

# HIGHLAND LEADER 2007-2013



## DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR CAITHNESS



## **CONTENTS**

### **1 LEADER PROGRAMME 2007-13 AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES**

### **2 CHARACTERISTICS OF CAITHNESS**

- 2.1 Geography
- 2.2 Demographics
- 2.3 Employment
- 2.4 Deprivation
- 2.5 Regeneration and the Caithness economy
- 2.6 The voluntary sector in Caithness
- 2.7 Access to services

### **3 THE CAITHNESS PARTNERSHIP**

- 3.1 The community planning role of the Partnership
- 3.2 Track record in community engagement

### **4 CAITHNESS LEADER IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

- 4.1 Membership of the Caithness LIG
- 4.2 Role of the Caithness LIG
- 4.3 Standing orders of the Caithness LIG

### **5 DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR LEADER IN CAITHNESS**

- 5.1 Building on and complementing existing strategies
- 5.2 Community Engagement

### **6 OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- 6.1 Development planning and community capacity building
- 6.2 Culture and heritage
- 6.3 Training and learning opportunities
- 6.4 Access to activities, facilities and services
- 6.5 Land, environment and access to the countryside
- 6.6 Renewables
- 6.7 Tourism
- 6.8 Social enterprises and micro businesses

### **7 APPENDICES**

- Membership of Caithness Partnership Ltd
- Community consultation results

## I LEADER AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The overall aim of the LEADER Programme in Caithness is:

**To enable people in Caithness to realise their ambitions and live in communities where they can fulfill their personal, social and economic potential.**

The main objectives of the Plan are to:

- Help stabilize and grow population levels and the balance between age groups, particularly focusing on the retention and attraction of young adults
- To increase the benefit that communities can derive from their natural, built and cultural heritage
- To maximize the benefit of community assets
- To improve the access to services in the community particularly focusing on the needs of young people and those over 65
- To assist the communities to create update and implement community development plans
- To increase the scope and range of training and learning opportunities available locally
- To support the development of social enterprises and micro-businesses
- To ensure that economic, social and environmental development is sustainable

LEADER target groups

**Young people:** the needs and aspirations of young people in the 14 to 25 age range were central to the previous LEADER + programme and the new programme will build on the success of its predecessor, tackling rural disadvantage among young people.

**Women:** women in Caithness will be well placed to take advantage of the higher level of economic activity in both the commercial and voluntary sector and training programmes will take into account the needs of women with family obligations.

**The under-employed:** there should be new opportunities to turn skills into a mechanism for earning and unemployed people will benefit from the stimulus to social enterprise and voluntary sector.

**Young adults (up to 34):** retaining and attracting young adults to Caithness is a priority within the local programme. This will be done in a number of ways including provision of employment, making the area a more attractive place to bring up children as well as projects which offer better access to training and stimulate commercial activity.

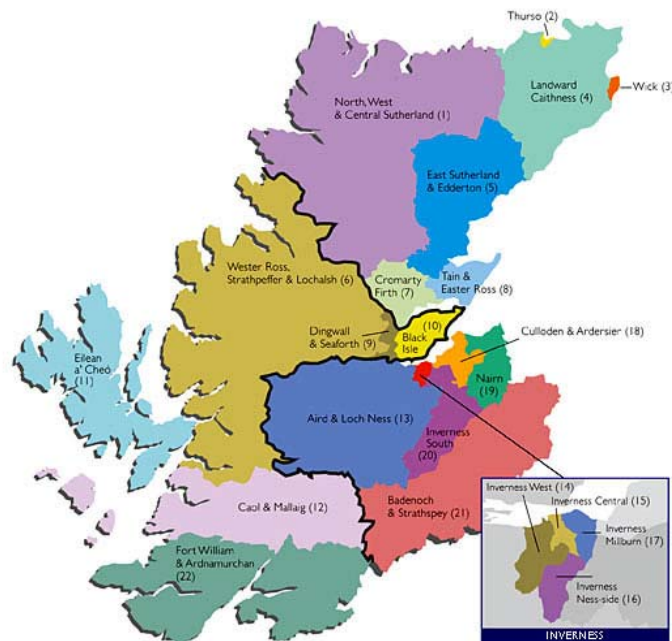
**Older people (over 65):** older people can suffer disproportionately from rural deprivation, especially through poverty and isolation. This group will benefit from actions to improve facilities and access to services as well as opportunities to use and develop skills through volunteer and training programmes.

In addition, the needs of the people living in more rural area of the county, will be particularly important to the LEADER Programme in Caithness.

## 2 CHARACTERISTICS OF CAITHNESS

### 2.1 Geography

The county of Caithness covers a land area of approximately 1,776 square kilometres with a coastline of some 169 kilometres. It divides into three broad environments: the coastline with its dramatic cliffs and sandy bays; the moorland of the interior; and the fertile rolling farmlands of the Wick and Thurso river basins and central Caithness. Rich in ecological interest, a key feature of the landscape is the vast expanse of peatland, extending into Sutherland, forming the largest area of blanket bog in Western Europe. The natural landscape is enriched by extensive archaeological and heritage remains, reflecting the human influence on the environment and the special character of the area. For local authority administrative purposes the county is divided up into three wards – Wick, Thurso and Landward Caithness.



### 2.2 Demographics

Population change is one of the key challenges facing the area in the coming years; a combination the changing economic circumstances in the area and the “aging” population common to other areas among the population of 25,000. The greatest proportion of population loss has been from the young adult age group, affected by many leaving for further education and to find work.

Wick has a relatively young age profile with one of the highest proportions of under-15's in Highland and an above average number in the 16-49 age group. However, there has been an overall population decline of 5% since the 2001 census (the most significant decline in Highland) although 120 overseas migrant workers moved into the Ward between 2002 and 2006. The total population of Wick is 6,750.

Thurso has a population of 7,377 with a population profile very similar to that of the rest of Highland. The Ward population fell by 4% between 2002 and 2006 and was the second most significant decline in Highland.

Landward Caithness is one of the most sparsely populated wards in Highland with a density of only 6.3 persons per square kilometer and has a total population of 10,876. Again, the profile is very similar to that of Highland with an ageing and reducing population.

(Data extracted from Highland Council Ward Profiles on [www.highlandcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.highlandcouncil.gov.uk))

### 2.3 Employment

All Caithness wards are reported to have the lowest rate of self employed workers in Highland and this has been attributed to a Dounreay dependent economy. In Caithness there are a high number of people employed in public administration, education and health (rising to 51% in Wick), banking and financial activity (37%) and distribution, hotels and restaurants (22%). Manufacturing accounts for 41% of employment among residents of Landward Caithness which is reported as a commuter area for Dounreay.

