Skye and Raasay June '21 Collaborative Workshops and Online Survey Summary

Contents

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

H I E

Front Cover Illustration by Richard Carman
2050 Rural Community taken from the A&DS Designing for a Changing Climate: Carbon Conscious Places Report

Background

Skye and Raasay Future Plan

The Highland Council (THC), in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) are leading on the preparation of a new place-based plan. The purpose of which is to establish and support a collaborative approach to the identification and coordination of investment opportunities across the islands between public sector agencies, community organisations, the third sector, private sector, and the wider community.

The Skye and Raasay Future Plan will seek to connect the benefits of the collectively identified projects, with not only the agreed priorities for the area, but those of the region and nation. This approach, aided by the support of Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS), will contribute to a robust case for any future funding by demonstrating the Place Principle in practice.
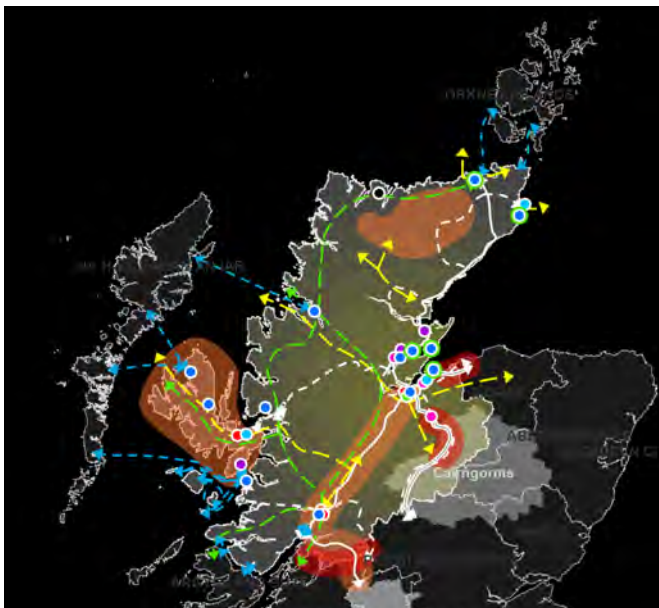
The initial online discussion at the end of January re-visited the previously identified priorities and continued with the identification of projects that will deliver the said priorities and would benefit through greater coordination. This series of workshops at the beginning of June continued the conversation between the project team and island stakeholders, which will influence and inform the draft plan, which is due to be completed by the end of the summer.

An online public survey was also open during this period. Participants were asked to reflect on what is important to them now and their anticipated priorities for their future. The results are included in Appendix III.

The Future Plan offers the opportunity to strengthen the partnership across the islands and to create a place-based approach that builds on and champions the work undertaken locally to date.

The purpose of this series of second workshops was to assemble partners, stakeholders, community groups, the private and third sector to continue the collective conversation on:

- **The Place**: Confirming the priorities that people wish to achieve for the area

- **The Parts**: Alignment of projects with the priorities and identification of opportunities to achieve a climate resilient and thriving Skye & Raasay

- **The Process**: Organising Ourselves - what is the plans governance, how to best work together, how to co-ordinate resources/assets/opportunities/funding?

A&DS Project

A&DS, Scotland's design champion, recognise that how we design, plan and deliver places has a significant impact on Scotland's ability to respond to the impacts of climate change, health inequalities, the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit. In 2019, A&DS established a programme to assist public sector organisations to take a place-based approach to designing for the changing climate.

This programme is supported by the Place and Architecture and Energy and Climate Change Directorates at Scottish Government. Through this work, A&DS has been able to independently support The Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to champion a whole place approach to considering the net-zero carbon challenge and the implementation of the Place Principle.

National Performance Framework - Scottish Government

Regional Spatial Strategy - The Highland Council
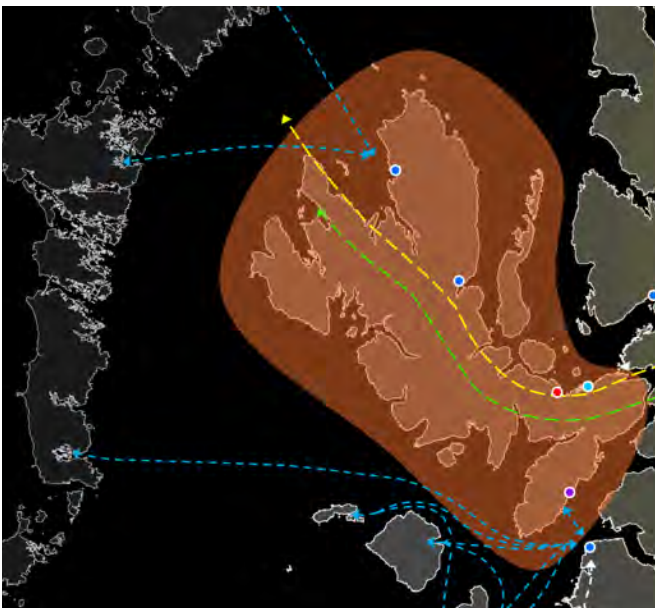
Regional Spatial Strategy - The Highland Council

Workshop Process

" One key benefit of participating in the workshop was becoming aware of the degree of consensus that exists around what is needed on Skye & Raasay"

Workshop Participant Feedback

The Purpose of the Future Plan

The workshops began with a welcome from the islands Councillors and a brief reminder of the purpose of the Investment Plan from Scott Dalgarno THC Development Plans Manager and Stuart MacPherson HIE Head of Strategic Projects.

Points used to illustrate the purpose included:

- The Future Plan will connect the intended outcomes of projects, both individually and collectively, with strategic outcomes for the area

- It will set out the outcomes for the future of Skye and Raasay and how everyone with an interest can work together to make it happen

- It is hoped that the plan will improve the prospects of securing future funding by demonstrating the value of partnership working

- It will not duplicate or replace consultations that have already taken place, or need to take place in communities

Skye & Raasay Aerial Photographs - Iain Smith of Skye Photo Centre

January 2021 Workshop Priorities

The qualities, values and benefits sought to be achieved that were agreed at The Highland Council Skye and Rasaay Area Committtee in late 2020 were shared as a reminder, these included:

Sustainable Tourism
For Skye and Raasay to retain their reputation as an internationally renowned sustainable tourism destination a co-ordinated approach is required to identify priorities and investment

Diverse and Green Economy
A strong and diverse economy with a range of employment opportunities will promote well-being and attract investment

Digital and Transport Infrastructure
Access to modern digital connections and the maintenance of a high quality transport network is vital for ensuring the area is competitive and supporting the wider ambitions for the area

Strengthening Communities
Strong, capable and resourceful communities which are properly housed is vital for the social and economic growth of the area

Health and Education
Delivering modern health and education facilities makes the area resilient and an attractive place to live

Skye & Raasay Aerial Photographs - Iain Smith of Skye Photo Centre

Workshop Process

The Place: Confirming Priorities

Reflecting on the feedback from the January workshop, THC provided a brief narrative illustrating how this has influenced a number of changes to the Place priorities:

