

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Agenda Item	6
Report No	BSAC/22/25

Committee: **Badenoch & Strathspey Area**

Date: **3 November 2025**

Report Title: **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Place Plan**

Report By: **Chief Officer, Housing and Communities**

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report invites Members to adopt the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Place Plan (APP).

The Badenoch and Strathspey APP set out in Appendix 2 has been developed using a Place Based approach and does not set out to replace existing plans and policies for the area. Instead, it aims to capture and present what the common themes and priorities are and aims to serve as a comprehensive document that not only reflects the aspirations of the local community but also aligns with existing strategic and localised plans, ensuring that Badenoch and Strathspey thrives as a sustainable, liveable, and prosperous community.

This report also provides an update on next steps for progressing the plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. Consider and agree to adopt the Badenoch and Strathspey APP, using it as a tool to inform and support decision making about Badenoch and Strathspey;
- ii. Agree to support and promote the plan where possible in terms of its consideration within other plans, strategies, development and funding opportunities across or impacting the Badenoch and Strathspey area; and
- iii. Note the next steps for progressing the work set out in the plan.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - No additional resource is requested. Highland Council support for initiatives outlined in the Plan may have resource implications in the future which would be subject to appropriate Committee or Service decision making.

Ongoing involvement in Place Planning activity requires input and commitment from services across the Council to ensure Place Plans provide the framework to support targeting resources, service delivery and provide a clear vision for attracting external investment. The Plan will help the Highland Council, partners, and communities secure funding by evidencing the impact of every pound spent and the actions associated will provide clarity and manage expectation around how and where resources are prioritised.

- 3.2 **Legal** - There are no legal implications rising from the adoption of the Badenoch and Strathspey APP.
- 3.3 **Risk** - The Badenoch and Strathspey APP will help to co-ordinate future activity and investment in the area. Developing a place-based approach is encouraged through the Scottish Government's Place Principle, the Christie Commission recommendations and is required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for community planning.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – None
- 3.5 **Gaelic** - A focus on place, and considering the priorities for a local area, has potential to support a focus on Gaelic language and culture if identified by communities and partners.

4 Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 An Integrated Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken. The conclusions have been subject to the relevant Manager Review and Approval.

The Screening process has concluded that the Plan has a positive impact on promoting equality, addressing inequality (including socio-economic) and targeting the priorities of the people of Badenoch and Strathspey and therefore a full impact assessment is not required. Members are asked to consider the summary below and detailed in **Appendix 1** to support the decision-making process.

Impact Assessment Area	Conclusion of Screening / Full Assessment
Equality	Positive impact
Socio-economic	Positive impact
Human Rights	No impact
Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Positive impact
Island and Mainland Rural	Positive impact
Climate Change	No Impact
Data Rights	No impact

5 Background

5.1 In 2021, Highland Council made a commitment to develop APP mainly based on Area Committee boundaries. The Plans have been developed and facilitated in various ways across Highland, as each area is different. This APP for Badenoch and Strathspey has been developed using a place-based approach and does not set out to replace existing plans and policies for the area. Instead, it aims to capture and present what the common themes and priorities are and aims to serve as a comprehensive document that not only reflects the aspirations of the local community but also aligns with existing strategic and localised plans, ensuring that the area thrives as a sustainable, liveable, and prosperous community. Clarification on the difference between Area and Local Place Plans is noted below.

5.2 Area Place Plan

The Place Principle is a Scottish Government and CoSLA initiative to encourage better collaboration and community involvement. It is about understanding the issues, opportunities and relationships in a place, to allow effective partnership working to improve the quality of life for communities. Knowing how a community is structured and how it works helps make good decisions on investment, service delivery and how to co-ordinate change.

In Highland, APPs are being developed to provide an overview of existing strategies and projects. Community engagement builds a shared understanding of how Place underpins development, service delivery and how communities and organisations work together. These plans will be a future guide to maximise the impact for people living in an area, based on shared understanding of local need.

At its simplest, APPs will create a shared vision for an area, outlining priority outcomes and how they will be achieved. The Plans will make clear what activity is happening in each area, the outcomes being sought, when they are intended to be delivered and who is responsible for doing so.

5.3 Local Place Plan

Following recent changes to the national planning system, communities have been invited to consider preparation of their own Local Place Plans – a community's proposals for development of use of land and buildings in their local area. Currently across Highland, many groups are engaging their local community to reflect how to make their place better, agree priorities for the future and how to act on them – often working with others. While Local Place Plans have a particular role in the planning system, they may also highlight other priorities for service delivery and community action.

6 How the Plan was prepared

6.1 The Badenoch and Strathspey APP was developed in conjunction with the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) and Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS) leading the review of existing Community Action Plan priorities. Many pieces of community engagement work have been carried out by CNPA and VABS along with wider statutory partners including NHS Highland to identify Area priorities, these

priorities and the engagement which identified them have been highlighted in the Badenoch and Strathspey APP.

6.2 Existing Plans

To remove duplication and identify gaps, existing plans and consultations relevant to the Badenoch and Strathspey area have been collated and the common themes from these have been included within the app. This included Badenoch and Strathspey Community Partnership priorities as well as priorities identified in CNPA plans.

6.3 Future Engagement

The Council's Community Support and Engagement Team will hold engagement sessions to maintain the information gathered in the Badenoch and Strathspey APP and to fill any gaps. The recently reformed Badenoch and Strathspey Community Council Forum will also be used as an engagement vehicle during this process.

7 Priorities for Badenoch & Strathspey

For ease of reference between the Badenoch and Strathspey APP and wider statutory and strategic documents, the emerging Priorities for Badenoch and Strathspey have been aligned to the three pillars of People, Place and Prosperity.

7.1 People

- Access to healthcare
- Health and wellbeing
- Addressing depopulation
- Community capacity and resilience

7.2 Place

- Environment and Climate
- Housing
- Infrastructure and Connectivity
- Roads and Pavements
- Public Transport
- Digital Connectivity

7.3 Prosperity

- Employment and economic opportunities
- Support for local business
- Education and childcare
- Tourism and seasonal work
- Young people's priorities

7.4 How the Plan Will be Used

This Plan will provide all those with an interest in or those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in Badenoch and Strathspey with a helpful tool to:

- Establish a shared understanding of local needs and opportunities;
- Inform decisions on service design and delivery;
- Provide evidence to support funding bids for project;.
- Encourage public, private, and community collaboration for long-term sustainable growth;
- Make best use of available resources and forward plan for when funding and investment becomes available; and
- Link with local and national decision-making processes, influencing public services, budgeting, and planning policies to reflect the needs and aspirations of the Badenoch & Strathspey community.

7.5 Development and Delivery of the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Place Plan

A bespoke action plan will be created to set out the route for delivery of the priorities within the Badenoch and Strathspey APP. The action plan will seek to:

- further understand and develop each priority, in discussion across all sectors;
- set out to identify the best mechanism for delivery and the range of partners to be involved;
- assess potential barriers;
- assess potential funding opportunities; and
- provide estimates of timescales.

Not all priorities will be achievable in the short to medium term, however, priorities within this plan have the widest community support and this plan, along with appendices, can be used to evidence and inform developments and funding decisions.

Designation: Chief Officer, Housing and Communities

Date: 24 October 2025

Authors: Lewis Hannah, Community Development Manager
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Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1: Integrated Impact Assessment
Appendix 2: Badenoch & Strathspey Area Place Plan

Appendix 1

Integrated Impact Assessment

Badenoch & Strathspey Area Place Plan
(B&S APP) – Integrated Impact Assessment
Impact Assessment Area

Conclusion of Screening / Full Assessment

Equality

The B&S APP identifies the issues of the whole community; however, it does aim to support improvements to services targeted at young, elderly, disabled people and/or improve their access to services. The B&S APP has no specific impact on other protected groups.

Socio-economic

The B&S APP identifies a range of socio-economic issues relating to opportunity including access to education, training and apprenticeships, employability support and removing barriers to work such as childcare and transport. It highlights the issues faced by the remote rural communities in Badenoch & Strathspey including transport and housing, and how initiatives can help to improve household income through support and services such as social care and other public sector and voluntary support.

Human Rights

No impact

Children's Rights and Wellbeing

The main impact of the B&S APP is highlighting issues identified by children and young people so that they can be prioritised and addressed by service providers and community partners.

The issues and challenges identified by children and young people are highlighted in the B&S APP including funding for youth groups and spaces, after-school clubs, and sports activities, outdoor learning opportunities, local opportunities for young people post-high school.

Island and Mainland Rural

The plan highlights issues faced by communities living in remote rural areas.

Climate Change

No impact

Data Rights

No impact

Badenoch & Strathspey Area Place Plan

Plana Àite Sgìre Bàideanach & Srath Spè

<https://highlandcpp.org.uk/community-partnerships/badenoch-and-strathspey-community-partnership/>



Image ©Drew McClelland.

Executive Summary

Geàrr-chunntas Gnìomhach

The Badenoch & Strathspey Area Place Plan (APP) has been developed and co-written by The Highland Council and Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS) with support and involvement from Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA), the Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership (CP) and its membership. Most importantly the APP draws together the aspirations of the communities of Badenoch & Strathspey.

As an overview of local priorities and opportunities expressed in existing plans, strategies and recent community engagement, it aims to provide a clear statement of identified priorities, strengths, challenges, opportunities and community aspirations within one consolidated 'Plan', which can be referred to by Council services, public services, groups and organisations operating in Badenoch & Strathspey. This will help to ensure service provision, funding and developments reflect collective community wants, needs and priorities.

This first version of the Badenoch & Strathspey APP recognises the existing work carried out in Badenoch & Strathspey to engage with communities and identify priorities, the APP takes an indexing approach to its content in acknowledgement of the extensive consultation and engagement work which has been undertaken by multiple partners across the area.

In producing the APP, it became clear that many of the identified community priorities and aspirations reflect those which have been voiced for some time, but also that new upcoming ideas and aspirations were apparent – suggesting opportunities for future focused activity in partnership across the local community actors and public agencies. A particularly significant example involves the recent revival of the Badenoch & Strathspey Transport Forum, bringing together public agencies and community representatives to progress opportunities for improved connectivity across the area.

In order to make the APP easier to use, the aspirations have been categorised under the primary headings of People, Place and Prosperity to reflect the groupings being used by many of the major organisations such as Highland Council, NHS Highland and the Highland Community Planning Partnership (HCPP). These are summarised as follows:

PEOPLE	PLACE	PROSPERITY
Access to Healthcare Health and Wellbeing Addressing Depopulation Community Capacity and Resilience	Environment and Climate Housing Infrastructure and Connectivity Roads and Pavements Public Transport Digital Connectivity	Employment and Economic Opportunities Support for Local Business Education and Childcare Tourism and Seasonal Work Young People's Priorities

Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2024 - 2027

<https://highlandcpp.org.uk/about-hcpp/highland-outcome-improvement-plan/>

Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/cityregiondeal>

Our Future Highland Delivery Plan 2024 - 2027

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/deliveryplan2024-2027>

The Highland Council - Community Wealth Building Strategy 2024

https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/28728/community_wealth_building_strategy_2024

Social Value Charter for Renewables Investment

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/socialvaluecharter>

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1 Introduction

Ro-ràdh

In 2021, Highland Council made a commitment to develop sub-regional Area Place Plans (APPs) mainly based on Area Committee boundaries. The Plans are being developed and facilitated in various ways across Highland, as each area is different. In recent years, Badenoch & Strathspey has seen extensive community consultation on local priorities for the future and there are a large number of existing plans and strategies across the public sector and community partners. In preparing a 'place plan' for Badenoch & Strathspey, the intention has been to provide a concise overview of what the public sector and communities have already highlighted as important to the future of the area. By focusing on accepted priorities for the area and identifying 'gaps' which demand attention, the Place Plan is intended to inform partnership working going forward.

Area Place Plans set out the vision, ambition and priorities for people and place in that particular area. This will support targeting resources, service delivery and provide a clear vision for attracting external investment.

The Badenoch & Strathspey APP inter-relates with a number of other plans, including Community Action Plans (CAPs) and Local Place Plans (LPPs), CNPA's Partnership Plan and associated strategies, including the Local Development Plan (LDP) and others relating to development, investment and community action, the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan (HOIP), the Highland Investment Plan (HIP), the Highland Delivery Plan (HDP) and the Community Partnership Plans.

The Badenoch & Strathspey APP will help the Highland Council, partners and communities secure funding for the Area by evidencing the impact of every pound spent here. The associated actions will provide clarity and manage expectations around how and where resources are prioritised. The APP will also provide a stronger framework for communities within the area to continue to prepare and deliver on local plans (should they wish to), empowering them to drive and deliver change in towns, villages, communities and settlements.

This APP is presented as a realistic starting point for collaborative action, covering the aspirations within communities and focusing on outcomes for the whole area. It is also ambitious, recognising the wealth of talent and opportunity which lies within Badenoch & Strathspey. The APP will help inform local and regional decision making about public services, budgeting and policy areas, as well as informing those wider statutory plans. It recognises the good work already taking place in Badenoch & Strathspey and supports community action to make the most of opportunities.

