

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Agenda Item	4
Report No	ECI/6/20

Committee: Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Date: 01 July 2020

Report Title: National Planning Framework 4 and the Highland Development Plan Scheme 2020

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report seeks approval for two key documents that will allow the Council to promote the Highland region and engage our communities in the preparation of the development plan during the ongoing period of social distancing. The first seeks approval by homologation of the Council's response to Scottish Government's recent Call for Ideas consultation on the new National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Alongside, approval is sought for the next steps of engagement in preparing the Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (IRSS) for Highland, which will lead to the IRSS being brought to Committee for approval ahead of its submission to inform the next stage of NPF4. Finally, the report presents the Highland Development Plan Scheme 2020 for approval which confirms how it is intended to engage our communities and stakeholders while social distancing measures are in place.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. **agree**, by homologation, the responses that were submitted to Scottish Government's NPF4 'Call for Ideas' at **Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4**;
- ii. **note** the update on the emerging Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (IRSS) for Highland and **approve** the next steps of engagement for finalising the IRSS, including a Member workshop, as set out at paragraph 4.4 of the report and at **Appendix 5**;
- iii. **approve** the 2020 Development Plans Newsletter at **Appendix 6** – including our approach to engaging communities and partners while social distancing measures are in place - for publication, and submission to Scottish Ministers as the Council's 2020 Development Plan Scheme; and
- iv. **note** the timescales for member and community input to documents that may be relevant or of interest to the communities and areas that they cover.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource: The resource implications of our Development Plan work are reflected in the timescales set out in the enclosed Newsletter. Progress towards meeting these project timescales are monitored as part of the existing work programme of the Development Plans team. The production of Regional Spatial Strategies will be a new statutory responsibility but ahead of that the work on the IRSS and other inputs to NPF4 are

effectively balanced by largely placing 'on hold' the review of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.

- 3.2 Legal: It is not anticipated that there will be any legal implications for the Council.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural): All communities will be consulted with, and given the chance to influence development within their area through making representations to emerging Local Development Plans. NPF4 (including region-focussed content) will be consulted on by Scottish Government. All consultation documents are made available on the internet with alerts placed on social media to raise awareness and reach out to all communities.
- 3.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever: It is vital that NPF4 ensures that the planning system plays its full role in addressing climate change issues – and this is fundamental to our submissions on NPF4 and our emerging Highland IRSS.
- 3.5 Risk: No implications.
- 3.6 Gaelic: There are no Gaelic implications arising from this paper.

4. National Planning Framework 4

- 4.1 The Scottish Government has started work on a new National Planning Framework (NPF4), which will incorporate Scottish Planning Policy and, when finalised, will be part of the Development Plan for the first time. As part of early engagement in the preparation of NPF4, the Scottish Government launched a 'Call for Ideas' in January this year, with a deadline for response of the end of March which was extended (in light of the coronavirus pandemic) to 30 April 2020. Engagement materials were published by Scottish Government over the first few weeks of the engagement period, on the website <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/> and a number of roadshow events were held, although some had to be cancelled due to the virus. Planning Authorities were also invited to prepare Indicative Regional Spatial Strategies (IRSS) to inform NPF4, potentially doing so as part of a regional grouping with other authorities. The timescale indicated for submission of that was the end of June; however, in a letter dated 29 May 2020 the Scottish Government advised that the overall timescales for NPF4 preparation have been revised, with Draft NPF4 not now expected to be laid before Parliament and opened for consultation until Autumn 2021 (previously Autumn 2020). This will have some knock-on effect for the timescales for transition to the new Development Plan making provisions of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (including but not limited to the introduction of statutory provisions for the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies). In the meantime, the timescale for submission of the IRSS has been extended to mid September 2020, with an update on progress to be provided by us by the end of June.
- 4.2 Council officers have prepared and submitted to Scottish Government an overarching response to the Call for Ideas ([Appendix 1](#)), more detailed submissions on candidate National Developments ([Appendix 2](#)) and on Policy Topics ([Appendix 3](#)) and a response to the Housing Technical Paper consultation ([Appendix 4](#)). We held a workshop for Members on 9 March to help inform preparation of our response, which we have also discussed with a number of key stakeholders. Committee is asked to **homologate** the response in **Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4**. Please note that given the size of these first four appendices they are not enclosed within the Committee papers and are instead available on the hyperlinks above or by following the links which can be found at the end of the report. **Appendices 5 and 6** are enclosed with the Committee papers.

