

## TECHNICAL APPENDICES:

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## APPENDIX 1: THE BOARD

### APPENDIX 1: BOARD PROFILES

#### **Morag Bramwell (Chair)**

Morag has a first BA in languages and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business & Secretarial Studies. She worked as a secretary, then a TV Programme Researcher. After moving to the Highlands, she did a second degree in Object-oriented Computer Programming (OU). She spent two years working with three different medical practices computerising medical histories, then worked for approximately 10 years as a Data Analyst with NHS Highland.

Morag joined Rosemarkie Allotments & Gardens Society (RAGS) before retiring and has been Secretary at RAGS for several years. Since retiring she has been a volunteer at Fortrose Academy's vegetable, fruit and flower garden. She is a member of the Soil Association and Pesticide Action Network and a range of environmental groups. She started up ROGS with a view to creating community gardens and allotments in Fortrose, after being inspired by the Highland Good Food Conference.

#### **Lynne Mackenzie (Company Secretary)**

Lynne grew up on the Black Isle. After studying Art, then gaining an M.A. hons in History of Art from the University of Aberdeen, she moved to Glasgow, where she worked with several contemporary arts organisations and then for Glasgow Museums and Collections. She then made the leap into freelance work as a visual arts PR and marketer, curator and advisor, with a bit of web design on the side. She relocated home to Rosemarkie, where she is developing her own artistic practice inspired by a keen interest in the natural environment and focused on botanical painting. She is a committee member of Rosemarkie Allotments and Gardens Society and enjoys time on her own allotment.

#### **Steve Bramwell**

Steve is a retired Consultant Urologist and spent 35 years in NHS surgical practice. He has lived in Fortrose for the past 22 years. Steve has served on the Committee of Chanonry Sailing Club as Secretary and volunteer fund raiser, and was involved in the building of two St Ayles Rowing Skiffs. Other interests include rowing, cycling and outdoor pursuits in general. He is interested in setting up projects to enhance the quality of life in communities on the Black Isle and is a trustee and past Chairman of the Black Isle Men's' Shed, for which he has secured a number of successful funding applications. He was principal fund raiser for the Fortrose and Rosemarkie trishaw mobility Trikes project and a committee member of the Black Isle Repair Café in a fund-raising capacity

#### **Alister Clunas**

Alister has worked his whole career in conservation land management. Latterly Property Manager of National Trust for Scotland's Mar Lodge Estate from 1998-2005. From 2005-2015 He was Chief Officer of Aberdeen Greenspace Ltd which carried out greenspace projects within the boundary of the City of Aberdeen funded mainly through the Landfill Communities Fund. Now retired, he

volunteers for RSPB on their Highland reserves delivering visitor management at Loch Ruthven and practical tasks at Culbin Sands. He is Chair of the Highland Branch of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club.

### **Paul Dungey**

Paul has a Diploma in Fine Art, and an Archaeology & Prehistory Honours Degree 1988. He worked as a Field Archaeologist throughout the UK for 10 years. He then worked in Oban and was a Mountain Rescue Team Member in Argyll as a Physiotherapist. He has since worked at the RNI Inverness as a Community Physiotherapist, and as a Specialist Physiotherapist for people with a learning disability at New Craigs Hospital. He is inspired to work with people who may be the most vulnerable citizens in our society, and gains significant job satisfaction from achieving positive outcomes for them. He has been a member of the Rosemarkie Allotments and Gardening Society since 2011, where he combines food growing with wildflowers for nature.

### **Jo-Anne Pugh**

Jo-Anne grew up in Caithness. She has been a journalist for the BBC for more than thirty years in various parts of the UK, and currently work part-time for the main London news desk. She moved back to Scotland with her family in 2013 where her two children attended Avoch Primary and Fortrose Academy. She has been active in both schools' parent councils and is currently a member of Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council. With the community council, she organised the planting of a 220m native hedge on Common Good land in Fortrose to encourage wildlife, help combat climate change and encourage neighbours to get to know one another. Coming from a family of keen gardeners, she enjoys the challenge of growing fruit and veg in her exposed garden at Upper Raddery.

### **Trish McKeggie (Co-opted)**

Trish has a National Certificate in Agriculture from Oaklands College, and extensive experience of working on various farms. She came up to Scotland to work in Ord House Hotel, and kitchen garden. In 1990s, she and a friend started and ran a small tree nursery, and In 2000 she started her own gardening business, until retirement. She now volunteers in a Fortrose Charity shop. She is on the Food and Growing group for Transition Black Isle, Resolis Community Hall committee and Rosemarkie Allotments & Gardens committee. She has been a founder member of ROGS, and an associate member since the organisation became an incorporated company, as she lives just outside the Fortrose and Rosemarkie community council area and has become a Co-opted Director.

## APPENDIX 2: NATIONAL AND LOCAL STRATEGY AND POLICY

The Following national and local strategies are relevant to this project.

### NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

#### A FAIRER SCOTLAND

##### **Scottish Government's National Performance Framework and National Outcomes** <sup>1</sup>

The Scottish Government has published a National Performance Framework to focus services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, chiefly through increasing sustainable economic growth. To achieve its purpose, the framework sets out eleven National Outcomes which describe the type of Scotland that the Scottish Government want to create.

These national outcomes are that people:

- grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.
- **live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.**
- **are creative and their vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.**
- have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.
- **are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.**
- **value, enjoy, protect and enhance their environment.**
- have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.
- **are healthy and active.**
- respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.
- are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.
- **tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.**

#### COMMUNITY AND PLACE

##### **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** <sup>2</sup>

The Community Empowerment Act aims to make it easier for communities to have more influence over the decisions that affect their area and to empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings.

Part 9 of the Act specifically highlights the Scottish Government's aim to increase the provision of allotments and requires local authorities to develop a food growing strategy for their area, including identifying land that could be used by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government: *National Performance Framework*, accessed online at <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/what-it>, September 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government: *Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act: summary, 2017*, accessed at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-scotland-act-summary/>, September 2023.

flowers. This provision recognises that the health, environmental and community benefits afforded by having access to good food are further benefitted through the ability of people to grow their own produce. The Act requires local authorities to take reasonable steps to provide allotments and to produce Food Growing strategies.<sup>3</sup>

#### **National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) <sup>4</sup>**

Within National Planning Framework 4, as part of the National Spatial Strategy, it is identified that improved open spaces will build resilience and provide wider benefits for people, health and biodiversity, in a balanced way. NPF4 Policy 15 identifies access to an allotment as a measure that may contribute to local living, and Policy 23 promotes allotments, or other community food growing initiatives, as a measure that demonstrates that a development proposal has a positive effect on health. NPF4 sees provision of allotments as Spatial Planning Priority to benefit health and wellbeing and tackle inequalities as an integral part of placemaking.<sup>5</sup>

The Scottish Government has also stated that Scottish Planning Policy should be used to routinely incorporate new growing space into new development plans.

