

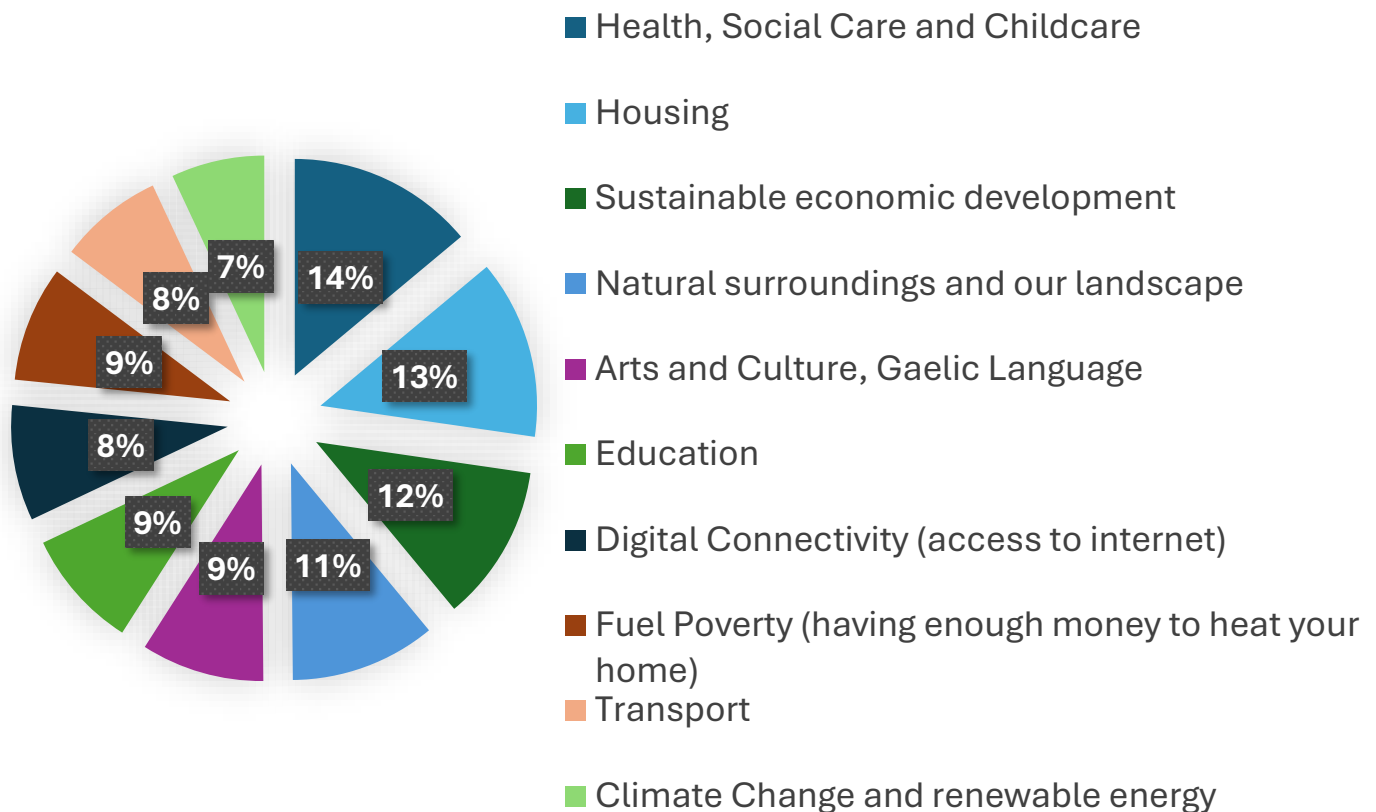
A Local Place Plan for Harris; Overview (raw data) of the responses from the questionnaires.

Questionnaires could be submitted between: 20.11.2024 – 31.01.2025

Participants: 68

Which of the following topics are important to you, in relation to Harris as well as your home:

- Education
- Sustainable economic development
- Transport
- Housing
- Fuel Poverty (having enough money to heat your home)
- Digital Connectivity (access to internet)
- Health, Social Care and Childcare
- Natural surroundings and our landscape
- Climate Change and renewable energy
- Arts and Culture, Gaelic Language



Is there a missing topic you think should be included for the future of Harris?

