

Agenda Item	<b>9</b>
Report No	<b>HC/22/26</b>

# The Highland Council

**Committee:** The Highland Council

**Date:** 25 June 2026

**Report Title:** Highland Local Development Plan: Evidence Report

**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. The new Highland Local Development Plan (HLDP) will sit alongside National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and together form the primary policy framework for making planning decisions in Highland. It will also shape Council, other public sector, and private investment decisions enabling economic activity and supporting national and local outcomes.
- 1.2 The new HLDP will be the Council's first "new style" LDP, produced after the recent reform of national planning legislation and guidance. It will have a lifespan of 10 years and will therefore be in force during a critical point in Highland's economic transformation. Scottish Government control of the new LDP process is greater than for previous plans. A Scottish Government appointed Reporter now has two inputs the first of which is the upcoming Gate Check of the Council's sufficiency of evidence to prepare the future LDP. Also, all local planning authorities must now adhere to prescriptive rules set out in national [Local Development Planning Guidance](#).
- 1.3 This report sets out and seeks approval of the Highland Local Development Plan Evidence Report prior to the submission of said report for Gate Check by a Scottish Government appointed Reporter. The Economy and Infrastructure Committee has already considered the substantive content of the Evidence Report which has been the subject of a [previous report from February 2026](#) and a [previous report from November 2025](#).

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
- i. **Approve** the Evidence Report for the Highland Local Development Plan as set out at **Appendix 1** and summarised at section 6.
  - ii. **Agree** that officers undertake the statutory and other procedures required to submit the Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers and to progress it through Gate Check including responding to any factual amendment or other non-material matters requested by the Reporter.

- iii. **Agree** that the Assistant Chief Executive Place, in consultation with the Convener of the Council and the Chair of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee:-
  - (a) update the Evidence Report to reflect the finalised Housing Need and Demand Assessment and make any other factual or other non-material updates prior to submission to Scottish Ministers;
  - (b) if necessary, respond to any Further Information Requests issued by the Reporter; and,
  - (c) if necessary, withdraw, amend and/or resubmit the Evidence Report.
- iv. **Note** that the subsequent HLDP preparation stage will include consideration of draft content by relevant Council committees in line with the Scheme of Delegation and that the Proposed Plan will require approval by Full Council before it is published for formal consultation.

### **3 Implications**

- 3.1 **Resource** - most evidence gathering and analysis has been resourced through the relevant Service budget. However, obligatory, additional work has or will be commissioned including a new Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) and a Cumulative Transport Appraisal. Online consultation options have and will be used to minimise cost. Each planning authority must fund the Gate Check and Examination of its LDPs, and these are unavoidable costs. 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 a factual, monitoring report and therefore an impact assessment is not required. A full impact assessment will be undertaken for the future Proposed Plan draft of the HLDP.

## 5 Background

5.1 The Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee at its meetings of 13 November 2025 and 12 February 2026 considered and endorsed the substantive components of the Evidence Report set out at **Appendix 1**. The introduction by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 of the requirement for the Evidence Report and the Proposed Plan to each be subject of approval by Council specifically underlines the intention that new-style LDPs have an enhanced, corporate, coordinating role.

5.2 The approval of the Evidence Report is the first statutory milestone in the production of the future HLDP. If approved by Council, then the Report is submitted to a Scottish Government appointed Reporter for Gate Check. This check is on the sufficiency of the evidence collected and analysed by the Council relative to that required by Scottish Government (as defined in its published LDP guidance) and deemed by the Reporter to be enough to inform the answer to any future objection to the future LDP. This sufficiency test sets a very high bar. Local planning authorities are asked to second-guess what objections may be lodged in the future to policies and proposals that are, as yet, unwritten and collect and collate the evidence now to answer (or allow the future Examination Reporter to answer) those objections in the future.

5.3 Unsurprisingly, this new approach has proved challenging for councils across Scotland. 68% of authorities have had their Evidence Reports rejected at first Gate Check as detailed at **Appendix 2**. Discussions are ongoing between authorities, Scottish Government officials and Reporters to agree a more proportionate approach to this evidence checking stage. Scottish Ministers and the development industry have expressed concern that the new system will delay LDP production across Scotland. More recent proactive engagement between Scottish Government and local authorities has occurred in recognition of the need to expedite the process.

5.4 The accompanying Evidence Report has been prepared as a technical document to inform the preparation and Examination of the HLDP. Given that the Evidence Report is intended to provide the evidence base for all policy areas, it is a document of considerable length and detail. It is not intended to function as a public-facing or summary document, but rather as part of the formal evidence base required to support the Plan's strategy and policies.

The report is structured to meet the expectations of professional scrutiny, including by reporters, consultees, and other stakeholders involved in the statutory plan-making process. As such, it contains detailed data analysis, methodology, and baseline information presented at a level appropriate for technical assessment. While it contributes to transparency in decision-making, the document is not designed for general readership and should be considered within the context of its role in supporting robust, evidence-led plan preparation.

5.5 Members will be aware that the Council has concurrently been undertaking a Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) led by an appointed consultant, Arneil Johnston. The HNDA provides the essential, robust evidence base required to inform the Council's housing targets within the HLDP. The Council has an aspiration via its declared Highland Housing Challenge to deliver approximately 24,000 homes over a

10-year period. However, this ambitious target will be challengeable if it is progressed in isolation from the statutory evidence base provided by the HNDA. The HNDA brings together demographic projections, household formation trends, market signals, employment-led housing growth uplifts and affordability analysis to establish a clear and credible understanding of both current and future housing need across the area. By aligning with nationally recognised methodologies and being subject to external appraisal, the HNDA ensures that the Council's housing targets are grounded in consistent, transparent, and policy-compliant evidence. This is critical in demonstrating that the scale and distribution of planned housing land requirements respond effectively to identified need, support sustainable growth, and meet Scottish Government expectations.

- 5.6 Progress on the Council's HNDA has been slowed by delays in the release of key data by Scottish Government agencies. The expected release of the crucial updated HNDA Tool data is now expected at end of June 2026. If there is no further delay, then this will allow completion of the Council's HNDA in summer 2026 and submission of that document to Gate Check without further impact to the Plan timetable.

## **6 Summary of Evidence Report**

- 6.1 The structure of the report presents evidence by grouping related planning policies together as set out in the following paragraphs. Chapters 1-3 present an introduction, position statement and outline the various exercises undertaken by the Development Plans Team to engage with the public, statutory Key Agencies, wider stakeholders and other named groups as required by the regulations.

- 6.2 Chapter 4 Climate Change and Energy presents 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 14 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 the 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 site selection.
- 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.

6.3 Chapter 5 Nature and Environment presents 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.

6.4 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.

6.5 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 14 years old and therefore does not 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.

6.6 Chapter 8 Business, Economy, Tourism and Productive Places presents evidence in relation to the economy, business and industry, the cultural and creative sectors, the tourism industry and minerals. Headlines for this Chapter are as follows:-

- Engagement with economic development partners, HIE, the Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport, and major Highland industries through ongoing work to produce the Council's Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) has estimated the scale of anticipated additional employment as 17-18,000 Full Time Equivalent, direct, additional jobs created by projects in Highland over a 20-year period.
- Good evidence on future jobs-led growth is crucial to justifying and defending a higher housing target and in making a case for Highland infrastructure investment from national agencies.
- There is sufficient evidence to justify a tailored, more positive approach to economic development within the new HLDP relative to that set out in NPF4.
- For example, a better understanding and mapping of social and economic fragility will justify a more positive policy approach in certain parts of Highland.
- Evidence suggests that the diversification of the rural economy away from a traditional local resource extraction economy to encompass nature stewardship, renewables, tourism and supporting hybrid/remote working for those linked to urban centres can be further supported.
- Highland socio-economic fragility also justifies future policy focused on who benefits from these new economic opportunities and the importance of embedding community wealth building, community asset transfers and the social values charter.
- Business developer and other user contributions should also be in scope whether impacts relate to the industrial, business or tourism sectors to address pressures on infrastructure.

