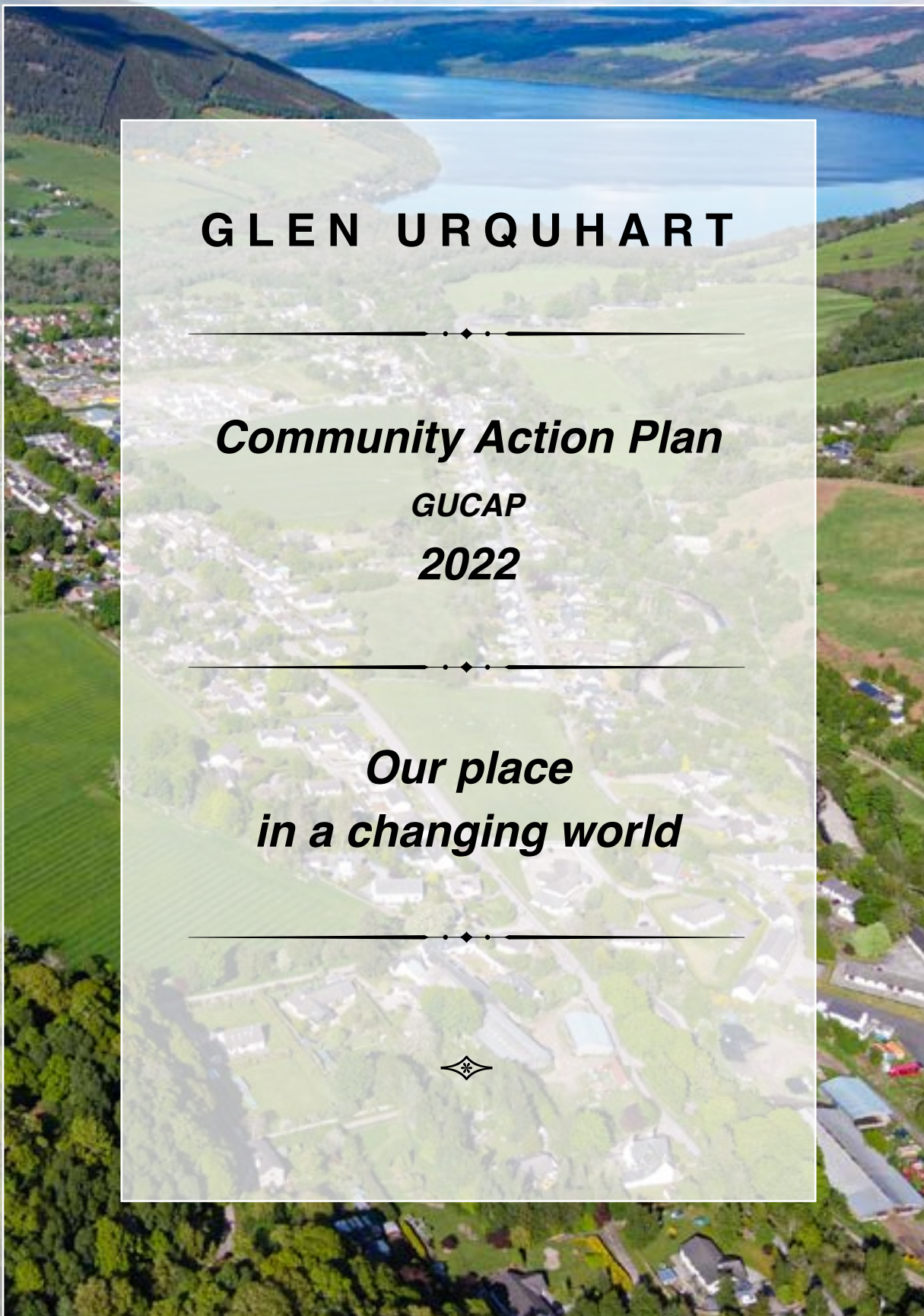




BUNLOIT * ACHTUIE * DRUMBUIE



GLEN URQUHART

Community Action Plan

*GUCAP
2022*

*Our place
in a changing world*



CORRIMONY * SHENVAL * BEARNOCK

DRUMNADROCHIT * LEWISTON * ACHMONY



MILTON * RYCHRAGGAN * BALNAIN



The plan is funded by



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WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN ?

The Community Action Plan is a route map and framework that describes what our community wants to achieve, what actions are required during a specified time period, and what resources are needed. The knowledge we have gained from the consultation and research carried out in 2022, and in ongoing projects and future plan reviews, will be crucial to our short- and long-term planning and decision-making. The process of preparing a Community Action Plan ensures that people who live and work in the Glen Urquhart area have had the opportunity to contribute to a 20-year vision for their area.

The Plan is not just a wish list; we have focused on understanding and overcoming problems so that we can make our community more resilient, and so that people's lives and wellbeing can be improved.

WHO IS MANAGING THE PLAN ?

The Community Action Plan Steering Group is drawn from Glenurquhart Rural Community Association (GURCA), Glen Urquhart Community Council (GUCC), and Soirbheas. These three bodies have distinct roles in the community and have led on many of our previous community initiatives. Bryden Associates were commissioned to undertake research and consultation and to prepare the Community Action Plan for the final approval of the Steering Group.

WHO IS A COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR ?

The Community Action Plan is for the people who live and work in Glen Urquhart and the community as a whole. It will also benefit people who

GLEN URQUHART COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

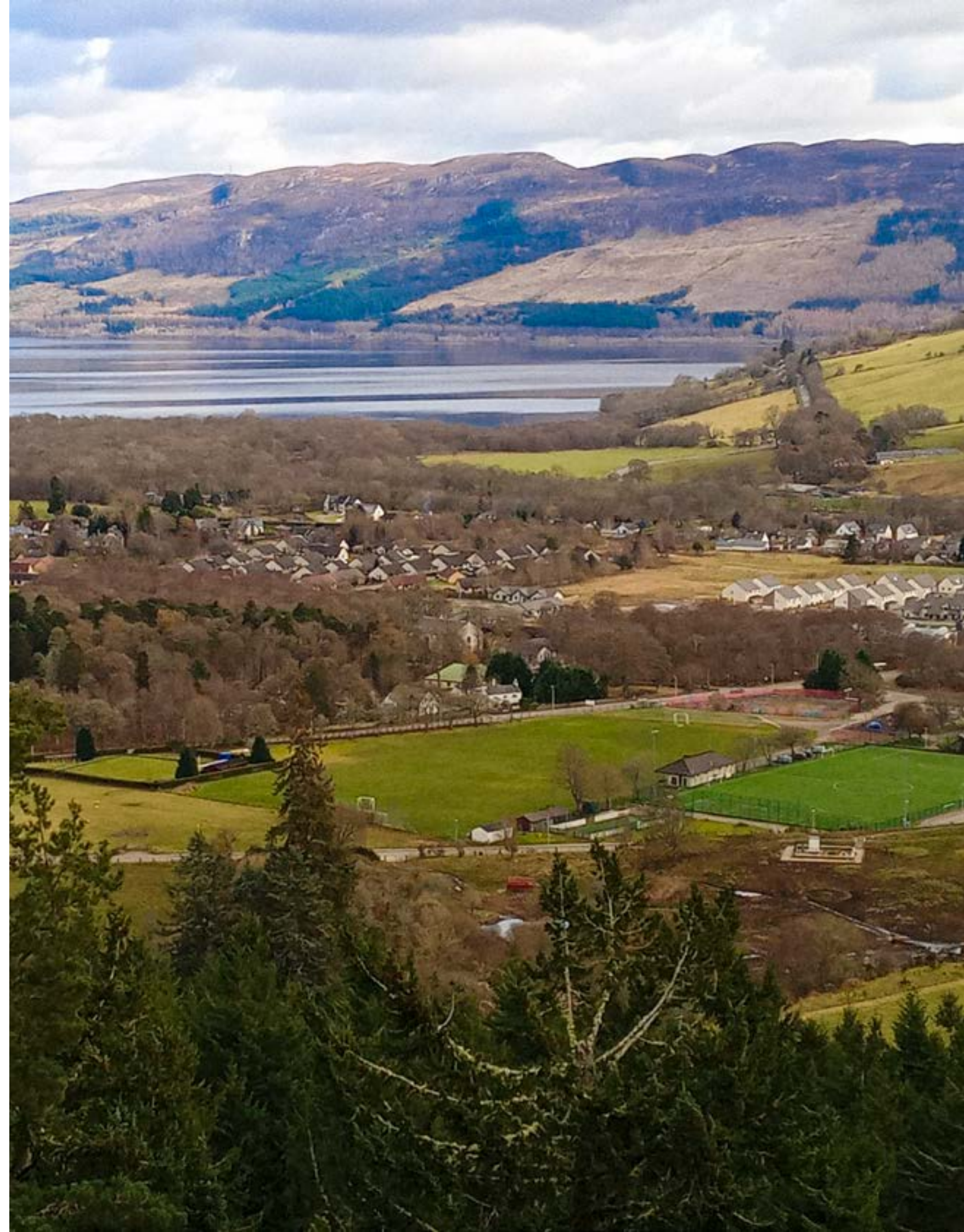
visit the area. By working as a community, alongside our public sector and our business partners, we can identify and understand the challenges and the opportunities we face and find ways to deal with them together.

The Plan doesn't replace what the Highland Council and other statutory bodies and public agencies should provide. It does, however, recognise that to achieve our ambitions external funding and ongoing volunteer support from local people will be needed to achieve the outcomes.

STRIKING THE CORRECT BALANCE

This Community Action Plan takes a short-term view (up to 2027) and a long-term view (up to 20 years). We need to be realistic. COVID legacies, cost of living prices rises, inflation, reduced public sector spending and lower economic growth, and, of course, the climate emergency all impact on us and on our community. There will undoubtedly be further unpredictable events and we need to be prepared. To turn this Plan into reality we will need to be honest, practical and collaborative. We must be realistic about how long some projects will take to form, be funded and be delivered.