2 How The Plan Was Developed

Mar a Chaidh am Plana a Leasachadh

In preparing the Area Place Plan, the focus has been on gathering existing plans, strategies and documentation together, finding the common themes and undertaking desktop analysis to develop an initial overview. Key sources include Community Action Plans prepared by communities across the area with Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey (VABS), the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) Partnership Plan, findings from the Council's Place Standard Survey and the CNPA Local Development Plan for the Park Authority Area.

The resulting area overview will be subject to further 'testing' and updates, based on priorities arising from ongoing work of the B&S Community Partnership, Community Council Forum, Transport Forum and other stakeholders, to provide the Area Place Plan as required. When producing this first version of the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Place Plan, the opportunity was also taken to identify any gaps in provision.

It is hoped that the initial overview provided in the Area Place plan can support wider Partnership working across public sector partners and communities. This includes the recently reformed Community Council Forum, B&S Transport Forum and in particular, The Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership (BSCP) - which brings together public sector, third sector and communities to tackle identified inequalities. The Partnership is currently reviewing its remit, identifying current priorities to reduce inequalities across the communities of Badenoch and Strathspey.

3 Badenoch & Strathspey at a Glance

Badenoch & Strathspey is a historic area in the southern Highlands of Scotland, extending over 900 square miles (2,330 sq. km) with only 14,000 inhabitants. The area is generally rural, straddling the A9, with settlements along the Spey river valley and extending into the Cairngorm mountains. The vast majority of the Ward is located within the Cairngorm National Park – an area of spectacular natural wilderness that is recognised as a Special Area of Conservation and managed to protect the natural environment while encouraging sustainable enjoyment of its outdoor activities and attractions. A third of the Badenoch & Strathspey land area is covered by environmental designations.

As for other areas of Highland, the perception of remoteness, cost of living and fuel poverty are significant concerns across Badenoch and Strathspey. Badenoch & Strathspey comprises of Remote Small Towns and Remote Rural Areas classification. Remote Rural classification is often coupled with higher living costs including transport, food, fuel, fewer employment opportunities, lower wages and social isolation. Shortages of affordable housing of various types and tenures and an ageing population present significant challenges for the future. Badenoch & Strathspey's main transport links are via road and rail, with the A9 trunk road linking the area to the south and north. Transport integration (particularly east-west links), including active travel, is a major consideration for access to facilities, services and opportunities across the area. Broadband connectivity and mobile reception are variable, particularly outside the main settlements.

A substantial proportion of the area is covered by formal natural heritage designations, including Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Scientific Interest and Natural Nature Reserves, recognising the diversity and fragility of the outstanding landscape. The main employers in Badenoch and Strathspey include the Cairngorms National Park Authority, NHS Highland, Highland Council, and various businesses in the tourism and hospitality sectors. Other significant employers are in the sectors of construction, retail, agriculture and distilling. The economy of Badenoch and Strathspey is heavily reliant on tourism, which provides both significant inward investment and employment. The area's natural beauty, outdoor recreation opportunities, and fertile land support these key sectors. Additionally, there is a growing role for creative industries including crafts and independent retail, including numerous small businesses.

- Badenoch and Strathspey includes the towns and villages of Aviemore, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie, Nethy Bridge and Newtonmore, as well as the smaller settlements of Carrbridge, Boat of Garten, Dalwhinnie, Laggan, Kincaig and Dulnain Bridge.
- The area covers much of the western part of the Cairngorms National Park.
- As of 2021, Badenoch and Strathspey has a population of 14,041 people.

- Just over a quarter of the population (27%) live in the remote small town of Aviemore.
- Almost three in four people (73%) live in areas classified as rural.
- The age profile of the Badenoch and Strathspey population is similar to Highland.
- 14.3% of the population are children aged 0-15 years, 60.6% are aged 16-64 years and 25.1% are people aged 65 years and over.
- The population of Badenoch and Strathspey increased by 19% in the period from 2002 to 2021.
- Over this period, there was a 61% increase in the 65+ age group and a 6% reduction in the population aged under 16 years.
- The ratio of 2.4 people of working age (16-64 years) to older people (age 65 years and over) is lower in Badenoch and Strathspey than in Highland and Scotland.

4 Challenges and Opportunities

Dùbhlain is Cothroman

Our overview of existing plans, strategies and engagement activities across Badenoch & Strathspey identified several overarching themes which focus on a community striving for a thriving and sustainable population; access to affordable housing for all; facilities and socially inclusive activities to support community wellbeing; integrated public transport; active travel and path networks; environmental sustainability and biodiversity; sustainable tourism; community-led enterprise and skills development; while maintaining a strong culture of community empowerment and resilience.

The priorities are set out under three headings of **People | Place | Prosperity**

Previous uses of Badenoch & Strathspey Area Funds

The Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee was presented with a report in August 2025 summarising Highland Council funding spend in Badenoch & Strathspey for financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 relating to:

- Ward Discretionary Fund
- Place Based Investment Fund
- Repurposed Covid Funding
- Regeneration Fund monies
- Scottish Government Capital Playpark allocations

As a result of ongoing engagement with communities on the use of these Area funds to establish priority projects, a diverse range of 54 community led projects were funded which included the Badenoch and Strathspey Access Panel's project to update and redistribute the disabled access guide for the area, the Cairngorm Mountain Trust's project to support children from six local locals in learning to ski and the provision of winter jackets and waterproof shoes in Grantown and Kingussie. Two large projects were also completed in Aviemore and Newtonmore which resulted in the community led refurbishment of two local play parks.

These projects and the community groups which delivered them demonstrate the area's ability and drive to deliver on place based project outcomes across a very diverse range of People, Place & Prosperity headings.

A full list of those funding awards can be found in the Badenoch Strathspey Area [committee report at item 9.](#)

People

Setting the context – issues, challenges and opportunities

Male and female life expectancy are higher in the area than the overall Highland and Scottish average. Health inequalities in Badenoch & Strathspey exist and are influenced by various factors including socio-economic status, geography, and access to services. Particular concerns include lack of affordable and quality housing; fuel poverty; and income and employment. Rurality impacts on cost of living, with costs being 15-30% higher in rural communities. Approximately 7% of residents of the area are income deprived (SIMD 2020).

Access to Health and Care Services - Primary care is delivered through four GP practices and Midwifery, Health Visiting, Community Nursing, Community Mental Health, Social Care and Care at Home teams. Badenoch and Strathspey Community Hospital in Aviemore provides a minor injuries unit, with 20 staffed beds. Health and social care staff, Highland Council children's services, Aviemore Medical Practice and Scottish Ambulance Service are also located there. **Dentistry** can be accessed in Grantown, Kingussie and Aviemore. Delivering healthcare to an ageing and sparse rural population and the recruitment and retention of health professionals and carers are all known challenges.

The **population** of Badenoch and Strathspey increased by 19% in the period from 2002 to 2021. This includes a 61% increase in the 65+ age group and a 6% reduction in the population aged under 16 years. The ratio of 2.4 people of working age (16-64 years) to older people (age 65 years and over) is lower in Badenoch and Strathspey than in Highland and Scotland. Projected demographic changes indicate that the ratio of people of working age to people aged 65 years and older will further decrease. This trend impacts local economies and creates challenges in staffing and providing essential services, including for an ageing population, particularly as 73% of the population reside in areas regarded as rural.

NHS Highland District Plan

The NHS Highland District Plan for Badenoch & Strathspey is currently under development, this work is being led by the District Planning Group.

District Planning Groups (DPGs) were established in April 2024. District Planning Groups are the main engagement vehicle with local communities and ensure that we work together and listen to people in communities to develop local implementation plans. District Plan performance will be reported to the Health & Social Care Committee the Strategic Planning Group and ultimately to the Joint Monitoring

Committee. The District Planning Group will ensure that any activity follows the HSCP guidance on equalities, supporting access for all communities within the Locality and considering impacts across protected characteristics and human rights.

The B&S District Plan will link to the following Highland-wide strategic objectives:

- Support people to live fulfilling lives in their own homes for as long as possible
- Promote health and wellbeing across our communities and age groups
- Support staff to continuously improve the information, support, and care they deliver
- Efficiently and effectively manage all resources to deliver best value
- Ensure adequate housing stock to support recruitment of staff and to meet the needs of the population to live at home longer.

The current content contained within the draft District Plan is set out below, future updates of this APP will include details of the finalised District Plan in due course.

Draft B&S District Plan

Area of activity	Priority Actions	Timescale/ how we are going to do this	Outcome required
Maximise care at home capacity through Single Handed Care	Training provision for staff required to assess for single handed care. Training and equipment provided to care staff to enable delivery.	Review learning and evaluation from Single Handed (Proportionate) Care Workshop and develop a plan for roll out in B&S: develop plan by end January 2025	Creation of additional care capacity
Build independent sector care at home capacity to	Work with independent sector providers to	Agree a plan to test the market	Reduce unmet need hours for Care at Home

deliver mainstream care and allow NHS care teams to focus their capacity on Discharge to Assess and a rehabilitation first approach	jointly support recruitment and retention of staff	with the NHSH Contacts Team. Plan in place by end December 2024. Complete market testing by March 2025	
Maximise the use of community hospital beds to support the wider needs of the B&S community	Improve flow of patients out of the acute hospital setting and ensure prevention of admission is community focused rather than bed based.	Review B&SCH data (e.g. admission, length of patient stay, delayed discharges, reasons for delay in discharge) to identify opportunities to improve flow back into the community.	Reduce delayed discharges in B&SCH
Availability of suitable housing options for both potential staff to support recruitment and individuals living in the community with complex needs	Joint working with Housing teams to agree a strategy for meeting the Housing needs of the community.	National/strategic issue - escalate to Strategic Planning Group for advice.	

Improve access to preventative solutions and build on existing community based services	Identify baseline availability of services and explore option for expansion.	Link to locally based strategic initiatives: e.g. Cairngorms 2030 and to local community led projects to promote wellbeing and support people to live as independently as possible for as long as possible.	Help support people to look after their own wellbeing to avoid ill health and to manage with chronic conditions.
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NHS Highland Burall Legacy Fund Engagement

The Highland Health Board Endowment Funds charity (SC016791) has a donation worth £306,890 from the late Theresa Burall. The donation was first made in 2002 for St Vincent's Hospital. Until it closed in 2021, the money was used to improve hospital facilities — including car parking, toilets, ward spaces, staff changing areas, and palliative care services.

This generous gift, known as a *legacy* money left to a charity when someone has died is now available for the benefit of NHS Highland patients, residents, and service users across Badenoch and Strathspey.

Online engagement open between 13 June 2025 and 1 August 2025 and this was supported by two in person engagement events in Aviemore on 9 May 2025 and Kingussie on 12 June 2025. Full details of the Burall Legacy Fund Engagement can be found [here](#).

Thematic Priorities arising from the Burall Engagement:

Services for Older Adults

1. Day Care, Respite and Residential Care Support

Examples - There is a call for restoring and expanding local day care and respite services, particularly at facilities like the Wade Centre, to help older adults remain close to family and avoid placement in distant care homes. Respondents stress the importance

of supporting care homes (e.g. Mains House, Abbeyfield, the Wade Centre and Grant House), including funding for facility upgrades, end-of-life care, and staff training.

2. Therapeutic and Social Programmes
3. Equipment and Infrastructure
4. Local Service Integration and Transport

Community-Based Health Initiatives

1. Nature-Based and Green Health Activities

Examples - A wide range of suggestions focus on outdoor health and wellbeing, including: Health walks, gardening, and green prescribing Creation of therapy gardens and accessible nature trails (e.g. Kingussie woods) Support for all-ability outdoor activities such as canoeing, cycling, and climbing Proposals for outdoor gym equipment, wild venison provision for nutrition, and community allotments for social and dietary benefits.

2. Tackling Loneliness and Social Isolation
3. Health Education and Preventative Support
4. Inclusive and Adaptive Programming
5. Sustainable Transport and Active Travel

Examples - Suggestions included expansion of active travel routes, e-bike hubs, and continued support for community transport services to connect residents with health, social and wellbeing opportunities locally and regionally.

Mental Health Support

1. Community-Based Mental Health Support

Examples - Badenoch Men's Shed was referenced as an existing mental health initiative which could be further supported. Mental health support in schools (e.g., Kingussie High School), especially for boys at risk of suicide. Call for youth projects or clubs (e.g., in Newtonmore) to engage and support young people. Mentoring and craft-based support also suggested.

2. Access to Affordable Mental Health Services
3. Perinatal and Postnatal Mental Health
4. Older Adults and Dementia Care
5. General Suggestions Supporting Mental Wellbeing

Primary Care

1. Health & Wellbeing Education and Support

Examples - Chronic pain education: Promote non-drug approaches (e.g. walking groups, debt advice). Mental health support for young people: Suggested for both in-school and out-of-school settings

2. Holistic and Therapeutic Services
3. Mobile and Outreach Services
4. Local Facility Support

Children and Family Health Services

1. Infant Feeding and Perinatal Support
2. Mental Health Services for Children and Young People
3. Community-Based Family and Youth Support

Examples - Newtonmore youth project: A call for a youth club or project, potentially using the currently closed village hall. Recognition of the newly formed Badenoch Men's Shed, suggesting potential for wider community engagement initiatives.