- 4.3 This is a vital opportunity to raise Highland's profile on the national stage and to show how our communities **and** our area's unique set of assets and resources can make a vital contribution to national outcomes. To set the framework for the IRSS the emerging vision for Highland is as follows:

“Our emerging vision is for Highland by 2050 to be an exemplar net zero carbon region which optimises its unique position in leading national emissions reduction targets whilst making best use of our land and water assets and our natural and heritage resources.

In the future, Highland communities will adapt to become locally resilient and self-supporting – in their access to housing, education, healthcare, work, food, energy, transport and leisure opportunities – and served by high quality physical and virtual connections. Our economy will adapt and prosper with a unique, unmatched environment in which to invest and one which sustains and grows local jobs and opportunities. This will bolster the Highland brand which will continue to attract a strong, sustainable and net-zero tourism industry.

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

- 4.4 **Appendix 5** outlines the emerging Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (IRSS) for Highland which represents our proposition for Highland in the national context in the period to 2050. Committee is asked to **note** this and to **approve** the next steps set out for engagement and for finalising the IRSS. A stakeholder engagement event that was due to take place at the end of March to help develop the IRSS had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus restrictions. An online consultation with stakeholders combined with some individual topic meetings, combined with cross-fertilisation of ideas and information between this work and other projects, has helped to fill that gap. The extension of the deadline for submission of the IRSS, to mid September, provides some further opportunity for engagement – in particular, five stakeholder workshops (held virtually) based on Scottish Government's five overarching questions for NPF4 engagement which we also used as a framework for our overarching submission to the Call for Ideas (**Appendix 1**). As part of the further engagement on the emerging IRSS, it is also proposed that a virtual workshop event be held with Members and an update will be given at the Committee meeting on intentions for this, including ways to understand how each area of Highland might contribute to our vision for the future and national outcomes. The timeline also provides for the IRSS to be brought to ECI Committee on 2 September (based on the currently published Committee timetable), for approval prior to submission to Scottish Government.

5. The 2020 Development Plans Scheme (Newsletter)

- 5.1 Planning legislation requires that all local authorities publish a Development Plan Scheme (DPS) outlining the timescales for preparing and consulting upon development plan documents.
- 5.2 The coronavirus pandemic and the necessary lockdown and social distancing measures clearly have some impact on development plan preparation, particularly in terms of site visits, public engagement and decision-making. In a letter dated 29 May 2020 to Heads of Planning, Scottish Government has provided informal advice on development planning in the period ahead of the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and new system of local development plans emerging – aiming to continue a plan-led system that is well placed to enable good quality development that meets Scotland's needs, as we

begin to recover from the current restrictions. Indeed, the Development Plan is likely to play an important role in our recovery from the impacts of the pandemic alongside addressing the climate and ecological emergency. Interim guidance on consultation and engagement in development planning has also been provided by Scottish Government in light of those restrictions. It indicates that Planning Authorities can usefully make clear any changes to consultation arrangements by amending the Participation Statement in their Development Plan Scheme.

- 5.3 Therefore, this year's newsletter looks slightly different as it focuses on the changes we have made to continue community and stakeholder involvement while social distancing measures are in place. The most important update for this year is therefore our Participation Statement (see below) which has been updated to reflect our commitment to working with our customers in these more challenging circumstances. In line with Scottish Government guidance we will be looking to enhance digital methods of engagement using our online consultation portal and other online tools and methods of engagement. Our focus over the next year will be to continue the review of the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan and to coordinate the Council's input to the National Planning Framework which, alongside wider changes to the planning system in Scotland, has been delayed by the pandemic.

