

Lochalsh Collaborates

**BUILDING
A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR LOCHALSH**

Lochalsh Community Action Plan

Created by

The Lochalsh Collaboration
The Voice of Lochalsh

Led by Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust
supported by SCDC and SLCVO

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A photograph of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, there is a steep, grassy slope with some rocky patches. A narrow, light-colored path or stream bed runs down the slope. In the background, a large, rugged mountain peak rises against a clear blue sky. The peak is covered in green vegetation on its lower slopes and rocky outcrops on its upper sections.

**"This action plan
community's priorities
achievable goals
years. It provides
organisations and
work in partnership"**



an sets out our
priorities with clear,
s for the next ten
s a blueprint for
public services to
ip to deliver them."

Lochalsh Community Action Plan

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1 Our community action plan in 2 minutes

Lochalsh is an ambitious community of 2,600 people with seven community councils and seven community trusts, plus a range of hardworking community organisations. These organisations form part of the Lochalsh Collaboration which was formed in 2019 and which continues to guide the process of writing this Community Action Plan, led by Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust and funded by the Scottish Government.

The community was consulted through a survey in early 2021 which was delivered to every household. It received almost 600 responses which gave a clear picture of what is wanted to sustain the community now and into the future.

It recognises that priorities for additional support, facilities and activities need to be targeted to help:

- Children and families
- Young people – particularly those aged 16-30
- Those with health and mental health issues and disabilities
- Older people

To make it more sustainable, the community of Lochalsh sees the following as key priorities:

- Housing for sale and rent which is affordable for salaries in the area
- A wider range of year-round, well-paid employment opportunities
- A wider range of training, apprenticeship and learning opportunities
- Childcare available to allow parents to work and socialise
- A wider range of cultural, sporting and social facilities and activities for all ages with a particular emphasis for under 30s
- New facilities, trails and promotions to reduce the harmful impact of tourism and improve its contribution to the local economy

- Better social care and support to live fulfilling lives in the local area, especially for the elderly and those with disabilities
- Greater access to mental health support services for all ages, but particularly the under 30s
- Community transport schemes, better public transport and low carbon travel options
- Recycling options locally
- Access to local food, land for growing and promotion of local produce and businesses

The community of Lochalsh is willing to tackle a number of priorities itself and has already begun work to tackle some of these. But it also needs the active engagement of public agencies to help it to realise its ambitions to create a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable community.

It is now asking public agencies to engage with the Lochalsh Community Action Plan to plan how to work with us to deliver on its priorities and create a brighter future for Lochalsh.

2 Our dreams and hopes for Lochalsh: A vision of Lochalsh in 2032

Below is our vision for how we can transform our community in 10 years by working together. This is an ambitious vision and to achieve it we will all work hard, and in partnership with each other and with public agencies.

2.1 A better life in Lochalsh from the cradle to the grave

By using our own initiative and working with public agencies, we will have developed better infrastructure, services, economy and activities for everyone in our community:

- New parents
- Children and young people
- Families
- Under 30s
- Working adults
- Children and adults with disabilities or health or mental health issues
- Older people

2.2 How has life improved?

We will have:

- Better support for new parents
- New or better childcare options
- More activities and support for children and young people
- Our community has the housing, work and services we need to be

sustainable now and for future generations

- More options for secure and adequately paid work and training for everyone, especially younger people
- Our economy delivers work in secure sustainable jobs with a real living wage as a minimum standard
- More or enhanced sporting, cultural, heritage or arts facilities and activities
- More social housing, and more affordable housing particularly for families and under 30s
- Better day care for older people and those with disabilities
- Options to allow older people to continue living at home, or in residential care closer to their community
- More community trusts have taken over assets or developed social enterprises
- A community transport system
- More footpaths and cycleways connecting settlements
- We grow and produce more of our own food
- We value and care for our land and marine environment
- We recycle more locally
- We have improved tourism infrastructure to keep the tourism pound longer in the area, providing better quality jobs
- We have more campervan facilities to reduce waste and litter

Better public services will mean that:

- Lochalsh is an area with an improved visibility for public agencies who recognise its distinctive needs
- Public agencies are aware of hidden disadvantages in Lochalsh and improve access to their services
- Organisations have a track record of working imaginatively and in partnership and their contribution is recognised and valued by public agencies
- Public agencies respond when the community raises issues and work in partnership with Lochalsh organisations to meet the challenges faced in the area

3 Why are we writing this community action plan?

We know that Lochalsh is a fantastic place to live and that we are lucky to be able to enjoy its beauty, sense of community, history, culture and its superb natural environment. Our community has a unique perspective and many positive and creative ideas to make life better in Lochalsh.

We also know that not everything in the area is as positive and much needs to improve to give the best opportunities to individuals and communities to thrive.

Our action plan is solidly rooted in what local people, families, communities and representative groups have told us matters to them. Our connection with people during the pandemic, combined with our very well-supported community survey and our local engagement events have added to that knowledge.

What our community wants action on is very clear, ambitious and well thought-through. This Lochalsh Community Action Plan is a call to action to public agencies, national, regional and local organisations and to individuals. We will use the plan to work together to make Lochalsh a better place where we can fulfil our potential, as individuals and communities, building a sustainable economy, learning, educating, caring for vulnerable members and looking after our precious landscape, environment, culture, heritage and sporting traditions

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How our plan will influence change



The People

Expressing our views on the issues that matter

Through many voices of local people

And community organisations who know our towns and villages



The Plan

A careful assessment of local needs

Based on evidence from statistical data and local dialogue

Organised in a systematic plan for local action



The Policy

How government & services should:

- Support independent community action
- Work with us to agree what should be changed
- And in partnership to make this change happen



In Practice

Our plan should:

- Be central to Locality Planning in Lochalsh
- Make services work with us to realise our ambitions for Lochalsh
- Improve the lives of local people

An ongoing dialogue with our communities, services and community planning partners
Leading to local funding bids for projects and services
With joint work with communities and staff to make public services better
Where success is determined by communities themselves

