

Ross and Cromarty Area Priorities Updated 26-9-16

- **Transport and Infrastructure**
 - Developing and maintaining the road network, with a focus on strategic (non-trunk) routes and unclassified roads.
 - Work with partners, particularly Police Scotland, to improve Road safety
 - Prevention of flooding through ongoing maintenance.
 - Protection of local infrastructure and the environment through greater enforcement around planning, flooding and access rights
 - Supporting communities and business to have improved broadband access and connectivity
 - Seek improved connections to the national grid for rural communities across Ross and Cromarty
 - Lobby the Scottish Government to support a solution to the Stromeferry By-pass
 - Support the re-opening of Evanton Railway station

- **Economic development**
 - Work with our partners to explore and support inward investment with a focus on town and village centre regeneration
 - *Growing our Own* - seek to develop employment and training opportunities potentially through new models within our communities, particularly around home care
 - Work with partners to promote the opportunities offered by the Kishorn Yard
 - Promote the opportunities for sustainable economic development provided by the Wester Ross Biosphere
 - Explore the opportunities to re-develop the Invergordon Tank Farm (VDLF)

- **Tourism**
 - Working with our partners we will utilise the area's natural resources to promote the area as a tourist destination
 - To further support the success of the North Coast 500, we will:
 - Promote Business Gateway as a way of supporting and developing local businesses
 - Explore how best to develop facilities for campervans along this route
 - Consider the need for additional signage and roads infrastructure to meet the increased demand
 - Explore how best to develop facilities for campervans along the North Coast 500 and other routes across Ross and Cromarty
 - Work with partners to promote the area and retain more cruise ship visitors

- **Housing**
 - Explore greater provision of affordable housing and housing suitable for disabled people throughout the area.
 - Work with Council House tenants to achieve the improvement of Council House Estates

- **Education**
 - Seek solutions to reducing the attainment gap
 - Ensure education estate provision is fit for purpose for nursery, primary and secondary pupils across the Ross and Cromarty area
 - Promote positive mental well-being amongst young people including addressing the challenges of cyberbullying

- **Community Engagement**
 - Ensure we have supported and enabled communities and volunteers
 - Support the development of effective Community Partnerships and work within these partnerships to enable and support communities in their aspirations

- **Health and Wellbeing**
 - Work with partners, including the third sector, to improve access to local care for the elderly, including access to respite provision for both the elderly and individuals with learning difficulties
 - Work with our partners to improve access to local health care and hospitals including patient transport services
 - Promote and facilitate training for potential carers
 - Improving health and mental wellbeing through:
 - Improved access to leisure facilities
 - Promotion of the natural environment for leisure and recreation
 - Management of parks and grounds in order to improve the natural environment