The Highland Council

Agenda Item	6	
Report No	ECI/35/25	

Committee: Economy and Infrastructure

Date: 13 November 2025

Report Title: Highland Local Development Plan: Progress Update

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council has agreed to produce a single Local Development Plan (LDP) for Highland to replace its current four LDPs. This new Highland Local Development Plan will set the strategic land use framework to support economic growth, address the area's housing challenge and protect our culturally important natural and built assets for the benefit of all our communities into the 2030's and beyond.
- 1.2 The new HLDP will be a new-style LDP, produced subsequent to the reformed approach to local development planning introduced under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and supported by National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Intended for adoption in 2028/2029, it will have a lifespan of 10 years and will therefore be in force during a critical point in Highland's economic transformation.
- 1.3 It is clear from the evidence gathered to date that there are significant economic opportunities that Highland can embrace, most of which are dependent upon the area's abundant natural assets and unique character. The sectors most likely to provide such opportunity are those relating to energy, tourism and the blue/green economy. This comes at a time where there are many challenges such as an ageing population, declining working age population, access to employment and services within our rural areas in particular, and also significant housing pressures. Having a robust Local Development Plan will support the expected outcomes and vision of the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan to 'Build a Thriving Highland for All'.
- 1.4 The Council is already taking action to address many of these challenges, not least through its work on the Highland Housing Challenge Action Plan, that has committed to the development of three Masterplan Consent Areas, something that can be brought forward in tandem with the preparation of this Development Plan and help bridge any gap regarding the timescale for its adoption.
- 1.5 New-style LDP's are evidence-led which is scrutinised through a Gate Check by the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) to ensure a robust foundation for the plan. This explains why it has been necessary to revise the timetable for the HLDP.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. Note the progress to date on gathering, analysing, collating and reporting sufficient evidence to produce the new Highland Local Development Plan (HLDP), including public consultation on "topic" and "place" based evidence, further stakeholder engagement undertaken, the advancement of a number of key audits and assessments and progress on drafting of the Evidence Report itself;
- ii. **Note** the next steps, including requirements for completion of the Evidence Report for approval by Committee and Full Council and subsequent submission to Scottish Ministers for independent Gate Check; and
- iii. **Agree** the revised HLDP timeline as set out at paragraph 8.1 of the report, to be formally communicated through an updated Development Plan Scheme to be published by 31 January 2026.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** most evidence gathering has been resourced through the relevant service budget. However, a new Housing Need and Demand Assessment has been procured at additional cost, but this is a Scottish Government prescribed requirement of the Council for both its housing and planning authority functions. Online consultation options have been used to minimise cost. Each planning authority must fund the Gate Check and Examination of each of its LDPs, and these will be unavoidable costs later in the HLDP process. Producing a single LDP for Highland, gathering sufficient evidence to get through the Scottish Government Reporter's Gate Check, and minimising the number of objections to the HLDP are ways to minimise the costs of these statutory procedures. Other authorities have confirmed that a typical Gate Check assessment costs between £20,000 and £40,000.
- 3.2 **Legal** the evidence gathering part of the wider Plan process has been undertaken in line with the relevant primary and secondary legislation and Scottish Government published guidance therefore minimising the risk of a future legal challenge to the Council's process and decision making.
- 3.3 **Risk** there are no risks to the Council other than those described in the legal section.
- 3.4 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people) there are no implications.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** the future HLDP will contain Gaelic headings and subheadings in accordance with the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

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 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5 Background