Participation Statement

1. We will continue to use our online development plan webpages www.highland.gov.uk/devplans and corresponding consultation portal <http://consult.highland.gov.uk/> as the central location for engaging on our plans. Those that have registered through the portal will receive updates and announcements at key stages of development plan preparation.
 2. We will produce interactive online documents that are easy to read and comment upon, and which include clear maps and graphics.
 3. We will share online guides, videos or webinars to share information on our main consultations and look into options for holding meetings with particular groups and about specific issues.
 4. We will make announcements at key stages using a range of media including social media to keep you up to date and let you know how and when you can get involved.
 5. We will continue to liaise with statutory agencies and community groups at key stages to encourage them to participate.
 6. In the event that libraries re-open we will provide copies of consultation documents for viewing.
 7. In the event that the ban on public meetings is lifted we will review options for face to face events.
 8. We will continue to notify the immediate neighbours of potential development sites at both the Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan stages of our Area Local Development Plans.
 9. We will monitor feedback on our engagement methods and respond to requests to carry out other forms of engagement and/or extend periods of consultation.
- 5.4 Full details of these updates are set out in the Newsletter in **Appendix 6**. The content has been updated to track performance against timescales set out in the 2019 Newsletter, and to provide an indicative programme for preparation of Local Development Plans, Development Briefs and Supplementary Guidance.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure and Environment

Date: 7 June 2020

Author: Scott Dalgarno, Development Plans Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 [https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22596/npf4_call_for_ideas -
_highland council final submission](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22596/npf4_call_for_ideas_-_highland_council_final_submission)

Appendix 2 [https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22593/npf4_call_for_ideas -
_candidate nation developments - highland council final submission](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22593/npf4_call_for_ideas_-_candidate_nation_developments_-_highland_council_final_submission)

Appendix 3 [https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22594/npf4_call_for_ideas -
_policy topics - highland council final submission](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22594/npf4_call_for_ideas_-_policy_topics_-_highland_council_final_submission)

Appendix 4 [https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22595/npf4_call_for_ideas -
_housing technical discussion paper - highland council final submission](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22595/npf4_call_for_ideas_-_housing_technical_discussion_paper_-_highland_council_final_submission)

Appendix 5 – Update on the emerging Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (IRSS) for Highland and the next steps of engagement and for finalising the IRSS

- 1) The Highland Council is leading preparation of an Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy for the Highland area. The potential for regional groupings was discussed with neighbouring authorities and the outcome was that, notwithstanding that we may have some shared and joint issues and a keenness to engage and be engaged in those, each authority is minded to prepare an RSS (initially IRSS) for its own area. Scottish Government's Chief Planner has indicated appreciation for the particular scale and challenges of the issues for Highland and supports our proposed approach to focusing on the area as a region in its own right, whilst also recognising the importance of existing partnership arrangements and wider ongoing work (such as the STPR2). Part of Highland Council's area is within the Cairngorms National Park and it is understood that the Cairngorms National Park Authority intends to address RSS requirements for its area, for which existing partnership arrangements for the National Park will assist.
- 2) We are making progress in preparing the IRSS for Highland. We have engaged so far with elected Members, various Council services and specialisms, as well as a number of external 'partners' and key stakeholder organisations. Our approach has been to do this in an integrated way with our other work preparing the Council's response to the NPF4 Call for Ideas. In our view thinking about regional priorities, outcomes sought and the locations and forms of national and strategic developments go together and hand-in-hand with considering how Scottish planning policies can help to deliver these things.
- 3) To that end we have undertaken brainstorming sessions with internal and some external colleagues, going through an iterative process of drafting a Highland Council position for NPF4 (including IRSS) that seeks to take account of the views of a range of organisations, specialisms and interests and, where appropriate, align with their position on key issues. We had planned as part of this iterative process to hold a workshop with key stakeholders in late March. Unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic led to us cancelling that event. However, as our draft submission for NPF4 was taking some shape by then (including a first draft IRSS), we made that document available to those who had contributed to that point and to some additional key stakeholders - and invited feedback by 17 April. The document on which we sought feedback packaged the work outputs under the following sections:
 - 1 - Vision and Outcomes for Highland
 - 2 - Draft Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy for Highland (including: a Spatial Strategy Diagram; suggested National and Strategic Developments; Regional Priorities for the Delivery of Strategic Developments; Proposed Locations of Strategic Development; and a Table relating the Strategic Development to the Outcomes)
 - 3 - General Planning Policies - Proposed Highland Input

