

Agenda Item	<b>3</b>
Report No	<b>TC/03/20</b>

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Tourism Committee

**Date:** 14 October 2020

**Report Title:** Tourism Infrastructure Plan

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report updates Members on recent work to produce a Tourism Infrastructure Plan for the Highland area. A draft plan which includes a completed audit of existing tourism infrastructure and gives some initial observations regarding possible gaps in provision is included for members consideration.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the range of tourism infrastructure that is already provided in Highland,
  - ii. Note the initial observations of where there may be considered to be gaps in provision; and
  - iii. Consider how further gaps might be identified and who else might be involved in this process.

### 3. Implications

#### 3.1 Resources

The resources required to produce this draft plan are met from the Service budget. Depending on the level of consultation required to finalise the plan, further resources may be required to undertake this work. Should the Committee decide that any gaps identified should be filled by Council projects this would have resource implications which would require to be defined on a project by project basis.

#### 3.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

#### 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)

There are no community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) implications arising directly from this report. However, some further consultation which is likely to involve communities is

recommended in the report. The delivery of any projects to address identified gaps would be expected to produce positive benefits for communities as well as for visitors.

### **3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever**

There are no Climate Change / Carbon Clever implications arising directly from this report, but a number of the infrastructure projects proposed, should they be undertaken, would help reduce climate change impacts.

### **3.5 Risk**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

### **3.6 Gaelic**

There are no Gaelic implications arising directly from this report. However, in keeping with agreed Council policy there would be a Gaelic element to projects subsequently undertaken as a result of being identified in this plan.

## **4. Draft Tourism Infrastructure Plan**

4.1 Members of the Council's Tourism Working Group previously tasked officers with the production of a Tourism Infrastructure Plan that would provide a simple audit of relevant tourism infrastructure around Highland which in turn will allow gaps in provision to be identified. It was agreed that the plan should focus primarily on the types of publicly provided infrastructure normally delivered by The Highland Council, partners, or communities rather than commercial provision although, where some forms of commercial provision exists, this would be considered when identifying gaps.

4.2 Work on this commenced in late 2019 with a view to this being presented to members in spring 2020. However, the subsequent secondment of staff to Covid-19 activity meant this work was paused between march and July. A draft plan has now been produced and this is included as **appendix 1** to this report.

## **5. Further development of the Tourism Infrastructure Plan**

5.1 While an audit of existing facilities is comparatively straightforward, the identification of gaps is more complex and may also require The Highland Council to take decisions that achieve a balance between local demand and the provision of a strategically appropriate and economically viable level of provision. A useful example of the challenge faced is that two adjacent communities may both wish to see a particular facility offered in their community whereas the visitor need may only be for such a facility to be provided somewhere in that area. While providing such a facility in each location could initially appear beneficial, provision of too many similar facilities in a small area could mean operational costs are not viable thereby leading to longer term sustainability issues.

5.2 In producing the draft plan a number of discussions have been held with Council Officers including Ward Managers and specialists in the service areas concerned, as well as with partner agencies. Further information and evidence has also been collated from feedback provided by businesses, visitors and communities. However, it should be recognised that the information contained in the draft plan does still have a degree of subjectivity about it. In particular the gaps in provision described are largely based on the professional opinions of the officers involved and so may need wider consideration.

- 5.3 It should also be noted that while in some cases The Highland Council may wish to try and fill the gaps identified through its own investment, there are also likely to be many situations where any provision will be by others such as a community, other public agency or the private sector. Once gaps are fully identified there needs to be a process that identifies how solutions might be delivered. In many cases this will be influenced by external factors – for example a community that already has plans for a particular development and so The Highland Council’s role may be to help facilitate discussions, source funding etc. In most cases direct delivery by The Highland Council
- 5.4 Covid-19 restrictions led to some marked changes in Highland tourism during summer 2020. In part this was due to the “tourist season” being compressed into a shorter (and later) period of time with some facilities also being unable to open or having limited capacity (this applied to both public facilities and some businesses). However, there were also challenges around the area seeing some new visitors not familiar with the area and unfamiliar with what is good practice in an area such as Highland. In places this led to increased pressures on tourism infrastructure, on local communities and on the environment. At this time it is unclear whether this will be repeated in 2021 and beyond but there are indications that some sectors will continue to see growth – for example motorhome sales continue to increase suggesting this sector will see continued growth. It will therefore be necessary to identify and prioritise which gaps are the most pressing and how they might be filled in a sustainable way.
- 5.5 As one of the underlying reasons for producing the Tourism Infrastructure Plan was to help try and address some of the concerns being raised by our communities it would seem appropriate to have further community input into agreeing the gaps in provision as well as involving local businesses or business groups. It would also be appropriate to involve Members and perhaps more formally, area committees in this process. In so doing, a balance will need to be struck between the breadth of consultation undertaken and the need to reach agreement that would see some issues tackled in advance of the 2020/1 season. Members are invited to consider the approach to be taken in seeking further views on gaps and identifying priorities.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment

Date: 18 September 2020

Author: Colin Simpson, Principal Officer – Europe, Tourism & Film

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Draft Plan



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# Tourism Infrastructure Plan

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1st Draft - September 2020

1st Draft

September 2020

## Purpose

This plan aims to provide a simple audit of relevant tourism infrastructure around Highland and, through this, to identify gaps in provision. The plan has a particular focus on publicly provided infrastructure normally or commonly delivered by The Highland Council, public sector partners or communities rather than facilities or services that are more commonly provided on a commercial basis by the private sector.

In some cases, it is appropriate to consider some forms of third-party / commercial provision as this may be necessary in order to help identify gaps in provision. These have only been included where the facility or service concerned is similar to facilities or services that might reasonably be expected to be provided by The Highland Council and where these are made easily available to visitors that are not otherwise customers of the business concerned. As an example, toilets in a village hall made available to visitors are included but those in cafes, restaurants etc. are not unless they are recognised Highland Comfort Scheme Providers.

## Plan structure

For each of the types of tourism infrastructure included in the plan a three-stage approach is used:

- **Existing provision** – a listing of existing provision is given based on a desktop audit and engagement with other Council officers and selected external partners
- **Proposed projects** – projects already under way or with plans in place for development in the near future
- **Possible gaps in provision** – and initial indication of possible gaps in provision is given. This is based on the knowledge and professional opinion of a number of officers and external partners but further engagement with local stakeholders is likely to be required to refine these lists.