Unemployment and incapacity benefit rates reported for the period October to June 2008 are as follows:

Ward	Unemployment rate	Long term unemployment rate	Incapacity benefit (% of total working age population)	Council Benefit (2004) (% of working population)	Tax (% of age)
Wick	3.6%	1%	10.3%	26.2%	
Thurso	2.2%	0.7%	8%	16.1%	
Landward Caithness	1.9	0.5%	7.9	13.8%	

(Data extracted from Highland Council Ward Profiles on [www.highlandcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.highlandcouncil.gov.uk))

### 2.4 Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official measure for identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation. Three data zones in Wick have been identified as severely deprived (Wick Pulteneytown South, Wick South and Wick Hillhead North) and among the worst 15% in Scotland. Deprivation levels are determined by looking at employment and income levels, health indicators, educational attainment statistics and crime figures. 19% of the residents of Wick are reported as having a long term illness, a slightly higher figure than the Highland average.

Pulteneytown Peoples Project (PPP) was set up by local people in 2002 and has gone on to become an award winning community regeneration project employing more than 20 staff who engage in all manner of activity from youth work to supporting vulnerable tenants. The success of the initiative has stemmed from its focus on inclusion and building up relationships with vulnerable

people of all ages to a stage where they can become involved in social interaction and educational activities.

Until recently the area of Caithness known as South East Caithness (the coastal area from south of Wick to Berriedale) was identified as an Initiative at the Edge Area by the development agencies because of its high levels of unemployment, lack of facilities and rapidly declining and ageing population. South East Caithness Development Group (SECDG) was set up in 2005 and the group has worked with a development officer continually since then to deliver a number of important local projects focused on sustainability which will offer both short and long-term returns to the community's wellbeing. Unfortunately Initiative at the Edge status is to be withdrawn from South East Caithness but the development work in the area will continue through SECDG.

In 1998 Ormlie was identified as being among the most deprived in Scotland and 10 years of community-led development work, supported by the public agencies, has resulted in an upgrade of housing, play facilities and the urban environment to a level that the area has become recognised as an exemplar home-zone. One of the most successful projects of Ormlie Community Association (OCA) has been to develop a county-wide energy advice service to help reduce fuel poverty.

## **2.5 Regeneration & the Caithness economy**

As the decommissioning of the Dounreay nuclear site progresses the numbers of direct and associated supply jobs will decline and current estimates indicate that within five years total employment associated with the site will have declined by around 25%. Research carried out by Aberdeen University in 2006 determined that one in three jobs in the county of Caithness are Dounreay dependent, both directly and indirectly. A Strategy for Caithness and North Sutherland was devised in 2006 in order to provide a route-map towards replacing up to 2,500 jobs that will be lost through the decommissioning of the Dounreay site.

At the Caithness Youth Conference in September 2008 more than half of the participants said that they were worried about the future of Caithness without Dounreay but, encouragingly, 66% said they would either stay in Caithness or go away for a few years then come home.

In 2007 a high level grouping of HIE, Highland Council and the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency and Scottish Government was set up to deliver an action plan for the area which will "maintain, and if possible increase, the GDP of the Dounreay travel-to-work area by actively working to promote existing employment, encourage new employment and by promoting the area as an attractive place to live." [*An Action Plan for Caithness and North Sutherland, 2007-2010*]. The Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership continues to work to deliver the Action Plan and monitor the replacement of Dounreay jobs.

The Caithness LEADER Plan forms community-led part of a regeneration strategy, while the Action Plan provides the way ahead for the agency and business sector.

## **2.6 The voluntary sector in Caithness**

The voluntary sector in Caithness is characterized by its vigour, quality and quantity of volunteering. Caithness Voluntary Groups, the local CVS, reported over 400 members in 2008 and identified the sector as one of the largest employers in the county. Between 2004 and 2006 the uptake of the Community Regeneration Fund and LEADER + in Caithness was among the highest in the Highlands and Islands demonstrating the community's appetite and ability to deliver economic development projects ranging from local marketing projects through to childcare and even renewable energy projects. PPP, OCA and South East Caithness Development Group described above are examples (but there are many more) of the quality of voluntary sector-led work consistently contributing to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the county.

A report for HIE in 2006 quantified the voluntary sector employment in the area as more than 600 jobs although, it must be noted that this figure included almost 300 jobs at North Highland College (a charity). The remaining 300 jobs included full-time and part-time jobs, demonstrating the ability of the voluntary to actively participate in economic development. A social enterprise network was set up in Caithness during the summer of 2008 and will act as a crucible where social firms can share information and experience.

## **2.7 Access to services**

Access to services in Caithness has been exposed as an issue in the country through some work that the Caithness Partnership carried out with the Carnegie UK Trust. It was found that lack of transport, particularly for the young and elderly or less physically able people, is a major issue, particularly in the Landward Ward. Survey work carried out in conjunction with Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council determined that 62% of respondents felt that transport was the most difficult aspect of life in their community and that there were felt to be particular shortcomings in the local bus services and that fuel prices were also a problem.

Lack of leisure facilities and clubs in the rural areas and problems accessing those based in Wick and Thurso was a common issue as well as lack of local shops and post offices. A questionnaire on Health improvement found that health facilities were felt to be good generally but again many people had difficulty in accessing them due to lack of suitable transport. Inadequate sport and arts facilities in Caithness have been consistently highlighted as a long-term problem for a population that has a very active (and successful) sporting element and is similarly keen on culture and the arts.

### **3 CAITHNESS PARTNERSHIP**

#### **3.1 The community planning role of the Partnership**

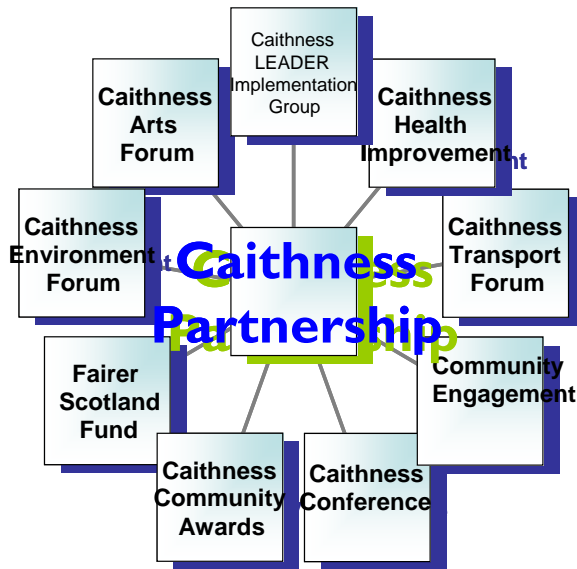
Caithness Partnership is the community planning partnership for Caithness and as such brings together agency, voluntary and business organisations. The Caithness Partnership was originally an economic development partnership but its function as revised in 2004 to focus strictly on community planning activities. Using the interpretation of community planning provided in the Local Government in Scotland Act (2003) the Caithness Partnership has endeavoured to:

- a) provide a forum for interaction between the public agencies, and
- b) provide a forum for interaction between the public agencies, the business sector and the community, and
- b) encourage and facilitate the involvement of communities in local decision-making

The Board of Directors and staff have conducted activities that fall within the interpretation of community planning as decreed in the Act, but focused on activities which have brought tangible benefits to the Caithness community. It is in the area of involving communities in decision-making that the Partnership has had most success and has played role in ensuring that community views, needs and aspirations are brought to the attention of the agencies and has instigated and supported co-operation between the community and government organisations, for example by pushing for and helping deliver the Caithness Conferences.