4. Family Health and Lifestyle Support

Acute Clinical Services

1. Equipment and Patient Comfort
2. Infrastructure and Safety Improvements

Examples - Enhanced door security at Badenoch & Strathspey Community Hospital (BSCH) to improve ward safety. Improved pharmacy workspace: Quieter shared office area to support better focus and patient safety. Staff wellbeing facilities: Requests for a dishwasher and reinstated Headspace app access. Improved greenspace for the secure inpatient garden area at BSCH.

3. Local Access to Acute and Recovery Services

The full Burall Legacy Fund Engagement 2025 Summary Report can be found [here](#).

Summarised Cairngorms National Park]content

Park Authority Priorities (CNPA Partnership Plan, 2030 Priorities, Active Cairngorms Tourism Action Plan, Wellbeing Economy Action Plan):

- A thriving population – Boost the working-age population with support from Real Living Wage employers.
- Focusing on wellbeing – Prioritize people and planet by promoting local business, connecting with nature, and addressing inequality.
- Being a Park for All – Design programmes to reduce inequality and ensure access for everyone.
- Improving people's health – Partner with the NHS and others to leverage nature for physical and mental health.

Health & Wellbeing (Active Cairngorms)

- Embed green health referral pathways in all GP practices.
- Promote green health through events like Green Health Week and World Mental Health Day.
- Promote health walks and dementia-friendly walks in every community.
- Support targeted groups (e.g. carers, ethnic minorities, seasonal workers) through tailored outdoor programmes.

Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership (CP) content.

Badenoch & Strathspey CP Action Plan priorities currently include:

- Welfare Support & Advice
- Waste reduction and the circular economy
- Community capacity
- Green Health
- Mental Health
- Support the work of the NHS District Planning Group

'People' Priorities emerging from Community Action Plans:

Advie and Cromdale Community Action Plan:

- Advie and Cromdale Community Action Plan
- Community café and lunch club
- More use of village hall for clubs and events
- Community web page
- Formation of SCIO for community-led development

Aviemore, Rothiemurchus & Glenmore Community Action Plan:

- Establish a community hall for social, leisure, and learning activities.
- Improve leisure facilities (e.g. swimming pool access, play parks, outdoor classroom).
- Maintain and promote use of the Village Green for events and community activities.
- Support volunteering and community-led project delivery.

Boat of Garten Community Action Plan:

- New school and nursery (community-led build)
- Increase childcare and sheltered accommodation
- More affordable daytime events for older residents
- Expand volunteering groups
- Pub/social place to meet
- Community consultation on Curling Pond site use

Carrbridge Community Action Plan:

- Develop a community hub with café, arts, and leisure facilities.
- Increase social events for all ages (e.g. ceilidhs, cinema, youth discos).
- Support youth work and restart the youth club.
- Launch a befriending project and community care services for older residents.
- Explore sheltered housing and local care home feasibility.

Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan:

- Increase community use of the village hall (e.g. taster sessions, talks, internet access).
- Improve volunteering and community engagement.
- Explore shared services with neighbouring communities (e.g. community minibus with Laggan).
- Address road safety with speed limits and traffic calming measures.

Dalnain Bridge Community Action Plan:

- Establish a community café as a social hub.
- Increase community events and intergenerational activities.
- Support volunteering and form "Team Dalnain Bridge" for project delivery.
- Improve communication through newsletters and digital platforms.

Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan:

- Strengthen community coordination and support for local groups.
- Increase volunteering and community engagement.
- Improve facilities for young people and older residents.
- Support YMCA redevelopment as a multi-purpose community centre.

Kincraig & Locality Community Action Plan:

- Improve community hall accessibility and facilities.
- Create youth spaces (e.g. teen hub, gym, upgraded play park).
- Increase community events and intergenerational activities.
- Support volunteering and establish "Team Kincraig" for project delivery.

Kingussie Community Action Plan:

- Develop youth facilities (youth club, junior sports, youth panel).
- Improve community spaces (e.g. Gynack Gardens, Warm Spaces).
- Increase volunteering and community engagement.
- Support intergenerational activities and social events.

Laggan Community Action Plan:

- Improve use of community spaces (Village Hall, Church, Wolftrax Café).
- Develop a community resilience plan (e.g. warm spaces, emergency support).
- Increase social and leisure activities (e.g. cycle club, events).
- Support volunteering and better community communication (e.g. village diary, newsletter).

Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan:

- Upgrade play parks and create youth facilities (e.g. pump track, skate park).
- Expand community centre activities and improve facilities (e.g. kitchen upgrade).
- Increase intergenerational events and volunteer engagement.
- Improve communication (e.g. newsletters, website updates).

Newtonmore Community Action Plan:

- Create indoor and outdoor youth spaces.
- Increase intergenerational activities and social events.
- Improve community communication and volunteer engagement.
- Support community-led health and wellbeing initiatives.

CASE STUDY: Community Council Forum Badenoch & Strathspey is home to vibrant communities with many third sector and community initiatives aimed at improving wellbeing. Development Trusts and Community Councils play an important role in supporting engagement with communities and sustainable development. Work is underway to re-establish the Badenoch & Strathspey Community Council Forum which will be used as a consultative and engagement vehicle for statutory partners to work with Badenoch & Strathspey Community Councils and their communities. The initial meetings of the Forum will have a focus on supporting Community-led Resilience Planning by providing support to Community Councils to develop Community Resilience Plans. Comment will also be sought at the Badenoch & Strathspey Community Council Forum on the content of this APP.

Place

Setting the context – issues, challenges and opportunities

Many rural communities in Badenoch & Strathspey face significant housing challenges including limited housing stock, high property prices, prevalence of second homes, and a lack of rental options. Combined with a lack of affordable homes to buy and rent, housing has become a key focus in Badenoch & Strathspey. In a recent Highland Council survey – **Have Your Say Highland**, affordable housing came up as the highest priority for people in terms of 'place'.

Have Your Say Highland

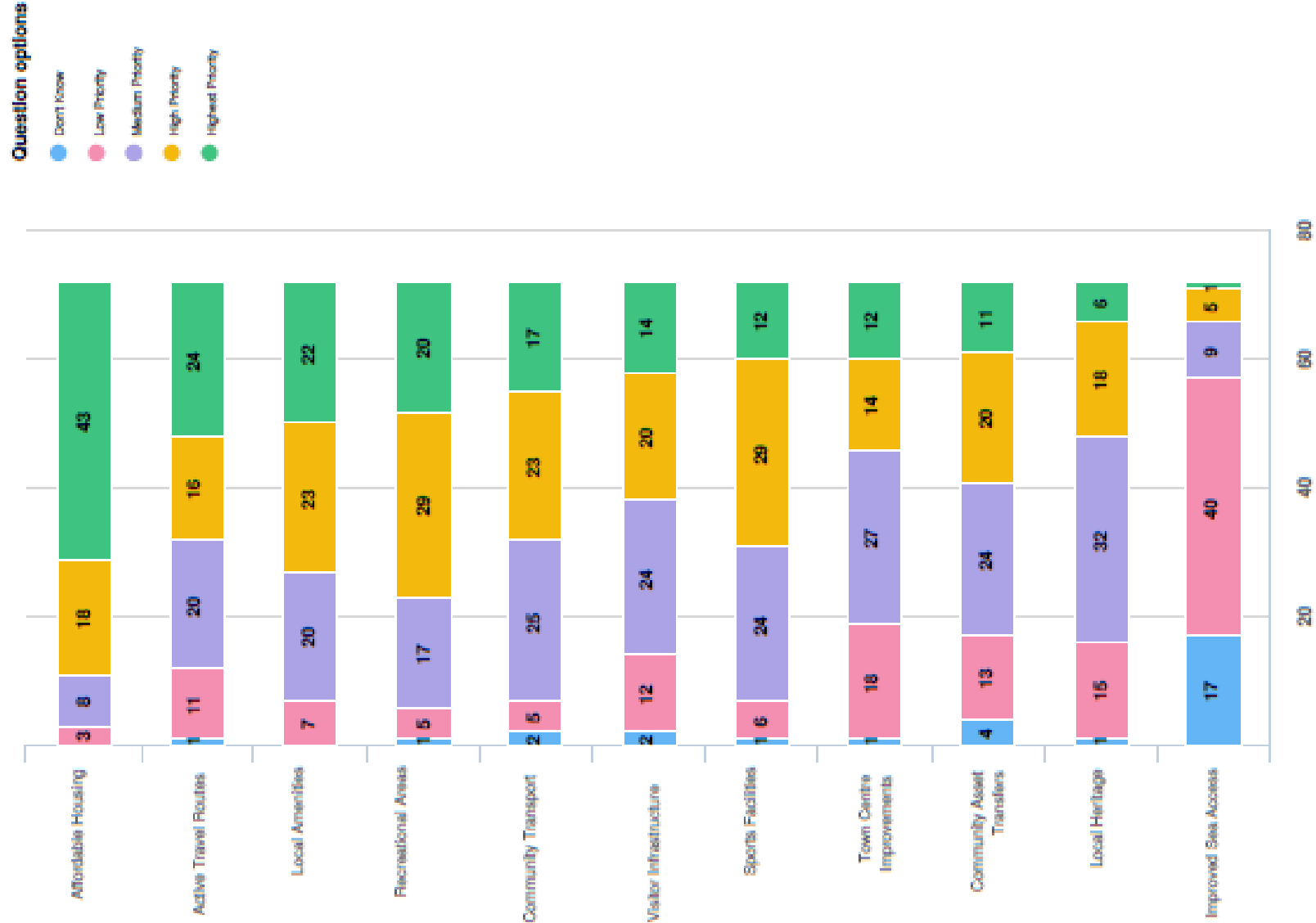
The Highland Council has the responsibility of delivering various funding programmes to enable community-led local action. This allows organisations to apply for funding to deliver projects that respond to the needs of their local area and to bring about positive change. However, we know demand for funding is often more than the funding available, and this can often lead to difficult decisions having to be made and funds being prioritised. The Highland Council piloted a new community engagement platform whereby people across Highland were asked to consider the funding priorities for their local area. with the outcome of the survey to be used to help inform decisions taken to award funding at local level.

Survey Approach

Funding priorities were categorised into potential project types within four key themes: People, Place, Economy & Environment. Respondents were asked under each theme the project types in the list that they considered to be a priority for further funding investment in their local area. There was also a section for respondents to give their thoughts on specific calls to action under each theme alongside the option to suggest project types they felt missing from the list. Once the survey was completed, respondents were directed to the project ideas board where they could make their ideas public for others to see. Others were then able to comment on and 'like' ideas suggested. Survey outcomes in respect of Badenoch & Strathspey are below.

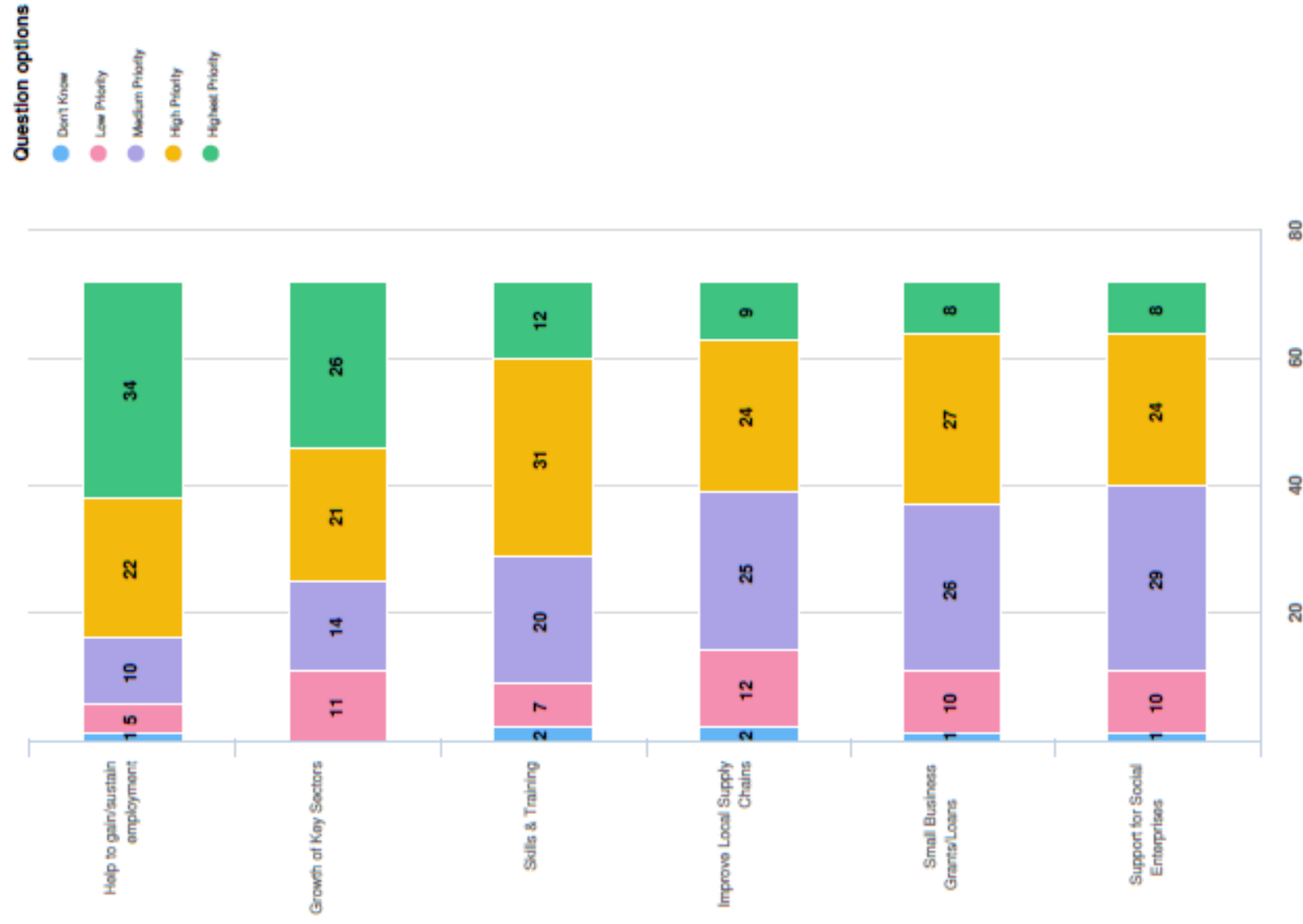
Theme: Place

Respondents were asked to consider the below project types in terms of how strong a priority they are for additional funding. Respondents were asked to only select a maximum of 3 as 'highest priority'