Here are the things you said we needed to do to make things better for the community over the next five years.



1.1

OUTCOME:

A MORE ACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

The choice for communities to own or manage more assets that improve the delivery of public benefits is well supported by residents in the consultation. The Community Empowerment Act means there are more routes to community and plural ownership than ever before, and our efforts will be focused on the sustainability of asset-based enterprises. The climate crisis and the COVID pandemic calls for greater resilience planning and the future of volunteering in our community depends on making it easier for young people and others to help out.

PROJECT 1.1A
OWNING AND MANAGING
MORE VIABLE COMMUNITY ASSETS

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
<p>To identify viable assets (buildings, land, woodland etc) that add value to community life and that are,</p> <p>a) eligible for capital funding to support purchase and develop.</p> <p>b) supported by volunteer effort and/or cost neutral income streams.</p>	<p>Step 1: Use existing assets more efficiently and innovatively including ongoing support to enhance and modernise Glen Urquhart Public Hall.</p> <p>Step 2: Review community involvement in green space within Drumnadrochit settlement boundary and Land south of Health Centre and land to the rear of the post office now better protected and close to other commercial facilities and the main hub public car park.</p> <p>Step 3: Identify other key sites and land allocations that could provide community benefits.</p>	<p>Glen Urquhart Public Hall is refurbished.</p> <p>The number of viable assets in community ownership or management increases.</p> <p>The condition of assets are improved and become more energy efficient and sustainable to run.</p> <p>Feasibility around acquiring Balnain Forestry Buildings for Men's Shed and housing project.</p>	<p>Take advantage of the new Local Place Plan processes, Community Wealth Building and Land Reform legislation to investigate more community enterprises, and shared ownership of, or community-led, carbon projects including renewables and rewilding.</p>	<p>Lead and deliver: GURCA</p> <p>Partners: Landowners, HIE, Scottish Government, Scottish Land Fund, SSE Sustainable Development Fund.</p>

**PROJECT 1.1B
SECURING EFFECTIVE RESILIENCE
AND EMERGENCY PLANS**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To build on the existing Community Emergency Plan and expand into a more refined response to address immediate and longer-term risks.	<p>Step 1: Complete the current Community Emergency Plan.</p> <p>Step 2: Build on the strengths we used to get through the COVID-19 pandemic and record community skills, knowledge, and resources.</p> <p>Step 3: Identify future risks and vulnerabilities and create stronger connections.</p>	<p>Complete and publish the current phase of the Community Emergency Plan.</p> <p>Form a Resilience Partnership, and develop an ‘Everyday’ Resilience Plan which can support an ‘Emergency’ resilience response in the event of a more severe incident—such as a major storm or a further COVID-type impact.</p>	<p>Current plans in place for:</p> <p>1: ‘Everyday’ community resilience.</p> <p>2: ‘Emergency’ resilience response.</p>	<p>Lead and deliver: GURCA</p> <p>Partners: Scottish Government, Highland Council, Fire and Rescue Scotland, RNLI, First Responders, NHS Highland, Power companies.</p>

**PROJECT 1.1C
IMPROVING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING,
GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To secure the future of community bodies in Glen Urquhart.	<p>Step 1: Communities bodies to refresh their identities under a coordinating group and clarify how they jointly address priorities and communicate roles and actions in print and on social media plus through further support for local newsletter team to help the local community better understand what community-led support is available to them.</p> <p>Step 2: Set up a volunteer register to record local interests, qualifications and availabilities. Guide people through permissions and clearance and match volunteers with individual projects.</p>	<p>Coordinating group in place, and attracting more volunteers who give more time to the community.</p> <p>Being clear what roles/tasks are required to spread the workload and making roles less daunting.</p> <p>Use of ‘Aye Volunteer’ HTSI app.</p>	<p>A better understanding of what young people may be looking for in a volunteer opportunity and how volunteer roles in community bodies need to be adapted to be more appealing to young people.</p>	<p>Lead and deliver: Soirbheas</p> <p>Partners: Highland Council.</p>

1.2

OUTCOME:

BETTER HEALTH AND WELLBEING OPPORTUNITIES

The proportion of people of working age in Glen Urquhart is below the Scottish average, and the population is ageing faster. This is a challenge for the local workforce and informal care provision. Nationally, almost half of people aged 50–64 years have at least one long-term health condition, and more if they are over 70. Healthier people have an improved quality of life. Better health reduces the demands on our public health services. People want services within the community that mean people can live safely at home. This is an issue not just for those using provision and their carers but also for the wider community—particularly people in their 50s and 60s who may need these services in the future. Affordable childcare in the community gives parents the choice to stay in the work force.

