



COMMUNITY PROFILE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

for

Dunnet and Canisbay

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Community Council and Foundation Scotland



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Summary

This document presents a Community Development Profile and Plan for the Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council area. Dunnet & Canisbay covers an area of 183 square kilometres in the far north east of the Scottish mainland. The main settlements are:

- Dunnet
- Mey
- Canisbay
- John O'Groats
- Freswick
- Auckengill

Stimulated by the community benefit fund arising from the Stroupster Wind Farm, the plan seeks to reflect community aspirations and set an agreed vision for how local people want to see their community develop over the next 5-10 years. The plan aims to:

- Guide the use of funds from the Stroupster Wind Farm and any other incoming community benefit funds affecting the Dunnet & Canisbay area;
- Provide a strategic framework for the planning and progressing of local development;
- Serve as a resource and reference point for groups submitting funding applications to benefit the Dunnet & Canisbay area; and
- Inform statutory bodies on local priorities.

A demographic profile of the Dunnet & Canisbay area suggests that some of the issues and challenges relevant to the Community Council area or individual communities within it are:

- geographic isolation;
- an older and ageing population;
- falling numbers of young people;
- higher percentage of households, including single person households, where residents are aged 65 or over;
- low availability of social housing and higher than average numbers of holiday and vacant property;
- some parts of the area have high levels of people with limiting health issues and a high level of unpaid care provision;
- hospital admissions are comparatively high, especially emergency admissions of people living to the east of the Community Council area;
- although the numbers are small, there is a much higher rate of unemployment among school leavers in the John O'Groats area;
- over the area the rate of economic activity is lower than average and in some pockets almost half the population aged 16-74 is economically inactive;
- there is a high level of self employment in the working age population across the area;
- there are 315 agricultural holdings recorded in the area, but agriculture is often a

- second occupation;
- there are relatively few local employers;
- John O'Groats is one of the most iconic tourist destinations in the Highlands, but accommodation and food services only accounts for 53 of the jobs held by local people;
- car ownership is relatively high, but 66 households do not have their own transport and will be dependent on public transport or other arrangements;
- poor transport links.

The themes which provide the framework for the community plan have emerged to address these challenges and have been refined and added to through local consultation and analysis of the strategic context within which the plan sits. They provide a focus for the priorities identified by local people, address issues of local significance and will contribute to regional and national strategies. These themes are:

- Improving our community assets and facilities for local people and visitors
- Communications and transport
- Providing opportunities for young people
- Providing support and opportunities for older people
- Promoting enterprise and tourism
- Improving our natural environment and access to it
- Culture and heritage

The plan is a live document and the Community Council will seek comments and suggestions from the community on an ongoing basis, feeding then into an annual review which will highlight progress and ensure the plan continues to show the aspirations of the community.

The plan is ambitious and to implement it will be challenging for the community. A number of projects fitting with the themes already have champions and are being taken forward locally. Not all will fit within the scale and capacity of the community benefit funds, but they show an ambition which bodes well for the development of the area and it may be that the Stroupster funding could contribute to project development, helping them to access other funding. Other project ideas have come forward which have no organisation behind them and may need the establishment of a new group or to be taken forward in partnership with the public or private sector.

In the consultation the possibility was raised of the community employing a Community Development Officer who could help implement the plan. It would be worth exploring how funding from sources such as LEADER might support such a post, alongside funding from community benefit funds. It may also be worthwhile to consider the establishment of a Community Development Trust.

Taking each theme of the plan in turn:

Improving our community assets and facilities for local people and visitors

This theme focuses on community facilities in the area and looks to improve village halls, sports facilities, play areas and harbours. In some cases this might involve

creating new facilities or taking existing assets into community ownership.

Examples of projects which might be supported through this theme are those which:

- Invest in our harbours
- Improve our village halls
- Invest in improved play and sports provision
- Improve the accessibility of community assets for all abilities
- Add to the sustainability of community facilities
- Support feasibility/design of new/upgraded community facilities
- Provide toilets at tourism hot spots eg Dunnet Head, Duncansby Head, Dunnet Forest
- Provide and enhance sports facilities
- Improve beach facilities
- Extend the range of things to do for local people and visitors
- Provide focal/view points for visitors to take pictures

Communications and transport

With its location at the extremity of the Scottish mainland good transport and communications links are vital and actions under this theme received strong community support.

Examples of projects which might be supported through this theme are those which:

- Support groups and individuals travelling outwith the area to access training and development
- Provide local transport for educational/leisure/sporting trips for young people and for elderly groups
- Provide emergency access to transport for vulnerable people
- Address issues round rural/community transport
- Improve access to broadband/mobile
- Extend wi-fi access in public places

Providing opportunities for young people

This theme will support actions to retain younger people in the community, encourage positive use of leisure time and provide the opportunities to return and settle in the area.

Examples of projects which might be supported through this theme are those which:

- Provide support for an apprentice/ scholarship
- Support youth and youth groups
- Try to retain young people in community
- Invest in youth community training

- Provide positive leisure time activity
- Lead to locally available childcare
- Encourage provision of homes for young people and young families
- Support apprenticeships eg in energy, engineering, hospitality and tourism

Providing support and opportunities for older people

With the growing numbers of older people living in Dunnet & Canisbay there is a recognition that more could be done to ensure they are involved in community life and to support them into a healthy and active old age, and this received strong support in the consultations.

Examples of projects which might be supported through this theme are those which:

- Support community day-care
- Provide day to day support for older people
- Reach and engage with isolated older people
- Create more opportunities for older people to take part in organised activities and classes
- Provide more opportunities for social interaction and involvement

Promoting enterprise and tourism

Encouraging new small business starts and social enterprise would give more people the opportunity to work or be employed locally and could be a helpful incentive for young people. Projects could be linked to other themes in this plan – such as provision of childcare, development of a community cafe or renovation of houses for affordable rent.

The continuing development of John O'Groats is likely to grow visitor numbers and the challenge for the area is to grasp the opportunities and maximise the benefits from whatever development takes place.

Examples of projects which might be supported through this theme are those which:

- Provide facilities and employment through social enterprise
- Improve the infrastructure for small business
- Create sustainable projects which enhance employment opportunities
- Improve the sustainability of social and community enterprise
- Extend the range of activity available for visitors (and local people)
- Support young business ideas
- Promote the area and its cultural and natural heritage
- Improve the welcome for cyclists/walkers
- Provide appropriate facilities/bunk house or Youth Hostel
- Encourage business ideas to be taken forward by the community

Improving our natural environment and access to it

The land, sea and natural environment are central to the Caithness way of life and its economy and taking forward projects in this area will directly address protection and enhancement while promoting sustainable use. The two actions receiving most community support under this theme were to improve walking routes and paths and to make the area more attractive for local people and visitors.

Examples of projects which might be supported through this theme are those which:

- Improve walking routes/paths
- Improve coastal paths and the tourist experience
- Improve signage and waymarking for walkers
- Improve access (for all abilities) to some of our iconic sites
- Extend and improve the Core Path Network
- Create Cycle paths/routes
- Improve beach access
- Support community buildings to become more economically and environmentally sustainable
- Extend the take up of renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Promote civic pride in area
- Make the area more attractive to both residents and visitors
- Build on the RSPB's work with farmers to encourage breeding wading birds on farmland through creating appropriate habitat eg rush management and the creation of water filled scrapes in appropriate locations
- Extend existing community woodland, creating new broad leafed woodlands or wild flower meadows
- Improve and extend wildlife/bird hide facilities
- Create trails with interpretive panels linking to web-based information
- Preserve and protect the vulnerable species and flora in the area

Culture and heritage

The Dunnet & Canisbay area has a rich cultural and historic heritage, much of it relatively invisible to all but the most interested. There is support for projects which build on that heritage and which benefit local people and visitors.

Examples of projects which might be supported through this theme are those which:

- Support grass roots arts projects
- Support performance at local venues and spaces
- Improve the interpretation of the cultural heritage
- Raise awareness of the richness of the cultural and historic heritage of the area - to local people and visitors
- Contribute towards preserving vernacular buildings/bringing back into use eg Nybster broch, John O'Groats Mill, Ham Giral.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Community Development Plan has been prepared for the Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council with financial support from Local Energy Scotland and BayWa r.e.UK Ltd.
- 1.2 The catalyst for the plan is the community benefit accruing to the Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council area as a result of the Stroupster wind farm. The plan looks to set a framework to guide the use of that community benefit, but it goes beyond that. It seeks to reflect community aspirations and set an agreed vision for how local people want to see their area develop over the next 5-10 years. Once adopted the plan can be actively used by the community to:
- Guide the use of funds from the Stroupster Wind Farm and any other incoming community benefit funds affecting the Dunnet & Canisbay area;
 - Provide a strategic framework for the planning and progressing of local development;
 - Serve as a resource and reference point for groups submitting funding applications to benefit the Dunnet & Canisbay area; and
 - Inform statutory bodies on local priorities;
- 1.3 The Community Development Plan was prepared following the wide consultation summarised in Section 5. The key themes and types of development that local groups might wish to take forward are illustrated in Section 6 and how the Plan might be implemented is discussed in Section 7.
- 1.4 Sections 6 and 7 provide the core of this Plan. However the earlier sections provide the context for the priorities, opportunities and projects which are identified for Dunnet and Canisbay.

Section 2 summarises the agreement with the windfarm operator at Stroupster and how community benefit funds will be managed;

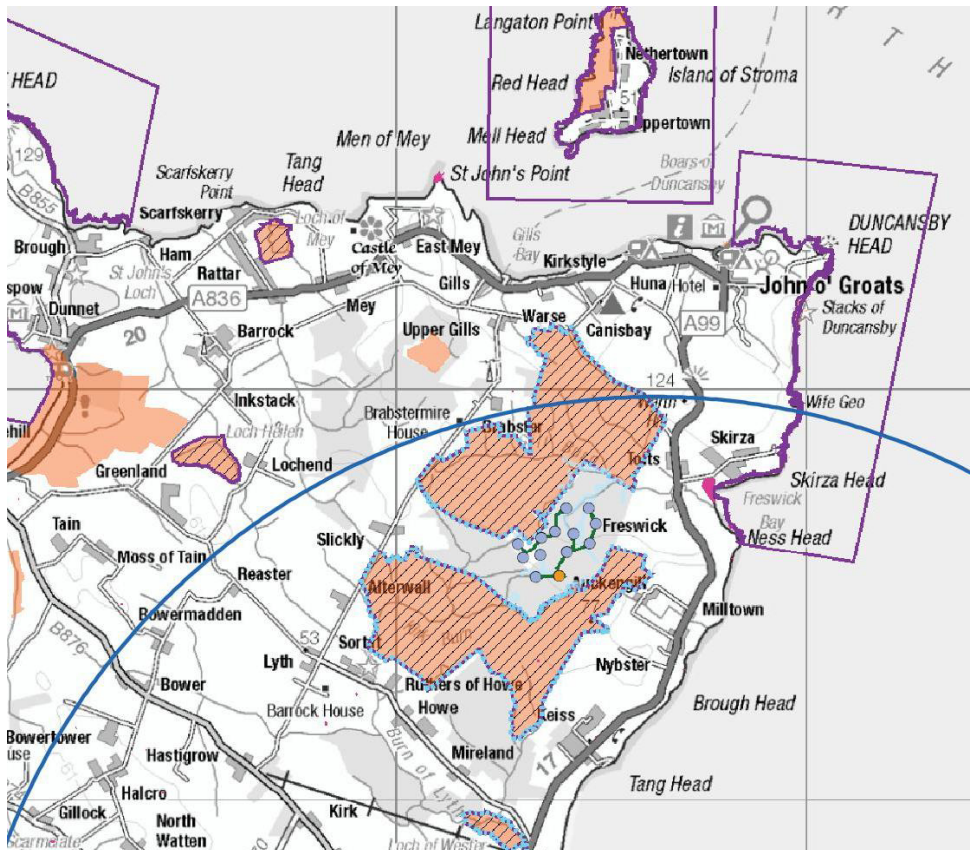
Section 3 provides a socio-economic analysis of the local area, identifying the main needs that will be addressed by the Plan. The full profile is set out in Appendix 1;

Section 4 outlines the broader strategic context that the Plan addresses, summarising relevant Scottish Government policies and objectives, relevant local policies and strategies and the relevant aspects of more local plans and initiatives;

Section 5 summarises the consultation processes which have informed the production of this Plan.

2. Stroupster Wind Farm

- 2.1 The Stroupster Wind Farm is owned by GEM Windfarm 4 Ltd ("GEM 4"), an affiliated company of Baywa r.e. UK Ltd, which acquired the consented project from RWE npower renewables in 2012. It is situated on Stroupster Hill, overlooking Freswick and Auckengill, to the south east of the Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council area, as shown on the map below.



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- 2.2 The owner has appointed Foundation Scotland to act as its agent and provide governance, grant making and administration services in relation to a Community Benefit Fund attached to the wind farm. It is understood that the operator will make payments into the Fund of £149,500 per annum for the operating life of the wind farm, indexed to RPI. The Fund is expected to accrue from the date of full commissioning of the wind farm, expected to be during 2015.
- 2.3 The Fund will principally benefit the residents of the Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council area. Approximately 20% of the Fund will be available for projects or services located outside that area, provided there is also a clear benefit to a recognised group of residents within Dunnet and Canisbay.

