

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	5
Report No	CIA/02/25

Committee: City of Inverness Area

Date: 3 February 2025

Report Title: Inverness Strategy Update

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report invites Members to have regard to and take note of the [Inverness Strategy](#) work package as a tool to communicate “what’s happening across our city” and a prospectus for future priority development and investment for the city and area. This follows conclusion of the time-bound programme to develop the Strategy through extensive stakeholder and public engagement on local priorities and opportunities for the future, in line with Highland’s Place Based Framework for Planning and Investment in Communities (HC/34/21).
- 1.2 The Inverness Strategy package provides a portfolio for those with a shared interest in the future of development and investment across Inverness and the wider area, particularly the role of city and city centre as a hub for the wider region; a shared tool for public authorities, communities, businesses and investors to own and deliver collectively. The resources created and their development through extensive stakeholder and public engagement have the potential to initiate a new, collaborative way of working between partners, to steer the delivery of both individual projects and, in turn, the wider vision and outcomes for the area outlined in the Inverness Strategy.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
- i. **Note** Inverness Strategy as a tool for communicating and coordinating delivery of priority development and investment for the city and area;
 - ii. **Note** the vision and priority outcomes derived from a consolidation of existing national, regional and local plans and strategies, adopting these as a set of expectations and qualities for future development and investment to be delivered through current and future projects; and
 - iii. **Note** that delivery of the projects, priorities and vision identified within the Strategy will rest upon targeted use of existing tools and a collaborative approach to cross-sector partnership working.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - No additional resource is requested. In the event of prospective Highland Council support for initiatives identified in the Inverness Strategy, future resource implications would be subject to appropriate Committee or Service decision making.

As an example of a place-based approach to confirming priorities for the area, Inverness Strategy provides a framework to inform targeting resources, service delivery and attract external investment according to local need. The Strategy will help the Highland Council, partners, and communities secure funding by evidencing the impact of every pound spent in terms of delivering against agreed priorities for the city and area. As a 'snapshot' overview of active projects and opportunities which are tracked against these priorities, the Strategy can provide and manage clarity of expectations around how, where and why resources are prioritised.

- 3.2 **Legal** - In accordance with the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, there is scope for Inverness Strategy to form part of the evidence reviewed in preparation of the forthcoming Highland Local Development Plan.
- 3.3 **Risk** - Developing a place-based approach is encouraged through the Scottish Government's Place Principle, the Christie Commission recommendations and Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Inverness Strategy has sought to enhance stakeholder and community voice and participation in determining priorities for local development and investment across the area. For the Strategy to empower community action to deliver on identified local priorities will require clear communication and coordination between community actors, public sector partners and elected members – including appropriate guidance on relevant regulatory strictures, opportunities and limitations regarding available resources.
- 3.4 **Gaelic** - A focus on place, and considering the priorities for a local area, has potential to support a focus on Gaelic language and culture if identified by communities and partners.

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 **Integrated Impact Assessment - Summary**
- 4.3.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken. The conclusions have been subject to the relevant Manager Review and Approval.

4.3.2 The Screening process has concluded that there are positive impacts on promoting equality, addressing inequality and targeting the priorities of people across the city and area – therefore a full impact assessment is not required. Members are asked to consider the following summary to support the decision-making process.

4.3.3

Impact Assessment Area	Conclusion of Screening/Full Assessment
Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People – <i>Positive</i> • Children affected by disability – <i>no impact</i> • Older adults – <i>no impact</i>
Socio-economic	<i>Positive</i>
Human Rights	<i>No impact</i>
Children’s Rights and Well-being	<i>No impact</i>
Island and Mainland Rural	<i>No impact</i>
Climate Change	<i>Positive</i>
Data Rights	<i>No impact</i>

5 Background

5.1 The city of Inverness is at an exciting stage in its ongoing and evolving role as the main economic, service and administrative centre for Highland and a transport hub for the wider Highland and Islands region. The Green Freeport represents an enormous investment and opportunity for Inverness and the wider area. Inverness Castle is due to re-open in 2025 and will be a transformative catalyst project for the city and region. While significant, these are just two examples among an enormous number of ongoing developments and investments which have recently been transforming the city, and which are captured as part of the Inverness Strategy.

5.2 Inverness Strategy is our approach to consolidating and communicating the breadth, purposes and impacts of ‘what’s happening’ and opportunities for the future across our city and area. It draws together existing plans and strategies alongside recent and anticipated projects and initiatives into a single, coordinated framework for everyone to work together to promote Inverness as the hub of economic, social and cultural activity in Highland. Promoting a partnership approach across public, private and community sectors, The Inverness Strategy portfolio confirms and clearly communicates partners' shared priorities and responsibilities for delivering development and investment.