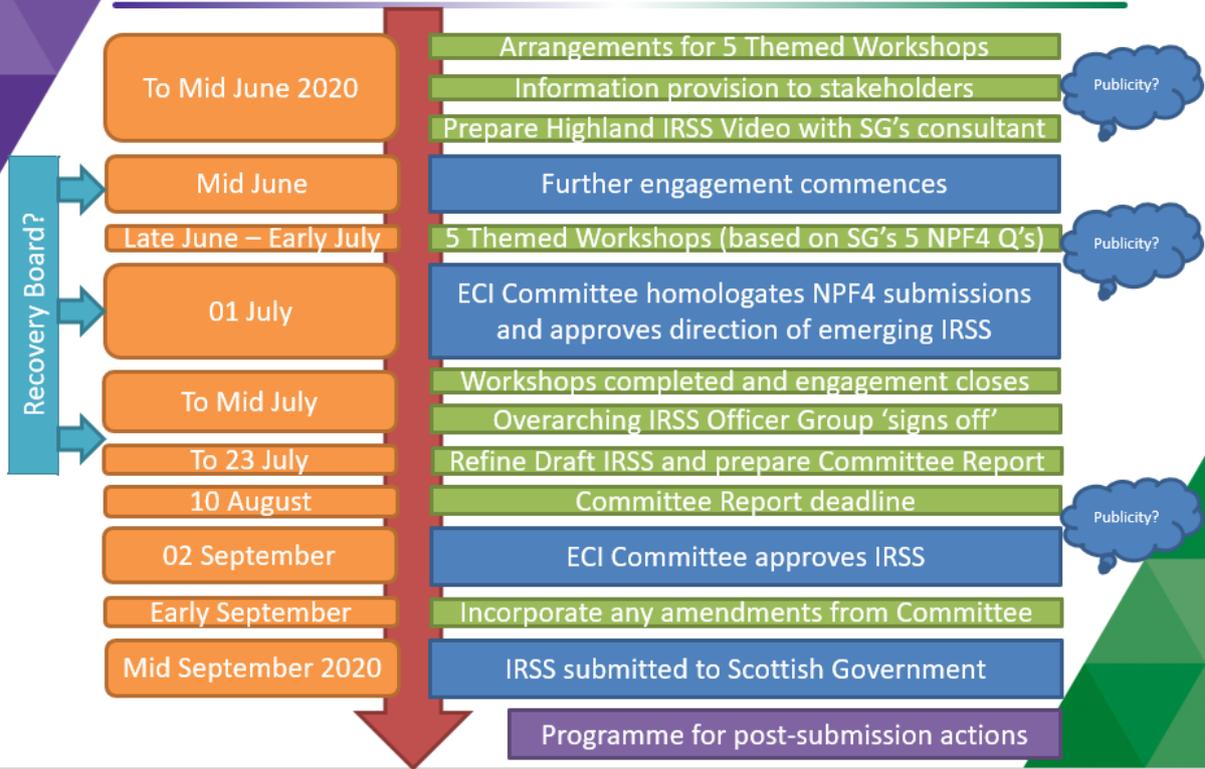
We have additionally held a number of individual topic or theme meetings with key stakeholders.