- 5.1 Members will recall from the <u>previous report to Committee</u> and subsequent emails that officers have been gathering and consulting on evidence in many ways including:-
 - A <u>Call for Development Sites</u> to help assess the optimum amount, location, viability and effects of future growth;
 - A public consultation on our <u>Evidence Papers</u> to gauge reaction to our evidence base and what it means for the future HLDP;
 - <u>Mapping our evidence</u> to make it more engaging and producing <u>dashboards of</u> key data;
 - An ongoing series of both in-person and online meetings with stakeholders including community councils, the development industry and Key Agencies; and
 - Assimilating the views of local communities as expressed through their <u>Local Place Plans</u> (LPPs).
- Unfortunately, this initial evidence gathering stage of the new LDP process is not defined in legislation and therefore planning authorities including Highland have found it challenging to know whether they have assembled evidence and properly audited and explained it's meaning sufficient to satisfy a Scottish Government Reporter and produce the future plan. Instead, authorities must rely on the Scottish Government's Local Development Planning Guidance which is lengthy, onerous and prescriptive but on several key issues, imprecise. This lack of clarity has been the cause of many LDPs being rejected by Scottish Government at the initial Gate Check stage as detailed at Appendix 1.
- 5.3 This uncertainty has created a need to set out, agree and communicate to all interested parties a revised timetable for the HLDP process, which is intended to:-
 - reduce the risk of the Evidence Report being rejected by the Scottish
 Government appointed Reporter because of insufficient or inadequately
 recorded and explained evidence (this has happened to many other planning
 authorities in Scotland as explained at Appendix 1);
 - seek and confirm the input and agreement of Key Agencies on the sufficiency of our evidence. (a lack of overt, documented Key Agency agreement has been a reason for other planning authorities' Evidence Reports being rejected);
 - await the release of crucial evidence produced by other parties, e.g., National Records of Scotland (NRS) population and household forecasts;
 - ensure alignment with concurrent workstreams such as the commissioned Housing Need and Demand Assessment, which brings together the economic projections for Highland within a robust assessment of housing needs and demand within the Council's area; and
 - assess the scope and scale of the required transport appraisal, which will be necessary to inform HLDP.

6 Progress to Date

- A **Call for Development Sites** to be considered for inclusion in the HLDP was issued in January 2025 and concluded in May 2025. Over 250 <u>submissions</u> were received and are being assessed. They provide useful evidence on land availability and development viability across Highland.
- The **Evidence Papers public consultation** was held online from 31 January to 2 May 2025, with an information webinar being held for community organisations on 13 March 2025 and with the development industry on 20 March 2025. There were over 230 written responses to this consultation which are summarised and responded to within the Evidence Report. There were also several in-person drop-in events held around Highland jointly with colleagues leading on Area Place Planning and on the Highland Investment Plan. This provided opportunity not only to raise awareness of the HLDP but also to explain the relationship between different plans and programmes.
- Officers continue to analyse and prepare **key data** as it becomes available. 2022 Census is still being released such as origin and destination travel to work data which will inform a review of the Council's housing in the countryside Hinterland policy boundary, short term let information which will influence policy on that topic and, most significantly, nationally generated population and household forecasts for Highland which will impact on housing targets and infrastructure planning. In addition, Council officers are undertaking data collection and collation including the production of a Play Sufficiency Assessment, Open Space Audit and Coastal Zone Mapping.
- There are now 14 registered **LPPs** for Highland and another 32 in preparation. Each relevant Evidence Report chapter summarises and responds to the issues raised by local communities in each registered LPP. We will continue to update each chapter with the content of any newly registered LPP up to the point of approval for submission of the Evidence Report to Scottish Government.
- 6.5 Officers have met with other authorities to share best practice on how best to pass the Gate Check stage and are meeting with the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) to understand its requirements.
- 6.6 Much of the statutory submission material, collectively known as the Evidence Report, has been completed. Table 1 below lists the chapters of the Report, progress and intended completion dates.

Table 1: Evidence Report Progress

Evidence Report Chapter	Corresponding NPF4 Policies	Status	Intended Completio n
1: Introduction	-	Draft Finalised	Complete
2: Area Profiles and Key	-		Complete
Areas of Change		Draft Finalised	
3: Statement of Engagement	-	Draft in Progress	Jan 2026
4: Climate Change and	1, 2, 11, 19	Draft Under	Dec 2025
Energy		Review	
5: Nature and Environment	3, 4, 5, 6	Draft Finalised	Complete
6: Coastal Development and	10, 32		Complete
Aquaculture		Draft Finalised	
7: Flood Risk Management	22	Draft Finalised	Complete

8: Economy, Business, Tourism and Productive	25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33		Feb 2026
Places		Draft in Progress	
9: Housing	8, 16, 17	Draft in Progress	Feb 2026
10: Transport	13, 18	Draft Finalised	Complete
11: Infrastructure	12, 18, 24	Draft in Progress	Feb 2026
12: Historic Assets,	7, 9		Complete
Brownfield Land and Empty			_
Buildings		Draft Finalised	
13: Design, Wellbeing, Local	14, 15, 20, 21, 23, 27,		Complete
Living and Placemaking	28	Draft Finalised	_
14: Performance of the Plan	-	Draft Under	Dec 2025
		Review	