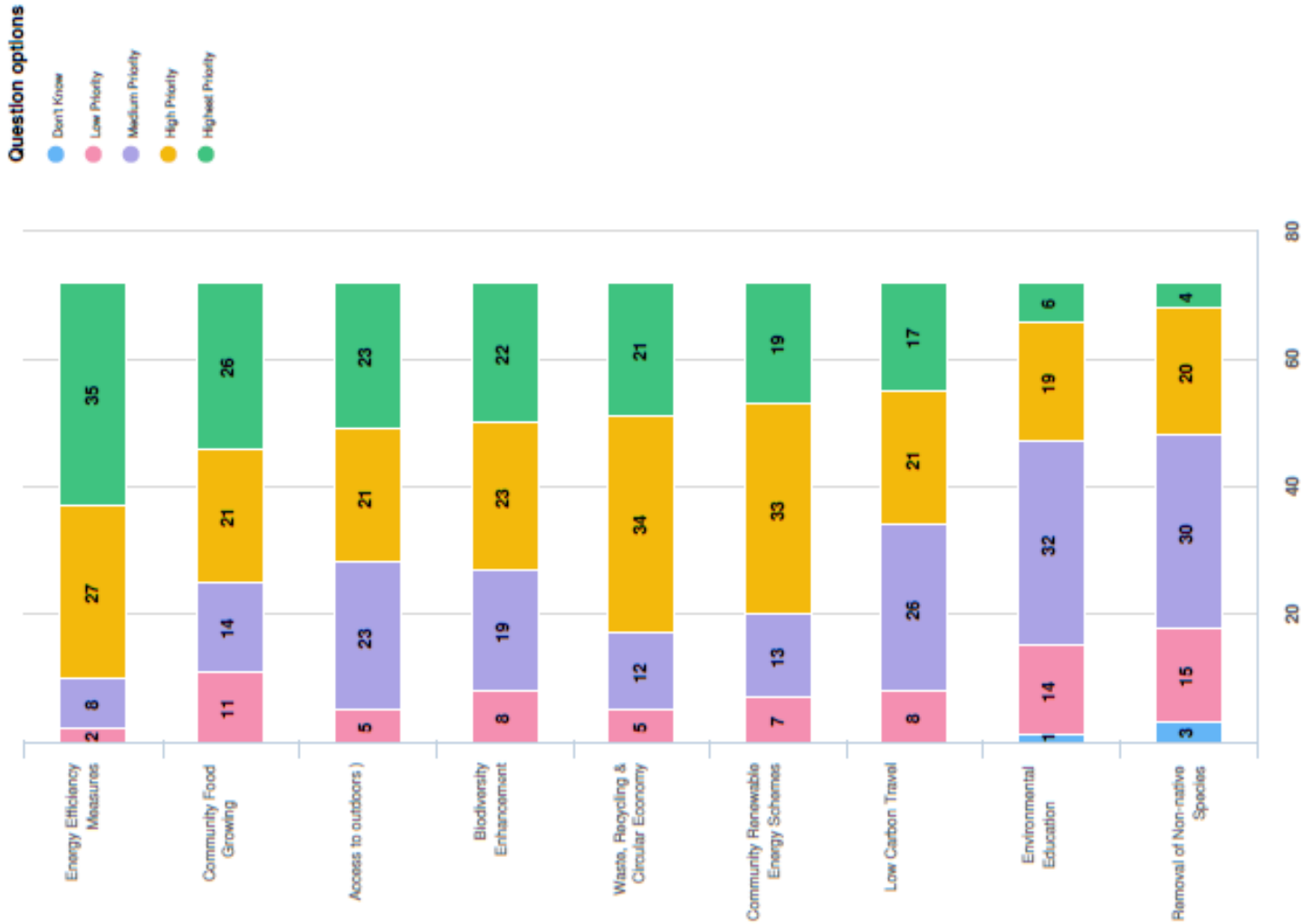
Theme: Economy

Respondents were asked to consider the below project types in terms of how strong a priority they are for additional funding. Respondents were asked to only select a maximum of 2 as 'highest priority'



Theme: Environment

Respondents were asked to consider the below project types in terms of how strong a priority they are for additional funding. Respondents were asked to only select a maximum of 3 as 'highest priority'.



Mandatory Question (72 response(s))

Housing in Badenoch & Strathspey

This section of the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Place Plan presents an analysis of housing need and demand across the area, providing an evidence base to support local decision making and community led action. Badenoch & Strathspey is characterised by a mix of rural settlements and key service centres such as Aviemore, Kingussie, and Grantown-on-Spey, each facing distinct housing pressures.

The area's attractiveness as a place to live, work, and visit combined with a high proportion of second homes and short-term lets has contributed to constrained housing supply and affordability challenges for local residents. These pressures are particularly acute for younger households, key workers, and those on lower incomes. This section draws on current data to highlight trends in population change, household composition, tenure patterns, and affordability, while also considering the impact of seasonal demand and environmental constraints. Understanding the scale and nature of housing need is essential to shaping future land use, guiding investment, and ensuring that housing provision supports the long-term sustainability of communities. The data presented here will help inform APP priorities and help ensure that future development is locally appropriate, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of people living and working in Badenoch & Strathspey.

Local Development Plans and Housing Stock

Local Development Plans (LDPs) play a central role in shaping the future of housing provision within a defined area. In relation to housing stock, LDPs set out policies and land allocations that guide where, how, and what type of housing should be developed to meet current and projected needs. They provide a strategic framework that balances housing demand with environmental, infrastructure, and community considerations. LDPs typically include an assessment of existing housing stock, its condition, tenure mix, and distribution alongside evidence of housing need and demand, often informed by Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs). This helps identify gaps in provision, such as shortages of affordable homes, accessible properties, or family-sized units.

LDPs outline specific sites allocated for residential development, indicating their capacity, phasing, and any infrastructure requirements. It also sets out policies to support regeneration, improve housing quality, and promote sustainable design. Importantly, LDPs address the delivery of affordable housing, often through developer contributions or partnership working with housing associations. They may also

include policies to manage short-term lets, second homes, and rural housing pressures, particularly in areas like Badenoch & Strathspey where tourism and seasonal demand impact local affordability.

The responsibility for the completion of the Local Development Plan in Badenoch & Strathspey sits with the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA). In August 2025 CNPA launched its Local Development Plan 3 Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report, the Housing profile of the CNPA can be found at the following [link from page 753](#) of the document.

Current (October 2025) demand taken from the Highland Housing Register in respect of Badenoch & Strathspey:

Row Labels	AVIEMORE	BOAT OF GARTEN	CARRBRIDGE	CROMDALE	DALWHINNIE	DULNAIN BRIDGE	GRANTOWN ON SPEY	KINCRAIG	KINGUSSIE	LAGGAN	NETHYBRIDGE	NEWTONMORE	Grand Total
1													
House	139	9	11	1		2	29	1	20	1	8	17	238
2													
House	54	1	5	2		2	13	4	12	2	2	6	103
3													
House	42	1	4	1		1	11	4	5	2	3	4	78
4													
House	12	1			1		1		2	1	2		20
5													
House	1							1					2
6													
House	1												1
Grand Total	249	12	20	4	1	5	54	10	39	6	15	27	442

Row Labels	AVIEMORE	BOAT OF GARTEN	CARRBRIDGE	CROMDALE	DULNAIN BRIDGE	GRANTOWN ON SPEY	KINCRAIG	KINGUSSIE	LAGGAN	NETHYBRIDGE	NEWTONMORE	Grand Total
1												
Bungalow	140	10	11	1	2	38	2	22	1	13	22	262
2												
Bungalow	60	1	5	2	2	16	4	12	2	3	7	114
3												
Bungalow	36		3	1	1	11	4	4	2	3	4	69
4												
Bungalow	8	1				2		1		2		14
5												
Bungalow	1						1					2
6												
Bungalow	1											1
Grand Total	246	12	19	4	5	67	11	39	5	21	33	462

Row Labels	AVIEMORE	BOAT OF GARTEN	CARRBRIDGE	CROMDALE	DULNAIN BRIDGE	GRANTOWN ON SPEY	KINCRAIG	KINGUSSIE	LAGGAN	NETHYBRIDGE	NEWTONMORE	Grand Total
1												
MAISONETTE	75	3	2	1		24		9	1	1	8	124
2												
MAISONETTE	19					2	1	1	1	1		25
3												
MAISONETTE	9		1		1	2		1				14
4												
MAISONETTE	2					1				1		4
Grand Total	105	3	3	1	1	29	1	11	2	3	8	167

Row Labels	AVIEMORE	BOAT OF GARTEN	CARRBRIDGE	CROMDALE	DULNAIN BRIDGE	GRANTOWN ON SPEY	KINCRAIG	KINGUSSIE	LAGGAN	NETHYBRIDGE	NEWTONMORE	Grand Total
1												
GROUND FLOOR FLAT	115	7	7	1	1	31	1	15	1	4	12	195
2												
GROUND FLOOR FLAT	33		3	1		7	2	4	1		1	52
3												
GROUND FLOOR FLAT	11					4		3			2	20
4												
GROUND FLOOR FLAT	1					1						2
Grand Total	160	7	10	2	1	43	3	22	2	4	15	269

Row Labels	AVIEMORE	BOAT OF GARTEN	CARRBRIDGE	CROMDALE	GRANTOWN ON SPEY	KINCRAIG	KINGUSSIE	LAGGAN	NETHYBRIDGE	NEWTONMORE	Grand Total
1											
UPPER FLOOR FLAT	82	2	4	1	18	1	11	1	1	8	129
2											
UPPER FLOOR FLAT	24		2		5	1	1	1		1	35
3											
UPPER FLOOR FLAT	4				1		2			1	8
4											
UPPER FLOOR FLAT	1				1						2
Grand Total	111	2	6	1	25	2	14	2	1	10	174

Row Labels	AVIEMORE	BOAT OF GARTEN	CARRBRIDGE	CROMDALE	GRANTOWN ON SPEY	KINCRAIG	KINGUSSIE	LAGGAN	Grand Total
1									
BED-SIT	20	1	1	1	8	1	1	1	34
Grand Total	20	1	1	1	8	1	1	1	34

Row Labels	AVIEMORE	BOAT OF GARTEN	CARRBRIDGE	CROMDALE	GRANTOWN ON SPEY	KINCRAIG	KINGUSSIE	NETHYBRIDGE	NEWTONMORE	Grand Total
1										
SHELTERED	10	3	1	1	9		3	4	6	37
2										
SHELTERED	1					1				2
Grand Total	11	3	1	1	9	1	3	4	6	39

Housing Management Performance reports are regularly presented to the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee, the latest of these reports was presented on 28 April 2025 and can be found at the following [link](#) under item 4 of the Agenda. The report provides information on how the Highland Council's Housing Service performed in relation to Scottish Social Housing Charter and other performance indicators up to 31 March 2025.

Summarised content from Park Authority Priorities (CNPA Partnership Plan, 2030 Priorities, Active Cairngorms Tourism Action Plan, Wellbeing Economy Action Plan):

- More affordable housing – Increase affordable housing stock and reduce the prevalence of second homes and short-term rentals.
- Going beyond net zero – Achieve and surpass net zero emissions well before Scotland's 2045 target.
- Expanding woodland – Increase woodland coverage while protecting existing agricultural land.
- Restoring peatland – Restore peatlands at a rate equivalent to ~40 football pitches per week.
- Helping habitats thrive – Restore key habitats and support vulnerable species (e.g., capercaillie, beaver, raptors).
- Reducing deer impacts – Lower deer and herbivore numbers to protect woodland and peatland regeneration.
- Managing land sustainably – Collaborate with farmers and land managers to promote land practices benefiting climate and biodiversity.
- Transforming transport – Enhance public transport and connectivity while reducing reliance on private cars.
- Connecting communities – Expand safe, fully accessible paths and cycling routes throughout the Park.
- Reducing tourism impacts – Work with tourism businesses to lessen environmental impact via sustainability leadership.
- Welcoming visitors – Promote visits to quieter locations and off-peak seasons to ease pressure on local areas.
- Celebrating cultural heritage – Preserve and promote the Park's historic and cultural assets.