- 2.4 Foundation Scotland will hold and manage the Fund through a contract with the wind farm owner and has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council. The Community Council is the most local tier of statutory representation and an elected body that represents local interests. The Fund will operate through an appointed group of local residents - the Community Panel. The Community Panel will advise the Foundation on the Fund promotion, identifying priorities for use of Fund monies and selecting projects to benefit from the Fund. The panel will be made up of Community Council nominees and members identified through a transparent process agreed between the Community Council and the Foundation. The opportunity to put oneself forward for consideration as a Panel member will be openly advertised within the community
- 2.5 The Fund is being created to support a broad range of community activity and development primarily by supporting the charitable activities of constituted, not-for-profit groups.
- 2.6 There are some restrictions, however, and the Fund is not to be used to support the following:
- The advancement of religion or party politics;
 - Activities understood to be the exclusive responsibility of statutory authorities;
 - Activities likely to bring the Foundation, the Panel, the Community Council, the Owner or any companies in its group or the local community into disrepute;
 - Anti-renewable energy/anti-wind farm activities;
 - Retrospective funding (i.e. paying for costs incurred before a decision on an application to the Fund for support was made).

3. Dunnet and Canisbay

- 3.1 A detailed socio-economic profile of the Community Council area is provided in Appendix 1. In this section the profile is used as the basis for a summary description of the area and the challenges and issues it faces.
- 3.2 The Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council area covers an area of 183 square kilometres in the extreme north east of the Scottish mainland. The area also takes in the uninhabited island of Stroma. Inverness, which houses the administrative headquarters of regional bodies such as Highland Council and Highland and Islands Enterprise, is geographically closer to Perth and Aberdeen than it is to John O'Groats. More local management is based in Wick and Thurso, the two main population centres in Caithness.
- 3.3 Part of Highland Council's Landward Caithness multi-member ward, Dunnet and Canisbay is a rural area with a population of 1,623 - a density of 8.9 people per sq km compared to averages of 14.4 for Caithness, 9.1 for the Highland Council area and 68.4 for Scotland. The main settlements in the area lie along the two coast roads, the A836 between Thurso and John O'Groats and the A99 between John O'Groats and Wick:
- Dunnet
 - Mey
 - Canisbay
 - John O'Groats
 - Freswick
 - Auckengill.
- 3.4 None of these settlements are large, and they are separate, distinct communities along with smaller satellites such as Brough, Scarfskerry, Barrock, East Mey and Gills. In the 1830s the area had a population close to 4,500; by 1911 it was 3,198 and by 1951 it had fallen to 1,716¹, so that there has been severe depopulation over the last two centuries.
- 3.5 The lines of communication, with communities dispersed along the roads from John O'Groats west to Thurso and south to Wick, are reflected in a number of ways. For example the west of the Community Council area has postcodes beginning KX14 8, while the east has postcodes beginning KW1 4; bus routes in the area go from John O'Groats to Thurso and John O'Groats to Wick; the primary schools to the west feed into Thurso High School while those in the east feed into Wick High School. This tendency for part of the community to look to Thurso as its service centre and part to look to Wick can have an affect on the cohesion of the community and on its ability to work together to meet

¹ GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, Dunnet ScoP through time | Population Statistics | Total Population, *A Vision of Britain through Time*, and GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, Canisbay ScoP through time | Population Statistics | Total Population, *A Vision of Britain through Time*.

the challenges it faces.

- 3.6 Dunnet & Canisbay is a rural area, with extensive farming and crofting. There are 315 agricultural holdings in the Community Council area and 258 people work in agriculture, most of them on a part time basis and many having other jobs outside agriculture. The land and environment is central to the character of the area. There are a number of designated and protected sites and the cliffs at Dunnet Head and Duncansby Head are important breeding grounds for seabirds.
- 3.7 The landscape makes the area an attractive, if remote, tourist destination. However, John O'Groats has long been seen as the most northerly point in mainland UK. As the northern end of the John O'Groats to Land End route it is an iconic destination and attracts people to Caithness and to the Community Council area. A masterplan for the development and upgrading of John O'Groats presents the opportunity for huge economic benefit through direct employment, stimulating service and other business in the area and potentially attracting people to relocate to the area.
- 3.8 In identifying issues which emerge from the socio economic profile it must be recognised that there are wide variations across the different settlements in the Community Council area. This is a particular issue for rural communities, where a relatively small population is spread across a wide geographical area. As a result pockets of deprivation and need can be smaller and not identified in national figures where deprivation is based on geographic units taking in populations of around 500-750 people. In areas like Dunnet and Canisbay indicators such as those used in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) are less applicable than in more urban settlements where populations tend to be more homogeneous.
- 3.9 Given that, highlighted below are some of these issues and challenges relevant to the Community Council area and, in some cases, of particular relevance to individual communities within it:
- geographic isolation;
 - an older and ageing population;
 - falling numbers of young people;
 - higher percentage of single person households where that person is aged 65 or over;
 - higher percentage of households where all the residents are people aged 65 and over;
 - low availability of social housing;
 - higher than average numbers of holiday and vacant property;
 - some parts of the area have high levels of people with limiting health issues;
 - similarly, the area has pockets where there is a high level of unpaid care

provision;

- hospital admissions are comparatively high, especially emergency admissions of people living in the east of the Community Council area;
- although the numbers are small, there is a much higher rate of unemployment among school leavers in the John O'Groats area;
- over the area the rate of economic activity is lower than average and in some pockets almost half the population aged 16-74 is economically inactive;
- there is a high level of self employment in the working age population across the area;
- according to the Census the main employment sector is the retail and motor trade, closely followed by agriculture;
- there are 315 agricultural holdings recorded in the area, with 258 people working to some extent in agriculture. 69 work full time and many will have another occupation so will not show up in the Census data as working in agriculture;
- there are relatively few local employers;
- John O'Groats is one of the most iconic tourist destinations in the Highlands, but accommodation and food services only accounts for 53 of the jobs held by local people;
- car ownership is relatively high, but 66 households do not have their own transport and will be dependent on public transport or other arrangements;
- there are no evening and limited weekend public transport services;
- only 14 people are members of the community transport scheme in Caithness.

4. Strategic Context

- 4.1 This development plan does not exist in isolation. Although the priorities identified and the projects put forward reflect the results of extensive community consultation this section shows how they also fit within a wide range of national, regional and local programmes, strategies and activities.

National and Regional Strategies

- 4.2 The overarching purpose of the Scottish Government is stated as:

To focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

- 4.3 The Government has five objectives that underpin its core purpose, to make Scotland:

- Wealthier and fairer: Enabling businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth;
- Healthier: Helping people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care;
- Smarter: Expanding opportunities to succeed from nurture through to lifelong learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements;
- Safer and stronger: Helping communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life; and
- Greener: Improving Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it.

- 4.4 The following 16 National Outcomes describe what the Government wants to achieve in delivering against its purpose:

- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe;
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people;
- We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation;
- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens;
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed;
- We live longer, healthier lives;

- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society;
- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk;
- We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger;
- We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need;
- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others;
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations;
- We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity;
- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production;
- Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it;
- Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

4.5 The Government has a range of strategies to deliver against these outcomes. Underpinning them is the Economic Strategy, but there are a wide range of strategies covering different aspects of life and development. Working with communities is a central plank of much Government policy. A Community Empowerment Bill is currently progressing, aiming to:

- Empower community bodies through the ownership of land and buildings and strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them; and
- Support an increase in the pace and scale of Public Service Reform by cementing the focus on achieving outcomes and improving the process of community planning.

4.6 The Scottish Government's priorities are reflected locally in the Highland Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). This sets out how the Community Planning partners – the public and the third sector - will contribute to the National Outcomes. The SOA for 2013/14 – 2018/19 focuses on joint action:

- To widen participation in the labour market across all client groups and across all Highland geographies.
- To increase number of people in areas of deprivation engaged in activities that strengthen the skills and confidence of those communities to take effective action on community issues.
- To improve access to services for hard to reach and disadvantaged groups.
- For areas with most multiple deprivation (SIMD 2012) to become safer and to be felt to be safer.

- To reduce fuel poverty, especially for older people.
 - To reduce homelessness further.
 - To reduce inequalities in the early years through various partnership programmes of family support.
 - To improve educational attainment for children suffering disadvantage.
 - For older people to be geographically and socially connected and for them not to become isolated.
 - To reduce health inequalities between targeted areas and the four least deprived areas in Highland.
- 4.7 These are supported by broader long term outcomes, focusing on spreading the benefits of regional opportunities more widely. These are shown in Appendix 2. A delivery plan has also been developed for each of the priority areas, setting out actions to be taken and supported.
- 4.8 Each of the public sector partners also has their own programme for delivery of their aspect of the SOA. For example, ***Working together for the Highlands*** is Highland Council's programme of priorities for delivery over the period 2012-2017. It sets out actions across seven main themes, which focus on:
- the economy;
 - children and young people;
 - caring communities;
 - better infrastructure;
 - better housing;
 - empowering communities; and
 - strong and safe communities.
- 4.8 As part of its programme, the Council has set aside £1 million each year in a Community Challenge Fund, to help community groups:
- Provide a service the Council delivers but at a lower cost;
 - Provide a service the Council delivers for the same cost but better quality;
 - Reduce the Council's costs of maintaining premises by taking on the maintenance and running costs;
 - Run a project which could prevent the need for Council services to be provided or expanded in the future. For example projects that address rural deprivation and access to services in rural areas, reduce or prevent fuel poverty, or support employability.

4.9 Examples of services seen as fitting with the Community Challenge Fund include:

- Toilet maintenance
- Street cleaning
- Grounds maintenance
- Community works
- Care services
- Day care
- Nurseries

The Local Development Plan

4.10 A new Caithness & Sutherland Local Development Plan is currently being prepared and will replace the Caithness Local Plan (2000) and the Sutherland Local Plan (2010). It will form the basis for the Council to make decisions on planning applications and investment decisions. The Plan sets out a vision and development strategy for the area over the next 20 years which will be based on four key themes:

Employment

A strong and diverse economy characterised by a renowned centre for renewable energy, world class engineering, traditional land and sea based industries and a tourist industry that combines culture, history and adventure.

Growing Communities

A network of successful, sustainable and socially inclusive communities where people want to live, which provide the most convenient access to services, education, training and employment and are the primary locations for inward investment.

Connectivity and Transport

Enhanced communications, utilities and transport infrastructure that support communities and economic growth, with development anchored to existing or planned provision.

Environment and Heritage

High quality places where, the natural, built and cultural heritage is celebrated and valued assets are safeguarded.

4.11 The Local Development Plan develops and this Community Development Plan share many of the same aims, including identifying opportunities and potential projects which will improve the economy and strengthen the community. The Local Development Plan aims to highlight possible projects within communities to provide a guide for managing future funding or additional investment; to safeguard core paths and show aspirational paths; to protect the built and

natural environment and promote quality redevelopment of the existing heritage at a local level.

- 4.12 In terms of specific areas, the Plan identifies Gills Harbour as an Economic Development Area, and sees it as a priority to improve the harbour facilities to help support the growth of the marine renewables sector while protecting the surrounding landscape from inappropriate development. Dunnet and John O'Groats are identified as Growing Settlements which means that planning decisions will be based on guiding principles rather than site allocation. This is intended to give a more flexible approach and help the development of the area. For Dunnet priorities include protecting and enhancing the setting of the parish church and exploiting the economic benefits of Dunnet's position on one of the John O'Groats – Land's End routes. For John O'Groats the Plan sees priorities as supporting the implementation of the Masterplan while integrating the development with the community rather than seeing it as a detached tourist facility. In other areas within the Community Council area development would be assessed under policies for the wider countryside, ensuring that it does not harm the character of the rural area.

Tourism

- 4.13 The Community Council area includes one of the Highlands most iconic tourism destinations in John O'Groats. Highlands and Islands Enterprise developed a masterplan for the village in 2009. The £6M first phase of development was supported by HIE, with Natural Retreats creating 16 luxury apartments and 23 lodges at the site. The Lodges were completed by the end of summer 2012, with the "Inn at John O'Groats" (housing the apartments) completed for the 2013 tourist season. Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Creative Scotland Lottery Fund have also funded a major art installation, Nomadic Boulders, which was unveiled in 2015.
- 4.14 The next phase of implementation is currently under development and promises to see significant additional investment if plans can be agreed which can meet the needs of all stakeholders.
- 4.15 Another tourism related initiative is the North Coast 500 (NC500), a new circular coastal touring route that takes in a 500 mile round trip. The route begins in Inverness and goes via Kyle of Lochalsh, up the west coast to Durness, across the north coast to John O'Groats and then down the east coast to Inverness. The organisers hope to work together with local businesses on or near the route to provide additional incentives to complete the NC500, such as loyalty cards and offers in quality food and drink, accommodation and activity providers. Encouraging people to stop in Dunnet & Canisbay as they use the route will be an important part of maximising its impact on the local economy.

Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership

- 4.16 There is a recognition that the economy of Caithness has been very reliant on Dounreay and with the decommissioning process under way there is a need to find alternative economic drivers. Leading this process is the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership which has set the goal that:

By 2020 Caithness and North Sutherland will provide a healthy, economically stable environment for its growing population. Its network of thriving communities will reflect the area's rich heritage and varied landscapes. The area's population will be well-educated, highly-skilled and outward-looking, reinforcing its attractiveness as a place in which to live, work invest and visit.

- 4.17 To achieve this the partners have prioritised their resources around the Caithness and North Sutherland Action Plan, with the key activities focused on:

- Work with existing area businesses in the energy and business services sectors to help them diversify and grow their businesses.
- Deliver a targeted programme of inward investment activity focused on energy-related opportunities such as marine renewable energy, oil & gas
- Deliver a targeted programme of inward investment activity focused on business services-related opportunities such as data centres, contact centres and higher-skill back office functions.
- Support the delivery of key enabling infrastructure such as ports and harbours, road, rail and air transport, skills transition and digital connectivity.

- 4.18 There are also a number of associated initiatives. These include the North Highland Regeneration Fund, managed by Caithness Chamber of Commerce on the basis of funding from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Through the fund loans of between £5,000 and £50,000 are available to businesses in the Dounreay travel to work area. Again with funding from the NDA, for communities the Caithness & North Sutherland fund can provide grants of up to £30,000 for projects that will increase the attractiveness of Caithness and North Sutherland as a place to live, work and invest, with particular emphasis on environment, social, culture and infrastructure improvements.

Biodiversity

- 4.19 A Local Biodiversity Action Plan was agreed for Caithness in 2003. It set objectives:

- To ensure that all habitats are managed in a way that takes account of their wildlife interests.
- To ensure that future development plans and proposals take account of local biodiversity.

- To promote projects and initiatives that help maintain or restore biodiversity towards natural levels.
- To develop quality education at all levels, to raise awareness of the biodiversity of Caithness amongst local people, visitors, funding organisations and policy makers.
- To reduce perceived or real conflicts between biodiversity and people, by increasing community involvement and local action for biodiversity.
- To improve access to information about important habitats and species, and their management requirements, and enable interested residents to improve their specialist knowledge and understanding.
- To secure additional support for biodiversity and related projects, and help publicise existing sources of funding and advice.
- To establish a mechanism to help individuals, community groups and partners deliver the Caithness Biodiversity Action Plan, monitor progress and share information on biodiversity matters.

Core Paths

4.20 Under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, Highland Council, as the Access Authority, had a statutory requirement to produce a Core Path Network Plan. Core paths are important in outdoor access provision, aimed at meeting the basic path needs of local people and visitors for recreation and getting about. They also provide links to the wider path systems within an area. The Plan brings together existing paths with some new paths to form an overall paths network. The Caithness Plan includes extensive proposals in the Community Council area, covering all the communities from Dunnet to Auckengill. Some of the paths identified are in good condition while others require improvement. Alongside that there is scope to extend the network to take in other routes and potentially create longer walking routes.

LEADER Programme

4.21 Highland LEADER is at the final stages of developing a Local Development Strategy for the new 2014-2020 LEADER Programme which will set out the kinds of projects this funding can support over the next six years. LEADER is a European Union Community Initiative to support economic and community development in rural areas. The last LEADER programme ran from 2007-2013 and provided funding of around £14 million to 371 projects in Highland.

4.22 LEADER is only one of the schemes through which the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) is delivered. The Scottish Government is currently finalising the Programme and the funding that will be available. Certain businesses and groups in Dunnet & Canisbay will have access to funding through one or more of these various schemes. Current plans are to support the following schemes:

Rural Development: Less Favoured Area Support Scheme

Providing essential support to fragile farming businesses in remote and constrained rural areas.

Rural Development: Forestry Grant Scheme

A range of grants for woodland creation, agro-forestry, tree health, woodland improvement, processing and marketing and sustainable management of forests.

Rural Development: Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (including support for organics and footpaths)

Targeted support for land managers to undertake management and capital work for environmental purposes.

Rural Development: Environmental Co-operation Action Fund

Facilitation for land managers to work together to deliver collaborative environmental projects.

Rural Development: Beef Efficiency Scheme

To deliver economic and environmental improvements in the beef sector.

Rural Development: New Entrants

- Start-up grants for new entrant young farmers of up to 40 years old (as set by Europe).
- Capital funding for new entrants, regardless of age, to improve their business.

Rural Development: Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme

Grants to crofters to take forward improvements on their crofts which will help to sustain their business.

Rural Development: Small Farms Grant Scheme

Targeted support for small farms that face similar issues as crofters regarding sustainability.

Rural Development: Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operation

Support for SMEs in the food and drink sector with start-up grants for new enterprises, and business development grants.

Rural Development: LEADER

LEADER will provide opportunities for individuals, businesses and communities to come together and support rural development and provide long lasting benefits to the local area. This will include support for non agricultural small businesses including farm diversification.

Rural Development: Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund (KITF)

Taking advantage of strong performance in research and development and ensuring that the learning from here and elsewhere can be transferred to on the ground improvement. KITF will assist in the sharing and implementation of

innovative ways of improving working practices along with continuing support for Monitor Farms.

Rural Development: Advisory Service

Expanded Advisory Service which will provide advice and assistance to farmers, crofters, forest holders and other land managers.

Rural Development: Broadband

Support for broadband provision in rural areas.

Scottish Rural Network

Supporting and promoting rural development through the sharing of ideas and best practice.

5. Community Engagement

- 5.1 In preparing the plan, community consultation has been complemented by discussions with various stakeholders, including Highland Council, HIE and agencies such as Scottish Natural Heritage and RSPB. More local strategic organisations such as the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership, the Caithness Chamber of Commerce and the North Highland Initiative provided views and input.
- 5.2 A list of community groups and other stakeholders is shown at Appendix 3.
- 5.3 A survey form, attached as Appendix 4, was distributed in the area, to community groups and individuals as requested. It was also sent to appropriate Caithness wide groups who expressed an interest or were seen as potentially interested in developing projects in the area. Survey results were then fed into the community engagement processes.
- 5.4 An initial meeting was held at John O'Groats Hall, to help develop the themes for this Community Development Plan. Attended by over 40 people, they worked in groups to identify and agree improvements they would like to see which would make Dunnet & Canisbay a better place to live. The lists produced were then displayed and discussed. After the meeting the results were analysed and grouped to produce potential main themes for the plan.
- 5.5 To develop the potential themes further, take views on priorities and ensure that community members had the opportunity to input to the planning process, an additional series of three open public meetings were held in Auckengill Village Hall, Dunnet Village Hall and Canisbay Village Hall. Around 15 people attended each event.
- 5.6 These sessions were informal and the public could drop in at any point to make their input. Themes and potential projects to take them forward were displayed and there was the opportunity to discuss them, and to confirm, amend or add any new ideas to those already raised in the earlier stages of the consultation. They were also asked to indicate what they saw as most important.
- 5.7 In addition to this, Iain Turnbull from Rural GIS was present at each session to carry out a participative mapping exercise. This involved using a Geographic Information System (GIS) to project a map of the area onto a large screen with the aim of facilitating discussion and visualising relationships between issues, areas, etc. and plotting the results for later analysis.
- 5.8 Overall, the consultation events and survey returns involved around 100 people from Dunnet & Canisbay, many of them representing local groups with a wider membership. The community identified and discussed a large number of projects and actions that could help make life better in Dunnet & Canisbay and these are listed in Appendix 5. Potential projects were also identified through

the participative mapping exercise and these are shown in Appendix 6.

5.9 From analysis of these results the following key themes for this Community Development Plan have been identified:

- Improving our community assets and facilities for local people and visitors
- Communications and transport
- Providing opportunities for young people
- Providing support and opportunities for older people
- Promoting enterprise and tourism
- Improving our natural environment and access to it
- Culture and heritage

5.10 These are expanded on in the next section.

5.11 Following the drafting of this plan it was circulated for comment and made available for wider public comment through a link on the Community Council website.

5.12 This finalised version will be used to guide the distribution of funds from Stroupster wind farm and potentially other funding sources. However the plan is a live document and it will be reviewed on a regular basis to highlight progress and ensure it continues to show the aspirations of the community. The Community Council has decided to meet once a year to review progress against the plan and make any amendments needed to keep it up to date. Comments and suggestions from the community will be invited on an ongoing basis and will be fed into that review process.

6. Key Areas for Action

6.1 This section sets out the core of the Community Development Plan - the key areas for action. It shows how the community would like to see the area move forward, how local people see Dunnet and Canisbay becoming a better place to live and how they can maximise the opportunities to benefit from their community assets.. As such it provides a framework to guide the use of the community benefit funds from the Stroupster Wind Farm, but it also can support applications to other funding sources and be taken account of by other bodies looking to take forward developments in the area.

6.2 The themes defining the areas for action are:

- **Improving our community assets and facilities for local people and visitors**
- **Communications and transport**
- **Providing opportunities for young people**
- **Providing support and opportunities for older people**
- **Promoting enterprise and tourism**
- **Improving our natural environment and access to it**
- **Culture and heritage**

6.3 These themes have emerged from local consultation, the socio-economic analysis and the strategic context within which the plan sits. Under each theme a number of project areas and potential projects are identified which might be taken forward. Inclusion in the list does not suggest that specific projects would be approved for funding from the Stroupster Community Fund. Indeed, many of them would require significant funding and could only proceed with support from other funding sources. The themes are not presented in any priority order.

6.4 **Improving our community assets and facilities for local people and visitors**

In the consultation there was strong support for improvements to community facilities in the area. The actions receiving strongest support under this theme were improvements to village halls, sports facilities and harbours.

Almost every community in Dunnet & Canisbay has plans on how local facilities could be developed and improved for the benefit of local people and the area's visitors. Support for the village hall network in the area was strong, but there was also a keen awareness of assets such as harbours and beaches and how they could be developed to become more effective community assets. In particular, it was recognised that some of the harbours belonging to Highland Council were seen as a low priority by the Council and were in danger without more pro-active attention. This may require partnership working and/or seeking to take them into community ownership as has already happened in one or two instances.

For younger people improvements to facilities such as play areas and sports facilities were seen as important. Again, while these are traditionally the responsibility of the Council, the community recognises improvements are more likely if they work in partnership or take responsibility themselves. This has already happened in Dunnet where the football club has taken over the pitch and has ambitious plans to develop the facilities there. At Dunnet Forest too a community based trust has taken ownership and has plans for further development.

Also outdoors, people are aware of the quality of their beaches and of popular cliff sites such as Dunnet Head. They want to see improvements there that would make them more user friendly.

As well as capital schemes, there is a recognition locally that more activity could take place for the benefit of local people and tourists. Generating more activity in village halls would provide additional income which would add to their sustainability.

This theme supports projects which may:

- Invest in our harbours
- Improve our village halls
- Invest in improved play and sports provision
- Improve the accessibility of community assets for all abilities
- Add to the sustainability of community facilities
- Support feasibility/design of new/upgraded community facilities
- Provide toilets at tourism hot spots eg Dunnet Head, Duncansby Head
- Provide and enhance sports facilities
- Improve beach facilities
- Extend the range of things to do for local people and visitors
- Provide focal/view points for visitors to take pictures

6.5 Communications and transport

With its location at the extremity of the Scottish mainland good transport and communications links are vital. Public bus services are limited and, although there is a dial a ride community transport scheme in Caithness only 14 people in the Community Council area are registered as members. With 66 households in the area not having access to their own transport, this suggests that to give everyone the opportunity to be involved in community life there is a need to explore how transport issues can be further improved locally.

Transport out of the area is also an issue and there was strong backing for the idea of supporting those who needed to travel outside the area (and outside Caithness) to access training or development – for example young people accessing higher level coaching or competition in their sport.

Broadband and mobile phone access is also an issue that local people feel

strongly about – improved broadband reception was the single action which received more community support than any other in the consultation. Digital Scotland shows that the area is served by exchanges at:

- Barrock
- Castletown
- John O'Groats
- Keiss, and
- Lyth

The current plans show that the Castletown exchange area was due to have work carried out to extend fibre broadband coverage, with premises enabled in the period January to June 2015. Further work scheduled would extend fibre broadband coverage to the Keiss exchange by the end of December 2015, to Barrock in the period January to June 2016, and to John O'Groats in the period July to December 2016. As yet there are no firm plans for the Lyth exchange. Even then, of course, factors such as distance from the exchange can affect broadband speeds. Rightmove includes a speed checker based on postcodes in their website and this suggests that areas such as Mey and Gills have particularly bad broadband reception with speeds of 0.12 Mbps. Most other areas are said to have speeds of 2-3Mbps, although speeds of over 10Mbps are shown for John O'Groats. For areas wishing to explore whether there are viable options for a community project to improve provision, help, advice and potentially financial support is available from Community Broadband Scotland.

This theme supports projects which may:

- Support groups and individuals travelling out with the area to access training and development
- Provide local transport for educational/leisure/sporting trips for young people and for elderly groups
- Provide emergency access to transport for vulnerable people
- Address issues round rural/community transport
- Improve access to broadband/mobile
- Extend wi-fi access in public places

6.6 Providing opportunities for young people

Under this theme there was strong community support for actions which would retain younger people in the community and allow them to make positive use of their leisure time.