#### **Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement <sup>6</sup>**

The Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement was updated in 2022. It sets out principles relating the ownership, use and management of land across all areas of Scotland. The framework supports opportunities for communities to own, lease or use land in a way that contributes to their wellbeing and future development. It expects land ownership and use to take account of high standards of stewardship, to deliver a wide range of social, economic and cultural benefits.

The Scottish Land Commission have developed a series of Protocols and a Good Practice Programme to support delivery of the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement Principles. The Protocols sets out expectations that landowners take steps to bring land that is vacant and unused into productive use, and encourage all landowners to explore opportunities for communities to be more involved with the ownership and management of land.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Scottish Government: *Allotments – guidance for local authorities*, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/part-9-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-allotments-guidance-local-authorities/pages/2/>, sourced March 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Scottish Government: *National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)*, 2023, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>, accessed March 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Extract from Aberdeenshire Council: *Allotments, Planning Advice PA2023-02*, p.3, <http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/0ceb7c55-b43d-45c4-a311-798f4bc9fa75/resource/7e58e135-0762-493b-b6a5-e720f03882db/download/pa2023-02---planning-advice-allotments.pdf>, accessed March 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government: *Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement*, 2022, accessed at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement-2022/pages/2/>, September 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Scottish Land Commission: *Land Rights and Responsibilities Protocols*, sourced at <https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/our-work/good-practice/land-rights-and-responsibilities-protocols>, September 2023.

## Place Principle <sup>8</sup>

The Scottish Government and COSLA have jointly adopted the Place Principle to encourage better public and private sector collaboration and community involvement to develop a clear vision for communities of place. The principle promotes a shared understanding of place, and a need to take a more collaborative approach to services and assets to achieve better outcomes for people and communities.

The Place Standard Tool has been developed by the Place Standard partners to help assess the quality of places and to prioritise areas for action.<sup>9</sup>

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### Fairer Scotland Action Plan <sup>10</sup>

The Fairer Scotland Action Plan is a Scottish Government strategy that outlines five key ambitions and fifty actions to help tackle poverty, reduce inequality and build a fairer and more inclusive Scotland over the current parliamentary term. Action 20 of the Plan is to “work to make Scotland and Good Food Nation by enabling more people to have access to healthy, nutritious food in a dignified way.”

### Good Food Nation Policy <sup>11</sup>

Good Food Nation Policy sets out that Scotland will be a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day. The policy has been identified as a priority for the government with a commitment to introduce the right to food in law during the current parliamentary session.

Key elements underpinning the Good Food Nation programme include and specific commitments to:

- Allotments and Community Growing – supporting community growing organisations to increase the amount of land available for community food growing, especially in disadvantaged areas; and to improve food growing skills and knowledge to empower communities and individuals to grow their own food.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Scottish Government: *Place Principle: Introduction*, sourced at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/place-principle-introduction/>, September 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Place Standard Partners: *Place Standard: How Good is Our Place?* <https://www.ourplace.scot/tool>, September 2023. The Place Standard Partners are Architecture and Design Scotland, Public Health Scotland, The Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council, and the Improvement Service.

<sup>10</sup> Scottish Government: *Fairer Scotland Action Plan, 2016*, accessed at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-action-plan/pages/7/>, September 2023

<sup>11</sup> Scottish Government: *Good Food Nation – Programme of measures: interim update 2022*, sourced at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-food-nation-programme-measures-2022-interim-update/>, September 2023.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-food-nation-programme-measures-2022-interim-update/pages/2/>

## **Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning**<sup>13</sup>

Scottish Government guidance on outdoor learning to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence includes guidance on incorporating educational experiences in a variety of outdoor settings. The guidance introduction supports outdoor learning from pre-school years through to college to offer motivating, exciting, relevant and easily accessible learning activities in collaboration with a range of local partners.

## **Our Natural Health Service**<sup>14</sup>

The Our Natural Health Service (ONHS) programme is being led by NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage). The service recognises that Scotland's natural environment is a valuable health promoting asset that is currently underused. It responds to the increasing pressures on the health system that come from an ageing population, more people living with multiple conditions and widespread chronic illness. It works in partnership with Scottish Forestry, Public Health Scotland and a range of other national and local organisations across the environment, transport, sport, education and health sectors. OHNS has been developed with the key aims of increasing public awareness of the use and benefits of green health as part of daily life; and to include the use of nature-based health promotion initiatives and structured interventions in routine health and social care practice.

## **A Connected Scotland**<sup>15</sup>

The Scottish Government's first strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness and building stronger social connections is underpinned by four priorities:

- Empower communities and build shared ownership;
- Promote positive attitudes and tackle stigma;
- Create opportunities for people to connect; and
- Support an infrastructure that fosters connections.

The Strategy also recognises the key role of third sector and social enterprises in tackling social isolation locally.

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<sup>13</sup> LTS, SQA, HMle and Scottish Government: *Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning*, sourced at <https://education.gov.scot/media/gnufmnmq/hwb24-cfe-through-outdoor-learning.pdf>, September 2023

<sup>14</sup> NatureScot: *Our Natural Health Service*, <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/contributing-healthier-scotland/our-natural-health-service>, September 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Scottish Government: *Connected Scotland Strategy: Tackling social isolation and loneliness, and building stronger social connections*, 2018, sourced at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/connected-scotland-strategy-tackling-social-isolation-loneliness-building-stronger-social-connections/>, September 2023.

### **Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration <sup>16</sup>**

The Glasgow Declaration was launched at the UN COP26 climate negotiations in Glasgow. It brings together local and regional authorities from across the world to speak with a unified voice, to renew commitments to develop sustainable food policies, and to promote governments to put food and farming. At the heart of a global response to the climate emergency. The call encourages national governments to take joined-up action on food and climate.

The Highland Council signed the Declaration in June 2021, recognising it as an important step in the region's climate action journey. It has made the following commitments to support the Declaration:

- To develop and implement integrated food policies and strategies,
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from urban and regional food systems,
- To call on national governments to establish supportive and enabling policy frameworks and multi-level and multi-actor governance mechanisms.