PROJECT 1.2A

IMPROVING MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To establish a focus on preventative and joined-up intervention and co-delivery. Choices that can have an impact on individual’s mental and physical health made more available at earlier stages and to all ages.	<p>Step 1: Develop a Wellbeing Action Plan to introduce more people to non-medical ways to help mental and physical health and wellness.</p> <p>Step 2: Establish a referral programmes with health professionals and others to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Connection with outdoors through activities and volunteering * Befriending, Social and other health services * Food and nutrition * Care at Home scheme * Childcare support * Access to other services. 	<p>Increased numbers on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Health walks * Befriending scheme * Social activities. <p>Increased numbers of people volunteering.</p> <p>Increased referrals to other services.</p>	The Wellbeing Action Plan will explore long-term issues around health and wellbeing arising from poverty, social isolation, child and elder care and limited services as found in rural locations. Sustainable solutions will promote positive long-term public health outcomes through community deliverable non-medical means.	<p>Lead and co-deliver: GURCA and Soirbheas.</p> <p>Partners: GCP, NHS Highland, Drumnadrochit Medical Practice, volunteers and bodies such as the Woodland Trust and Partnership for Wellbeing.</p>

**PROJECT 1.2B
SUPPORTING A VIABLE
CARE AT HOME SERVICE**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To provide support to local people, enabling them to live independently at home and remain in their own community. To address temporary needs such as post-surgery recovery.	<p>Step 1: Joint working group to ensure the needs and views of people accessing social care are valued and represented.</p> <p>Step 2: Work to improve and support new and maintain existing wellbeing partnerships and their stakeholders.</p>	Help to recruit more professionally-qualified care workers in the local area and to assist with support measures like transport, phones, laptops and PPE required by carers.	<p>Develop a professional Care at Home service operating across GU with a local Care Coordinator.</p> <p>Supply/loan service of care equipment—lifting, movement etc for residents and visitors.</p>	<p>Lead and lobby: GCP to work with GURCA, Soirbheas and GPs through a working group. Co-delivery: Highland Hospice</p> <p>Partners: NHS Highland.</p>

**PROJECT 1.2C
SUPPORTING A VIABLE
BEFRIENDING SERVICE**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To further develop the existing Soirbheas, befriending service to alleviate social isolation and the effects of loneliness.	<p>Step 1: Recruit more volunteer 'Befrienders'.</p> <p>Step 2: Provide training and PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) checks.</p>	Viable and robust Befriending Service in place.	More people with meaningful relationships with others and more people taking part in social activities.	<p>Lead and deliver: Soirbheas</p> <p>Partners: Highland Hospice.</p>

**PROJECT 1.2D
SUPPORTING A VIABLE
CHILD CARE PROVISION**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To provide support for nursery and after-school care projects.	Step 1: Support a review of current and future demand for childcare, facility type and location.	Viable and robust Child Care provision in place.	Explore option to secure new premises for the Childcare Centre with age group dedicated space.	Lead and deliver: Childcare providers Partners: Highland Council.

**PROJECT 1.2E
ENCOURAGING PROVISION OF
MORE COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH SERVICES**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To facilitate delivery of more local 'pop up' health and wellbeing services.	Step 1: Seek commitment to trial services from visiting health professionals— for example * Foot specialist * Optician * Dental hygienist.	Settled demand for agreed services and services is in place.	Have a greater range of health services available locally.	Lobby: GUCC. Partners: NHS Highland, other professional health service providers.

**PROJECT 1.2F
ENCOURAGING MORE
COMMUNITY-LED SOCIAL ACTIVITY PROVISION**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To provide more choice and opportunity for people to socialise together.	<p>Step 1: Run trial events to establish demand and then build more regular activities. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Men's Shed * Exercise * Music tea dance /ceilidh * Outings * Eating and cooking together * Assisted shopping. 	Regular programme of social activities.	Use our community transport to help get more people together at more events.	<p>Lead and deliver: GURCA</p> <p>Partners: Highland Council, NHS Highland, U3A</p>

**1.3
OUTCOME:
MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING
AND ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES**

Managing housing by offering affordable and different choices of living and working locally for more people will create a more sustainable place. Resource efficiency by supporting new building techniques, standards and materials, making existing properties more efficient where possible and exploring/encouraging opportunities for people to utilise low carbon domestic energy sources.

**PROJECT 1.3A
HELPING TO PROVIDE
MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To gather and quantify clear evidence of housing need amongst local residents and people with Glen Urquhart connections. In particular key workers and young people with local connections currently being priced out of the local housing market.	<p>Step 1: To carry out a fine-grained local housing survey to assess:</p> <p>a) Number of existing affordable homes and tenures</p> <p>b) Housing need</p> <p>c) Number of second homes/ short-term lets and vacant and derelict properties</p> <p>d) Suitable sites where proof of concept for community owned housing might be developed</p> <p>e) Ways of accommodating workers and seasonal employees.</p>	Better understanding of housing need and an established plan with targets.	<p>More community owned and managed affordable housing with a higher proportion of young and working-age people living in Glen Urquhart.</p> <p>Use Local Place Plan to set a target for affordable houses and the proportion of second homes and short-term let properties.</p>	<p>Research, lobby and lead possible future delivery: GUCC.</p> <p>Partners: Highland Council, local landowners and businesses, Scottish Land Fund Community, Housing Trust, RSLs.</p>