5.3 The Strategy is not another ‘new plan.’ Rather, it consolidates priorities from a broad range of existing national, regional and local plans and strategies into a clear and concise statement on what kind of city we are working to deliver for the future. From this review of existing priorities, the Strategy provides a condensed vision for the future, with a series of high-level priority outcomes as criteria for future development of the city and area. In this role, the Strategy supports and reinforces the role of other key documents, such as the City Centre Masterplan, Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan and associated Development Briefs, as well as providing evidence for consideration as part of ongoing preparation of the future Highland Local Development Plan.

- 5.4 Drawing on an extensive review of recent, current and potential developments and investments by public services, private sector and community actors, the Strategy also aligns a vast number of identified projects against these priority outcomes to highlight where, when and how tangible benefits for the city and area are being delivered. This overview provides clarity on the big picture of change and progress, beyond individual projects, showcasing projects and key opportunities which will have a further, significant impact on the future of the city, its wider area, and the region as a whole. This includes a significant contribution to housing in the city centre and across Inverness.
- 5.5 As an example of a place-based framework which identifies and confirms priorities for the sub-regional area (HC/34/21), Inverness Strategy can act as a tool to inform wider decision making about spatial planning, service delivery, options for asset management, development and investment. It is a call for us to bind together around a shared vision for what may come next for the city and area – a future which can benefit from working in partnership. Having been prepared by bringing together the agencies, businesses and community partners who are delivering on priorities for the future, the Strategy lays the groundwork of a collective vision. The aim is that this will enhance opportunities to take a partnership approach to improve delivery of current and emerging plans and projects - to ensure Inverness remains Highland's prime destination for those who live, work, visit and invest here.

6 Consolidating and confirming an accepted vision for the future

- 6.1 The headline purposes set out by Inverness Strategy are to:-
- establish a clear and shared vision for partnership delivery of development and investment for the future of the city and area. This includes consolidation of priority themes arising across approximately 19 [existing local, regional and national plans and strategies](#) into a clear and comprehensible overview;
 - make clear what development and investment has been undertaken across the City and area, since 2018, what is currently active, in the pipeline, or regarded as a prospective opportunity (albeit not necessarily currently committed, or resourced). This includes mapping of project locations, alongside descriptions of the intended purpose, who is responsible for delivery, the intended timescale and which of the priorities identified in the Strategy those projects may deliver against; and
 - validate this overview of activity and existing priorities through stakeholder and public engagement.
- 6.2 Based on the consolidation of priority themes arising in existing plans and strategies of relevance to the city and area, the vision set out in Inverness Strategy for 2040, is for “a city and area that meets the needs of people and place, as a great place to live, work, visit, study and invest”:-
- Inverness continues its role as the capital of the Highlands and the service, cultural, economic and transport hub for the wider Highlands and Islands area. Its exceptional built and natural environment has embraced climate adaptation and a just transition to net-zero, with infrastructure for world-class accessibility and connectivity for all transport modes, local living and resilient services.

- Inverness is an attractive place to live, work and invest, as the prime destination for the needs of residents, businesses, service users and visitors alike. Modest expansion and diversification across the city and city centre have seen it grow in line with necessary services and infrastructure. This ensures a vibrant city that is ready to deliver on current needs for all and grasp opportunities of the future.

6.3 To deliver this Vision, Inverness Strategy adopts six high-level Outcomes to be progressed by public, private and community partners. These are based on existing national, regional and local policies. The priority outcomes respect the role of Inverness as the largest urban centre in the Scottish Highlands and recognise the city's important role as regional hub; offering major facilities in healthcare, leisure, sport, tourism, culture, justice and education, as well as attracting visitors from across the Highlands, the Isles, Moray and much of the world. These outcomes recognise that a joined-up approach and vision for the future are required to deliver many current projects and potential opportunities. As a result, many projects should be expected to deliver against multiple priority outcomes.

- The recognised **prime destination** for locals and visitors alike to spend their time and money. A place where businesses want to invest and develop high quality, attractive offerings.
- **A living, working city:** more quality homes for all in welcoming mixed-use neighbourhoods, with easy access to work, facilities and leisure, without overwhelming services to the detriment of existing residents. Protection of built and cultural heritage assets of the city.
- **A green and healthy city:** open green space is accessible to all with improved parks and open spaces. Biodiversity is restored and enhanced - nature networks are functioning across the city and connect with the rural hinterland, allowing nature to thrive. A greener city and city centre not only supports health and recreation but also contributes to civic and cultural vitality.
- **Zero-carbon:** a city at the heart of a region that is leading the world on renewable technologies, now and for future generations. A just transition to a zero-carbon transport network across a city where all homes and businesses are powered by renewable energy.
- **Accessible and connected:** the city has become better connected to the rest of Scotland, the UK and the rest of the world for passenger and freight transport, with welcoming connections to Inverness Airport, the rail network, the bus network, the Port of Inverness, Trunk Road Network and the Caledonian Canal. Walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and other sustainable travel choices have become viable, intuitive choices for city residents, visitors and commuters. A modal shift in transport has reintroduced 'life' to city streets – creating more space for civic life and community interaction, and improved resilience to climate change.
- **Digital city:** support for remote working and co-working spaces; 5G connectivity and continued roll-out of full-fibre network. Integration of real time traffic flow data, parking availability and public transport timings. Smart City applications to control street lighting, energy production, storage, smart-heating, ventilation.