### **Climate Change Plan <sup>17</sup>**

This plan sets out the path to a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032.

### **The Environment Strategy for Scotland, 2020 <sup>18</sup>**

The Environment Strategy for Scotland creates an overarching framework for the Scottish Government's strategies and plans on the environment and climate change. It outlines the long-term ambitions for Scotland's natural environment as well as actions needed to tackle the global climate change and nature crises. The role of individuals and communities in encouraging and enabling long-term behaviour change is recognised with Scotland's environmental strategy with localised solution and support identified as vital to the strategy's success. Core outcomes include:

- Scotland's nature is protected and restored with flourishing biodiversity and clean and healthy air, water, seas and soils; and
- Our healthy environment supports a fairer, healthier, more inclusive society.

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<sup>16</sup> UN COP26 Summit, *The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration*, 2022 <https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org>, accessed March 2024.

<sup>17</sup> Scottish Government, *Climate Change Plan*, <https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/>, accessed September 2023.

<sup>18</sup> Scottish Government: *The Environment Strategy for Scotland: vision and outcomes, 2020*, sourced at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/environment-strategy-scotland-vision-outcomes/pages/2/>, September 2023.

## The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 <sup>19</sup>

In the Good Food Nation Act, the Scottish Government set a vision that by 2025, “Scotland will be a good food nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve and eat each day”. The Act places obligations on local authorities and health boards to produce Good Food Nation Plans, and to report on progress towards achieving the outcomes of the plans. A consultation on the initial *Good Food Nation Plan* closes in April 2024.

The outcomes support easy access for everyone to good, healthy food; a food system that is good for the natural environment; a food system that supports everybody to have good physical and mental health; and a good food culture, where everyone is interested in and educated about good and sustainable food.

## LOCAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

### COMMUNITY AND PLACE

#### Highland Community Planning Partnership <sup>20</sup>

Highland Community Planning Partnership (HCPP) brings together public sector bodies, third sector organisations, other key groups and agencies to work collaboratively to reduce inequalities and prevent disadvantage across Highland. By working together to identify priorities, share resources and improve the lives of residents and the services they receive HCPP aims to improve the lives of residents across Highland.

#### Highland Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans <sup>21</sup>

The HCPP works to the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan, which outlines the aspirations for Highland and the actions required to deliver them. The HOIP’s main ambition is to tackle the issues that lead to inequalities. Working with and listening to Highland communities ensures the HCPP works together to make Highland a better place to live, work and play. The Plan sets out Outcomes for 2027, which are:

- Poverty Reduction – more people in Highland will live a life free from the experience of poverty.
- Community Participation and Dialogue – People in Highland will be more involved in decisions that affect their lives.
- Infrastructure – Fewer people in Highland experience transport and digital connectivity as a barrier to accessing opportunities.

<sup>19</sup> The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022, <https://www.gov.scot/policies/food-and-drink/good-food-nation/>, sourced March 2024.

<sup>20</sup> The Highland Community Planning Partnership (HCPP), <https://highlandcpp.org.uk/>, accessed March 2024.

<sup>21</sup> HCPP, Highland Outcome Improvement Plan, <https://highlandcpp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Highland-Outcome-Improvement-Plan-2017-2027.pdf>, accessed March 2024.

- Community Safety & Resilience – People in Highland will benefit from living in stronger, safer and more resilient communities.
- Mental Health & Wellbeing – People in Highland will benefit from good mental health and wellbeing.

The plan is delivered at local level through nine Community Partnerships, bringing together key public bodies and third sector organisations to identify needs, share resources and improve services in local areas. The Black Isle sits within the Mid-Ross Partnership, which has identified mental health, reducing poverty and care of the elderly as key priorities in June 2023.

The plan identifies a need for partnership working with third sector groups to deliver improved mental health and wellbeing, and to support activities that encourage participation and social inclusion.

### **Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 (IMFLDP) <sup>22</sup>**

The proposed second Local Development Plan for the Inner Moray Firth was submitted to Scottish Ministers in March 2023. The Plan seeks to deliver defined outcomes for communities, employment, connectivity and the environment but with particular emphasis on post pandemic economic recovery and addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency. It makes policy, placemaking priority and development site choices that best balance both environmental sustainability and economic viability for both the public and private sector.

The placemaking priorities and areas identified for development for Rosemarkie and Fortrose are found at pages 167-170 of the proposed Plan, and are referenced within the main body of the feasibility research report.

### **Highland Council, Highland Food Growing Strategy <sup>23</sup>**

The Highland Council has published *Growing Our Future, Community Food Growing Strategy*. Place related objectives of the strategy include:

- Objective 2 – Communities are empowered to start growing or expand their growing,
- Objective 3 – Communities are informed and connected, and are supported to access the resources they need,
- Objective 4 – To identify potential allotment and growing spaces, and
- Objective 5 – Support communities to become more resilient through community food growing.

Actions under these objectives include an audit of green space to safeguard potential spaces for community food growing (CGF), and to consider the space for community food growing in large and strategic housing developments.

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<sup>22</sup> The Highland Council: *Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan*, <https://www.highland.gov.uk/imf>

<sup>23</sup> The Highland Council: *Growing Our Future: Community Food Growing Strategy 2022-27*, [https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22921/growing\\_our\\_future\\_-\\_a\\_food\\_strategy\\_for\\_highland](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22921/growing_our_future_-_a_food_strategy_for_highland)

## Opportunity Black Isle - Local Place Plan

Scottish Government has introduced Local Place Plans to encourage communities to play an active role in the planning for their area.<sup>24</sup> By developing and submitting a Local Place Plan, communities can set out a vision and priorities for the future of their local place, particularly around the use of land and buildings.

The Highland Council has invited community groups to create their own community-led Local Place Plans, which set out their proposals for development or the use of land in their area. Local Place Plans will allow communities to submit ideas and proposals for their area, which can be taken into consideration while the Local Development Plan is being prepared.

At the time of preparing this report, a Black Isle Place Plan is being prepared through the Black Isle Partnership.<sup>25</sup> Feedback from local consultations is referenced within the main body of the Feasibility Research Report where relevant.

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### Active Highland Strategy<sup>26</sup>

*“Increased participation in outdoor activities, especially within communities and close to people’s home”*

The Active Highland Strategy was refreshed by the Highland Community Planning Partnership in 2019 to provide an updated framework of outcomes and commitments for promoting opportunities around physical activity and sport across the region. It has six outcomes that relate to increasing physical activity and participation in sport. They include:

1. We encourage and enable the inactive to be more active;
2. We encourage and enable the active to stay active throughout life;
3. We develop physical and mental confidence and competence, and personal well-being, from the earliest age and throughout the life course;
4. We maintain and improve our active infrastructure – people and places, including the natural environment; and
5. We support well-being and resilience in communities through physical activities and sport.