Equal representation of all the groups in the community: We should always make sure that people have access to decision-making processes (e.g. important meetings don't take place during working hours, there is child care provided when possible, people can contact organisations regardless of their digital skills/access, people with less experience/young people are offered assistance).

Improving accessibility for disabled residents and visitors. Grants for businesses such to become fully accessible/.

Employment and Skills Development

Marine and Fisheries Economy

Crofting

Volunteering and Community Involvement

Tourism and Sustainable Visitor Management

Sustainable employment

Employment other than seasonal work.

Retention of young locals is priority.

Access to essential amenities eg food shops.

Additional support for elderly to remain in their own home

Trades workforce

Rubbish collection

Balanced tourism with adequate resources and infrastructure.

Fair and equal investment throughout the islands instead of the current 'Stornoway Centred' focus.

Community/neighbourhood watch

Support of small businesses

Opening the golf course on a Sunday.

Tourism: impact on landscape, wildlife and communities. Education of tourists and visitors about wildlife conservation.

Education for everyone about the impact of littering.

Independent living.

Traditional Skills – Reviving and teaching skills like fishing, creel making, crofting, drystone walling, and sailing.

Historic Environment – Safeguarding and interpreting archaeological sites, historic buildings, and landscapes.

Intangible Heritage – Preserving oral traditions, customs, and folklore.

Learning from our past and handing local knowledge on to safeguard it for the future generations.

Creative and crafts Industries.

Music.

Sustainable tourism.

Crofting Development

Opportunities for young people. Care of the Elderly.

Return of future Natural Capital to community

Depopulation

Community purchase of the Bays of Harris (assuming there is still the desire within the people who live there

I think you have covered the core fundamentals to move forward with and look at in depth.

More frequent buses throughout Harris.

Upgrading of play parks (other than Scalpay) and safe outdoor spaces for children.

Recognition by Comhairle nan Eilean that Harris is suffering significant loss of services and infrastructure in comparison to most other parts of the Western Isles, and thus in need of greater inputs to level up.

Youth projects, things for young ones to do outwith school hours

How can a councillor be a director of Harris development ltd ?

Tourism - as its one of the biggest employers

Impact of tourism, balance of the pros and cons

If 'culture' doesn't include sport, I think it should be added. It's an important way to bring people together and support physical health and wellbeing.

Crofting, information sharing, community development, promoting active citizenship (e.g. online initiatives/consultation)

Tourism

Preserving traditional culture of Harris

Sustainable tourism

Key worker accommodation

Community Development

What do you want for Harris?

Coordinated efforts to make the islands liveable for future generations (prevent brain drain - matching skilled people to jobs, long-term transport and housing policies that are taking climate change seriously). More cooperation with other Hebridean islands.

Good ferry service.

Good and inexpensive internet service which is not extortionate to connect to.

Ban on building new holiday and second homes. More than 50% of houses in south Harris are holiday homes.

Some sort of scheme whereby houses for sale have to be offered to people who want to live here and not for holiday homes.

More affordable housing for young families.

Young people to be prioritised for housing.

Thriving schools.

Community wind turbines which provide electricity directly to the community in which they're situated.

Support for Crofting & Local Food Production

A thriving community with affordable housing and sustainable employment. With the Prioritisation of islanders' well-being, needs and future over the needs of tourism, tourists and those who choose not to live here permanently.

Sustainable green energy benefitting communities.

Sustainable year round employment, better education for our children, more affordable housing.

To maintain sense of community which makes it desirable place to live

A tidier place to stay. Parts of it are an eyesore especially the Leverburgh ferry area.

Basis services feel covered and provided, with the exception of housing and childcare.

What is needed is an increase in the quality of these services and more cross island co-operation to develop new projects, starting with childcare as a matter of urgency.

Generally, I wish for a strong sustainable future for our younger generation.

A place where needs of vulnerable are taken care of . Gainful employment . Affordable housing

A thriving community with lots of children in the schools; year round jobs; enough accommodation for young people, particularly families; reliable internet; a reliable and frequent ferry service; and a reduction in the number of holiday or second homes being built by people who don't live here permanently.

A cohesive plan for housing residents and perhaps a more thoughtful approach to holiday only properties.

