

our land, our people  
and our place  
in the future



## TROTTERNISH PENINSULA ACTION PLAN 2001

*'S e obair latha tòiseachadh ...  
It takes just a day to start a worthwhile job ...*

*... ach 's e obair beatha crìochnachadh  
... but it takes a lifetime to bring a worthwhile  
job to fruition*



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## **Glossary**

A Glossary of the Acronyms used in this document:

ABDS = Agricultural Business Development Scheme  
B&Bs = Bed and Breakfast establishments  
CCDS = Crofting Community Development Scheme  
CES = Croft Entrant Scheme  
DTI = Department of Trade and Industry  
EU = European Union  
FC = Forestry Commission  
FE = Forest Enterprise  
HC = The Highland Council  
HIE = Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
HISP = Highland Interpretative Strategy Project  
HS = Historic Scotland  
HOST = Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board  
ISDN = Information Systems Digital Network  
IT = Information Technology  
LEADER Plus = replaces Leader II  
LPG = Low Pressure Gas  
LSHA = Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association  
NPPG = ?  
NOSWA = North of Scotland Water Authority  
RCTGS = Scottish Executive Rural Community Transport Grant Scheme  
RSS = Rural Stewardship Scheme  
SAC = Scottish Agricultural College  
SALE = Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise  
SCU – Scottish Crofters Union  
SCVO = Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations  
SEPA = Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
SERAD = Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department  
SH = Scottish Homes  
SLHDA = Skye & Lochalsh Horticultural Development Association  
SMC = Scottish Museums Council  
SNH – Scottish Natural Heritage  
SSSI = Special Site of Scientific Interest  
STB = Scottish Tourist Board  
Sustrans = Sustainable Cycling Network  
WHAM = Waste Highland Action on Minimisation

## **Introduction**

It has been widely acknowledged that the Dùthchas Strategy is a very powerful vehicle through which to organise support and resources for the implementation of the community ideas generated and highlighted through the Dùthchas process. This Action Plan makes a start in documenting how a start will be made on implementing that Strategy. Part of the ongoing process of Strategy implementation is the development of the Action Plan. In this early version, only a start can be made on developing plans for Strategy Objectives and Actions. As work progresses further detail will be developed.

Throughout the implementation we must remember that this Strategy and Action Plan provides a unique way of bringing opportunities to our communities in an accessible way. While we will need to be innovative in securing the necessary funding for project implementation, we should never lose sight of the strong impacts which can also be achieved when relatively small amounts of money are made available for local projects.

This Action Plan documents the information available to date on the following:

- Implementation Structure
- Phasing of Actions
- Support Partners
- Relevant initiatives & policies
- Assessing Sustainability
- Funding
- Targets
- Measuring Progress
- Measuring Impacts

# **1. Implementation Structure**

## **The Trotternish Peninsula Advisory Group**

The Advisory Group has provided a local partnership. It has also guided the work routed firmly within the local context, drawing the necessary critical links for its success. In the future, the Advisory Group might evolve into a long term and more formal partnership which to assume responsibility for the future implementation of work in the community, and also the review of the strategy itself.

Early in 2001, the Trotternish Peninsula Advisory Group agreed the main elements of the implementation framework. In brief, this will consist of a new community development organisation which will be established for the Trotternish peninsula to undertake the implementation and also the review of the strategy. Further details are given below.

## **The Trotternish Community Development Company**

The community development organisation will be a community based, legally constituted company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The company will raise and hold funds. It will retain and strengthen the partnership links established by Dùthchas. It is hoped that a new post might be created for the company, to support the implementation of the work in the Trotternish peninsula. Additional resourcing will be required to establish the new organisation and any post that might arise from it.

## **2. Developing the Action Plan**

The Implementation framework and the Phasing have already been agreed upon by the Trotternish Area Advisory Group and the Strategy Groups. In Phase 1 more detailed Action Plans will be developed for the Prioritised Objectives. It is important to note that work will also begin on developing plans for implementing Phase 2 & 3 Objectives and Actions.

As work progresses new ideas and, therefore, new projects will emerge. The Trotternish Area Advisory Group and Strategy Groups will incorporate these into the Action Plan in accordance with the sustainability principals which have underpinned the work to date. Links will also be made with the Task Groups already active in the communities along with other relevant community groups so that the benefits of a strategic approach can be maximised. In the course of implementation these crucial links will be developed.

A lot of planning has been invested in the Dùthchas process. It should be borne in mind that there is a negative side effect to such a lengthy planning stage, in that people within the Dùthchas community have difficulty in quantifying the project's achievements. Central to the implementation of our plans is the involvement of local people in bringing forward actions. That way, the achievements are shared by us all. This is a big challenge, since it is much easier to say this on paper than to achieve it in reality. Another important consideration is that we actively seek, and find, windows of opportunity to create local employment. In Trotternish, all manner of work is welcome, no matter how part time or temporary. Local jobs might well arise from the strategy groups, task groups or individual projects that have been highlighted by Dùthchas.

Development ought to evolve from our local identity, rather than clash with it. When we look out of our windows, our unique landscape character is a powerful symbol of local identity in the Trotternish peninsula. We must learn to use our local biodiversity action plan as a guidebook to help us to protect and enhance this landscape. By changing the way that we think, we can mould the constraints into opportunities. It is then that we see new possibilities. For example, the SSSIs are a useful resource for agri-environmental schemes. So a big challenge for us all is to see new things with our eyes, rather than what our eyes are accustomed to seeing. Sustainability is about confident communities, and that means being bold and taking our partner agencies along with us.

## Projected Phasing

Figure 1 illustrates the Projected Implementation Phases.

*Figure 1 Projected Implementation Phases*



### **3. Into Action: Phase 1**

This section details Prioritised Strategy Objectives and Actions by Strategy Groups. For each Action the following is identified:

#### ***First Step***

This indicates the first jobs which need to be done in order to implement the Action. In some cases we need to do more work in identifying exactly what we need to do in order to implement each Action.

#### ***Support Partners***

These are groups, agencies and organisations which we hope will remain involved or become involved in order to help make progress and maintain networks. It is important to note that this category includes two different types of partners. One relates to agencies already involved in the Dùthchas Project as Partners or members of the Trotternish Peninsula Area Advisory Group. The other category includes groups and organisations working locally or nationally on relevant issues. Early in Phase 1, approaches will have to be made to these newly identified organisations in order to secure their help and in order to ensure that our implementation is complementary to the efforts of these groups. New arrangements will have to be made with agencies which were Dùthchas Partners to maintain continuity in the Trotternish Peninsula.

#### ***Relevant Initiatives***

Since this is a strategic approach, useful links to other strategies, initiatives and policies need to be identified and maintained.

#### ***Help Offered to Date***

This refers to advice and expertise offered by Partners with an interest in particular Objectives or Actions. This information does not exist in detail for every Objective and Action. Other help and strategic alliances will be created as work progresses. The information available at present is listed at the end of each Strategy Group section.



## Trotternish Trails and Interpretation

**GROUP VISION:** *“To create Trails throughout the Trotternish peninsula for everyone to enjoy, highlighting what is special here along the way with interpretation, and creating benefits for local people, their economy and their surrounding natural world. ”*

<b>Objective 1: To identify our key features and current provision, and then to draw out a theme or themes for the Trotternish peninsula</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To create an inventory of existing resources and special features	Check what info is already available (SNH) Contractor to provide report	SNH SALE HC – Ranger and Footpath officer	Access Strategy Donald Kennedy of HC will already have a lot of info on footpaths.
To thereafter classify which resources and features are appropriate for the agenda of ‘Trotternish Trails and Interpretation’ (making categories and headings)	Strategy Group discussion with other interested parties	SNH HC – Ranger	Highland Access Strategy Highland Interpretive Strategy Highland Heritage Network Footpaths listed in Sustainability profile European Habitats Directive – any work within the SAC will need full assessment SSSI legislation – if SSSIs involved
To pin point for ourselves a really strong theme or themes from the inventory so that we can confidently say “Trotternish is special because ...”	Strategy Group discussion	HC	See Heather Ancrum’s report on Staffin
To liaise with relevant landowners at an early stage – that is Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department (SERAD) and at grazings level	Consult with Grazings Committees regarding contractor’s report	SERAD	CCDS
To encourage people to visit sites which are robust, rather than directing them to fragile ones which could have a negative impact on our natural assets (eg Bereraig is such a site, where fossils are being depleted)	Promote only robust sites	Highland Council Scottish Museums Council Historic Scotland Duntulm Castle Trust SNH - for advice on fragility etc	Sites and Monuments Record (HC)
<b>Objective 2: To identify and target the customers and the market</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To conduct a basic survey with B&Bs, hotels etc to determine what variety of visitors there are and what they are looking for	Contact Tourist Board to check what information they have on this.	HOST STB	HOST Visitor Survey 1997
To identify the targeted markets for these trails, assess the numbers, range and types of people who are coming here	Classify which trails are more or less related to ornithology, botany, archaeology etc	HOST STB	STB Tourism attitudes survey
To find out what Scottish Tourist Board (STB) and Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board (HOST) are doing with niche marketing in this topic	Contact STB and HOST	HOST STB	See ‘Know Your Markets’ section on <a href="http://www.scotexchange.net">www.scotexchange.net</a> . Also <a href="http://www.ardnamurchan.com">www.ardnamurchan.com</a> Host currently developing a ‘Highlands and Islands – Walking Proposal’

<b>Objective 3: To plan a series of Trails, to source funding and initiatives through which to promote our key features, protecting and enhancing our environment as we go</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To find out more about funding and initiatives	Contact SNH, Heritage Lottery Fund, HISP	Highland Council, SNH	Highland Access Strategy (core path networks) Highland Structure Plan (HC) Aberdeenshire Countryside Access Strategy
Interpretation is the key so find out which routes will bring this out best	Classify on a sliding scale	Scottish Museums Council SNH, HC Ranger Service	SMC/SNH literature and Courses on interpretation Highland Interpretative Strategy Staffin Interpretative Study (Ancrum) A Sense of Place Interpretative Planning Handbook (HIE)
Propose a pilot route for this project	Strategy Group discussion	Footpath Officer (HC)	
Look at route guides and extract walks from there	Collect route guides for integrated approach	Skye & Lochalsh Tour Guide Association	
Look at maps (Pathfinder)	Strategy Group discussion		
Investigate grants for access regarding above	SALE Contact SNH	HC, Heritage Lottery	Community initiatives at Newtonmore, Nethybridge, Nairn and Dunkeld-Birmam Woodland Grant Scheme

### ***Offers of Support to Date***

STB can support with advice/staff time where appropriate and practical

SNH supports many of the proposed actions in principle

FE could assist with advice and information

HC may be able to assist in accessing European funding

SMC can offer general advice on heritage developments

SALE can support footpath and interpretation/guidance projects through Community Action Grants or Environmental Renewal.