- 6.4 These priority outcomes have potential to act as prompts for partners to coordinate and support development, infrastructure and investment to deliver the key qualities identified by the Strategy and tangible impacts for the future.
- 6.5 The Strategy also identifies, maps and describes 123 projects and interventions, which have been aligned to delivery of the priority outcomes. GIS mapping within the online '[StoryMap](#)' allows visitors to the site to select geographical neighbourhoods to identify and learn more about projects, thereby accessing a single, coherent overview of 'what is happening' locally. Solely among those projects for which the level of investment could be identified, these represent £215m of investment since 2018, with further 'active' projects, currently underway or in the 'pipeline' to soon be delivered representing a further £625m of investment across the city and area (representing in some large part, significant Freeport investment).

7 How Inverness Strategy was prepared

7.1 **Review of existing national, regional and local plans and strategies** with a bearing on development and investment to identify core themes:-

- Notably, regard for the Scottish Government's recent introduction of '[qualities of successful places](#)' as specified in National Planning Framework 4.
- Projects and priority themes included the Draft City Centre Masterplan which members agreed to consult upon in Nov 2021 (CIA/35/21) were incorporated into Inverness Strategy. This enabled subsequent public consultation on the contents of the Draft Masterplan, by incorporating its contents fully into the draft Inverness Strategy.
- Due regard was also given to themes identified in the Inverness Futures Group's visioning document, 'Inverness 2035', to subsequently identify and establish projects which may deliver on these and other relevant priorities.

7.2 **Extensive trawl of public services, private developments and community partners** to identify recent, current and potentially forthcoming developments and investments of significance. All projects were then mapped and tracked against the priority outcomes identified in the Inverness Strategy. One hundred and twenty-three projects were identified and validated.

7.3 **Preparatory online and face to face briefings and engagements** were undertaken to 'sense check' the developing draft of the Strategy; with City of Inverness & Area Members; City Leader Briefings; City and Area Administration Members; Strategic Chair for Economy & Infrastructure; Area Service Managers; MPs and MSP; Inverness Area Community Council Forum; Highlands & Islands Enterprise; Chamber of Commerce; City Centre BID; Eastgate Centre & Scoop Asset Management; Visit Inverness Loch Ness; Inverness & Cromarty Firth Green Freeport; Chair and Coordinators of Inverness Community Partnership; Highland Senior Citizens Network; Highlife Highland Youth & Adult Learning. Through the Community Partnership network, further third sector, minority and equalities groups were made aware of the opportunity for briefings and to provide comment.

- 7.4 Preparatory public engagement using the **Place Standard Survey ('Your Place Highland)**. Using Scotland's nationally recognised tool for comprehensive assessment of the physical and social aspects of place for public health and development planning, members of the public were invited to score 'their place' and comment on numerous aspects of 'what is good about where you live and what could be done differently?' 8,431 comments received for Inverness and Area from 285 distinct online respondents (183 residents of the city, 102 residents of the wider area).
- 7.5 **143 young people** from Inverness and Area were involved in face-to-face workshops using the Place Standard, which were facilitated by Highlife Highland Youth Development Officers.
- 7.6 In October 2024, with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Inner Moray Firth Team, the Council's Development Plans Team published the Inverness Strategy online '[StoryMap](#)', which draws together and consolidates the evidence gathered on priority themes, key opportunities and a mapped overview of projects which have recently been delivered, are currently active, in the pipeline, or a potential opportunity. Screenshots from the StoryMap (which remains live online at the above link) can be seen within **Appendix 1: Illustration 1**. In parallel, an **online survey and 'ideas board' were made available for comment on the draft Strategy**. These received 154 visits by 139 unique users.
- 7.7 **Face to face consultation events on the draft strategy:** Business Breakfast at Victorian Market and Public 'Showcase' at Inverness Town House (both November 2024). Both events were very well attended, with views being recorded by stall holders and on public comments boards. Approximately 40 attendees joined the business breakfast and well in excess of 200 attended the showcase. Photos from these events can be seen within **Appendix 1: Illustration 2**.
- 7.8 In total, 109 comments were received from the public and stakeholders during final consultation on the draft Strategy. These comments are presented in full within **Appendix 1** and relate to a variety of issues, with a particular emphasis on development and infrastructure, transport and travel, and public service delivery. The key themes arising include:-

- unanimous support for the principles of improved public transparency and communication in regard to development and investment; and
- strong support and endorsement of the inclusive approach taken to early engagement and dialogue in consultation on priorities for the future.