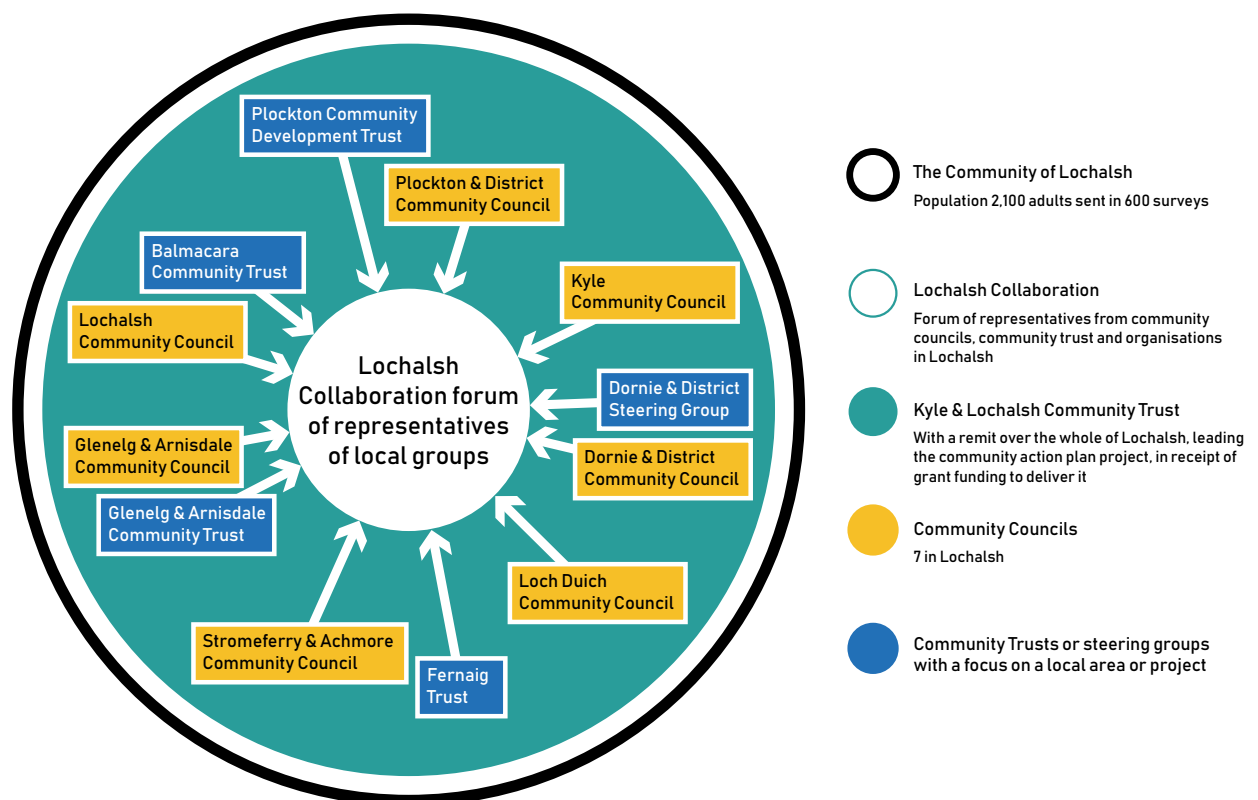
4 How have we got here?

Lochalsh is a dispersed rural area in South West Ross with a population of around 2,600 people, living in 10 larger settlements and a number of smaller settlements, crofting townships and scattered houses. It has a dramatic and highly valued landscape, indented by long sea lochs and with a very long coastline as well as many notable mountains. Lochalsh was previously part of the Highland Council administrative area of Skye & Lochalsh but is now in Ward 5: Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh which is the largest council ward in the UK.

For more information, see the [Profile of Lochalsh](#)

4.1 What is the Lochalsh Collaboration?

The Lochalsh Collaboration is a forum made up of representatives of the seven community councils, six community trusts and is open to any other organisation in Lochalsh that wishes to send a representative. Lochalsh Collaboration has no formal legal structure and meets monthly, chaired by the chair of KLCT. It concentrated only on the Covid community response for six months in 2019 but since then has been working on the Lochalsh Collaborates project. For more information on how the Lochalsh Collaboration was set up, see the working agreement from June 2019 in appendix 2.



4.2 How have we done it?

In 2019, KLCT was awarded funding from the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund, to run the project from April 2019 to July 2022. A community development officer was appointed to coordinate the project, to find out the priorities of the community and work with the community, through the Lochalsh Collaboration, to write a community action plan. Advice, mentoring and other support is also provided by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) and Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO).

4.3 Keeping our community involved

Many different methods are being used to keep the community informed and involved:

- A community newsletter with lots of information about the project
- Media coverage
- Virtual events in local areas to discuss priorities
- A Window Wonderland festival in 2020 on the theme of the community survey
- Leaflets, posters, banners
- A 34-question survey delivered to each household and available online
- A short film explaining about the community survey and action plan
- An art project in Plockton High School which produced a 'Zine and a short film about the project
- Newsletter and media coverage about the projects being developed by local organisations

This communication campaign resulted in excellent engagement in the community survey:

- Almost 600 people returned a completed survey
- This represents approximately 30% of the adult population
- Responses included almost 4,000 free text comments
- 40 under 30s took part in a dedicated survey designed by SLCVO

It took a lot of effort to gather these views, especially during the pandemic, but it has helped us to set an agenda for regeneration based on meeting the needs identified by our community. Now the KLCT, the members of Lochalsh Collaboration, and any other groups and individuals who are ready to join us, have the evidence and insights of those who live here, with which to drive change.

[Access the full report into the survey results and a shortened report highlighting the top 10 priorities](#)

5 How will we use the Lochalsh Community Action Plan?

Our community action plan is a dynamic document. We will continue to rewrite, review, add to and change it as our aspirations are achieved, new priorities emerge or the needs of our community change.

As well as setting an agenda for regeneration and action for the next 10 years, the evidence gathered to produce the plan is already being used to galvanise action to address priorities.