## Types of Infrastructure

A number of different types of infrastructure that are used by visitors are currently provided by The Highland Council. Some of these, while important to and used directly or indirectly by visitors, are not dedicated “tourism infrastructure”. These include infrastructure and facilities such as roads, parking, harbours, piers, slipways and waste / recycling centres. As usage of this infrastructure is much broader and Council consideration of operational details and future investment are driven largely by other factors these are not covered in detail here. However, in cases where such infrastructure is deemed to be primarily aimed at / used by visitors these have been included where considered relevant to the purpose of this infrastructure plan.

The types of infrastructure considered particularly relevant to visitors that are included in this plan are:

- Car parking
  - off road parking in popular tourism destinations (but excluding larger settlements where a significant amount of both on and off road parking is generally available)
  - off road parking at visitor sites, or access points for activities such as a hill walk
  - roadside laybys where these are heavily used by visitors for an extended stop
  - Dedicated overnight parking for motorhomes (excluding commercial caravan/camping sites)
- Electric Vehicle charge points
  - Public sector provided charge points
  - Charge points provided by private businesses / others but made publicly available
- Public toilets
  - The Highland Council operated facilities
  - Facilities operated with support from The Highland Council (Highland comfort scheme)
  - Other facilities made freely available to the wider public
- Motorhome waste disposal facilities
  - Waste facilities on commercial sites made available to non-residents (included in the audit to identify overall provision and thereby help identify gaps)
  - Standalone motorhome waste facilities
- Public Wi-Fi services
- Paths and trails

## Car Parking

### Existing provision

Across Highland there are many hundreds of car parks or other public areas such as on road parking and laybys where cars can be parked. Many will be in larger communities and / or used almost entirely by local people for parking at their home or for work, shopping or accessing local services. While sometimes used by visitors these are not considered “tourism infrastructure” so are not included here. Similarly, roadside laybys typically used for a brief stop such as a rest stop or to take a photograph are excluded.

Parking areas where a visitor will normally leave their car for a longer period of time so as to visit a community, beach or other natural feature or to undertake an activity such as walking, cycling, water sports or fishing might reasonably be considered to be dedicated “tourism infrastructure”. Parking that meets this definition, whether operated by The Highland Council or others is shown in the table below.

Town / village / area	Location	Town / village / area	Location
<b>Sutherland</b>			
Durness	Keoldale Ferry	Durness	Balnakeil Bay
Durness	The Square	Durness	Old tourist info Centre
Durness	Durness Beach	Durness	Smoo Cave
Durness	Ceannabeinne	Tongue	Tongue Causeway East
Tongue	Village Car Park	Tongue	Ribigill / Ben Loyal
Bettyhill	Village Car park	Bettyhill	Farr View Car Park
Strathy	Strathy Point	Melvich	Melvich Beach
Melvich	Village	Blairmore	(Sandwood Bay access)
Tarbet	Tarbet pier	Scourie	Village
Scourie	Scourie beach	Kylesku	Kylesku North
Kylesku	Kylesku South	Drumbeg	Drumbeg viewpoint
Achmelvich	Achmelvich Beach	Clachtoll	Clachtoll Beach
Lochinver	Surgery Car Park	Lochinver	Middle
Lochinver	Bay View Car Park	Lochinver	Glencanisp road end
Assynt	Quinag car park	Assynt	Inchnadamp Hotel
Assynt	Inchnadamp Bone Caves	Helmsdale	Harbour Car Park
Helmsdale	Bridge Car Park	Lairg	Village
Lairg	Sutherland Arms Hotel	Lairg	Ferrycroft / Ferry Wood
Brora	Golf Road	Brora	Gower Street
Brora	Lower Brora	Brora	Beach
Golspie	Golspie Burn	Golspie	Fountain Road
Golspie	Rhives	Golspie	Golspie Forshore
Golspie	Shore Street car park	Golspie	The Mound
Golspie	Littleferry Road end	Bonar Bridge	Balblair Forest
Bonar Bridge	Picnic Area	Ardgay	Village car park
Dornoch	The Square	Dornoch	The Meadows
Dornoch	Beach car park	Dornoch	Camore Wood
<b>Caithness</b>			
Dunnet	Dunnet Head	Castletown	Village Car Park
Dunnet	Dunnet Links	Dunnet	Dunnet Seadrift
Scrabster	Seafront	John O'Groats	Main Car park
John O'Groats	Long Stay	Duncansby Head	Duncansby Head
Wick	Reiss Beach	Wick	Castle Sinclair Girnigoe
Wick	Noss Head	Camster	Camster Cairns
Whaligoe	Whaligoe steps	Lybster	Harbour
Latheron	Village	Latheronwheel	Harbour
Dunbeath	Riverside (W of A9)	Dunbeath	Harbour road end
South of Berriedale	Badbea path access		
<b>Wester Ross</b>			
Coigach	Achnahaird Beach	Coigach	Stac Pollaidh
Ardmair	Beach layby	Ullapool	Latheron Car Park
Inverlael	Old Road parking	Braemore	Braemore junction
Braemore	Corrieshalloch North	Braemore	Corrieshalloch South
Braemore	West end, Loch Droma	Loch Glascarnoch	3 x lochside areas
Laide	Mellon Udrigle	Little Gruinard	Gruinard Beach
Aultbea	Aird Point	Poolewe	Firemore beach
Poolewe	Cove road end	Poolewe	Riverside