Vet services, Chemist

Efficiency in living; finding tradespeople, seasonal accommodation for staff, rubbish collection that makes sense!, better public transport to allow evenings to be active, better support for EXISTING businesses. We see too many start ups funded by HIE to encourage population growth, employment but what actually happens is they take the grants and run; support for those businesses which continue over decades to employ and serve the community. Better infrastructure for visitors and less hatred of such a HUGE income source. Better reception to CHANGE. After living in Harris for over 20yrs change is not accepted or encouraged so the islands are dying as they fanatically hold onto the past. At the same time, the past is not used enough as a marketing strategy so new buildings look incongruous, systems aren't improved, there's an antipathy to change.

More communication between townships and groups without the need for more quangos.

Affordable housing prices for homes to purchase- not just social housing.

Fewer motorhomes and more jobs that aren't reliant on Gaelic

To be more open to change and improvements in our community keep an open mind

Sustainable future for young people. With the best education system

To go back to being an island that families wish to visit and not a bucket list destination.

More affordable accommodation in South Harris and more opportunities for employment.

Better ferry and flight links.

The golf course and other facilities to be open on a Sunday.

Increased focus on wildlife conservation.

For people to stop littering.

A Hotel Chocolat outlet.

A local gourmet health mushroom supplier.

Better weather.

Helicopter trips to St. Kilda.

A continued focus on Gaelic music, literature, storytelling, and arts to strengthen Harris's role as a cultural beacon within the Gaeltach.

A connected, Gaelic-speaking community where language and traditions are celebrated and passed down. I want to see strong support for intergenerational activities, Gaelic learning programs, and projects that ensure Harris remains a vibrant part of the Gaeltachd.

A thriving, sustainable Harris, where people of all ages can live, work, and raise families if they wish to, while maintaining a deep connection to our natural surroundings, cultural heritage, and the Gaelic language.

Development should balance economic opportunity with preserving what makes Harris unique.

Education – Education at all stages is vital, from nursery to adult learning. Opportunities for lifelong learning, particularly in Gaelic and traditional skills, I would love to see prioritized.

Sustainable Economic Development – Support for local businesses, sustainable tourism, and industries such as crofting, fishing, drystone walling, sailing, and craft industries including Harris Tweed and knitting.

Transport – Affordable, reliable, and sustainable transport links, including better ferry timetables more geared to island life, and better maintained roads.

Housing – Development of affordable, energy-efficient housing to help retain young people and families on the island.

Fuel Poverty – Initiatives to reduce heating costs through renewable energy schemes and insulation programs.

Digital Connectivity – Improved and reliable internet for work, education, and working from home to support remote based roles which will help diversify the local economy.

Health, Social Care, and Childcare – Accessible health services and dental services need more development and capacity to sustain the existing population, adequate childcare facilities to support families.

Natural Surroundings and Landscape – Protection and promotion of Harris's unique environment while balancing development needs.

The preservation and revitalization of Gaelic must be central to the Local Place Plan. This includes increasing opportunities for Gaelic-medium education, adult learning, and promoting Gaelic in public life, signage, and events."

More reliable ferry service and better roads. Better facilities for tourists (restaurants, car parking, toilets). Preserve dark sky and quiet areas (i.e. without streetlights or wind turbines).

A thriving sustainable economy and opportunities for families and young people to live here

A need for basic tools able to live here

Inclusively and sustained evolution.

A safe, productive, forward thinking place to live, be educated and work.

More frequent buses throughout Harris.

More young people (of working age) to stay or move here to support a thriving community. With so many jobs going unfilled and a lack of young families the future numbers of young people looks worrying.

More focus on full time residents so they are in better balance with needs and wants of tourists/part-time residents.

A better infrastructure and economic development

End to terrible surveys and pointless consultations

A viable year-round thriving community.

Consideration of a fixed link/causeway across the sound of Harris that could be combined with tidal generation of electricity

Reliable transport links, explore opportunities to develop partnerships with power generation which deliver community wide benefits in the form of reduced electricity bills.

Sustainability, attracting young folk home so need good jobs and affordable homes for them and hopefully their young families.

Stopping the klondykers exploiting the west coast.

Hhp housing for families !!!