**PROJECT 1.3B
HELPING TO MAKE
HOMES MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To support financial and CO2 emissions efficiencies and savings through energy use reduction and heat retention.	<p>Step 1: To create a short-term graduate placement scheme in Glen Urquhart offering home visits, consultations, and community events aimed at energy conservation.</p>	150 contacts leading to energy saving measures, funding referrals, renewable heating and energy surveys and new energy-saving practices adopted.	Investigate localised manufacturing and installation services and skills training to make housing more energy efficient and financially viable.	<p>Research, lobby and deliver: Soirbheas</p> <p>Partners: Local Energy Scotland, Home Energy Scotland.</p>

1.4

**OUTCOME:
A GREENER, FAIRER
AND MORE INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

Discussion with stakeholders highlighted a skills gaps emerging in two key sectors in Glen Urquhart—tourism and care. For sustainable tourism, Glen Urquhart needs to have visitors who stay longer and who don't just pass through or make day trips from Inverness. Discussion with stakeholders also raised the questions:

'Who benefits from carbon markets?'

'What are the opportunities to generate additional community finance from the 'green' sector?'

'How can growth in "green" sector jobs help us to address climate change and provide career openings for our young men and women to study, train, work and start new businesses in order to breathe further confidence and vibrancy into our community?'

**PROJECT 1.4A
SUPPORTING CAREERS
THROUGH GREEN SKILLS AND YOUTH APPRENTICESHIPS**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To engage local businesses in creating more opportunities for training and career development in rural-based industries. To generate new employment and thus attract and retain a higher percentage of young people in the area to strengthen and grow the local economy and the community.	<p>Step 1: Expand, fund and promote existing Soirbheas apprenticeship scheme.</p> <p>Step 2: Investigate 'Women in Wellies' type events led by role models to give young women more confidence and encouragement to think about a rural or green career.</p> <p>Step 3: Encourage more local businesses to use the HIE graduate programme.</p>	<p>Further funded apprenticeships encouraging an equitable gender balance.</p> <p>A growing working-age population.</p> <p>More graduates working in local businesses.</p>	<p>Apprentices go on to earn a real living wage and gain a recognised qualification that is acknowledged by industry bodies representing the business sectors important to Glen Urquhart and its environment.</p> <p>More employee-owned businesses in Glen Urquhart.</p>	<p>Lobby.</p> <p>Partners: Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), Business Base Highland Council (Education), UHI.</p>

**PROJECT 1.4B
MOVING TOWARDS
A WELLBEING ECONOMY**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
Building a Wellbeing Economy is a top priority for the Scottish Government. It means an economy that benefits everyone and promotes sustainability, prosperity and resilience in communities and businesses. This is what we want for Glen Urquhart.	<p>Step 1: Facilitate workshops where businesses and marketers hear directly from leaders in the community who make Glen Urquhart what it is.</p> <p>Step 2: Trial pop-ups and event opportunities to bring vacant space in Glen Urquhart to life and trial product sales to test market demand.</p> <p>Step 3: Review demand for affordable 'green' and accessible workspace with access to fast broadband.</p>	Greater diversity and resilience in the Glen Urquhart economy.	Planning for actions that provide a safe, clean, green, attractive, and well promoted community where the wellbeing agenda is at the heart of future community priorities.	<p>Lead, research, lobby, deliver.</p> <p>Partners: Local businesses, HIE, social enterprises.</p>

**PROJECT 1.4C
CAMPAIGNING FOR
A REAL LIVING WAGE**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To build on strengths in low wage sectors like tourism and care but look for opportunities to promote a shift to a Real Living Wage economy for the benefit of everyone.	<p>Step 1: Community bodies to pay Real Living Wage, and only partner with organisations and suppliers that pay Real Living Wage.</p> <p>Step 2: Promote a Real Living Wage approach to all businesses in Glen Urquhart.</p>	Percentage of businesses and social enterprises in the community signed up to a Real Living Wage pledge.	Long-term actions to drive up average wages and salaries.	<p>Research, lobby:</p> <p>Partners: Local businesses, social enterprises.</p>

PROJECT 1.4D

USING GREEN FINANCE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY/LOW CARBON FUNDS TO INCREASE COMMUNITY FINANCIAL RESERVES

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To consider new models for negotiating future community finance from renewable energy operators and carbon focused investors who may gain consent for new and upgraded developments in and around Glen Urquhart.	<p>Step 1: Participation in renewable energy/low carbon community benefits groupings and networks.</p> <p>Step 2: Increase oversight and engagement with renewable energy/ low carbon projects to achieve good practice standards for community engagement.</p>	Progressive green finance that delivers measurable community benefits and includes community shareholding as an option.	Support delivery of shared ownership or community-led carbon projects in Glen Urquhart. Explore the concept of forming a GIP (Green Improvement District defined by local green policies).	<p>Lead, research, lobby and seek partners: Soirbheas</p> <p>Partners: Renewable energy and carbon project developers and operators.</p>