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<sup>24</sup> The Scottish Government: *Planning circular P/2022: Local Place Plans*, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/circular-1-2022-local-place-plans/>, accessed March 2024.

<sup>25</sup> The Black Isle Partnership: *Opportunity Black Isle: The Draft Black Isle Local Place Plan*, 2024 <https://www.black-isle.info/opportunity-black-isle-black-isle-place-plan.asp>, accessed March 2024.

<sup>26</sup> The Highland Council: *Active Highland Strategy*, 2017, <https://playhighland.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/active-highland-strategy-dec-2017.pdf>, accessed March 2024.

## Think Health, Think Nature – Highland Green Health Partnership <sup>27</sup>

Facilitated by NatureScot under the Our Natural Health Programme (see above), the aim of the partnership is to develop opportunities and build on existing resources to support individuals and communities to improve their health and wellbeing, and build resilience through engaging with and appreciating the natural environment. A key component of this programme utilises 'Green Health Partnerships'. These regional partnerships are developing interdisciplinary approaches in order to develop and promote green spaces for public health benefits. Community growing is specifically highlighted as a core component of how these benefits might be realised.

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### CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

#### Highland Environmental Forum

The Highland Environmental Forum is a forum that takes forward relevant actions identified in the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan, and is a source of practical advice. It has an open membership structure including public bodies, third sector organisations, land managers and interested individuals.

#### Highland Nature Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-26 <sup>28</sup>

This is the fourth biodiversity action plan for Highland since 2006, and focuses on where positive biodiversity action can be taken to conserve and enhance important habitats and species. It includes nine actions, which include:

- Increased participation in green and blue activities;
- Increased Public Engagement; and
- Improved biodiversity data gathering and sharing.

Policies identified to support this action include Nature Walks facilitated by the Hi-Life Highland Ranger Service, the Think Health, Think Nature project (see above), the encouragement and protection of green spaces and green corridors through the planning framework, and support for volunteer biodiversity recording and mapping through the Highland Biological Recording Group. It also encourages the embedding of nature and environment learning at all levels of education provision, and promotes informal learning and skills sharing through the Highland Environmental Forum network.

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<sup>27</sup> NatureScot: *Highland Green Health Partnership*, <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/contributing-healthier-scotland/our-natural-health-service/green-health-partnerships/highland-green-health-partnership>, accessed March 2024.

<sup>28</sup> Highland Environmental Forum, *Highland Nature Action Plan*, <https://www.highlandenvironmentforum.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Highland-Nature-2021-2026-first-year-of-actions.pdf>, accessed September 2023.

## Highland Council Community Food Growing Strategy 2022-27 <sup>29</sup>

**‘Growing our Future’** is Highland’s first community food growing strategy. It is part of the Highland Council’s approach to supporting community empowerment and it’s Health and Prosperity Strategy, achieving our net zero targets and improving the health and wellbeing of Highland communities.

The strategy seeks to improve the support, connectedness and access to information for growers across Highland to improve access to land for Community Food Growing, increase support to community groups to set up projects on Council land, and improve guidance to schools for grow your own projects on school grounds. It recognises the valuable role that Community Food Growing projects play in tackling inequalities and improving inclusion in our communities, learning from the pandemic, and in responding to the climate emergency, and seeks to build on the current momentum towards community growing and local food resilience.

“Community Food Growing’ (CFG) should be available to every community in Highland, and we want to ensure that everyone who wants to grow their own food has the opportunity to do so”

## Highland Council Allotment Policy <sup>30</sup>

The Highland Council’s Allotment Policy notes that promoting and enabling allotment gardening contributes to local outcomes including giving communities a greater role in shaping their own future, reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage and improving health (although this policy references the now outdated Highland Single Outcome Agreement, similar outcomes are contained within the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-27). By working with stakeholders to increase provision of allotments in line with demand across the highlands, the Council aims to:

- Support and promote the development of sustainable allotments as a community asset,
- Promote allotments in response to climate change and biodiversity loss,
- Ensure good and effective allotment management,
- Increase the provision of allotments, and
- Increase public awareness of how to access an allotment plot.

The policy supports the objectives of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and the Highland Council Food Growing strategy. The policy aims to support community led allotment sites, and lease council land identified as suitable for allotments on secure lease arrangements. Sites for allotments are to be allocated in local development plans where sufficient demand is identified, in line with the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) policies that place greater emphasis on food growing and allotments.

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<sup>29</sup> The Highland Council: *Growing Our Future: Community Food Growing Strategy, 2022-27*, [https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22921/growing\\_our\\_future\\_-\\_a\\_food\\_strategy\\_for\\_highland](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22921/growing_our_future_-_a_food_strategy_for_highland), accessed March 2024.

<sup>30</sup> The Highland Council: *Allotment Policy and Regulations for Allotment Sites, 2024*, [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/283/community\\_life\\_and\\_leisure/1102/highland\\_allotments\\_policy\\_and\\_regulations\\_for\\_allotment\\_sites](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/283/community_life_and_leisure/1102/highland_allotments_policy_and_regulations_for_allotment_sites), accessed March 2024.

## APPENDIX 3: AREA PROFILE

Information in this section has been collated following desktop research of the statistics available at small community level. Most of the statistics have been taken from the 2011 Census Data collated at Community Council level by the Highland Council, and from the 2020 Scottish Indicators of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data zones unless otherwise referenced.<sup>31</sup>

Black Isle wide key facts and statistics are also available in the Black Isle Place Plan, 2024.<sup>32</sup>

### THE COMMUNITY

Regenerate Our Green Space has been established at a Company Limited by Guarantee for the public benefit of the Community of Fortrose and Rosemarkie, as defined by the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council area. This clearly defined community of place meets the criterion required for an application to the Scottish Land Fund for a Community Asset Transfer, if the organisation decides to pursue this.