- 4) We subsequently worked through and considered the feedback received. We see some advantages in such a single, integrated document explaining our

thinking across these elements. However, due to the tight timescale for submission to Scottish Government of our feedback on National Developments and Scottish Planning Policies, we pulled those elements out for submission – albeit that we provided an overarching response too, to tie it together and set the emerging IRSS context, for example by providing the emerging IRSS vision for Highland. The IRSS itself is therefore able to benefit from more time for review and discussion to help refine it further, before finalising and submitting it to Scottish Government by the extended deadline of mid September.

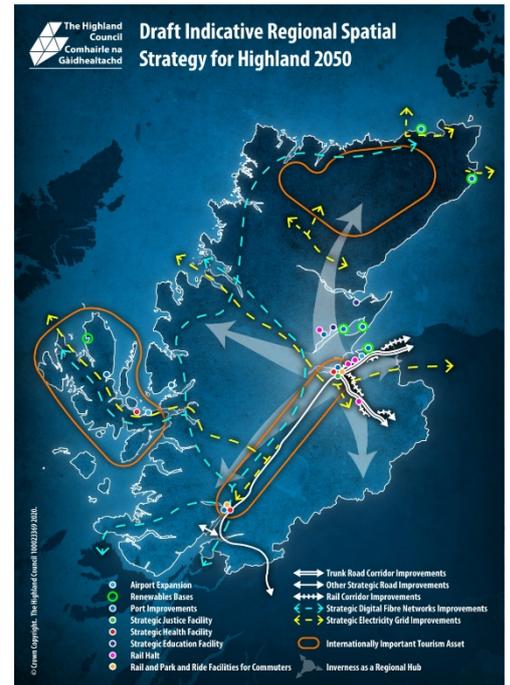
- 5) We are confident that the IRSS is taking shape and will contain the key elements required, based on the necessary engagement ahead of statutory RSS arrangements coming into play. In working the IRSS up further, we are keen to further explain the purpose of each of the elements and how they relate to each other. We have been working on ensuring that the Climate and Ecological Emergency theme clearly runs through the IRSS and is to the fore. This relates to our Council's and partners' ongoing and emergent work on issues such as modal shift, active travel and local energy planning and is being informed by our parallel work on the Review of the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan for which we are preparing the Main Issues Report. There is acknowledgement amongst internal and external stakeholders as to the important opportunity that NPF4 and the IRSS provide - and a keenness to be involved. The current COVID-19 situation has understandably limited the amount of time that people have available to engage at the moment, given pressing priorities in aiding the response to the pandemic and the economic fallout. We have been fortunate to receive quite extensive input to the IRSS on transport and energy issues but have had limited input so far on matters of the economy and health.
- 6) The extension of the deadline for submission of the IRSS, to mid September 2020, provides some further opportunity for engagement – in particular, five stakeholder workshops (held virtually) based on Scottish Government's five overarching questions for NPF4 engagement which we also used as a framework for our overarching submission to the Call for Ideas (Appendix 1). As part of this further engagement we are endeavouring to fill the gaps on economy and health – and in particular for the IRSS to be joined up with early work on economic recovery from the pandemic. As part of the further engagement on the emerging IRSS, it is also proposed that a virtual workshop event be held with Members and an update will be given at the ECI Committee meeting on 01 July on intentions for this. The timeline also provides for the IRSS to be brought to ECI Committee on 02 September (based on the currently published Committee timetable), for approval prior to submission to Scottish Government.

Highland IRSS – Next Steps



June 2020

This is the annual update of the Highland Council's Development Plans Newsletter which provides an overview of the timetable for preparing land use planning documents for the Highland Council area. This year's newsletter looks slightly different as it focuses on the changes we have made to continue to engage people in the preparation of development plans while social distancing measures in place related to COVID-19. The pandemic has forced us to adapt how we live our lives, and how our communities are designed for work, education, shopping and leisure activities. However, development plans will play an important role in our recovery from the impacts of the pandemic, and government guidance has encouraged local authorities to find innovative ways to engage with communities and other stakeholders. This newsletter also acts as the Council's **Development Plan Scheme** that we submit annually to Scottish Government.



What is the Development Plan?