- Priorities have increased from 5 to 7
- '**Organising Ourselves**' has been introduced in recognition that a coordinated and inclusive partnership of groups and organisations is required to deliver the agreed vision for Skye and Raasay
- '**Climate Resilience**' has been introduced in recognition that strategies, choices and actions that address the impacts of climate change on the local economy, communities and natural environment are key to a resilient Skye and Raasay.
- '**Digital and Transport Infrastructure**' has been seperated for clarity
- '**Sustainable Tourism**' has been subsumed within other priorities in recognition of the need for a strong and sustainable economy which that is not dependant on international tourism

Adjusted Place Priorities

Strengthening Communities
A strong, resilient and resourceful community network with sufficient quality, affordable housing, access to essential services, and where Gaelic and the areas unique culture is celebrated and central to local identity

Health and Education
Delivering modern health and education facilities that are appropriate for the area and which make it resilient and an attractive place to live

Diverse and Green Economy
A strong and sustainable economy which builds on the areas natural assets and embraces a range of employment opportunities to promote wellbeing, attract investment and supports a thriving population

Transport Infrastrucutre
An integrated and well maintained network of high quality sustainable transport options which support social inclusion, a competitive economy and deliver the wider ambitions for the area

Digital Infrastructure
Reliable, affordable and future proofed digital connections which are accessible for all and support the growth of the economy and the communties

Climate Resilience
Support strategies, choices, and actions that reduce climate change and its impacts on the economy, communities and the natural environment

Organising Ourselves
A co-ordinated and inclusive partnership of groups and organisations which deliver the agreed vision for Skye and Raasay

Participants Reflections on Updated Priorities:

- While the subsuming of '**Sustainable Tourism**' into '**Diverse and Green Econom**y' was agreeable and is reflective of inhabitants Covid-19 experience, the ommission of the term 'tourism' from the priority narrative of either the '**Diverse and Green Economy**' and/or '**Strengthening Communities**' is to be addressed as tourism has been the backbone of the islands economy for decades
- The terms inclusive, accessible and equitable do not feature in either list of priorities
- The updated priorities are better linked to the needs of Skye & Raasay
- The Plan and its priority to 'oragnise ourselves' has the potential to connect people and organisations to deliver better outcomes collaboratively
- Adult social care is not noted in the narrative for the 'Health & Education' priority, as it is a significant anticipated future need, a reference could be added

Skye & Raasay Aerial Photographs - Iain Smith of Skye Photo Centre

Workshop Process

The Parts: Alignment of Projects with Priorities

Prior to the workshops participants were issued with the updated priorities and project list to inform the workshop discussions.

Participants had an hour of facilitated discussion to investigate a couple of tasks in depth, each breakout room and workshops differed in the time split across the two tasks, but all provided informative reflections which are outlined in subsequent pages.

Breakout rooms of up to 8 participants facilitated by A&DS and/or THC using an interative whiteboard (Miro) to illustrate the discussionand record points raised.

Existing Projects

As an icebreaker, participants were asked to introduce themselves and the projects that they represent. With the seven priorities in mind, they were asked to consider which of these their project aligns. The colour of the project post-it denoting the project was then changed to reflect the most relevant priority.

It was noted following the sessions, that a number of projects align with several of the priorities, which reflects the complex system of interdependancies across the island.
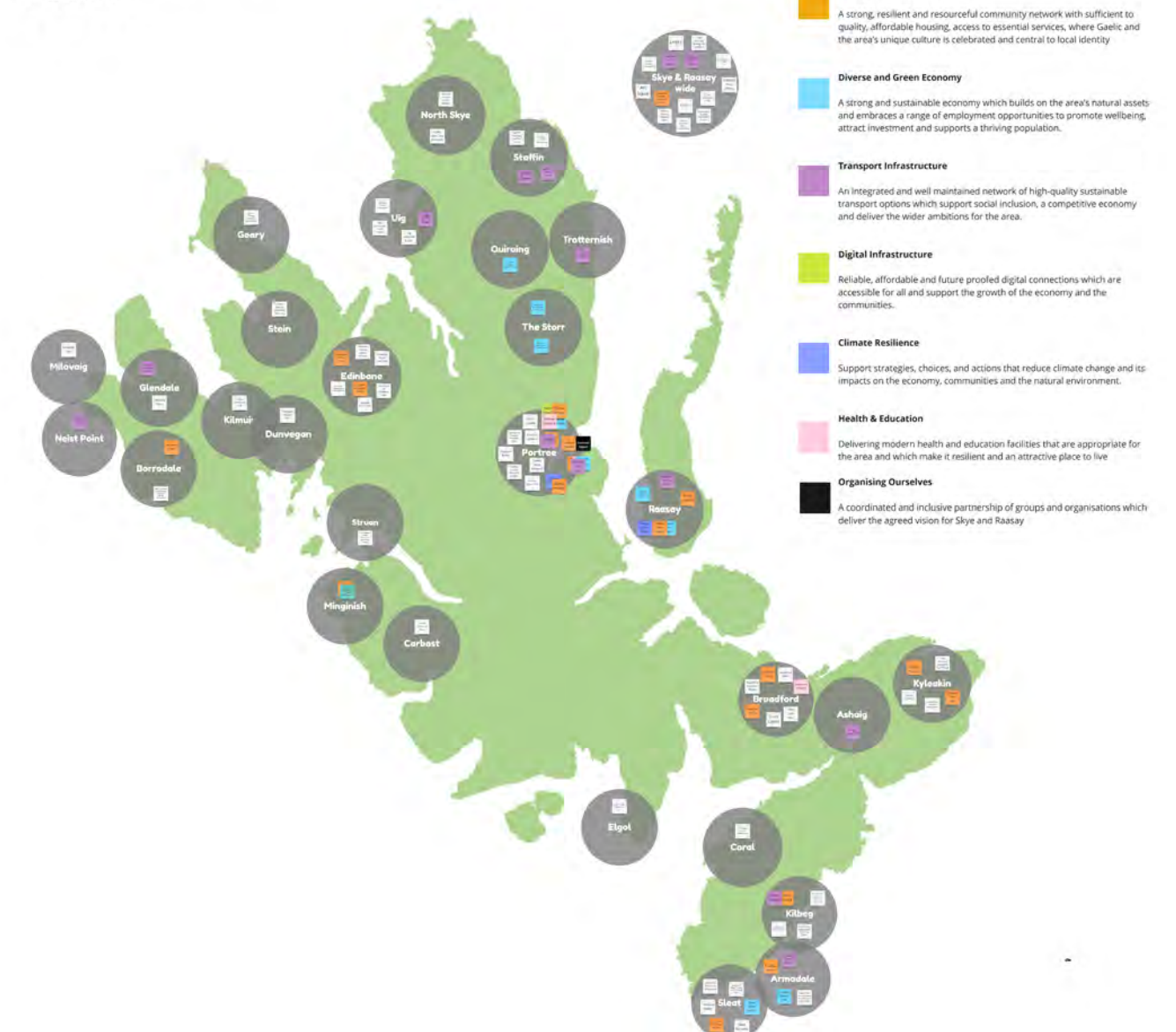
Identifying Future Opportunities

Participants were then asked to consider the existing projects against the place priorities and a future Skye and Raasay that has adapted to the impacts of climate change. Are there any gaps or opportunities, what future projects are required to support that future for the islands?