Analysis of the age structure in the area supports local opinion that there is a need to retain young people or, if they leave for higher education, give them the opportunities they need to return and settle in the area. This is an issue affecting many of the rural areas in the Highlands and Islands and to address it there is a need to look at the availability of facilities, services, jobs and housing. Improvements to community assets like halls and sporting facilities

can make the area more attractive to younger people, especially if an attractive range of activity is provided. Improvements to transport and broadband connectivity would also be valuable for young people.

Expanding the range of employment opportunities would help to retain and attract young people and families with young children. Specific initiatives supported in the consultation included encouraging employers to offer apprenticeship opportunities to young people from the area through additional support for travel, accommodation and the training of the apprentice. Supporting apprenticeships in the local area would be the most attractive option (benefitting local business and local young people), although it is recognised that wider opportunities may be available outside Dunnet & Canisbay.

Housing is also an issue. With a lack of social housing young people can find it difficult to stay in the area once they leave home or to return later. With the number of vacant properties in the area there may be the opportunity to renovate houses and make them available at affordable rents – indeed, that may also provide an opportunity to encourage tradesmen to take on local apprentices.

At the same time there was some suggestion that, while Dunnet & Canisbay is a safe place to live, there is a need to address low level anti-social behaviour. Creating more opportunities for young people to use their leisure time positively, through youth and sports activity and with trained leaders received strong support.

This theme supports projects which may:

- Support for an apprentice/ scholarship
- Support youth and youth groups
- Try to retain young people in community
- Invest in youth community training
- Provide positive leisure time activity
- Lead to locally available childcare
- Encourage provision of homes for young people and young families
- Support apprenticeships eg in energy, engineering, hospitality and tourism

6.7 Providing support and opportunities for older people

With the growing numbers of older people living in Dunnet & Canisbay there is a recognition that more could be done to ensure they are involved in community life and to support them into a healthy and active old age, and this received strong support in the consultations.

As with younger people, improvements to the community infrastructure can help to do this, along with improvements in transport and broadband availability. The expansion and development of suitable activities and social and leisure opportunities are to be encouraged. More than that, however,

there are a substantial number of older people living alone in the area or living with another older person for whom they are providing care. It will be important to reach such people, to provide the kind of support they need and to ensure they are not excluded from initiatives they could benefit from.

This theme supports projects which may:

- Support community day-care
- Provide day to day support for older people
- Reach and engage with isolated older people
- Create more opportunities for older people to take part in organised activities and classes
- Provide more opportunities for social interaction and involvement

6.8 Promoting enterprise and tourism

There are relatively few employers in Dunnet and Canisbay and most businesses are relatively small scale. Encouraging new small business starts and social enterprise would give more people the opportunity to work or be employed locally. Targeting support to young people received strong support in the consultation.

Such developments could be linked to other themes in this plan – such as provision of childcare, development of a community cafe or renovation of houses for affordable rent. Rural and agricultural businesses could be supported to apply for grants through the SRDP or for loans through the North Highland Regeneration Fund. Young people interested in starting their own business deserve special support and though there are established routes for advice – for example through Business Gateway – this can be daunting. Although many small businesses might look to work from home it may be worth exploring the need for business premises across the area. Especially for people living in areas where broadband access is poor it may be attractive to take space in an IT enabled business incubator unit. Access to storage may also be an issue. It is understood that some business units at the craft village in John O'Groats are being used for storage and it may be that such needs could be met in a more appropriate setting.

A high proportion of visitors to Caithness will pass through the Community Council area, either to catch a ferry or to visit sites such as Dunnet Head, the Castle of Mey and/or John O'Groats. There is potential to attract more visitors to stop and stay in the area, to increase visitor spend and to increase the economic benefits. There is also potential to grow the number of day visitors from within Caithness itself. The continuing development of John O'Groats is likely to grow visitor numbers. The next stages are currently in discussion, but whatever form they take there will be opportunities created for local people – and opportunities to attract newcomers. The challenge for the area is to grasp the opportunities and maximise the benefits from whatever development takes place. Part of doing this will be to improve the tourist offering, through for example having more for visitors to do and see and more for them to spend

money on. Currently there are few organised activities to help visitors understand and enjoy the natural environment of the area. There may be opportunities to build businesses round outdoor activity, expanding the range of guided walks, photography tours, bird trails for example. There are also opportunities for more general outdoor activities as well as small scale visitor attractions. Recent developments such as the new distillery in Dunnet and the permissions for a bistro and micro brewery in John O'Groats might help do that, but more could be done for example to improve and better use the existing craft village in John O'Groats and, to spread the benefits, to develop facilities elsewhere.

Improved opportunities for local people to sell things is also important. The Mey Market, in Mey Hall through the summer, is relatively unique in providing an opportunity for local people and visitors to access crafts and produce from the area and it illustrates how it can be possible to use existing infrastructure rather than develop purpose built premises.

Many of the heritage, cultural and access projects that may be taken forward by the community will have a tourism dimension. However, there is also a need to make visitors more aware of what is available locally, to ensure that there is adequate information and interpretation, to participate in marketing initiatives and to create events and activities geared to visitor markets.

This theme supports projects which may:

- Provide facilities and employment through social enterprise
- Improve the infrastructure for small business
- Create sustainable projects which enhance employment opportunities
- Improve the sustainability of social and community enterprise
- Extend the range of activity available for visitors (and local people)
- Support young business ideas
- Promote the area and its cultural and natural heritage
- Improve the welcome for cyclists/walkers
- Provide appropriate facilities/bunk house or Youth Hostel
- Encourage business ideas to be taken forward by the community

6.9 Improving our natural environment and access to it

The land, sea and natural environment are central to the Caithness way of life and its economy and taking forward projects in this area will directly address protection and enhancement while promoting sustainable use. The two actions receiving most community support under this theme were to improve walking routes and paths and to make the area more attractive for local people and visitors.

Dunnet and Canisbay has a strong rural and agricultural heritage. The area includes extensive farming and crofting, and the work of farmers and other land managers creates the natural environment which gives the area its special ambiance for residents and visitors. Projects are seen as important which

enhance the landscape and improve access to it, encourage communities to get involved in the management and enjoyment of designated sites in their local area and which support local biodiversity.

The Core Paths Plan for the area provides a starting point for improved access. Developing, maintaining and promoting the network of paths, both the core paths and other local, coastal and recreational paths, is important. Cycle routes could also improve the area and, with promotion, could add to the tourist offering.

Creating better – and appropriate - access to the wildlife in the area is also important. There are nationally important sites in the area, especially at Dunnet Head and Duncansby Head, where a wide range of seabirds can be seen. There are opportunities to make more of these sites for local people and to attract the many visitors and potential visitors with a keen interest in birdlife.

Some community buildings in the area, such as the halls at John O'Groats and Mey, benefit from small scale renewable energy schemes and there may be potential to extend this to other facilities in the area. Such projects could help improve viability and sustainability through reduced running costs and feed in payments, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It may also be possible to develop a project to give advice and support to local people who may be considering options for renewable energy and for energy efficiency, for residential or business premises.

The area's village and countryside environments could also be improved through projects which make them more attractive, promote civic pride and generally make the area more pleasant to live in and to visit. In some Highland communities a Village Officer has been appointed to carry out works currently done by Council employees or contractors (in Fort Augustus this has attracted support through the Council's Community Challenge Fund), so making sure that local priorities are addressed.

This theme supports projects which may:

- Improve walking routes/paths
- Improve coastal paths and the tourist experience
- Improve signage and waymarking for walkers
- Improve access (for all abilities) to some of our iconic sites
- Extend and improve the Core Path Network
- Create Cycle paths/routes
- Improve beach access
- Support community buildings to become more economically and environmentally sustainable
- Extend the take up of renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Promote civic pride in area
- Make the area more attractive to both residents and visitors
- Build on the RSPB's work with farmers to encourage breeding wading birds

on farmland through creating appropriate habitat eg rush management and the creation of water filled scrapes in appropriate locations

- Extend existing community woodland, creating new broad leafed woodlands or wild flower meadows
- Improve and extend wildlife/bird hide facilities
- Create trails with interpretive panels linking to web-based information
- Preserve and protect the vulnerable species and flora in the area

6.10 **Culture and heritage**

The Dunnet & Canisbay area has a rich cultural and historic heritage. The Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) lists all known archaeological and historical sites in Highland. It has 315 entries in Dunnet Parish and 450 in Canisbay Parish. These include listed buildings, ancient monuments, brochs, and cairns. At the same time the area has buildings on the Buildings at Risk Register, such as Ham Giral and the former Free Church at Barrock.

Much of this heritage is relatively invisible to all but the most interested. Projects could be developed which improve access to important sites, especially if combined with interpretation or activities which increase understanding of the importance of these sites. Existing attractions, such as May Ann's Cottage in Dunnet, the Last House Museum in John O'Groats and the Caithness Broch Centre in Auckengill, could be supported and helped to develop their collections and exhibitions.

Community arts projects received some support in the consultation, along with the use of village halls – with appropriate facilities – for music and other performance events. Outdoor spaces also have potential for such use, as do some of the historic buildings in the area.

This theme supports projects which may:

- Support grass roots arts projects
- Support performance at local venues and spaces
- Improve the interpretation of the cultural heritage
- Raise awareness of the richness of the cultural and historic heritage of the area - to local people and visitors
- Preserving vernacular buildings/bringing back into use eg Nybster broch, John O'Groats Mill, Ham Giral.

7. Implementation

7.1 The plan outlined in Section 6 is aspirational and ambitious. To implement it will be challenging for the community.

7.2 Through the consultation a number of projects have come forward which would help address the priorities identified. These projects have champions and, though they are at different levels of planning and support may be needed to progress them, they are likely to be taken forward by existing groups. These include:

- Mey Hall has plans for development to improve the hall as a venue for the whole community, but giving particular attention to the needs of older people. The project would develop a community cafe, an improved performance space and better social areas and allow the hall to act as a centre for a wide range of activity.
- Britannia Hall in Dunnet is planning to carry out improvements to its car park.
- John O'Groats Hall is keen to provide improved disabled toilets.
- Pentland Football Club is developing a project to improve its pitch at Dunnet, including a pavilion, fitness suite and all weather facility for use by the whole community.
- Caithness Broch Project has been developing a plan to construct a broch and have sourced the stone from a local quarry. Although they have not settled on a site in Caithness, this is a project that could link well with the Caithness Broch Centre in Auckengill.
- Caithness Archaeological Trust also has an ambitious project in mind for the broch landscape, centred around the Nybster broch & the Caithness Broch Centre.
- Caithness Amateur Radio Society has their clubhouse and transmitting station near Freswick. They propose to undertake development and improvement of these facilities and equipment and to provide training for new members of all ages.
- Dunnet Play Park Group is working to carry out upgrades to the play area in the village, with a replacement fence and some new equipment.
- Caithness Biodiversity Group is working to develop a juniper restoration project at Dunnet Head.
- Dunnet Forest Trust is keen to enhance its provision by providing toilets in the forest, as well as adding to its machinery with eg a wood chipper and a winch. It would also like to establish a Forest Ranger post.
- Gills Harbour Ltd, a community owned company, is looking at how it can improve and deepen the harbour to make it more usable by offshore support vessels as well as improvement to quayside facilities. These improvements are in addition to improvements by the company which operates the ferry.

- Scottish Vernacular Buildings Trust is working to fund a proposal to repair, conserve and redevelop Ham Giral, a large former 18th century grain store. Once completed it will be used as a cultural hub for the performing arts.
 - Brough Bay Association is developing a project to restore the Salmon Bothy and install rock armouring at the harbour.
- 7.3 Although fitting with the priorities in this plan, not all of these projects might be within the scale and capacity of the community benefit funds, but they show an ambition and reach which bodes well for the development of the area. They also have the potential to draw in significant investment from other funding sources and it may be appropriate for the funds to support project development.
- 7.4 Other ambitious project ideas have come forward which have no organisation behind them to take the development forward. Many of these are included under the different themes in Section 6, but examples include:
- A golf course at John O'Groats.
 - A renewable energy visitor centre
 - Bases for self-employment.
 - A community operated bunkhouse/hostel.
 - Community owned wind farm.
 - A community cafe.
 - Community broadband/wi-fi.
 - A harbour trail, including signposting and a history leaflet.
 - A wildlife trail, with interpretation and supporting app based online information that could be downloaded in advance.
- 7.5 Such developments may need the establishment of a new group or to be taken forward in partnership with the public or private sector. Some would require significant investment and project planning. In other cases a partnership might be formed, for example to take forward some of the projects related to access and the natural environment and ensure that full use is made of potential synergies between projects.
- 7.6 Other projects are being taken forward by the public and private sectors. Highland Council is carrying out developments at the Seadrift car park and Dunnet Head and is also in the tendering process for upgrading the Dunnet mid-sands car park, kissing gate and footpath. Discussions are being held about the further development of the John O'Groats masterplan, and this will set the shape for a wide range of future opportunities for the community in implementing this plan.