#### **3.2 Track record in community engagement**

Much of the Caithness Partnership's work is carried out through its thematic subgroups; the Caithness Transport Forum, the Caithness Health Improvement Forum, the Caithness Arts Forum and the Caithness Environment Forum. In the past the Partnership has been closely involved in the Wick Project, the Community Safety Action Group and continues to have close connections with the Dounreay Stakeholder Group. The Caithness Partnership delivered the Community Regeneration Fund, now called the Fairer Scotland Fund, to help improve conditions for people in the Upper Pulteneytown area of Wick. In 2006-2008, as the Scottish Partner in the Carnegie UK Trust's Rural Action Research Programme, the Caithness Partnership has demonstrated an understanding of and empathy with the need to involve rural people in local decision-making. The Caithness Partnership's support for community empowerment and community-led development makes its role in supporting the delivery of the LEADER programme in Caithness a natural step forward.



## Caithness Partnership activities in 2008

Recently, there has been an indication from Highland Council, one of the major funders of the Partnership that the current focus on community planning should be relaxed in favour of project development and support to community-led development activities.

Current membership of the Partnership is listed in Appendix I. All members of the Partnership are involved in strategic decision-making and day-to-day governance is undertaken by a Board of Directors currently made up of two agency representatives, one business representative, one voluntary sector representative and one independent representative. The structure of the Board of Management and its function is currently under review and is expected that both the membership and its function be expanded.

The Caithness Partnership currently employs 1.5 members of staff; a full-time Co-ordinator and a part-time Administrative Assistant.

## 4 CAITHNESS LEADER IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

### 4.1 Membership

The Caithness LEADER Implementation Group is made up of agency, business and community groups chosen because of their thematic fit within Caithness with the 8 themes of Highland LEADER. The membership of the Caithness LEADER Group is:

Caithness Partnership – independent, facilitative role

Highland Council (Ward Manager)	Public
Highland Council (Access Officer)	Public
NHS Highland	Public
SGRPID	Public
Highland Councillor Thurso Ward	Public
Highland Councillor Wick Ward	Public
Highland Councillor Landward Ward	Public
Forestry Commission Scotland	Public
Visit Scotland	Public
Highlands & Islands Enterprise	Public
Scottish Natural Heritage	Public
Careers Scotland	Public
Pentland Housing Association	Community
National Farmers Union	Community
Caithness Voluntary Groups	Community
Caithness Biodiversity Group	Community
North Highland Forest Trust	Community
North Highland College	Community
Association of Caithness Comm Councils	Community
Caithness Field Club	Community
Dounreay Stakeholder Group	Community
Caithness Arts	Community
Caithness Access Forum	Community
Caithness Chamber of Commerce	Community
Caithness Archaeological Trust	Community
North Highland Tourism	Community

### 4.2 The role of the Caithness LIG

The role of the group will be to promote the LEADER programme in Caithness and oversee funding decisions regarding projects

### 4.3 Standing orders of the Caithness LIG

- The LIG will meet at least 4 times per annum with the aim of ensuring successful delivery of the Caithness LEADER Plan.
- The group will be responsible for determining funding applications referred by the LEADER Development Officer and will be supported to do this, in terms of advice, information and administrative services by the Caithness Partnership staff.

- The group will be responsible for ensuring that local LEADER budgets are spent in accordance with the aims of the Plan.
- Independent chairmanship of the group will be provided by Caithness Partnership
- Co-ordinate and implement a local development plan for their area, which meets the aims of the Highland Business LEADER Plan
- Work with local groups to exploit opportunities offered through LEADER and other funding streams
- Meet on a regular basis
- Promote the Programme across area,
- Call for the submission of project applications
- Assist where possible with the development of local project proposals/plans
- Consider and make recommendations on applications seeking grant assistance up to £5,000
- Ensure wider community involvement

### **Conduct of meetings**

Meetings of the Caithness LIG will be arranged to ensure that they are as accessible as possible to all members of the partnership and that timing, venues and the need for video / teleconferencing are suitable. Meetings will be arranged with a minimum of one month's notice where possible to avoid conflict with other commitments.

All meetings will be minuted (by the Secretariat) and those minutes will be freely available.

### **Quorum**

At any meeting of the Caithness LIG there must be a minimum number of 1/4 of partners present. This must include voluntary and community partners numbering at least 1/8 of total partners. If a quorum is not present, at the Chairperson's / Vice-Chairperson's discretion, the meeting shall proceed and any decisions taken will be homologated at the next meeting. Partners shall identify substitutes to attend meetings when the nominated representative is unable to attend. For purposes of the quorum, participation of partners by video-conferencing links will be considered as present.

Where a large number of LAG members declare an interest in an item, leaving the meeting inquorate for that item, the remaining members of the LAG shall be competent to debate and decide that item at the earliest opportunity, using whichever procedure is expedient.

### **Chair**

The Caithness LIG will appoint a Chairperson. At all meetings of the LIG, the elected Chairperson, or in their absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside over the meeting. If both are absent, partners will choose a member to preside. Members should respect the authority of the Chairperson who will decide matters of order, competency, relevancy and urgency.

The Chairperson's duty is to preserve order and ensure that all members / partners are given a fair hearing.

The Chair and Vice chair will be appointed for a period of two years.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Where an interest has been declared from a group member as the applicant, then they should withdraw from the meeting while the item is discussed.

For clarification, match funders, if they are not the applicant, are eligible to participate and vote on the discussions relating to the application.

Where a LIG member organisation shares board members, directors or other senior officials with an applicant organisation, and the LIG representative of that member is aware or is made aware of such a connection, that representative should declare the connection as an interest. Where it is felt that this would not unfairly favour or prejudice the application, the remaining members present at the meeting may decide that the organisation declaring the interest need not abstain from the discussion of, and decision on, the relevant item.

### **Order of Business**

The main business of meetings will be the consideration of grant applications and to consider the progress of the LEADER Programme and strategic issues

Notwithstanding this, the items of business will be considered in the following order:

- Those members present and apologies
- Declarations of interest by members
- Minutes of previous meetings will be considered as a correct record
- Matters arising
- Progress Reports
- Consideration of grant applications
- Urgent business intimated at the start of the meeting
- Any other competent business included on the agenda
- Date, Time and Location of next meeting

### **Voting**

Subject to compliance with the LEADER guidelines as laid down by the European Commission and the Scottish Executive as the Managing Authority, all questions coming or arising before the meeting will be decided by a majority of the members present.

Views from partner organisations submitted in writing or by e-mail prior to the meeting will be accepted and included as part of the decision making process. A vote may be taken by a show of hands. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson will have a second or casting vote.