Sustainable development of walking and access opportunities is in line with HIE Network Strategy.

## Diversification, local produce and markets

### **GROUP VISION: “To create a viable, social, economic environment to keep people on the land”**

<b>Objective 1: To set up experimental horticultural units with diversification a priority, by building on what has already been achieved elsewhere on Skye.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Any initiatives must be practical and within the means and abilities of crofting households.	Invite ideas from the crofting community	SLHDA; HC; SAC, SNH, SERAD	SLHDA Annual Reports; ABDS
Link in with the Waste group to create a composting scheme which focuses on horticultural producers and gardeners	Encourage experimentation within schools composting scheme	HC (Economic Development) SLHDA	LEADER PLUS
Link in with the SLHDA co-ordinator to promote horticultural production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>practical units</li> <li>low capital costs for unit set up</li> <li>on site practical training – NOT days away (soil analysis, disease problems etc) to meet demand</li> <li>publicise local produce (what is available and where) to customers through local press</li> <li>make producers/potential producers aware of opportunities through local press</li> <li>advise potential growers of growing techniques</li> </ul>	Encourage crofters to join the Association. Clarify roles with SLHDA, to achieve strategic progress.	HC; SALE	SALE Food and Drink Initiative SNH: Might be most effective for Dùthchas to take on promotion of local markets?
Produce a three-year development plan	Access funding for this	HC	SLHDA 3 yr plan
<b>Objective 2: To educate people about new opportunities and promote local produce to everyone</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Advise potential growers of growing techniques	Encourage visits to existing growers	SLHDA; SAC	SLHDA 3 year project
Provide practical training (soil analysis, disease problems etc) to meet demand	Contact Scottish Agricultural College	SAC, SLHDA	
<b>Objective 3: To provide advice and guidance on processing</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Encourage and increase the production of fruit and veg	Provide an example of local success	SLHDA; SALE	SLHDA Market Stall SALE Food and Drink Initiative

### **Offers of Support to Date**

SNH supports measures that help maintain the traditional diversity of crofting land uses

HC are committed to forms of re-use such as composting

SALE Food and Drink Initiative aims to encourage local food production, sale and use by individuals, shops & restaurants/hotels.

Any new initiative in Trotternish should build on - not duplicate or repeat - work done by SLHDA (ie experimental/demonstration trials have already been done, and are unlikely to be funded again)

## Transport Infrastructure

**GROUP VISION:** “to support and develop the transport system (including public transport) which is cost effective and meets the needs of the indigenous and visiting population with minimum environmental impact”.

<b>Objective 1: To effectively use existing and new sea routes for freight and passenger transport, bearing in mind the impact on fragile roads</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Obtain statistics re usage of existing sea routes (freight and passenger)	Contact operators – Caledonian MacBrayne in particular	HC	
Obtain more info re Norwegian model	Contact relevant Norwegian Dept Also HIE (Roy Pedersen)	Norwegian contacts	
Pursue the Staffin to Gairloch ferry link (market research)	Access funding for research	Staffin Community Trust	
<b>Objective 2 To effectively use and improve the circular road system around the Trotternish peninsula incorporating side roads, and with greater use of public transport</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Establish under what conditions people would use a bus service	Contractor to provide report of survey	SCVO, HC Roads & Transport	Sutherland Partnership Community Transport Report
Encourage wider promotion of bus service (up to date timetables on bus shelters/available from local shops etc)	Contact HC Public Transport for support	SCVO, HC Roads & Transport	SE Rural   Community Transport Grant Scheme
<b>Objective 3: To work towards a level European playing field, objectively to reduce fuel cost, road tax and the transport of all goods and animals</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Establish if facts and figures are being looked at now	Approach HC for information	HC	Sarah Boyack MSP & RCTGS
Establish facts and figures re other countries (how costs are kept down etc)	Contact HC for information	Norwegian contacts	ditto
<b>Objective 4: To ensure integration of modes of transport including community transport schemes</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Obtain facts and figures from transport operators re usage of services	Contact operators	SCVO, HC	
<b>Objective 5: To develop Uig pier and bay area as a pivotal foundation of the transport system in Trotternish</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Identify good ideas from other areas - particularly Western Isles, and surveys and studies already done	Contact Uig Community Development Association	Caledonian MacBrayne	Local Transport Strategy

### *Offers of Support to Date*

HC is actively involved in lobbying for changes to fuel costs in our rural areas

## Renewable Energy

**GROUP VISION:** “to be less dependent on external energy by effective use of local resources, to the maximum benefit of the community”.

The Over-riding objective is: “To own and share energy resources for the benefit of all the communities”.