PROJECT 1.4E

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE TOURISM MEASURES

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
<p>To stabilise visitor numbers in the peak season while focusing growth on quieter months and on those parts of our community that have the infrastructure and capacity to manage additional visitors.</p> <p>To maximise the economic and community benefit of tourism by encouraging longer stays, while maintaining existing high levels of visitor satisfaction.</p>	<p>Step 1: Build and support local tourism work carried out by the Loch Ness Hub.</p> <p>Step 2: Support investigation of further initiatives based around walking and cycling, wildlife, local culture and crafts, food and drink.</p> <p>Step 3: Develop local heritage trails, building on the Cnocan Burraidh site experience.</p> <p>Step 4: Assess infrastructure capacity needs including car, coach and camper van parking and accessible spaces, toilet provision and chemical waste disposal points, and EV charging points.</p>	<p>Growth in visitor numbers is concentrated in off-peak times of the year and in areas with capacity.</p> <p>Length of visitor stays increase.</p> <p>Visitor satisfaction levels remain high.</p>	<p>Green and community credentials are key priorities within to our large and small tourism businesses and they publicly report performance.</p> <p>Reduction in reliance on seasonal/ tourist jobs and provision of more year-round stable employment.</p>	<p>Research, lobby and support delivery:</p> <p>Partners Local businesses, Loch Ness Hub CIC, Scottish Canals, HES.</p>

2.1

**OUTCOME:
GETTING ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY**

The consultation showed very strong support for access to safe off-road walking and cycling routes connecting settlements and public places and improving access to the Loch Ness shoreline, as well as for better public transport (addressing current problems such as limited timetable, unsuitable vehicles and ‘last mile’ issues to and from the bus stop). Increasing active travel and mobility leads to health and wellbeing benefits for everyone, and, in particular, encourages healthy active travel habits for life for young people and their families. Education and enforcement of road user space and speed limits makes the use of links we already have much safer. Walking and cycling have widespread visitor appeal; the Great Glen Way and Affric to Kintail Way are good alternatives to more well-known long-distance routes. The Scottish Government is committed to reducing car kilometres travelled by 20% by 2030 and to spending 10% of the total transport budget on active travel by 2024–25.

**PROJECT 2.1A
SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO
THE ACTIVE TRAVEL AND LEISURE ROUTE NETWORK**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To ensure residents are better connected by a network of safe accessible paths and cycle routes, improving people’s health and wellbeing.	<p>Step 1: Map status and condition of existing routes. Revisit engineering studies carried out for a walk/cycle route beside A82.</p> <p>Step 2: Explore measures to encourage responsible road use on local roads. Review of A82 junction safety and capacity within Drumnadrochit and Lewiston.</p> <p>Step 3: Develop a strategic plan to address path upgrades and network gaps including: Planned improvements to the U1640 Bunloit road which forms part of the Great Glen Way and cycle route. Investigating a site and design for a new foot bridge across the Coiltie at the Cover Wood to give access to the Loch and Borlum Bay. Promoting rural cycling activity in line with revised Highway Code Road User hierarchy.</p>	<p>All core paths are in good condition and accessible to the widest possible range of users.</p> <p>Behavioural change where more people are making active travel choices especially for short journeys.</p> <p>Clear messaging around local road use and safety of walking, wheeling, cycling and riding users.</p> <p>Cycle training for local road use, particularly for children and less confident adults.</p>	<p>People increasingly leave their car at home, with residents being more active and making regular use of low/zero carbon transport.</p> <p>Key infrastructure and active travel projects are progressed including:</p> <p>Off-road route from Drumnadrochit to Dochgarroch parallel to A82.</p> <p>Local pump track and more bike routes.</p> <p>Better cycle capacity on public transport.</p> <p>Access to cycle repair and maintenance facilities to ensure cycles are safe and in good working order.</p>	<p>Lead: Soirbheas (paths) and GUCC (roads). Research, lobby, deliver: GURCA</p> <p>Partners: Highland Council, HITRANS, Sustrans, Safe Routes to School HIE, landowners, tourism businesses, Strategic Timber Transport Fund Scotland, Cycle Repair Scheme, Paths for All.</p>

**PROJECT 2.1B
ENABLING DEVELOPMENT OF
E-BIKE AND EV INFRASTRUCTURE**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To enable residents and visitors to have greater confidence in electric vehicles (cars and bikes) provision by improving support infrastructure.	<p>Step 1: Support and expand existing E-bike service offered by the Loch Ness Hub subject to demand.</p> <p>Step 2: Review the current provision of EV charging infrastructure in Glen Urquhart and identify gaps and future solutions.</p>	Residents and visitors being more active and making regular use of low/zero carbon transport.	An E-bike and EV infrastructure network that meets demand and is flexible in response to technological advances.	<p>Lead, Loch Ness Hub. Research, lobby, deliver</p> <p>Partners: Highland Council, Sustrans, HITRANS, Transport Scotland, E-bike and vehicle grant funds, Community transport company.</p>