## **Role of Partners**

The partners, in addition to submitting representatives to the strategic LAG and local area partnerships, will provide overall guidance on policy and projects matters and, through its emphasis on ensuring a balanced representation of public sector agencies and community and the voluntary sector, to ensure a bottom up approach based on the ideas of local people, encouraging community involvement, partnership and innovation. It is the responsibility of partners to communicate with other organisations in the sector which they represent.

Organisations will be encouraged to appoint substitutes to attend meetings on their behalf if the usual representatives are unable to attend.

## **Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called at any time if the strategic LAG, local area partnerships or secretariat receives a request from Partners setting out the purpose of the business to be considered at that meeting

## **5 DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR LEADER**

### **5.1 Building on and complementing existing local strategies**

In December 2005 Caithness Partnership convened a seminar to devise a Caithness Community Plan for 2006-8, which used the template of the Highland Community Plan and was reviewed a year later in December 2006.

When a Strategy for Caithness & North Sutherland was published in November 2006 it was the result of wide-ranging public consultation exercise carried out by a Socio-economic Strategy Group convened by Caithness & Sutherland Enterprise under the chairmanship of John Thurso, MP. An Action Plan was subsequently devised which took into account wide-ranging discussions that took place at the “ Caithness Conference – Beyond Dounreay” hosted by Caithness Partnership and the Dounreay Stakeholder Group in September 2007.

During the period 2005 to 2008 a number of local thematic plans were published such as the Community Learning & Development Plan, devised by Highland Council, the Wick Plan, devised by the Wick Project, the Caithness Transport Vision, devised by Caithness Partnership’s Transport Forum.

In summer 2008 Caithness Partnership carried out an exercise to amalgamate all the various plans and strategies for the area and the resultant document was filtered to discern which actions had been achieved, and which were still outstanding. The projects and initiatives still outstanding were then sifted for their relevance to the Highland LEADER Programme and the remaining projects reviewed by the Caithness LEADER Implementation Group for continued relevance. The initiatives and projects remaining have formed the basis of the LEADER Plan for Caithness.

### **5.2 Community engagement and consultation**

In order to bring this plan together Caithness Partnership has ensured that the views of the wider community have been taken into account as far as possible

We have linked planning for LEADER with the work of key partners and leading organisations in the county, such as the Highland Council’s Ward Forums and local learning communities and the Dounreay Stakeholder Group’s Socio-economic sub group, in order to ensure that LEADER is embedded in Caithness’ development psyche and that in turn, the LEADER programme in Caithness is targeted towards the priorities and ambitions of the Caithness people and helps fulfill their vision of Caithness. Most importantly, we have ensured that the views of Caithness’ young people have been taken into consideration, and the findings of the Caithness Youth Conference 2008 form part of the foundation upon which the Caithness LEADER Plan stands.

The opportunities for development highlighted in this plan have been distilled from a review of local plans and strategies both thematically and geographically

focused. In addition, consultation work carried out by Highland Council in advance of developing the Highland LEADER Plan has been incorporated. The compilation of opportunities for development were listed as part of an on-line survey and letters of invitation to participate were sent to over 400 community groups in the county, the community councils and an invitation to comment placed on Caithness.org and the Caithness Partnership's website. Respondents were also asked to put forward any new ideas for community-led development that might be supported by LEADER and a summary of these has been incorporated. The draft plan was sent for comment to the 10 Highland Councillors in Caithness, Caithness Partnership's Forums and members of Caithness Partnership.



**Delegates at the  
Caithness Youth  
Conference 2008,  
Weigh Inn Hotel,  
Thurso**

## **6 OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

An open and flexible view will be taken with any relevant project that comes forward seeking LEADER funding in Caithness, although the LEADER approach determines that the Caithness LIG's decision-making will be guided by known community priorities. A process to determine community priorities has been described above and resulted in the following:

### **6.1 Development Planning & Community Capacity Building**

In 2004-2006 the Community Economic Development Programme in Caithness and Sutherland and the LEADER + Programme was able to assist a high number of community-led projects which successfully used a high number of methods ranging from appointing staff to the delivery of a single project or range of projects, through to the purchase of expert help to deliver only one aspect of their project's development. A quick turn-around of applications also helped groups develop their ideas quickly and the ability to buy expert help increased the effective delivery of projects.

The community's capacity and willingness to make positive contribution to economic, social and environmental sustainability is fundamental to its future. At the Caithness Youth Conference in 2008, when asked what could be done to ensure that Caithness thrives over the next ten years, 65% of the young people said that they wanted to see community plans in place now to increase employment and learning opportunities over a period of time. In addition, 35 of the young respondents said that they wanted to be involved in the process and would be interested in helping to create a community plan.

At the Caithness Regeneration Conference 2008 it was highlighted that support for business membership organisations, such as the retail businesses and the Chamber of Commerce, was required for the different sectors to work together to develop.

#### ***LEADER consultation November 2008:***

The following projects were identified as a local priority (ranked in order of popularity):

- Dedicated staff to lead community development activity
- Bringing agency and community representatives together
- Preparing or revitalizing community development plans
- Development plans for priority areas
- Implementation of development plans
- Projects to promote joint working between community groups

Community halls provision, heritage projects a STAG 2 feasibility study for major rail improvement, support for infrastructure and equipment for voluntary groups, focus on youth and the elderly, job creation in all sectors but particularly the third, local area development projects and arts and cultural infrastructure were also highlighted by respondents to this section.

## **6.2 Culture & Heritage**

The development of cultural and heritage initiatives is important in any community, not least from an economic point of view. Linking economic development to the high quality natural and historical environment in Caithness will fit well with the LEADER priorities. A strong arts sector is essential in a community both for economic development and social well-being and the contribution of the arts to the local economy will not be underestimated. In addition, LEADER recognises cultural differences and perspectives and celebrates them.

### ***LEADER consultation November 2008:***

The following projects were identified as a local priority in culture and heritage:

- Development of local heritage centres, museums and archives
- Performing arts venues in Wick and Thurso
- Local archaeology outreach projects
- Arts festivals
- Literary festivals
- Centre for glass in architecture and the built environment

Encouragement of learning and playing of music of all kinds, a strategy to develop theatre through primary, secondary and further education in association with UHI and Grey Coast Theatre Company and the need to develop facilities that reflect the aspirational approach to interpretation were also highlighted by respondents as ideas that might be supported.

## **6.3 Training & Learning Opportunities**

Caithness is fortunate in that it has a wide range of training and learning providers active able to deliver a wide range of courses. However, in most cases training is funded on a course by course basis and sources of support must be continuously sought in order to keep costs down for the service users. There are already some excellent examples of people within the LEADER target groups receiving training and employability skills which have enabled them to gain employments, e.g. in 2006 North Highland College, working in Partnership with Tesco and PPP, was supported through the Community Regeneration Fund delivered a course in retail principles to people in Wick with 22 of the trainees finding employment in the new Tesco store.