Concern as to a perceived need for ongoing coordination of communication and engagement between partners and public to ensure plausible delivery of strategic priorities across multiple stakeholders.

8 How Inverness Strategy can be used

- 8.1 The Plan has been written for all those with an interest in the future of the city and area; including not only public agencies, but also wider stakeholders, private sector, local communities and community organisations. To achieve the priority outcomes set out in the Strategy will require all partners, community, public, third and private, working together on a common vision. The Strategy should be used as it is intended – as a tool enhance understanding of shared priorities within decision making on development and investment, to foster achievement of better outcomes for the community.

- 8.2 The Plan is an ambitious, evidence-based statement of aspiration for the future of the city and area, supported by robust stakeholder and public engagement. It therefore provides a valid source of evidence to inform decision making by all who are responsible for delivering services, looking after assets or with an interest in development and investment across the city and area.
- 8.3 The Strategy calls for cross-sector and community-wide partnership based around identified priorities for the future, in addition to resetting the relationship between the public sector, key stakeholders, private sector and local communities to marshal capacity, funding and resources around identified priorities. The resource which has been developed can therefore help foster opportunity to:-
- inform, support and enable stakeholders and the community to understand and influence decisions impacting their future; and
 - inform and enable more trust and collaboration between communities, private sector and public authorities.
- 8.4 To support this in practice, public sector partners and funders are asked to have regard to the Strategy to inform deliberation and decision making relating to development, investment, service delivery and budgetary allocation. This can be achieved by Members, Council officers, statutory and community partners considering the Strategy in various forums, e.g.,-
- Council City & Area Business Meetings;
 - Council Area Service Management Meetings;
 - Inverness Community Partnership;
 - Prioritisation of Community Regeneration Funding allocation; and
 - Prospective development of community action plans by the Council's Community Development Team.
- 8.5 With the Inverness Strategy work programme having now drawn to a close, there is ongoing opportunity for mobilising further community and agency support for delivery of the priorities and projects it identifies. The Strategy can continue to act as a tool which brings different interest groups together to collaborate on a shared vision for the future. This endeavour to broaden stakeholder engagement in planning for the future will benefit from continued support and encouragement of a robust approach to process and an inclusive approach to planning and delivery, including the guidance and participation of Elected Members, officers, community councillors and, importantly, communities across the city and area.

8.6 The anticipated benefits and impact of the Inverness Strategy overview is therefore that it informs, supports and enables:-

- Consolidation of local priorities from across a variety of plans and strategies – national, regional and local.
- A shared understanding of our communities' priorities and opportunities for the future.
- A framework informing delivery of a shared vision, priority outcomes and actions in a way that is tailored to the needs of the city and area, including its role as a hub for the wider region and beyond.
- Improved clarity on what current projects and interventions are working towards, when they will be delivered and who is responsible.
- Targeting of resources, investment and action in line with local priorities.
- Tracking and promoting public understanding of the impact of spending and project delivery against local priorities.
- Re-set of relationships, by prioritising collaborative working and trust between communities, public, private and third sectors through transparent communication, consensus building and respect for diverging views.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 7 January 2025

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Background Papers: Inverness Strategy ([CIA/35/21](#))
Future Highlands Strategic Partnership Priority 4: Place Based
Planning and Investment in Communities ([HC/34/21](#))
[Inverness Strategy StoryMap](#)

Appendices: Appendix 1: Photos and illustrations
Appendix 2: Stakeholder and public feedback from consultation
and engagement

Appendix 1: Illustrations

[Illustration 1: Screenshots from Inverness Strategy StoryMap](#)



Inverness Strategy

What's happening across our city • Delivering a shared vision for the future together

25 November 2024

[Purpose and background](#)

[Key opportunities](#)

[Vision and outcomes](#)

[Projects](#)

[Existing documents](#)

[Contact](#)

Key opportunities

Prìomh chothroman

The city of Inverness is at an exciting stage in its evolving role as the main economic, service and administrative centre for Highland and a transport hub for the wider Highland and Islands region. The city's future and the delivery of the projects outlined in the next section will be shaped by a range of wider opportunities that will help make things happen and determine its profile and identity.



