

Highland Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy to 2050

Ro-innleachd Spàsail Roinneil Taisbeanach na Gàidhealtachd gu 2050

April 2021



Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (IRSS) Refinement April 2021

- **Introduction**

As part of the Highland Council response to the [Scottish Government's preparation of National Planning Framework 4 \(NPF4\)](#), the Council has developed this **Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (IRSS)**. This is the April 2021 version of the IRSS and has been submitted to Scottish Government. It incorporates a number of refinements to the initial version that we developed and submitted in 2020. This IRSS showcases the unique set of assets and resources that the Highlands will contribute to the national setting and how Highland Council will collaborate with the Scottish Government and partner agencies at a national and local level to deliver on strategic national development priorities, national outcomes and delivery mechanisms to achieve a long-term sustainable vision for Highland in the period to 2050. Through the refinements undertaken we have sought in particular to strengthen the links between the IRSS and other plans and strategies and its role in addressing the need for a green recovery.

This version of the IRSS has developed from a collection of responses (all available at www.highland.gov.uk/npf) to various Scottish Government strands of work as part of its planning reform work and particularly preparation of NPF4. These responses were developed through a series of engagements, discussions and consultations with Highland Council Elected Members, neighbouring authorities and partner organisations and form a comprehensive and robust statement and vision for the Highlands' future for the next 30 years.

In early 2021, the Scottish Government published a document summarising in one place all the IRSSs from across Scotland that had been submitted in 2020 and offered all contributing regions an opportunity to further develop, refine and update their respective IRSS. This might, for example, give opportunity to achieve greater consistency across all regions and reflect changing context. The Highland Council has therefore embraced this opportunity to reflect on the overall Scottish Government feedback on the IRSSs, what we have taken from it for Highland and what we have seen of other regions' IRSS work. We also undertook further research on a number of relevant topics and re-engaged with Highland Council Elected Members and a range of stakeholders who we had previously involved during 2020, inviting their feedback on how the Highland IRSS could be refined.

Many of the refinements included within this version of the IRSS are to be found within the Spatial Strategy map and/or the suggested, further refined '**candidate National Developments**' (cNDs) included as part of this submission. All of the cNDs are considered critical to Highland as a delivery mechanism for addressing the wider regional priorities and are therefore deserving of enactment as National Developments each in their own right. Nevertheless, irrespective of their long-term national status, the Council will work in partnership to actively promote and deliver on each and every cND at a regional level.

The backdrop to the IRSS – and the Council's other NPF4 responses – includes the declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency and the United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from the European Union (Brexit). However, our submissions have also been prepared during the COVID19 pandemic, which has resulted in a change of focus, with greater emphasis being placed on the delivery of the Council's emerging economic recovery plan. Investment in communities and creation of sustainable places are critical elements of the long-term economic recovery of Highland. The IRSS has also been developed to align with the Council's other Corporate Plans and the emerging Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (IMFLDP) review.

Highland and particularly Inverness City are considered to offer a vital role across Scotland in relation to their function as a regional hub for a multitude of island and remote communities. It is imperative that Highland's significant assets and services are recognised for their wider regional and national importance and, as such, that they are well maintained, modern and fit for purpose.

It is felt that this interrelationship between the area's communities and the wider Highlands and Islands justifies the Highland region specifically being recognised at the national level as **a special case for investment and coordination**. This special case also encompasses the scale and diversity of Highland's unique environmental and physical characteristics, not least of our lengthy coastline, which are valued for their contribution to a green circular economy.

The IRSS emphasises the opportunity for local and national agencies to work together to address rural fragility and repopulation, to modernise and maintain the significant range of assets and to protect, enhance and develop the area's unique set of assets and resources.

This IRSS and the Council's other submissions for NPF4 are based on levels of development and investment of various types that we consider appropriate. In respect of land for housing, in February 2021 the Scottish Government provided Local Authorities with initial default estimates for their areas – and asked each to check those estimates for their area and respond by 04 June 2021, with any evidence they wish to put forward for adjustments together with a locally adjusted estimate of the minimum all-tenure housing land requirement for their area. We are confident, based on our ongoing Housing Needs and Demands Assessment work, that we will be presenting a robustly evidenced position that is in line with and supports this Highland IRSS.