### ***LEADER consultation November 2008:***

The following projects were identified as a local priority for training and learning:

- Skills programme in renewable energy
- Workforce and managerial skills training support for local businesses
- Skills audit created to promote existing skills to potential employers
- Business start-up training for young people
- Traditional skills training, eg building, boat building
- Development of research at Caithness General

- Business mentoring for community groups
- Project management training for community groups
- Training needs analysis

Skills training for young people, development of community based skills to manage the environment with volunteers, training for community groups to set up social enterprises, promotion of STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths) and training and awareness of the indigenous culture were all highlighted by respondents as additional initiatives that should be supported.

#### **6.4 Access to activities, facilities and services**

Access to activities, facilities and services is very much an issue in Caithness. As part of Caithness Partnership's Rural Action Research Programme with Carnegie UK Trust a survey and report was carried out in the Dunnet and Canisbay area by the local community council and the following was recorded;

*"The community has a higher than average number of elderly residents with day care available in Wick or Thurso. The main centres of employment for the area are Wick, Thurso and Dounreay. There are two primary schools with pre school nurseries and all secondary pupils travel to Wick or Thurso. A doctor's surgery is located in Canisbay and there are six village halls in the community.*

*Seven post offices have closed in recent years with a restricted mobile service provided in only some of the affected villages. Two grocery shops with petrol stations have closed and two petrol stations remain in John O' Groats and Auckengill. Fuel is approximately 10p per litre more expensive than in town.*

*Rapsons buses operate services from John O Groats to Wick and to Thurso. Citylink is used by residents for journeys south, to Inverness in particular, but does not stop in the community. It can be accessed in Wick, Thurso or Castletown."*

The researchers found that local bus services were inadequate for respondents' needs because they were often travelling at times that were not suitable on routes that were not suitable, the buses were inaccessible for people with more limited mobility or they did not stop in the community at all. From Canisbay, for example, attending a routine clinic at the hospital in Wick could take a whole day because patients had to travel to Thurso first, then to Wick as there was no service on the shorter direct route.

At the recent Caithness Youth Conference 8% of delegates said that they could not get public transport to North Highland College to attend the course they wanted to and a further 19.5% were able to attend only by using their own transport.

In June 2008 a survey on health services in the county of carried out by Caithness Partnership working with NHS Highland demonstrated that 304 respondents out of 500 felt that transport to health services was an important issue in Caithness, ranking it one of top issues identified.

In 2005, during the campaign to preserve maternity services in the county, employers made the point that, without local services suitable for young adults, such as maternity services it would be difficult to retain a workforce or to attract younger people to come and work here.

**LEADER consultation November 2008:**

The following projects were identified as a local priority:

- Activities for young people (a high priority for 74% of respondents)
- Comprehensive public transport timetable
- Rural transport initiatives
- Community centres and village hall development
- Employability projects
- Respite care for young disabled adults
- Day care centres and other older person services
- Recycling of plastic waste
- Doorstep recycling
- Wrap-around childcare
- Development of collaborative bodies, eg business groups
- Community minibuses
- Employment brokerage service
- Transport sharing scheme/promotion of green transport
- Support for village halls and other community facilities to extend their range of services

A number of respondents wanted to see sporting activities supported, particularly for young people and sports facilities provided. Access to facilities and services for single fathers was also highlighted.

**6.5 Land, environment and access to the countryside**

In recent years the value of access to the countryside and outdoor activities has become recognised as very important for health improvement and prevention of illness, mental and physical. Delegates at the Caithness Youth Conference in September 2008 highlighted the availability of outdoor recreation as a potential draw to encourage people to both visit Caithness but also to attract them to stay in the area. They felt that Caithness is particularly suited to the development of water sports. Projects to develop non-vehicular transport infrastructure including path creation and promotion were raised through the core paths planning process.

**LEADER consultation November 2008:**

The following projects were identified as a local priority:

- Promotion of Caithness walks and paths
- Safe play areas
- Outdoor activity centre
- Pathworks
- Community woodland initiatives
- Sub aqua diving centre
- Watersports facilities
- Project managers to help deliver projects
- Implementation of core paths plans

- Projects from the Caithness & Sutherland Peatlands Strategy
- The need for improvement of public access in the Bower area to facilities such as the school, church and cemetery was highlighted by a respondent as well as provision of a small leisure boat launching area at Wick harbour and community woodlands. In addition a number of projects were suggested during the consultation on the draft of this document including:
  - Local Biodiversity Projects
  - Further development of 'Wildlife' and 'green' tourism
  - Opportunity for holding an Environmental Festival or environmental events
  - Opportunities for further promotion of the natural heritage of the area, including geology and Caithness' internationally important fossil sites
  - Improved visitor facilities and interpretation - including remote viewing opportunities
  - Environmental education facilities for locals & visitors, perhaps based around the archaeology and cultural landscapes of Caithness
  - Supporting cultural and environmental projects which give an area a "sense of place"
  - Training on all aspects of local natural heritage for local people/communities so each is an ambassador for the area
  - Habitat improvement & restoration e.g. native woodlands, peatland restoration projects, etc.
  - Development of new land management skills – modern ways to traditionally manage the landscape, e.g. hedge management, traditional flagstone dyke restoration, etc.
  - European status of many protected areas and species - may be useful in attracting European funding
  - Marketing of local produce from a high quality environment
  - Low intensity agro-environmental demonstration projects

## 6.6 Renewables

Caithness is in a relatively unique position to be able to develop renewable energy having access to an internationally recognised source of marine energy, the Pentland Firth, benefitting from long daylight hours during the summer months, high levels of wind and access to a growing quantity of timber.

The types of projects considered to be a priority for LEADER in Caithness are:

### **LEADER consultation November 2008:**

The following projects were identified as a local priority:

- Community energy schemes to support local facilities
- Energy from waste
- Centre for energy and the environment
- Business waste recycled
- Availability of environmentally friendly fuels
- Farm wastes recycled
- Production of biomass for fuels, wood fuel supply
- Incubator units for renewables projects

- Renewable energy demonstration schemes
- Community owned renewable energy projects

## 6.7 Tourism

Community-led tourism projects have been a feature of the industry in Caithness over the years and efforts have been made to augment tourism income through initiatives such as the Dunnet Bay Initiative, John O Groats Promotions, Wick Paths and more recently North Highland Tourism, an arm of the North Highland Initiative. Young people attending the Caithness Youth Conference in 2008 said that they felt that tourism had a part to play in the replacement of Dounreay jobs and that developing outdoor activities and the arts industry (eg. music festivals) were the way forward.