As drafts of individual Evidence Report chapters progressed, these were shared with Key Agencies and other topic-specific internal and external stakeholders to confirm that the Council had adequately incorporated their feedback. This process of collaboration and establishing stakeholder consensus on the authority's evidence base is a critical requirement of the Gate Check. Each individual chapter summarises stakeholder views, how they have been considered, and records any differences of opinion on the evidence and what it means for the future HLDP.

7 The Evidence Report and Implications for Plan Preparation

- 7.1 Those Evidence Report chapters described in Table 1 as "Draft Finalised" and "Draft Under Review" are included **at Appendix 2**.
- 7.2 In summary, Chapter 1 provides a short introduction to the Evidence Report, while Chapter 2 provides sub-Highland level area profiles, Chapter 3 sets out a Statement of Engagement, which is a written record of the Council's Evidence Report engagement process, outlining how we have fulfilled the necessary legislative requirements.
- 7.3 Chapter 4 **Climate Change and Energy** present the Council's evidence in relation to climate change, emissions and adaptation, alongside the energy sector and opportunities to decarbonise heat, improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty. Some key implications for the future HLDP follow:-
 - The Council's existing Highland-wide LDP (HwLDP) is over 13 years old and therefore doesn't reflect the latest legislation, research, government policy and guidance and best practice on this topic: an updated policy framework tailored to Highland circumstances is required.
 - The HLDP should support natural opportunities for greenhouse gas sequestration and storage.
 - Nationally, there is a strong presumption in favour of energy generation, storage and transmission development. The HLDP should recognise this but set out how local circumstances justify a tailored approach within Highland.
 - There is a need for HLDP to inform the public and stakeholders about planned and consented renewable energy and associated grid infrastructure proposals, to explain how and where Highland will experience change.
 - In addition to environmental constraints, HLDP should consider other potential constraints, such as amenity, and the proximity of settlements and proposed residential areas to future proposals for hubs, substations, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and ancillary works. The Council is preparing non-statutory planning guidance on BESS and engaging with the Scottish

- Government preparation of national BESS guidance, which will inform the HLDP.
- HLDP should be informed by the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and consider potential Heat Network Zones, which will be of significance for siteselection.
- HLDP should be informed by spatial concentrations of higher prevalence of fuel poverty and develop a spatial strategy that facilitates development that can be served as far as possible by efficient systems for heat and power.
- 7.4 Chapter 5 **Nature and Environment** present evidence in relation to biodiversity, natural heritage, soils, forestry, woodland and trees. Some key implications for the future HLDP follow:-
 - HLDP should detail the requirements for biodiversity enhancement.
 - The Council's future HLDP heritage policies should better align with national planning policy (National Planning Framework 4 [NPF4]) than those within the HwLDP but still reflect Highland-specifics such as the Flow Country World Heritage Site.
 - HLDP should identify Local Nature Conservation Sites, which will be reviewed through the Plan's process.
 - The Council should continue its review of Local Landscape Areas (currently known as Special Landscape Areas in Highland) and reference these through the HLDP.
 - HLDP should embrace the now accepted mitigation hierarchy principle of trying to avoid rather than simply minimising or mitigating adverse environmental impacts.
 - HLDP should use NPF4's reference to "culturally or locally important for primary use" agricultural land to protect inbye croft land.
 - HLDP should better define tree and woodland areas that should be protected, enhanced and if necessary, where and when compensatory planting should be provided.
 - HLDP should consider specific policies in relation to woodland crofts and huts to provide a clearer framework on where these would be appropriate.
- 7.5 Chapter 6 **Coastal Development and Aquaculture** present evidence in relation to the coastal zone, areas of developed and undeveloped coast, the blue economy, and coastal infrastructure, including the Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport (ICFGF). Some key implications for the future HLDP follow:-
 - The HLDP must adopt a proactive approach to coastal change, ensuring that new development is directed away from vulnerable areas of flood risk and coastal erosion as informed by the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan.
 - The HLDP will be informed by the recent mapping work undertaken by the Council in identifying "developed" and "undeveloped" coast.
 - All Highland ports and harbours, alongside ICFGF tax sites will be confirmed as "developed" coast within the HLDP.
 - HLDP should provide a clear and spatially informed policy framework to guide the sustainable development of aquaculture supporting the growth of both finfish and shellfish farming.
 - HLDP should consider whether community benefits and/or developer contributions should be required from aquaculture industry development.

