

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	CPB/20/21



Highland Community Planning Board – 20 December 2021

Developing a Place Based Framework

Report by: Head of Community Support and Engagement, Highland Council

Recommendations:

The CPP Board is asked to:

- Note the background to the development a Place Based Framework;
- Consider and agree to adopt the Place Based Framework to facilitate our joint working as partners and with our communities;
- Note the next steps for progressing this work should this approach be agreed.

1. Background

- 1.1 Place affects the lives and outcomes of all Highland residents. Evidence shows a person's postcode directly affects their outcomes in life. The place where someone grows up affects their health and wellbeing, as well as their access to opportunities. It is where most people volunteer and contribute to community life. To tackle the broad range of opportunities and challenges facing us – environmental change, urbanisation, inequality, intergenerational disadvantage, and demographic shifts, we need to see them from a local perspective and with local people and communities to address them. There is a growing recognition that when communities and local places are involved and shape their outcomes, they get better results for all involved.
- 1.2 As a partnership, there is a need to apply a place lens to all that we do. This will ensure local needs and strengths are understood, and local priorities are supported alongside the national and regional policy context. Applying this place lens is to apply a place-based approach. This place-based approach can only happen if organisations working for the future of a place work together to target the specific challenges and needs of a place. As a Community Planning Partnership, place is already core to much of what the partnership does.
- 1.3 This approach is underpinned by several national and local drivers:
 - **Scottish Government's Place Principle** – which requests that all those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work

and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places. The place-based plans undertaken to date in Highland, such as Fort William 2040 and Skye & Raasay Future, have been designed to directly respond to the Place Principle by establishing a shared vision and proposition for a place as well as a focus for partners to collaborate and coordinate its delivery.

- **Christie Commission 4 'P's** – outlines how communities can be empowered to shape the design and delivery of services and the delivery of local and national outcomes. It covers four key themes of: prevention, performance, participation, partnership.
- **Community Empowerment Act** – there is a requirement for communities to be involved, enabled and empowered in shaping the services and priorities local communities need.
- **Localism** – a commitment to support greater local decision making and local community involvement.

1.4 Based on learning through the development of broader place-based partnership plans – such as Fort William 2040 and Skye and Raasay Futures and North West Sutherland 2045-, the Council has developed a Place Based Framework. The proposed framework sets out how the Council proposes to work with our communities, partners and as an organisation, to focus on local priorities, services and address need around a place and its people. The aim is for the Framework to underpin all areas of our work, ensuring everything we do for and with a community is through the lens of that place. This will ensure that we can deliver against the priorities for that place and its people. It will create a strategy for investment in communities and infrastructure across the region, ensuring that target need.

1.5 The importance of place is central to the service planning and delivery of all organisations and the way in which we work together as partners to deliver shared outcomes along with our communities. As a partnership, the CPP already adopts a place based approach when it comes to the shared outcomes in relation to socio-economic inequalities. The CPP Board is asked to consider adopting the Place Based Framework outlined in section 2 as a way in which public sector organisations will commit to working with our communities to develop broader local priorities and building on the partnership work already underway in a number of our communities across Highland.

2. **Developing our Partnership Approach to Place**

2.1 A Place Based Framework has been developed to put the priorities of place and people at the heart of how partners work together for the future of Highland communities.

2.2 The **Vision** for the Place Based Framework is:

- For communities and partner organisations to work together to identify and deliver against shared outcomes and priorities
- Draw together people from different services to jointly attempt to solve local problems

- To target resources, funding and action to address the needs of people and place

2.3 The following **Principles** underpin the operation of the Place Based Framework. These align with the principles and elements recently identified as being required to make community planning work effectively:

- Community led – engagement and involvement of communities
- Co-ordination – a co-ordinated approach to prioritisation, investment and service delivery in an area
- Inclusive - an inclusive and accessible approach to address needs of all
- Communication - clear communication and sharing of information and intelligence
- Honesty - about resources and need
- Plain English, clear messaging = shared understanding
- Simplification – *the* plan for an area

2.4 The following illustrates the interconnecting elements that define the approach to place:

The Place Based Framework



The Framework recognises that three key elements interlink to inform our thinking on Place:

- **Place Based Priorities** – the identification of key priorities and aims for that community/place. These plans can result from either community led or public sector led activity but showing shared commitment and collaboration.
- **Day to Day activity** – service delivery and community action are informed by the priorities of an area. Investment and direction of resources and targeting of need is informed by the priorities of a community. The Placed Based Priorities are in turn informed by the needs, community action and service knowledge.
- **National / Regional Approaches** - national and local strategic plans, priorities and spending inform the direction of Place Priorities and Day to Day service activity. In turn, local priorities and understanding of day to day need, informs Highland wide planning and priorities.

2.5 Drawing on the Scottish Futures Trust Place Guide an 8-step process for considering place is set out:

1. Why should we use a Place-Based approach?
Agreeing the need to tackle complex challenges in places collectively
2. What do we want this approach to achieve and why?
Agreeing the intended benefits of a collaborative approach
3. How will we work together in this place to realise these benefits?
Agreeing ways of collaborative working & resourcing as partners & with communities
4. Understanding why the place needs to change?
Meaningful engagement with communities and partners to confirm needs and priorities for action – being mindful of whose voices may not be heard
5. What should the future be?
Collaboratively agreeing what success looks like and how to get there
6. What are the opportunities to deliver on the place ambition?
Focusing on making the best of what exists and influencing future resource decisions
7. How do we work together to deliver the future place?
Agreeing a co-ordinated programme of implementation
8. How to we ensure sustained success across time?

Connecting the place ambition with project briefs, gateway reviews and outcome evaluation

2.6 **Actions to enable the Place Based Framework**

The Place Based Framework has been designed to support how communities and public sector partners come together and take a collective approach to service design, planning and area priority planning taking a place-based approach. The implementation of this approach will be supported by a number of actions and workstreams underway including:

- Place Based funding – a number of local and national funding streams (Council Place Based Funding, Coastal Communities, Play Funding, Scottish Government Place Based Investment Fund) are available to support investment and deliver against place based local priorities. This also provides the opportunity for taking a Participatory Resourcing approach to the allocation of funding enabling community involvement in the prioritisation of resources /developing local priorities.
- Community Partnership Approach – the new approach agreed in relation to locality planning, with a new model of one plan per Community Partnership, could support the Place Based Framework. There is the opportunity to align this approach with the ambition for developing a single overarching plan for each area incorporating all the priorities of a place. This approach requires further discussion and agreement with partners and is highlighted as a key next step.
- Local Place Plan guidance – the development of guidance to support local community groups undertake their own local community place plan.

3. **Next Steps**

3.1 The proposed Place Based Framework is an evolving approach to how we operate as partners and with our communities, ensuring that place and people are at the centre of our way of working. One element is likely to be the development of local place plans; however this framework also proposes to guide how we work together more generally, on key areas of innovation or development – one example of this would be the proposal for improving outcomes for children outlined at report 6ii on the agenda.

3.2 There are several key next steps in progressing this approach:

- Discussions with the Partnership to consider the alignment of locality planning with a broader place plan approach for each area, encompassing the broader priorities and commitments of local communities.
- Consider the governance arrangements for monitoring, scrutiny and delivery of place-based partnership plans.
- Consider best practice when evolving and implementing Highland's Place-Based Framework

3.3 Should the Board be minded to adopt the Place Based Framework, an update on this approach would be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

Recommendations:

The CPP Board is asked to:

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Appendices: