

Agenda Item	8
Report No	SR/22/19

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Skye and Raasay Committee

Date: 2 December 2019

Report Title: Area Priorities Update

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to discuss the key elements of what should comprise the priorities and vision in moving ahead with a place-based strategy for Skye and Raasay. Members are asked to discuss the current priorities and agree that further work be carried out over the course of the next few months on engaging with partners and community groups to allow a clear and definitive vision for the key area priorities to be developed.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to agree the development of a clear place based approach to priority setting for Skye and Raasay that can be used to highlight development opportunities and ideas for improved service delivery, with an update being brought to the next Area Committee.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource – there are no resource implications from this paper in itself, but the work that will be undertaken will provide an opportunity to direct resources to where key priorities are identified.
- 3.2 Legal – None
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - the outcomes from the discussion of this paper will be used to assist with community engagement over the coming months.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – given the clear importance being placed on climate change by the Council and Scottish Government, local priorities must align as closely as possible to the aspirations of both bodies.

3.5 Risk – None.

3.6 Gaelic – None.

4. Development of a Place Based Strategy

4.1 As members will be aware, it is intended to develop more detailed place based strategies over the coming year, as a new approach to ensuring a joined up approach to service delivery and attracting funding and investment. The Local Development Plan Action programme, also being considered on this agenda, is an important part of this, but it must also look at wider opportunities. The recent development of the Fort William 2040 vision provides a useful template as to the benefits in bringing together key public sector partners and the wider community in this type of planning exercise.

4.2 Recent engagement in the area has highlighted a number of pressures as well as several key initiatives, and it is important to bring forward co-ordinated work to capture these, in a form that will get buy-in from all parties. This relates well to ongoing Community Planning work, as well as projects happening across the Council's Change Programme (for example property rationalisation). The Area priorities from 2017 are attached as Appendix 1, and Members are asked to review these and provide advice on whether these remain relevant and whether additional items should be included. This will form the basis of more focussed engagement over the early part of 2020 in order to develop the place-based strategy. It is hoped that some internal or external assistance can be obtained to help with this work, and Local Members will be integral to the work.

4.2 The tourism pressures that Skye and Raasay continue to experience demonstrates the need to be clear about what the key needs are for individual areas or localities, so that a case can be made for additional funding as and when the opportunity arises.

5. Conclusion

5.1 This short paper is intended to act as the basis for discussion with local Members to identify the key areas they would like covered in the development of the Place based strategy for Skye and Raasay. The outcomes will also assist in seeking additional support from external partners.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure and Environment

Date: 28th November 2019

Author: Malcolm Macleod

Background Papers:

Isle of Skye and Raasay Local Strategic Priorities – December 2017

Strengthening Local Democracy

- Continued development of the Area Committee and use of increased delegated powers to bring democracy closer to our communities
- Encourage the development of the Ward Forum in partnership with Community Councils
- Support the development of an effective Community Partnership for Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross
- Where they wish to, ensure communities are able to fully participate in the development and delivery of services and assets
- Support Participatory Budgeting through available resources to encourage community engagement and participation in decision making

Tourism

- Work with Partners, including agencies, land owners, tourism groups and communities to identify and support solutions that address issues created by the growing number of visitors to the Ward. This will be achieved through a workshop approach specifically to identify the priority projects on Skye, help identify ways of achieving these and ensuring they are sustainable. This should be addressed with central support from the Principal Tourism and Film Officer and with the agreement of Ward Members.

Infrastructure

- Lobby to increase investment through the capital plan with a view to improving road, air and ferry links from the Ward, including Uig Ferry Terminal, Portree Link Road and Ashaig Airfield
- To prioritise and approve maintenance programmes for roads and bridges that improve the standard of the Ward road network, including improved car parking
- Support work towards achieving effective broadband and mobile coverage within the Ward
- Work with Emergency Services to encourage the establishment of a purpose built facility to house Police, Fire and Ambulance Services in Portree

Education

- Lobby to increase investment through the capital plan with a view to improving the school estate for the Ward, including new builds for Broadford and Dunvegan primary schools
- Support work towards ensuring that the Local Area and WiFi Networks provide an effective and increased bandwidth for all schools.
- Attract and retain suitably qualified and experienced staff for all schools in the Ward
- Develop opportunities for further and higher education through links to UHI, vocational education and training within the Ward

Employment

- Support opportunities to develop employability skills at a Ward level, including growing your own in relation to the care sector

Housing

- Work with partners to review and increase the number of affordable homes including Council and housing association houses, low cost home ownership and mid-market rent homes
- Support community led initiatives to deliver housing to meet local need

Community Works

- Explore how community works, including grounds maintenance, burial grounds, public conveniences and traffic management can be best delivered to meet the needs of the Ward

Transport

- Work with partners to find the best solutions to deliver Community Transport across the Ward
- Lobby public transport providers to improve services for communities across the Ward including flexibility of timetabling to ensure onward connections are integrated

Health

- Support development of quality local care provision and access to care at home
- Support the redesign of health & social care services to improve access to quality healthcare for all residents in the Ward including the delivery of a new hospital