Not key worker accommodation

Enough houses and job for locals to be able to stay living on the island. For substantive jobs to be available that are not reliant on tourism or derived from the tourist industry. Housing and croft usage to be regulated and restricted to dissuade/stop crofts and house being bought only for second homes and guest houses. Ways of minimising the disruption that the large numbers of tourists who come to island cause. Compensation/Taxing/Dissuade the damage done to the

roads by more vehicles being here during tourist season and the lorries used to build guest house/second homes.

A sustainable balance between tourism and other local needs - especially housing and everyday retail activities (including food outlets). I believe Harris has the potential to be a model of using the new remote/digital workplace as a way to attract young working people (who wouldn't want to live in this beautiful place and still be able to work in a wide range of professions?!) Such a population influx would strengthen the local economy, rebalance the islands's age-profile and therefore keep public facilities - especially schools - alive and thriving.

To see it move forward and embrace change, recognising that there are many different voices here

I want Harris to remain as unspoiled as possible, culturally, socially and environmentally, while offering employment and housing for local people who need it. A tall order, perhaps, but you did ask.

Tourism is, in my view, taking the wrong course both for Harris and the Islands and Highlands with an inundation of troublesome, low-spending motorhomes. Having recently been lucky enough to experience a very top-end accommodation facility on the mainland I am even more convinced that this would be the way to go for the future of Harris: making the island a luxury destination for high spenders who seek unspoiled landscapes and top-class provisions.

Motorhomes and the infrastructure they demand create a tacky, messy, cluttered environment and deter visitors who would put far more investment back into the community. "

A sustainable and thriving community.

A distinctive community of all generations, respecting the cultural traditions that have built this island whilst moving with the times but in line with traditional values and culture

For Harris to be a safe and nurturing community for all its residents.

Sustainable employment

Management of tourism

Less second homes/self catering accommodation and more housing for people who live here all year round

A bakery

Opportunities for small businesses to start up and flourish.

Better transport infrastructure ie ferry connectivity and inter island links

Housing housing housing

Crofting reform to ensure that crofting land is used for crofting purposes and not sold as " real estate" to provide housing plots to the highest bidder.

Improved sports facilities - ie all weather surface that would enable groups locally to access outdoor space all year round.

What do you want for your community?

Childcare should be one of the main topics. These islands need young people and parents who have time to go to work.

There is nothing for young people here outside of school. Why should they want to stay? What are we, older generations, offering them?"

Affordable housing to rent and buy – More social housing and affordable plots to help local families stay in the area.

Better public transport links – More frequent bus services and connections between communities to reduce car dependency. Community minibus and programme of training drivers

Integrated development plan for Leverburgh Pier and surrounding area and businesses.

Full digital links.

Leverburgh Play park redeveloped with new equipment installed.

Childcare - full time nursery provision guaranteed.

Building of resilience in times of crisis.

Affordable green energy. A healthy environment respecting the needs of both residents and wildlife. Support for community initiatives, facilities and events that benefit the whole community (including shops, play parks, transport, community centres, care homes etc). Affordable homes for local people. Thought to the future challenges being brought by climate change.

Transparency and appropriate consultations from all organisations regarding matters which affect members of the Community

More picnic areas/benches.

Play park for Leverburgh. Cleaner pavements

A sustainable place to live with access to good quality services and jobs.

A community which works together for the benefit of everyone.

More care facilities

The same as I want for Harris.

Vet and Chemist

Ability to support incomers more; there is a 'racial' divide with in-comers blamed for everything and ostracised. So many leave for this reason. Someone to tackle the Stornoway mafia, the ridiculous delivery and travel costs added to bills because Harris is miles from Stornoway. Less hatred if visitors.

Working together to make the best of resources. There needs to be an even spread of services for all groups, young, old and those in the middle too.

More housing is needed not just in Leverburgh and Tarbert and joined up transport would be lovely. Get the basics right and the rest will follow.

More social opportunities in South Harris

IF more renewable energy is required, the community must be the beneficiary of any profit and not multinational corporations. Cheaper energy should be available through any further schemes, and a balanced assessment of destruction of the local environment compared to any benefit.

Cheaper electricity

To come together and say what you think would be good for Harris now and in the future

Community that works together for the good of all. Remains welcoming and friendly.