Visitor Management (Active Cairngorms & Tourism)

- Operate the Managing for Visitors group to coordinate responses.
- Develop visitor welcome app and real-time data tools.
- Promote responsible behaviour via Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- Consult on fire byelaws and manage anti-social behaviour hotspots.

Infrastructure & Access (Tourism & Active Cairngorms)

- Implement Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan.
- Maintain and expand core paths, upland trails, and community routes.
- Improve signage, waymarking, and accessibility.
- Support community path groups and Adopt-a-Path schemes.

Environmental Protection (Active Cairngorms)

- Reduce recreational disturbance to sensitive species and habitats.
- Implement spatial plans and site-specific actions for ground-nesting birds.
- Promote best practices for biking and dog walking.
- Train wildlife guides in species/site-specific codes of conduct.

Cultural & Natural Heritage (Tourism & Active Cairngorms)

- Invest in place-based tourism assets (e.g. Snow Roads, Dark Sky Park).
- Promote local stories, music, and built heritage.
- Support outdoor learning and cultural interpretation.

Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership's working priorities currently include:

- Food Provision (community food sheds/'ladders')
- Community and Public Transport
- Community volunteering
- Sustainable childcare provision
- Affordable Housing

'Place' Priorities emerging from Community Action Plans:

Advie and Cromdale Community Action Plan:

- Cromdale Village Hall improvements
- Better play parks and picnic areas
- Maintenance of Tom-an-Uird field, Braes, and viewpoint
- Improved signage for walking/cycling routes
- Village campsite with shop/café
- Road safety improvements (speed limits, signage)

Aviemore, Rothiemurchus & Glenmore Community Action Plan:

- Expand and improve the local path network and active travel infrastructure.
- Develop local allotments and a community orchard.
- Improve public transport links and reduce car dependency.
- Encourage development of derelict sites and better use of existing land.
- Increase parking availability and explore park & ride schemes.

Boat of Garten Community Action Plan:

- Improve pavement access and off-road cycle paths
- Complete safe footpath between Spey Bridge and Nethy crossroads
- Address car parking congestion and signage
- Improve public transport integration (bus/train)
- Tidy recycling area and manage dog fouling
- Floral displays, picnic areas, and outdoor meeting spaces
- Improve look of substation railings and Station Square

Carrbridge Community Action Plan:

- Improve village hall and explore multi-use sports facilities.
- Deliver NMU (non-motorised user) routes to Aviemore and Grantown.
- Enhance path networks (signage, accessibility, maintenance).

- Create covered outdoor spaces and gathering areas for young people.
- Promote biodiversity and nature activities (e.g. swift boxes, birdwatching).

Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan:

- Improve public transport (more train stops, better bus services).
- Install interactive speed signs and extend speed limits.
- Expand EV charging infrastructure.
- Create a local green waste recycling plot.
- Improve amenities (e.g. ATM access, public toilets).

Dulnain Bridge Community Action Plan:

- Implement traffic calming and extend speed limits.
- Improve walking and cycling paths, including links to nearby areas.
- Enhance biodiversity (e.g. swift boxes, wildflower planting).
- Maintain and improve public spaces (e.g. planters, signage, litter picks).

Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan:

- Implement a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS).
- Improve maintenance of High Street properties and shopfronts.
- Address parking and traffic management issues.
- Enhance signage, public spaces, and town entrances.
- Improve accessibility and public realm in the town centre.

Kincraig & Locality Community Action Plan:

- Improve public transport (e.g. e-bus, community minibus).
- Enhance active travel routes (e.g. safer school paths, cycle links, footbridge upgrades).
- Develop green spaces (e.g. allotments, orchards, wildflower areas).
- Address traffic safety (e.g. speed signs, safer crossings, road repairs).

Kingussie Community Action Plan:

- Enhance active travel routes (cycle paths to Kinraig and Newtonmore).
- Improve public transport (bus and train services, integrated timetables).
- Implement traffic calming and improve road safety.
- Expand green spaces and community ownership of land.
- Improve biodiversity and local conservation efforts.

Laggan Community Action Plan:

- Improve public transport connectivity (bus/train links to Fort William and beyond).
- Enhance active travel infrastructure (paths, signage, safe routes).
- Maintain and improve public toilets, play park, and green spaces.
- Promote biodiversity and environmental stewardship.

Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan:

- Enhance active travel routes and safe paths to school.
- Implement traffic calming and road safety measures.
- Improve biodiversity (e.g. wildflower planting, swift boxes).
- Maintain and improve public spaces and green infrastructure.

Newtonmore Community Action Plan:

- Enhance active travel infrastructure (e.g. safer paths, signage).
- Improve public spaces (e.g. play parks, village square, green areas).
- Develop biodiversity projects (e.g. tree planting, habitat creation).
- Address traffic and parking issues.

CASE STUDY: **B&S Transport Forum** Community Representatives, Badenoch & Strathspey Ward Members and statutory partners have expressed a desire to re-establish a transport forum for Badenoch and Strathspey to develop an integrated Transport Plan for the area. This is supported by the Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership. The Forum's remit will cover all modes of public transport operating within Badenoch and Strathspey, namely local bus, express coach, community transport and train (ScotRail/LNER). Issues considered by the Forum will include (but not be limited to) timetabling, level of service, publicity, performance, infrastructure provision and fares. An inaugural meeting of the Forum has been held which agreed its Membership composition and Terms of Reference, further meetings are being arranged. Further details can be found [here](#) at item 8 of the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee meeting of April 2025.

Prosperity

Setting the context - issues, challenges and opportunities

Education

Education in Badenoch & Strathspey is shaped by its rural nature, with schools serving small, dispersed communities. The geography and low population density in the area mean pupils often travel long distances to school, impacting attendance, extracurricular participation, and wellbeing. Small school rolls can lead to composite classes, limiting peer interaction and placing additional demands on teachers to differentiate learning. Recruiting and retaining staff can be adversely affected by housing availability and local amenities & facilities.

The Highland Council's official School Roll Forecasts (March 2025) provide detailed projections for each school in the region, including those in Badenoch & Strathspey. These are based on housing development data, demographic trends, and school capacities.

The following summarises school roll projections the two secondary schools in Badenoch & Strathspey and their associated primary schools

Further details can be found in the Associated Schools Group (ASG) reports for Kingussie High School and Grantown Grammar which were presented to the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee on 20 January 2025. The full ASG reports containing school roll projections can be found at the following [link](#).

Kingussie High School Associated Schools

- **Kingussie High School:**
 - Current roll: 419 pupils
 - Projected roll by 2035/36: 272 pupils
 - Slight increase by 2038/39: 286 pupils
 - Capacity: 660 (usage drops from 63% to 43%)
- Associated Primary Schools:
 - Aviemore Primary
 - Deshar Primary

- Gergask Primary
- Kingussie Primary
- Newtonmore Primary

Grantown Grammar School Associated Schools

- **Grantown Grammar School:**
 - Current roll: 362 pupils
 - Projected roll by 2038/39: 278 pupils
 - Capacity: 570 (usage drops from 64% to 49%)
- Associated Primary Schools:
 - Abernethy Primary
 - Carrbridge Primary
 - Cromdale Primary
 - Dulnain Bridge Primary
 - Grantown Primary
 - Glenlivet Primary
 - Tomintoul Primary

Tourism

Significantly contributes to the economy, supporting jobs and businesses. The area's increasingly year round popularity with visitors makes tourism a significant driver of the local economy with the National Park Area receiving over two million visitors per year. The significance of the area's natural heritage to communities' cultural identity and visitors places particular emphasis on

- Sustainable tourism
- Carbon neutral/negative economy

Balancing this opportunity with preserving natural beauty and community wellbeing takes careful planning. People across the area say that they wish to welcome tourists and manage 'hot spots' to maximise enjoyment for all.

“In Cairngorms National Park, visitor numbers have risen from around 1.4 million in 2003 to 1.73 million in 2022, with a total of £353 million being generated within the local economy in 2022 through visitor and tourism related business expenditure. Tourism accounts for around 60% of the economy in Cairngorms and over 40% of employment. This brings opportunities for local communities and businesses, including farming businesses that wish to diversify and benefit from the tourism economy.”

Park Authority Priorities (CNPA Partnership Plan, 2030 Priorities, Active Cairngorms Tourism Action Plan, Wellbeing Economy Action Plan):

- Green investment – Attract responsible private funding to support nature recovery with shared benefits.
- Developing green jobs – Create apprenticeships and training for green job opportunities.
- Supporting volunteers – Expand volunteer roles for diverse participants to support both people and nature.
- Helping communities thrive – Support local towns and businesses to ensure their long-term vitality.
- Empowering communities – Enable community involvement in planning, land ownership, and social enterprise.

Skills, Training & Employment (Wellbeing Economy & Tourism)

- Develop green skills and youth apprenticeships (e.g. peatland restoration, land management).
- Promote hospitality as a career through school and college partnerships.
- Support mentoring, scholarships, and training aligned with business needs.
- Create new career pathways into ranger services and environmental volunteering.

Volunteering & Youth Engagement (Active Cairngorms)

- Expand Volunteer Ranger Programme to 200+ rangers by 2030.
- Launch Volunteer Experience Programme targeting underrepresented groups.
- Support Junior Ranger programmes in six secondary schools.
- Promote nature-based awards and outdoor learning in schools.

Community Empowerment (Wellbeing Economy & Tourism)

- Support community-led tourism and enterprise networks.
- Promote community ownership of land and assets via local place plans.
- Develop new community-led development funding streams.

- Encourage community involvement in tourism decision-making.

Inclusion, Diversity & Culture (Tourism & Active Cairngorms)

- Address barriers for underrepresented visitor groups.
- Promote Gaelic language, storytelling, and cultural heritage.
- Train hospitality staff in inclusive practices.
- Celebrate cultural events and local identity.

Wellbeing Economy Development (Wellbeing Economy)

- Focus on business support, skills, and community enterprise.
- Align with National Strategy for Economic Transformation.
- Promote inclusive economic growth tailored to the Park's needs.

Business Support & Fair Work (Wellbeing Economy & Tourism)

- Support accreditation (e.g. Real Living Wage, Disability Confident).
- Conduct audits and promote best practices.
- Help businesses leverage National Park branding for growth.
- Encourage sustainable business practices and climate action.

Sustainable Tourism (Tourism)

- Reduce seasonality by promoting off-peak visits and longer stays.
- Develop new tourism products and events.
- Monitor short-term let licensing to maintain accommodation diversity.
- Engage with Scottish Government on local visitor levy design.

Community Enterprise & Investment (Wellbeing Economy)

- Promote community land ownership and asset management.
- Support regeneration of town/village centres.
- Encourage local supply chains and collaborative projects.

- Identify opportunities through the Land Reform Bill.

Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership's working priorities currently include:

- Employability: skills development and fair work
- Digital Connectivity

'Prosperity' Priorities emerging from Community Action Plans:

Advie and Cromdale Community Action Plan:

- Faster broadband
- Village shop development
- Small industrial units for letting
- Promotion of visitor attractions and heritage sites
- Enhancement of tourism infrastructure (e.g. whisky trail, pony trekking)

Aviemore, Rothiemurchus & Glenmore Community Action Plan:

- Deliver affordable housing for residents and key workers.
- Support local employment and small business development (e.g. pop-up shops, workshops).
- Promote economic sustainability by balancing tourism with community needs.
- Improve digital connectivity and infrastructure to support remote work and enterprise.

Boat of Garten Community Action Plan:

- Community-owned housing
- Small business units (e.g. near railway)
- Promote car sharing and local employment info
- Tourism initiatives: red squirrel trail, camping provision, crazy golf
- Support Boat Hotel collaboration with village
- Improve visitor information and signage

Carrbridge Community Action Plan:

- Support local enterprise through community-run café and events.
- Explore employment opportunities in care and youth services.
- Promote eco-tourism and cultural events (e.g. Festival of Music).
- Encourage volunteering and intergenerational skills sharing.

Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan:

- Support local businesses and explore options for a business/tourism association.
- Provide advice on household energy efficiency and fuel alternatives.
- Promote sustainable tourism and longer visitor stays.
- Encourage affordable housing to retain young families.

Dalnain Bridge Community Action Plan:

- Implement traffic calming and extend speed limits.
- Improve walking and cycling paths, including links to nearby areas.
- Enhance biodiversity (e.g. swift boxes, wildflower planting).
- Maintain and improve public spaces (e.g. planters, signage, litter picks).

Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan:

- Promote Grantown as a tourist destination.
- Develop visitor attractions and cultural heritage experiences.
- Support local businesses through improved infrastructure and marketing.
- Explore funding opportunities for regeneration and economic development.

Kincraig & Locality Community Action Plan:

- Explore community-run or pop-up shop options.
- Support local enterprise (e.g. business units at old A9 site).
- Promote circular economy (e.g. repair cafés, swap events).
- Encourage sustainable tourism and local economic development.

Kingussie Community Action Plan:

- Develop affordable housing for locals, key workers, and young people.
- Support community enterprise (e.g. local food growing, markets).
- Promote sustainable tourism and local economic development.
- Explore redevelopment of St Vincent's for housing and community use.