It will be used by:

Lochalsh organisations and those that work in Lochalsh to:

- Help local community trusts, community councils and other organisations to plan their programme of work in line with the priorities identified by the community
- Provide evidence for devising projects and applying for funding
- Encourage local organisations to work in partnership on projects

Public agencies, to:

- Raise the profile of Lochalsh within their organisational thinking and planning
- Provide clear evidence of the aspirations and needs of the Lochalsh community
- Encourage partnership-working between public agencies and with local organisations, to address priorities

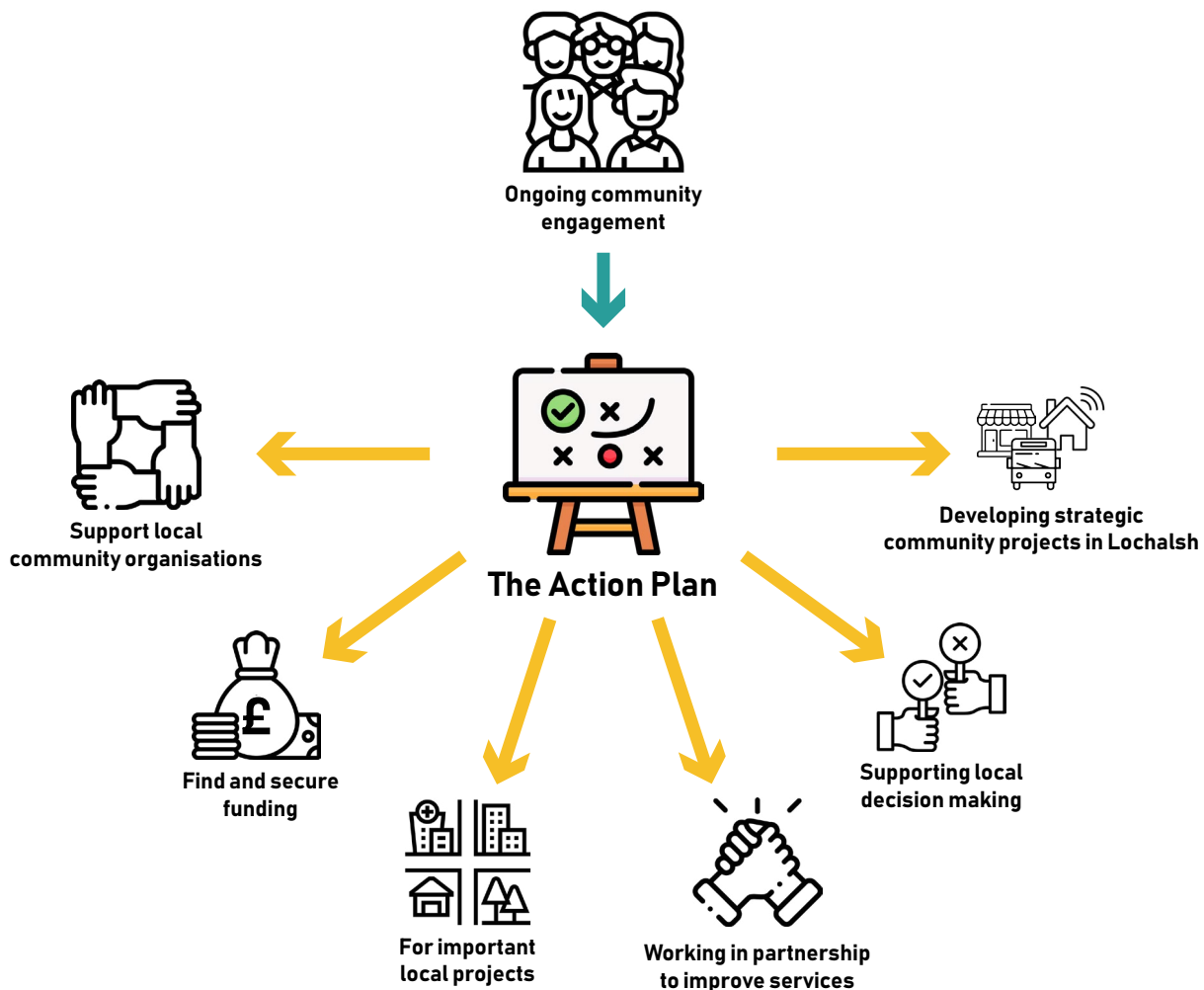
6 Organisations already taking action to address priorities:

- KLCT has used the evidence gathered in the community survey to source new funding to:
 - Buy a new electric minibus to develop a community transport scheme
 - Appoint a Lochalsh Loves Local coordinator for the community transport and an active travel scheme, as well as to promote local purchasing from retail and hospitality businesses
 - Appoint a new Community Grower to work with community groups and in schools and deliver a series of growing workshops
 - Secure a premises for a new Reuse shop and a permanent home for the Community Fridge
- Dornie Community Council and a newly set up steering group have sourced Stage 1 funding from the Scottish Land Fund to investigate buying and taking over their village shop and post office which closed in February 2022 and possibly adding toilets, showers and a laundrette. Their consultant is using the survey data
- Dornie Projects Group has sourced initial funding from HIE to

investigate developing moorings and a pontoon at the old slipway and their consultants are using the survey data

- Plockton Community Development Trust was set up in July 2020 and is working on purchasing the Old Post Office from the National Trust for Scotland as a community space. They have secured funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund to do a feasibility study and are preparing a bid through the Land Reform Act to register an interest in the asset, leading to purchase
- Glenelg & Arnsdale Development Trust is working on a range of projects, including continuing to deliver community broadband, developing a playground, EV charging points, purchasing ground for community facilities, investigating a community bus and cycle/pathways
- Balmacara Hall Community Committee was set up in June 2020 to look at restoring the Old Mill Hall into a community space. It has completed a Community Consultation, a full Feasibility Study and Business Planning with the Impact Hub alongside outline design with grant support from the Architectural Heritage Fund. Subsequently, Balmacara Community Trust was set up in July 2021 and took ownership of the Hall on the 18th February 2022. The outline design is now being developed with a second AHF grant.

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7 What gives us the right to ask for action?

It is now firmly recognised that our public services deliver much better results and are more cost effective when we listen to those using services. This improves their design, targeting and helps us know they make a difference in people's lives. This principle is well embedded in how Scotland tries to plan services, though it still very much a work in progress.

When we applied for the funding to develop and implement this plan, the senior official from HIE responsible for Community Planning in Lochalsh endorsed our bid to deliver community led planning. He said,

"...the proposed consultation in the name of the Lochalsh Collaboration has the potential to provide valuable intelligence to help inform the work of the Community Planning Partnership, and in particular to assist in shaping the Locality Plan. I am sure that many of the individual members of the partnership, such as HIE, would also find this a useful exercise. You are quite right to have identified that the CPP does not have any resources available to commission such detailed work at its own hand.

"Therefore, on behalf both of the Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross CPPs and HIE, I would be supportive of your taking forward a bid to the Investing in Communities Fund."

Our work to produce this plan is in tune with the legal duties and policy commitments which support community involvement and participation, which are described in Appendix 1.

Key legislation like the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, give us rights to participation and influence over land, buildings and how services work. Democratic initiatives such as Citizens Assemblies or more say in how services are developed and run in the places where we live, are embedded in Scotland's laws and what government wants local communities like ours to be able to influence or control.

These policy and planning approaches must also help deliver fairness and equality to Scotland's citizens, including rural and remote rural communities like ours. These ideas are not just words but part of the legal framework of rights, duties and responsibilities in Scots law and some communities are now exploring how they can use the law to ensure they are delivered.

Of course, just writing and publishing this plan doesn't guarantee that the changes we ask for will all be implemented when we want them to be. Resources are scarce and competition for change is great but it's the communities who make a reasoned, well-argued case for investment based on evidence, who will be most likely to convince decision makers.

Our work is supported by local councillors, but we know we will need to develop proposals, position these effectively when funds are available, lobby, negotiate and campaign as citizens of Lochalsh and with others in the Highlands and other parts of Scotland to achieve what we want.

Support for our plan in policy and legislation

It is often a struggle for communities to have their needs recognized. But we do have many laws and policies on our side. Our plan is a systematic and thorough exploration of needs and conditions in Lochalsh in response to our rights to be heard in Scots law. We will use the logic of our arguments to achieve what we want. While keeping conversations going about this locally.

We believe it is communities who make a reasoned case for investment based on sound evidence of priorities, who can attract independent funding and exert influence on decision makers. We have the evidence to do this and the links below provide straightforward explanations of the laws and policies which mean our communities must be listened to.

Legal and policy commitments

11 years ago the Christie Commission, argued that public services deliver better, more cost effective, results if we listen to people about how to improve their impact on people's lives. The government now call this idea the Scottish Approach to services.

The links below show where these empowerment ideas are embedded in legislation like:

- The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2016 . We want our plan to be recognized as a Locality Plan under Part Two of the Act
- The Planning Act Scotland 2019 creates a right for communities to request Local Place Plans we intend our Lochalsh action plan to help communities who want to use this mechanism to influence local planning.
- Community engagement duties in the Children & Young Peoples Act 2014, and new guidance on community participation for Health and social Care partners Act. Also create rights for our views on these issues to be heard.

All of these place duties on public agencies to involve communities in decision making with National Standards for Community Engagement to regulate engagement.

At the same time, new initiatives involving citizens in policy like the Citizens Assembly for Scotland and Scotland's Citizens Assembly on Climate Change are bringing ordinary citizens into policy making. There is also a national conversation on changing the nature of local decision making through the Democracy Matters initiative. For a Gaelic version [click here](#).

More recently, services are expected to involve communities in shaping the places that people want to live in by implementing the Government Place Principle. Increasingly, all of these are influenced by the:

- the Equality Act 2010 & its Fairer Scotland Duty
- Scottish Human Rights Action Plan

These matter as they can affect how other laws are interpreted to deliver fairness and equality, including in rural and remote rural communities like ours.



From the cradle to the grave

**What needs to change in
Lochalsh, and how will we
change it?**



8 From the cradle to the grave

What needs to change in Lochalsh, and how will we change it?

The tables below describe our thinking on how the needs identified in our plan can be addressed.

The detail of the plan is subject to discussion and negotiation with communities themselves, partners organisations in public services and the third sector.

This action plan is a live document which will evolve and change as we take action or new priorities emerge.

We are well aware that public finances are under pressure and that services have existing priorities. What these proposals bring is the voice of the community in 2021/2022 on local need and priorities. What we are proposing are specific ideas for action that respond to what the community has said.

Our approach to what could or should be done is built around the questions below:

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- What should we do to help communities build capacity to develop their projects and facilities to meet their own needs?
- Is there more information we (public agencies and local organisations) need to gather from communities or service users to improve services, facilities and infrastructure?
- How do we ensure our community's voice is listened to, and continues to be listened to by public agencies, where communities have rights to be involved?
- How do we support local groups and interested partners to learn the communication or negotiation skills needed to influence decision-making?
- How do we ensure that all the partners work together to make improvements to infrastructure, facilities and services, that address the opportunities and challenges raised in our plan?



9 Localsh Community Plan for Action

Nurturing the next generation

Children, youth, families and new parents

Our children are the next generation and need access to a range of opportunities and activities to fulfil their potential. Their parents are nurturing the next generation while trying to earn an income and contribute to community life. Support for parents and children in Lochalsh will focus on allowing children, parents and families or the economy to achieve their full potential.