- 7.6 Chapter 7 **Flood Risk Management** presents evidence in relation to flooding and water management. Some key implications for the future HLDP follow:-
 - HLDP should consider the probability of flooding from all sources and make use
 of relevant flood risk management plans, river basin management plans, surface
 water management plans, regional coastal change adaptation plan, flood
 protection schemes and flood studies for the area to inform strategic policy and
 local site-selection decisions using a precautionary approach.
 - The Council's existing Highland-wide LDP (HwLDP) is over 13 years old and therefore doesn't reflect the latest legislation, research, government policy and guidance and best practice on this topic: an updated policy framework tailored to Highland circumstances is required.
 - Forthcoming surface water management plans will support the Council in identifying in the HLDP a blue green network to be retained, protected and enhanced.
- 7.7 Chapter 8 **Business, Economy, Tourism and Productive Places** remain in draft and will be available within the finalised Evidence Report to be presented to Members in 2026. This Chapter includes:-
 - The profile of the Highland economy and workforce, and how these differ in some respects from other parts of Scotland;
 - The rural economy, primary industries, fragile areas and repopulation initiatives ongoing across the Council;
 - The contribution of the tourism sector to our economy, and ongoing workstreams across the Council to address pressures on infrastructure;
 - The economic opportunities with the greatest potential to bring transformational change to the Highlands, and the investment pipeline of these, namely in renewable energy and natural capital;
 - Economic forecasts and projections which will influence other components of the LDP, namely housing and infrastructure capacity;
 - Highland's approach to community wealth building, community asset transfer and the social values charter for renewables investment;
 - The contribution of the creative sector and the needs of cultural and creative organisations to expand their offering; and
 - An assessment of Highland's landbank of construction aggregates, including exports, imports and consumption.
- 7.8 Chapter 9 **Housing** remains in draft and will be available within the finalised Evidence Report presented to Members in 2026. This Chapter includes:-
 - A demographic overview of the region and how its profile creates Highlandspecific challenges in terms of a dispersed, ageing and sparse population;
 - The factors that must be considered to generate a housing target for the next 10 years for the HLDP area;
 - Details of the principal housing target, the draft, indicative Local Housing Land Requirement for Highland (iLHLR);
 - An analysis on the number, location, tenure and price of past house completions;
 - An assessment of current and likely future housing land supply;
 - The Highland-specific challenges to affordable housing and other specialist provision;

- A review of rural housing development and an assessment of future policy options on this issue; and
- A description of ongoing work in producing a Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA), which is programmed for completion in Spring 2026.
- 7.9 Chapter 10 **Transport** presents evidence in relation to transport. Some key implications for the HLDP follow:-
 - Transport Scotland has confirmed that the HLDP has potential to impact the strategic transport network and therefore further transport appraisal work should be commissioned to inform the HLDP.
 - The HLDP must have regard to a range of national, regional and local transport policy and carefully evidence reasons for taking a different approach within Highland.
 - For example, the HLDP will recognise that large parts of Highland are rural and sparsely populated, and accept that private cars will always be needed, including, in some capacity to enable movement of people, goods and services.
 - Conversely, Inverness City and other compact towns that benefit from better public transport and active travel links offer the best opportunity to reduce private car dependency and realise the health, poverty and environmental benefits that can bring.
 - The HLDP should influence the pattern of future land use to encourage a mix of land uses in each neighbourhood or community so that "local living" is a realistic option for more Highland residents; i.e. daily needs are easily accessible via active travel or public transport networks.
- 7.10 Chapter 11 **Infrastructure** remains in draft and will be available within the finalised Evidence Report presented to Members in 2026. Following on from the economic and housing projections outlined in the preceding chapters, this Chapter includes:-
 - The profile and capacity of existing and programmed future education, waste, primary health care, social care, other community, water, sewerage and transport facilities/networks;
 - Whether this capacity is likely to be sufficient relative to the level of growth sought within the HLDP (principally using the iLHLR referenced above); and
 - If it isn't then what additional infrastructure investment is required and who could fund it (including the role of developer contributions).
- 7.11 Chapter 12 **Historic Assets, Brownfield Land and Empty Buildings** evidence in relation to the historic environment, buildings at risk and wider brownfield and derelict sites. Some key implications for the HLDP follow:-
 - HLDP will support the sustainable management of the historic environment including identifying, protecting and if possible enhancing Highland's valued historic assets and places.
 - HLDP will allow the opportunity to review existing Conservation Areas, including undertaking Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, and consider whether further areas warrant Conservation Area status.
 - HLDP will set out opportunities for the sustainable reuse of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings and will prioritise the redevelopment of brownfield sites that demonstrate clear potential for sustainable reuse.