Laggan Community Action Plan:

- Support affordable housing and community-led housing initiatives.
- Promote local enterprise and explore business association formation.
- Encourage sustainable tourism (film tourism, Wolftrax, heritage).
- Use community benefit funds strategically for long-term development.

Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan:

- Develop affordable housing for locals and key workers.
- Explore community-owned housing models (e.g. asset transfer).
- Support local businesses and promote sustainable tourism.
- Encourage community enterprise and local economic initiatives.

Newtonmore Community Action Plan:

- Support affordable housing for locals and key workers.
- Promote local enterprise and support small businesses.
- Enhance tourism infrastructure (e.g. Wildcat Centre, signage).
- Encourage sustainable economic development and local employment.

CASE STUDY: The **Glenmore Visitor Centre**, now operated by the **Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust (AGCT)**, is a vibrant, community-owned hub located in the heart of Glenmore Forest Park within the Cairngorms National Park. Acquired through a Community Asset Transfer from Forestry and Land Scotland in November 2024, the centre is designed to serve both locals and visitors, offering a welcoming space that celebrates the natural beauty, heritage, and outdoor opportunities of the area. AGCT's vision for the centre includes promoting responsible tourism, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. The centre acts as a gateway to a wide range of activities such as hiking, biking, trail running, wild swimming in Loch Morlich, and skiing at nearby Cairngorm Mountain. Income generated is reinvested into the centre and other local initiatives, ensuring long-term benefits for the Aviemore and Glenmore communities. AGCT's stewardship reflects a strong commitment to sustainable development and community-led tourism.

5 How the Plan Will be Used

The Area Place Plan will serve as a foundational framework from which more detailed and targeted actions can be developed. It represents the collective aspirations, concerns, and priorities of the local community, and will act as a guiding document to inform future decision-making and resource allocation. By identifying key themes and areas of importance such as housing, transport, green spaces, community facilities, and economic development, the plan provides a clear starting point for collaborative efforts between residents, local organisations, public sector bodies, and other stakeholders.

These partnerships will be essential in translating the broad goals outlined in the plan into practical, achievable initiatives that reflect the unique character and needs of the area. As the Plan evolves, it will support ongoing dialogue, encourage innovation, and foster a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. Ultimately, it will be a living document that not only captures the vision of the community but also drives meaningful change through coordinated action and sustained partnership working.

The Plan will provide all those with an interest in or those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in Badenoch & Strathspey with a helpful tool to:

- Establish a shared understanding of local needs and opportunities.
- Inform decisions on service design and delivery.
- Provide evidence to support funding bids for projects.
- Encourage public, private, and community collaboration for long-term sustainable growth.
- Make best use of available resources and forward plan for when funding and investment becomes available.
- Link with local and national decision-making processes, influencing public services, budgeting, and planning policies to reflect the needs and aspirations of the Badenoch & Strathspey community.

The intention is that this should be an evolving plan, In the first instance an action plan will be created to set out the route for delivery of the priorities within the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Place Plan. The action plan will seek to:

- Further understand and develop priorities, in discussion across all sectors

- Set out to identify the best mechanism for delivery and the range of partners to be involved
- Assess potential barriers
- Assess potential funding opportunities

Not all priorities will be achievable in the short to medium term, however, priorities within this plan have the widest community support and this plan, along with appendices, can be used to evidence and inform developments and funding decisions.

Once this first iteration of the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Place Plan has been adopted by the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee the Action Plan will be developed in conjunction with communities, statutory partners and wider stakeholders.

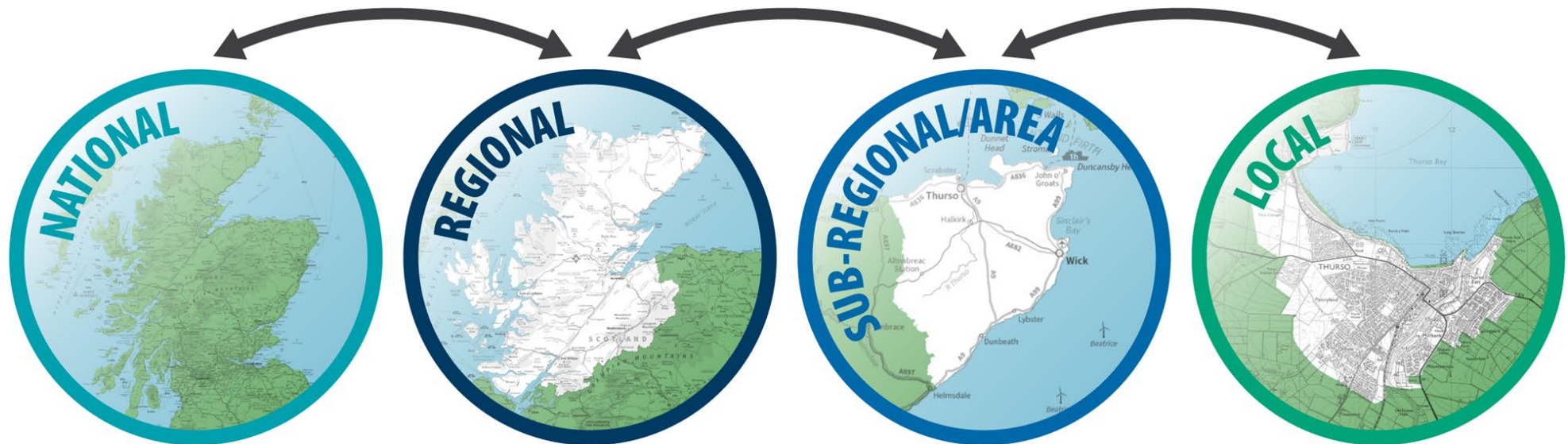
Appendices

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Appendix A Wider Plan Landscape

Area Place Plans sit within the wider strategic context and also exert some influence on both strategic and operational plans on a Highland-wide and locality planning arena. This appendix situates the plans as well as signposting to those wider documents.



Highland Wide Plans, Programmes & Documents:

Highland Delivery Plan (HDP) – Our Future Highland:

Sets out the programme of Highland Council for the five-year period up to 2027. It makes commitments to secure social and economic transformation on behalf of Highland communities. The operational delivery plan shows how Highland Council will deliver on these commitments through a major programme of transformation for our people and places, working in collaboration with others to create a vibrant and sustainable Highland area. It has a range of workstreams, programmes and projects measured by the Performance Plan or by

specific service plans and is also the means by which the Council will deliver on its three-year budget strategy (2024-2027). It also shows how the Council will work with others to implement commitments expressed in the Community Planning Partnership's Highland Outcome Improvement Plan. The Plan is available here - [Our priorities | Delivery Plan 2024-2027](#)

Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan enables the right kind of development to happen in the right place, to help deliver the aims of the Cairngorms National Park. All planning applications in the National Park are assessed against the Local Development Plan and Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4. The current Local Development Plan was adopted by the Park Authority on 26 March 2021

The Cairngorms National Park Authority has now (October 2025) begun work on its next Local Development Plan. It will be shaped by the views and aspirations of communities across the National Park. The plan will replace the existing Local Development Plan adopted in 2021 and alongside Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4, will set out planning policies and proposals for the use and development of land across the National Park.

Details of the current Local Development Plan and the current engagement in respect of the next Local Development plan can be found [here](#).

Highland Outcome Improvement Plan (HOIP):

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to prepare and publish a Local Outcome Improvement Plan which sets out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement. Tackling inequalities will be a specific focus. The HCPP works towards the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan (HOIP), which outlines aspirations for Highland and the outcomes community planning partners aim to achieve. The HOIP's vision is to maximise opportunities and tackle inequality, building a thriving Highlands for all. The vision is driven by three strategic priorities: People; Place; Prosperity. The revised 2024 -2027 HOIP is available to download [here](#). Further information on the HCPP can be found on the [About HCPP](#) page.

Highland Investment Plan (HIP):

The Highland Investment Plan (HIP) commits £2.1 billion of capital funding over a twenty-year period, based on the ring fencing of 2% council tax per annum, or an equivalent revenue stream. These funds will be capitalised to create an investment fund that will be used to tackle the major capital challenges that Highland Council faces: transport and roads; schools and community facilities; depots and offices – as part of work towards a single public estate and integrated community operating model. Thurso is one of the priority areas targeted to benefit from this funding - [Highland Investment Plan | Highland Investment Plan | The Highland Council](#)

Local Housing Strategy (LHS):

Housing is one of life's basic needs. Everyone should have a good quality home that they can afford to live in and heat, which will in turn help them to enjoy better health and achieve their full potential. Good housing also contributes to stronger communities that benefit everyone living in them. The Council's current Local Housing Strategy, co-produced with delivery partners, stakeholders and local residents sets out aims for housing over the next five years and what will be done to increase the supply of homes so there are enough houses in the right places to meet housing needs; support people to live independently for as long as possible in their own homes and communities; prevent and respond to homelessness and make sure people have the right help to let them make decisions on their housing options; and improve the condition of housing and minimise fuel poverty to improve the quality, comfort and affordability of homes.

The vision for Highland is that *"Everyone in Highland has access to a quality home which is attainable, affordable and supports the local economy in a sustainable, connected community where people wish to live, work and study."* The Strategy can be accessed here -

[Housing strategy | Housing strategy | The Highland Council](#)

Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP):

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan sits alongside the Local Housing Strategy (LHS), with the current SHIP setting out how investment in affordable housing will be directed over the five-year period 2024/25 to 2028/29 to achieve the priorities identified in the LHS. It contributes to the national Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP), assisting in fulfilling the Scottish Government's commitment to deliver new affordable homes both during this Parliament as well as to extend delivery beyond that period.

https://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/84033/10_strategic_housing_investment_plan_2025%E2%80%932030

'Blue Light' Services

Operational delivery plans for local policing, fire and rescue services:

- [Local Fire & Rescue Plan, Highland 2021-2024](#)
- [Highland Local Policing Plan, 2023-2026](#)
- [North Highland Area Command Priorities \(Police\)](#)

Highlands & Islands Enterprise Strategy:

Sets out priorities for economic development to ensure a greener, fairer and more resilient region.

<https://www.hie.co.uk/media/vczc0zca/hie-strategy-2023-28-final-031023.pdf>

Cairngorms National Park Authority:

National Park Partnership Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/the-national-park/about/national-park-partnership-plan>

Cairngorms Nature Action Plan

https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CairngormsNatureAction19_24PlanFinal.pdf

Local Development Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/our-work/local-development-plan>

Wellbeing Economy Action Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/241122Paper2Annex1WellbeingEconomyActionPlan.pdf>

Active Cairngorm Action Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/documents/active-cairngorms-action-plan-text>

Cairngorms Forest Strategy

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/document-collection/the-cairngorms-national-park-forest-strategy>

Sustainable Tourism Action Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/our-work/sustainable-tourism>

Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/documents/strategic-tourism-infrastructure-development-plan-2023-2028/html>

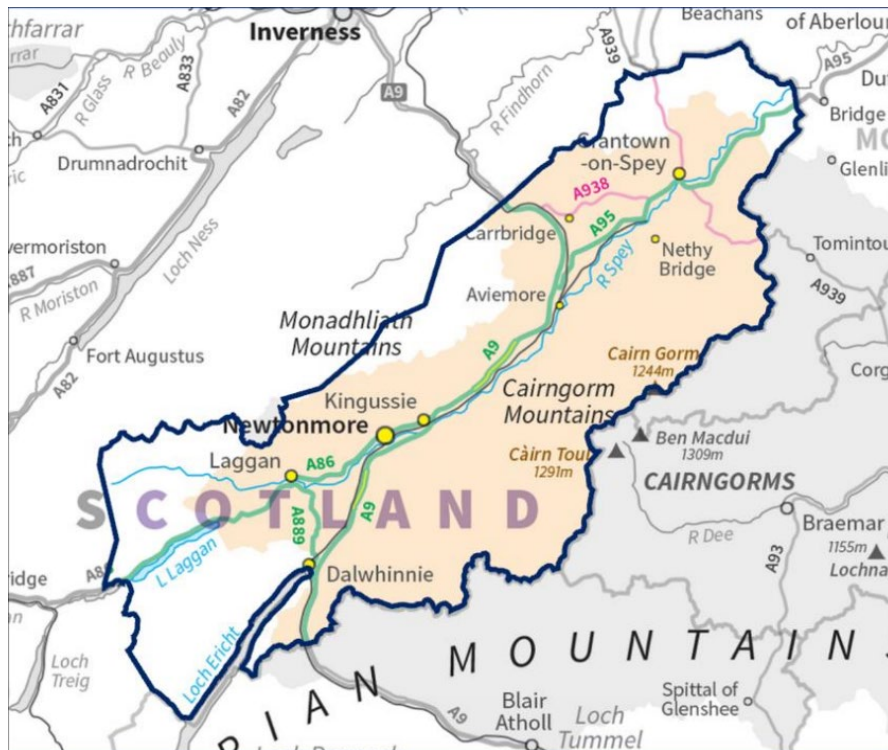
Forestry & Land Scotland: Badenoch & Strathspey Land Management Plans:

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active/>

Appendix B - Population Statistics and other Area Information

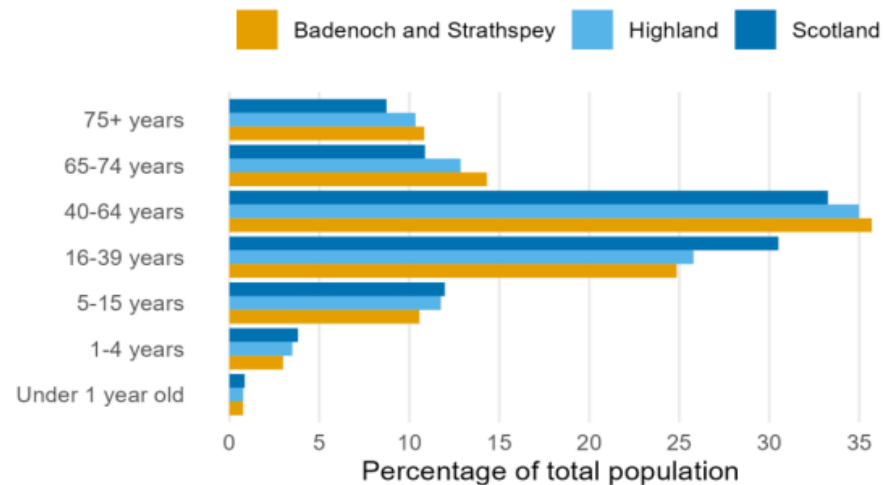
This information provides an overview of Badenoch and Strathspey's current and future population structure. It also provides information about the population dynamics of Badenoch and Strathspey and areas within Badenoch and Strathspey, the geography, and the life circumstances of people living in the area.