The Highland IRSS outlines the Council's Vision, a mapped Spatial Strategy, Highland's further refined (candidate) national developments and the regional priorities broken down into five distinct themes.

- **Vision and Spatial Strategy**

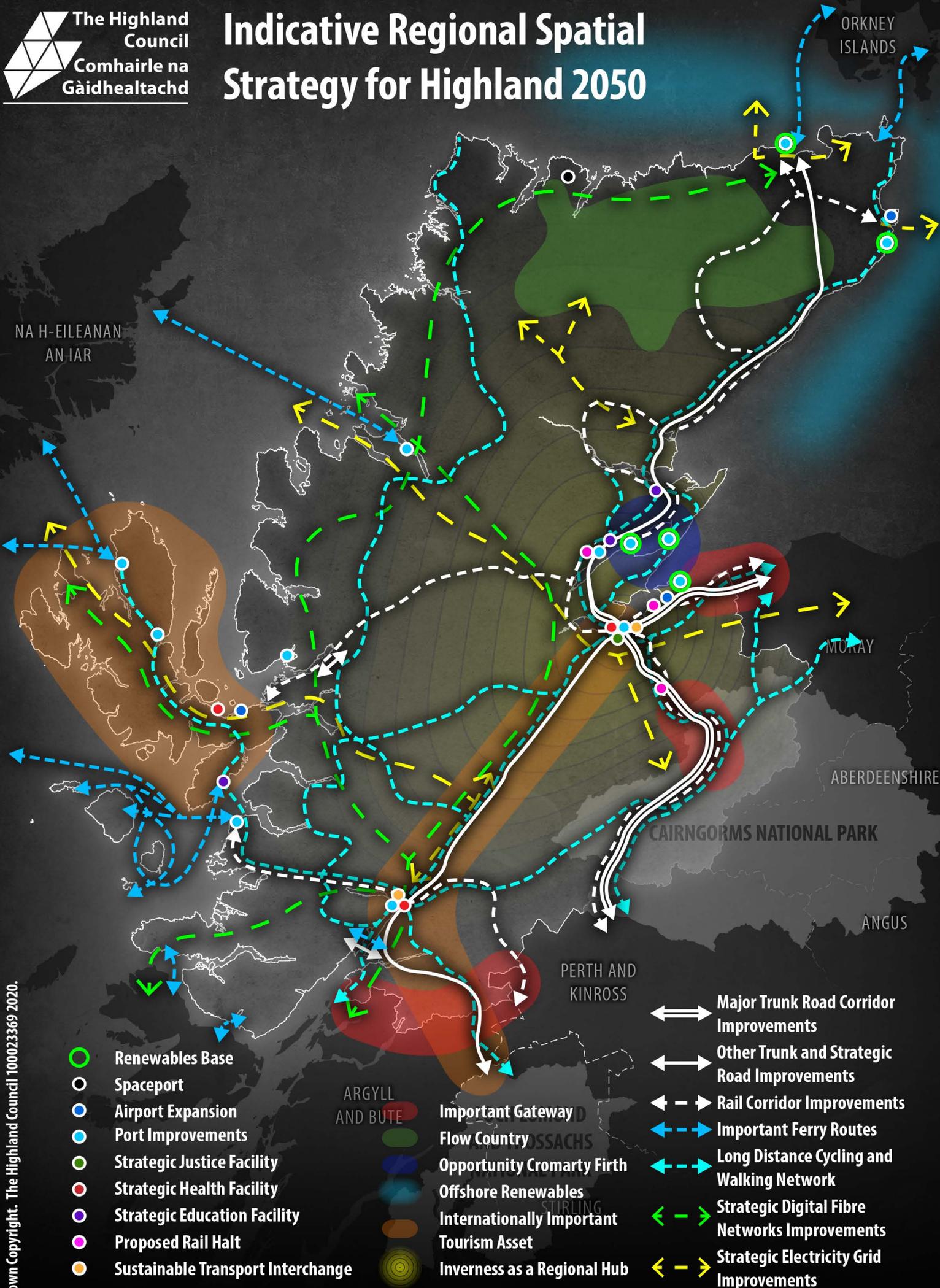
By 2050, Highland will be an exemplar carbon action region by optimising its unique, rich and diverse assets to lead national emissions reduction targets. Our unmatched land, coast and water environment and natural, built and cultural heritage – which define the character of Highland – will be safeguarded, enhanced and internationally celebrated.