The Process: Organising Ourselves

In response to feedback from the January session the priorities were amended and expanded to include 'Organising Ourselves'. This priority focuses on the desire and need to create a co-ordinated and inclusive partnership of groups and organsiations to deliver the agreed vision for Skye and Raasay.

Following a brief introduction by THC/HIE an opportunity to discuss any issues, concerns or challenges on project governance, ways of working togther and co-ordiantion was extended to all participants.

Skye & Raasay Projects
Task 1

Place Priorities

Strengthening Communities
A strong, resilient and resourceful community network with sufficient to quality, affordable housing, access to essential services, where Gaelic and the area's unique culture is celebrated and central to local identity

Diverse and Green Economy
A strong and sustainable economy which builds on the area's natural assets and embraces a range of employment opportunities to promote wellbeing, attract investment and supports a thriving population.

Transport Infrastructure
An integrated and well maintained network of high-quality sustainable transport options which support social inclusion, a competitive economy and deliver the wider ambitions for the area.

Digital Infrastructure
Reliable, affordable and future proofed digital connections which are accessible for all and support the growth of the economy and the communities.

Climate Resilience
Support strategies, choices, and actions that reduce climate change and its impacts on the economy, communities and the natural environment.

Health & Education
Delivering modern health and education facilities that are appropriate for the area and which make it resilient and an attractive place to live

Organising Ourselves
A coordinated and inclusive partnership of groups and organisations which deliver the agreed vision for Skye and Raasay

The Place: Project Alignment with Priorities

"For Skye (and Raasay) to be a good place to visit, it also needs to be a good place to live"

Workshop Participant Feedback

Each breakout room and workshop differed in the time dedicated to discussing this map-based task, however all participants offered feedback around the current priorities across the islands. Common and divergent themes were raised through each of the sessions. A brief summary building on issues discussed in January has been provided.

Transport Infrastructure, Housing and Community Delivery were noted as the focus of conversations across all sessions.

Healthcare Provision & Support

- Access to healthcare and recruitment /retention of health professionals a priority
- Addiction services are lacking, and those that are available are alcohol focused
- There are numerous issues around the impact of continuity of care
- The demographic shift across the islands is challenging for healthcare providers

Culture

- Culture and Gaelic should be as important as climate change and be just as cross cutting

Accessibility and Transport Infrastructure

- The lived experience of disabled people is essential and should inform all current and future plans to ensure Skye and Raasay are accessible to all inhabitants and visitors
- There are opportunities to further co-ordinate infrastructure projects to allow them to be used as match funding for proposed and future active travel projects
- Cars are always going to be on the island, however, longer term sustainable travel options need to be investigated opposed to immediate/simple solutions such as car parking
- Broadford Airfield/Ashaig Airstrip offers an opportunity to connect the island inhabitants, businesses, and services with the central belt and beyond. It would aid with the export of goods and potentially reduce pressure on the road network. It would also contribute to the development of Scotland's net zero flight commitment
- EV infrastructure and charging, inhabitants lack clarity on who is leading work to identify opportunities and is scoping out the requirements for delivery and maintenance. The current and future availability may start to impact visitor choices who may go elsewhere with better provision
- How to we ensure emergency vehicles can get to where they are needed through increased visitor traffic?

Housing

- Greater focus on the finer grain of housing need is required. Does the Housing Need and Demand Assessment highlight the current local demand? Is there a shared certainty of the current demand?
- Increased awareness of the housing register needed, do young people understand the process? The lack of people registered is a problem for quantifying need and the subsequnet application for suitable funds
- Tenure of plots/housing is an issue, there isn't really an affordable private market at the moment
- There is a potential and an appetite for more community owned housing
- Speed of delivery of homes is an issue, which is currently further exasperated by the availability of labour, skills and affordable materials
- Can developer contributions to be retained within the local community impacted be development- could participatory budgeting be used to determine its application?
- Is there an issue with the definition of affordable housing, what is 'affordable' on the islands? How could that be identified?
- Rules around shared equity are creating barriers on the island
- Distribution of funding needs to be more flexible to deliver innovative and appropriate housing options for island locations
- Housing is one of the main issues, is connected and influences many other. It is particularly important in relation to retaining/attracting young people and avoiding the island becoming a museum in 2 generations.
- Housing assocations are having to act as heating companies /energy advice service - not their specialism why should it be the case?

Skye & Raasay Aerial Photographs - Iain Smith of Skye Photo Centre

The Place: Project Alignment with Priorities cont.

Community Delivery

- A mutual support network to assist communities and reduce barriers around project delivery would be beneficial, especially in the context of the third sector being under resourced
- Community Trusts and Community Councils are under pressure to deliver with limited resources, they cannot take on any extra responsibilities
- Funding requirements are not helping with this issue, they do not register the lack of resources currently experience for the 3rd sector, communities, and service providers. Groups agility does not match the short times scales associated with some funding opportunities

National Government/Local Authority Delivery

- Clarity over national organisations roles/contribution to assisting with islands issues would be beneficial
- If projects weren't planned in silos they may better meet address the climate emergency and local need
- There are implications of funding decisions being based on the matrix for urban deprivation rather than rural disadvantage. The ranking of the islands following this shift has significant impact- is this being addressed/who is challenging the impact?
- Relevant resources and relevant policies that meet the needs of the area are needed - the lack of relevance is impacting the islands experts to deliver what is needed or what they want to deliver
- Deprivation is a significant issue at the moment but some areas are not classified due to problems with identifying rural socio economic issues

Heat and Energy

- A significant proportion of the island's population are experiencing fuel poverty or extreme fuel poverty
- There have been issues associated with the quality of workmanship associated with energy efficiency retrofits and renewable installation, this has impacted successful uptake and confidence in low carbon solutions
- Most private houses are unaware of the impending impacts of incoming regulation change around heat and the negative impacts on air quality associated with the use wood burning stoves
- While there are opportunities for the island to produce more renewable energy, there is a limiting factor of getting energy off the island

Tourism Infrastructure

- Management of tourist/visitors in an innovative way is required to avoid the continued influx of motorised vehicles and to encourage a dispersal of visitors across the islands
- Who has oversight to motorhome centric development? Is anyone co-ordinating it and considering its impact?
- Visitor and resident needs need to be balanced
- Unrestricted camping/parking is having unintended consequences, support to address those impacts on communities is requried

Skye & Raasay Aerial Photographs - Iain Smith of Skye Photo Centre

The project teams initial response to points raised at the June workshops:

The broad support for the updated outcomes was noted. Updates will be made to reflect the strong desire to ensure that Skye remains a high quality place for everyone including those with additional care or support needs. Consideration will be given to how to make appropriate reference to the importance of tourism to the economy and the identity of the place.

The Parts: The Future

When asked to consider projects that will support a future thriving Skye & Raasay that has adapted to the impacts of climate change, common and differing ideas were raised by each of the sessions. A brief summary of each is included below:

Heat/energy and (public) transport were noted as the focus of conversations across all sessions.