☰ In this section:

- [Opportunity 1: Culture and night-time economy](#)
- [Opportunity 2: Key sectors for future](#)
- [Opportunity 3: Community action and leadership](#)
- [Opportunity 4: Green Freeport](#)
- [Opportunity 5: City centre](#)
- [Opportunity 6: Transport](#)
- [Opportunity 7: Housing](#)

Priority outcomes

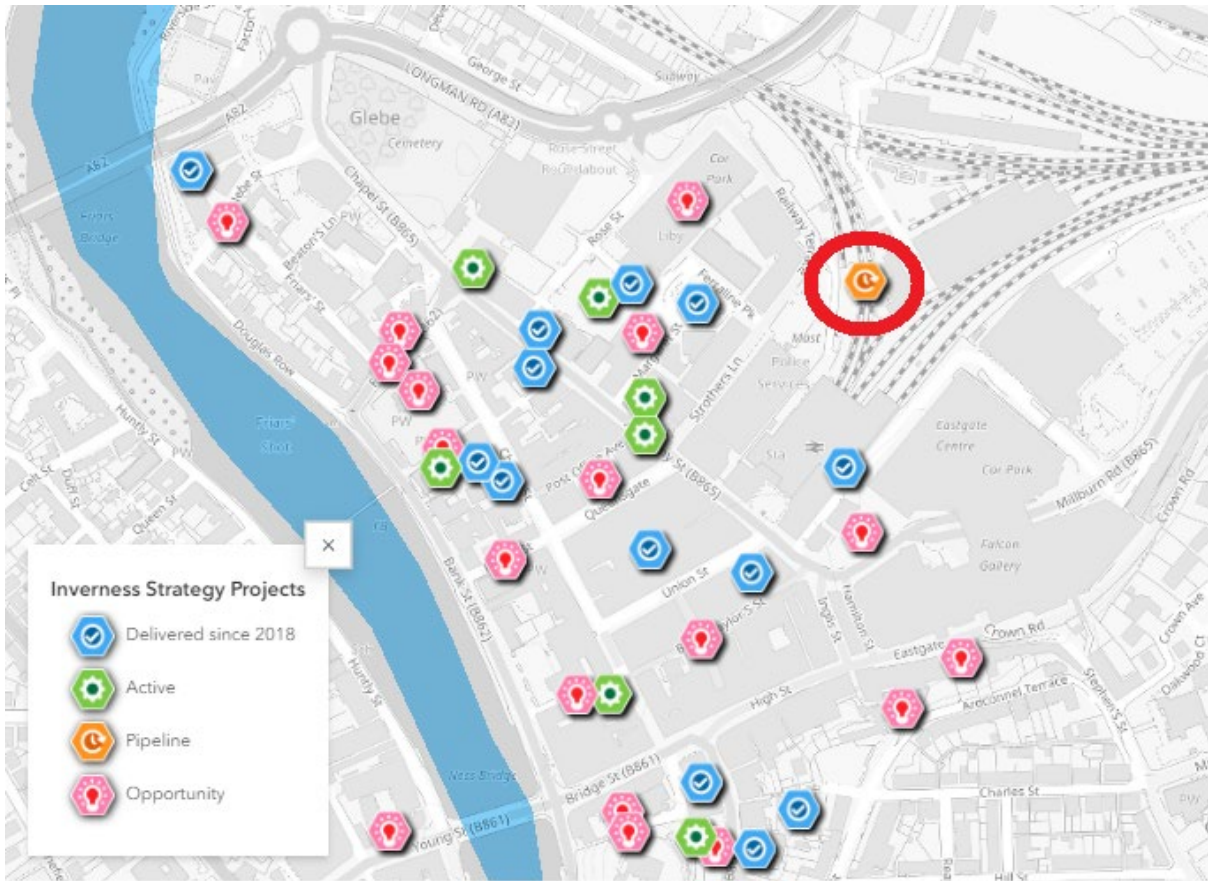
Builean prìomhachais

To deliver this Vision, Inverness Strategy adopts six high-level Outcomes based on existing national, regional and local policies. These respect the role of Inverness as the largest urban centre in the Scottish Highlands and recognise the city's important role as regional hub: offering major facilities in healthcare, leisure, sport, tourism, culture, justice and education, as well as attracting visitors from across the Highlands, the Isles, Moray and much of the world. These outcomes recognise that a joined-up approach and vision for the future are required to deliver many current projects and potential opportunities. As a result, many projects should be expected to deliver against multiple priority outcomes.



☰ Priority outcomes:

- [Outcome 1 - Inverness as a prime destination](#)
- [Outcome 2 - A living working city](#)
- [Outcome 3 - A green and healthy city](#)
- [Outcome 4 - A zero carbon city](#)
- [Outcome 5 - An accessible and connected city](#)
- [Outcome 6 - A digital city](#)



Inverness Railway and Bus Station Masterplan



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Major 30-year Masterplan project committed to by Transport Scotland and involving a number of key stakeholders looking at the redevelopment of a large area of land around the Station, including the existing station buildings, freight yards and maintenance depots, the Bus Station/Farraline Park, the Rose Street Multi-storey Car Park and the former Royal Mail buildings amongst others.