To have a balance, not to have all resources put into one issue. To have villages come back to life with affordable residential housing, especially for young people. To have maybe 6 to 8 houses built in different areas and not all in one spot. Also to help young islanders build on their croft or helping them to buy their own home. Look at our islands infrastructure first and deal with that before looking at large projects. Better communication between community groups and residents. Support for small businesses. When funding is received for a project make sure that the project is not reliant on continuous funding.

Better education for tourists - i.e the amount of dogs off lead on the machair and beach disturbing sheep and birds, not parking on the grass & not coming off the road to squeeze past but reserve or allow the other to etc.

Everyone I speak too wishes for the hogmanys of years gone by and burns suppers etc so more targeted events not just quizzes etc (which are great, I love that we are really starting to see the events calendar refill); there's something about community eating together I guess.

For everyone to be supportive of each other. No pointless bickering.

A borrow-my-doggie scheme.

For community members to stop littering (especially alcohol vessels).

Community Cohesion – Encouraging initiatives that connect people through shared traditions, language, and culture. A supportive, connected community that values Gaelic language and

culture and helps keeps it alive. I want to see more initiatives to address the challenges of rural life.

Culturally sensitive care services, with Gaelic-speaking staff, to support the well-being of our aging population and families.

As above,. Harris many be different communities but they must work together

To retain as much of possible the customs and heritage which has been handed down from our forefathers

Innovative ideas for community cohesion and residents not taking the landscape for granted.

More affordable and adequate housing for families. Also, crofters actively obeying the rules of having the privilege of being a crofter. Strenuous action taken to monitor new crofters who buy into our community purely for their own financial long term gain. Also a limit to the number of crofts a person(s) may own. That is not fair or right.

More frequent buses throughout Harris.

To work together to build a better place and a future for the next generation. To encourage more young people to come and live and work here to support our ageing population.

To be the primary focus of any development. Homes for young people and young families should be a priority.

Young families to regenerate our island

Better internal and external bus and ferry services/connections

Introduction of younger families who can grow the community

Housing with affordable heating. My kitchen for the last two days has been at 12 deg. Can't afford to run electric heating.

Hhp houses for families !

Hhp housing for families !!

A sustainable community - jobs to offer younger people and houses for them to stay in so the population doesn't continue to age and shrink

More families/locals being able to live here permanently. Less guest houses/second homes. Less unused crofts. Less disruption caused by tourists/tourist industry. Less focus for most infrastructure and facilities on tourist and put locals first.

My community is detached from Harris' 'population centres' and therefore needs good transport links. I believe that Harris has an incredible range of resilient and skilled people with a 'glocal' mindset (think global, act local) who could build a really strong, thriving, self-sustaining, resilient economy given appropriate support - infrastructure, coordination, pump-priming funds.

More opportunities/initiatives that represent the diverse community of Harris and to encourage new people to live here

I would really like there to be more families in the village as we are all growing older now and pretty soon it will just be a big retirement scheme with an increasing number of holiday lets.

A sustainable and thriving community.

All ages valued and included, living together and supporting each other throughout day to day life

More affordable housing to encourage more economic growth.

What do you want for yourself and your family?

More events in Gaelic. In addition to the above.

Housing is a priority for our family. Our three children all live on the islands and two of them have children. It would be good to know that opportunities exist for them to continue to live and work here.

Housing

Career progression

Balanced work-life environment

Lower living costs

Accessible healthcare, affordable and reliable transport links within the islands and to the mainland. Library services. To feel that we live in a supported community and environment rather than a playground for the rich.

To continue to live in a community of neighbours and long term residents who look out for each other and properties with a sense of pride and ownership.

Play park for our children.

Better housing conditions (currently HHP tenant).

Right now, I wish for a stable income & job security. Not just seasonal work.

Access to opportunities for my teenagers. I wish for my children to feel they have a future on our island where they can thrive as adults.

For our three children to be able to afford to live and work here with our grandchildren.

Cheaper health care

Easier life; trades people, builders, fair trade, not being over charged, better support from locals for in-comers, freedom from religion, tackle the 'mafia' style of control by Church Elders and various 'family' businesses.

More focus on the young and resources for them ... can't believe I'm actually saying this but more than just the old favourites like football!