Electric Vehicles

- Electric vehicle infrastructure for inhabitants and tourist is provided to ensure adverse impact on visitor choices does not occur
- Skills are retained on the island that can support the increased uptake of electric vehicles/infrastructure
- Availability of electric hire (cars and bikes) across the islands
- Confirmation that the grid can cope with the anticipated increased demand in electric vehicles and electricity generally
- Electric vehicle use should be incentivised on the islands

Tourism

- There is no islands wide tourism/visitor strategy going forward this need to be addressed and focuses on visitor experience, that is not car centric

(Public) Transport

- There is a need to ensure that rural and dispersed communities are not adversely impacted by the shift in mobility require by national policy. The increase in transport poverty needs to be anticipated and balanced by a 'just' transition approach to transport planning
- A net-zero transport plan co-ordinating services and transport investment across the islands is required
- A Skye and Raasay wide Active Travel Masterplan to support all developments to integrated with the active travel network is required
- Ferry services move to utilise hydrogen
- EV bike hire availability across the islands to increase transport choices for residents and visitors
- Public transport links are co-ordinated across service providers. Regular communication across service providers ensures local delivery matches with the regional planning and the transport partnerships
- Balance between private and community owned services to ensure bus accessibility, sizes, and frequency of services match the demand and need of island inhabitants and visitors. Providing a reliable and affordable alternative to private cars
- Research and act on the impact of the increased motorhome and traffic on the roads that were not designed to take such vehicles/loads
- Availability and enforcement of use of accessible parking across the island is addressed
- Connectivity with the central belt is improved through net-zero flights that meet local needs

Energy/Heat

- Quality control of alternative heating systems/ renewable energy/fabric renovations is monitored and the lack of choice and availability of providers is challenged
- Storage of energy and heat becomes viable, can the islands approach be informed by the lessons from Shetland/Orkney?
- The limitations of exporting energy off the island is addressed along with a challenge to the high tariffs applied to the islands
- Building fabric heat loss is systematically address and the best low impact heating solution/s for the island are identified which are informed by previous experience i.e. biomass imported from off island
- Natural resources are utilised across the island, increasing the local electricity production. Investigations into the viability of a local grid v the national grid may be an opportunity
- Confidence the grid can cope with a shift to renewables etc.
- Completion of a local energy study (this suggests that an increased visibility of the LHEES and the decarbonisation strategy may be beneficial)

Skye & Raasay Aerial Photographs - Iain Smith of Skye Photo Centre

The Parts: The Future cont.

Economy

- The islands approach to the circular economy needs strengthened, an overarching approach that encompasses the islands consumption and handling of waste locally is required
- The is an opportunity to greater support and promote the local supply chain and plan for the possible future production of materials/use of local resources
- Support is needed for island business to transition to a low carbon economy
- Greater availability of small-scale industrial space/ workshops to meet the service/construction/craft skills etc needs of the community

Culture/Heritage

- There is an opportunity for all projects to focus on the regeneration of language and culture
- The value of investing in culture is seen as an opportunity
- Culture and Gaelic are considered as important and cross cutting as climate change

Digital Connectivity

- Balance achieved between digital connectivity enabling remote working but not adversely impacting on house prices

Housing

- Key worker residence - the current barriers are removed and the availability issue is resolved
- Affordable housing is available across tenures, including affordable rent properties
- Social housing is available across the island

Landscape

- Higher level policy framework on aquaculture would be useful
- Balance achieved between ecological and landscape management issues
- Aquaculture - balance achieved between jobs and environmental impact

It was noted that while discussed, the following was not a focus when considering the future:

Climate Change/Risk

- There is a need to consider rising sea levels. Short term pressures/opportunities need to be considered against long term risks

Food Resilience/Agriculture

- How would food shortages be managed in the future? Affordability may also be an increasing issue, there was a high demand for the foodbank during pandemic

Skye & Raasay Aerial Photographs - Iain Smith of Skye Photo Centre

The project teams initial response to points raised at the June workshops:

The conversations held on 'The Parts' largely reaffirmed the established 'Outcomes and Priorities' but highlighted there is need for a better evidence base and strategy to deal with certain issues (e.g. housing and sustainable transport), greater support for community groups and consideration of vulnerable people. A range of ideas were put forward for how Skye and Raasay responds and adapts to climate change. Some of these already form part of established work (e.g. Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES), EV Charging Strategy) but many others require the identification of lead organisations to further investigate and develop them. We will highlight these ideas within the Investment Plan and flag up necessary actions.

The Process: Organising Ourselves

"The plan considers the area as a whole rather than small pockets of development, getting the pockets of development to work better together"

Workshop Participant Feedback

At the end of the group discussion THC highlighted the introduction of 'Organising Ourselves' priority, which has been added as a direct result of the feedback received from participants at the January workshop.

The intention is for the plan to be iterative, regularly reviewed and updated, to be owned by island stakeholders and to reflect the changing needs of the islands.

Each workshops raised common and divergent queries and challenges of the introduction of this new priority, a brief summary of each is included below:

Collaboration

- Collaboration = creation of more opportunities for good quality jobs
- Impact of collaboration cannot be overestimated
- The plan offers an opportunity to collaborate across projects for greater impact
- National organisations to be coordinated to better reflect the local projects. There could be more/ better alignment to achieve better outcomes for all (i.e., place principle in practice)
- The plan has great potential for collaboration and connections. Seeing everything written down is enabling and empowering
- This approach can enable change for the better

Membership of Project Board

- Project steering group needs to include community representation as this is not a plan for politicians or to tick boxes, it is for the community. The plan is to enable change for the better

Communication

- Ensure the plan enables better communication
- The project team have taken the right approach by getting input from people who deliver on the ground
- The best channels for communication are briefings, online announcements, newspaper articles, community council and social media
- Methods of interaction to be considered - online, papers , map, etc. Meet audience needs
- More explanation about what is going on already, an interactive map of projects and the signposting of funding will be beneficial
- A timeframe is important
- This offers an opportunity for people to see issues themselves and understand the context better
- A plan website to keep people up to date that community council and trust can 'own' or contribute
- Need to bring young people into the conversation
- There is a need to better understand the co-benefits that projects could deliver if increased collaboration
- What is/will be the mechanism for adding more projects? They will need to be clear if the plan is to be 'live'
- The plan needs to demonstrate success - to sell communities and stakeholders abilities to deliver
- Participants can see the benefit of this plan already, as a reference that allows people to seek info out themselves, it is an enabler/empowering
- Investment plan needs to show the important partnership working already taking place
- The plan should be bilingual
- Look at ways for people to feedback and input to the report as it comes together
- The plan should recognise that Skye and Raasay are not only recognised locally, but nationally, internationally, and globally

Purpose of the Plan and Role & Responsibility of the Project Board

- What are the assessment criteria for the projects that would be reviewed by the steering group? How would is ensure that there is a focus on both stakeholder and community needs being met?
- Ensure inclusion of disabled people and access panel at all stages of a projects, including early stages
- More action and less talk, outcomes that can be achieved are needed
- Strong community leadership is needed for the future, people who instigate change between locals and larger organisations
- Enable decision making to be open to people who have a voice and the local knowledge
- Honesty and transparency are critical
- Real action - how do we achieve this? Prioritising what happens/what does not?
- Use the plan for consultation for wider influence nationally to encourage change
- Support more community activism/social action
- Need to highlight the reasons why we are prioritising investment - there will always be winners and losers. Focus needs to be on what we are trying to achieve for the wider place, i.e. the islands of Skye & Raasay
- We need the plan to be a single voice, to lobby government and others to highlight the issues for our fair share of funding

Plan Review Period

- Review of the plan should be reactionary, dependent on work done/needed
- A year is too long for first review - the work is dynamic 3 or 4 months would be better
- First review within a year
- The plan needs to be iterative/reactionary to national priorities it also needs to establish timelines for delivery

The project teams initial response to points raised at the June workshops:

The initial engagements held in 2021 have triggered a new way of working across the people and groups and organisations working for Skye and Raasay. The success of the plan will rely on an effective ongoing process for delivery, and so the respective role and relationships between partners will be vital. Establishing a Board that comprises the partners involved will be an early action, and identifying Place Champions across all sectors that can act as immediate point could support day to day implementation. In addition, the plan can raise awareness of some of the funding opportunities that might benefit people and projects across the area.