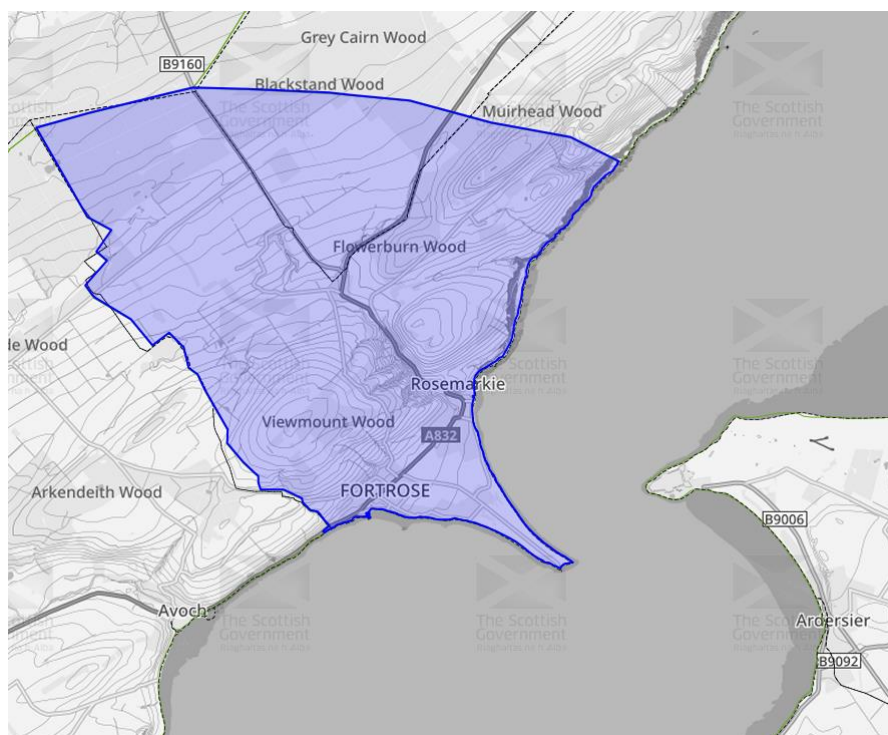


Figure 1 Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council Area <sup>33</sup>

<sup>31</sup> The Highland Council, *2021 Census Results at Community Council Level*, collated from the National Office of Statistics data, sourced at [https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/11093/profiles\\_for\\_community\\_council\\_areas](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/11093/profiles_for_community_council_areas), October 2023. The Scottish Government, *Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020*, sourced at <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>, October 2023.

<sup>32</sup> Draft Black Isle Local Place Plan, *Opportunity Black Isle; your place, your future*, Appendices 4 and 5 (pp. 38-39). November 2023, sourced at <https://black-isle.info/opportunity-black-isle-black-isle-place-plan>, January 2024.

<sup>33</sup> Sourced from the Scottish Government *Community Mapping Tool* at <https://crtb.sedsh.gov.uk/crtb/>, October 2023.

The community council is a locally well-known and recognised geographic area, comprising the main settlements of Fortrose and Rosemarkie villages, and rural hinterland to the north. It allows for collaboration with an existing growing scheme and projects at Rosemarkie, and avoids potential overlaps with other community projects based in neighbouring settlements at Avoch and Cromarty.

Alternative boundaries might have included the old Parish Boundary. This is broadly similar to the Community Council boundary, but extends further along the coast towards Cromarty. (Shown as a solid black line on the map below); or the IV10 postcode boundary (shown as a solid yellow line on the map below), which closely follows the Community Council boundary but overlaps in the east with the Cromarty community council area.

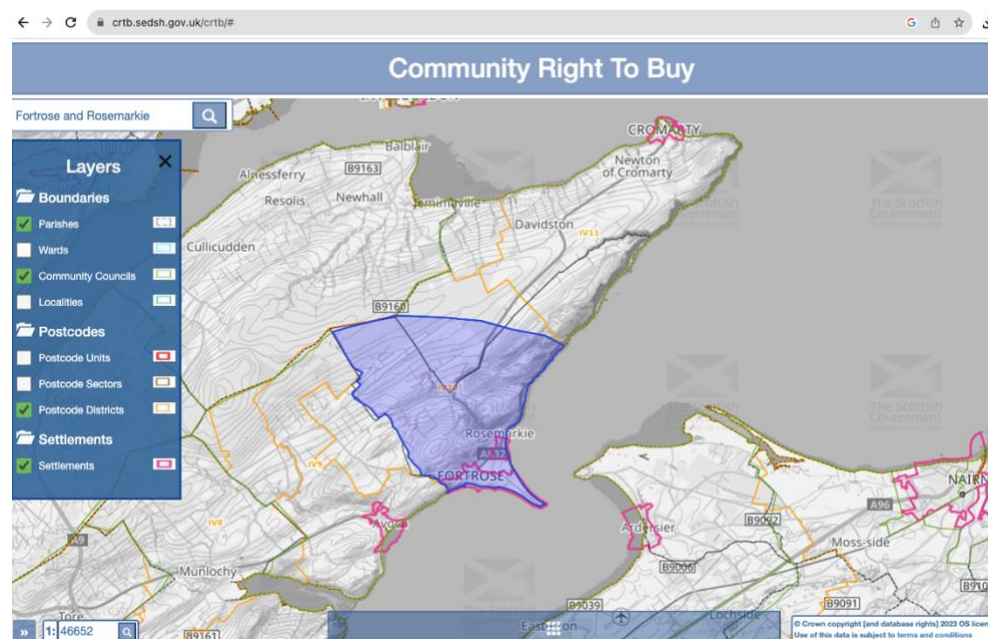


Figure 2 All Boundaries, Fortrose and Rosemarkie <sup>34</sup>

Residents in the defined community are eligible to become Ordinary Members of ROGS Ltd and have a say in its development as an asset in their community. This does not prevent some services offered by the organisation being available to people from across a wider area.