- The Council will continue to use its Housing Land Audit to record completion rates of homes delivered on brownfield (previously developed) sites to monitor its policy preference of allocating housing sites on areas of brownfield land.
- 7.12 Chapter 13 **Design, Wellbeing, Local Living and Wellbeing** presents evidence in relation to health and wellbeing, open space, play spaces, sport, retail, and town centre vitality. Some key implications for the HLDP follow:-
 - The HLDP should be place-based and prepared in conjunction with an array of guidance, including the <u>Place Principle</u>, the <u>Place Standard Tool</u>, the <u>Six</u> <u>Qualities of Successful Places</u> and informed by results of Area Place Plans and community-led Local Place Plans.
 - The HLDP will require to provide a policy framework that provides clear expectations of design, quality and place, which includes identifying where more detailed design guidance is expected.
 - The Council will consider proposals for Masterplan Consent Areas to take forward place-based approaches and allow the Council to take a leadership role in the planning of high-quality places.
 - The HLDP will be informed by evidence in relation to health inequalities and have regard to the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan's three strategic priorities and vision to tackle inequalities.
 - The HLDP will be informed by an up-to-date Open Space Strategy, Play Sufficiency Assessment, and Core Path Plans which are near completion.
 - The HLDP should be informed by SportScotland's assessment of sports provision, in collaboration with Highlife Highland.
 - While Town Centre First policies have been established within Highland's previous adopted HwLDP and Area LDPs, the HLDP will require to progress town centre living in a way that embeds the concept of local living as a principal component of spatial planning and decision making.
 - The Council intends to review existing planning policy to ensure a positive planning regime exists to support town centre living and the allocation of a portion of the LHLR within designated city and town centres.
- 7.13 Chapter 14 **Performance of the Plan** is a requirement at Gate Check to evaluate the performance of previous LDPs in an area relative to desirable outcomes and learn lessons for the next LDP. Pointers in Highland include:-
 - That most development in Highland since 2012 has been within or close to Inner Moray Firth's major settlements but significant rural development in the remoter parts of the region has also been supported;
 - This reflects a continuation of past trends and local political preferences but highlights the feasibility and market reality challenges of alternative policy approaches such as diverting growth to the less pressured, remoter parts of Highland or curtailing rural development because it is generally less environmentally sustainable than development within settlements;
 - Infrastructure constraints continue to inhibit the development of allocated employment sites, but this is not a product of the wrong spatial strategy or poor site selection decisions just a lack of public and private funding to activate such development no matter where it is proposed;
 - Existing LDPs have not been responsive to quickly emerging market opportunities such as the recent rapid growth in the tourism market, in the demand for bespoke industrial units and most notably the direct employment and indirect housing accommodation needs of the renewable energy sector; and

 Only a small percentage of all Council decisions are overturned on appeal which indicates that policy has likely performed well.