SLCVO facilitated Third Sector Session

It was recognised as part of the development of an engagement plan that the project should invovle as wide a demographic on Skye and Raasay as possible, including typical hard to reach groups. Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO) agreed to act as a conduit for this process. In preparation SLCVO provided the third sector groups with a copy of the prioritisation exercise that forms part of the wider public survey which was available online.

Workshop

On 10th June A&DS, HIE and SLCVO convened a short workshop to enable the third sector group to feed back on their service users survey responses.

The organisations in attendance included:
Kyleakin Connections
Skye for All
Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel
Skye and Lochalsh Mental Health Association
Viewfield Garden Collective

Further representations were made through SCVLO from Highlife Youth Development and Skye Old Peoples Welfare.

Issues raised in the feedback are summarised on the following pages:

Housing

Comments noted that accessing social housing is tricky with people often on the emergency housing list or homeless for 6 months or more. Once housing is accessed if it is new build the quality is good and the heating costs economical. It was noted that in older properties heating was an issue and an area that would need to be addressed.

Accessibility and inclusion

Accessibility was the main focus of discussion with participants noting that those making and influencing change need to understand they could have mobility challenges in the future and should design for equality. It was noted that it is hard to access community and sports facilities and wheelchair users are unable to access swimming pools. There was a discussion on accessible parking spaces and that these are often in the wrong places and limited in number, and that short stay parking near shops is needed. In terms of sustainable development it was noted that accessibility of electric charging points should be considered moving forward as well as allowing people with mobility challenges access to free recycling uplifts.

A key piece of learning for the plan moving forward was that accessibility should be considered from the outset of a project to ensure nothing new is built that can not cater for all of Skye and Raasay's residents and visitors alike. It was reflected as a whole that the words accessible, equal and inclusive are currently missing from the list of priorities.

Local and National Objectives

A disconnect between national objectives/ delivery and local needs was considered with a recognition that national agencies need to acknowledge individual place based needs. Decision making should be made by people with the knowledge and not just those with a voice. Strong community leadership is needed for the future – people delivering change on the ground and not necessarily identified through an elective process. An example was cited that the new community hospital has been designed without an ensuite room that would accommodate a motorised wheelchair, and note that new facilities should be designed with the needs of all local people in mind.

Local shops and Economy

Accessible local shops and village centres are important, with the spending ability of people with disabilities often limited as they are unable access certain shops and services. Outlying villages should have better small shops, such as the Edinbane Community Shop and there should be more pop-up services like the pop-up Post Office, enabling people to access services locally.

Funding and Delivery

All participants to the workshop noted frustration at the limitations of year to year funding for continuing and effective services. It was also noted that funding amounts often don't allow for an increase for wage rises or inflation and so services are limited as a result. It was also noted that when a national issue is identified, new national initiatives are created rather than trusting and funding existing services to address that issue locally.

Digital Infrastructure

Availability of digital infrastructure is not seen as the key issue, or access to technology for appointments, it was noted that a number of service users did not have the capability to access services using these mediums and still need face to face support.

Healthcare Provision

Participants noted three main issues to overcome in the delivery of adequate health services - moving online, accessing services locally, and consistency in the professionals delivering the service . There was concern about the loss of face-to-face services and that a number of the participating organisations noted their service users struggled to access online healthcare appointments and that personal contact is needed for a number of reasons, often finding service users would come in for assistance to access the online appointment. It was suggested there needs to be face-to-face services particularly in the case of mental health support and older peoples care. It was noted that assisted technologies may also need to be made available if everything is moving online.

Waiting lists for health services are long with people then having to travel considerable distances for appointments - participants noted that centralised catchment areas are so wide that individual cultures of an area are lost. It was pointed out that once people do get an appointment continuation of care is tricky, with healthcare professionals often changing and locums being used, people have to explain their issues each time which can be tiring and leads to disengagement. Attracting and retaining healthcare professionals to Skye and Raasay was seen as important.

The project teams initial response to points raised at the June workshops:

The call to ensure that the outcomes and investment priorities reflect on the challenges of accessibility and inclusivity faced by certain parts of the population need to be very carefully considered on an ongoing basis and from the inception stage of a project or service enhancement. Following consultation feedback the 'Strengthen Communities' outcome has been updated to include the term 'inclusive'. Alongside the drive to enhance access to services by digital means, physical access to provision of services remains essential. The Future Plan will continue to work with the NHS, mental health support services and third sector social enterprise health providers, to help identify improvements in the provision of health care services that strike a careful balance between digital and face to face.

Online Consultation Responses

An online consultation based on questions rasied in both the January and June online stakeholder sessions, hosted by The Highland Councils website, was open to the general public between May and June 30th.

Participants were asked to respond to two questions.

Fifteen options were provided for participants to sort into order of prioritisation. The options provided were informed by participant contribtions and feedback from and on the January workshop.

The full detail of the responses is noted in the graphs on page 25. The top 5 priorities from each question are listed below.

Thinking about your daily life, what is most important today?
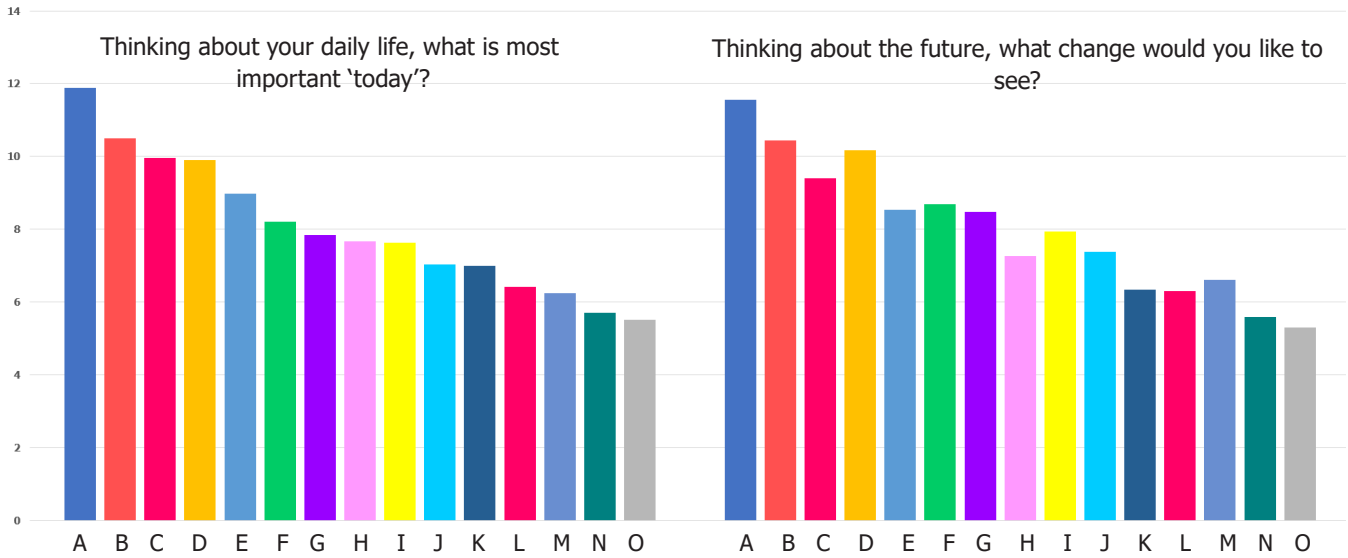
1. Housing is hard to to find, rarely affordable and expensive to heat