### ***LEADER consultation November 2008:***

The following projects were identified as a local priority:

- Town centre initiatives
- Encouragement for tourism operators to use marketing scheme
- Publish a Caithness Prospectus/brochure
- Develop John O Groats
- Tourism officer for Caithness
- Environmental improvements in towns
- North Highland branding
- Wick riverside and harbour front developments
- Development of local museums, heritage centres and archives
- Projects from the Caithness & Sutherland Peatlands Strategy
- Development at railway stations
- Marina infrastructure at harbours

Development of tourism infrastructure generally was a popular theme during the consultation and the following specific projects were mentioned:

- Further development of 'Wildlife' and 'green' tourism
- Opportunity for holding an Environmental Festival or environmental events during the quieter "shoulder" months
- Opportunities for further promotion of the natural heritage of the area, including geology and Caithness' internationally important fossil sites
- Improved visitor facilities and interpretation - including remote viewing opportunities
- Environmental education facilities for locals & visitors, perhaps based around the archaeology and cultural landscapes of Caithness
- Supporting cultural and environmental projects which give an area a "sense of place"
- Training on all aspects of local natural heritage for local people/communities so each is an ambassador for the area
- Marketing of local produce from a high quality environment

Promotion of cultural tourism and better transport infrastructure were highlighted by respondent as ideas for tourism development.

## **6.8 Social Enterprises and micro-businesses**

There are several social enterprises already working in Caithness and a Social Economy Partnership was set up recently to integrate infrastructure support for the social economy and produce a 3 year plan.

### ***LEADER consultation November 2008:***

The following projects were identified as a local priority:

- Adding value to local products
- Increase range of local products
- Development of community shops/retail outlets
- Voluntary organisations supported to develop social enterprise
- Scheme for successful local businesses to mentor community enterprises
- Food processing units
- Protected crops
- Caithness heritage seed potato varieties
- Projects which help social enterprises to be competitive

Developing out of town shopping, letting the industrial units at John O Groats and developing an inclusive Caithness brand were additional ideas put forward by respondents.

## **APPENDICES**

### **Member Organisations of Caithness Partnership Limited**

Association of Caithness Community Councils  
Caithness Chamber of Commerce  
Caithness Voluntary Groups  
Federation of Small Businesses, Caithness & Sutherland Branch  
Forestry Commission  
Highland Council  
Highlands & Islands Enterprise  
Highlands & Islands Fire & Rescue Service  
National Farmers Union of Scotland  
North Highland Community Health Partnership - NHS Highland  
Northern Constabulary  
North Highland College  
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority  
Scottish Water  
Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
Scrabster Harbour Trust  
Thurso & Wick Trade Union Council  
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority  
VisitScotland  
Wick Harbour Authority

***The document was prepared by Caithness Partnership Ltd, 50A High Street, Wick  
Caithness, KW1 4BS Tel 01955606483.***

***Anna MacConnell, Co-ordinator Caithness Partnership, December 2008***

## LEADER in Caithness consultation

1. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES Which of the following ideas generated locally should be a priority for LEADER in Caithness?					
	High	Medium	Low	Not needed	Response Count
Dedicated staff to lead community development activity	<b>45.9% (34)</b>	18.9% (14)	12.2% (9)	23.0% (17)	74
Preparing or revitalising community development plans	33.3% (25)	<b>38.7% (29)</b>	22.7% (17)	5.3% (4)	75
Routine consultation with the community about development plans	26.1% (18)	<b>36.2% (25)</b>	29.0% (20)	8.7% (6)	69
Bringing agency and community representatives together	<b>40.0% (32)</b>	30.0% (24)	13.8% (11)	16.3% (13)	80
	<i>answered question</i>				<b>116</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>				<b>6</b>

2. The Highland LEADER Plan suggests a number of project ideas under the theme of local development strategies. Which do you think is most important?				
choose an option	development plans for priority areas within local community planning partnerships	feasibility studies	crofting township and community land development plans	projects to promote joint working between community groups
Choose one of these as being most important or add your own idea in the comment box below	27.5% (30)	3.7% (4)	11.0% (12)	23.9% (26)

**3. TRAINING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITES** Which of the following ideas generated locally should be a priority for LEADER in Caithness?

	High	Medium	Low	Not needed	Response Count
Capacity building training for community organisations	34.0% (32)	<b>43.6% (41)</b>	19.1% (18)	3.2% (3)	94
Traditional skills training, eg building, boat building	<b>37.8% (37)</b>	36.7% (36)	23.5% (23)	2.0% (2)	98
General construction skills training	34.7% (33)	<b>38.9% (37)</b>	20.0% (19)	6.3% (6)	95
Glass making courses	6.4% (6)	23.4% (22)	<b>52.1% (49)</b>	18.1% (17)	94
School teaching packs on local archaeology	11.5% (11)	40.6% (39)	<b>42.7% (41)</b>	5.2% (5)	96
New research opportunities created through the UHI	38.9% (37)	<b>40.0% (38)</b>	14.7% (14)	6.3% (6)	95
Develop research at Caithness General Hospital	<b>44.2% (42)</b>	24.2% (23)	24.2% (23)	7.4% (7)	95
Graduate placement scheme	<b>37.9% (36)</b>	28.4% (27)	26.3% (25)	7.4% (7)	95
Workforce and managerial skills training support for local businesses	<b>50.5% (47)</b>	35.5% (33)	12.9% (12)	1.1% (1)	93
Skills programme in renewable energy developed	<b>59.8% (58)</b>	30.9% (30)	8.2% (8)	1.0% (1)	97
Business start-up training for young people	<b>46.9% (45)</b>	43.8% (42)	9.4% (9)	0.0% (0)	96
Create a skills audit and promote existing skills to potential employers	<b>48.4% (45)</b>	31.2% (29)	16.1% (15)	4.3% (4)	93
Increase the impact of the Caithness Science Festival	24.2% (23)	<b>42.1% (40)</b>	27.4% (26)	6.3% (6)	95
Support for adult numeracy and literacy	33.3% (31)	<b>44.1% (41)</b>	18.3% (17)	4.3% (4)	93
Project management training for community groups	32.6% (31)	<b>51.6% (49)</b>	14.7% (14)	1.1% (1)	95
Business mentoring for community enterprises	31.5% (29)	<b>52.2% (48)</b>	15.2% (14)	1.1% (1)	92
	<b>answered question</b>				<b>107</b>

4. The Highland LEADER Plan suggests a number of project ideas under the theme of training and learning opportunities. Which do you

choose one

	Training needs analysis	Delivery of learning in remoter communities	Local learning co-operatives	Rural skills training	Training in horticulture
Choose one of these as being the most important or add your own comment in the box below	16.5% (17)	9.7% (10)	14.6% (15)	14.6% (15)	1.0% (1)

5. CULTURE AND HERITAGE Which of the following locally generated ideas should be a priority for LEADER in Caithness?

	High	Medium	Low	Not needed	Response Count
Performing arts venues in Wick and Thurso	<b>48.1% (51)</b>	23.6% (25)	20.8% (22)	7.5% (8)	106
Arts festival/s	26.7% (27)	<b>43.6% (44)</b>	20.8% (21)	8.9% (9)	101
Literary festival/s	20.4% (20)	<b>41.8% (41)</b>	29.6% (29)	8.2% (8)	98
Arts Development Officer's post	16.5% (16)	30.9% (30)	<b>33.0% (32)</b>	19.6% (19)	97
Local archaeology outreach projects (walks, etc)	37.5% (36)	<b>44.8% (43)</b>	13.5% (13)	4.2% (4)	96
Development of local heritage centres, museums and archives	<b>57.6% (57)</b>	31.3% (31)	9.1% (9)	2.0% (2)	99
Centre for glass in architecture and the built environment	8.2% (8)	<b>40.8% (40)</b>	37.8% (37)	13.3% (13)	98
	<b>answered question</b>				<b>107</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>				<b>15</b>