[Read the Railway and Bus Station Masterplan Case Study](#)

Outcome delivery

	Outcome 1 - Prime Destination	✓
	Outcome 2 - Living Working	✓
	Outcome 3 - Green and Healthy	✓
	Outcome 4 - Zero Carbon	X
	Outcome 5 - Accessible and Connected	✓
	Outcome 6 - Digital	X

Lead Organisation

Network Rail and Highland Council

Investment

£TBC

Status

Pipeline, Emerging - Delivery 2025 - 2030

Illustration 2: Photos from business & public engagement:



Appendix 2: Consultation feedback

Comment	Theme	Source
Pleased to see a 'big picture' approach, but don't spoil my city.	Coordination	Post-it (public drop-in)
Call for contributors: a system for whole city wide solving of problems, including the right people.	Coordination	Post-it (public drop-in)
Follow-up needed: don't lose this momentum.	Coordination	Post-it (public drop-in)
Who will lead and coordinate this? Ensuring momentum and action.	Coordination	Post-it (public drop-in)
Using social media more for marketing.	Coordination	Post-it (public drop-in)
Please reach out to the youth to be part of these events more often. Your changes affect our futures and we do enjoy being part of the decisions.	Coordination	Post-it (public drop-in)
Glad to see more being done for the city. Please let these events be more than just ideas. We need to keep our city moving.	Coordination	Post-it (public drop-in)
Better connections between organisations, including knowledge of who is out there, what can they offer and what can they provide. E.g. Inverness Library wanted to be better connected to organisations and charities as they not only have older people use the library but young mothers for book bug, holiday makers and people of all ages for the Internet and older people for books, warm space and socialising.	Coordination	Public Drop-in: Community Partnership stall
A common theme from those that spoke to me was follow up – a great event but a number of folk were concerned that any impetus might be lost.	Coordination	Public drop-in: Freeport stall
The 'how' will be the hard part, not least financing but why not raise a bond like other local authorities have done to help fulfil their visions? We can't afford NOT to try. Everything takes so long to deliver here e.g. streetscape, the castle redevelopment Bught Park stadium development etc.	Coordination	StoryMap Response Form
Can we deliver future development more quickly? I do think Inverness needs to seriously up its game to make it as attractive a destination as possible. I think we're failing badly at that; however we must believe that it is possible.	Coordination	StoryMap Response Form
Above all. we need to raise our standards to compete with other UK and European destinations of a comparable size. Let's make Inverness special!	Coordination	StoryMap Response Form

<p>How can the council talk about preserving history and culture for locals and tourists alike at places such as WASPS Studio, Eden Court, Inverness Cathedral, Inverness Castle, Northern Meeting Park and Whin Park while completely ignoring one of the most historically important buildings in the city - Old High Church?</p> <p>How can the council "seek the improvement of the external finish and fabric of city centre (sic) to safeguard their future and reduce negative appearances" and "Revitalise vacant and under-used sites (and) buildings" without considering the fate of this same church?</p> <p>Just buy it, and make it part of the Inverness Experience! The CofS isn't asking for much by way of an asking price.</p>	Development	StoryMap Response Form
20-minute neighbourhoods would be great, but there are no amenities at Westercraigs.	Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
Improved business and public awareness of what to expect when castle opens – impacts on city centre, roads and transport...?	Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
Requirement for ground floor retail beneath upper residential can be a barrier to development , due to business rates .	Development	Post-it (business engagement)
Affordable housing - not using private landlords	Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
Improve local shops for Inverness West .	Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
Need more free-to-use public gathering spaces in the city; e.g. plazas, George Square; Victorian Market. They are the soul of a city.	Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
Inverness needs a replacement for the Ironworks to attract musicians and retain young people. Young musicians are now moving south to find opportunities. A major musical venue is essential for the social life of the city - so people can relieve stress of everyday life.	Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
Lack of joined up public agency investment for Balloch Farm development – especially health facilities	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
Lack of health facility capacity to support new development particularly at Culloden where 2 GP practices have capped their patient lists	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
Developer contributions should be higher and cover all impacts of a development	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
What progress is being made with a new indoor sports facility for East Inverness?	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
How do we know that 24,000 extra houses are needed? What evidence justifies this figure?	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall

20-minute neighbourhoods and active travel should be integral to future Highland settlement	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
Are all the Council's allocated housing sites likely to come forward?	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
When can people comment during the Development Plan process?	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
General opposition to wind energy and battery energy storage proposals	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
General concern that existing infrastructure capacity can't cope with existing development levels never mind any increase.	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
Disagreement with the design and likely (in)effectiveness of West Link, East Link and Inshes Corridor schemes	Development	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
When will changes to Inverness rail station happen? Will they be major or minor?	Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
When does Inverness Castle open and how will it impact the city centre, which is already busy during summer peak of tourist season?	Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
Outside of the city, there was a real concern for the housing shortage and availability of affordable homes. Properties that are owned by public bodies but were not in use, and could be asset transferred to community groups to source funding rebuild and get local tenants in.	Development	Public drop-in: Tourism stall
More development opportunities around the Port of Inverness right round to Cale stadium and Merkinch Nature Reserve for visitors, active travel routes, access to the shore, tourist trails etc.	Development	Public drop-in: Tourism stall
What will happen with Rose Street car park when it reaches the end of its lifetime (believed to be within five years, even after planned maintenance work)?	Development Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Some excited about the impact the castle will have on the city	Development	Public drop-in: Tourism stall
Council run major music venue as attraction, particularly to attract & retain young people (in light of Ironworks closure) – like Southampton hall, which is owned and operated by the local authority.	Development Services	Community Council Forum Briefing
Places for young people to hang out in evening , mitigating the understandable lure of spending time on the streets of the city centre (and associated vandalism).	Development Services	Community Council Forum Briefing
Retail offering is poor : we badly need a department store e.g. Aren't House of Fraser expanding again?), also some big-name retailers and a designated area for independent shops (perhaps Union Street?) to bring some magic back into town for shoppers and visitors.	Development	StoryMap Response Form

Food and drink: where are the likes of Wagamama, Cafe Andaluz, Amerone and Tony Macaroni etc to widen choice? When the marathon weekend is on it's very hard to get a meal so we must expand the food offering if we are developing Inverness.	Development	StoryMap Response Form
Remove other eyesores in the central area: e.g. Mercury Hotel, River House and other 1960s horrors.	Development	StoryMap Response Form
Remove the gathering place monstrosity on the riverside. If replacing, we need to have high quality buildings but please just restore the river to its former look before that concrete horror was built there.	Development	StoryMap Response Form
Build the visitor and night-time economy: I strongly suggest building an iconic events, exhibition (current provision is very limited) and conference venue on the site of Caledonian Stadium . We need to be an all-year business and visitor destination . Could the old Courier HQ be converted into a hotel for such a complex?	Development	StoryMap Response Form
Sports and leisure: replace Caledonian Stadium with a much-needed community sports complex (why not name it after our Olympian Megan Keith?) and football stadium in the east side of town . Perhaps operated by Highlife Highland and rented to ICT FC?	Development	StoryMap Response Form
Looking through the strategy, it is somewhat disappointing to see how limited the night time economy is. The attractions listed are in themselves perfectly fine, but there is a distinct lack of cultural/entertainment activity. The focus in life sciences for example is fine, but supporting and encouraging creative industries would enhance the reputation of the city , generate more profile, provide work and help the economy, encourage innovation across all sectors, and would make the city somewhere young people would choose to stay and give a reason for visitors to stay longer. It would also help encourage more students to consider coming here. The lack of emphasis on this suggests a lack of understanding of what the sector would do for the city. All the reasons outlined here are backed up by research as to the impacts. I appreciate that budgetary constraints may limit some options but would suggest that inclusion would be valuable	Economy	StoryMap Response Form
Business rates are a challenge for many	Economy	Post-it (business engagement)
Young people need better development of skills, as well as their health & wellbeing for life and work.	Economy	Post-it (public drop-in)
How do we know that 10,000 jobs will really happen from the Green Freeport developments?	Economy	Public Drop-in: Development Plans stall
Concern over local and nationwide decline in levels of retail in city centres, how this may impact vibrancy of the city centre and prospects for existing retailers.	Economy	Post-it (business engagement)
Key aspiration for businesses: provision of indoor and outdoor events to extend the visitor season. Not necessarily one-off events, but ones that attract people back year-on-year; e.g. 'Highland Celtic Connections' in the winter. Keen to work in partnership with the Council to make these happen. Would like to see more use of Falcon Square, northern meeting park, Bught, but also identify bigger spaces for larger scale events. The campus was used as an example that should be explored.	Economy	Public drop-in: Tourism stall