Poolewe	Tollie junction	Gairloch	Strath Square
Gairloch	Auchtercairn	Gairloch	Beach
Gairloch	Harbour	Gairloch	Flowerdale
Red Point	Viewpoint	Red Point	Road end
Nr Gairloch	Loch Bad na Sgalaig	Loch Maree	Slattadale
Kinlochewe	Glas Leitire	Kinlochewe	Village Car Park
Kinlochewe	Incheril Road end	Lower Diabaig	Road end
Torridon	Coire Mhic Nobuil	Torridon	Countryside centre
Shieldaig	Mary St / waterfront	Sheildaig	A896 Loch Torridon viewpoint
Torridon	Glen Torridon (Layby N of Glen House)	Torridon	Beinn Eighe
Glen Docherty	Viewpoint	Achnasheen	Village car park
Garve	Ben Wyvis Car park	Garve	Black Water
Contin	Rogie Falls	Contin	Forest
Strathpeffer	Strathpeffer Gardens	Strathpeffer	The Square
Applecross	Beach at Sand	Applecross	North side of bay x 2
Applecross	Village Car Park	Toscaig	Pier car park
Applecross	Bealach na Ba summit	Lochcarron	Main Street
Lochcarron	East Church	Lochcarron	Golf Course
Attadale	Riverside	Plockton	Village car park
Kyle of Lochalsh	Plock – lower car park	Kyle of Lochalsh	Plock viewpoint
Kyle of Lochalsh	Village - Upper Car Park	Kyle of Lochalsh	Old Ferry Assembly Area
Kyle of Lochalsh	Murchison Memorial	Balmacara	Village car park
Auchtertyre	A890 viewpoint	Dornie	Ardelve slipway
Dornie	Village car park	Inverinate	War memorial / church
Shiel Bridge	Village car park	Glenelg	Ferry slipway
Glenelg	Ratagan Pass viewpoint	Glenelg	Brochs car park
Arnisdale	village	Corran	Road end car park
Glen Shiel	Allt Mhalagainn	Glen Shiel	Five Sisters access
Glen Shiel	Cluanie Inn		
<b>Easter Ross</b>			
Tain	Aldie Burn	Tain	Tain Hill
Portmahomack	Tarbat Ness	Portmahomack	Village
Balintore	Seaboard Hall	Balintore	Harbour
Balintore	Shandwick seafront	Nigg	Ferry pier
Evanton	Village car park	Evanton	Jubilee car park, Fyrish Hill
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>			
Dingwall	Knockfarrel	Dingwall	Fodderty cemetery
Jemimaville	Udale Bay	Cromarty	Links
Tore	Monadh Mor	Munlochy	Clootie Well
Munlochy	Munlochy Bay	Avoch	Harbour
Fortrose	Cathedral Square	Fortrose	Chanonry Point
Rosemarkie	Bridge Street	Rosemarkie	Marine Terrace
Rosemarkie	Learnie Forest	North Kessock	Ord Hill
North Kessock	A9 Southbound picnic area	North Kessock	A9 Northbound picnic area
North Kessock	Ferry car park		
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>			
Ardersier	Ardersier Common	Beaully	Square
Beaully	Braeview Park	Kilmorack	Nr Aigas power station



Moniack	Reelig Glen	Dochgarroch	Locks
Culloden	Clava Cairns	Daviot	Daviot Wood picnic area
Dores	Dores Beach	Strathnairn	Loch Duntelchaig
Strathnairn	Loch Ruthven	Struy	Strathfarrar access
Cannich	Glen Affric road end	Cannich	Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin
Cannich	Dog Falls, Glen Affric	Cannich	Corrimony (RSPB)
Drumnadrochit	Village	Drumnadrochit	Meall Fuar Mhonaidh
Inverfarigaig	Forest	Foyers	village
Foyers	Dalcrag	Invermoriston	Village
Whitebridge	Suidhe Chuimein	Fort Augustus	Loch Tarff
Fort Augustus	The Riggs	Fort Augustus	Bunoich Car Park
Fort Augustus	Auchterawe	Loch Cluanie	Lundie
<b>Nairn*</b>			
Nairn	Marine Rd / West Links	Nairn	Cumming Street / Links
Nairn	The Maggot	Nairn	East Beach
Nairn	Kingsteps car park	Cawdor	Dulsie Bridge
* Although urban parking is normally excluded, some Nairn car parks are included where they are used to access the adjacent natural features / attractions – Nairn beach & Culbin Forest.			
<b>Skye</b>			
Duntulm	Castle access path	Kilmaluag	Kilmaluag Bay
Kilmuir	Burial Ground	Uig	Ferry terminal
Uig	Fairy Glen roadside	Staffin	Quiraing
Staffin	Kilt Rock	Staffin	Lealt Car Park
Lealt	The Storr	Waternish	Trumpan Church
Waternish	Stein pier	Waternish	Fairy Bridge
Glendale	Neist Point	Dunvegan	Coral Beach
Dunvegan	Village	Struan	Dun Beag
Portree	Bayfield Car Park	Portree	The Green Car Park
Carbost	Village	Glen Brittle	Glen Brittle forest
Glen Brittle	Fairy Pools	Glen Brittle	Opp. Youth Hostel
Glen Brittle	Opp. Glen Brittle Hut	Glen Brittle	Glen Brittle road end
Sligachan	Mountain rescue post	Sligachan	Bealach a Mhaim path
Sconser	Sconser Ferry terminal	Torrin	Bla Bheinn
Kilmarie	Camasunary path	Elgol	Elgol North Car Park
Elgol	Pier car park	Broadford	Cille Chroisd church
Broadford	Village Car Park	Heaste	Road end
Kyleakin	Village Car Park	Kylerhea	Forest / otter haven
Isleornsay	Pier / road end	Armadale	Pier
Aird of Sleat	Road end		
<b>Lochaber</b>			
Kinlochourn	Road end	Glengarry	Forest
Invergarry	Bridge of Oich	Invergarry	Glengarry Hall
Laggan	Laggan Locks	Strathan	Road end
Achnacarry	Cia-aig Falls	Gairloch	Village
Spean Bridge	Commando Memorial	Spean Bridge	Woollen Mill
Roy Bridge	Village	Loch Laggan	Creag Meagaidh
Mallaig	East Bay	Mallaig	West Bay
Morar	Bracorina	Morar	Tougal
Camusdarach	Camusdarach	Traigh	Traigh Beach
Arisaig	Village / waterfront	Glenfinnan	Viaduct access
Glenfinnan	Callop	Fassfern	Picnic area
Banavie	Banavie Locks	Torlundy	North Face Car park