**PROJECT 2.1C
ENABLING BETTER AND MORE INCLUSIVE
PUBLIC TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY TRANSPORT AND CAR SCHEMES**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To help residents have access to better information and provision about mobility services including public transport. More on call community-based transport schemes to get people out and about and to appointments, social activities, shopping or trips.	<p>Step 1: Help residents and visitors make better use of existing provision such as free bus travel for residents aged under 21 and over 60.</p> <p>Step 2: Investigate a booking system for a community EV people carrier.</p> <p>Step 3: Investigate a lift-share network or platform.</p> <p>Step 4: Investigate a model for the development of a volunteer car scheme where drivers and users are protected and trained, and providers suitably reimbursed.</p>	At least 50% of eligible young people in Glen Urquhart signed up to free bus travel as identified through on-going school surveys and user data from transport providers.	<p>Registered community bus routes offering a bookable door-to-door service and aiming to meet the individual needs of people who cannot get out and about easily without assistance.</p> <p>Vehicles suitable for all abilities, with accessible lifts or ramps and fully-trained drivers to assist people with mobility problems.</p> <p>Relocation and redesign of services to reduce need to travel in line with 20% of car kilometres reduction by 2030 target in Scottish Government Net Zero route map.</p>	<p>Lead, GURCA and Loch Ness Hub. Research, lobby, deliver</p> <p>Partners: Highland Council, Scottish Government, MaaS Investment Fund (MIF), HITRANS, transport providers.</p>

2.2

**OUTCOME:
BETTER DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

Technological trends such as automation and digitalisation have changed the way we buy goods and services, how we manufacture products, when and where we work, and how we interact with each other. However, a significant number of survey respondents in Glen Urquhart reported very poor broadband speeds which hindered work and study opportunities. Reliable mobile service choices available for everyone are essential in a modern world and in advance of the planned 2025 analogue phone line shut down.

**PROJECT 2.2A
IMPROVING BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY
AND DIGITAL SKILLS**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To help deliver high speed broadband, because it is important for the future of our people, services, and economies.	<p>Step 1: Lobby Scottish Government to deliver maximum connectivity in the shortest possible time.</p> <p>Step 2: Offer training in digital and mobile skills to those in need.</p> <p>Step 3: Investigate provision of a central hub (library or refurbished hall) where local people can be guaranteed easy access to a high-speed connection for work or study.</p>	<p>Achieve Scottish Government's committed target of speeds of at least 30mbps to every home as set in their R100 Digital Scotland initiative.</p> <p>20 people are offered training in digital or mobile skills.</p>	Improve long-term resilience of broadband network and deliver ultra-fast speed levels to as many households as possible.	<p>Lead, research, lobby: Soirbheas and GUCC.</p> <p>Partners: Scottish Government Openreach, internet service providers.</p>

**PROJECT 2.2B
IMPROVING
MOBILE CONNECTIVITY**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To help address those parts of Glen Urquhart which have partial or complete 'not-spots areas' where only some or no mobile network operators (MNOS) provide 4G coverage.	<p>Step 1: Lobby MNOs for maps to identify 'not spots' and their plans to improve coverage.</p> <p>Step 2: Lobby to secure failsafe measures for those who rely on analogue landlines and do not have a broadband connection.</p>	Scottish Government 4G Infill Programme (S4GI) initiative delivered. 100% of Glen Urquhart will be in range of a 4G signal from at least one mobile operator.	Every resident to have 4G/5G connectivity to help all residents to enjoy the benefits of improved connectivity and digital technology.	<p>Research, lobby: Soirbheas</p> <p>Partners: DCMS, Scottish Government Openreach, mobile network operators .</p>

**2.3
OUTCOME:
SUPPORTING LOCAL CULTURE, SPORT
AND HERITAGE**

While recognising the importance of shinty, survey respondents identified a need for facilities to support other sports including a pump track, gym, climbing wall, play space, MUGA, mountain bike trails and water sports. People responding to the survey also identified gaps in the wider access to heritage and history in Glen Urquhart. Recruiting volunteers is an ongoing challenge for most sporting and heritage groups.

**PROJECT 2.3A
PROVIDING MORE QUALITY, AFFORDABLE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SPORT AND RECREATION**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To promote and nurture our rich sporting heritage and to identify priorities for additional sporting provision.	<p>Step 1: Prepare a directory of volunteers and the local skill base in sports and physical activities to improve leadership and instruction opportunities.</p> <p>Step 2: Support efforts to enhance and modernise Glen Urquhart Public Hall as a focal point for cultural, leisure and wellbeing activities.</p> <p>Step 3: Investigate the feasibility of establishing central 'secretariat' to help groups and clubs to organise venue booking, publicity etc.</p> <p>Step 4: Commission a feasibility study to establish actual demand for additional play space(s), community multi-use games areas (MUGA) and pump track.</p>	<p>Recruit and train more volunteers.</p> <p>Invite clubs to identify baseline numbers and to identify measures required to increase membership of existing groups and usage of existing provision.</p> <p>Increase the number of grants awarded to heritage and sport projects.</p>	<p>Getting more local facilities that mean less travelling to Inverness is needed.</p> <p>Exploring need and viability for a 'proper' gym facility and swimming pool as identified in the survey.</p>	<p>Lead: High Life Highland</p> <p>Partners: Highland Council, community bodies and clubs .</p>