<b>Objective 1: To investigate and develop the production of energy in Trotternish through power generated by a range of means - wind, wave, tidal, hydro, biomass, solar, waste to energy and fuel cells in a safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly way using existing sources.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Motivate local people by showing them something – lead by example!	Contact Power companies. Models may be available for demonstrations	Torren Energy	Wood Burning Boilers
Funding for pilot project in Trotternish – adopting a “think big” approach	Investigate if private companies are willing to invest Check national grid infrastructure is adequate		SEPA policy; Local Plan, SNH Landscape Character Assessment
<b>Objective 2: To increase the awareness of energy efficiency including building methods and existing building stock.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Get HC to help us	Contact Head of Energy and Engineering Services	HC	Highland Structure Plan
Eco-house Project	Round table meeting of all interested parties	SNH; NOSWA; HC Planning and Development, and Property and Architecture Services; SH; LSHA; SALE; David Dittman	Highland Birchwoods Project Rural Partnership for change SEPA policy Local Plan, designated areas policies

### *Offers of Support to Date*

SNH would be pleased to advise on locational and design factors

FC would support the utilisation of local timber resources to best effect

HC supports the development of small scale energy initiatives

LSHA, in conjunction with SH, took the lead on the Eco-house project and will continue with support

SALE could help fund locational/landscaping/shelter elements of an eco-house project.

## Waste Reduction

### GROUP VISION: “Trotternish as a shining example of a waste free environment”

<b>Objective 1: To raise awareness so waste reduction is an integral part of all our lives (industry included) and is seen as having value</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Publicity on cost to us all of waste disposal	Localised awareness/information leaflets	HC	National Waste Strategy Lochaber Environmental Group
Information on waste amounts from Trotternish	Contact HC Environmental Services	HC	European Landfill Directive Area Waste Plan
Demonstrate savings for business/domestic	Begin with one example - eg recycling paper and packaging	Scottish Homes	Lochaber Environmental Group
Business audits – all businesses – no matter what size	Contact ‘expert help’ scheme in HIE, for waste audits	SALE/HIE	Green Tourism Business Scheme
<b>Objective 2: To set up composting and other local recycling schemes and develop local markets for recycled materials.</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Composting project – link with SLHDA	Gain support of primary school teachers	HC; SLHDA; SEPA; Agenda 21 Group	Strathspey Waste Action Network;
local paper re-use project – eg brickets, bales for animal bedding	Find out how this works in other areas	HC Protective Services	Golspie Recycling Project
Battery recycling project.	Contact local garages	HC Protective Services	
<b>Objective 3: To raise the profile of litter reduction including fly-tipping as a priority</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>First Step</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Local initiative to uplift scrap vehicles	Contact HC for support		
To produce a study on environmental/economic impact of litter	Gather existing information	SEPA	Waste Watch, SEPA Local Waste Strategy

### *Offers of Support to Date*

SNH could offer help in raising the profile of litter reduction

HC can assist directly in terms of advice and information

SEPA could offer advice on waste minimisation

NOSWA can provide support to water related projects

## 4. Future Action: Phase 2 & 3

The information in this section is again listed by Strategy Groups. First the Actions already developed and prioritised by the Strategy Groups for Phase 2 & 3 implementation are listed under the relevant Objective. Some Strategy Groups have also developed a number of other Objectives for which there are not yet any identified Actions. These are listed next, again by Strategy Group.

During Phase 1, Actions, Action Plans and First Steps will be developed for the Objectives and Actions detailed below. Some of these Actions may also be embarked upon during Phase 1, since they are linked to the Objectives and Actions prioritised for Phase 1.

### Trotternish Trails and Interpretation

#### Actions

<b>Objective 2: To identify and target the customers and the market</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To market Trotternish via the internet with a web page	SALE	<a href="http://www.ardnamurchan.com">www.ardnamurchan.com</a> Skye On-line
To provide family tickets on buses to make affordability a carrot for the trail	HOST	RCTGS
To create a colourful map of the Trotternish area to show more trails than at present, & to distribute it	SALE; Poss HC	Sites and Monuments Record Community Action Grants
To provide guidelines of where to go, without over-commercialising walks	HC Ranger service HC Footpath Officer SNH	Highland Structure Plan; Draft Access Bill
<b>Objective 4: To develop a network of Trails and promote them</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Produce a brochure linked with map	SALE	Raasay Walks
Integrate visits to places into trails	SMC, HOST	
Integrate walking and public transport	HC Footpath Officer	
Interpretation is seen as the key action – strategic interpretation is required for Trotternish	SNH; SMC; Duntulm Castle Trust	Highland Interpretive Strategy

#### Objectives

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To provide education and interpretation about what makes Trotternish unique.	SMC HC Ranger Service	Highland Interpretive Strategy

## Diversification, local produce and markets

### Actions

<b>Objective 1: To set up experimental horticultural units with diversification a priority, by building on what has already been achieved elsewhere on Skye</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Private contribution required by crofter with match funding	HC SALE SERAD	SLHDA - Present Horticultural Project ABDS; CCDS
Build confidence with more education	SLHDA	
Change legislation so that you don't necessarily have to keep livestock to be working the land by pressing relevant public agencies, and create conversion payments for diversification	SCU	Refer to ABDS, CCDS
<b>Objective 3: To provide advice and guidance on processing</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Change existing production methods	SAC, SLHDA	
Advice targeted to micro businesses	SAC, SLHDA	