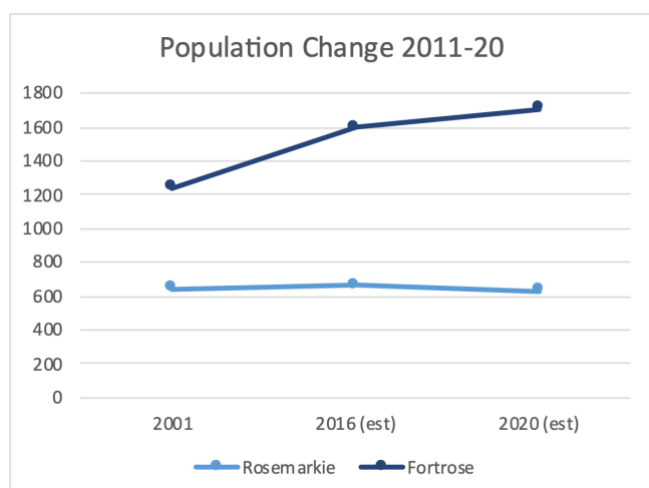
## DEMOGRAPHICS

The settlements of Fortrose and Rosemarkie combined house around 2,413 permanent residents at the 2011 census, making it the largest population base on the Black Isle. Fortrose also serves as a 'town centre' for a larger rural hinterland, including Fortrose Academy and the Black Isle Leisure Centre, a GP Surgery and fire station. <sup>35</sup>

<sup>34</sup> The Scottish Government, *Community Right to Buy Mapping Tool*, <https://crtb.sedsh.gov.uk/crtb/>

<sup>35</sup> Highland Council, *Inner Moray Firth Proposed Local Development Plan (IMFPLDP)*, p. 165

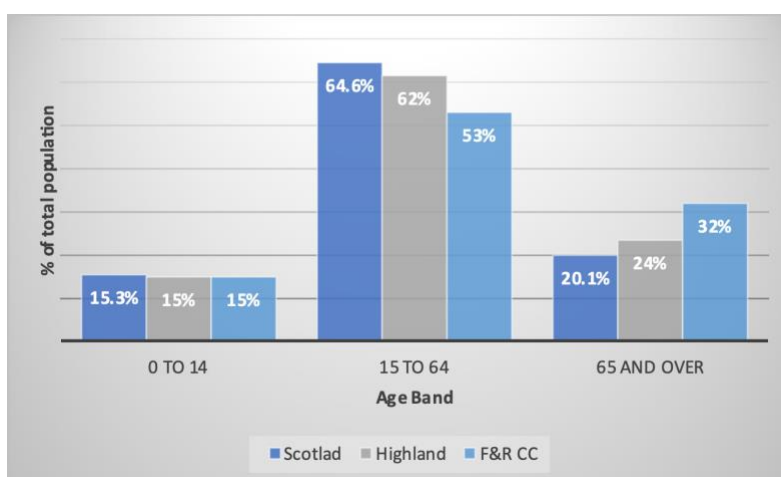
(2022 census data is now available at local authority level, but will not be available at locality level until 2024. Local population statistics are based on Highland Council 2020 estimates. These will not include therefore recently the completed housing development in Rosemarkie). The greatest change has been in Fortrose, which has seen a population increase of around 13% since 2011 as a result of significant newbuild developments at Feddon Hill and Ness Gap. A recent development has also been completed at Rosemarkie, which will not yet show in these figures.



This population increase is considerably higher than for the Black Isle (5.9%) and for the Highlands overall (2%) within the same period. However, whilst the overall population has increased in absolute terms due to new housing developments, the rate of growth has now stabilised. This is in common with wider Highland projections from the 2022 Census, which indicates a stable but ageing population, with decline in the younger age bands.

Increases in population have also not reversed the increasingly ageing demographic of the community. The population of children up to Academy school age is broadly similar to the average for Scotland and for Highland. However, at 53%, the proportion of the population of working age is significantly lower than for both Scotland and the Highland average.

The population age 65 or over is significantly higher than for Scotland and for the Highlands, at around a third of the total population. (In local authority level figures released for the 2022 census, across Scotland just over 20% of the population were 65 or over on census day on Scotland, and almost 25% in Highland).



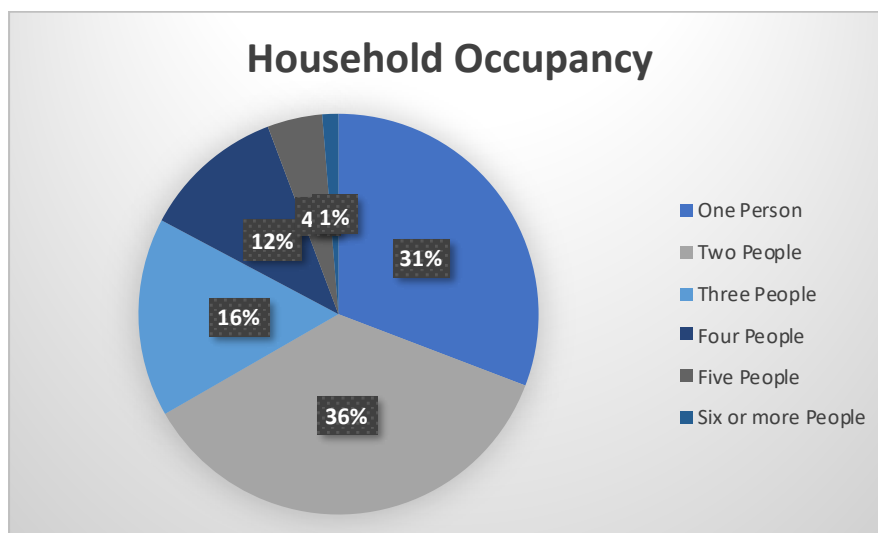
A number of factors are likely to come into play here to varying degrees. Many parts of Scotland and especially rural areas of the Highlands are seeing increasingly ageing population profiles as birth rates have declined and people live longer. The Black Isle has long been a popular area for retirement, a high proportion of school leavers leave for further education and employment opportunities, and a new residential care home has recently been built in Fortrose. The proposed Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan suggests that easy access to the Firth and attractive rural outlook will continue to be factors that attract people to the area, but does not propose either settlement a suitable for further significant growth due to the constraints of local transport connections, the impact of congestion on village centres, and the lack of capacity within existing infrastructure.

It can therefore be expected that the current population profile will continue to reflect the current mix, with a high proportion of people over the age of 65.

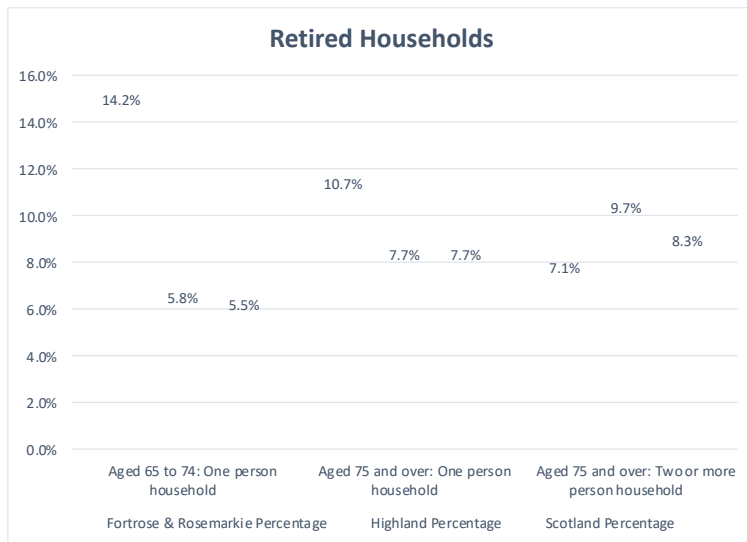
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## HOUSEHOLDS

A significant proportion of all homes were occupied by small households at the 2011 census, around 31% by one person, and 36% by two people. The number of single person households is considerably higher than the Scottish average (22%), but similar to the Highland average for both one and two person households.