All data are presented for Badenoch and Strathspey and, where available, intermediate zones or neighbourhoods within Badenoch and Strathspey. Comparisons are made in places to the Highland local authority and Scotland.



- Badenoch and Strathspey includes the settlements of Aviemore, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie, Nethy Bridge and Newtonmore. The area covers much of the western part of the Cairngorms National Park.
- Just over a quarter of the population (27%) live in the remote small town of Aviemore. Almost three in four people (73%) live in areas classified as rural.
- As of 2021, Badenoch and Strathspey has a population of 14,041 people. 14.3% of the population are children aged 0-15 years, 60.6% are aged 16-64 years and 25.1% are people aged 65 years and over.

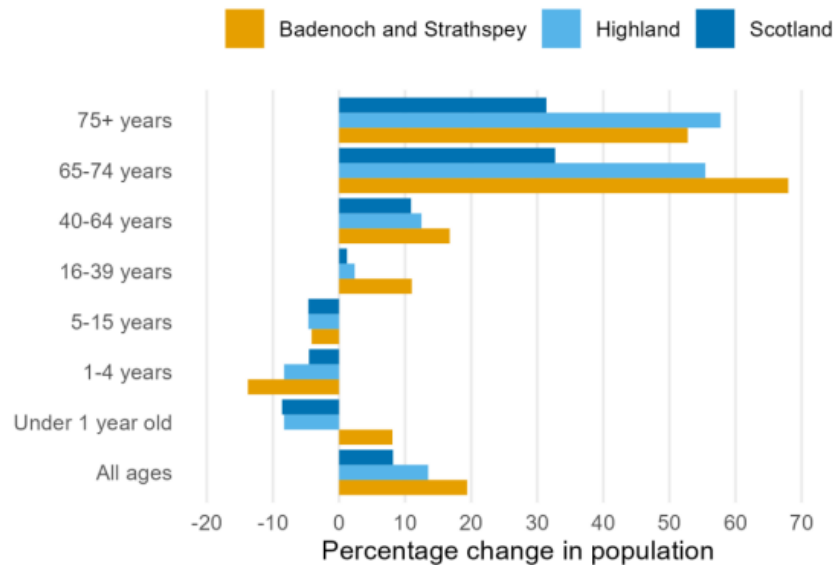
Figure 1: Percentage of the population by age group



Source: National Records of Scotland, Small Area Population Estimates 2021

- The age profile of the Badenoch and Strathspey population is similar to Highland.
- The population of Badenoch and Strathspey increased by 19% in the period from 2002 to 2021.
- Over this period, there was a 61% increase in the 65+ age group and a 6% reduction in the population aged under 16 years.

Figure 3: Percentage change in the population by age group, 2002 to 2021



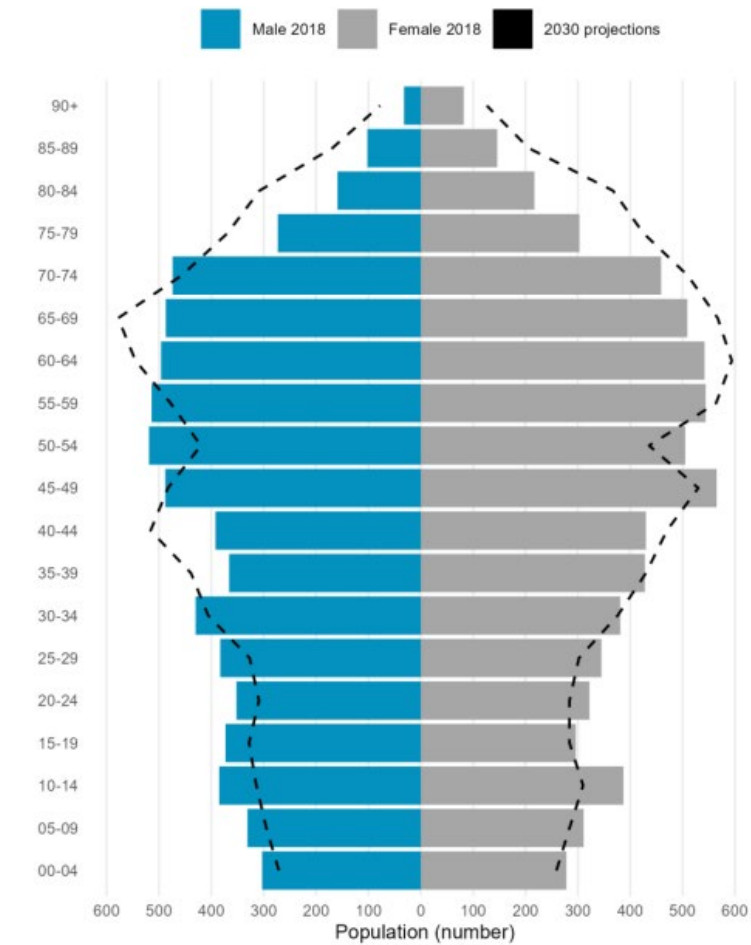
Source: National Records of Scotland, Small Area Population Estimates 2021

- The ratio of 2.4 people of working age (16-64 years) to older people (age 65 years and over) is lower in Badenoch and Strathspey than in Highland and Scotland.
- There were 85 live births to Badenoch and Strathspey residents in 2020.

- Birth rates have decreased over the last decade in both Badenoch and Strathspey and Highland. The birth rate in Badenoch and Strathspey has historically been slightly lower than in Highland.
- Birth rates are not significantly different in the small areas of Badenoch and Strathspey.
- The mortality rate in Badenoch and Strathspey has consistently been lower than that of Highland.
- Following the pattern seen in Highland and Scotland, improvement in the mortality rate in Badenoch and Strathspey has stalled⁶. It is a significant concern that a sentinel measure of population health and social progress is not improving.
- Population projections are informed by past trends in births, deaths and migration. NHS Highland, Public Health Intelligence team 2022
- The annual number of deaths in the area exceeds the number of births, and population growth depends on net migration gain.
- The latest available population projections estimate that the overall population of Badenoch and Strathspey will increase between 2018 and 2030.
- The number and proportion of people in the 65-74, 75-84 and 85+ age groups are projected to increase, whereas the population aged 0-15 years and 45-64 years are projected to decrease.
- Projected demographic changes indicate that the ratio of people of working age to people aged 65 years and older will further decrease.
- SIMD 2020 identifies no data zones in Badenoch and Strathspey that are in the 20% most deprived small areas in Scotland. All the small areas of Badenoch and Strathspey have national deprivation ranks in quintiles three or four.
- In SIMD 2020, 6.8% of the population of Badenoch and Strathspey were identified as being income deprived and 4.6% of the working age population were employment deprived.
- Rural deprivation is a significant concern. Those identified as income or employment deprived are found in all intermediate geography areas.

Further population data and Area information can be found within the CNPA Local Development Plan which is referenced elsewhere in this Area place Plan.

Figure 11: Estimated population in 2018 and projected population in 2030



Source: Improvement Service Population Projections for Sub Council Areas 2018 based

Appendix C - Community Action Plans / Local Place Planning.

Local Place Plans (LPPs) are community-led documents that aim to easily convey a community's proposals for the development or use of land and buildings in their local area. Introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, LPPs are a way for Community Councils or Community-controlled bodies to engage with their local community, to think about how to make their place better, to agree priorities, and to take action (often working with others). [Local Place Plans | Local Place Plans | The Highland Council](#)

Although there are no Local Place Plans in Badenoch & Strathspey, each community in the Area has worked with VABS to develop a Community Action Plan following the same principles as LPPs. The Badenoch & Strathspey CAP priorities have been summarised in this APP under the People, Place & Prosperity headings above however each CAP can be found in full at the web links below.

It is recognised that the refresh of these Community Action Plans is an ongoing piece of work by Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey and as such it is recognised that some Community Action Plan Priorities listed will have been completed since the completion of individual Plans. This APP will be updated to reflect the current position local in respect of each Community Action Plan during future updates of this APP.

Local Place Plans

Local Place Plans in The Highland Council area can be found via the Council's Local Place Plan Register, which comprises:

[Directory of Local Place Plans](#)

[LPP online map](#) .

Advie and Cromdale Community action Plan.

The Advie and Cromdale Community Action Plan emerged from a community-led event known as the "Big Conversation" held in October 2013, attended by 18 residents. The plan reflects local aspirations and priorities, aiming to strengthen community cohesion and improve infrastructure, amenities, and opportunities. The community proposed forming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) to lead development efforts and manage community assets.

Key themes include enhancing connectivity, revitalising community spaces, promoting local heritage, and improving recreational and visitor facilities. Priorities were categorised into high, medium, and low based on community voting. High-priority actions included faster broadband, upgrades to Cromdale Village Hall, better play parks, and improved signage for walking and cycling routes. Medium priorities focused on developing a village shop, walking trails, sports facilities, and a campsite. Low priorities included allotments, lunch clubs, and pony trekking.

The plan also noted ongoing initiatives such as speed surveys, war memorial improvements, and efforts to enhance public transport. The overarching goal is to empower the community to take ownership of local development through collaborative action and structured governance.

<https://cairnngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2013CromdaleAdvieActionPlan.pdf>

Aviemore, Rothiemurchus & Glenmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

The Aviemore, Rothiemurchus & Glenmore Community Action Plan 2024 sets out a shared vision for a socially connected, climate-conscious, economically thriving, and culturally vibrant community by 2030. Developed through extensive local engagement—including surveys and a "Big Conversation" event—the plan reflects the aspirations of residents, businesses, and community organisations. It builds on previous successes such as the upgrade of the Village Green, creation of an ice rink, and acquisition of the Glenmore Visitor Centre.

The plan identifies key priorities across social, environmental, economic, and cultural themes. It emphasises inclusive development, sustainability, and community empowerment. Specific goals include improving leisure and transport infrastructure, expanding affordable housing, supporting local businesses, and enhancing green spaces and active travel networks. The plan also outlines spatial priorities to guide land use and development, aiming to influence the Local Development Plan and future planning decisions.

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Aviemore-Rothiemurchus-Glenmore-Community-Action-Plan-2024-.pdf>

2018 Boat of Garten Community Action Plan, titled "Our Community... A Way Forward"

This Plan was developed through local consultation to identify and prioritise community needs. The plan outlines a wide range of projects aimed at enhancing quality of life, improving infrastructure, and supporting sustainable development. Priorities were grouped into high, medium, and low categories based on community feedback.

High-priority actions included developing a BMX/pump track, improving transport links, addressing car parking congestion, and enhancing pedestrian and cycle access. The community also expressed strong interest in creating a social hub or pub, building a new school and nursery, and increasing childcare and sheltered housing options.

Medium and lower priorities focused on environmental improvements, such as floral displays, tidying the recycling area, and managing dog fouling. There was also support for tourism and recreation initiatives like a red squirrel trail, crazy golf, and a community campsite. The plan encouraged volunteerism and community ownership, with several projects already underway or being explored by local groups.

Boat of Garten Action Plan Review 2018

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2018-Boat-of-GartenAction-Plan.pdf>

The Carrbridge Community Action Plan 2022

Titled "Looking to 2030", was developed through extensive community engagement, including surveys and a three-day "Big Conversation" event. Led by Carrbridge Ahead and supported by local organisations, the plan sets out a 10-year vision for a socially connected, climate-conscious, economically thriving, and culturally vibrant village.

The plan builds on previous successes such as the village hall upgrade, play park improvements, and the creation of a community pump track. It identifies key priorities across four themes: social, environmental, economic, and cultural. These include enhancing community spaces, supporting youth and older residents, improving transport and active travel infrastructure, and promoting local enterprise and tourism.