### Objectives

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To undertake study tours and research as to what is suitable locally	SAC, SLHDA	Organic visit to Mull, Scotgrow
To increase the scope of the existing machinery ring to include lightweight horticultural machinery and to encourage more people to become involved	Skye Machinery Ring	ABDS, CCDS
To look at taking a more flexible approach to the support system at a local level.	SERAD; see CES as example	ABDS
To undertake market research to determine the size of the market for local produce with a potential Skye label.	Already done for meat and horticultural produce	



## Transport Infrastructure

### Actions

<b>Objective 2 To effectively use and improve the circular road system around the Trotternish peninsula incorporating side roads, and with greater use of public transport</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Write to HC buses re introduction of incentive tickets	HC	CRTGS
Lobby Roads Dept re double track Staffin to Portree, and general condition of roads	Staffin Community Council	
Campaign for future safety of Uig bend	Kilmuir Community Council	
<b>Objective 3: To work towards a level European playing field, objectively to reduce fuel cost, road tax and the transport of all goods and animals</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Lobby the Scottish Parliament re fuel and transport costs	HC SALE/HIE	
<b>Objective 4: To ensure integration of modes of transport including community transport schemes</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Lobby bus companies and other forms of transport regarding good transport information, regular posting of timetables on bus shelters and improved integration	SCVO	HC Local Transport Strategy; Norwegian contacts
Provide for and co-operate with cyclists and pedestrians	Sustrans; Community Councils	
Promote public transport	MSP; MP; HC; CRTGS	
Investigate government suggestions for a transport authority	MP; MSP	
<b>Objective 5: To develop Uig pier and bay area as a pivotal foundation of the transport system in Trotternish</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
From these ideas – come up with development plans/funding bids	SCVO, HC	
Respond to those people who have come up with ideas and establish how they would move their plans forward	SCVO, HC	

### Objectives

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To minimise fuel use and pollution		

## Renewable Energy

### Actions

<b>Objective 1: To investigate and develop the production of energy in Trotternish through power generated by a range of means – wind, wave, tidal, hydro, biomass, solar, waste to energy and fuel cells in a safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly way using existing sources.</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Instigate a programme of info about Renewable Energy opportunities for crofters	SNH could advise on environmental/landscape sensitivities in the area HC Energy and Engineering	Highland Structure Plan SNH Landscape Character Assessment DTI Community Renewables Scheme Designated areas policies, Local Plan, NPPG
Wind ananometer installation for which planning permission will be required		
Expertise needed, and this will grow with the group's advancement		
Funding to investigate other existing projects by case studies and visits		RE Seminar Report
Small scale water turbine projects for individual crofts		
Biomass – long term, linked to creating schemes	FC	HC Roads & Transport – problem with timber extraction in east Trotternish
Funding to employ help from existing renewable energy projects		
Show use of wind as a cheap source of power	British Wind Energy Association	Isle of Muck
Look at connecting up to the grid and using the money made to reduce local people's electricity bills – reducing bills is in all our interests		
Encourage use of rivers and/or small burns – The group highlight that a turbine could go on Kilmartin River (Staffin) and perhaps serve a new hall for Staffin. Another example is Conon River (Uig).		
Try and locate plans for water wheels or wind mills		

### Objectives

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To consider the potential for interpretation of power plants – eg tourism		
To encourage bus companies and car owners to use bio diesel and LPG	HC; HIE	Greenpeace Initiative; CRTGS

## Waste Reduction

### Actions

<b>Objective 1: To raise awareness so waste reduction is an integral part of all our lives (industry included) and is seen as having value</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Demonstrations - eg recycling	Agenda 21 Group	
School projects and competitions – emphasise environmental issues that involve you – not just whales		Waste Watch
Landfill visit to raise awareness of where waste goes to	HC Protective Services	
Prize for Community Councils for waste minimisation initiatives	HC Protective Services	
Local conference on waste reduction	ditto	
<b>Objective 2: To set up composting and other local recycling schemes and develop local markets for recycled materials</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
Local glass crusher (possibly in combination with Western Isles) and find local uses - eg roads		
Study other island schemes	SEPA	Area Waste Plans; Lochaber Environmental Group
Sponsorship from private firms for scrap recycling – eg cars, white goods plus action markets for these and other recycled materials		
Waste wood scheme, similar to the existing pallets into bird boxes project	Social Firms Group	Trotternish Composting Scheme
Aluminium recycling – quick to set up and there is value in aluminium. This can involve children since kids like collecting cans	HC Protective Services	Can to Can, Inverinate
<b>Objective 3: To raise the profile of litter reduction including fly-tipping as a priority</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To secure action from businesses and communities – eg clean ups		Community Skips
Litter/fly tipping education programme	SNH SEPA	
Lobby maritime organisations, fish farms etc to reduce marine litter		Assynt Community Council Survey of Marine Litter
Promote good housekeeping by landowners		
Publicity on negative effects of litter		Waste Watch
To set up township tidy ups to secure reduction in agricultural litter		NB: look at recycling

### Objectives

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Support Partners</b>	<b>Relevant initiatives</b>
To use more benign materials, and to secure reduction in unnecessary materials and the way in which they are used		
To make collection and segregation easy		
To provide information and build good links with waste management organisations - local, national and international	HC; SEPA	National Waste Strategy; Area Waste Plan; Waste Watch
To see disposal as a last resort and to make disposal safe and potentially recoverable	SEPA	Area Waste Plan

## **5. Assessing Sustainability**

The Strategy Groups have already made good use of the Sustainability Checklist below in developing their Demonstration Projects. The value of this checklist is that by using it to shape each step and each project, we are able to 'add value' to what we do. The checklist helps us to really think about what we are doing, and how to carry out projects in a more sustainable way, thereby providing better results for our local communities.