Glen Nevis	Achintee	Glen Nevis	Visitor Centre
Glen Nevis	Lower Falls	Glen Nevis	Road end
Kilchoan	Ardnamurchan Point	Kilchoan	Sanna Beach car park
Strontian	Village	Corran	Loch Linnhe picnic area
Corran	Jetty car park	Kinlochleven	Kinlochleven picnic area
Kinlochleven	Foyers Rd	Ballachulish	Village
Glencoe	Village	Glencoe	Signal Rock
Glencoe	Achnambeithach	Glencoe	3 Sisters x 2
Glencoe	Pass of Glencoe	Glencoe	Lairig Eilde
Glencoe	Altnafeadh	Glencoe	Lairig Gartain
Glen Etive	Coileteir access	Glen Etive	Road end car park
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>			
Carrbridge	Ellan Wood	Carrbridge	Village
Grantown on Spey	River Spey (A95)	Grantown on Spey	High Street
Grantown on Spey	Spey Avenue	Grantown on Spey	Burnfield
Grantown on Spey	Spey Bridge	Boat of Garten	Loch Garten
Boat of Garten	Deshar Road	Boat of Garten	Community Centre
Inverdrue	B970 junction	Inverdrue	Loch an Eilean
Coylumbridge	Whitewell road end	Glenmore	Loch Morlich (multiple Lochside car parks)
Glenmore	Glenmore Lodge road end	Glenmore	Hayfield
Glenmore	Allt Mor	Glenmore	Sugar Bowl car park
Glenmore	Cairngorm (Ciste)	Glenmore	Cairngorm (Coire Cas)
Kincraig	nr Kincraig Bridge	Feshiebridge	Feshiebridge
Feshiebridge	Uath Lochans	Feshiebridge	Glen Feshie (Allt Ruadh)
Feshiebridge	Glen Feshie (Achlean)	Kingussie	Ardvonie
Kingussie	Spey street	Kingussie	Church
Kingussie	Insh Marshes	Kingussie	Tromie Bridge
Newtonmore	Glen Banchor	Newtonmore	Glen Road Car Park
Newtonmore	St Brides Church Car Park	Newtonmore	Perth Rd
Newtonmore	Creag Dubh /Lochan Uvie	Laggan	Garva Bridge
Laggan	Spey Dam	Laggan	Gorsteane
Laggan	Laggan Wolftrax	Laggan	Falls of Pattack
Dalwhinnie	Cuaich	Dalwhinnie	Balsporran
Dalwhinnie	Drumochter Pass		

## Possible gaps in provision

In considering where the provision of parking does not meet current demand it is more common to find that some provision exists, but that capacity is inadequate rather than there being a gap in provision. There are however a few sites now becoming more popular with visitors and demand is arising for parking in locations that did not previously require it.

In order to relate possible gaps to existing provision, locations where parking exists but is not adequate for the demand experienced at certain times are shown with an **orange background**. Locations now seeing more visitors but where no dedicated parking is available and passing places or road verges are increasingly being used are shown with a **red background** in the table below.

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Durness (Balnakeil Bay)	Durness (Keoldale Ferry)	Durness (Smoo Cave)
Durness (Ceannabeinne)	Ben Hope	Coldbackie Beach
Tongue (Ribigill / Ben Loyal)	Melvich Beach	Blairmore (for Sandwood Bay)
Tarbet	Clachtoll	Achmelvich
Lochinver (Glencanisp)	Ardvreck Castle	Inchnadamph
Inchnadamph (Bone Caves)	Ben Klibreck	Brora beach
Dornoch – coach parking in Town Centre		
<b>Caithness</b>		
Dunnet Links	Camster Cairns	Whaligoe Steps
Dunbeath (Braemore road end)		
<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Stac Pollaidh	Mungasdale beach	Poolewe (Tollie junction)
Gairloch beach	Beinn Eighe	Glen Torridon (Liathach access)
Firemore beach	Gruinard beach	Applecross village car park
Strathpeffer	Lochcarron Main Street	
<b>Easter Ross</b>		
Tain - parking for larger vehicles (Coaches / Motorhomes)	Portmahomack	Nigg Old Church
Invergordon – as one of the larger urban areas parking is not included in the list above. There is however an identified need for parking for coaches meeting cruise passengers outside the pier		
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>		
Chanonry Point	Cromarty Links	
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>		
Beauly – coach parking / drop off	Clava Cairns	Dores beach
Drumadrochit	Suidhe Chuimein viewpoint	Fort Augustus
<b>Nairn</b>		
Nairn - Cumming St / Links		
<b>Skye</b>		
Duntulm Castle	Fairy Glen	Quiraing
Kilt Rock	Brothers Point, Staffin	Neist Point
Coral Beach, Dunvegan	Edinbane	Portree (Camanachd Square)
Portree (Bayfield)	Glen Brittle Youth Hostel	Glen Brittle House
Sconser	Kilmarie	Elgol
Ord / Tokavaig	Talisker Bay	Armadaile
Aird of Sleat		
<b>Lochaber</b>		
Kinloch Hourn	Loch Arkaig (road end)	Mallaig
Traigh beach	Sanna beach	Glencoe village
Glen Coe – (Devils staircase, The study, 3 sisters & An torr)	Glen Etive	
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>		
Carrbridge	Grantown on Spey - adequate for cars but limited for coaches	Nethy Bridge
Glenmore / Loch Morlich	Loch Alvie	Loch Insh
Laggan (village)		

In most of the locations referred to above some additional parking provision is likely to be required if capacity issues are to be addressed. However, where only limited additional capacity is considered necessary there may be some “soft” approaches that could be used such as improving the delineation of individual parking spaces to ensure existing capacity is used as efficiently as possible.

## Dedicated overnight parking for motorhomes

### Existing provision

In addition to the wide range of commercially operated caravan and campsites a small number of locations around Highland offer fairly basic overnight stop locations, typically for a small charge. Loosely based on the French system of “Aires” these locations are designed for short stops (typically a single night while travelling). They are commonly found close a community so as to encourage visitors to make use of the businesses such as shops, bars or restaurants in the community. The range of facilities can vary but some will provide services such as fresh water, electric hook-up points or waste disposal. A small number of locations already exist where businesses actively offer this service in their own car park such as at Glencoe ski centre, Dundonnell Hotel and the Royal Hotel, Ullapool. However, there are very few established sites which are publicly provided with only the two listed in the table below identified during this audit of facilities.

Sutherland		
Kinlochbervie		
Caithness		
Keiss		

In addition to the above established sites, Forestry & Land Scotland trialled a system during summer 2020 where a number of their car parks were made available for overnight parking by self-contained motorhomes. The choice of locations offered was dependent on a variety of factors including car park size, proximity of commercial campsites or, environmental constraints. Further details are available at <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/staythenight>. Further work to evaluate the success or otherwise of this approach is being carried out before any decisions are made on longer term plans. The locations in Highland where this service was made available were:

Easter Ross		
Strathrory		
Inverness & area		
Balnain, Glenurquhart	Inverfarigaig	Littlemill, nr Daviot
Lochaber		
Glengarry	Àrd-Àirigh, Loch Sunart	Garbh Eilean, Loch Sunart
Aoineadh Mor, Morvern		

There are numerous other locations across Highland where informal camping in motorhomes takes place. These range from urban / semi urban locations such as at Nairn harbour or Dornoch beach to rough parking areas remote from any community – e.g. alongside Loch Quoich in Lochaber or in the walkers car park below Quinag in Sutherland.

