

A96 Corridor Masterplan – Newsletter

May 2006

Issue 1



The Project

Preliminary work undertaken in 2004/5 established that the A96 Corridor could accommodate projected growth of 30,000 people post 2011 over a 30 – 50 year period. The Highland Council's strategy envisages growth at East Inverness and Nairn South to consolidate these towns with strong legible neighbourhoods. In addition, two new communities at Whiteness and Tornagrain have been identified (and are being developed as identifiable places by their private promoters). Further, some growth in key villages is supported.

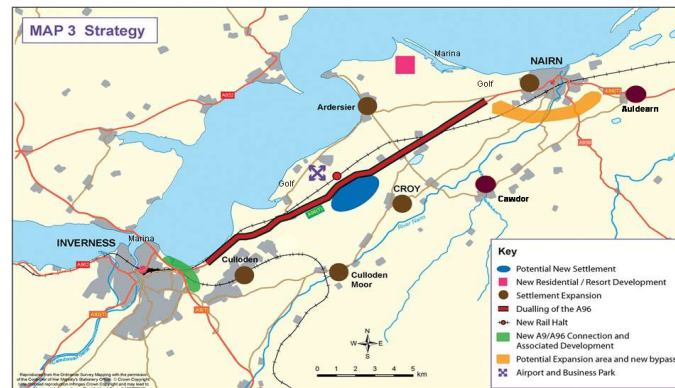
Business and employment allocations are also crucial to the success of this strategy. These are primarily located at East Inverness and at the Inverness Airport Business Park and are designed to deliver one job for every new house.

These initiatives are to be set within a broad *Green* framework that sets out landscape and recreational proposals.

Supporting infrastructure to allow this growth to occur has been established. This includes dualling of the A96 (including transitway) and new rail halt at the Airport.

In response to The Highland Council's strategy for the A96 Corridor, three Frameworks are proposed for:

- 1 East Inverness
- 1 Nairn South
- 1 Green infrastructure



The Highland Council's A96 Corridor strategy.

Framework example.



Generally, frameworks are broad, indicative and strategic representations of urban form, accessibility, land use, infrastructure and environmental assets.

Frameworks provide information relating to density, open space, use mix, phasing and other relevant considerations.

The *Green* Framework establishes a broad landscape and recreation strategy for the Corridor, as a whole. It provides an integrated context for place making and contributes to the delivery of quality of life outcomes. The Green Framework will establish environmental quality and respond to sensitive resources and locations in the Corridor. Issues addressed include land management, natural heritage, built heritage, bio-diversity, recreation, access and interpretation.

The *Green* framework will be closely aligned with wider land management interests in the Corridor.

Following completion of the frameworks, issues relating to implementation and funding will be addressed. A Strategic Environmental Appraisal will be prepared.



Framework example.

Masterplanning Consultants Appointed

The A96 Corridor Masterplan will be led by The Highland Council (THC) Planning and Development Service.

Halcrow Group with Whatmore, Turner & Townsend and FG Burnett have been appointed to prepare a masterplan for the A96 Corridor.

Halcrow's project manager is Scott Davidson who can be contacted through the A96 Corridor Masterplan project office at Halcrow Group, Camas House, Fairways Business Park, Inverness, IV2 6AA. Tel – 01463 231707. Email – A96masterplan@halcrow.com

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Project Sponsors

The project's sponsors are:

- 1 The Highland Council
- 1 Inverness City Partnership
- 1 Moray Estates Development Company (MEDCo)
- 1 Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd, (HIAL)
- 1 Inverness Airport Business Park (IABP)
- 1 Inverness and East Highland Enterprise (IEHE)

Infrastructure Considerations

Subject to final appointments the infrastructure consultants are:

- 1 In respect of water and sewerage
 - Biwater
 - Mott MacDonald
- 1 In respect of transport planning
 - Faber Maunsell
- 1 In respect of electricity
 - SSE Power Distribution

Key conclusions from earlier work undertaken in 2004/5 in respect of infrastructure for the A96 Corridor were:

- 1 There is a need for additional water treatment plant and possibly new source water.
- 1 The A96 cannot accommodate projected traffic growth.
- 1 The railway has limited capacity and opportunities for railway investment should be focused at the airport.
- 1 There is significant opportunity for increased bus patronage.
- 1 Transport solutions should include A96 dualling, bypasses to Nairn and Raigmore Interchange and transitway proposals.

Corridor Strategy and Frameworks

It will be necessary to ensure the proper planning and co-ordination of the Corridor and specific frameworks through effective collaborative work. The following briefly outlines the approach.

Corridor Strategy Panel

The Corridor Strategy Panel (CSP) will be made up of key interests with activity in the Corridor including:

- 1 Project sponsors.
- 1 Moray Estate.
- 1 Cawdor Maintenance Trust.
- 1 Cawdor Estate.
- 1 SEPA.
- 1 SNH.
- 1 Historic Scotland.
- 1 SE Trunk Roads.
- 1 HiTRANS.
- 1 Highland Council, TEC Services.
- 1 Highland Council, Planning and Development Services.
- 1 Whiteness Development Company.
- 1 GH Johnston representing landowning interests at Nairn South.
- 1 Muir, Smith, Evans representing landowning interests at East Inverness.
- 1 Inverness and East Highland Enterprise.
- 1 Highlands and Islands Airports Limited.

The role of the CSP is to provide an overview and promote co-ordination as the strategy for the Corridor develops. Key activities and/or studies underway within or adjacent to the A96 Corridor will be established.

Framework Planning Groups

There will be three Framework Planning Groups (FPG) of:

- 1 East Inverness
- 1 Nairn South
- 1 Green Framework

These will be made up as follows:

East Inverness	Nairn South	Green Framework
SE, Trunk Roads	SE, Trunk Roads	SE, Trunk Roads
Muir, Smith, Evans	GH Johnston Building Consultants	Moray Estates
Highland Council, TEC Services SEPA SNH	Highland Council, TEC Services SEPA SNH	Cawdor Estates Cawdor Maintenance Trust SEPA
Highland Council, Planning and Development Services (non-client).	Highland Council, Planning and Development Services (non-client).	SNH
GreenInverness		GreenInverness
Inverness & East Highland Enterprise Inverness College		Historic Scotland THC, Access officer
		Forestry Commission

The role of the FPG is to provide a technical consultation and referral function as options are developed and assessed.

Early meetings with the CSP and FPG will take place on 1 June 2005 in Inverness.

Figure 1 – Project Management Structure

