

Agenda Item	8.
Report No	CPPB/4/26



Highland
Community
Planning
Partnership

Com-pàirteachas
Dealbhadh
Coimhearsnachd

na Gàidhealtachd

Highland Community Planning Partnership Board – 10 March 2026

Title of report – Place Based Framework Annual Report

Report by – Chief Officer Housing & Communities, Highland Council

Report Classification (tick as appropriate):

Strategic Priority: People Place Prosperity

Cross-Cutting Theme (tick all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connecting People and Places | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment / Employability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whole Family and Community-Based Approaches | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shared Approaches to Commissioning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Wealth Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aligning Partnership Practices | |

Report Purpose (tick as appropriate):

For Noting For Approval For Decision

Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to:

- i) Note the progress made across all 11 Area Place Plans as partnership-led frameworks guiding local priorities and investment.

Executive Summary

Area Place Plans have been developed for all areas of Highland, with all adopted by Highland Council Area Committees and actively used by Council Officers, Community Partnerships and partners. Developed through community engagement, most of the plans consolidate local priorities across the HOIP People, Place and Prosperity strategic priorities. They provide a shared, community-driven framework for aligning activity, directing investment. Ensuring public, private and third-sector organisations work to a consistent set of locally identified priorities.

Delivery arrangements are place-based and so vary across areas and are either through Community Partnerships, community-led boards, stakeholder groups or themed working groups. These structures support partners coordinate action on key priorities such as

health and wellbeing, access to services, housing, transport, economic opportunities, and environmental sustainability.

Area Place Plans also support regional alignment. They will inform preparation of the new Local Development Plan; they recognise local community action plans and Local Place Plans and provide evidence of community priorities for external funding bids for the public and third sectors. They are tools for place-based working and ensure that decisions reflect local needs.

The Board is asked to note progress, support strengthened partnership working and coordinated resource alignment across all areas and endorse enhanced partnership delivery arrangements and the integration of Area Place Plans into investment planning and HOIP delivery processes.

1.	Background
1.1	Area Place Plans were developed to provide a shared framework for community-led priority setting across Highland. They were created through engagement and consolidate multiple existing community plans, Local Place Plans (where in place), locality plans and community aspirations.
1.2	The plans support delivery of the HOIP, offering a consistent place-based structure aligned to People, Place and Prosperity strategic priorities. They are used by partners to coordinate local action, shape service delivery and guide investment decisions at area level.
1.3	Partners across sectors are contributing to delivery, with each area agreeing its own governance arrangements to reflect local capacity and context.
1.4	A single Area Place Plan has now been adopted for each area across Highland. Most areas have multi-layers of plans including Local Place Plans, locality plans, community development plans etc. Consolidating local priorities which are currently set out across a variety of existing plans, Area Place Plans draw together these various priority outcomes to secure a clear and accepted way forward for each Area. This delivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an inclusive vision for the future of each Area; • a defined approach for how each Area will respond to local and national challenges and opportunities, including identified projects to deliver on these priority outcomes; and • clarity on who will be responsible for doing so and the status of actions intended to deliver this vision.
2.	Summary of Area-Wide Progress
2.1	People: Priorities include access to health and wellbeing services, community resilience, depopulation, and whole-family support including childcare, youth

	opportunities, employability, and mental health provision. Partners are using Area Place Plans to coordinate responses to these shared challenges.
2.2	Place: Themes consistently include transport and connectivity, digital infrastructure, active travel, local environment and climate resilience, housing need, and condition of local infrastructure. These issues require multi-agency delivery and long-term investment.
2.3	Prosperity: Local economic aspirations relate to supporting businesses, creating employment pathways, growing sustainable tourism, addressing seasonal workforce issues, and enabling community-led enterprise. Area Place Plans help join up economic development activity with wider social and environmental priorities.
3.	Delivery Structures and Examples of Partnership Working
3.1	Most areas now have agreed partnership-led delivery structures, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Community Partnership working groups • Community-led boards • Partnership-based delivery groups being established • Collaborative multi-agency coordination around shared priorities
3.2	Across areas, partners are already collaborating on early actions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising infrastructure and transport improvements • Supporting youth initiatives and community wellbeing • Coordinating environmental projects • Joint work on town centre resilience and active travel • Aligning community wealth building opportunities
3.3	These delivery models demonstrate the shift toward shared responsibility for place-based outcomes.
4.	Next Steps
4.1	All finalised Area Places Plans and supporting documents are available from the Highland Community Planning Partnership website under the relevant Community Partnership section - Community Partnerships Highland Community Planning Partnership . The progress on each Area Place Plan will be reported annually to Community Partnerships and Council Area Committees, allowing the opportunity for detailed updates on progress to be provided. This will also provide an opportunity to consider any new projects or aspirations put forward by communities and properly understand how these projects can be supported.
4.2	The Area Place Plans are a critical resource for prioritising and directing resource and investment as they reflect the broader priorities for the area and provide an important community-based lens. This can focus both existing funding streams

	e.g. Community Regeneration Funds but also to support new and additional funds coming forward. A good example of this is how they will support the identification of investment opportunities for the Strategic Investment Fund of the Social Value Charter.
4.3	Area Place Plans are also a key element of the new Beconnected website. Beconnected is a new platform that is aligned to Invest Highland , which aims to highlight the potential areas for investment at a local level, showcasing the priorities articulated in area place plans. The platform also enables communities to put forward projects for investment or to be funded through community benefit routes and the Highland Project Bank. A presentation on the development and future uses of Invest Highland, is planned for the next Partnership Board meeting in June.
5.	Risks and Mitigations
5.1	Risk: Fragmented delivery without clear partnership structures. Mitigation: Strengthen governance through Community Partnerships, multi-agency delivery groups, and/or consistent reporting frameworks.
5.2	Risk: Inconsistent alignment of partner resources with identified priorities. Mitigation: Integrate Area Place Plan priorities into annual partner planning, HOIP delivery, and regional investment programming.
5.3	Risk: Managing community expectations Mitigation: Regular updates, transparent prioritisation, clear communication on partnership nature and who is leading on different priorities, including community partners, and an early focus on visible projects that build trust and momentum.

Impact Assessment

Area Place Plans reflect community engagement and provide a mechanism for incorporating local priorities into partner decision-making. They support equality, rural resilience, community empowerment and climate considerations. No negative impacts are identified at this stage. Any specific projects emerging from Area Place Plans will undergo full impact assessment where required.

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Date: 28 February 2026

Appendices: None