### Proposed new provision

In addition to these established sites a number of additional sites that will offer dedicated overnight parking for motorhomes are currently in development.

Location	Details	Location	Details
<b>Sutherland</b>			
Lochinver	Community led Rural Tourism Infrastructure funded project providing 3 spaces and 1 motorhome waste unit at Assynt leisure centre under way	Helmsdale	Community led Rural Tourism Infrastructure reserve project providing 14 spaces and facilities at Coopers yard expected to proceed late 2020
Brora	Tourism infrastructure project including motorhome parking and waste facilities supported by Town Centre Fund under way	Bonar Bridge / Lairg	Community led project to provide spaces and facilities at Bonar Bridge picnic area and falls of Shin.
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>			
Cromarty	Community led Rural Tourism Infrastructure funded project providing 12 spaces and facilities at Whitedykes under way	North Kessock	The Council has developed plans for a continental style "Aire" in the A9 Northbound picnic area which already has public toilets.
<b>Skye</b>			
Portree	Joint Council / Community Rural Tourism Infrastructure funded project under way providing 80 additional car parking spaces, 8 motorhome spaces (day parking only) and a chemical waste unit at Bayfield car park		

### Possible gaps in provision

Motorhome visitors are currently a growing market for Highland, and this, along with recently experienced pressures at some locations suggests some additional formal provision may be required. However, as mentioned above, numerous locations across Highland are already used for informal camping in motorhomes and it is not realistic to expect all of these to become formal overnight parking areas. There are instances where the locations currently used are not appropriate and so some local provision of dedicated overnight parking, perhaps with related facilities may be appropriate.

It can be difficult to recommend specific gaps that require public provision as there is also already a commercial market in terms of existing campsites. Provision of more basic designated overnight parking areas could be considered a business opportunity for example for landowners, farmers or crofters who have suitable land or for businesses such as restaurants or bars that may wish to offer such a service to drive additional trade. Normally, if such a facility was to be provided by the Council and run commercially, this would only be done where there was some evidence of market failure meaning there was no alternative provision in that area. With there being a possible commercial market and this being a rapidly changing situation it is considered more appropriate at this time that The Highland Council recognise that there is a general need for more provision and support others such as communities in providing facilities where they are keen to do so. The Highland Council could

then consider identifying gaps that still exist and that may be filled by public provision. This approach could also benefit from any evidence gathered from the proposed pilot project at North Kessock picnic site.

## Electric vehicle charge points

Although not dedicated “tourism infrastructure” electric vehicle (EV) charge points have been included here in recognition of the importance that having a good network of charging points is in giving visitors traveling by electric vehicles the confidence to visit an area.

### Existing provision

Highland has an existing network of EV charge points with many of these provided / maintained by the Highland Council and others provided by other public sector partners or private businesses. Many of these are available to the general public but some others, for example at a Bed & Breakfast operated in a private home, may only be available to their own guests. This list shows those which are available for wider public use.

Location		Council Owned?	S	F	R
<b>Sutherland</b>					
Durness	War Memorial Car Park (Check)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tongue	Car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bettyhill	Car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Melvich	Public toilet car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scourie	Public toilet car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lochinver	Community Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓
Helmsdale	Dunrobin Street car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Falls of Shin	Visitor Centre		✓	✓	
Ardgay	Drovers Square		✓	✓	✓
Dornoch	Meadows car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Caithness</b>					
Scrabster	Scrabster Harbour Trust		✓	✓	✓
Thurso	Park Hotel	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gills Bay	Ferry Terminal		✓	✓	✓
John o' Groats	Visitor Centre				
Wick	Victoria Place car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wick	Police Station		✓		
<b>Wester Ross</b>					
Ullapool	Latheron Lane	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ullapool	Harbour		✓	✓	✓
Gairloch	Community Hall		✓	✓	✓
Torridon	The Torridon (Hotel)		✓	✓	✓
Kyle of Lochalsh	Toll Office	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shiel Bridge	Shiel Shop		✓	✓	✓
<b>Easter Ross</b>					
Evanton	Highland Farm Cottages		✓	✓	

Evanton	Skiach Services		✓	✓	✓
Tain	Queen Street car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>					
Dingwall	SNH		✓		
Dingwall	SEPA		✓		
Dingwall	Inchvannie Court	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dingwall	Dingwall & Highland Marts		✓	✓	
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>					
Inverness	SNH, Great Glen House		✓	✓	
Inverness	Inverness Caledonian Thistle		✓	✓	✓
Inverness	Cathedral car park		✓	✓	✓
Inverness	Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road	✓	✓		
Inverness	Margaret Street		✓	✓	✓
Inverness	Raigmore Hospital		✓	✓	✓
Inverness	HIE, Inverness Campus		✓	✓	
Inverness	Asda		✓	✓	
Drumnadrochit	Car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tomatin	Tomatin Distillery		✓	✓	✓
Tomatin	Strathdearn Community Centre		✓	✓	
<b>Nairn</b>					
Nairn	Golf View Hotel		✓	✓	
Nairn	Court House Lane	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Skye</b>					
Uig	Ferry Terminal		✓	✓	✓
Waternish	Skyeskyns		✓	✓	
Skeabost	Skeabost Hotel		✓		
Portree	Aros Experience		✓		
Portree	Bayfield car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Portree	Broom Place	✓			
Broadford	Car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Duisdale	An Crubh		✓	✓	✓
Isleornsay	Eilean Iarmain Hotel		✓		
<b>Lochaber</b>					
Mallaig	West Bay	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arisaig	Land Sea & Islands Centre		✓	✓	✓
Roy Bridge	Community Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nevis Range	Nevis Range		✓	✓	
Nevis Range	HW Energy		✓	✓	
Corpach	Sea Lock		✓	✓	
Fort William	SEPA		✓	✓	
Fort William	An Aird car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fort William	Three Wise Monkeys climbing		✓	✓	
Kilchoan	Cal Mac Ferries		✓	✓	✓
Glenborrodale	Ardnamurchan Distillery		✓		
Kinlochleven	Memorial Hall car park		✓	✓	
Glencoe	Clachaig Inn		✓	✓	
Glencoe	Glencoe Mountain		✓	✓	✓
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>					
Granttown on Spey	Burnfield car park	✓	✓	✓	✓