6.7 Chapter 9 Housing presents evidence in relation to housing, including affordable housing, and rural housing policy. It has been authored in tandem with the ongoing Housing Need and Demand Assessment. Headlines for this Chapter are as follows:-

- A demographic overview of Highland shows how continued net (in-) migration is forecast to counter-balance a worsening natural change (deaths exceeding births).

- The newly released, nationally generated, Household Projections, which are the first projections available since the 2022 census, are positive for Highland. In contrast with previous 2018-based projections which presented a relatively pessimistic view of growth, these new projections anticipate significant growth in Highland's population and households.
- By the programmed adoption date of HLDP in 2029, the revised projections suggest there could be 117,859 households in Highland, which is 3,306 more than was previously projected. By the end of the HLDP lifespan in 2039, there could be 123,136 households in Highland, which is 6,226 (or 5.3%) more than was previously projected. These projections provide a basis for an ambitious approach to land allocation in the HLDP, even before economic and employment-led housing needs are considered.
- Highland-specific challenges in terms of a dispersed, ageing and sparse population justify more positive future HLDP policies.
- The draft, indicative Local Housing Land Requirement for Highland (iLHLR) is set and how the Council believes it should be estimated. A figure of 17,100 based on the Council's current Local Housing Strategy is specified until the full HNDA results are known given the delays detailed in Section 5 above.
- Following an assessment of the current and likely future housing land supply to meet this target and how deliverable it is, a medium-term shortfall will occur unless supporting infrastructure investment is implemented notably strategic road investment in Inverness City.
- Highland-specific challenges to affordable housing provision justify more positive future HLDP policies on this topic.
- National planning policy and better local data will likely justify a more positive tailored approach to fragile rural communities across Highland.
- We also need to plan for different kinds of housing because more newly forming households are expected to be comprised of smaller sized families, older age groups and individuals living alone with accessibility requirements.

6.8 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.

- A Cumulative Transport Appraisal (CTA) will be required to underpin the HLDP and assess the combined impact of all proposed development on the transport network.

6.9 Chapter 11 Infrastructure has a crucial crossover with the preceding economy and housing chapters and the projections within them. Headlines for this Chapter are as follows:-

- We have differing confidence in the quantity and quality of evidence on the capacity of existing and programmed future education, waste, primary health care, social care, other community, water, sewerage and transport facilities/networks.
- The future capital programmes of public and private infrastructure agencies are fluid and offer only limited certainty for planning 10 years ahead as the new HLDP must do.
- The quantity and quality of evidence is important if we want to seek developer contributions for new facilities such as GP practice accommodation and recycling centres.
- We do not have certainty that the capacity in all infrastructure networks will be sufficient relative to the level of growth sought within the HLDP (principally using the iLHLR referenced above).
- We therefore need to plan for the best available spatial and temporal fit between existing infrastructure capacity and the locations of new growth identified within the new HLDP.
- Where additional infrastructure investment is required then the new HLDP should be used to lobby for it and seek proportionate developer contributions towards its cost.

6.10 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.

6.11 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 Place Principle, the Place Standard Tool, the Six Qualities of Successful Places 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.