Highland will have transitioned to a green, circular economy which maximises the value of existing core industries, helps attract new and emerging sectors and diversifies jobs and skills. This will maintain and enhance Highland's role as a global centre of excellence for renewable energy innovation and generation and one of the most attractive sustainable leisure, recreation and tourism destinations in the world.

Highland communities will function as networks of locally resilient and self-supporting places with equality of access to housing, education, healthcare, work, food, energy, transport, culture, recreation, leisure and virtual connections. Optimising how our existing infrastructure supports and sustains the Highland population and the wider Highlands and Islands region will be an ongoing priority.

In delivering this vision, we will collaborate with our communities and partner agencies, recognising the need for a just transition which is fair and equal.

Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy for Highland 2050



- Renewables Base
- Spaceport
- Airport Expansion
- Port Improvements
- Strategic Justice Facility
- Strategic Health Facility
- Strategic Education Facility
- Proposed Rail Halt
- Sustainable Transport Interchange

- Important Gateway
- Flow Country
- Opportunity Cromarty Firth
- Offshore Renewables
- Internationally Important Tourism Asset
- Inverness as a Regional Hub

- ⇄ Major Trunk Road Corridor Improvements
- ⇄ Other Trunk and Strategic Road Improvements
- ⇄ Rail Corridor Improvements
- ⇄ Important Ferry Routes
- ⇄ Long Distance Cycling and Walking Network
- ⇄ Strategic Digital Fibre Networks Improvements
- ⇄ Strategic Electricity Grid Improvements

Note: cND05, cND07 and cND14 are Highland-wide features and no specific features are mapped for them

The Spatial Strategy presents an inclusive, integrated set of commitments and ambitions for Highland's future, by identifying and mapping future priorities and to spatially represent the further refined cNDs.

- **National, Regional and Strategic Priorities**

This section of the report highlights how the headline national outcomes can be addressed through the Highland IRSS. We are aware that our IRSS priorities cut across a number of the themes that Scottish Government have sought feedback on and further commentary on how Highland developments, priorities and potential investments will contribute to these is set out below. In addition, we set out a table at the end of this document which captures a summary of the relationship between the Highland candidate national developments and national outcomes and priorities.

Climate Change

What development will we need to address climate change?

Highland Council fully acknowledges the impacts of the changing climate and is already proactively responding to it by changing the way it operates. The area has already noted the long-term trend of warming temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns and rising sea levels, which has resulted in a highly variable weather pattern – hot, cold, wet and dry – that has proved challenging in recent years.

Corollary, in May 2019 the Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency which commits the Highland Council to becoming a net zero carbon region by 2025. This declaration has redefined the Council approach to future planning and is now embedded at the heart of all services; as even reaching the target in the declaration, the Council accepts the climate is going to change and they must prepare to adapt to this evolving situation.

As the IRSS extends well beyond the Council Emergency declaration timeframe, it is envisaged that Highland will transition to become an exemplar carbon action region. Highland will continue to play a disproportionately significant role in delivering the national requirements for climate change due to the area's natural assets, renewables generation capacity and the qualities and characteristics that uniquely define the region - abundant forestry and peatlands. It is hoped that a more robust national policy context for renewables can be provided to assist Highland in refining its strategy for this regionally important industry and the contribution this makes to a broad range of national outcomes. The development of a hydrogen economy is expected to be crucial to decarbonisation and there is a key opportunity for Highland to play a major role in achieving this for the nation.

It is further contended that it is unrealistic to expect that Scotland can meet its target of a net zero country by 2045 without Highland's contribution – the Highland area is therefore of fundamental importance to this agenda. There could be opportunity to establish a national carbon and ecological "mitigation bank" – in which the Highland area could be anticipated to play a major part, given its area and range of relevant assets, resources and opportunities.