Lots of discussion on the visitor levy, and how it could help achieve some of the aspirations for city and area.	Economy	Public drop-in: Tourism stall
Reduce light pollution & save energy.	Zero Carbon	Post-it (public drop-in)
Is waste transfer from Inverness to Dunbar undertaken by road? If so, could rail freight transfer reduce climate impacts?	Zero Carbon	Post-it (public drop-in)
Opportunity Project (delivery by 2030): Mapping nature networks, including green spaces, rivers and canal - to understand how nature is connected and ensure opportunity for wildlife to safely and effectively move around through corridors on public land.	Project (Green & Healthy)	Feedback: HC Environment Team
Delivered Project: MacDonald Park, Culloden Avenue	Project (Green & Healthy)	Feedback: HC Environment Team
Delivered Project: 1000 trees planted at Merkinch Local Nature Reserve	Project (Green & Healthy)	Feedback: HC Environment Team
Open the Town House to the public.	Services	Post-it (public drop-in)
Improved lighting and surveillance on Lombard street, to mitigate antisocial behaviour of concern to workers exiting Victorian Market in the evening.	Services	Post-it (Business engagement)
Reduced frequency and capacity of bin collections has become an issue for city centre housing.	Services	Post-it (public drop-in)
Inverness city centre is much in need of public toilets	Services Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
Individual, serviced toilet cubicles in new and existing buildings would relieve otherwise stressful social surveillance and pressure for non-binary and trans users.	Services Development	Post-it (public drop-in)
Council run public toilet in the heart of the city.	Services Development	Public drop-in: Tourism stall
Lack of venues for young people to practice music together	Services Development	Public drop-in: Freeport stall
Lack of venues for young people to meet and socialise (diverting them from doing so on streets)	Services Development	Public drop-in: Freeport stall
I liked the plan to semi-pedestrianise Academy Street .	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
West Inverness needs better evening bus routes & school routes .	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Improve bus routes for Inverness West .	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Better public transport across Inverness & Highland.	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Train unemployed people to drive buses .	Travel Economy	Post-it (public drop-in)

Enforcement of 20mph speed limits	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Remove unnecessary 20mph restrictions , with guidance from professional drivers - e.g. driving instructors.	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Prioritise traffic reduction through city centre.	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Night time economy and cultural life of the city need improved evening public transport and travel links.	Travel	Post-it (business engagement)
Increased cycling infrastructure.	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Inverness needs rail travel to Edinburgh & Glasgow in under three hours to be attractive to business and residents. This requires track improvement between Perth & Edinburgh.	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Will freeport development and activity result in increased rail freight, line switching, and so increased passenger journey times?	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Journey times between Inverness and the central belt are getting slower by rail , rather than quicker.	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Improved winter gritting of pavements outside the city centre. It was perilous to walk or cycle anywhere outside the city centre during recent cold spell.	Travel	Post-it (public drop-in)
Safer routes and paths between homes and retail, services, employment and education was highlighted.	Travel	Public drop-in: Tourism stall
Park and Ride for the train station.	Travel Development	Public drop-in: Tourism stall
Some disappointed Academy Street didn't go ahead and all the opportunities that could have come with that development.	Travel Development	Public drop-in: Tourism stall
Rail halt re-opening in Tomatin (linking to an improved city centre station in the future).	Travel	Community Council Forum Briefing
Community councils want further training on planning matters , to improve confidence in delivery of their role as statutory consultees.	Services	Community Council Forum Briefing
Basic [maintenance]: refurbish overgrown roundabouts, verges and pavements. Remove graffiti (which is spreading alarmingly in the south side particularly) and litter. Inverness looks grubby, sorry (I've lived here for nearly 40 years and all these issues have become worse in recent years).	Services	StoryMap Response Form
The bus station looks derelict in places, including the awful looking shelters.	Services	StoryMap Response Form
The railway station main entrance looks dated and grubby.	Services	StoryMap Response Form
Central area: no green space currently in it. Suggest when you demolish the Bridge Street and Upper Bridge Street monstrosity that you replace it with gardens and viewing areas that will lead people to the castle. Why not restore the splendid but forgotten Forbes Fountain and use it as a heritage focal point in these 21st century gardens?	Green & Healthy	StoryMap Response Form

Not sure why traffic-choked Academy St is so appealing to the business community, but we really need park and ride facilities and reliable shuttle buses from them into town to help reduce through traffic there e.g. the old Inverness College site?	Travel	StoryMap Response Form
Have more European style transport integration	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
The link from the rail station to the bus station needs to be improved	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Could the Botanic Gardens provide flowers in the rail station ?	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
There should be a train station at the university	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
The Caledonian Sleeper should have couchettes	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Clean the rail station roof	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Pay for the toilets at the rail station with contactless	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Trains should be free for young people	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Keep the waiting room at the rail station open longer	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Ardersier rail connection for freeport developments	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Cheer up the rail station	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Improve rail depot operations	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Hire cars at the rail station	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Suitable drop/off pickup at the rail station	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Encourage more rail freight through subsidy	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Make the rail station toilets free	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Reduce conflict for people walking through the station and people getting on trains	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Keep the ticket office at the rail station	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
I wish to record my support for the creation of a long needed simple, straight and covered pedestrian passageway between the trains and bus stations . The current one is exposed and a danger with private car parks to cross before reaching the zebra crossing.	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall
Move the rail station: The station moves north to create better city centre road connections between Rose St & Millburn Rd What happens to the train depot & signalling centre?	Travel	Public drop-in: Network Rail stall