The plan emphasises inclusive development, volunteerism, and sustainability. It proposes feasibility studies for new facilities, such as a community hub, care centre, and sheltered housing, and encourages community-led delivery through “Team Carrbridge”.

Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Carrbridge-Community-Action-Plan-2022.pdf>

Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan

The Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 was developed in 2023 through a community-led process involving surveys, targeted outreach, and a public event called “The Big Conversation.” With support from local organisations and Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey, the plan sets out a 10-year vision for a socially connected, climate-conscious, and economically thriving village.

Dalwhinnie, a small Highland community of around 80 residents, faces challenges such as limited amenities, transport connectivity, and a declining volunteer base. The plan builds on recent successes like village hall improvements, better visitor information, and environmental enhancements. It identifies key priorities across three themes, social, environmental, and economic based on community feedback.

The plan emphasises sustainability, community empowerment, and collaboration with neighbouring villages like Laggan. It outlines both “quick wins” and longer-term goals, with a focus on practical, measurable actions to improve quality of life, support local enterprise, and protect the environment.

Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/DalwhinnieCAP2023Report.pdf>

The Dulnain Bridge Community Action Plan

The Dulnain Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 was developed in 2024 through a community-led process involving surveys, targeted outreach, and public engagement. The plan builds on the 2016 version and reflects the aspirations of residents to create a socially connected, climate-conscious, and youth-friendly village. It was coordinated by the Dulnain Bridge Community Council, Development Trust, Village Hall Committee, and Friends of Dulnain Bridge, with support from Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS).

The plan identifies key priorities for the next decade, focusing on sustainability, community wellbeing, and economic resilience. It proposes practical projects such as shop improvements, a community café, traffic calming, biodiversity initiatives, and enhanced walking and cycling infrastructure. The plan also highlights the importance of community collaboration and introduces “Team Dulnain Bridge” to oversee implementation and ensure inclusive participation.

The plan is structured around SMART goals and aims to empower local groups to lead change, strengthen community spirit, and improve quality of life for all residents.

Dulnain Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Dulnain-Bridge-Community-Action-Plan-2024-1-1.pdf>

Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan

The Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan (2016), commissioned by the Grantown Initiative, outlines a five-year strategy to revitalise the town’s social, economic, and physical assets. Developed through extensive community consultation and supported by the Cairngorms LEADER programme and Highland Council, the plan focuses on three interlinked themes: Town Centre, Tourism, and Community.

The plan aims to “put Grantown back on the map” by enhancing its town centre, promoting tourism, and strengthening community action. Key issues identified include underused and poorly maintained properties, lack of parking enforcement, traffic congestion, and the need for better signage and public realm improvements. The plan proposes a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Programme to restore historic buildings and improve the town’s appearance.

Tourism development is another major focus, with proposals to enhance visitor attractions, improve signage, and promote Grantown’s cultural heritage. Community priorities include better coordination of local groups, increased volunteering, and improved facilities for young people and older residents.

Grantown on Spey Community Action Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/160803-GrantownIconicPlan.pdf>

Kincraig & Locality Community Action Plan

The Kincraig & Locality Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 was developed in Spring 2024 through a comprehensive community-led process involving surveys, targeted outreach, and a “Big Conversation” event. Covering Kincraig and surrounding settlements such as Insh, Alvie, and Drumguish, the plan reflects a shared vision for a socially connected, climate-conscious, economically thriving, and culturally vibrant community.

The plan builds on previous successes like the extension of the Speyside Way, biodiversity projects, and community events. It identifies key priorities across four themes—social, environmental, economic, and cultural—based on community feedback. The plan emphasises sustainability, intergenerational inclusion, and practical improvements to infrastructure, services, and community spaces.

A new community forum, “Team Kincraig,” will lead implementation, ensuring transparency, inclusion, and collaboration. The plan also includes spatial priorities to guide land use and development, aiming to influence the Local Development Plan and future projects.

Kincraig & Locality Community Action Plan

Kincraig & Locality Community Action Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Kincraig-and-locality-Community-Action-Plan-2024.pdf>

Kingussie Community Action Plan

The Kingussie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 was developed through a community-led process in winter 2024 and published in spring 2025. It builds on the 2018 plan and reflects the aspirations of residents, businesses, and local organisations to create a socially connected, climate-conscious, economically thriving, and culturally vibrant town.

The plan was informed by surveys, targeted outreach, and a “Big Conversation” event. It identifies key priorities across social, environmental, economic, and cultural themes. The community expressed strong support for improving youth facilities, active travel infrastructure, public transport, green spaces, and affordable housing. The plan also highlights the importance of community empowerment, volunteerism, and collaboration through a new delivery group, “Team Kingussie.”

Recent successes include the refurbishment of Glebe Ponds, creation of Sunday markets, and the transformation of Gynack Gardens. The plan outlines both short-term actions and long-term goals, with a focus on sustainability, inclusivity, and local leadership.

Kingussie Community Action Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Kingussie-Community-Action-Plan-2025.pdf>

Laggan Community Action Plan:

The Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 was developed in autumn 2022 through a community-led process involving surveys, outreach, and a three-day “Big Conversation” event. It builds on the 2019 plan and reflects the aspirations of residents and local organisations to create a socially connected, climate-conscious, and economically thriving village.

The plan was coordinated by Laggan Community Council, Laggan Forest Trust, Laggan Community Housing Ltd, and others, with support from Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey. It identifies priorities across three themes: social, environmental, and economic. Key issues include the need for improved community spaces, sustainable transport, affordable housing, and better communication and volunteering structures.

The plan also highlights the importance of using community benefit funds from the Stronelairg Wind Farm to support long-term sustainability. A new delivery group, “Team Laggan,” will oversee implementation. The plan emphasises SMART goals and community empowerment, aiming to build resilience and improve quality of life for all residents.

Laggan Action Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Laggan-Community-Action-Plan-2022.pdf>

Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan:

The Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 was developed in Autumn/Winter 2023 through a community-led process involving surveys, targeted outreach, and a “Big Conversation” event. Coordinated by a steering group of local organisations and supported by Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey, the plan builds on the 2011 version and reflects the community’s aspirations for a socially connected, climate-conscious, economically thriving, and culturally vibrant village.

The plan identifies key priorities across four themes—social, environmental, economic, and cultural—based on feedback from 254 residents and businesses. It outlines both “quick wins” and long-term goals, with a focus on sustainability, youth engagement, housing, and

community facilities. The plan also introduces “Team Nethy,” a community-led group responsible for delivering the plan and ensuring inclusive participation.

Recent successes include the opening of Castle Roy, a new café, upgraded community centre, and improved path networks. The plan aims to build on this momentum by addressing housing needs, enhancing youth and community facilities, improving biodiversity, and supporting local enterprise.

Nethybridge Action Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Nethy-Bridge-Community-Action-Plan-2023.pdf>

Newtonmore Community Action Plan

The Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 was developed in Spring 2022 through a community-led process involving surveys, targeted outreach, and a three-day “Big Conversation” event. Coordinated by a steering group of local organisations and supported by Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey, the plan builds on the 2013 version and reflects the community’s aspirations for a socially connected, climate-conscious, economically thriving, and culturally vibrant village.

The plan identifies priorities across four themes—social, environmental, economic, and cultural—based on feedback from over 150 residents. It outlines both short-term “quick wins” and longer-term goals, with a focus on youth engagement, active travel, community spaces, housing, and local enterprise. The plan also introduces “Team Newtonmore” to lead delivery and ensure inclusive participation.

Recent successes include upgrades to the village hall, play park, tennis courts, and village square, as well as improvements to the Wildcat Trail and local marketing. The plan aims to build on this momentum by addressing emerging challenges and opportunities through collaborative, sustainable action.

Newtonmore Action Plan

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Newtonmore-Community-Action-Plan-2022.pdf>

APPENDIX D - Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership Action Tracker

The Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership (BSCP) is one of nine Community Partnerships across Highland dedicated to tackling inequalities. Bringing together public sector partners, third sector organisations, and local agencies, serves as a collaborative forum to identify shared local priorities and coordinated actions. Through shared resources, joint initiatives, and collaborative working, the aims to improve service delivery and address community needs. This collective effort reflects a commitment to community engagement and making meaningful, positive changes that benefit everyone in the Badenoch & Strathspey area.

The BSCP Action Tracker which sets out its priorities and workstream for Badenoch & Strathspey is set out below as an additional source of collaborative evidence of Area priorities.

 Highland Community Planning Partnership		Com-pàirteachas Dealbhadh Coimhearsnachd na Gàidhealtachd			
Badenoch & Strathspey Priority Action Tracker					
Priority		Actions		Lead	
People					
1	A	Support the Community of B&S by offering joined up help with welfare and advice and provide training opportunities for local organisations.	1A1	Develop and deliver a coordinated community support programme across Badenoch & Strathspey that promotes access to welfare advice, energy saving and budgeting.	ALL
			1A2	Promote and coordinate access to training opportunities for organisation and community groups.	ALL

	B	Whole Family Wellbeing Programme (WFWP)	1B1	Badenoch & Strathspey Local Partnership Network Group (LPNG) This group will: - Bring together professionals who work with families in Badenoch & Strathspey to form a Local Partnership Network Group (LPNG). - Identify Local Needs & Gaps - Use data, family feedback, and knowledge of existing services to highlight key priorities and service gaps in the area. - Create a Collaborative Hub -a space for professionals to share best practices, ideas, and solutions to strengthen Whole Family Wellbeing (WFW) in Badenoch & Strathspey. - Align Work with WFWP Framework - Ensure all actions and outcomes reflect the 4 pillars and 10 principles of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme (WFWP). - Guide & Deliver Element 2 Funding Proposals - Oversee the allocation and use of £100k in Element 2 funding (2 grants of £50k) to support family-focused services and initiatives.	WFW
			1B2	Element 1 Funding - Monitor and report on the WFWP Element 1 projects that are offered in or for Badenoch & Strathspey children, young people and families.	WFW
			1B3	Service Mapping - continue mapping services in Badenoch & Strathspey for children, young people and families with the support of the LPNG and CP. Identify the best platform to share this information and work in alignment with NHS mapping and HTSI mapping.	WFW
			1B4	Self-assessment Toolkit - continue to support organisations to complete the self-assessment toolkit to measure their practice around work with families in Badenoch & Strathspey.	WFW
	C	Enhance and Sustain community efforts towards waste reduction and the circular economy	1C1	Create a comprehensive database by identifying and listing existing initiatives within the B&S Area that contribute to waste reduction and circular economy	HICH
			1C2	Provide ongoing support to new and established community organisations with funding capacity building, training, events and project management.	HICH
	D	Raise awareness of what the CP Role is within communities and inform partners of community priorities	1D1	Aligning Community Action Plans with the B&S Community Partnership Plan	VABS/Partnership Officer
			1D2	VABS to facilitate presentations to the 12 Team Town groups (CAP's) to raise awareness and build dialogue with the B&S Community Partnership	Partnership Officer
			1D3	VABS to present an annual update on Community Action Plans progress	VABS
			1D4	Systematic review of the B&S communities' CAPs and support the team towns as they progress actions	VABS/CNPA

E	Increase Participation: Support for Communities to help increase/improve their capacity and capability to participate	1E1	Use a collaborative approach to grow and influence the level of young people participation in events and discussions	Sandra Brown/Paul Jarvis/CYLAG
		1E1	Consider providing childcare/transport and food - or vouchers for participation as there is a cost to attending and even if online many do not have data to use for online meetings or surveys.	Jaci Douglas - CALA
F	Green Health: People are facilitated to benefit from contact with nature as an alternative to medicine to enhance mental health and wellbeing.	1F1	Expansion of Nature Prescription programmes through Primary and Secondary Care, wider Health and Social Care Services, and community-based support agencies. Promotion and communication through appropriate channels to encourage agencies and staff (paid or voluntary) to engage and support this initiative.	Dan Jenkins
		1F2	Public communication and messaging to promote nature-based activities that improve wellbeing and keep people away from needing health services by keeping them well.	Dan Jenkins
		1F3	Formalise B&S Green Health Network as subgroup of B&S CP and designate CP member representation and reporting route	Dan Jenkins
		1F4	Look into opportunities for developing supported (through organisations/groups) and unsupported (self-directed) activity across B&S communities. Support and develop local initiatives, e.g. through training (e.g. fundraising, outdoor first aid) and membership of B&S Green Health Network	Dan Jenkins
G	Mental Health: Increased Mental Health provision within the B&S Area	1G1	Expansion of mental health training in the community to allow everyone to understand and break down stigma associated with mental health. Also, to help signpost people too support. Including SIPP training.	Dan Jenkins
H	District Plan- The Badenoch & Strathspey CP will support the work of the District Planning Group	1H2	Maximise the use of community hospital beds to support the wider needs of the B&S community - Improve flow of patients out of the acute hospital setting and ensure prevention of admission is community focused rather than bed based.	DPG
		1H3	Availability of suitable housing options for both potential staff to support recruitment and individuals living in the community with complex needs - Joint working with Housing teams to agree a strategy for meeting the Housing needs of the community.	DPG
		1H4	Improve access to preventative solutions and build on existing community-based services - Identify baseline availability of services and explore option for expansion.	DPG