Without this sort of checklist it is too easy to overlook some of the economic, social and environmental impacts which our actions may have. The checklist helps us to maximise positive impacts and reduce or avoid unexpected negative impacts.

### **Do we have an example?**

#### **The Community Centre - A Cautionary Tale**

Across the peninsula, people would like to see much improved community centres and better use of these resources. While the existing buildings do serve many purposes at present, they do not necessarily serve these purposes well. This is where we see lessons for sustainability. Too often in these communities, we discover the problems after the building has been erected. For example, floor space needs to be sufficient for playgroups. There might be no stage and poor acoustics for the performing arts. During winter months, meetings are frequently held in main halls where there is no secondary room, implying that everyone is frozen and discouraged from coming out in the first place. All too often, people who are physically challenged are denied access. It would be nice to employ someone to run the centre, but have we demonstrated that we can sustain such a post, in the fullness of time?

### **What important lessons have we learned for sustainability?**

Rural community centres should serve as wide a spectrum of local needs as is deemed possible. They should be meticulously planned for every activity that can imaginably take place there years in advance of the first brick being laid. Centres should invigorate the social fabric of the local community by creating a focal point. Early visits to rural role model centres are essential. Committee representation should have people with a wide age range and interest range. Centres must be accessible to people who are physically challenged by – critically - bringing them on board at the planning stage. Centres should be income generating. Centres should aim to create modest employment where affordable. Sound realistic business plans are essential. If a community centre can encourage the post office, the surgery and even a local agency to come on board by leasing rooms, this will offer secondary sources of income. It will also ensure that the centre is maintained since there are several vested interests. Centres should be adaptable for large and small community events. Centres should have good catering facilities and be capable of servicing two catering events at once. Everyone in the local community should feel that they have been involved in the planning of a successful community centre, so that they feel a sense of pride because it is theirs. This kind of gel empowers people.

A good community centre will blend well with its surrounding landscape. It will be designed and built using sustainable building techniques and local materials. It will be designed to make wise use of energy, and where possible, locally produced energy. And of great importance, it should offer work to local architects, surveyors and builders.

## Dùthchas Sustainability Checklist

The purpose of this guidance is to help local Dùthchas groups think about the effects that different projects will have on the local economy, community and environment. Using this list should help to decide in which ways projects contribute to the four Sustainability Goals on which Dùthchas is based. These are:

1. **making the most of natural and cultural resources without damaging them**
2. **retaining a viable and empowered community**
3. **reducing problems of remoteness by delivering local needs locally and reducing dependence on external inputs, and**
4. **avoiding harmful effects on other people, places and future generations.**

In first thinking about a project, it is useful to consider whether it:

- *is viable in the long-term*
- *improves opportunities for the local economy*
- *uses local resources and provides benefits for the local community*
- *avoids harm to the environment*

Projects can then be compared against the following more detailed criteria.

ECONOMY	Yes/ No	Comments
1. Creating additional spending, wages & profits in local area		
2. Creating / safeguarding local jobs & training opportunities		
3. Linking local production & consumption (recycling local income)		
4. Supporting jobs of suitable quality – eg skills, longevity, year round, locals/incomers, broadening the local economic base		
5. Using & promoting local resources, & reducing use of imports		
6. Involving affordable long-term maintenance costs		
COMMUNITY		
1. Involving local people in managing & maintaining the project		
2. Using / developing local knowledge & skills		
3. Increasing co-operation & decision-making in the community		
4. Providing benefits for all sectors of the community		
5. Supporting local services, amenities & infrastructure		
6. Strengthening the local cultural heritage		
ENVIRONMENT		
1. Avoiding loss of natural resources		
2. Minimising negative impacts on landscape & wildlife		
3. Promoting energy efficiency & recycling		
4. Raising awareness & enjoyment of the environment		
5. Protecting threatened species		
6. Enhancing wildlife & landscape		

## **6. Funding**

In November 2000, a funding application was made by Dùthchas in Trotternish for a Rural Challenge fund. A decision is expected in spring 2001. If our application is successful, it has been proposed that a post will be established for a period of three further years. One of the duties of such an employee would be to investigate suitable funding options for implementing a number of Dùthchas projects highlighted during the lifetime of the Dùthchas project which concluded on 31 March 2001.

A number of the Strategy Groups might choose to become constituted in their own right, to enable them to avail of charitable status, and thereby secure suitable funding for their work.

A number of our listed actions are 'lobbying' actions. It is seen as important that we make progress on these through strategic alliances, and also that the opportunities for community and agency participation are maximised.

## **7. Targets**

### **What are Targets for?**

When embarking on a demanding and complex project, it helps to set targets. These targets serve to maintain momentum. As we reach each target, we get a welcome sense of achievement and can also track progress to fulfilment of our Objectives. Achievement of each target takes us all a small step nearer to fulfilling our Vision for the Trotternish Peninsula. Breaking the work up into 'bite-sized chunks' in this way also makes it easier for other people and organisations to help us with particular parts of the job in hand.