However, to deliver Highland as an exemplar carbon action region, the candidate National Developments (cNDs) all require effective local networks which inter-connect seamlessly to the wider Highlands and Islands region, and national and international networks to ensure a sustainable production, distribution and consumption of resources and services.

The candidate National Developments (cNDs) that most closely align with this topic are:

- cND01 Rail Infrastructure Improvements
- cND02 Trunk and Other Strategic Road Improvements
- cND03 Energy Generation, Transmission, Distribution & Consumption
- cND05 Local Resilient Networks
- cND10 Digital Network
- cND15 Opportunity Cromarty Firth

Quality of life, health and wellbeing

How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future?

In recent years across Highland, like the rest of Scotland, there has been significant expansion in urban living across our towns and city, and a gradual but persistent decline in the population of the rural areas. This population change has been driven by changing lifestyles and social attitudes, with more people seeking to live in closer proximity to retail, services, employment and education as well as leisure, culture and healthcare facilities, which in turn allows them to spend less time travelling and more time with family and friends. Forecasts also indicate that parts of Highland will be disproportionately affected by the combination of ageing population and out-migration of young people and will require particular attention.

However, the Council acknowledges that the character and fabric of existing rural communities are integral to the Highland identity and are therefore keen to preserve and build upon the strengths that bind these communities together. In this regard, the Council notes and supports the Scottish Government's new drive for rural repopulation and the role that Highland can play in fulfilling this outcome. Indeed, the Council believes that this ambition points to the importance of Highland being specifically recognised at the national level as a special case for investment and coordination. These combined measures will further work to reduce rural fragility across the region and support the national network of rural communities. Furthermore, it will support the work with partners to "sell" the Highland Brand to attract high quality employers and employees and strong tourism.

To match this change in attitude and as the Council work to deliver the IRSS Vision, Highland is committed to working with all communities to transition them to be locally resilient areas, which have sufficient and quality access to both virtual and digital services. This is whilst safeguarding and growing local access to quality, appropriate and affordable housing, educational and medical facilities, appropriate employment opportunities, food and energy production, and a range of transport links and leisure and cultural facilities.

Currently, alongside a network of towns which provide key local services, a number of strategic services and facilities are located within Inverness city which acts as an important regional hub for the wider Highlands and Islands region. Meanwhile, virtual connections are growing increasingly important for modernising access to services and facilities, and, with the distances between many Highland communities, the opportunities and potential benefits are significant. We will therefore work to ensure equality of access to vital services across all our communities; whilst at the same time reinforcing and growing the unique characteristics of individual localities.

Highland has a substantial existing building stock across both the urban and rural setting, the appropriate use and reuse of which will also help to advance the area's net zero ambition, alongside significant improvements to its quality and energy efficiency.

Locally produced and sourced food and the generation of cost-effective clean renewable energy via local energy networks will contribute significantly to the national outcomes for quality of life, whilst also helping to address the high level of food and fuel poverty currently experienced in some of Highland.

Highland is judged to be well placed to deliver on this and has examples of communities that are finding creative solutions to unlocking local access to services. In addition, in recent years the Highland Council has strived to improve our engagement and empowerment of local communities in Place Planning.

We believe achieving this will result in sustainable growth in line with our climate ambitions whilst also achieving alignment with Public Health Scotland priorities and delivering Scottish Government National Outcomes.

The candidate National Developments (cNDs) that most closely align with this topic are:

cND04 Regionally Important Facilities
cND05 Local Resilient Networks
cND06 Long Distance Cycling and Walking Network
cND07 High Quality Housing
cND10 Digital Network
cND15 Opportunity Cromarty Firth

Resilient economy

What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy so that it benefits everyone?

With its internationally renowned natural and heritage resources, Highland will become increasingly pivotal in Scotland's transition to an environmentally sustainable economy.

At present, the economy in Highland is relatively diverse. Many of the key sectors are well established and have contributed significantly to the Scottish economy, including land and marine management supplying the food and drink industry, tourism, life sciences, the creative industries, energy, business services and engineering. However, each sector faces both opportunities and threats and support is required to enable what we have to prosper and allow new and emerging markets, products, activities and methods of operation to develop sustainably.