What needs to change?	What action?	Who will take action?	When?	Challenges	Beneficiaries
Support and advice for expectant and new parents to reduce isolation and better prepare people for parenthood	Start or improve access to antenatal and new parent classes	The NHS	2022	Covid 19 (set up virtual or phone classes)	Expectant parents Children
	Set up a befriending or mentoring group with more experienced parents	NHS/other public agency or national / regional 3rd sector? Or would an existing group, trust or social enterprise consider setting up a befriending group?	2022-23	Capacity Funding	Families The community
Better child-care options – work and social hours	Set up better childcare options for pre-school	A consortium of public agencies and local organisations interested in childcare and/ or a parent-led new development similar to Fàs Mòr in Sabhal Mor Ostaig	2023 onwards	Premises	Parents
	Develop more after-school childcare for primary+ in consultation with parents			Funding	Children
	Develop more provision for under 3s	Engage with Highland Council, HTSI, children's and young people's services planning partners		Capacity	The local economy
	Develop after school and holiday options			Transport Funding/costs Workforce gaps Bureaucratic procedure eg rules for registering as a childminder	Local businesses
Opportunities to learn new skills, develop new interests and meet peers outside school	After school activities for all children and youth age group	Highlife Highland Active Schools programme Cala childcare Highland Council HTSI Community trusts	By end of 2023	Funding	Children
	Reinstated, improved or new playgrounds. Develop forest schools	Local clubs and providers		Transport and access	Parents & families
	Increase recreational, cultural + sporting activities for children + young people			Capacity	
	Organise transport for all of the above			Costs to parents/sustaining demand	

Valuing our younger generation

Under 30s

Our under 30s responded very differently in the community survey to other age groups, which indicates that they feel under-supported by their communities or by public services. They show a particular need for much better mental health services.

There will be better opportunities in training, education, employment, social and cultural activities and targeted help to access housing to encourage them to fulfil their potential and to prevent them from deciding to leave Lochalsh.

What needs to change?	What action?	Who will take action?	When?	Challenges	Beneficiaries
Affordable housing for rent or purchase for under 30s	Housing specially targeted for under 30s	LHSA Communities Housing Trust KLCT?	2022-2032	Availability of land Criteria for housing allocations by housing bodies Continuation of funding	Under 30s The local community The local economy Local businesses
A better range of training opportunities locally	Call for an audit of training options	UHI West Highland College HIE Local businesses KLCT? Job Centre plus/DWP Highland Council/ Highlife Highland adult learning staff	2022-2023	Capacity Lack of partnership or joined-up working	Under 30s The local community The local economy Local businesses
	Support development of more training options		Ongoing till 2032		
More fulfilling, better paid, year-round employment opportunities for under 30s	Encourage relocation of public sector jobs and services to Lochalsh + support remote working	Scottish Government Highland Council HIE Other public sectors	Ongoing till 2032	Business capacity Public sector capacity Public sector policies	Under 30s The local community The local economy Local businesses
	Promotion to businesses about how to set up apprenticeships	Local businesses KLCT? Job Centre plus/DWP Highland Council HERO scheme	Ongoing till 2032		
	Creation of new businesses, support and advice for entrepreneurs		Ongoing till 2032		
	Start-up business premises targeted at under 30s/new entrepreneurs		Ongoing till 2032		

What needs to change?	What action?	Who will take action?	When?	Challenges	Beneficiaries
More social and leisure activities for under 30s	Mapping what facilities and activities are available for under 30s	Highland Council Highlife Highland	By April 23	Funding Public agency capacity Community capacity	The community The local Economy and tourism
	Call on public agencies to review what they offer for under 30s	SLCVO KLCT & other community trusts	By April 23		
	Support from public agencies to communities to build on engagement and develop local services or facilities for under 30s	Sports & Cultural groups Funders	Ongoing		
Much better mental health support for under 30s	Input to the development of a Lochalsh-specific Social Care Plan and Childcare Plan	NHS Highland Council SLCVO	2022/23	Funding Public agency capacity Community capacity	
	Engage with NHS and Highland Council to share the survey results	HIE CPP staff Mental health charities?	23/24		
	Support and contribute to the development of dedicated mental health support for under 30s	Highland Childcare Partnership Current & potential service users, parents, carers and community Funders	Ongoing		

Achieving our full economic potential

Working adults, housing, business, employment and tourism

The lack of a wider range of employment and training opportunities and the lack of support and premises for entrepreneurs means that Lochalsh is failing to achieve its economic potential. For some, the low pay and seasonal nature of tourism jobs means that they are finding it increasingly difficult to earn sufficient income or access housing, the price of which is being fuelled by buoyant tourism. As a result the area is losing families and young people. Many recognise that tourism is providing important income, that there is a need to keep tourists longer in the area and provide a better quality of 'slow tourism' alongside developing non-tourism related employment opportunities

What needs to change?	What action?	Who will take action?	When?	Challenges	Beneficiaries
Large increase in availability of rented accommodation	- Develop new social housing projects throughout Lochalsh with a range of options - self-build, shared equity, rented, cooperative housing and new crofts	LSHA Communities Housing Trust	Ongoing	Land availability Land costs Cost of building	Families + children Individuals The community
An increased range of affordable housing options and land available for self-builds	- Lobby government for better controls on housing for tourism	The Scottish Government Community trusts	Self-build plots and/or new crofts available from 2023-2024	Availability of builders Increasing impact of the tourism pound on housing	Business The economy
Improvement to the housing stock to reduce fuel poverty	A new programme to insulate and improve the thermal properties of windows and doors and install more affordable heating systems	The Scottish Government Highland Council Climate change and zero waste national/regional organisations Community trusts if funding available	2022 onwards	Political will Funding availability	Individuals + households Climate change/the environment The community
A wider range of year-round/employment opportunities A wider range of vocational training and apprenticeships	Better support for business including: - Increased availability of business premises including for startups - An area-wide promotion/selling platform – or partnering with isles. 20 to include rural mainland areas - Increased business-oriented training and apprenticeships (including more advice for business)	HIE Scottish Government West Highland College Local businesses	2022 onwards	Business capacity Public agency capacity	Working adults The economy Businesses

What needs to change?	What action?	Who will take action?	When?	Challenges	Beneficiaries
An increase in high quality tourism facilities and infrastructure to keep the tourism pound longer in Lochalsh and develop sustainable tourism	New tourism facilities, trails or schemes to promote the area as a destination of choice	Local businesses Community trusts HIE Scottish Government	2022 onwards	Funding Capacity	Tourism The local economy The local community
An increase in the number of 24/7 public toilet facilities and signage to reduce the environmental impact of tourism	Public toilets available and well signposted throughout Lochalsh	Highland Council Funders Village halls and community trusts	2022 onwards	Funding Capacity	Tourism The local environment The local community

Sustainability, environment and climate resilience

Transport, local food, composting and waste recycling, the environment and landscape

The Lochalsh community recognises the need to become more sustainable and resilient. Its unique landscape and environment is highly valued. There is a need: for better and safer transport routes between settlements using foot and cycle paths, community transport and improved public transport; to grow more food and buy more locally produced food; to recycle more locally and reduce waste on land and sea.