Affordable housing prices to enable young locals to be able to afford to purchase property here.

Cheaper electricity and fewer motorhomes

To stay in a happy, safe community that is looking to move forwards. I am concerned about how ready available illegal drugs can be acciand used in out community more education

Sustainable and care for the natural surroundings, good economic opportunities for young people with affordable homes . Education to be based on peoples abilities. The best opportunities for the young people to get modern apprenticeships from secondary age.

To have island traditions and our history kept, as that is what makes Harris a beautiful island. As an island we do have to move with the times, but not at the cost of traditions or island history. Would love to see a purpose built museum in Harris.

I would like easier access to health care. I appreciate I live at the very south end, but the drs hours make it hard to access as I'm not a morning person and the fact we have to go to Stornoway for an ultrasound - I had to go to hospital on two separate occasions to complete my gyne consult - I've never heard of a gyne not having access to ultrasound or a GP. Having more services based in Tarbert on a rotational basis for non urgent referrals would be ideal - during the hospital at home trial they managed to send nurses all this way for one patient (that's another issue entirely as I rang the hospital as the patient was uncomfortable in the evening with his catheter and they said they where too far away to do anything until the morning - no much help if you are supposed to be recieving hospital level care at home). And yes I understand I choose to live distance from the hospital in a rural location so there is limits; I just think so poor decisions have been made by the health board which make it riskier then ness; like discharging patients too early on pilot schemes.

The golf course to be open on a Sunday.

Health; happiness.

My husband to clean up after himself and do housework without being asked. And not build any more sheds.

For my cat to be in the best health possible.

A vet based in Harris.

For my family, I hope for opportunities to continue working and to engage with Gaelic language, with our cultural traditions, heritage and natural environment. Personally, I would like to see Harris continue to develop sustainably, ensuring a strong community for future generations

while preserving the landscapes and traditions that make Harris home. I would like to be part of a living Gaeltachd that values and preserves the Gaelic world view, language and culture. I want Gaelic to thrive as a living language. I want everyone to have opportunities to learn and use Gaelic daily.

Better roads, local waste disposal facilities.

proper health service , proper digital connetion and retain local shops

Assurances on sustainable solutions for the environment.

A healthy environment, in all aspects, for people to live and thrive in. Also, for the leaders of our community to be bold, fair, have a huge dollop of common sense and are not afraid to take action or challenge decisions which are detrimental to the overall wellbeing of individuals or of the community as a whole. Merely tick boxing forms to fulfil a job is not a job well done, in my humble opinion.

More frequent buses throughout Harris.

To continue to have access to the amazing facilities and school that is currently here and to have opportunities to live and work here in the future.

Outdoor spaces that can be used in most weathers - in terms of playparks but also more accessible walks where anppropriate, and the continued support of members of the community to become more fully established in island life.

An increased level of road repairs and bus links for the Bays of Harris and recognition of the fragility of the community and neglect of infrastructure.

The fibre to households has allowed hybrid working which has vastly improved individuals work life balance.

peace and community spirit.

Public services to continue rather than be repeatedly cut back.

To live and work in Harris. For the traditions, culture and history of Harris to be valued and not just there as a show for the tourists or to be got rid of for the increase in money. Less empty/partially lived in homes. Childcare and education.

My family has the good fortune to have a secure roof over its head and to know where its income (and therefore food, energy, etc) will be coming from for the foreseeable future. What I want for us is therefore that this same security should be available to all of our neighbours so that we

can all live in a society that is safe, confident and able to look forward with a sense of positivity and anticipation.

To make Harris feel more inclusive and more open!

Wouldn't mind fibre broadband, or even a mobile phone signal. Either would be good.

We are fine right now, thanks, but UK government policies don't bode well for the future.

Quality education, access to essential services, de-centralisation of services to Stornoway and Tarbert, job security, quality and affordable housing.

Ability to remain living, working and contributing in Harris with all the infrastructure that's necessary for that to happen. To continue working on our croft and our children to be able to continue crofting and bringing unused crofting land back into work; currently impossible without limits on land being sold to the wealthiest that's changing our community enormously

Access to high quality education from aged 3; the opportunity to live and work in our community; opportunities for a healthy lifestyle (sports, outdoor walks, play parks etc)