Dalnain Bridge	Speyside Heather Centre		✓		
Aviemore	Wilderness Scotland		✓		
Aviemore	Grampian Road car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aviemore	Aviemore Supercharger		✓	✓	✓
Glenmore	Glenmore Lodge		✓		
Kincraig	Loch Insh Outdoor Centre		✓	✓	
Kingussie	Gynack Road car park	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laggan	Laggan Wolftrax		✓	✓	
Dalwhinnie	Loch Ericht Hotel		✓	✓	✓

S – Standard  
F – Fast charger  
R – Rapid charger

### Proposed new provision

A programme providing a wider network of EV charge points across Highland is currently under way which will see new or further charge points provided in the following locations: -

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Kinlochbervie	Helmsdale	Lairg
Brora	Golspie	
<b>Caithness</b>		
Thurso	Wick	
<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Poolewe	Gairloch	Achnasheen
Strathpeffer	Lochcarron	
<b>Easter Ross</b>		
Alness	Invergordon	
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>		
Dingwall		
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>		
Beaully	Inverness	Fort Augustus

In addition, further new or additional charge points have been proposed for the following locations although specific plans have yet to be developed: -

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Kylesku	Edderton	
<b>Caithness</b>		
Thurso	John o' Groats	Wick
<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Aultbea	Kinlochewe	Garve
Contin	Shieldaig	Torriddon
Plockton		
<b>Easter Ross</b>		
Invergordon		
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>		
Dingwall	Avoch	North Kessock
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>		



Inverness	Cannich	Drumnadrochit
<b>Skye</b>		
Staffin	Portree	Kyleakin
<b>Lochaber</b>		
Arisaig	Fort William	
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>		
Newtonmore	Kingussie	Dalwhinnie

## Possible gaps in provision

With the use of electric vehicles growing there is anticipated to be demand for further charging points. This includes both:

- Additional points in locations that have some existing provision but where provision may not meet current or anticipated levels of demand; and
- New charge points in locations where charge points are not yet available.

The rate of growth in usage, allied with changes in battery technology which affect the range of EVs make it difficult to identify how quickly and / or how far apart new or additional provision will be required.

With increasing numbers of visitors travelling in electric vehicles the provision of EV charge points in a community is also seen to be a way of increasing dwell time and boosting economic benefits as visitors can be encouraged to use local businesses while their vehicle charges. In a similar way there is merit in considering whether charge points in communities might be complemented by provision at some key tourism sites. This could improve the visitor experience by allowing vehicles to be charged while the visitor undertakes their visit.

Many commercial attractions are expected to provide for their own customers and existing plans for new publicly funded provision are already in progress. These are based on Transport Scotland and The Highland Council recommendations as well as public suggestions and include good coverage for visitors, so it is not considered that any activity beyond that already proposed is currently required. However, any plans for further phases of provision should continue to recognise the needs of visitors and this may warrant specific consideration of providing charge points at some visitor sites in future.

## Public Conveniences

### Existing provision

The Highland Council currently operates and supports a network of public conveniences across Highland. A number of these are directly managed by The Highland Council while others are operated by third parties such as communities or businesses with some financial support from The Highland Council through the Highland Comfort Scheme.

In addition, some businesses, communities and public sector partners manage visitor sites where toilet facilities are provided that could reasonably be described as being publicly available i.e.

available to visitors without the visitor having to be a customer of the business or facility providing them. Those toilets that are publicly available are shown in the table below.

Location	Seasonal	Operator	Location	Seasonal	Operator
<b>Sutherland</b>					
Durness (village)	N	HC	Durness (Smoo Cave)	N	HC
Tongue	N	HC	Bettyhill	N	HC
Melvich	N	HC	Blairmore (Sandwood)	Y	JMT
Oldshoremore	Y	HC	Kinlochbervie	N	HC
Rhiconich	N	HC	Tarbet	Y	HC
Scourie	N	HC	Kylesku	N	HC
Stoer lighthouse	N	Other	Drumbeg	N	HC
Clachtoll	N	HC	Achmelvich	Y	HC
Lochinver	N	HC	Little Assynt	N	Other
Lairg	N	HC	Rogart	N	HC
Golspie	N	HC	Brora	N	HC
Bonar Bridge	N	HC	Dornoch	Y	HC
<b>Caithness</b>					
Reay	Y	HC	Thurso	N	HC
Castletown	N	HC	Dunnet	N	HC
Gills Bay Ferry Terminal	N	Other	Keiss	N	CS
Watten	N	HC	Wick	N	HC
Lybster	N	CS	Latheron	N	HC
Dunbeath	N	HC			
<b>Wester Ross</b>					
Knockan Crag	N	SNH	Achiltibuie	N	CS
Ullapool	N	HC	Aultbea	N	CS
Poolewe	N	CS	Gairloch (Community Centre)	Y	CS
Gairloch (Beach)	N	HC	Gairloch (Harbour)	N	HC
Beinn Eighe VC	N	SNH	Kinlochewe	N	CS
Achnasheen	N	HC	Silverbridge	N	HC
Rogie Falls	Y	FLS	Strathpeffer	N	HC
Shieldaig	Y	HC	Torridon (Campsite)	N	HC
Applecross	Y	CS	Lochcarron	N	HC
Plockton	Y	CS	Kyle of Lochalsh	N	Other
Dornie	N	HC	Glenelg	Y	CS
<b>Easter Ross</b>					
Ardgay	Y	HC	Tain	N	HC
Portmahomack	N	HC	Balintore	Y	CS
Alness	N	HC			
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>					
Cromarty	N	HC	Dingwall	N	HC
Muir of Ord	N	HC	Avoch	N	CS
Fortrose	N	CS	Rosemarkie	N	CS
Rosemarkie Beach	N	Other	North Kessock (N)	Y	HC
North Kessock (S)	N	TS			
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>					
Beauly	N	HC	Ardersier	N	HC
Inverness Whin Park	N	HC	Inverness (Castle Wynd)	N	Other