It is recognised that climate change will have a significant impact on the coastal communities and arterial roads in Lochalsh. Planning is needed at a national, regional and local level to prepare for the impact. This plan recognises the severity of the impact, and the urgency to take action, but given the scale of the problem, asks the Scottish Government and public agencies to lead on this.

What needs to change?	What action?	Who will take action?	When?	Challenges	Beneficiaries
Lochalsh needs more locally available recycling facilities	Develop a range of new recycling and reuse option for Lochalsh including:	Highland Council – Performance and Resources (Access Rangers and Amenity Officers)	In 22/23	Capacity of public agencies and local organisations	The environment The Nation The community The economy Tourism
Action taken to tackle litter and fly-tipping	A council initiative – either a satellite recycling centre or a new pick-up service	Community councils Community trusts Marine Scotland Fish farm companies	22/23		
	Action on fly-tipping when reported A re-use shop Community composting Improved bins in villages	Crown Estates Fundors	22/23		
Action on marine pollution	A commitment by marine industries to reduce plastic waste into the sea		23/24		
	More community beach cleans – supported by marine industries		Ongoing		

What needs to change?	What action?	Who will take action?	When?	Challenges	Beneficiaries
More low carbon transport options developed and which also address fuel poverty	Develop a strategy for sustainable transport in partnership between public agencies and local organisations	Private landowners Rail and bus companies Community trusts	22-23	Capacity Funding Access rights over land	The environment The community The economy
	Improve public transport timetables	Community councils Fundors	22		
	Develop a transport scheme using KLCT's electric 9-seater		23		
	Assess its impact and develop further		22-23		
	Existing foot and cycle ways promoted Routes for new foot and cycle ways investigated		22-23		
Safer better roads and footways	Speed restrictions, better signage, safer access, wider footways etc	Transport Scotland & Bear Scotland (Trunk roads) Highland Council (other roads)	2023 onwards	Persuading public agencies Cost Capacity	The Community Pedestrians School Children Tourism
More access to land for growing, woodland, land-based activities and housing	Develop new community growing schemes Set up new crofts Set up new allotment schemes Consider community ownership of land for more local stewardship of assets	National Trust for Scotland Forest Land Scotland Private landowners Community Land Fund Community trusts The Crofting Commission	2022	Availability of land capacity of community trusts to acquire land Willingness of landowners to release land	The community The environment The economy

Bringing joy and richness to life

Social and leisure facilities and activities

Lochalsh has a rich culture, heritage, sporting traditions and a strong arts and crafts community. Involvement in these activities brings a wide range of social, health and mental health and economic benefits for individuals and communities. However, Lochalsh has a very limited range of social, cultural, sporting and heritage facilities and activities and many of them established through community effort rather than provided by public agencies.

What needs to change?	What action?	Who will take action?	When?	Challenges	Beneficiaries
More and better sporting facilities and activities	More affordable access to the all-weather pitch in Plockton A new club house at the Reraig shinty pitch Increased sporting facilities in other areas Increased sporting activities including out of school sessions	Highland Council Highlife Highland Kinlochsheil Shinty Club Sporting clubs and associations Community trusts Community councils	2022 onwards	Funding Capacity Public agency commitment	The community Tourism
Collection and promotion of local heritage and Gaelic culture	A heritage trail to promote important sites A new heritage visitor centre Local stories, songs and poetry collected and promoted	HIE Highland Council Bòrd na Gàidhlig Funders KLCT/other trusts	2023	Funding Capacity	The community Tourism The Nation
A wider range of cultural facilities and activities	Reopening of the library in Kyle A new cultural centre for Lochalsh Increased support for village halls to organise activities	Highland Council KLCT, other trusts HIE/Highland Council/ Creative Scotland?	2022 onwards	Capacity Funding	The community Tourism

Caring for more vulnerable community members - support and dignity for all our community members

Health, mental health, disabilities and social care

These are crucial services and gaps in provision have a considerable negative impact on people's lives and those of their families and carers. Such lifeline services need to be easily accessible to all, as locally as possible.

The needs of those with protected characteristics will be built into the development and implementation of any plan.

What needs to change?	What action?	Who will take action?	When?	Challenges	Beneficiaries
Improve access to health care across all the weakest areas of service	Greatly improved access to mental health services	NHS	2022 on-wards	Funding Capacity Political will & centralised culture of relevant public agencies	All, especially those with health and mental health needs The community
	More local access to clinics to reduce the need to travel to Inverness	NHS KLCT or other community trust community transport scheme?			
	A CT scanner in Broadford Hospital	NHS			
	Improved access to dental care	NHS, Private practices			
	Improved access to all health services for those who are cared for by family members	NHS			
Improve access to social care for all	Better access to home care	Highland Council Crossroads Care	2022 on-wards	Funding Capacity Political will & centralised culture of relevant public agencies	All, especially those with social care needs and their carers The community
	Home carers are given more time with clients	Other charities or businesses			
	Better access to day care or targeted activities				
	Better support and targeted activities for children and adults with disabilities				
	The needs of those with protected characteristics are consulted on and action taken to address them				

Who will do what?