Highland region will aim to capitalise on opportunities to further diversify the economy and support it with a high-performing digital network. This will reinforce stability and productivity, giving rise to a culture of innovation, research and development linked with academia and training. The profile of Highland will contribute to increased international trade and attract inward investment.

Highland's capability to generate vast amounts of renewable energy will form a basis for the transition to a green, circular economy which maximises the value of Highland's core and emerging industries and minimises the environmental footprint of the area's transport, waste and energy usage.

The sub-region focussed around the Cromarty Firth could be a leading contender for being awarded Greenport status, if this option is opened up by the Scottish Government as part of post-BREXIT strategy. It is perfectly placed to support the pipeline of multi-billion pound offshore wind projects which lie off the coast and secure an economic and social legacy for the area. Greenports would provide a package of measures to stimulate further economic activity and investment. However, a coordinated and innovative approach between all public and private sectors is required to maximise the benefits, including regeneration of communities.

The Highlands is one of the most recognisable and reputable tourism destinations in the world and attracts an increasing number of domestic and international visitors. To ensure the highest possible experience, value and longevity of sustainable tourism for the region and Scotland, a coordinated national approach backed up by campaigns and investment are required for managing, educating and supporting the sector in the most sustainable way. The challenge is to support innovative infrastructure improvements which will support the continual growth in sustainable leisure, recreation and tourism and provide high-quality year-round employment opportunities.

With Scotland looking to enhance its role in the space industry, the characteristics of Highland make it ideally placed to play a key part in evolving the industry. Land at north west Sutherland is at the forefront of international interest and investment and planning permission has recently been granted to develop Europe's first space hub. This will help to assert Scotland's position in the wider space industry and maximise opportunities for high-tech, skilled jobs and training opportunities. Similarly there is the possibility of Dounreay being selected to host the development of a prototype fusion reactor, which could bring considerable skilled employment opportunities, dovetailing with the scaling down of employment in decommissioning operations at Dounreay as they reach an advanced stage.

At a local level, the economic proposition for Highland will provide opportunity to enhance equality across the region by boosting employment opportunities, regenerating towns and villages and tackling the demographic challenges of an ageing and shrinking population.

The candidate National Developments (cNDs) that most closely align with this topic are:

- cND01 Rail Infrastructure Improvements
- cND02 Trunk and Other Strategic Road Improvements
- cND04 Regionally Important Facilities
- cND05 Local Resilient Networks
- cND06 Long Distance Cycling and Walking Networks
- cND07 High Quality Housing
- cND08 Sea Ports
- cND09 Strategic Airport and Service Enhancements
- cND10 Digital Network
- cND11 Emerging Space industry funding, support and development
- cND12 Sustainable Tourism Development Infrastructure Plan
- cND15 Opportunity Cromarty Firth

Special character

How can planning improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places?

Highland provides a unique and unparalleled opportunity to provide an environment which can be celebrated nationally in terms of its special character and its ability to offer resources for the delivery of carbon reduction in support of wider national interests. It has a myriad of unmatched land, coast and water environment and natural, built and cultural heritage assets.

Part of Highland's special character is the diversity amongst its constituent areas in terms of landscape, culture and history. Land ownership and the consequent pattern of land use and management has had a historical influence on this diversity too. Our very lengthy coastline is a particularly notable asset where collaborative working with partners is crucial for the effective planning of diverse marine areas and activities, not least through the joint resourcing of the preparation of no fewer than three Regional Marine Plans.

All these diverse parts of Highland come together to offer a Highland brand that is significant for the local, regional and national economies in terms of what it can offer for sustainable tourism, sustainable energy and the attractiveness to inward investors as a place to live and work. The management, protection and restoration of Highland's unique natural assets/environment can continue to ensure its contribution to national economy and outcomes. Particular opportunities in Highland are carbon reduction and storage, the protection and restoration of our peatland resource, and the reforestation of Scotland. If a national carbon and ecological "mitigation bank" were to be established, Highland would have a major part to play in it.

One other example of this is the candidate national development for the potential World Heritage Site at the Flow Country which has been approved by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to proceed to the next stage. This potential accolade presents an opportunity for part of Highland's natural environment to be globally recognised, thereby preserving this incredible environment for future generations.