2. Tourism is badly managed, the benefits of tourism are not balanced with local needs

3. The public transport system is poor and disconnected, locals and tourists have to rely on private car

4. Our economy is not diverse enough – there are only jobs in certain sectors and not enough good opportunities for young people

5. We are unable to recruit enough health and education professionals

Thinking about the future, what change would you like to see?

1. Availability of affordable and accessible homes, that are energy efficient and not expensive to heat

2. Policies manage tourism and protect our natural and cultural assets, as a result Skye benefits economically from responsible tourism

3. A comprehensive and connected public transport system get locals and tourists to where they want to be

4. The economy is diverse with jobs in a number of sectors, there are good employment opportunities for young people and they remain on Skye and Raasay

5. I can access good healthcare digitally and locally as required, the older people in our community are valued and supported when needed

Thinking about your daily life, what is most important 'today'?

Thinking about the future, what change would you like to see?

A - Housing is hard to to find, rarely affordable and expensive to heat

B - Tourism is badly managed, the benefits of tourism are not balanced with local needs

C - The public transport system is poor and disconnected, locals and tourists have to rely on private car

D - Our economy is not diverse enough – there are only jobs in certain sectors and not enough good opportunities for young people

E - We are unable to recruit enough health and education professionals

F- It is hard to access healthcare and older people are not supported well enough

G - Digital infrastructure (internet and wifi) is poor

H - We are not addressing Climate Change well enough or benefiting from opportunities to use renewable energy

I - We are not organised well enough and are too slow to innovate and implement good ideas

J - There are not enough dedicated cycling and walking routes

K - We are not producing enough food locally

L - Waste management and recycling are an issue

M - Village centres are poor and I can't access the essentials there

N - It is hard to access community and sports facilities

O - There is not enough support for Gaelic/Crofting Cultures

A - Availability of affordable and accessible homes, that are energy efficient and not expensive to heat

B - Policies manage tourism and protect our natural and cultural assets, as a result Skye benefits economically from responsible tourism

C - A comprehensive and connected public transport system get locals and tourists to where they want to be

D - The economy is diverse with jobs in a number of sectors, there are good employment opportunities for young people and they remain on Skye and Raasay

E - It is easy to recruit professional to health and education roles in Skye and Raasay

F - I can access good healthcare digitally and locally as required, the older people in our community are valued and supported when needed

G - Digital infrastructure is excellent and remote working is popular

H - Skye reacted well to the Climate Change challenge and we generate enough renewable energy to be self sufficient

I - Good organisation enables the right new initiatives to develop quickly and efficiently to support our population

J - A network of dedicated active travel routes in the right places makes walking and cycling easy for locals and tourists

K - We produce healthy staple foods close to home

L - Waste and recycling are managed well and the place is clean and attractive

M - Village Centres are well organised and accessible and I can get the essentials there

N - Community and sports facilities are accessible and adequate

O - Gaelic and Crofting cultures are both thriving and well supported

Online Consultation Responses

The online survey offered the opportunity for participants to raise points for consideration. The following are a summary of the contributions, which are in addition to those previously raised by the January and June workshop attendees.

Skye and Raasay Future Plan

- Ensure core priorities are central to the plan and there is recognition that this a plan for and by our communities
- An investment plan for the future is a moving feast and the project teams should amend priorities over time
- We need to understand who will make decisions and how will plans become actions
- Communication could improve, in future send briefings to development trusts, community councils, churches, businesses and voluntary organisations
- The plan is a very comprehensive list of aims
- The plan could offer an opportunity for The Highland Council to ensure investment is spread across the region
- This agenda will need to protect itself from being side-tracked by false economies, and external agendas
- There should be representation of people and organisations who have lived experience of disabilities

Organising Ourselves

- The plan should be led by the community not businesses
- There needs to be on the ground development where community can see change
- There should be regular consultation with the wider public on future developments on Skye and Raasay
- If communities are expected to lead, more resources must be made available to community groups
- An overall plan is needed for each village and township
- Communities should be fully consulted on these plans
- THC and HIE have the officer resource to keep momentum, so should continue to facilitate
- A local board should be established to help steer decisions and direction linking directly with community
- Wide consultation is required, especially if community resilience is part of the goal

Sport and Recreation

- Look at sports provision as facilities offer added benefits
- Some sporting facility upgrades such as a grandstand at Pairc nan Laoch to allow the island to host shinty finals
- An all weather, community-run pitch in the south of Skye
- A viewing gallery at the Fingal Centre sports hall

Housing

- The plan should include infrastructure to accommodate new housing
- Housing is too expensive for young locals, as a result businesses cannot recruit staff
- Second homes and Air BnB are at odds with sustaining a residential population
- Housing, access to land and the fair distribution of wealth should be top of the agenda
- There are no rental properties, the housing register is full and with low availability and locals can't afford the housing market here - even with government support

Diverse Local Economy

- Skye should develop a strategy that looks beyond tourism and creates a culture of innovation. A plan that offers diverse career choices for young people through a diversification of the economy
- Local businesses should be supported and Skye should avoid introducing large supermarket shops
- There should be a diverse choice of supermarkets

Accessibility and inclusion

- Delivering projects that are inclusive and accessible for disabled people also makes it easier for others
- If facilities are inaccessible they are missing out on revenue from disabled customers and visitors
- Get the correct advice to make everything inclusive and accessible, from the concept of provision of any services

Digital Infrastructure

- Good broadband and mobile telephone signal across the whole island is vital for living and work opportunities

Transport and Infrastructure

- The roads need to be fixed and maintained
- There should be fairer parking charges for locals
- The airstrip should not be a priority investment, as it will bring more tourists and infrastructure is stuggling to cope
- Development of the harbour i.e the installation of local and visitor pontoons would be a sensible move
- Some participants noted Portree Harbour and Pier should be improved - others argue there should be no change
- Electric vehicle charging provision needs to be improved

Gaelic

- Gaelic should be at the forefront of the investment plan
- Gaelic language, culture, and crofting, are important. Proper support for these will lead to meeting all the issues for the benefit of the community
- There is currently too much emphasis on Gaelic signage