- 7.7 In the consultation the possibility of supporting groups to take projects forward through the preparatory feasibility and design stages was raised by a number of people, as was the possibility of the community employing a Community Development Officer who could bring groups together, help in the formation of new groups and link with the public sector to get their support. Certainly, support for the development of projects and plans has often been important to the success of community development programmes in other areas.
- 7.8 For communities it defines as fragile, HIE has helped fund a network of Community Development Officers who work to implement the priorities identified in plans such as this. Dunnet & Canisbay has not been defined as a fragile area despite the many challenges it faces, but it would be worth exploring how funding from sources such as HIE and LEADER might support such a post alongside funding from community benefit funds.
- 7.9 It may also be worth exploring the establishment of a Community Development Trust to lead the implementation of this plan. The Community Trust would not be linked to the Stroupster community benefit fund and would apply to it for funding as it would apply to other sources. However, the Trust would be an appropriate employer for a Community Development Officer, would be able to support community groups to take their projects forward and could take the lead with any projects which do not relate to a specific group.

Appendix 1 Socio Economic Analysis

1. The Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council area covers an area of 183 square kilometres in the extreme north east of the Scottish mainland. Part of Highland Council's landward Caithness multi-member ward it has a population density of 8.9 people per sq km compared to averages of 14.4 for Caithness, 9.1 for the Highland Council area and 68.4 for Scotland². The main settlements in the area are:

- Dunnet
- Mey
- Canisbay
- John O'Groats
- Freswick
- Auckengill

Population

2 Highland Council has carried out an analysis of the 2011 Census by Community Council area, and this shows the population of Dunnet and Canisbay as 1,623. According to the *Statistical Accounts of Scotland*³ Canisbay Parish had a population of 1,481 in 1785, rising to 2,409 in 1836, while Dunnet Parish had a population of 1,235 in 1755 rising to 1,906 in 1831. This would give a combined population for the area rising from 2,716 people to 4,315 - almost 3 times the current figure for a not dissimilar area.

3 The breakdown by age group is as follows:

2011 Census population by age group

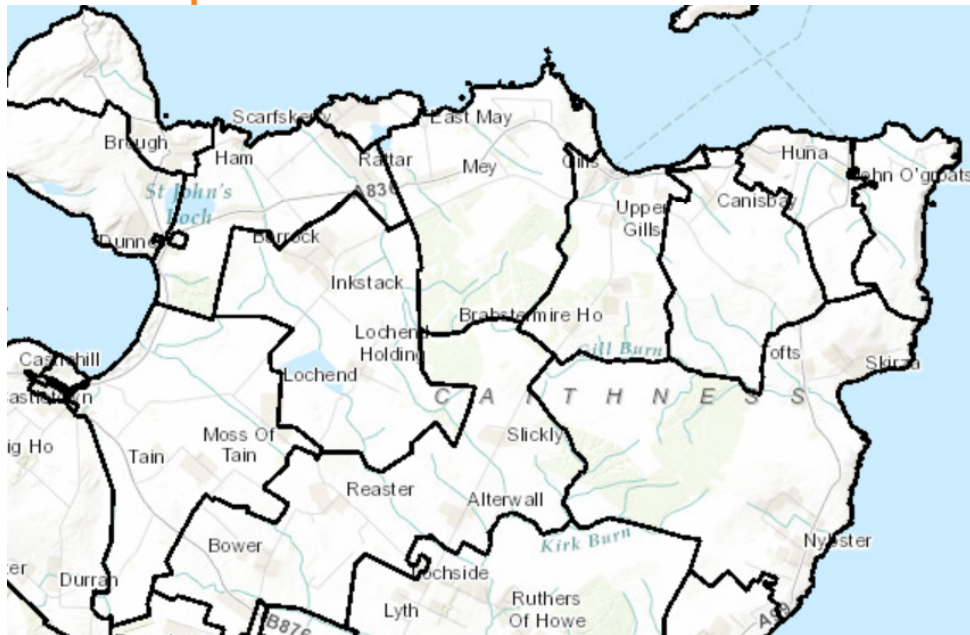
Age	Dunnet & Canisbay		Highland	Scotland
0 to 4 years old	66	4.1%	5.5%	5.5%
5 to 15 years old	176	10.8%	12.4%	11.8%
16 to 29 years old	194	12.0%	15.0%	18.5%
30 to 44 years old	279	17.2%	18.7%	20.0%
45 to 59 years old	385	23.7%	22.7%	21.1%
60 to 74 years old	385	23.7%	17.6%	15.5%
75 and over	138	8.5%	8.3%	7.7%
Total	1,623			

²The Highland Council figures in this section are available at: www.highland.gov.uk/info/695/council_information_performance_and_statistics/575/highland_facts_and_figures. Figures from the 2011 Census are available at www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk.

³ available at: <http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/sas/sas.asp?action=public>

- 4 This shows the Community Council area as having a consistently lower proportion of younger people (under 45 years old) and a consistently higher proportion of people in the older age groups. The 60-74 age band is noticeably a higher proportion of the population than generally in the Highlands and Scotland, and the combined percentage of those aged 60 and over is 32.2%, compared to 25.9% in Highland and 23.2% in Scotland.
- 5 More detailed analysis of the 2011 Census figures is possible by looking at individual communities at Census Output Area (COA) level, shown in the map below. These are the smallest geographical units for which figures are given, each made of around 75-150 people. The Community Council area takes in 12 COAs (with a combined population of 1,509), and part of another two (the areas containing Slickly and Greenland). In this section data at COA level is used to highlight differences between communities across the Community Council area.

Census Output Areas

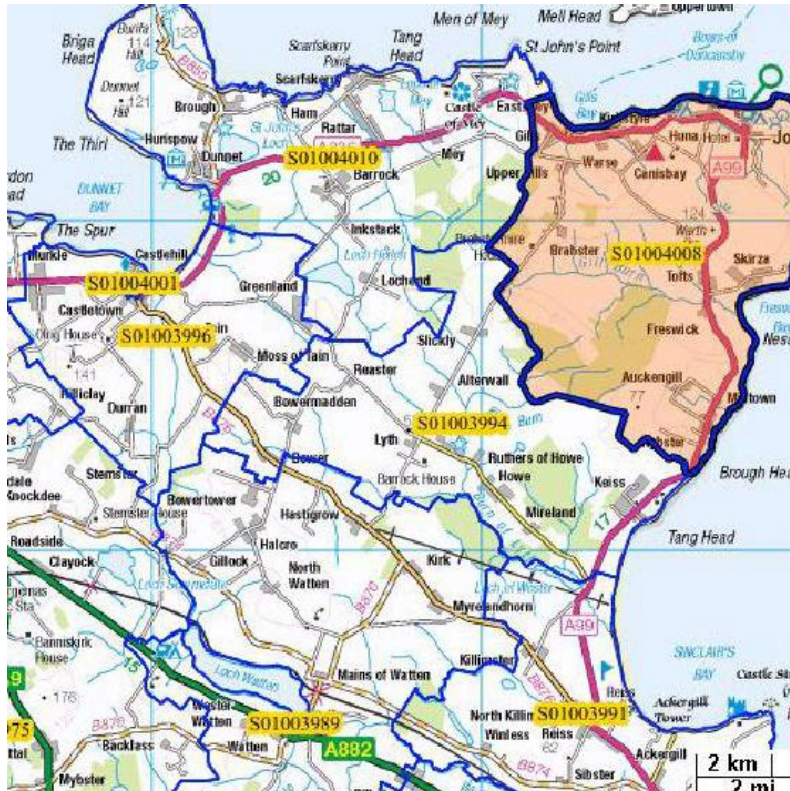


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- 6 Beneath the headline age profile there are wide variations across communities. For example, while across the Community Council area 8.5% of people are recorded in the Census as aged 75 or over, the proportion varies between 3.9% in the John O'Groats COA and 18% in Scarfskerry.
- 7 The 60-74 age band makes up more than 30% of the population for Auckengill and Brough. Those aged 60 and over make up 48.4% of the population in Auckengill and 47.2% in Brough. Only Canisbay, at 21.8%, has a percentage of people in the 60 and over age group below the Scottish average of 23.2%.

8 Other official figures, such as population estimates produced by the National Registers of Scotland (NRS) and used by Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics⁴, are collated into larger geographical units called data zones, and again there isn't an exact match with the Community Council area. 2 data zones, one covering John O'Groats, Canisbay and Auckengill and the other Dunnet and Mey, were estimated to have a combined population of 1,489 in 2011. A map showing the data zones is below. The figures in this section not taken from the 2011 Census are often based on data zone areas.

Data zones



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9 NRS figures for the 2 data zones⁵ suggest that the population is relatively stable, growing by 5% between 2001 and 2011, but falling by 3.3% between 2011 and 2013.

10 Perhaps surprisingly, Scarfskerry, which had the highest percentage of older people in the 2011 Census, also had the highest percentage of young people (under 16) at 19%, while Dunnet had the lowest at 5.4%. Looking at the two data zones, the percentage of children (under 16) in the John O'Groats area fell from 20.37% in the 2001 Census to 14.8% in 2011 and an estimated 13.95% in 2013. To the east of the Community Council area, the Dunnet data zone also showed a fall in the proportion of children, from 16.65% in 2001 to 13.66 in 2011, although the percentage was estimated to have risen to

⁴ www.sns.gov.uk

⁵ available at www.sns.gov.uk

14.59% in 2013.

- 11 The Highland Council produces future population projections based on figures supplied by NRS⁶. These take into account factors such as birth and death rates and migration profiles although change at a local level will also be highly dependent on factors such as housing growth, employment trends and changes in migration. For Caithness the latest projection indicated the population might grow by 5% between 2010 and 2035. Within that it projects that those in the 65+ age group will grow from 19.7% of the population to 29.9%. While the number of young people is seen as remaining relatively stable, the working age population is projected to fall by 12%. Projections are not available for smaller geographical units, but if the Caithness average were to apply to Dunnet and Canisbay the Community Council population might grow to around 1,700 by 2035. With the 65 and over population already at 22.8% it seems likely that it will exceed 30% by 2035.

Households and housing

- 12 The 2011 Census identifies 797 dwellings in the Community Council area, of which 696 have residents, so that 101 houses are unoccupied. The majority of those are second or holiday homes, which are well above the rate for Highland or Scotland, but the rate for vacant properties is also above average.

Household spaces from 2011 Census

Household spaces	Dunnet & Canisbay		Highland	Scotland
	No	%	%	%
Occupied	696	87.2	91.6	95.9
Second/holiday homes	77	9.6	5.7	1.5
Vacant	25	3.1	2.7	2.6

- 13 The Census gives information on the number of people living in each household:

Household size from 2011 Census

Household size	Dunnet & Canisbay %	Highland %	Scotland %
1 person	26.1	31.7	34.7
2 person	42.0	36.7	34.0
3 person	12.6	14.8	15.1
4 person	12.8	11.5	11.5
5 or more	6.3	5.3	4.8

- 14 People in Dunnet & Canisbay are less likely to be living alone than generally in Highland or in Scotland. This applies across the Community Council area

⁶ Highland Council. Population Projections for Council Areas 2010-2035. Briefing Note no 52, July 2012.

except in Dunnet where 46.5% of households are single person. Half of these are people aged 65 or over living alone, reflecting the fact that while Dunnet and Canisbay has a lower proportion of single person households, it has a higher percentage of single person households where that person is aged 65 or over. As well as Dunnet there is a high percentage in Huna (25.5% of households) and John O'Groats (21.4%). Interestingly while there were 15 people aged 65 and over in John O'Groats, 9 of them were living alone.

- 15 Overall, in 27.3% of the households in Dunnet and Canisbay all the residents are people aged 65 and over, compared with 22.5% in Highland and 20.8% in Scotland. In terms of families with children, the area has a slightly higher rate of couples, but the number of lone parents with dependent children is well below the Highland and Scottish rate.

Household composition from 2011 Census

Households	Dunnet & Canisbay %	Highland %	Scotland %
One person household, aged 65 and over	15.2%	13.5%	13.1%
One person household, aged under 65	10.9%	18.2%	21.6%
Couple, both aged 65 and over	11.8%	8.6%	7.5%
Other households: All aged 65 and over	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Couple with no children	25.1%	20.3%	17.5%
Couple with dependent children	19.6%	18.5%	17.3%
Couple, all children non-dependent	7.2%	6.2%	6.4%
Lone parent with dependent children	1.7%	6.2%	7.2%
Lone parent, all children non-dependent	3.1%	3.5%	3.9%

Housing stock

- 16 Looking at the tenure of the housing stock, there is a high proportion of home ownership across Dunnet & Canisbay compared with other areas. Social renting, from the Council or housing association, is comparatively very low at a combined 7.5% compared to 18.9% in Highland and 24.3% in Scotland.