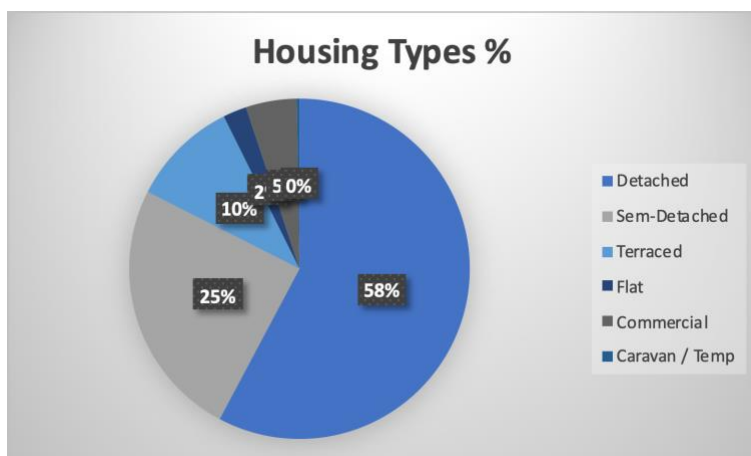


The percentage of retired households living as single people are notably higher than national and regional averages for all age brackets.



## HOUSING

Based on 2011 census data, more than half the households in the IV10 postcode area live in detached homes. This is significantly higher than the Scottish average of 21.5% and the Highland average of 41%. A further quarter in semi-detached homes. This reflects the nature of modern developments in both communities, and the relatively affluent and rural profile of the area.



Most homes are owned, either outright or with a mortgage. Around 9% are rented from social housing providers (local authority or housing association), and around 3% are privately rented or tied accommodation. (The proportion of rented homes may have increased slightly following housing association developments locally since the 2011 census, although most of the recent development has been for private sale by developers). The overall proportion of rented housing (social and private) is considerably lower than for Scotland or the Highlands generally.

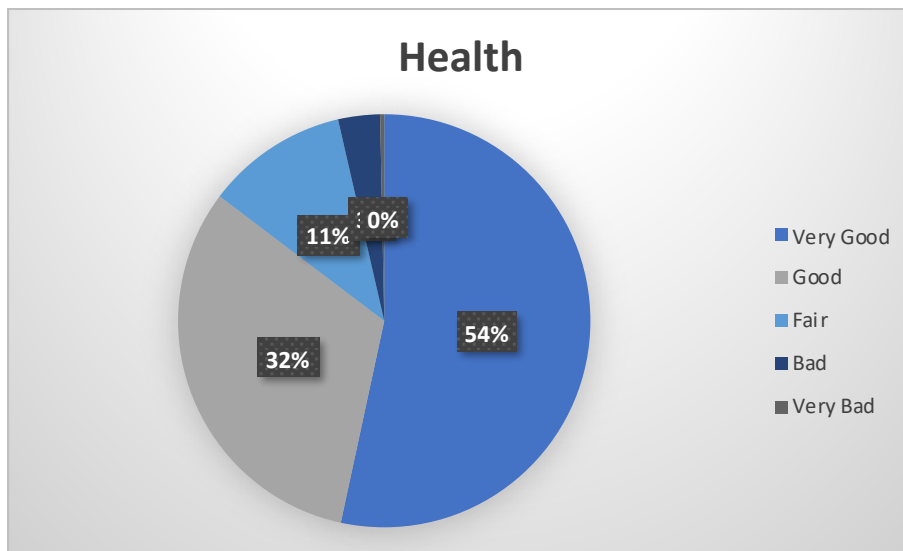
| Description         | Fortrose SZ |        | Highland   | Scotland   |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|------------|------------|
|                     | Percentage  | Number | Percentage | Percentage |
| <b>Tenure</b>       |             |        |            |            |
| Owned               | 80.7%       | 845    | 67.2%      | 62.0%      |
| Rented from Council | 8.2%        | 86     | 13.2%      | 13.2%      |
| Other social rented | 0.9%        | 9      | 5.7%       | 11.1%      |
| Private rented      | 7.1%        | 74     | 9.9%       | 11.1%      |
| Living rent free    | 2.5%        | 26     | 2.3%       | 1.3%       |
| Rented - other      | 0.7%        | 7      | 1.7%       | 1.3%       |

## HEALTH

Across the UK, health is strongly tied to both age and neighbourhood affluence. Overall, the UK considers itself healthy, with 81% of people rating their health as good or very good. (At the last census in 2011, **86%** of the Fortrose and Rosemarkie population considered their health to be good or very good, slightly higher than the Scottish and Highland average (84%).

The number of people who think their health is limited a lot is slightly lower than average, but around slightly higher for those who think it is limited a little.

| Description                      | Fortrose SZ |        | Highland   | Scotland   |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------|------------|------------|
|                                  | Percentage  | Number | Percentage | Percentage |
| <b>Limiting long-term health</b> |             |        |            |            |
| Limited a lot                    | 7.6%        | 184    | 8.1%       | 9.6%       |
| Limited a little                 | 11.4%       | 275    | 10.5%      | 10.1%      |
| Not limited                      | 80.9%       | 1,953  | 81.4%      | 80.4%      |



Practice level health data shows a gradually increasing prevalence of arterial, coronary and heart related conditions, particularly amongst older patients. Patients in the older age groups are also have an increasing prevalence of dementia (this may be impacted by the relatively new provision of a Care Home in Fortrose) and of depression.<sup>36</sup>

## EDUCATION

The community has a highly educated population, with 38.5% holding degree level qualifications, significantly higher than the Scottish and regional average of 26%.

<sup>36</sup> <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/general-practice-disease-prevalence-data-visualisation/general-practice-disease-prevalence-visualisation-27-june-2023/>, Accessed August 2024

The proportion of people with no qualifications is lower than the norm at 19.6% (compared to Highland and Scottish averages of 25.5% and 26.8% respectively). Within the three Fortrose and Rosemarkie SIMD data zones, between 12% and 17% of all 17 to 21 year olds enter university.