Climate Change

- Developing renewable resources will diversify economies and produce skilled employment for young islanders
- Nature and biodiversity must play a vital part and this must be protected and cared for. Climate change, waste, and habitat destruction must be addressed
- The Skye and Raasay Investment Plan must be aligned with Scottish Government targets on climate change. All developments should be audited against climate impact

Landscape, productivity and biodiversity

- Invest in farming, much of the good quality land on for food production seems under utilised - there needs to be a fresh look at the crofting and grazings model
- Much of Skye lacks biodiversity, there are few remnants of native woodland any investment should be looking at how it can make biodiversity improvements
- The landscape as a working environment is ignored by most visitors. We risk losing Skye's unique landscape
- Local food and produce is available but producers need the means to make this sustainable.
- The environment should be represented in this plan

Children, Families and Young People

- A good playpark in Portree is needed
- A focus on children is important, there should be indoor activities for them
- Everything is geared towards tourism, it leaves nothing for people to do during the winter, for our young adults
- For families, Skye is becoming a less attractive place, it is expensive, with no childcare - limiting work opportunities

Balancing Visitors and Residents needs

- Investment should benefit residents before tourists. Parking benefits locals and tourists alike but we need better healthcare, housing and amenities to benefit all
- Tourism activities need to be made sustainable but ensuring a stable, young and healthy population with affordable residential opportunities is vital
- Skye should not just be seen as a resource or asset, it is a place for living. Investments should prioritise this
- If tourism is to be sustainable then investment is required in facilities, improved public toilets, campervan parks with electricity and waste disposal facilities
- A tourist tax is required, plus an education programme

National/ Regional and Local focus

- The ward, community companies and trusts, need better access to expertise and funding to implement projects
- The business of going to Inverness, Edinburgh and London to get support is inefficient. Central government needs to act as facilitator, local empowerment is needed
- We have the capacity to deliver better value solutions locally. All we need is resources and the permission
- The priorities should include localising decision making, to act on issues such as the falling school roll
- Ensure that any investment is spread equally geographically
- Recently there is a lower level of middle and senior management voice in Highland Council with a Skye voice
- Tolls reinstated on the bridge, with exemption for locals funds could be used for toilets, local services etc.

A&DS Analysis and Conclusions

The Breakout Room discussions and survey responses offered further insight into the current issues on the islands and their alignment with the plan's priorities but also insight into current thinking around possible collaborative projects that could enable a thriving and deliver a climate adapted Skye & Raasay.

Several insights emerged from this series of workshops which could be used to inform the draft plan and the project teams next steps.

Inclusivity as a Driver

Accessibility and inclusivity do not feature in the narrative for the island priorities. We would recommend that is addressed and the feedback from workshop participants in relation to their experience is acknowledged by the plan.

We would also recommend that the findings of the Just Transition Commission are noted and area used inform future approaches to inclusivity, especially when establishing pathways to tackle the impacts of climate change.

https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-commission-national-mission-fairer-greener-scotland/

Positive Momentum

This second series of workshops has enabled links and witnessed collaborative working within a number of the sessions. The work undertaken by the project team to understand the projects, stakeholders and potential synergies to inform the workshop design, has already been beneficial. It is important to maintain this positive momentum.

The plan and the methods selected to communicate its content, the review frequency and approach to

project governance should enable the continuation of this positive partnership approach. It would also be beneficial to outline the intended use for the plan in the near future. This would compound the intention shared at the workshops by THC/HIE that the plans future is 'not on a shelf'.

Enabling Interaction

It is clear that availability of resources is having an impact. National organisations, local authorities, local services, the third sector and volunteer organisations are negotiating the impacts of the pandemic and reducing budgets. One of the plans purposes is to improve the prospects of securing funding by demonstrating the value of partnership working. Collaboration is not always straightforward or without challenge, however, to enable organisations such as the third sector, private businesses, and community groups to contribute the following would be beneficial:

- Clear signposting to funding opportunities, built on the work already delivered by the Ward Manager
- Enable a mutual support network the potential of which was witnessed throughout the sessions
- Clarity – a clear purpose, mechanism for engagement with and ability to contribute easily to, the update of the plan, would be beneficial. Tailoring of communications to suit the intended audience would support continued engagement.
- Keep the plan content and language as clear and accessible as possible. Clarity of message will benefit project stakeholders, but also the intended audience

Project Governance

Clarity of the roles, responsibilities and membership of the Project Board is required. As the plan is not only owned by THC and HIE, there is a need to identify and establish the role of the community membership

of the Board. Workshop discussions highlighted that this could not only by community council and trust members, but community representatives. It may be beneficial to ensure that the islands youth are represented as the island's future, is their future.

The frequency of plan updates and/or reviews would benefit from being established when the plan is launched to ensure the positive momentum achieved to date continues. The mechanisms for engaging with the plan and review need to be as simple and clear as possible to ensure the reach into the communities is maintained and extended.

Additional Plan Content

The plan offers the opportunity to champion the positive work undertaken by stakeholders and communities to date, highlighting their capabilities and capacity to deliver. In addition, a number of workshop discussions have highlighted the desire to including a couple of short case studies to provide insight into curent challenges being experience and innovation being delivered by the islands.

- Could work undertaken to date across the island, especially throughout the pandemic demonstrate the island community's resilience, but also their emerging needs?
- There are a number of exciting projects being delivered across the islands, the stacking of project programmes is having an impact on volunteer capacity, this could demonstrate the need for assistance with co-ordination. There is also the opportunity to highlight the impact on community projects following the increase in costs (but not funding increases) caused by the pandemic, Brexit and the Suez Canal blockage.

Planning for the Impacts of Climate Change

Facilitators noted the lack of discussion on climate risk and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation that may be required on the islands and to its systems in the near- and longer-term future within the workshops. It was however, observed that the impacts of climate change were raised by a greater number of participants in the online survey. There are number of pieces of work being undertaken by The Highland Council around heat and energy (LHEES) and adaption (Highland Adapts). Increased awareness of the purpose of this work amongst island inhabitants may lead to an increased urgency to focus on this issue.

Children and Young People

Contributions to the workshops and online consultation from, and representing, the needs of children and young people were minimal. We would encourage the plan to reference the cross generational needs of the islands.

Next Steps

The findings from the workshop discussions will help guide the Skye and Raasy Future Plan team with the preprations for the next steps of the process:

- Completion of the collaborativley drafted plan
- Draft plan shared at the 2nd August Ward Business Meeting and 30th August THC Committee Meeting
- Stakeholder input on draft plan post 30th August

Taking account of the feedback and lessons learned from the Skye & Raasay work, a report is expected to be reported to Council in late 2021 outlining how similar place plans for the future might be developed with communities across Highland and how different sectors might work better together.