Public Agencies

Theme	Action	When?	Other partners
The Community Planning Partnership			
Recognition of the status of our Community Action Plan	Lochalsh Collaboration should be recognised as an important contributor and partner in the local CCP.	By June 22	Marine Scotland Visit Scotland Forest & Land Scotland
	The CPP invites the Lochalsh Collaboration to present its plan CPP and individual members adopt the Lochalsh Local Action Plan as a basis for a Locality plan for the area under the terms of Part two of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2016 and use it to guide decisions that affect Lochalsh	By Sept 22	
	The CPP works with the Lochalsh Collaboration to regularly review and implement common priorities	Ongoing	
NHS Highland			
Support for expectant and new parents			
Mental health services			
Outpatient clinics locally			
New equipment in Broadford Hospital to reduce need to travel to Inverness			
Day care facilities for the elderly etc available in Lochalsh	Open Airdferry Resource Centre Extend services to other areas e.g. using village halls	May 2022	Village halls and other community spaces

Theme	Action	When?	Other partners
Highland Council			
Housing			
Nursery provision			
Home care, respite and residential care for the elderly and those with disabilities available locally			
Road infrastructure of non-trunk roads – repairs, laybys, ditches			
Improved parking in key hotspots	Priorities: Kyle and Plockton		
Campervan impact management	Ranger service Litter and waste management Support funding applications from local trusts and organisations		
Tourism facilities	Improve road signage Support funding applications from local trusts and organisations		
Sports, cultural + leisure facilities and activities	Reopen Kyle Library Reduce charges at Plockton all-weather pitch for local organisations Develop new or support expansion of sports and cultural facilities Support funding applications from local trusts and organisations		

Housing associations & trusts

Improving availability of social housing in Lochalsh, identifying land and developing housing projects throughout Lochalsh

Theme	Action	When?	Other partners
Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association			
Social housing	Develop Plockton & other sites	Ongoing	
Communities Housing Trust			
Social housing and self-build	Develop plans for the Balmacara and Ratagan (or other) sites	22-24	
HIE			
Community enterprise	Support community trusts developing new enterprises + acquiring assets Support KLCT to continue its work with the Lochalsh Collaboration + projects	Ongoing	Community trusts/organisations NTS FLS Highland Council
Business/the economy	Business advice Business start-up units	Ongoing	
Forest Land Scotland			
Access & paths	Maintain existing and develop new paths particularly those linking settlements	Ongoing	NTS KLCT + community trusts
Access to land for housing and development	Support community asset transfers	2022 onwards	Housing bodies KLCT + community trusts
Access to land for forest crofts	Support community asset transfers	2022 onwards	KLCT and community trusts
NTS			
Access paths	Maintain existing and develop new paths Work with partners to develop new paths linking settlements	Ongoing	Community trusts/organisations FLS Highland Council
Access to land for housing, growing and enterprise	Consider releasing land for social housing and business units and lease of land for community or individual growing (non-crofting)	Ongoing	Housing bodies Community trusts
Crofting	Support active crofting Consider creating new crofts	Ongoing	Grazing committees The Crofting Commission

Theme	Action	When?	Other partners
Community trusts and other organisations			
Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust	Community assets, facilities and activities (The Plock, forest school, pontoons, community shed, toilets, laundrette)	Ongoing	Funders Volunteers
	Community transport and active travel/zero-carbon routes (community bus and cycle + footpaths)	2022-23 + ongoing if more funding secured	NTS Wester Ross Biosphere
	Community food + waste reduction (Community fridge and recycle shop)	2022 onwards	Volunteers Funders Growers
	Community growing + composting	2022 onwards	Auchtertyre Community Garden
	Housing (partnership project) New cultural/community and heritage space/visitor attraction	2022 onwards Ongoing	Communities Housing Trust Funders
	Investigate acquiring Balmacara old camp site through a Community Asset Transfer from Forest Land Scotland. To be developed as a mixed-use site promoting sustainable living with community growing/food production, community composting, more footpaths, housing, campervan/camping site, outdoor learning + other ideas from community consultation.	2022 onwards	Forest Land Scotland Communities Housing Trust Funders Balmacara Community Trust Lochalsh Community Council West Coast Owl Other community groups
Plockton & District Community Trust	The Old Post Office buyout	2022-23	NTS Scottish Land Fund
	Create a local telephone directory	2022	The community
Fernaig Trust	Braeintral allotments and smallholdings	Already set up	Community organisations
	Footpath along Abhainn Strath Ascaig	Already created	
Fernaig Trust or other organisation	Develop a footpath from Achmore to Strome ferry using the route of an existing historic path	Suggested at the Virtual Roadshow in 2021	Volunteers Funders

Theme	Action	When?	Other partners
Community trusts and other organisations (cont)			
CMNet CIC Stromeferry & Achmore Community Broadband	Delivering broadband to households and businesses in the area	Already set up and expanding the network	Volunteers
Glenelg & Arnisdale Community Trust (GADT)	Electric car charging points for Glenelg and Arnisdale	Hopefully in place by the end of 2022	Volunteers Funders
	Phase 2 of the play park Purchase of land, as a mixed-use site for community benefit including: allotments, GADT office and K2gb (community broadband) storage, individual business space, possibility of affordable/sheltered housing, camping site	Hopefully in place by end of 2022 Ongoing	Funders Volunteers The community Funders Volunteers The community
	Cycle/footpaths - this was brought up at the virtual roadshow	Ongoing	Volunteers The community Funders
	Community owned transport with their own minibus, for individuals and community organisations	Ongoing	Volunteers The community Funders
Balmacara Community Trust	Development of the Old Mill Hall	Ongoing	Funders The community Impact Hub MAAC Studio
Dornie Community Steering Group/Trust & Community Council	Dornie Village Shop & Post Office	Ongoing	HIE Community Assets unit
Dornie Moorings Association	Pontoons, laundrette	In research phase	HIE Community Assets unit
Kinlochshiel Shinty Club	Development of a club house at the Reraig pitch	Ongoing	Funders
Auchtertyre Community Garden	Continue to develop the community garden	Ongoing	KLCT Inspiring Scotland
Lochalsh Community Council	Regular beach cleans	Ongoing	Highland Council
Kyle Community Council	Kyle spruce-up to keep Kyle looking smart and tidy	Ongoing on an annual basis	Volunteers Highland Council

10 How will we work with public agencies?

We want our action plan to be taken seriously as a robust and considered source of local need assessment data, considered opinions, views on priorities and with influence over how resources are used locally.