**PROJECT 2.3B
CONSERVING AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO
CULTURAL HERITAGE**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To care for and celebrate our rich cultural heritage through trails, events, interpretation and storytelling and performance.	<p>Step 1: Investigate feasibility of a cultural heritage network, building on, for example, the success of Cnocan Burraidh burial ground project.</p> <p>Step 2: Seek funding to investigate and develop local heritage trails.</p>	<p>Develop heritage trails and related events.</p> <p>Increased opportunities for traditional music, dance and Gaelic language.</p>	<p>Explore measures that better reflect local heritage and history interests and offer heritage themed specialist tours, visitor experiences, genealogy, access to digital archives and school resource provision.</p>	<p>Lead: GURCA</p> <p>Partners: Highland Council, High Life Highland.</p>

2.4

**OUTCOME:
A PLACE THAT IS NATURE-RICH
AND CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS**

The consultation process confirmed a strong connection between residents and the environment where they live and how improved visual quality and natural amenity give a greater sense of welcome to visitors. There is interest in knowing more about the motivations of local landowners/managers and how the community could work more closely with them.

By 2024, all land should be in a public register. The Scottish Government’s Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement promotes greater diversity in ownership of land including more community ownership, high standards and transparency of land ownership and use, and better community engagement in decisions about land.

Land based initiatives around wildlife, leisure activities, water quality, growing and cooking can improve health issues, meet Net Zero targets, and provide climate change mitigation. “Boots on the ground” in the form of a ‘warden service’ was mentioned in the survey but clarifying costs and integration with existing provision is required.

The Scottish Government’s Circular Economy Bill includes measures on litter and waste and forms part of wider plans on reducing, reusing, and recycling materials to create green workplace cultures and using traditional techniques, innovation and technology.

**PROJECT 2.4A
CLOSER WORKING WITH LAND MANAGERS
TO ENSURE COMMUNITY NEEDS ARE ACCOMMODATED**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
To secure greater collaboration and transparency on the way land in the community is owned and managed.	<p>Step 1: Use an online map-based resource to show the ownership of land and water assets and the contact details of controlling persons to assist in developing future community engagement and projects.</p> <p>Step 2: Collaborate with landowners on the range of tools available to support them in engaging with communities.</p>	<p>Managers of larger land holdings meeting regularly with community bodies to explain their future plans.</p> <p>Land and water resources in Glen Urquhart to be kept ‘in good ecological status’ as per national codes and definitions.</p>	Action that lead to a strong and dynamic relationship between the land in Glen Urquhart and people, where all land contributes to a modern and successful community and country, achieving Net Zero by 2045, and where rights and responsibilities in relation to land are fully recognised and fulfilled.	<p>Research, lobby: Soirbheas and GURCA</p> <p>Partners: Land managers, Scottish Government, Scottish Land Fund, Scottish Land Commission, SEPA, NatureScot, Forestry and Land Scotland.</p>

**PROJECT 2.4B
GREATER COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE
AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCIES THROUGH PRACTICAL ACTION**

**PROJECT 2.4C
A COMMUNITY WARDEN/RANGER POST
FOR GLEN URQUHART**

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
<p>To promote practical action in developing a circular economy at a community level.</p> <p>To promote practical action that has a sustainable business base.</p>	<p>Step 1: Explore the feasibility of establishing more garden areas with community-based food growing space, growing tunnels, community composting and learning capacity.</p> <p>Step 2: Explore opportunities for self-financing local growing ventures, composting and biochar production for soil improvement, and repair/recycle/reuse outlets.</p>	<p>A community growing space in Glen Urquhart with facilities for recycling and composting.</p>	<p>The community is actively participating and contributing to establishing a working circular economy in Glen Urquhart.</p>	<p>Lead: Soirbheas and GURCA</p> <p>Partners: Local land managers, Highland Council, Forestry and Land Scotland.</p>

PROJECT AIM	STEPS TO 2027	TARGET	LONG TERM ACTION	COMMUNITY ROLE AND PARTNERS
<p>To support work managing outdoor visitor-related pressures and ensuring visitors have the best possible experiences.</p>	<p>Step 1: Investigate the options for funding a community warden/ranger on visitor duties in the summer and taking on local maintenance and resilience duties in the winter in partnership with Highland Council's current pilot ranger scheme.</p>	<p>A blended outcome to share costs, but with clarity on commitments for community warden/ranger, HC rangers, staff from other bodies, and local volunteers.</p>	<p>Enhanced provision in partnership with other providers and community co-ordination of agreed services to be delivered and necessary support and resources committed.</p>	<p>Lead, research, deliver:</p> <p>Partners: Local land managers, Highland Council, Forestry and Land Scotland, RSPB, Woodland Trust, NatureScot.</p>