Appendix I Workshop Participants and Agenda

Participants:

Marion Anderson	Ionad Throndairnis
Sharon Campbell	An Crubh
Sarah Cardino	Viewfield Garden Collective
Simon Clayton	Staffin Community Council
Mark Crowe	Skye Cycle Project
Alistair Danter	Skye Connect
Cllr John Finlayson	
Jo-Anne Ford	Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations
Hamish Fraser	Broadford & Strath Community Council
Iain Galbraith	Rural Design
Jeff Geary	Broadaford & Strath Community Company
Cllr John Gordon	
Caroline Gould	Skye & Lochalsh Access Panel
Claire Gray	Glendale Community Trust
Mark Harvey	Planning Team Leader
Alex Jones	Skye & Lochalsh Mental Health Association
Suzy Lee	Radio Skye
Sarah Lister	Skye for All
John McHardy	THC Housing Development Manager
Iain McIvor	Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association
Catriona MacDonald	Ritchie Report Steering Group
Martin MacGillivray	Sleat Community Trust
Andrew MacIver	THC Principal Engineer
Ross MacKenzie	NHSH
Cllr Calum MacLeod	
Charlene MacLeod	Kyleakin Connections
Elizabeth MacLeod	Raasay Development Trust
Neil MacRae	Hi-Trans
Ronnie MacRae	Community Housing Trust
Henrik Micski	Minginish Community Hall Association
Richie Morgan	Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd

Norma Morrison	Broadford & Strath Community Council
Cllr Calum Munro	
Donnie Munro	Sabhal Mor Ostaig
Andrew Prendegast	Edinbane Community Company
Hugh Ross	Staffin Community Trust
Peggy Semler	Struan Community Development Group
Tim Shone	Sleat Community Council
Bryan Stout	THC Principal Engineer
Murray Swapp	Skye Iconic Sites
Dave Till	Skye Connect
Fay Thomson	Portree & Braes Coummunity Council
Fiona Thomson	Portree & Braes Community Trust
Alex Turner	NatureScot
Rob Ware	Sleat Community Trust
Ally Young	Staffin Campsite
Neil Young	THC Principal Traffic Officer

Skye and Raasay Investment Plan Team:

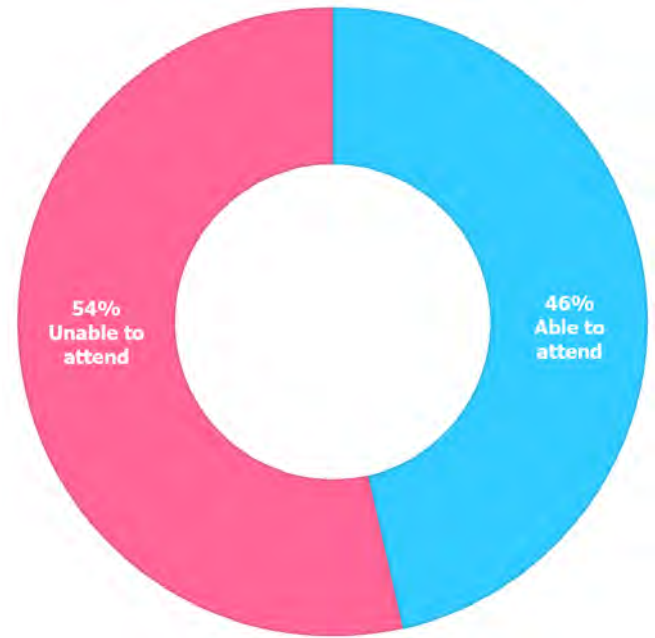|	
Scott Dalgarno	THC Development Plans Manager
Stuart MacPherson	HIE Head of Strategic Projects
Willie MacKinnon	THC Ward Manager
Douglas Chisolm	THC Planner
Pablo Mascarenhas	THC Community & Democratic Engagement Manager

Facilitators:

Karen Ridgewell	A&DS
Laura Hainey	A&DS

Miro Aides

David Fletcher	A&DS
Alex Laurenson	A&DS

Attendance

Over 100 representatives from 80 local organisations which included housing, educational and national bodies, community councils, community and development trusts, The Highland Council and private businesses, were invited to attend the workshop sessions. Despite the current situation surrounding Covid-19 and the limitations of online consultation sessions, an attendance rate of 46% was achieved.

54% Unable to attend

46% Able to attend

Agenda:

• Welcome	THC/HIE
• Reminder of the Purpose of the Plan	THC
• Session Format	A&DS

The Place
• Updated Priorities	THC

The Parts
• Break Out Rooms	A&DS

Project/Priority Alignments
Identification of opportunities/omissions - thinking of the future Skye & Raasay that is thriving and climate resilient

The Process
• Organising Ourseleves	THC
• Marketing - plan title	A&DS
• Summary and Next steps	THC
• Evaluation	A&DS

Appendix II
Workshop Feedback

THC and HIE identified and invited workshop participants from 84 local Housing, Educational and National Organisations, Community Councils, Community and Development Trusts, The Highland Council and private business. The following diagrams demonstrate the proportionality of invitees and atttendees.

% of Sector Workshop Invitees - by A&DS

% of Sector Workshop Attendees - by A&DS

Feedback was received from workshop's participants through an online form. The following is a summary of responses:

1. How effective was the workshop in reflecting on and analysing the projects as part of the Skye and Raasay Investment Plan

On a scale of 0 -10 where 10 is highly effective

Average Score 8

2. One key benefit of participating in the workshop was...
- Encouraging all communities and organisations to look ahead at what their needs for funding are, and ensuring that THC knows what the spend requests are in advance and can allocate the funds fairly. In the past, I perceive that money has been allocated at the start of the 5 years and then there is nothing left for projects which come live later. But 5 years is a long time, I hope there will also be finance set aside for smaller essential work which might crop up.
- Becoming aware of the degree of consensus that exists around what is needed on Skye & Raasay
- Gaining a sense of coherence
- The opportunity to find out about all the proposals being developed in the area
- Hearing of the issues in other locations and hearing the views of other participants. Highlight other key areas not mentioned
- Finding out about other areas priorities

3. One thing I know now that I didn't know before is...

- How to use technology for meetings! A small thing, but it's useful for communities too, to be able to meet and discuss business without being physically present.
- As SkyeConnect is quite an encompassing organisation at the heart of Tourism I was aware of the majority of issues
- Some useful information on energy funding
- The innovative work going on in Raasay
- About the group, the participants and the project listed
- Highland Council are now charging at electric charging points

4. What change(s) would have improved your experience of the workshop

- I was stuck in the meeting room after the first meeting because I didn't know how to rejoin the main group. Scott sorted that this time, but it might be helpful to let people like me know what to do at the start.
- face to face ....
- I wasn't clear if we were only to discuss Portree and Raasay or did we get stuck and not have time to hear about the other areas i.e. were the workshops decided on a geographic or topic basis?
- No I think it was well organised and well put together considering the IT functions used in current Covid conditions
- More advice beforehand on what we would be asked to contribute.

5. How likely is it that you will work more collaboratively with other projects in Skye and Raasay following this worksho

On a scale of 0 -10 where 10 is highly effective

Average Score 8.5

6. How likely are you to recommend Architecture and Design Scotland to a friend or colleague?

On a scale of 0 -10 where 10 is highly effective

Average Score 8

Appendix III
Plan Title

The name of the plan is important, the project team want to ensure collective ownership is reflected in its title. During the workshop and online consultation participants were invited to contribute to word cloud generators, listing the words they would both like and NOT like to see included within the title of the plan.

Please note, the larger the size of the text, the greater number of people included the word within their response.

Wordclouds generated by the June Workshop attendees

Wordclouds generated by the Online Survey participants