The Development Plan is a set of documents that guide where and how new building and development can take place across Highland *. These documents include Local Development Plans (LDPs) that set out policies and site allocations, and Supplementary Guidance (SG) which contain more detailed guidance on specific issues or places. Planning applications for all types of development are assessed against these documents so it's important that people know when and how they can input to them. The best place to view and comment on Development Plans in Highland is the Council's website or the online Development Plans consultation portal:

www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans <http://consult.highland.gov.uk/>

* Note that the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) prepare their own Development Plan – see www.cairngorms.co.uk.

What's happening now and looking ahead

Our focus over the next year will be to continue the review of the **Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan** and to coordinate the Council's input to the **National Planning Framework** which, alongside wider changes to the planning system in Scotland, has been delayed by the pandemic. We would particularly like to get people's input on how the Council's strategy for development and investment steers our economic recovery whilst addressing the climate and ecological emergency. We are also likely to be providing advice on certain proposals for regeneration and economic recovery in terms of their alignment and compatibility with the Development Plan. We will also be completing tasks relating to the implementation of our adopted plans, and carrying out essential monitoring work including the **Housing Need and Demand Assessment**, **Housing Land Audit** and **Renewables** monitoring. Our work to review the Highland-wide Local Development Plan will not commence until we get an understanding of the emerging National Planning Framework which will set out a suite of new national planning policies.

As the Council's planning team is entirely working from home all interactions with customers, partners and colleagues is by electronic means. There has been a period of committee meetings being cancelled, staff being redeployed to other duties as part of the Council's COVID-19 response and ongoing restrictions on face to face public meetings. In light of this, the most important update for this year is our **Participation Statement** below which has been updated to reflect our commitment to working with our customers in more challenging circumstances.

Our Participation Statement:

1. We will continue to use our online development plan webpages www.highland.gov.uk/devplans and corresponding consultation portal <http://consult.highland.gov.uk/> as the central location for engaging on our plans. Those that have registered through the portal will receive updates and announcements at key stages of development plan preparation.
2. We will produce interactive online documents that are easy to read and comment upon, and which include clear maps and graphics.
3. We will share online guides, videos or webinars to share information on our main consultations and look into options for holding meetings with particular groups and about specific issues.
4. We will make announcements at key stages using a range of media including social media to keep you up to date and let you know how and when you can get involved.
5. We will continue to liaise with statutory agencies and community groups at key stages to encourage them to participate.
6. In the event that libraries re-open we will provide copies of consultation documents for viewing.
7. In the event that the ban on public meetings is lifted we will review options for face to face events.
8. We will continue to notify the immediate neighbours of potential development sites at both the Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan stages of our Area Local Development Plans.
9. We will monitor feedback on our engagement methods and respond to requests to carry out other forms of engagement and/or extend periods of consultation.

Scottish Government's National Planning Framework (NPF4)

The Scottish Government has started preparation of a new [National Planning Framework 4 \(NPF4\)](#) with a 'Call for Ideas' consultation held in Spring 2020 seeking views on 31 topics that will help decide which of these are covered by a suite of future new national planning policies. The Highland Council has done some work thinking about these policy areas and this has fed in to our submissions to the 'Call for Ideas'.

Our submissions also included suggestions for National Developments in Highland which will soon be followed by the preparation of an [Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy for Highland](#). This will involve engaging with key stakeholders in its preparation, with a view to submitting that to Scottish Government in Summer 2020 to further inform NPF4 on vision and priorities for Highland. We will be looking at ways to share and providing opportunity for feedback on our initial thoughts on the Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy for Highland by carrying out online briefings and meetings.

The Planning Bill became an Act in 2019 and more details continue to emerge about changes being introduced step by step to the planning system over a period of about a couple of years. The programme for that has been lengthened due to COVID-19. Scottish Government now anticipate reaching the stage of a Draft National Planning Framework 4 in Autumn 2021.

Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (IMFLDP)

Although the pandemic has delayed the timescales for the IMFLDP review we are planning to progress the Main Issues Report consultation during the latter half of 2020.

Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan			
Where we Expected to be	Where we are Now	Future Stages	A M B E R
We expected to have completed the early stages of consultation on the IMFLDP and to have updated the Action Programme for the Plan area.	We have completed the Plan's Call for Sites and Ideas phase, other awareness raising and agency consultations. We have analysed all inputs and drafted a Main Issues Report. We have updated and published the adopted Plan's Action Programme.	We will seek the approval of 5 internal committees, publish the Main Issues Report and start the public consultation during 2020.	
IMFLDP Area Based Supplementary Guidance			
Where we Expected to be	Where we are Now	Future Stages	
Longman Development Brief			
Development principles and requirements for the delivery of development in the Longman area of Inverness including the former landfill site.			
Draft Development Brief was to have been prepared for Committee consideration in August 2019 subject to an announcement on the preferred option for A9/A82 Longman junction improvements.	Early research has been undertaken and we have been providing advice to the proposal for a waste management facility and for Transport Scotland road improvements. Preferred option scheme published June 2019; proposals being developed/assessed in more detail, including utilities considerations. Waste management facility granted planning permission June 2019; further work underway for delivery. Waste Management Licence issues for the closed landfill site under discussion with SEPA to establish route-map for enabling areas of land to be redeveloped; key to progression of Development Brief.	Draft Development Brief to be prepared for Committee consideration in 2020/21, subject to Waste Management Licence route-map being established for enabling areas of land to be redeveloped.	

West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan (WestPlan)

WestPlan is the third Area LDP prepared in Highland and was **adopted** in September 2019, followed by the associated Delivery Programme (Action Programme) in December 2019. The Applecross Community Land Use Plan has over the last year been adopted by the Council as non-statutory planning guidance. The focus going forward is on implementation of the Plan including monitoring and adoption of Supplementary Guidance. Linked to the Delivery Programme, we will review our approach to holding the annual Fort William 2040 event.

West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan			G R E E N
Where we Expected to be	Where we are Now	Future Stages	
n/a	Plan was adopted September 2019. Action Programme was approved in December 2019 and subsequently published.	Continue to monitor and update the Action Programme. Consolidate Action Programmes.	
Fort William 2040			
Monitoring to help coordinate the delivery of development and infrastructure in Fort William and the wider Lochaber area.			
We had expected to hold the annual Fort William engagement event in September 2020.	The ban on public events means we will consider an online format for engagement.	Annual FW2040 monitoring exercise to be undertaken with stakeholders and communities.	

West Highland and Islands Area Based Supplementary Guidance

Where we expected to be	Where we are Now	Future Stages
Mallaig Harbour Masterplan Development principles, priorities for investment and regeneration in the harbour area.		
Nevis Forest & Mountain Resort Masterplan Development principles, priorities for investment and regeneration on land at Aonach Mor access road.		
Isle of Rum Community Land use Plan Development principles and priorities for growth and development on the Isle of Rum.		
To have submitted the documents to Scottish Ministers for adoption as statutory Supplementary Guidance late 2019.	The associated environmental screenings process requires to be completed before advancing the documents to the process for statutory adoption.	Subject to completing the set of environmental screenings and dependent upon the associated outcomes, the three documents will be submitted to Scottish Ministers for clearance to adopt each of the documents as statutory Supplementary Guidance.

Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan (CaSPlan)

CaSPlan is the second Area LDP prepared in Highland. It was **adopted** in summer 2018. It sets out the vision, strategy and allocations that guide future development. The associated Delivery Programme (Action Programme) was adopted in autumn 2018. The focus going forward is on implementation of the Plan. The Council, its partners and other stakeholders will be undertaking actions that will help deliver development and achieve the outcomes set out in CaSPlan and will be monitoring delivery. The Council will also be completing final steps for the adoption of the CaSPlan Town Centre Strategy and associated actions included in the Delivery Programme.

Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan			
Where we Expected to be	Where we are Now	Future Stages	
The Action Programme was to have been monitored and updated. The updated Action Programme was to have been prepared as a single consolidated document for the whole of Highland area, updated on an ongoing basis.	The Action Programme is being monitored. An update was published in March 2020. The Action Programmes have yet to be consolidated into one for Highland.	Continue to monitor and update the Action Programme. Include in it any actions from the Town Centre Strategy. Consolidate Action Programmes. CaSPlan itself was Adopted in Summer 2018 and is not yet due for review.	G R E E N

CaSPlan Area Based Supplementary Guidance

Where we Expected to be	Where we are Now	Future Stages
Town Centre Health Checks and Strategies		
Informed by Health Checks undertaken, Town Centre Strategies were to have been prepared for the five identified locations during 2019, consulted upon and subsequently adopted as Supplementary Guidance.	Draft Caithness and Sutherland Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Guidance consulted on summer 2019; results considered and revised version approved by Area Committees in February 2020.	Strategy to be submitted to Scottish Ministers summer 2020, seeking clearance to adopt as Supplementary Guidance. Associated action programme content to be worked up in discussion with delivery parties and included in CaSPlan Action Programme.

The Highland-wide Local Development Plan

The **Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP)** was adopted in April 2012 and contains a 20 year vision and spatial strategy for the Highlands, with planning policies and some strategic site allocations. As the main planning policy document for Highland it is felt that the policies remain largely fit for purpose. The plan is accompanied by Supplementary Guidance (SG) and the Area LDPs that both contain more detailed policy and guidance that will be kept under review. We do not intend to continue further work on the HwLDP review

until more is known about the scope of new national planning policies in the emerging National Planning Framework.

Highland-wide Local Development Plan			
Where we expected to be	Where we are Now	Future Stages	A M B E R
To be progressing a mini-review of selected policy areas to provide clarity on the adopted HwLDP and Supplementary Guidance, and to aid their implementation, whilst awaiting further detail on the Planning Bill before progressing with a full review of the plan.	Some progress made on a mini-review of selected policy areas including . Whilst as yet no reports have reached Committee stage, the work done – and the previous work on review of the HwLDP – have fed in to the preparation of the Council’s response to NPF4 ‘Call for Ideas’, including for new national policies that will become part of the Development Plan under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and minimise the need for local policy on general topics (as opposed to sites).	To be confirmed once more is known about the scope of new national planning policies.	
Topic Based Supplementary Guidance			
Where we expected to be	Where we are Now	Future Stages	
Onshore Wind Energy Guidance on managing onshore wind energy.			
Remaining programmed Landscape studies were to be progressed in 2019.	Further batch of studies to be prepared for consultation in 2020 with final programmed Landscape study yet to be commenced.	Remaining programmed Landscape studies to be progressed in 2020/21.	

Monitoring to support the delivery of development

Audit and monitoring work provides evidence for preparing and implementing Development Plans and provides information to the wider community. Over the last couple of years we have focussed on the publication of information and analysis using innovative and accessible new approaches including dashboards and Storymaps. These tools have combined data with images, graphics, graphs, and even videos alongside mapping to present data in ways that are much easier to understand. We will seek to make continued improvements in access to data particularly where it supports collaborative working with partners and communities.

We are continuing work on the Housing Need and Demand Assessment which will be prepared alongside the review of the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan. We will also update our **Housing Land Audit** to inform our approach to infrastructure delivery and developer contributions. We are also hoping to carry out and publish updated renewables monitoring in the next few months.

How to get involved in preparing Development Plans

The 5 key stages of preparing a Local Development Plan are shown in the diagram above. We encourage people to get involved as early as possible in the process. This begins with the Call for Sites and Main Issues Report (MIR) stages (**shown in green**), followed by the Proposed Plan (**amber**). At the final stage an Examination (**red**) is carried out by independent Reporters who may invite further comments from those who commented on the Proposed Plan. When preparing Supplementary Guidance we will always invite comments on a draft and consider these in preparing and adopting a final version.

The five key stages for preparing a Local Development Plan