### **How Will Targets Be Developed?**

The Trotternish Peninsula Advisory Group and the Trotternish Community Development Company wish to set overall targets, in discussion with our partners. In addition, each Strategy Group can set targets for their own work. This will help to make each Strategy Group's needs clear to the Trotternish Community Development Company and the Trotternish Peninsula Advisory Group. The Strategy Groups have already done this for their Demonstration Actions.

Each year the Strategy Groups will be setting new targets for their own topic. This is best done in a group meeting so that everyone can be confident that they can carry out their responsibilities in meeting the targets. Often the most practical type of targets are dates: "*we will do x, y and z by a certain date.*" Mapping out the year like this helps to keep everyone involved, because it is clear what the Group workload for each year is going to be.

## **8. Measuring Progress: Strategy Group Work**

### **How Do We Measure Progress?**

Indicators are needed for the priority sustainability topics selected by each Strategy Group. Appropriate indicators will help to measure the performance of Strategy Group plans in contributing to sustainable development within the area. Indicators will also help to measure the sustainability of individual actions making up the Group plans.

### **Developing Topic Indicators**

The development of suitable Topic Indicators is the business of each Strategy Group. When establishing Topic Indicators it is important to keep the following principles in mind:

- Topic Indicators must be based on sound sustainability criteria – the Sustainability Checklist can help
- The Indicators selected should be clear and easy to understand and the results of the measuring and monitoring process should give a clear picture of the progress being made
- The indicators selected should be easily measurable so that it is easy to measure progress towards delivering Area Sustainability Goals and Objectives
- The indicators selected should relate closely to Strategy Group plans
- The process of selecting indicators and undertaking the measuring and monitoring should be done as a Group

## **9. Measuring Impacts: Area Sustainability**

### **Why Do We Need to Measure Impacts?**

In the Strategy we discussed our Sustainability Goals and Objectives and the way in which they helped to define our Sustainability Priorities. In our Action Plan we concentrate on the way in which these Sustainability Goals and Objectives provide a framework for measuring our progress towards a sustainable Trotternish Peninsula.

In order to determine what trends are occurring over time with respect to the sustainability of the Trotternish Peninsula, it is necessary to establish our current circumstances. In other words this is our “baseline situation”. If we are to make the right decisions on the best actions to take in order to improve the sustainability of our area (improve on this baseline), we need reliable information about the state of our communities, our environment, and our economy as well as the factors which impact on them. The Sustainability Profile for the Trotternish Peninsula provides this ‘baseline’ and is a measuring tool. The Profile is based on:

- Our Sustainability Goals which define sustainability and direct our thinking
- Our Sustainability Objectives which describe key challenges which we need to tackle to achieve each Goal

### **How Do We Measure Impacts?**

This task requires a set of “Area Status Indicators” or measures, which in practical terms are facts and figures which help to explain and describe the current circumstances, in relation to each Sustainability Objective. Figure 2 below provides details of our current Area Status Indicators and Recommended Additional Indicators associated with each Sustainability Objective in our ‘Profile’. These Status Indicators provide a way of measuring change – and hence a way of measuring our progress towards a sustainable Trotternish Peninsula. The impacts we achieve through our Actions can be measured in this way. In the long term this will help to guide progress and define direction.

### **Developing this Measuring ‘Tool’**

At the moment we have a large number of Area Status Indicators and an even wider choice provided by the Recommended Additional Indicators. The indicators which we end up using will be carefully chosen so that we are sure that they are relevant to the circumstances in the Trotternish Peninsula and to the Actions which we are taking. We will distinguish between indicators which require short or long term monitoring. Another important issue is to choose indicators which can realistically be measured. All of this work will make our ‘Measuring Tool’ easier to use.

### **Who Will Do This Measuring?**

This work will be closely linked to the implementation work being done by the new Trotternish Peninsula Community Development Company. A special Area Strategy Planning Group will be created to deal with this work. The University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute, in collaboration with local agencies, may be asked to do some of the monitoring and measuring work on behalf of the Company. Particular Area Status Indicators might usefully be measured by a variety of local agencies which are already collecting suitable information on an ongoing basis. Interested individuals from the Trotternish Peninsula who wish to help with this measuring and monitoring will be welcomed and encouraged.