To make sure that this happens we are proposing that the action plan is used as a basis for:

- A recognized locality planning approach for the Lochalsh area, similar to that being implemented by the Community Planning Partnership in other areas such as Wester Ross.
- Detailed consideration of the plan by local community planning partners with connections made to CPP Local Outcome Improvement Plan implementation for the areas.
- Creating links to other plans which require agencies to consult and engage communities. These include those for Health and Social care, Children and Young people services, or physical and economic regeneration. These should be made with the views of the people of Lochalsh as expressed in our plan playing a major part in their development, review and implementation.
- Generating ideas for projects, service investment or further local collaborative planning.
- Ensuring that the issues raised in the plan about individual service areas lead to dialogue between the Lochalsh Collaboration, local groups and service users for the purpose of improving access to, or operation of, individual services or exploring the development of new ones. This should be based on constructive dialogue and the principles of co-production.

11 How will public agencies work with us?

It is not just the community who need to own the plan. Its success requires detailed support from public agencies, funders and elected members if it is to succeed. These partners need to play a role in delivering the actions we have identified in the plan in line with the principles of community empowerment, place-making, and many others. That means that we need a process which recognises the importance of this plan and the clear priorities and aspirations of our community. In our case, we have already agreed with the lead agency for community planning that this can be done.

12 How will we achieve our goals, and track progress?

Our plan reflects a wealth of local opinion and analysis from individuals and groups with great ideas about how to sustain and improve our area.

We have secured extended funding for our development officer until March 2023 and will continue to seek funding to continue the work to address community priorities.

Our current plan is for a ten-year period, and we are identifying potential partners from communities, and service providers willing to work together to deliver it. We will be keeping a firm eye on progress to make sure that we are doing what we said we would do and that the public services are playing their part in achieving our aims.

This is a dynamic plan which needs to change as priorities are achieved or new priorities emerge. We will review our progress to address priorities and rewrite priorities as needed at regular intervals during the life of the plan. The Lochalsh Collaboration will lead this review process.

Getting to this stage has involved a huge effort to involve the community in dialogue, at a time when, due to the pandemic, many thought this would be impossible. A key principle of our plan is to continue this dialogue through a range of means including:

- Ongoing discussion within the membership of the Lochalsh Collaboration
- Discussions with local people about how we can implement the plan and how they can be involved in that
- Encouraging as many community and citizen-led organisations and service networks as possible to be part of the dialogue as the plan is implemented and its impact evaluated

We aim to review progress against our aims every year with a wider public engagement exercise every two years.

13 Why we need to act now

We are very aware of the opportunities we highlight in our Community Action Plan and what we could achieve as individuals and as a community. But we are equally aware of the threats facing our community which drive us to take action.

a. Our younger generations

We know that our under-30s feel strongly that they are under-supported when it comes to opportunities for accessing training, well-paid and secure employment, housing, social activities and mental health support. Many young people and some families leave the area, and many more who want to return or settle here can't do so. This results in increasingly elderly communities and depressed school roles, as well as a negative impact on the economy, community activities and the size of the workforce.

b. Our economy

We know that individuals and organisations in Lochalsh have ambitions and visions for new businesses, new projects and new facilities and services. But we also know that in many communities within Lochalsh there are numbers of people struggling with low incomes, precarious seasonal work, difficulties in accessing housing, lack of childcare which depresses economic activity, business ventures that are constrained by lack of premises, support or promotion and unrealized entrepreneurial concepts.

c. Our health and wellbeing

We know that some people have considerable difficulty in accessing social care, mental health support and some health services as well as experiencing very poor local transport options and few social, cultural and sporting facilities and activities, all of which have a serious impact in people's ability to live their lives to the full.

d. The impact of tourism

We know that tourism has serious impacts on the environment, the road infrastructure, on the availability and affordability of housing and results in seasonal employment. We think that for many tourists, Lochalsh is just a route through to Skye and the Western Isles, rather than a place to linger, resulting in more negative impact and fewer economic benefits for Lochalsh. We need to find ways to make tourism more sustainable and provide better quality experiences and incomes for the local community – as well as tourists – and develop new economic opportunities to improve employment options for the Lochalsh working population.

e. The impact of climate change

Many settlements are positioned on the area's long coastline and the main arterial roads run along the coast. Coupled with fragile land and marine ecosystems, we are all too aware that communities and biodiversity in Lochalsh will be severely impacted by climate change and rising sea levels. While we are doing what we can at a local level, we need radical and urgent solutions to be developed at a regional, national and global level to address this to prevent devastation of coastal communities such as those in Lochalsh.

14 Why Lochalsh matters – locally and nationally

Gaelic, culture, heritage

The community of Lochalsh is providing stewardship of important cultural and heritage skills, knowledge and sites including shinty, a unique Gaelic dialect, a rich body of stories, placenames, songs, history and iconic heritage sites.

Landscape, environment, biodiversity

The community of Lochalsh helps to maintain and manage our outstanding landscape, environment and biodiversity. Our community provides volunteer mountain rescue teams, path maintenance and development by organisations and volunteers, land and forest management by organisations, crofters, farmers, foresters and landowners and action on land and marine biodiversity management and loss by groups and volunteers.

Tourism, visitor experiences

The community of Lochalsh provides high quality tourist experiences, facilities and accommodation to help to support the tourism industry which is so highly valued at a national level and to develop a showcase sustainable 'slow tourism' model.

So, making sure our communities are sustainable long into the future is vital to enable us to continue our stewardship of our culture, heritage, economy and unique landscape, biodiversity and environment for the area and for the nation.

Community Action Plan

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR LOCHALSH



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Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust is a registered company and charity,
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