The special character of Highland will continue to support places and communities and it will play a key role in delivering the Place Principle, making our communities places where people want to live and ensuring the long-term economic development of Highland. It is vital therefore that the Highland Council and the Scottish Government work in collaboration with all relevant partners to ensure that our communities feel engaged in shaping their future and are empowered to benefit from the opportunities provided by the unique special character of Highland.

The candidate National Developments (cNDs) that most closely align with this topic are:

cND13 World Heritage Site for The Flow Country

cND14 The land and water management, protection and restoration of our natural and bio-diversity assets, including our peatland, reforestation and coastal assets

Infrastructure

What infrastructure do we need to plan and build to realise our long-term aspirations?

Effective infrastructure is fundamental for a thriving economy, for communities, and to address climate change. Highland partners understand the need to be proactive and innovative in addressing these issues primarily by making optimum use of our existing infrastructure and assets while supporting careful and essential investment in new infrastructure.

The unique character and scale of the Highlands and Islands region provides significant challenges for the delivery and maintenance of infrastructure, particularly transport. But this also means ongoing investment in lifeline connections is essential for equality of access to services and rural repopulation. Due to the important inter-relationship with our neighbouring authorities we have engaged them in the discussion around managing our shared infrastructure interests and assets, and how these affect the gateways into Highland.

The Council strongly recognises the value of improving the entire transport system to accommodate a modal shift to a fully integrated sustainable travel network serving all communities, regions and traveller type. However, given the sheer number of local and site specific interventions required right across the region, and across the full range of transport modes, this aspect is not illustrated on the IRSS Spatial Strategy Map.

Alongside, Highland is seeking to develop existing ports to accommodate off-shore renewables and by encouraging more freight to transition from road to rail, and to encourage sustainable economic growth in a way that optimises energy systems and minimises the need for additional grid improvements.

One of the key candidate national developments for infrastructure is for our communities to function as locally resilient and self-supporting networks. Along with identifying and prioritising opportunities for vacant and derelict sites in terms of a 'brownfield first approach' and increasing the density of housing developments, these combined measures will enable the Council and partner agencies to better cluster facilities and services and improve ease of access.

Alongside, the IRSS promotes a high-performing digital and virtual network as a modern standard utility, both to reduce the need to travel, and to enable equality of access to services and business opportunities. The ongoing pandemic has only reinforced the need to reduce the need to travel physically to access these services and facilities. Many areas of Highland suffer from poor connectivity both digitally and physically and so the potential benefits and the necessity of prioritising these digital innovations is clear. This could include different technical solutions, for example, satellite and mobile solutions may help to address "notspots".

Highland Council promotes the role of the Local Development Plan Delivery Programme as being of primary importance to delivery of affordable and timely services and infrastructure. This approach requires local and national partners to engage with and collaborate on future collective investment across all communities. The Council's recent experience in delivering the FW2040 Masterplan and delivery programme has highlighted good progress in delivering a joined-up approach to place planning and infrastructure planning and investment. In the future, the Council will seek to build upon this approach of working more collaboratively with communities. However, the FW2040 experience has also highlighted a fragmented approach to the coordination of investment. It is vital that NPF4 plays its role in addressing this lack of coordinated investment across Scotland, particularly in the context of the Place Principle.

Moreover, infrastructure considerations need to reflect more than just the typical focus in the past of road and rail assets, to also include blue and green infrastructure, active travel and digital. In Highland's instance, Inverness has been developed as a principal hub and economic driver of the region and to ensure the continued economic prosperity of the entire region, all of the Council's candidate National Developments (cNDs) are considered necessary:

cND01 Rail Infrastructure Improvements

cND02 Trunk and Other Strategic Road Improvements

cND03 Energy Generation, Transmission, Distribution & Consumption

cND04 Regionally Important Facilities

cND05 Local Resilient Networks

cND06 Long Distance Cycling and Walking Networks

cND07 High Quality Housing

cND08 Sea Ports

cND09 Strategic Airport and Service Enhancements

cND10 Digital Network

cND11 Emerging Space industry funding, support and development

cND12 Sustainable Tourism Development Infrastructure Plan

cND13 World Heritage Site for The Flow Country

cND14 The land and water management, protection and restoration of our natural and bio-diversity assets, including our peatland, reforestation and coastal assets

cND15 Opportunity Cromarty Firth

- **Highland priorities/developments and national outcomes**

A summary of the relationship between the Highland candidate national developments and national outcomes and priorities is shown in this table.