## Trotternish Peninsula Profile – Area Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability Objectives	Status Indicators	Additional Recommended
<b>GOAL 1 Making the most of natural and cultural resources without damaging them</b>		
<b>Objective 1</b> Protecting & enhancing natural resources & promoting their values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal water quality</li> <li>River water quality</li> <li>Air quality</li> <li>Extent (ha %) of nationally important habitat types</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining views of the Trotternish Ridge, the sea, the coastal islands and mainland, and the crofting communities</li> <li>Area of native woodland cover</li> <li>Biodiversity Action Plans – “not an indicator per se” (SNH)</li> <li>Number &amp; Species of Breeding Birds</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2</b> Protecting & enhancing cultural resources & promoting their value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of entries on the Sites and Monuments record</li> <li>Number of Gaelic Speakers as % population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of interpreted sites</li> <li>Number of sites not yet interpreted</li> <li>Extent of Gaelic classes available</li> <li>Extent of Gaelic groups (eg playgroups, choirs)</li> <li>Numbers of schools offering Gaelic medium education</li> <li>Number of events promoting Gaelic culture</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 3</b> Promoting sustainable & innovative use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of land under native woodland management</li> <li>Minerals available</li> <li>Proportion of actively managed crofts vs number of inactive crofts</li> <li>Fisheries – no suitable measure identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of organic crofters</li> <li>Number of woodlands under the UK Woodland Assurance scheme</li> <li>Cattle to sheep ratio</li> <li>% of path network maintained</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 4</b> Promoting sustainable & wise use of cultural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Availability of venues</li> <li>Use of centres &amp; facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of historic sites/ monuments actively managed</li> <li>Adaptive re-use of historic buildings</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 2 Retaining a viable and empowered community</b>		
<b>Objective 5</b> Retaining a balanced and healthy population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age structure of resident population</li> <li>% change in populations</li> <li>Gender balance in resident population</li> <li>% working age population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health indicator</li> <li>Number of Initiatives to encourage ‘Young Returners’</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 6:</b> Supporting community empowerment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of community organisations</li> <li>Community Action Grants</li> <li>The CTDS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of communities taking part in community planning process</li> <li>Number of Grazing Committees meetings/activities</li> <li>Area of land under community ownership</li> <li>Access to information, skills &amp; expertise</li> <li>Education provision &amp; take-up</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 7</b> Ensuring equal access to employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% unemployment</li> <li>% pupils going onto something other than unemployment</li> <li>% employment levels by category</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispersal of employment opportunities</li> <li>Availability of childcare</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 8</b> Ensuring equal access to essential services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% people on lists awaiting housing</li> <li>% rented v owned homes</li> <li>Number of essential services</li> <li>Bus frequency per sub area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sewerage provisions</li> <li>Power/telecommunications</li> <li>Radio/TV reception</li> <li>Care provision</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objectives	Status Indicators	Additional Recommended
<b>GOAL 3 Reducing problems of remoteness by delivering local needs locally and reducing dependence on external inputs</b>		
<b>Objective 9</b> Improving the local market for goods & services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of local producers supplying locally</li> <li>• Number of local markets/outlets</li> <li>• Number of local transport companies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of boxing schemes</li> <li>• % workers whose place of work is within the Trotternish peninsula</li> <li>• No of local direct marketing opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 10</b> Promoting equal & effective access to goods, services & markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of fuel per journey to nearest larger town (Inverness)</li> <li>• Available level of Public Transport beyond the Trotternish peninsula</li> <li>• Number of ferry landings at nearest ferry port</li> <li>• State of local roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree of integration between public services</li> <li>• Car sharing schemes</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 11</b> Providing an adequate IT resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of IT centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of users of local IT centres</li> <li>• No of community websites</li> <li>• No of business websites</li> <li>• Extent of ISDN access</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 12</b> Reducing reliance on imports & subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of crofters taking up agricultural subsidies</li> </ul> <p><i>SNH says – Unrealistic to say that high number is bad? Fragile economic/high natural heritage value areas are going to depend on subsidies to avoid damaging land uses.</i></p>
<b>GOAL 4 Avoiding harmful effects on other people, places and future generations</b>		
<b>Objective 13</b> Supporting wise use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of renewable energy projects</li> <li>• % of energy produced from renewable sources</li> </ul>	
<b>Objective 14</b> Promoting waste minimisation & management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantity of waste by material type</li> <li>• % waste going to each of the waste hierarchy options outlined in the Sustainability Profile</li> <li>• Distance travelled by waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ratio of quantity of material minimised to quantity of wastes disposed , by waste type</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 15</b> Supporting 'green' business & community initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of 'green' labeled products/services available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of fair trade products available</li> <li>• No of 'green' initiatives</li> <li>• No of businesses meeting green/ethical standards</li> <li>• No of UK Woodland Assurance Schemes</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 16</b> Promoting co-operation with other communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of inter-community meetings</li> <li>• No of inter-community initiatives</li> <li>• No of Study visits/conferences attended</li> </ul>	

## **10. Gathering Speed**

The contents of our Action Plan will change as progress is made. This current Draft sketches out our plans to date. There are many gaps and much work still to be done. However, a good start has been made due to the great effort and commitment of all those who have played a part. This Draft Action Plan is but another step on the road towards a sustainable Trotternish Peninsula. In the next few years we can look forward to progressing further on that journey. In that time this document will change as our journey progresses.

## **11. Celebrating**

And finally, planning is a hard slog. It is difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel because the nature of our time is that we are in that tunnel for what seems an interminable time. You seldom have your best ideas when it is just you and your computer. It is important for all of us to make time to be amongst the community that we serve and in which we live. The best way to do this is to be a part of community events, to take a play from a black and white script to a big bow on performance night. Joining in and working towards a common goal allows us to see one another's strengths and talents. It also allows us to break down barriers, generate trust and create bonds between one another. Community celebrations are also extremely important because they make up for all of the dreary days. And when we celebrate, people can make sense out of what has gone on in the tunnel. A word of warning is that we will have failed if the wider community perceptions are that we have been planning just for the sake of planning.