Housing tenure from 2011 Census

Tenure	Dunnet & Canisbay %	Highland %	Scotland %
Owned	83.1%	67.2%	62.0%
Rented from Council	7.1%	13.2%	13.2%
Other social rented	0.4%	5.7%	11.1%
Private rented	6.1%	9.9%	11.1%
Living rent free	2.3%	2.3%	1.3%
Rented - other	1.0%	1.7%	1.3%

- 17 The Highland Council currently has 36 properties in the Community Council area, the majority being in John O'Groats (12), Dunnet (10) and Canisbay (8).
- 18 There are relatively few house sales in the Community Council area. In the 3 year period 2011-2013 a total of 34 are recorded in the two data zones, 16 in the John O'Groats area and 18 in the Dunnet area. The median price in 2013 was £118,000 in John O'Groats and £110,000 in Dunnet. This compares with median prices of £37,000 and £50,500 respectively in 2001, although the low number of sales can make price data misleading. The median house price in Highland in 2013 was £147,000 and in Scotland £142,500.
- 19 A check on Rightmove shows 8 houses advertised for sale in the Community Council area. Prices range between £65,000 and £350,000. There are also 5 plots of land available of varying sizes, at prices between £14,000 and £45,000. One of the local hotels is also advertised, as well as two in neighbouring communities.
- 20 Since 2001 there have been 86 housing completions in the John O'Groats data zone and 69 in the Dunnet area. These figures will include the 23 self catering lodges built at John O'Groats by Natural Retreats.

Health and care

- 21 The 2011 Census provides information on the health of people in the Community Council area. As might be expected from the age profile, fewer people than average in the Highland Council area say that their life is not limited by health issues.

Health issues from 2011 Census

Limiting long-term health	Dunnet & Canisbay		Highland	Scotland
	No	%	%	%
Limited a lot	135	8.3	8.1	9.6
Limited a little	212	13.1	10.5	10.1
Not limited	1,276	78.6	81.4	80.4

- 22 In the COAs in the Community Council area the number of people saying they were limited a lot by their health ranged from 3.9% of the population in John O'Groats to 18.2% in Auckengill and 14.9% in Dunnet.
- 23 More people are also providing unpaid care in the Community Council area. Auckengill and Dunnet again feature as areas with a high degree of care provision. 6.8% of Dunnet residents and 6.3% of those in Auckengill are providing 50+ hours of care each week. In the Hunspow area 30 of the 155 residents say they are providing 1 to 19 hours of care per week.

Unpaid care from 2011 Census

Provision of unpaid care	Dunnet & Canisbay		Highland	Scotland
	No	%	%	%
Not providing care	1,445	89.0	91.0	90.7
Providing 1 to 19 hours of care a week	99	6.1	5.3	5.2
Providing 20 to 34 hours of care a week	18	1.1	0.8	0.9
Providing 35 to 49 hours of care a week	13	0.8	0.7	0.8
Providing 50 or more hours of care a week	47	2.9	2.3	2.5

- 24 Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics provides information on hospital admissions by data zone, with the results for the two in the Community Council area showing above the Highland average for a number of issues.

Hospital admission rates by data zone

Hospital admissions	John O'Groats data zone	Dunnet data zone	Highland
Emergency admissions aged 65 and over - rate/100,000 : 2012	34,416	18,095	21,863
Elective hospital admissions - rate/100,000 : 2012	16,311	14,181	10,761
Coronary Heart Disease admissions - rate /100,000 : 2012	915	856	558
Admissions for Accidents - rate/100,000 : 2012	1,372	1,711	1,273

- 25 The rate of emergency admissions for those aged 65 and over in John O'Groats is especially high, but more people than might be expected are entering hospital for elective procedures, for coronary heart disease and because of accidents.

Education

- 26 There are 2 primary schools in the Community Council area: Canisbay Primary with a catchment area taking in Gills, Canisbay, John O'Groats and Freswick and Crossroads which serves Brough, Scarfskerry, Mey, Barrock and Dunnet Head. Children from Dunnet are in the catchment area for Castletown Primary and those from Auckengill are in the Keiss primary catchment. Canisbay currently has a roll of 48 pupils, while Crossroads' roll is 28. Highland Council projects that both schools will see their rolls decreasing so that by 2024/25 they will be 40 and 20 respectively. The roll at Keiss is expected to rise from the current 53 to 61 and at Castletown a rise from 106 to 166 is anticipated.
- 27 Pupils from Castletown and Crossroads are in the Thurso High School catchment area, while those from Canisbay and Keiss primaries are in the Wick High School catchment. From Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics it is possible to look at the destinations of school leavers from the two datazones covering John O'Groats and Dunnet. The table below combines the figures for the years 2007/08 to 2012/13 to show the picture over a 6 year period. To provide a comparison the school leaver destinations for the Highland Council area in 2012/13 are also shown.

School leaver destinations by data zone

Destination	John O'Groats data zone		Dunnet data zone		Highland
	No	%	No	%	%
Higher Education	23	39.0	14	26.4	33.7
Further Education	16	27.1	18	34.0	23.7
Training	1	1.7	1	1.9	3.8
Employment	10	16.9	15	28.3	31.9
Unemployed and seeking employment or training	5	8.5	2	3.8	5.5
Unemployed and not seeking employment or training	3	5.1	1	1.9	0.9
Unknown	1	1.7	2	3.8	0.5
Total school leavers	59	100	53	100	100

- 28 As can be seen, most young people from the Community Council area have gone on to further or higher education, as have most school leavers in the Highlands. Those in the Wick High School catchment area are more likely to go on to higher education, those in the Thurso High School catchment to go on to further education. More young people from the Dunnet area have entered employment straight from school, although the proportion is still slightly below the Highland average. More than average in the John O'Groats area are unemployed, whether positively seeking employment or training or not.
- 29 Qualifications across the population are illustrated in the table below, taken from the 2011 Census. This shows that the Community Council area had a higher percentage of people with no qualifications and with qualifications at HNC/HND level, and a slightly lower proportion with degree level qualifications.

Qualification levels from 2011 Census

Qualifications	Dunnet & Canisbay		Highland	Scotland
	No	%	%	%
Highest Qualification				
All persons aged 16 and over	1,381	100.0	100.0	100.0
No qualifications	407	29.5	25.5	26.8
Level 1: eg. 0 Grade, Standard Grade, SVQ level 1 or 2.	302	21.9	24.5	23.1
Level 2: eg SCE Higher Grade, , Advanced Higher, A Level, SVQ level 3, ONC.	188	13.6	14.4	14.3
Level 3: eg HNC, HND, SVQ level 4 or equivalent.	164	11.9	9.2	9.7
Level 4 and above: eg Degree, Postgraduate qualifications, SVQ level 5 or equivalent.	320	23.2	26.4	26.1

Economic Activity

- 30 Census figures enable the economic activity in the Community Council area to be compared to the Highland Council area as a whole and to Scotland. As can be seen in the table below, the economic activity rate in Dunnet and Canisbay is lower than that of Highland and below the Scottish average. While fewer people are in full time employment than average, the rate of self employment is well above the picture elsewhere and more than double the Scottish average.
- 31 Rates of economic activity across the area are lowest in Brough (52.6%) and Auckengill (53.9) and highest in Canisbay (74.4%). Barrock (40%) and Canisbay (39.5%) have the highest rate of people in full time employment. Only Scarfiskerry and Dunnet have rates of self employment below the Highland average, though it is strong outside Dunnet, in Hunspow (21.5%) and around Gills (19.4%). In the COAs that include Slickly and Greenland, where around half of the working age population live in the Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council area, 25.2% and 27.6 of the working age population is self-employed respectively.

Economic activity from 2011 Census

Economic activity	Dunnet & Canisbay		Highland	Scotland
	No	%	%	%
<i>All persons 16 to 74</i>	1,244			
Economically active	832	66.9%	71.5%	69.0%
Employees - part-time	171	13.8%	15.2%	13.3%
Employees - full-time	409	32.9%	39.5%	39.6%
Self-employed	203	16.3%	11.0%	7.5%
Unemployed	36	2.9%	4.0%	4.8%
Full-time student - employed	8	0.6%	1.5%	2.9%
Full-time student - unemployed	6	0.5%	0.3%	0.8%
Economically inactive	411	33.1%	28.5%	31.0%
Retired	248	20.0%	16.0%	14.9%
Student	43	3.4%	3.2%	5.5%
Looking after home or family	49	3.9%	3.8%	3.6%
Long-term sick or disabled	50	4.0%	3.9%	5.1%
Other	22	1.8%	1.7%	1.9%

- 32 Although the headline figure is well below the Highland and Scottish averages, unemployment is above the Highland average in Dunnet (8.3% of the working age population), Mey (5%), Scarfskerry (4.8%) and Auckengill (4.3%). Of the 36 people who were unemployed at the time of the Census, 10 were in the 16-24 age band and 15 were aged 25-49.
- 33 Of those aged 16-74 who are defined as economically inactive, there is a higher than average proportion of retired than the averages in Highland or Scotland. In Auckengill and Scarfskerry over 30% of the age group is retired.
- 34 The Census also provides a breakdown of the employment sector of those people living in the Community Council area who are in employment or self-employment. Many of them, of course, may travel outside the area to work.
- 35 The main employment sector is the retail and motor trade, closely followed by agriculture which employs 11.5% of working people in the area. Agriculture is particularly important in Auckengill where it employs 19.3% of the workforce and Barrock (18.1%) but again the Slickly and Greenland areas (where there are high levels of self employment) show the highest dependence on agriculture, with 26.4% and 21.9% respectively earning their living in the sector.

Main employment by sector from 2011 Census

Industry	Dunnet & Canisbay		Highland	Scotland
	No	%	%	%
<i>All persons 16 to 74 in employment</i>	791			
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	91	11.5%	4.3%	2.0%
Mining and quarrying	14	1.7%	1.2%	1.4%
Manufacturing	45	5.7%	5.7%	7.7%
Electricity/ gas	10	1.3%	0.8%	0.8%
Water supply	31	3.9%	1.3%	0.8%
Construction	78	9.9%	9.8%	8.0%
Wholesale, retail and motor vehicles trade	97	12.3%	14.9%	15.0%
Transport and storage	49	6.2%	5.0%	5.0%
Accommodation and food services	53	6.7%	9.1%	6.3%
Information and communication	16	2.0%	2.4%	2.7%
Financial and insurance	7	0.9%	1.3%	4.5%
Real estate	5	0.6%	1.3%	1.2%
Professional, scientific and technical	56	7.0%	4.5%	5.2%
Administrative and support services	35	4.4%	4.0%	4.3%
Public administration	50	6.3%	6.6%	7.0%
Education	55	6.9%	7.6%	8.4%
Human health and social work	77	9.8%	15.2%	15.0%
Other	22	2.8%	4.9%	4.9%

36 As well as agricultural employment in farms, Caithness is a crofting county and the spread of crofts in the Community Council area is illustrated by the active Common Grazings Committees covering land at:

- Duncansby Head
- Hill of Warse
- Mey and Gills
- North Freswick
- Dunnethead and Brough.

37 Crofting may for some people be their main occupation, but for many it will be supplemented by income from other employment. The likelihood is then that Census returns underestimate the contribution of agriculture to the local economy, with crofters showing another job as their main occupation.

38 The extent of the underestimate is shown through figures supplied by the Scottish Government for the two agricultural parishes of Canisbay and Dunnet:

Agricultural statistics for Dunnet and Canisbay: June 2014			
Source: SG June Agricultural Census 2014			
Prepared by: Scottish Government RESAS Statistics (Agriculture)			
	Canisbay	Dunnet	Total
Total number of holdings	175	140	315
Working occupiers	85	53	138
full-time	21	16	37
half-time or more	12	13	25
less than half-time	52	24	76
Occupiers who do not work	23	39	62
Working spouses	42	27	69
full-time	c	c	9
half-time or more	c	c	12
less than half-time	31	17	48
Spouses who do not work	21	32	53
Employees	30	21	51
Full-time regular staff	10	13	23
Part-time regular staff	c	c	15
Casual and seasonal staff	c	c	13
Total agricultural workforce	157	101	258
c - suppressed to protect confidentiality of individual holdings			

- 39 Although only 91 people said they worked in agriculture in the Census, 258 jobs are supported in the sector. Most of these are part time or casual. Some jobs may be held by people living elsewhere and travelling into the Community Council area, but it is likely that many would have another job they see as their main occupation.
- 40 Other than in agriculture there are relatively few local employers. The public sector provides work locally through, for example, the primary schools, the ranger service and in home care. Over 180 local people have jobs in the public sector, although some of these will be outside the local area. There is little employment locally in retail, although there are some shops in John O'Groats including an ice cream outlet and a mill shop, as well as the village store. At Gills Harbour the ferry company employs around 12 people on shore. The craft village at John O'Groats is quite underused, with some of the units being used as storage, although there has recently been planning approval for a bistro in one unit and a micro brewery in the former fire station. A micro distillery is already in production outside Dunnet, specialising in gin production.

Also in Dunnet, Blargoans opened in 2009 providing a service to local companies, the oil and gas, nuclear and renewable industries through its operations as a recruitment agency, industrial supplier and minibus hire company. As well as staff provided to other companies on an agency basis, Blargoans employs 8 full time and 6 part time staff and has plans for expansion. Other local businesses tend to be small scale, providing work for the owner who may be working from a home base.