8 Next Steps and Revised Timeline

- 8.1 The immediate next step is to continue and complete the Evidence Report, which must be approved by Full Council before submission to Scottish Government for Reporter Gate Check. The revised timeline is that:-
 - the Evidence Report be subject of further reporting to Committee and approval by Full Council in early/mid 2026, and thereafter be submitted to Scottish Ministers for Gate Check;
 - preparation of the HLDP itself commence after submission, in the hope and expectation that the Evidence Report will pass Gate Check;
 - the HLDP Proposed Plan be published in 2027 with its principal public consultation at that stage; and
 - the HLDP be submitted for Examination in 2028 with adoption expected in 2029.
- This revised timeline if agreed must be communicated to interested parties. This is most formally and efficiently achieved via the Council's statutorily required publication of its annual Development Plan Scheme. Each council is required to prepare, publish and submit to Scottish Ministers a Scheme which aims to keep people up to date on where and when they can input to the preparation of development planning documents. Highland's next Scheme is required to be published by 31 January 2026. In the interim, the overall revised timeline will be communicated through the Council's website and an email to known interested parties. Local communities preparing Local Place Plans (LPPs) will also be informed direct so that know that the deadline for completing a LPP has also been extended.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 30 September 2025

Authors: David Mudie, Strategic Lead - Planning and Building

Standards

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Background Papers: Hyperlinked within report

Appendices: Appendix 1 - Local Development Plan Evidence Report

Progress Across Scotland

Appendix 2: Draft Finalised and Under Review Evidence

Report Chapters

Local Development Plan Evidence Report Progress Across Scotland

Table 2 below sets out how many of Scotland's 34 local planning authorities have progressed to Gate Check stage and how many of these have passed that initial stage. So far, of the 34 only 6 have been cleared to proceed with Plan preparation. 7 Evidence Reports were rejected at first submission stage.

Table 2: Evidence Report Progress Across Scotland

Local Authority		ssion /resubmission – o Evidence Reports	Outcome with links to Reporters Recommendations	
Fife	13 May 2024		Returned	
1 110	30 June 2025		<u>Returned</u>	
Moray	30 May 2024	First Submission	Notice to Proceed	
Glasgow	27 Jun 2024	First Submission	<u>Returned</u>	
Glasgow	25 Feb 2025	Second Submission	Notice to Proceed	
Midlothian	28 June 2024	First Submission	Notice to Proceed	
East Renfrewshire	19 Sept 2024	First Submission	Notice to Proceed	
Falkirk	25 Oct 2024	First Submission	Notice to Proceed	
East Lothian	07 Jan 2025	First Submission	Returned	
Dumfries and Galloway	29 Jan 2025	First Submission	Returned	
	05 Sept 2025	Second Submission	Pending Decision	
Perth and Kinross	02 Apr 2025	First Submission	Returned	
Stirling	28 Mar 2025	First Submission	Notice to Proceed	
Inverclyde	15 Apr 2025	First Submission	Returned	
Aberdeenshire	07 Jul 2025	First Submission	Returned	
Orkney Islands	21 Jul 2025		Pending Decision	
Aberdeen City	31 Jul 2025		Pending Decision	
East Dunbartonshire	18 Aug 2025		Pending Decision	
West Lothian	30 Jul 2025		Pending Decision	
Overall Outcome	42% Pass Gate Check at First Submission			
	50% Pass Gate Check at Second Submission			

Reporters' reasons for rejecting or "returning" local planning authority Evidence Reports vary but include insufficient:-

- cross-referencing between related policies;
- referencing of supporting material;
- evidence of engagement/consensus reached between the authority, Key Agencies, and the development industry on the evidence;
- transparency over the methodology used to derive the principal housing target;
- explanation of the implications of the housing target for infrastructure provision,
- evidence on infrastructure capacity, particularly health and social care, and lack of Key Agency agreement on what this means for the plan;
- evidence on each NPF4 policy topic; e.g., community wealth building, blue and green infrastructure, and culture and creativity; and
- evaluation of whether the previous plan has delivered on its outcomes, spatial strategy, delivery, and any lessons learned for the new plan.

Draft Evidence Report Chapters

<u>HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 1 - Introduction – Draft</u>

HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 2 - Area Profiles and Key Areas of Change - Draft

HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 4 - Climate Change and Energy - Draft

HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 5 - Nature and Environment - Draft

HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 6 - Coastal Development and Aquaculture - Draft

HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 7 - Flood Risk Management - Draft

HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 10 - Transport - Draft

<u>HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 12 - Historic Assets Brownfield Land and Empty Buildings - Draft</u>

<u>HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 13 - Design Wellbeing Local Living and</u> Placemaking - Draft

HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 14 - Performance of the Plan - Draft