6.12 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 for Highland include the following:-

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

## 7 Next Steps

- 7.1 The finalised Evidence Report documentation will be submitted to Scottish Government for Reporter Gate Check. Members will be kept up to date through this process via email and via the relevant webpage [www.highland.gov.uk/hldp](http://www.highland.gov.uk/hldp). If and when the Evidence Report clears its Gate Check then the subsequent HLDP Proposed Plan preparation stage will formally progress, including consideration of draft content by relevant Council committees in line with the Scheme of Delegation and the Proposed Plan will require approval by Full Council before it is published for formal public consultation. Further details on the HLDP process and timetable are detailed in the Council's [Development Plans Newsletter 2026](#). As detailed above, related work will be progressed and finalised specifically the Housing Need and Demand Assessment and a Cumulative Transport Appraisal.
- 7.2 Members should be aware, as detailed at **Appendix 2**, that the majority of planning authorities have not cleared Gate Check at first attempt and therefore expectations should be adjusted accordingly. In Highland, the most likely query from a Reporter will be whether there is evidence of sufficient infrastructure capacity to support the ambitious level of growth established by our principal housing target. The Council will need to continue to tailor and deliver its own capital programme to match our ambition as well as lobbying and collaborating with other public and private investors to provide the infrastructure capacity necessary to support the growth of Highland.

Designation:	Assistant Chief Executive - Place
Date:	29 May 2026
Author:	Tim Stott, Development Plans Manager Meadhbh Maguire, Principal Planner David Cowie, Principal Planner
Background Papers:	Hyperlinked within report
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Highland Local Development Plan: Evidence Report Appendix 2 - Local Development Plan Evidence Report Progress Across Scotland

## **Highland Local Development Plan Evidence Report**

The following hyperlinks provide access to each Evidence Report chapter, which are hosted on the Council's website:-

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 1: Introduction](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 2: Area Profiles and Key Areas of Change](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 3: Statement of Engagement](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 4: Climate Change and Energy](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 5: Nature and Environment](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 6: Coastal Development and Aquaculture](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 7: Flood Risk Management](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 8: Economy, Business, Tourism and Productive Places](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 9: Housing](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 10: Transport](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 11: Infrastructure](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 12: Historic Assets, Brownfield Land and Empty Buildings](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 13: Design, Wellbeing, Local Living and Placemaking](#)

[HLDP Evidence Report Chapter 14: Performance of the Plan](#)

## Appendix 2

### Local Development Plan Evidence Report Progress Across Scotland

The table 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 11 have been cleared to proceed with Plan preparation. 11 Evidence Reports were rejected at first submission stage. 6 remain under consideration.

Local Authority	Date of submission /resubmission – with links to Evidence Reports	Outcome with links to Reporters Recommendations
Fife	13 May 2024	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
	30 June 2025	<a href="#">Second Submission</a>
	27 Feb 2026	<a href="#">Third Submission</a>
Moray	30 May 2024	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
Glasgow	27 Jun 2024	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
	25 Feb 2025	<a href="#">Second Submission</a>
Midlothian	28 June 2024	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
East Renfrewshire	19 Sept 2024	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
Falkirk	25 Oct 2024	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
East Lothian	07 Jan 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
	06 Oct 2025	<a href="#">Second Submission</a>
Dumfries and Galloway	29 Jan 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
	05 Sept 2025	<a href="#">Second Submission</a>
Perth and Kinross	02 Apr 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
	30 Jan 2026	<a href="#">Second Submission</a>
Stirling	28 Mar 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
Inverclyde	15 Apr 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
Aberdeenshire	07 Jul 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
	02 Jun 2026	<a href="#">Second Submission</a>
Orkney Islands	21 Jul 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
	10 Mar 2026	<a href="#">Second Submission</a>
Aberdeen City	31 Jul 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
East Dunbartonshire	18 Aug 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
West Lothian	30 Jul 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
Renfrewshire	30 Oct 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park	18 Dec 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
Dundee City Council	09 Dec 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
South Lanarkshire	23 Dec 2025	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
North Ayrshire Council	20 Jan 2026	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
Cairngorm National Park	27 Mar 2026	<a href="#">First Submission</a>
<b>Overall Outcome</b>	32% Pass Gate Check at First Submission 55% Pass Gate Check by Second Submission	