Dores	N	CS	Glen Affric (Dog Falls)	Y	FLS
Glen Affric (road end)	N	FLS	Cannich Hall	Y	CS
Drumnadrochit	N	HC	Inverfarigaig	N	FLS
Foyers	Y	CS	Invermoriston	(currently closed)	
Fort Augustus	N	HC			
<b>Nairn</b>					
Nairn (West beach)	N	HC	Nairn (Harbour St)	(currently closed)	
Nairn (Falconer Lane )	N	HC	Nairn (East beach)	Y	Other
<b>Skye</b>					
Uig	Y	HC	Staffin	Y	CS
Dunvegan	Y	HC	Portree	Y	HC
Portnalong	N	CS	Sconser	Y	HC
Raasay	Y	HC	Broadford	Y	HC
Kyleakin	Y	CS	Bla Bheinn car park	N	JMT
Elgol	Y	CS	Duisdale (An Crubh)	Y	Other
Ardvasar	N	CS			
<b>Lochaber</b>					
Invergarry Hall	Y	CS	Rum	N	SNH
Mallaig	N	CS	Tougal	Y	HC
Traigh Beach	Y	Other	Muck	N	CS
Eigg	N	CS	Arisaig	N	CS
Spean Bridge	N	Other	Creag Meagaidh	N	SNH
Glenuig	Y	CS	Corpach (Kilmallie)	N	CS
Caol	N	CS	Fort William (Station Brae)	N	HC
Fort William (Viewfield)	N	HC	Glen Nevis Visitor Centre	N	HLH
Kilchoan	N	HC			
Acharacle	N	HC	Strontian	N	CS
Ardgour	N	CS	Corran	N	HC
Ballachulish	N	HC	Glencoe	N	HC
Kinlochleven	N	CS	Lochaline	N	HC
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>					
Carrbridge	N	HC	Nethy Bridge	N	CS
Grantown on Spey	N	HC	Aviemore	N	HC
Glenmore (Loch Morlich)	Y	FLS	Kingussie	N	HC
Newtonmore	N	HC	Ralia	N	Other

Operators: - HC – The Highland Council  
CS – Highland Comfort Scheme provider (community, business etc).  
FLS – Forestry & Land Scotland  
HLH – High Life Highland  
JMT – John Muir Trust  
SNH – Scottish Natural Heritage

### Proposed new provision

Funding was been allocated / committed for eight projects to provide new publicly available toilets with seven of these being part funded through the Scottish Government's Rural Tourism

Infrastructure Fund. Two have been completed (Bla Bheinn on Skye & Traigh Beach in Lochaber) and are listed above. A further five are in progress and one planned: -

Location	Seasonal	Operator	Details
<b>Sutherland</b>			
Helmsdale	N	Other	New Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund project was a reserve project for funding in round 2. Further work currently under way to allow construction to start.
<b>Wester Ross</b>			
Corrieshalloch Gorge	?	Other	The National Trust for Scotland have plans for new provision at Corrieshalloch Gorge car park on the A832.
<b>Skye</b>			
The Storr	N	HC	New Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund project funded in round 1. Construction under way.
<b>Lochaber</b>			
Mallaig	N	Other	New Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund project providing community run facilities funded in round 1. Site preparation under way.
Lower Falls, Glen Nevis	N	Other	New Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund project funded in round 2. Construction due autumn / winter 2020.
Isle of Eigg	N	Other	New Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund project providing expanded community run facilities funded in round 2. Construction due autumn 2020.

### Possible gaps in provision

In addition to the projects under way and proposed, it has been identified that some gaps still exist, either due to distance from the nearest facility or because there is a particular type of demand e.g. at a beach where visitors will commonly spend lengthy periods of time. Possible gaps that may warrant investigating options for new facilities or a Comfort Scheme arrangement with another operator are shown below. Those shown with a **red background** currently have no provision while those with an **amber background** have facilities, but these may not always be adequate for the level of demand.

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Talmine		
<b>Caithness</b>		
Dunnet Beach	Reiss Beach	
<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Corrieshalloch Gorge	Beinn Eighe	
<b>Easter Ross</b>		
Evanton	Nigg Ferry	
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>		
Beaully	Dores	Fort Augustus
<b>Skye</b>		
Kilmuir	Neist Point	Coral Beach
Portree	Broadford	Elgol
Kyleakin		

<b>Lochaber</b>		
Commando Memorial, Spean Bridge	Spean Bridge (village)	Duror / Kentallen area
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>		
Carrbridge	Laggan (village)	Dalwhinnie

A number of community led applications to the third round of the rural tourism infrastructure fund are expected by the application deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> October 20120 which may address some of the gaps identified. At this time, it is unknown if these bids will be successful or not but this plan can be updated once results of any applications are known.

## Motorhome Waste facilities

### Existing provision

Currently there is very limited provision of facilities for the disposal of motorhome waste except on formal caravan and camping sites. Many sites limit the use of these facilities to visitors staying with them overnight, but some also offer waste disposal to non-staying visitors – often for a small charge. As some sites only do this infrequently / on request or don't wish to publicise this service, it has been difficult to produce a definitive list of facilities. A survey of sites was attempted in winter 2019/20 with an incomplete response but based on this, the following table shows known availability of waste facilities for non-staying motorhome visitors.

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Kyle of Tongue Holiday Park	Kinlochbervie Loch Clash Stopover	Clachtoll Campsite
<b>Caithness</b>		
Ferry View Night Stop, Gills Bay		
<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Sands Caravan Park, Gairloch		
<b>Easter Ross</b>		
Black Rock Campsite, Evanton		
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>		
Beauly Holiday Park	Ardtower Caravan Park, Westhill	Torvean Caravan Park
Highland Campervans, Dalcross	Achnahillin Holiday park (not advertised, at owners discretion)	Loch Ness Shores, (not advertised, at owners discretion)
<b>Nairn</b>		
<b>Skye</b>		
Glen Brittle Campsite	Broadford Campsite (not advertised, at owners discretion)	Sligachan Camping
<b>Lochaber</b>		
Linnhe Lochside Holidays	Glen Nevis Caravan and Camping Park	
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>		
Dalraddy Holiday Park	Oakwood Caravan & Camping Park (not advertised, at owners discretion)	

## Proposed new provision

A further seven locations have plans in place or work under way to provide new facilities with six of these part funded through the Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. These locations are:

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Lochinver	Helmsdale	
<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Gairloch Harbour (planned to open October 2020)		
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>		
Cromarty		
<b>Skye</b>		
The Storr Harbour (planned to open October 2020)	Portree	
<b>Lochaber</b>		
Mallaig		

Further plans have been developed or are being developed by communities seeking RTIF or other funding to provide additional stand-alone motorhome waste facilities in a number of locations. These are: -

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Falls of Shin	Bonar Bridge	
<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Kinlochewe		
<b>Easter Ross</b>		
Balintore	Inver	
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>		
North Kessock		
<b>Skye</b>		
Elgol	Sleat (An Crubh)	Sleat (Kilbeg)
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>		
Drumnadrochit	Invermoriston	Falls of Foyers
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>		
Kingussie		

## Possible gaps in provision

While it has been identified that more provision is required, defining precise gaps is more difficult. Most self-contained motorhomes can travel for around three days before needing to empty their waste tanks so there is not a need for facilities in every community, but rather a good network of facilities that is also well publicised to allow visitors to plan their stops accordingly. Suitable locations will also be dependent on other infrastructure being suitable – for example having a suitable sewage system in place.