Tourism

- 41 The area includes John O'Groats, one of the most iconic tourist destinations in the Highlands and popularised (incorrectly) as the most northerly point on the UK mainland. However, accommodation and food services only accounts for 53 of the jobs held by local people. This may have increased with the development by Natural Retreats at John O'Groats which is understood to directly support 10-15 jobs.
- 42 As well as Natural Retreats there is a hotel at John O'Groats with further hotels at Dunnet and Mey. There are also around 18 guest house and bed and breakfast providers in the area. Caravan and camping sites are located at John O'Groats and at Dunnet and there are a number of self catering cottages.
- 43 Pentland Ferries operates a car ferry between St. Margaret's Hope in Orkney and Gills Bay, offering up to 4 departures daily each way during peak travel months reducing to 3 off season. John O'Groats Ferries operates a passenger ferry 3 times a day in peak season and twice a day in May and September between John O'Groats and Burwick on Orkney. Bus connections can take passengers from the ferry terminals to and from Kirkwall in Orkney and Inverness in Highland.
- 44 Local attractions include the Castle of Mey, the Caithness Broch Centre at Auckengill, Mary Ann's Cottage in Dunnet and the Last House Museum in John O'Groats. In addition there are a number of natural heritage sites and a Visitor Centre at Dunnet which is the base for a countryside ranger.

Transport

- 45 In the COAs fully within the Community Council area there are 724 people in employment (including self employment). Most people in the area travel to work by car, with many of them likely to travel outside the area, to Thurso, Wick and sites such as Dounreay. Relatively few travel by public transport but a significant number work at or from home, reflecting the levels of self employment.

Travel to work from 2011 Census

Travel to work	Dunnet & Canisbay	
	No	%
Car	454	62.7
Train	4	0.6
Bus	45	6.2
On foot	32	4.4
Other	24	3.3
Works mainly at/from home	165	22.8

- 46 As might be expected, car ownership is relatively high. The average household in Dunnet and Canisbay has access to 1.6 cars – well above the Highland or Scottish averages. The number of households with no access to their own transport is half the Highland average and a third of the average for Scotland. However, in an isolated rural area where there is a need to travel for work, shopping, social and leisure activity access to transport is essential. 66 households do not have their own car or van and will be dependent on public transport or other arrangements to meet their needs.

Car availability per household from 2011 Census

Car availability	Dunnet & Canisbay		Highland	Scotland
	No	%	%	%
Average number of cars or vans per household	1.60		1.23	1.04
No car or van	66	9.5	20.6	30.5
1 car or van	298	42.8	46.3	42.2
2 cars or vans	233	33.5	25.6	21.6
3 or more cars or vans	99	14.2	7.5	5.6

- 47 A public bus service operates between Wick, and John O'Groats, serving the east coast communities, with 6 return journeys each weekday and 4 on a Saturday. There is also a service from Thurso to John O'Groats, serving the north coast, with 8 return journeys on a weekday and 5 on a Saturday. There are no Sunday services.
- 48 Caithness Community Transport, based in Wick, provides a *Dial a Ride* service available to anyone who has no personal transport or reasonable access to any public transport regardless of age. The service can be used for shopping, visiting friends, social functions and medical appointments and is also suitable for disabled people with wheelchairs. All vehicles operate 5 days a week between 9am and 5pm and evening and weekend services are dependant on volunteer drivers. There is an annual membership fee of £10 and a mileage

charge per person per journey is applied. The service has 14 members in the Community Council area.

Natural and Historic Environment

- 49 The Community Council area has a rich natural environment with a number of designated areas including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ramsar (wetland) areas, and Special Protection Areas. Birdlife is especially strong and the RSPB has a reserve at Dunnet Head although there are no visitor facilities other than a car park. Small bird hides have been built at St John's Pool nearby and at the Loch of Mey. Duncansby Head, by John O'Groats, is also a large breeding site for seabirds.
- 50 Listed buildings in the area include Canisbay Parish Church, the Castle of Mey, Dunnet Parish Church, John O'Groats Mill and Dunnet Head Lighthouse. There are a number of ancient monuments and archaeological sites, including brochs and chambered cairns, although mostly they are uninvestigated. The Caithness Broch Centre is a small visitor attraction at Auckengill.
- 51 Dunnet Forest is managed by a Trust. As well as managing the woodland the trust has developed the recreational potential of the forest, installing footpaths, an all abilities trail, sculpture trail, and facilities to encourage use of the forest for horse riding, orienteering and mountain biking.

Facilities and services

- 52 There are relatively few public services in the area. The Canisbay and Castletown Medical Practice has a surgery in Canisbay.
- 53 There are 6 village halls in the area, at:
- Dunnet;
 - Mey;
 - Canisbay;
 - John O'Groats;
 - Freswick;
 - Auckengill.
- 54 Highland Council has play areas in Dunnet, Canisbay and John O'Groats. There is a football pitch at Dunnet which is now the responsibility of the football club, but the Council does maintain a pitch at John O'Groats.
- 55 There are a number of harbours, piers and jetties in Dunnet and Canisbay, either owned by community groups or by Highland Council. The harbours at John O'Groats (Council owned) and Gills Bay (community company) are used by ferries as mentioned in para 41 above. Other small harbours, in varying condition, are spread round the coast.

- 56 There are a wide number of community groups, charities and companies in the Dunnet & Canisbay area providing a range of specialist and general activities and services. These are listed in Appendix 3.

Appendix 2

Highland Single Outcome Agreement: Longer term outcomes

Economic recovery and growth

- Infrastructure – the region has fit for purpose infrastructure to support economic growth and recovery, notably, broadband, mobile, ports and business and industrial land;
- Business Support – the region has strategies and action plans (route maps) for the growth of the key sectors of Energy, Life Sciences, Financial and Business Services, Tourism; Food and Drink, and Creative Industries; Social Enterprises; business start ups in general; and inward investment.
- Skills and Employability – the region has sector skills development plans that are evidence based and aligned with the key growth sectors. The development of these plans will link into emerging plans for the Employment strand of the SOA.
- Creating Successful Places – the region is to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by large scale employment growth sites such as Scrabster, Nigg, Inverness Campus, Ardersier and Kishorn, and will ensure that there are appropriate strategies and plans in place to achieve this. The Highlands develop as an international study destination.
- Key outcome target of 5000 new jobs created or sustained with public support by 2018.

Employment

Employment Outcomes are to: widen participation in the labour market across all client groups and across all Highland geographies and to ensure that young people can enter the labour market with aspiration, skills and experience.

Early years

Outcomes for early years are to improve the wellbeing of children and young people. The delivery plan focuses on joint action in the following areas:

- Children receive the help and support they need to optimise their well-being at every stage.
- Children get the best start in life and enjoy positive, rewarding experiences growing up.
- To improve the wellbeing of families to support children.
- To improve the ways in which communities participate and are empowered.
- To improve the help and support provided to children at an early stage.
- Children are equipped with the skills, confidence and self-esteem to progress successfully in their learning and development.
- Children are protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in the community.
- Children are physically active and experience healthy growth and development.
- To improve the involvement and participation of children, their families and stakeholders.

- Children thrive as a result of nurturing relationships and stable environments.

Safer and stronger communities and preventing reoffending

The long term outcomes are that:

- Communities and individuals are safe from alcohol related offending and antisocial behaviour
- Areas with most multiple deprivation (SIMD 2012) become safer and are felt to be safer.
- Road safety is improved.
- Anti-social behaviour decreases.
- People are, and feel, free to live their lives without harassment and discrimination, and can take part in community life and that people benefit from public services in a fairer way and are able to have their say about them. Interim outcomes relate to hate crimes and violence against women.
- Highland becomes even safer.

Health inequalities and physical activity

Long term outcomes relate to early years, poverty and disadvantage, health and wellbeing, geographical and personal inequalities and changes to partnership working arrangements to focus on inequality. For physical activity outcomes include increasing the level of physical activity to 50% adults and for 10% journeys made by bike by 2020.

Older people

The partnership outcomes for older people are that:

- People are healthy and have a good quality of life.
- People are supported and protected to stay safe.
- People are supported to realise their potential and to maximise their independence.
- People retain dignity and are free from discrimination.
- People are geographically and socially connected and do not become isolated.
- People and their carers are informed and in control of their care.

Environmental outcomes

Environmental outcomes are:

- Manage sustainably the outstanding natural heritage of the Highlands to optimise the economic, health and learning benefits.
- To increase and develop the use of renewable energy.
- A carbon neutral Inverness in a low carbon Highland by 2025
- Reducing fuel poverty
- Supporting communities to be resilient to extreme weather events.
- Improving access to the outdoors.

Making the connections across priorities

The priority outcomes above are inter-related and action in one area can bring wider benefits to another. For example, investing in early years should prevent health inequalities in childhood and adult life, improve employability prospects and avoid community safety issues emerging. Making best and sustainable use of the environment in the Highlands will support long term economic growth and employment (particularly through renewables energy development) and improving access to the environment will help increase physical activity levels for all age groups.

Integration

The Partnership is pioneering integration of health and social care services for children and for older people. It is also building an integrated approach to employability, especially to address significant employment inequalities in Highland by adopting a coherent and individualised approach to post school transition for young people experiencing significant barriers to employment. The Partnership has started to develop an integrated approach to community development.

Appendix 3

Dunnet & Canisbay

Local Groups

Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council
Auckengill Hall
Britannia Hall, Dunnet
Canisbay Village Hall, Canisbay;
Freswick Hall Committee
John O'Groats Village Hall.
Mey Village Hall,
Brough Bay Pier Association
Canisbay Parent Council
Canisbay Rainbow Toddlers
Canisbay Youth Club
Crossroads Parent Council
Dunnet Christmas Lights
Dunnet Forest Trust
Dunnet Play Park Group
Dunnet Women's Institute
Dwarwick Pier Association
Gills Harbour Ltd.,
John O'Groats and Canisbay Christmas Lights
John O'Groats Football Club
John O'Groats Junior Football
Mey and District Bowling Club
Mey Gardening Club
Pentland Rifle Club
Pentland United Football Club
St Johns Loch Improvement Association
Sallywags Mother & Toddlers Group
Sallywags Nursery :
Wednesday's over 50's Club

Crofter's Commission Grazing Bodies

Duncansby Head Grazings Committee ; -
Dunnethead and Brough Common Grazings
North Freswick Common Grazings
Mey and Gills Common Grazings
Hill of Warse (unregulated) Common Grazings

Others

Caithness Amateur Radio Society
Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership
Caithness Archaeological Trust
Caithness Biodiversity Group
Caithness Broch Project
Caithness Chamber of Commerce
Caithness Ornithological Club
Canisbay and Castletown Group Practice

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Canisbay Primary School
Crossroads Primary School
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Highland Council
Highland Council, Countryside Manager
Highland Council, Development Plans
Natural Retreats
North Highland Initiative
RSPB
Scottish Natural Heritage

Appendix 4

Survey Form

Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council is working with Foundation Scotland to manage community benefit funds that will come to this area relating to the Stroupster wind farm. As this will be the first wind farm fund within our area the Community Council has received funding to prepare a Community Plan. This plan will guide how we use the funds and ensure that they bring most benefit to the area. But beyond that the plan will map out the wider aspirations for our community and so will provide a sound base for other development plans and for applications to other funding streams.

In compiling the plan it is important that we bring together community views on, for example, the strengths and weaknesses of the local area, how we might address the challenges of making Dunnet and Canisbay a better place for all of our people and the opportunities we have to maximise the benefits we get from our assets.

We also wish to identify project ideas and opportunities in the area and you are asked to indicate potential projects that your organisation has planned or might take forward in the future. Such projects could be activity based or involve equipment or building development. Please tell us about your plans and aspirations even if your project is larger than might be funded through these community benefit funds

NAME:	ORGANISATION:
EMAIL:	PHONE:

What do you think are the main issues that need to be addressed to make Dunnet and Canisbay a better place to live and work?

What would you like to change about the area?

What do you think are our main opportunities?

Please detail any project ideas which address any of the topics above or that link to your own development plans or that you might take forward.

**Please email responses to: sandy@langwell.freeserve.co.uk,
post to: Sandy Anderson, Langwell, Achany Road, Dingwall IV15 9JB.**

Further information can be found on the Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council
website: <http://www.dunnetandcanisbaycc.org/>

Appendix 5

Community Ideas

Improved walking routes/paths

Fund to support groups and individuals travelling out with the area to access training and development

Support for community day-care centre

Funding for local transport for educational/sporting trips for young people and for elderly groups

Toilets at tourism hot spots eg Dunnet Head, Duncansby Head

Funding for wi-if in village halls and public places

Support for grass roots Arts projects

Support for an apprentice/ scholarship

Youth

Tourism

OAP

Transport

Health and fitness

Education

Green energy efficiency

Support youth and youth groups

Support older people

Fund should provide a legacy - invest some in income generating projects

Rural transport

Provide sports facility

Support social enterprise to provide facilities and employment

Try to retain young people in community

Coastal walk/ golf course

Improved facilities like broadband

Support young business ideas

Sustainable community

Help with school transport for trips

Community transport

Buddy scheme

Day care centre

Broadband

Improvement of coastal paths and tourist experience

Promotion of John O'Groats and Caithness with an appointed ambassador

Civic pride in area

Improvement of beach access at Freswick

Harbour repairs

Help for halls - upkeep for local halls

Improved village hall facilities for all ages

Ensure 100% IT access across the area

A REAL WELCOME @ John O'Groats for all the cyclists/walkers who make the huge effort to get here.