**6. The Highland LEADER Plan suggests a number of project ideas under the theme of culture and heritage. Which do you think is most important?**

choose one option

	Heritage interpretation	Projects which provide opportunities to learn or use the Gaelic language	projects which encourage involvement of music, the arts and creative activity	projects which provide a showcase for locally produced arts and culture
Choose one of these as being the most important or add your own idea in the comment box below	10.7% (11)	5.8% (6)	<b>32.0% (33)</b>	14.6% (15)

**7. ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES AND SERVICES Which of the following locally generated ideas should be a priority for LEADER in Caithness?**

	High	Medium	Low	Not needed	Response Count
Activities for young people	<b>73.7% (73)</b>	23.2% (23)	2.0% (2)	1.0% (1)	99
Community mini-buses	34.4% (32)	<b>44.1% (41)</b>	19.4% (18)	2.2% (2)	93
Rural transport initiatives	<b>58.9% (56)</b>	36.8% (35)	3.2% (3)	1.1% (1)	95
Day care centres and other older person services	<b>52.0% (51)</b>	43.9% (43)	4.1% (4)	0.0% (0)	98
Respite care for young disabled adults	<b>52.6% (51)</b>	43.3% (42)	4.1% (4)	0.0% (0)	97
Recycling plastic waste	31.3% (30)	<b>50.0% (48)</b>	15.6% (15)	3.1% (3)	96
Doorstep recycling	28.4% (27)	<b>50.5% (48)</b>	14.7% (14)	6.3% (6)	95
Employment brokerage service	15.9% (14)	<b>48.9% (43)</b>	33.0% (29)	2.3% (2)	88
Development of collaborative bodies, eg business groups	18.3% (17)	<b>46.2% (43)</b>	32.3% (30)	3.2% (3)	93
Wrap-around childcare	24.2% (23)	<b>48.4% (46)</b>	23.2% (22)	4.2% (4)	95
Comprehensive public transport timetable	<b>62.9% (61)</b>	30.9% (30)	6.2% (6)	0.0% (0)	97

Employability projects	<b>44.1% (41)</b>	43.0% (40)	11.8% (11)	1.1% (1)	93
Car sharing scheme/promotion of green transport	18.3% (17)	<b>41.9% (39)</b>	30.1% (28)	9.7% (9)	93
Community centres and village hall development	<b>53.5% (53)</b>	39.4% (39)	7.1% (7)	0.0% (0)	99
	<b>answered question</b>				<b>105</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>				<b>17</b>

8. The Highland LEADER Plan suggests a number of project ideas under the theme of access to activities, facilities and services. W					
choose one option					
	ICT and broadband activities	Activities aimed at young people	Recycling related projects	Support for village halls and other community facilities to extend their range of services	Day care provision
Choose one of these as being the most important or add your own idea in the box below	6.8% (7)	17.5% (18)	4.9% (5)	23.3% (24)	3.9% (4)

**9. LAND, ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE Which of the following locally generated projects and ideas should be a priority for LEADER in Caithness?**

	High	Medium	Low	Not needed	Response Count
Watersports activities	36.7% (36)	<b>42.9% (42)</b>	18.4% (18)	2.0% (2)	98
Outdoor activity centre	<b>51.5% (50)</b>	39.2% (38)	8.2% (8)	1.0% (1)	97
Sub aqua diving centre	15.2% (14)	<b>44.6% (41)</b>	35.9% (33)	4.3% (4)	92
Safe play areas	<b>52.1% (50)</b>	42.7% (41)	3.1% (3)	2.1% (2)	96
Pathworks	40.4% (38)	<b>54.3% (51)</b>	4.3% (4)	1.1% (1)	94
Environment access projects (like Wick Riverside paths/viewpoint)	42.4% (42)	<b>51.5% (51)</b>	6.1% (6)	0.0% (0)	99
Project managers to help deliver projects	30.5% (29)	<b>38.9% (37)</b>	25.3% (24)	5.3% (5)	95
Green spaces/biodiversity audit of publicly owned land	12.5% (12)	<b>44.8% (43)</b>	36.5% (35)	6.3% (6)	96
Community woodland initiatives	29.2% (28)	<b>50.0% (48)</b>	20.8% (20)	0.0% (0)	96
Promotion of Caithness walks and paths	<b>58.8% (60)</b>	37.3% (38)	3.9% (4)	0.0% (0)	102
	<b>answered question</b>				<b>105</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>				<b>17</b>

**10. The Highland LEADER Plan suggests a number of project ideas under the theme of land, environment and access to the country**

choose one option

	Implementation of the core paths plans	Community archaeology projects	Biodiversity related projects	Marketing support initiatives
Choose one of these as being the most important or add your own idea in the comment box below	22.8% (23)	9.9% (10)	5.9% (6)	6.9% (7)
	<b>answered question</b>			
	<b>skipped question</b>			

**11. TOURISM Which of the following locally generated project ideas should be a priority for LEADER in Caithness?**

	High	Medium	Low	Not needed	Response Count
Marina infrastructure at the harbours	38.7% (36)	<b>39.8% (37)</b>	19.4% (18)	2.2% (2)	93
Town centre initiatives	<b>62.4% (63)</b>	31.7% (32)	5.9% (6)	0.0% (0)	101
Develop archaeology tourism	<b>47.4% (46)</b>	37.1% (36)	13.4% (13)	2.1% (2)	97
Develop John O Groats	<b>51.0% (52)</b>	29.4% (30)	15.7% (16)	3.9% (4)	102
North Highland branding	<b>43.4% (43)</b>	38.4% (38)	13.1% (13)	5.1% (5)	99
Development of local museums, heritage centres and archives	45.4% (44)	<b>46.4% (45)</b>	7.2% (7)	1.0% (1)	97
Development at railway stations	33.0% (32)	<b>40.2% (39)</b>	23.7% (23)	3.1% (3)	97
Wick Riverside and harbour front developments	37.4% (37)	<b>44.4% (44)</b>	16.2% (16)	2.0% (2)	99
Encourage tourist operators to use local marketing programme	<b>54.6% (53)</b>	38.1% (37)	6.2% (6)	1.0% (1)	97
Encourage cruise ships trade	<b>48.5% (47)</b>	41.2% (40)	9.3% (9)	1.0% (1)	97
Publish a Caithness prospectus/brochure	<b>53.1% (52)</b>	35.7% (35)	9.2% (9)	2.0% (2)	98
Tourism Officer for Caithness	<b>51.0% (50)</b>	32.7% (32)	10.2% (10)	6.1% (6)	98
Environmental improvements in towns	<b>47.9% (46)</b>	39.6% (38)	12.5% (12)	0.0% (0)	96
Town twinning relationships strengthened	4.3% (4)	26.1% (24)	<b>43.5% (40)</b>	26.1% (24)	92
Projects from the Caithness & Sutherland Peatlands Strategy	14.0% (13)	<b>41.9% (39)</b>	39.8% (37)	4.3% (4)	93
	<b>answered question</b>				<b>106</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>				<b>16</b>

