise currently available in the area

### **Tourism & Local Produce Opportunities**

Creating sustainable economic growth and local employment by:

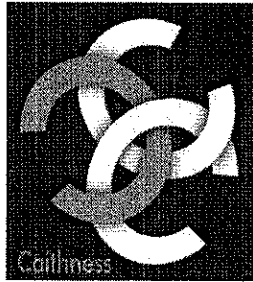
- Continuing to develop the area's tourism infrastructure (accommodation, attractions, venues)
- Identifying key future markets and develop a collective marketing campaign
- Developing high-value markets for our food and drink businesses.
- Developing branding and appreciation of locally-produced food

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### **Enterprise & Innovation Opportunities**

Creating sustainable economic growth and local employment by:

- Raising awareness of the area's research facilities and skills base
- Attracting inward investors in emerging sectors eg. business services support, data centres, etc.
- Attracting high energy using businesses to take advantage of renewable energy generated from the Pentland Firth
- Enhancing the area's reputation for innovation through research & development

### **Connected Communities Opportunities**

Creating sustainable economic growth and local employment by:

- Expanding local health services and development of medical research capabilities at Caithness General Hospital
- Attractive and thriving town centres in Wick and Thurso
- Enhancing local education infrastructure
- Strengthening local sports and arts capabilities through investment in facilities

### **Transport Opportunities**

Creating sustainable economic growth and local employment by:

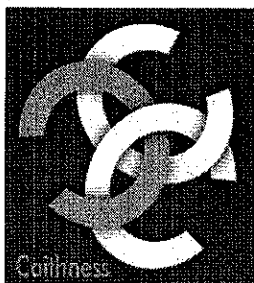
- Safety and journey time improvements to the A9 Trunk Road
- Freight/ road interchanges on far north rail line
- Journey time improvements on rail line
- Technical enhancements at Wick Airport to maintain national connectivity

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### **IT Connectivity Opportunities**

Creating sustainable economic growth and local employment by:

- Creating a “point of presence” in Caithness to enhance the overall telecoms connectivity
- Investigating use of the “FAR-ICE” fibre-optic cable that comes ashore at Castletown.
- Creating a business case for being one of the first rural communities to benefit from the roll-out of 3G technology.
- Attracting data centres and other ITC functions to the area
- Attracting business services to the area
- Developing home/ remote working opportunities
- Optimising opportunities around the establishment of the National Nuclear Archive in Wick
- Improving broadband capability through faster bandwidth allowing better access for business

### **Skills Opportunities**

Creating sustainable economic growth and local employment by:

- Achieving University title for UHI – and establishing key specialisms at North Highland College (eg. Centre for Energy & the Environment; Engineering Skills Centre; Centre for History)
- Further developing local skills infrastructure to improve access to learning (eg STEM teaching in schools)
- Maintaining and growing the number of apprentices entering industry.

**Trudy Morris**  
Chief Executive

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