Appropriate facilities/bunk house or Youth Hostel

Community cafe

Investment in youth community training

Long term sustainable projects to enhance employment and people retention Promote tourism ie Broch trail, traditional methods (peat cutting)

Better more visible history points

Beach facilities (Toilets/ hot running water)

Investment in harbours

Community owned training business

Safe access to Freswick Harbour (steps require repairing)Freswick beach access

Freswick Hall - new ceiling new kitchen, new porch roof and refurbishment, new heating

Community transport - older and younger members travelling to college, doctor, hospital.

Urgent - superfast broadband for all outlying areas.

St Clare Hall - General up-keep of hall eg renewing furniture etc and hall car park tarred

Notice board for hall

Auckengill and Freswick pensioners to get an annual heating allowance

Raise awareness of the richness of the natural heritage of this area - to local people and visitors - (tourism value as well as altruistic)

Improve Access (to all abilities) to some of our Iconic sites

Preserve and protect the vulnerable species in the area

Improvements to car park at Britannia Hall

Extension of Core Path network in Dunnet. For example by replacing the grassy right-of-way from Ribbon House to the Salmon Bothy (approx 100 metres) with a

gravel path. This would then make a good walking route from the caravan park at the beach all the way to Dwarwick Pier which would be enjoyed by tourists and locals.

Extension of bus shelter at Dunnet which is currently too small for the number of High School pupils using it daily.

Provision of bicycle stands near to bus shelter for High School pupils or members of the public

Assistance with travelling expenses for athletes attending sporting events or coaching in the south

Harbour Trail – signposting, history leaflet, spruce up the harbours – a community project across our Community Council area

Community Development Person to support community bodies in bidding for funding and managing projects

Brough Harbour – restore the Salmon bothy, install rock armouring to protect car park and sea wall – realise potential for tourism/recreation/ venue for social and music events

Communities should identify all common grazings. Any that are not registered under the crofting acts should be registered wherever that is feasible. These grazings must be safeguarded for the crofters of the future – we cannot tell what the future will bring

Signposting of our Historic sites

Potential for micro-enterprises, particularly if broadband is improved

Heritage opportunities – look at Orkney

I would like to see a path along the shore to the east to encourage tourists to spend longer in John O’Groats.

The Community Council has an idea to have a nine hole Golf Course on the links at John O’Groats. We have given some thought and had discussion with local land owners.

There could be some improvements in access to iconic sites (e.g. Duncansby stacks) but this has to be done with sensitivity.

Other natural history sites would be spoilt with too much access so it is a fine balance.

There could be enhancements to our grassland areas and wildflower areas particularly as we have rare bee and butterfly species.

The Caithness biodiversity group is at the very early stages of a juniper restoration project. This is based on Dunnet Head and we are working with Rock Rose Distillery in Dunnet. The populations of Juniper in Caithness are in poor health and our project seeks to reverse this trend through propagation of cuttings and replanting them. It will be a long term project which if successful we could run further afield in Caithness.

There are no toilets in Dunnet forest, the Trust would like to fit a self contained waterless toilet called a Kazabuloo, these are used by the National Trust and do not produce any water run offs. A toilet would be of greatest benefit to schools, nursery

groups and groups using the forest for health and mental well being, these toilets cost approx £8000 to £10,000 to buy and fit.

With so many visitors a year financial help with footpath upkeep would be helpful, especially the all ability path, this path is used a lot by visitors in wheelchairs & pushchairs, a play area for children would be a great addition too.

The forest would benefit from its own wood chipper, another storage shed/ container, a substantial capstan winch, all this machinery would help with its maintenance and keep costs down.

In the past we have had funding for a dedicated part/time Forest Ranger, this was an EU forestry grant that lasted for three years, the Trust hoped to find further funding to continue this very successful post when funding support came to an end; the Robertson Trust liked our proposed project and offered £43,000 towards its costs over three years but we were unable to find match funding.

During the summer of 2014 the Trust took part in a pilot project run in the Highlands for Mental Health Well Being called Branching Out, it was very successful and our local team for Mental Health in the community are very eager to take this project forward, funding is a problem.

The first project I would like to suggest is a community cafe. A place where folk can meet over a tea or coffee or lunch. This could be staffed by volunteers trained in food hygiene with possibly a paid employee as a manager / co-ordinator. At Canisbay Church we have had a Thursday soup and sweet lunch in the Church hall which is well attended by folk from all over the county and also visitors and tourists. It is greatly appreciated and fulfils a real need within our community.

At Canisbay Church we have a Youth Group for school children P6 & 7 and S1 & 2. There is an opportunity to extend this to possibly a Drama Club for all ages. This would require a capital expenditure on equipment eg. sound system, possibly musical instruments and so on. The performances could be put on for the local community which would bring the community together.

Mey Village Hall is planning alterations and an extension to the hall to provide facilities and services for older people (whilst continuing to serve the interests of the community as a whole).

Community benefit funds from windfarm developments give us the opportunity to provide and maintain more facilities and services for older people. Also, activity / recreational facilities for all residents and visitors.

Depending on the total value of the funding available – a programme to encourage land owners to tidy up their properties – to make the area more attractive to both residents and visitors.

More facilities and services for older people, delivered locally.

In general, a greater display of civic pride (including maintaining the landscape which is often scarred by ruinous buildings and dilapidated vehicles and machinery).

Keep as many local people employed in local jobs in the area as possible. Make sure we keep things like the local school, post office, surgery etc.

Maintain the facilities and amenities that we already have and strive to increase and better as many as possible, with the community benefit money.

Try and increase the sport and leisure facilities in the area.

Develop a Golf course and coastal path along coastline between John O'Groats & Duncansby Head.

Create a renewable energy interpretation/visitor centre in John O'Groats to showcase and educate people about all the renewable energy's in the area.

(Sustainable) year-round employment or job opportunities (e.g. bases for specialist self-employment) are by far the most important issues to be addressed.

Small projects that bolster the economy (e.g. by providing enhanced interpretation, archaeology 'digs' etc) should also be considered favourably, as those are helpful to getting soundly based local information/tradition across to tourists

Gills Harbour belongs to c. 600 electors in Canisbay Parish's Pentland Firth shore. Gills Harbour Ltd,(GHL), a community-owned company set up under the HIE template for locally-owned trading firms. Gills Harbour is being used by support vessels, particularly by 'standard' 25 metre many-purpose 'multi-cat' vessel, for surveys, tugging and also general support duties involving sub-sea cables, turbines etc. The operators of the above have informed GHL that they want to see the little-port's Inner Basin (wholly owned by GHL) to be deepened by one-off rock-dredging and some modest improvement to its quay(s), so that it can safely berth such vessels overnight there in all wind and tidal conditions.

Creating a "Wildlife Trail" – a suggested itinerary of wildlife locations such as Dunnet Head, St Johns Pool, Loch of Mey with supporting web-based information that visitors could download on their smart phones (possibly a Caithness wildlife app?) that could be tied in with a limited number of information panels that would provide links to the on-line information. There would be the possibility to have more specifically themed trails such as a "wild goose chase", "seabirds"....

Making more of the clifftop walk around Dunnet Head – signage, way marking?

Making more of the wildlife hide at Loch of Mey – provide a car park and signage?

Providing some additional interpretation boards at key locations – eg highlighting the winter ducks in Dunnet Bay

Promoting the "Coronation Meadow" at Links of Greenland – dependent on access and management of access

Extending the existing community woodland at Brough or creating new broad leaved woodlands at appropriate locations (and/or wild flower meadows)

Building on the RSPB's work with farmers to encourage breeding wading birds on farmland by funding some initiatives to help farmers to create appropriate habitat eg rush management and the creation of water filled scrapes in appropriate locations

Skills / youth retention is usually a big issue for any rural area - maybe something along the lines of supporting local businesses to take on apprentices (not sure how that would work with current apprenticeship funding) / scholarships for students willing to stay in the area and study through UHI rather than move south?

There's a surplus of business sites in terms of empty units at John O'Groats, Wick Business Park, etc. So not sure about more?

Maybe some sort of start-up funding for local businesses would be good? There

seems to be a bit of a funding gap in that area between lifestyle business and SME - businesses that don't export / directly bring business from outside the county are unlikely to be supported by current business funds. Certainly the Baillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund supports local businesses in the West Caithness area, so something similar for Dunnet & Canisbay.

Maybe some kind of transport initiative? This could either be through working with Stagecoach to subsidise local services or setting up some kind of demand-responsive thing (like Transport for Tongue)

Tidying up the area outside the Canisbay Doctor's Surgery - an example of the sort of infrastructure projects that Highland Council may not be willing to fund

Support for tourism initiatives – more signage for key sites of interest / trails, better footpaths, information boards

Protect the flora *primula scotica* @ Keiss links + reintroduce oyster plant @ Keiss castle

Focal/view points for visitors to take pictures

Funding towards feasibility/design of new/upgraded community facilities

Mobile phone access

Emergency access for vulnerable people in bad weather

Cycle paths

Locally available childcare

Homes for young people

Apprenticeships in energy, engineering, hospitality and tourism

Develop local heritage assets for tourism

Tourism ambassador

Preserving vernacular buildings/bringing back into use – Nybster broch, Groats mill, Keiss ice house

Affordable housing

District heating

Small scale renewables

Address low level crime and lack of policing

Funding for Community development officer

Appendix 6

Participative Mapping Exercise



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ID	Category	Description	Notes
1	Improving Community Assets	Freswick Community Hall/Old School	Needs repair & refurbishment
2	Improving Community Assets	Caithness Amateur Radio Society	Club house & transmitting station. Improvement & maintenance of equipment & facilities and possible training. Open to any age group
3	Improving Community Assets	Freswick Harbour Improvements	Repair storm damage, general upkeep before it deteriorates.
4	Culture and Heritage	Huna Mill & drying kiln	Privately owned. Prince's Trust is keen to restore it and get it working again. Heritage project with visitor element. Ideally a connecting path to John o' Groats. Need to consider the wider associated landscape - mill pond, farming etc.
5	Culture and	Old Jetty,	Originally built for ferry to Orkney. St John's

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	Heritage		Point. Originally planned to build railway from Wick
6	Culture and Heritage	Old Millstone Quarry	Desire to open up as a historic site, needs access and interpretation. Still millstones left in situ
7	Improving Community Assets	New sports centre with all-weather pitch, Dunnet	Indoor and outdoor, ongoing discussions, purchased land recently, funding to implement
8-11	Improving our natural environment and access to it	Bridges over burns	Bridges in dunes area needed to cross several burns leading onto beach. Approx. 4 needed.
12	Improving Community Assets	Football Pitch	John o' Groats has an active football club and pitch needs improvement. An all-weather facility at Dunnet might be useful but a separate pitch at JOG is needed.
13	Improving Community Assets	Play Area, John O'Groats	Needs improvement
14	Improving Community Assets	Canisbay Village Hall Improvements	Hall needs improvement
15	Improving Community Assets	Play Area, Canisbay	Needs improvement
16	Improving Community Assets	Auckengill Hall	Needs improvement
17	Improving Community Assets	Dunnet Play park	Needs improvement
18	Improving our natural environment and access to it	Track to Beach	Existing access track to beach. Final section and car parking areas is on a croft, allows parking. Storm damage to the old anti-tank blocks and damaged track, will get worse. Needs improvement, possible improvements to the parking if crofter agrees
19	Improving our natural environment and access to it	All abilities path	Proposed new all abilities path, has already been funded but needs to be completed. Agreed with Landowner and Council. HC to deliver.
20	Improving our natural environment and access to it	Pavement along road from Huna Mill to John o' Groats junction	
21	Improving our	New footpath	Issues getting agreement from camping site

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	natural environment and access to it	along top of cliff	owner
22	Improving our natural environment and access to it	New Path	Desire line in place but worth building a formal route to link with proper path at the south end. Owner agreement issues
23	Improving our natural environment and access to it	New path	Extend existing path along desire line to complete circular walk
24	Improving our natural environment and access to it	Biodiversity improvements	Possible planting of <i>Primula scotica</i> on Keiss Links. Needs consideration of grazing levels as well.
25	Improving our natural environment and access to it	Biodiversity enhancement	Oyster plant reintroduction along the shoreline. Attempts made by the Caithness Biodiversity Committee. Possible seed bank at farm at Noss Head
26	Improving Community Assets	Reinstate Golf Course	Common grazings, more than happy for this, check location, need designer input.
27	Improving Community Assets	Brough Community Harbour	Seeking to provide improved protection from storms, launching facilities, car parking, events
28	Improving Community Assets	Brough Common Grazings	Possibly look at fencing common grazings with cattle grid to avoid cattle wandering into village
29	Cultural/Natural Heritage	Ham Mill and Surrounding Area	Old mill and harbour, souterrain, could develop access provision, interpretation, signage
30	Promoting enterprise and tourism	Gills Harbour Development	Desire to improve berthing facilities at the harbour and to deepen the harbour providing 24 hour all-tides access and berthing
31	Improving Community Assets	Dunnet Forest	Needs to be managed sustainably and access infrastructure needs to be maintained.



November 2015