Highland IRSS: Strategic Development Priority (candidate National Development - cND)	Highland IRSS Themes to which the cND is particularly relevant					NPF4 Key Themes (3 = most strong, 1 = least strong)			Highland IRSS Diagram features	High level outcomes to be addressed by NPF4, to which the cND contributes					National Outcomes to which the cND contributes										Other priorities and outcomes to which the cNDs contribute	
	Climate Change	Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing	Resilient Economy	Special Character	Infrastructure	People	Work	Place		Meeting housing needs	Improving health and wellbeing	Increasing population of rural areas	Improving equality and eliminating discrimination	Reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases	Positive effects for biodiversity	Children and Young People	Communities	Culture	Economy	Education	Environment	Fair Work and Business	Health	Human Rights	International	Poverty
(cND01) Rail Infrastructure Improvements	✓		✓		✓	1	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Rail Halt Sustainable Transport Interchange Rail Corridor Improvements 			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓		UNSDGs: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 SPHPs: 1, 5, 6 HOIP: 3
(cND02) Trunk and Other Strategic Road Improvements	✓		✓		✓	1	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Trunk Road Corridor Improvements Other Trunk and Strategic Road Improvements 			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SDGs: 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 SPHPs: 1, 5, 6 HOIP: 3
(cND03) Energy Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Consumption	✓				✓	1	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Electricity Grid Improvements Offshore Renewables 			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		SDGs: 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 SPHPs: 1, 5 HOIP: 1
(cND04) Regionally Important Facilities		✓	✓		✓	3	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Justice Facility Strategic Health Facility Strategic Education Facility Inverness as a Regional Hub 		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			SDGs: 3, 4, 10, 11 SPHPs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 HOIP: 3, 5
(cND05) Local Resilient Networks	✓	✓	✓		✓	2	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highland-wide features 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 SPHPs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 HOIP: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
(cND06) Long Distance Cycling and Walking Network		✓	✓		✓	3	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Distance Cycling and Walking Network 		✓		✓	✓								✓	✓			SDGs: 3, 10, 12 SPHPs: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 HOIP: 3, 5
(cND07) High Quality Housing		✓	✓		✓	3	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highland-wide features 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	SDGs: 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 SPHPs: 1, 2, 3, 4 HOIP: 1, 5
(cND08) Sea Ports			✓		✓	1	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewables Base Port Improvements Important Ferry Routes 			✓		✓			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		SDGs: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 SPHPs: 1, 5 HOIP: 3
(cND09) Strategic Airport and Service Enhancements			✓		✓	1	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airport Expansion 			✓					✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		SDGs: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 SPHPs: 1, 5 HOIP: 3
(cND10) Digital Network	✓	✓	✓		✓	2	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Digital Fibre Networks Improvements 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		SDGs: 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 SPHPs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 HOIP: 1, 2, 3, 5
(cND11) Emerging Space industry funding, support and development			✓		✓	1	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spaceport 			✓					✓						✓	✓		SDGs: 8, 9, 16 SPHPs: 1, 5, 6 HOIP: 3
(cND12) Sustainable Tourism Development Infrastructure Plan			✓		✓	1	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important Gateway Internationally Important Tourism Asset 			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		SDGs: 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 SPHPs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 HOIP: N/A
(cND13) World Heritage Site for The Flow Country				✓	✓	1	1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow Country 					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		SDGs: 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 17 SPHPs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 HOIP: 2
(cND14) The Land and Water Management, Protection and Restoration of our Natural and Biodiversity Assets, Including Our Peatland, Reforestation and Coastal Assets				✓	✓	2	1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highland-wide features 					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			SDGs: 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 SPHPs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 HOIP: N/A
(cND15) Opportunity Cromarty Firth	✓	✓	✓		✓	2	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity Cromarty Firth 			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17 SPHPs: 1, 5 HOIP: 1, 2, 3



**The Highland
Council
Comhairle na
Gàidhealtachd**