**12. The Highland LEADER Plan suggests a number of project ideas under the theme of tourism. Which do you think is the most important?**

choose one option

	Sectoral and community based marketing initiatives	Development of niche tourism products	Development of tourism infrastructure	Promotion of tourism products
Choose one of these as being the most important or add your own idea in the comment box	7.8% (8)	15.7% (16)	<b>60.8% (62)</b>	15.7% (16)
				Other (1)
	<b>answered question</b>			
	<b>103</b>			

**13. RENEWABLES Which of the following locally generated ideas should be a priority for LEADER in Caithness?**

	High	Medium	Low	Not needed	Response Count
Centre for energy and the environment	<b>48.5% (47)</b>	38.1% (37)	9.3% (9)	4.1% (4)	97
Production of biomass for fuels, wood fuel supply	40.4% (40)	<b>41.4% (41)</b>	16.2% (16)	2.0% (2)	99
Availability of environmentally friendly fuels	<b>45.5% (45)</b>	42.4% (42)	11.1% (11)	1.0% (1)	99
Farm wastes recycled	40.8% (40)	<b>44.9% (44)</b>	13.3% (13)	1.0% (1)	98
Business waste recycled	<b>45.8% (44)</b>	40.6% (39)	12.5% (12)	1.0% (1)	96
Incubator units for renewables projects	37.4% (34)	<b>49.5% (45)</b>	12.1% (11)	1.1% (1)	91
Renewable energy demonstration schemes	36.5% (35)	<b>46.9% (45)</b>	13.5% (13)	3.1% (3)	96
Energy from waste	<b>51.5% (51)</b>	40.4% (40)	7.1% (7)	1.0% (1)	99
Community energy schemes to support local facilities	<b>52.6% (50)</b>	36.8% (35)	8.4% (8)	2.1% (2)	95
Community owned wind energy schemes to provide development income	<b>37.2% (35)</b>	35.1% (33)	18.1% (17)	9.6% (9)	94
	<b>answered question</b>				<b>103</b>

14. The Highland LEADER Plan suggests a number of project ideas under the theme of renewables. Which do you think is most important?

choose one option

	Awareness raising	Communities developing micro-renewable generation	Feasibility studies for larger community renewables schemes	Community owned renewable energy projects
Choose one of these as being the most important or add your own idea in the comment box	17.3% (17)	18.4% (18)	14.3% (14)	<b>38.8% (38)</b>

15. SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND MICRO-BUSINESS Which of the following locally generated project ideas should be a priority for LEADER in Caithness?




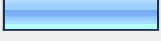
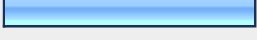








	High	Medium	Low	Not needed	Response Count
Food processing units	26.9% (25)	<b>48.4% (45)</b>	21.5% (20)	3.2% (3)	93
Adding value to local products	<b>74.5% (73)</b>	17.3% (17)	7.1% (7)	1.0% (1)	98
Increase range of local products	<b>71.3% (67)</b>	24.5% (23)	3.2% (3)	1.1% (1)	94
Caithness heritage seed potato varieties	32.0% (31)	<b>45.4% (44)</b>	19.6% (19)	3.1% (3)	97
Protected crops	21.3% (20)	<b>50.0% (47)</b>	22.3% (21)	6.4% (6)	94
Voluntary organisations supported to develop social enterprise	<b>49.5% (48)</b>	35.1% (34)	15.5% (15)	0.0% (0)	97
Scheme for successful local businesses to mentor community enterprises	28.6% (26)	<b>54.9% (50)</b>	16.5% (15)	0.0% (0)	91
Development of community shops/retail outlets	<b>58.2% (57)</b>	29.6% (29)	12.2% (12)	0.0% (0)	98
	<b>answered question</b>				<b>102</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>				<b>20</b>

**16. The Highland LEADER Plan suggests a number of project ideas under the theme of social enterprise and micro-businesses**

choose one option

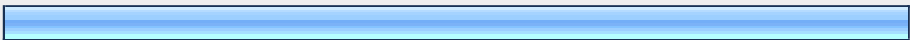
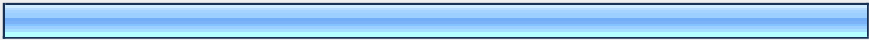

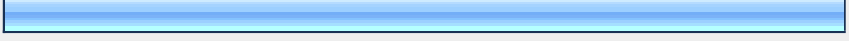
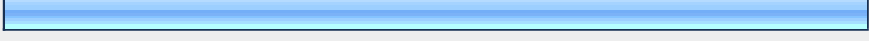
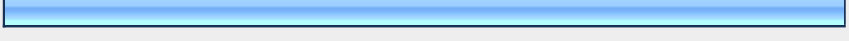
	Development of producer groups	Projects which enable crofting communities to diversify and develop new markets and products	Projects which help social enterprises to be competitive	Developing enterprise from community woodland/community owned assets	T ma
Choose one of these as being the most important or add your own in the box below	8.2% (8)	14.4% (14)	19.6% (19)	5.2% (5)	

**17. We need to be sure that people from all over Caithness have had an opportunity to comment. Please indicate below which community council area you live in.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Royal Burgh of Wick		19.6%	20
Latheron, Lybster & Clyth		3.9%	4
Dunbeath & Berriedale		1.0%	1
Halkirk		16.7%	17
<b>Thurso</b>		<b>27.5%</b>	28
West Caithness		5.9%	6
Dunnet & Cannisbay		8.8%	9
Sinclair's Bay		1.0%	1
Tannach & District		3.9%	4
Castletown		5.9%	6
Bower		2.0%	2
Watten		1.0%	1
I'm not sure		2.9%	3

	<i>answered question</i>	<b>102</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>20</b>

18. Thank you for contributing to the LEADER Plan for Caithness. The Plan will be published in December 2008. If you would like a copy please enter your details below and we will send a copy to you. More information about the LEADER Programme can be found at [www.highlandleader.com](http://www.highlandleader.com) or you can contact the Development Officer for the North Highland Area, Fiona Cameron (01408 635215 or [fiona.cameron4@highland.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.cameron4@highland.gov.uk)). If you want to apply for LEADER funds please contact Fiona to discuss your application. You can download an application form from the Highland LEADER website [www.highlandleader.com](http://www.highlandleader.com).

		Response Percent	Response Count
<b>Name:</b>		<b>100.0%</b>	<b>43</b>
Address:		95.3%	41
Address 2:		55.8%	24
City/Town:		93.0%	40
ZIP/Postal Code:		95.3%	41
Email Address:		93.0%	40
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>43</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>79</b>