

Agenda Item	9
Report No	DSA/7/26

The Highland Council

Committee: Dingwall and Seaforth

Date: 9 February 2026

Report Title: Dingwall and Seaforth Area Place Plan – Progress Update

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 Highland Council approved a Place-Based Framework for community planning and investment in [December 2021](#). This approach was endorsed by the Community Planning Partnership and recognises 'Place' as central to service delivery and partnership working.
- 1.2 Area Place Plans, aligned with Area Committee boundaries, form a key part of the framework. Area Place Plans coordinate objectives across Local Place Plans, Local Development Plans, the Regional Spatial Strategy, and Community Partnership Plans, supporting place-based funding and services.
- 1.3 Area Place Plans deliver on the Council's strategic priority of Resilient and Sustainable Communities, support the implementation of the Operational Delivery Plan, and highlight priority areas for investment opportunities, such as those linked to the Social Value Charter's Strategic Fund and Community Regeneration Funds.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
 - i. **Consider** and **note** this annual report, recognising the progress made by the Dingwall and Seaforth Area Place Plan Delivery Group and the opportunity the group affords to review and refresh priorities on an ongoing basis; and
 - ii. **Agree** to support the targeting of service programmes and external funding to meet the Area Place Plan priorities when appropriate.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - while the Area Place Plan contains priority projects for delivery, these are each subject to discussion and development of specific funding packages, therefore, there is no direct resource implication currently.
- 3.2 **Legal** - there are no specific legal implications.

3.3 **Risk** - there are no specific risk implications.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** - there are no specific health and safety implications.

3.5 **Gaelic** - there are no specific Gaelic implications.

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

5 **Background**

5.1 The [Dingwall and Seaforth Area Place Plan](#) (DSAPP) was adopted by the Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee on 10 February 2025.

5.2 The DSAPP was developed in conjunction with a Stakeholder Group which included representation from: Elected Members; Highland Council Services and Project / Programme Teams (Community Development, Whole Family Wellbeing, Education, Housing Management, Housing Development, Roads, Amenities, Active Travel and Environment; Development Planning; Estates); High Life Highland; NHS Highland; Mid Ross Community Partnership; Police Scotland; Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Highland Third Sector Interface; Highland and Islands Enterprise; Community Councils and Community Development Companies.

5.3 The priorities identified in the DSAPP are grouped under the overarching themes of People, Place, and Prosperity, which align with the Highland Community Planning Partnership's strategic framework. An additional category, Cross-cutting Themes, has been included to reflect strong community sentiment on broader issues. The priorities span a wide range of topics, including community safety, wellbeing, events, facilities, learning opportunities, and the overall appearance and presentation of the town and surrounding villages.

6 **Delivery Group**

6.1 To support the implementation of the priorities identified in the plan, a Delivery Group has been established, evolving from the previous Stakeholder Group, who helped shape the plan, as well as new representatives who bring valuable perspectives and expertise.

6.2 The Delivery Group is action-focused, ensuring tangible outcomes that align with the plan's objectives and is the ideal forum to review and refresh priorities on an ongoing basis.

6.3 Links with the local Community Partnership (Mid Ross) have been developed to raise awareness, foster collaboration, and avoid duplication of effort.

7 Progress on Actions

7.1 Although still in its early stages, the Delivery Group has already completed several actions, including:-

- Hosting internal service meetings to raise awareness of the plan and the community priorities identified;
- Supporting a Police Scotland review of CCTV coverage in Dingwall and commitment to conduct Environmental Visual Assessments where needed;
- Working with the Council's roads service to consider traffic calming activity at Tore including carrying out a speed survey and based on the findings, potentially promoting a suitable Speed Limit Order;
- Collaborating with justice services to organise a litter pick at the Maryburgh roundabout entrance to Dingwall;
- Supporting the Dingwall 800 celebrations including linking with the Dingwall 800 Event Producer, who is employed by Feis Rois to deliver a programme of events during 2026;
- Encouraging and supporting stakeholders to lead on identified priorities such as:-
 - consultation with young people to identify their needs in the Dingwall and Seaforth area, led by Youth Highland which was completed in December 2025;
 - mapping of spaces and equipment available to community groups led by the Community Planning Partnership (Mid Ross) supported by Highland Third Sector Interface; and
- Assisting the local Youth Forum in exploring options to improve their current meeting space in the Town Hall.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 16 January 2026

Author: Lynn Bauermeister, Community Development Manager

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None