

## A Vision for Caithness, Land of the Norse Yarls



We are committed to working in partnership with others in the public sector to improve the health and wellbeing of Caithness citizens. A new Caithness Community Partnership will replace the District Partnership with an expanded remit to: develop Local Plans for children and adults; develop Locality and Community Learning & Development Plans focussing on communities facing the greatest level of inequality as a result of socio-economic disadvantage and to develop local actions and priorities.

- **City/Region Deal** – Continually challenge the City/Region deal to lever in infrastructure investment, improve connectivity and enhance the skills of our workforce.
- **Infrastructure for Growth** – We will work with our partners in the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership and the Dounreay Stakeholder Group to create and retain jobs to replace those lost through the decommissioning of Dounreay and Vulcan. We will work collaboratively with the public and private sector, including Dounreay, to use existing skills and to attract and retain talent in the County. This includes working in partnership with Wick, Scrabster and some of the smaller harbour authorities to develop marine energy and oil & gas opportunities.
- **Area Promotion** – We will work with partners to enhance visitor experience by seeking to deliver further attractions including the John o’Groats trail, North Highland Way, North Coast 500 route and the Pictish trail. We will work with partners to improve the number of visiting cruise ships at Scrabster and develop Caithness as the Surf Capital of the UK. We will work to develop the potential of our Nordic heritage and culture, archaeology, geology and wildlife as visitor attractions.
- **Wick and Thurso Town Centres** – We will work with our partners, using the principles of Scotland’s Towns Partnership to ensure they are ‘Attractive, Active and Accessible’ and deliver free town centre and village Wi-Fi and other projects.
- **Health and Wellbeing** – Working with our partners we will progress the delivery of enhanced sports, including surfing facilities in Caithness to nurture and retain the talent in the area as part of our aim of promoting Caithness as a great place to live, work and visit. We will also explore options for a transport scheme so that all can benefit from these facilities. We will work with the Caithness Community Partnership to fully integrate health and social services and to protect and enhance facilities at Caithness General hospital.
- **Transport** - Working with our Caithness Transport Forum partners we will work to improve connectivity via A9/ A99 improvements, the Far North rail Line and Wick – John o’Groats airport. This includes a new Transport Vision for Caithness. We also will aim to make our town and village communities safer by introducing and expanding 20mph and 30mph zones where considered appropriate.
- **Social Equality** - Working with our partners we will seek public sector infrastructure investment and training opportunities to improve social equality employability, create jobs and improve quality of life and to address issues of deprivation.
- **Education** - We will work with North Highland College UHI, schools and businesses to promote and develop a young workforce, foundation apprenticeships and training and to promote the Environmental Research Institute and Engineering Technology and Energy Centre to enhance options for the retention of young people and encourage sector growth in local industries.