Many communities have been in contact with The Highland Council in recent months expressing an interest in providing such facilities and based on these approaches and feedback received from other sources including business groups and visitors the following locations may be ones that could be considered:

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Durness	Tongue	Bettyhill
Scourie	Brora	Golspie
<b>Caithness</b>		
John o' Groats	Wick	
<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Ullapool	Gairloch	Strathpeffer
Applecross	Dornie	Kyle of Lochalsh
<b>Easter Ross</b>		
Tain		
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>		
Fortrose / Rosemarkie		
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>		
Drumnadrochit	Invermoriston	Fort Augustus
<b>Nairn</b>		
Nairn (no specific location identified)		
<b>Skye</b>		
Uig	Dunvegan	
<b>Lochaber</b>		
Salen	Lochaline	Glencoe Village
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>		
Grantown-on-Spey	Aviemore / Coylumbridge	Dalwhinnie

## Public Wi-Fi

### Existing provision

Through the Inverness & Highland City Region Deal, The Highland Council has installed public Wi-Fi in 16 Highland Communities whilst Brora also has a public Wi-Fi service previously installed as a pilot scheme by HIE. More recently, The Highland Council was approached by the Scottish Government with an opportunity to deploy Public Wi-Fi at further sites along the NC500 route as currently internet connectivity is limited. The NC500 Wi-Fi proposal, which would connect into the current Council Project, and deliver a strategic network along the NC500 was commenced in spring 2020 but has been delayed due to the Covid-19 situation.

Existing sites are as shown in the table below in **green** with the proposed additional sites in **orange**.

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Bettyhill	Brora	Dornoch
Durness	Golspie	Helmsdale
Lochinver	Tongue	
<b>Caithness</b>		
John O Groats	Thurso	Wick

<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Achnasheen	Gairloch	Lochcarron
Ullapool		
<b>Easter Ross</b>		
Alness	Invergordon	Tain
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>		
Dingwall		
<b>Inverness &amp; area</b>		
Beaulay	Inverness	Drumnadrochit
Fort Augustus		
<b>Nairn</b>		
Nairn		
<b>Skye</b>		
Portree		
<b>Lochaber</b>		
Fort William		
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>		
Aviemore		

### Possible gaps in provision

Many other communities across Highland as well as visitors to these communities could benefit from public Wi-Fi networks. However, on the basis that it is unrealistic to expect that this could be provided in every community. However, it can be argued that some communities stand out on the basis of scale and as being more popular visitor destinations. These are considered to be as follows:-

<b>Sutherland</b>		
Lairg		
<b>Wester Ross</b>		
Kyle of Lochalsh	Plockton	
<b>Dingwall &amp; the Black Isle</b>		
Cromarty	Fortrose & Rosemarkie	
<b>Skye</b>		
Broadford		
<b>Lochaber</b>		
Ballachulish	Kinlochleven	Mallaig
<b>Badenoch &amp; Strathspey</b>		
Grantown on Spey	Kingussie	

It should however be noted that any plans would need to consider how the rollout of other technologies such as 4G & 5G might influence need or demand and this may influence whether or not further investment in a wider Wi-Fi network was appropriate.

The Highland Council has faced challenges in terms of the ongoing costs of maintaining the public Wi-Fi services in the locations where this has already been delivered. Similarly, this issue is still being addressed in relation to the wider rollout of sites along the NC500 as the Scottish Government support will only offer capital funding towards the setup of the new sites. With this in mind any further rollout of sites would need not just a Council capital funding allocation but would also need to be considered in the context of future resource implications for The Highland Council. This may require the support of a third party to take on any further sites.



## Paths and Trails

### Existing provision

With many of Highland's visitors coming to the area specifically for walking holidays and most others doing some walking as a leisure activity while here, the network of paths and trails they use can be considered a key part of the area's tourism infrastructure.

Perhaps best known from a visitor perspective are the 3 formally designated national Long Distance Trails – The Great Glen Way, West Highland Way and Speyside Way – with the latter two also including sections that extend into other local authority areas. Other long distance routes such as the South Loch Ness Trail and Affric-Kintail Way also exist but are not formally designated in the same way and opportunities exist for further routes to be developed. Information on these can be found here;

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/outdoorhighlands/info/1/long\\_distance\\_trails\\_in\\_the\\_highlands/3/long\\_distance\\_routes](https://www.highland.gov.uk/outdoorhighlands/info/1/long_distance_trails_in_the_highlands/3/long_distance_routes)

Numerous other paths also exist and under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 The Highland Council has a statutory duty to produce a Core Path Plan which records many of these. As the number of paths is counted in the hundreds and these are already recorded in the core path plans a complete list is not provided here but an interactive map of these is available at:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/outdoorhighlands/info/2/paths\\_in\\_the\\_highlands/1/paths\\_in\\_the\\_highlands](https://www.highland.gov.uk/outdoorhighlands/info/2/paths_in_the_highlands/1/paths_in_the_highlands)

with individual area maps also downloadable from:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1225/countryside\\_farming\\_and\\_wildlife/161/outdoor\\_access/4](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1225/countryside_farming_and_wildlife/161/outdoor_access/4)

### Possible gaps in provision

The Highland Council's obligations in relation to the Core Path Plan is for these to periodically be reviewed. This is done on a sub-regional basis with some reviews having recently taken place while others are still under way. As a formal process already exists for reviewing paths and that this can include the addition of new paths, it is deemed unnecessary to attempt to identify gaps through this tourism infrastructure plan. It is considered sufficient that this plan notes that paths are an important part of Highland's tourism infrastructure and that the needs of visitors as well as residents will continue to be considered in future revisions of The Highland Council's Core Paths Plan.