It should be noted, however, that these figures represent only the people normally resident in the Fortrose and Rosemarkie communities. Fortrose Academy serves the whole of the Black Isle, with seven Primary schools in its catchment area, and a school roll of 630. Whilst levels of attainment for individual pupils will vary within the overall Academy school population, overall attainment is above average. Fortrose Academy ranked 95<sup>th</sup> (out of 340) in the 2023 Scottish School League Tables, with 44% of pupils leaving with at least 5 Highers or equivalent (Scottish average 39%).<sup>37</sup> At the end of the school year, 96% of pupils moved on to positive post school destinations with 48% moving on to Higher Education and 24% moving into employment.<sup>38</sup> 6.7% of pupils at Fortrose Academy were registered for free school meals and over 43% of pupils had recognised additional support needs during the 2020/21 session.

There is no Primary school in Fortrose or Rosemarkie. Pupils attend Avoch Primary school. Avoch Primary School has a high attainment level, with over 80% of pupils reaching required standards in P2, P4 and P7.<sup>39</sup>

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## ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

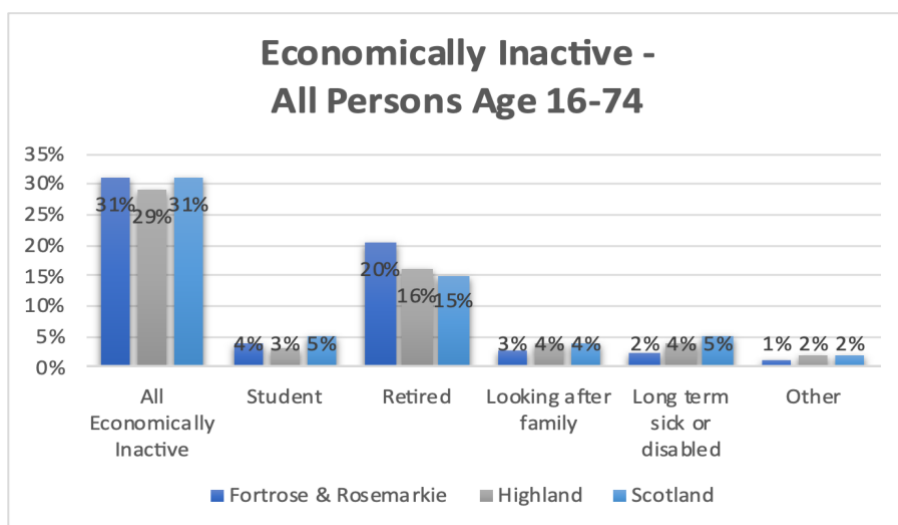
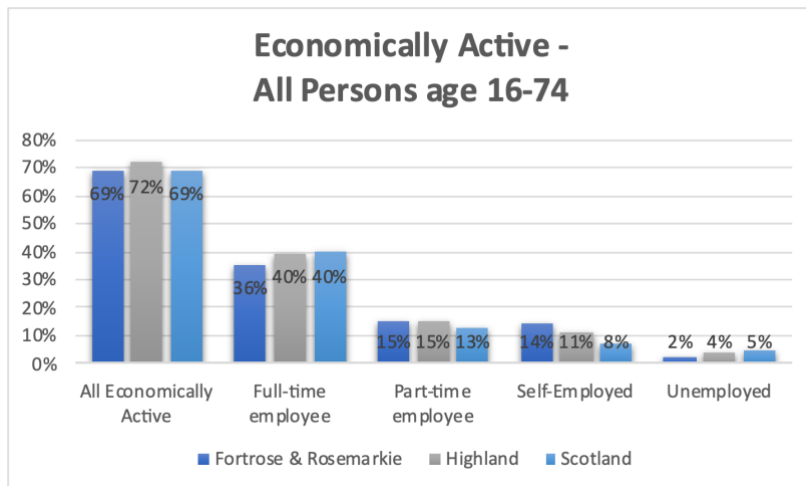
The current working population of the community is around 1,200 (around 55% of the whole population). Based on 2011 census data, over a third of the adult population were in full-time employment, a sixth in part-time employment and a further sixth self-employed. Levels of employment are broadly comparable with the wider region, although the proportion of people in full-time employment are lower and the proportion who are self-employed are higher. These patterns are not unusual, particularly in more rural areas of the Highlands.

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<sup>37</sup> SIMD Data-Map Scotland, *Scotland's Secondary School League Tables, 2003*, sourced at <https://datamap-scotland.co.uk/2023/07/scottish-secondary-school-league-tables/>, October 2023.

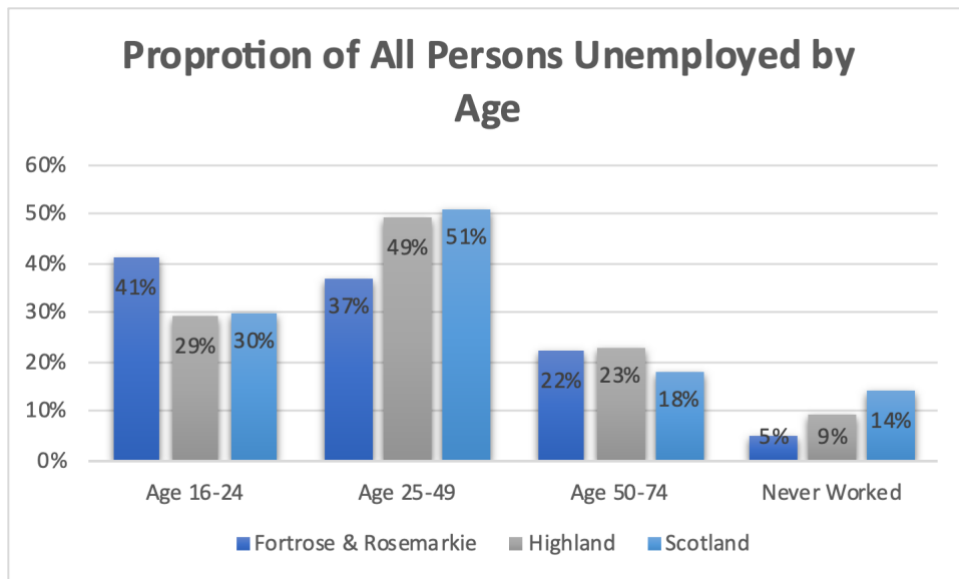
<sup>38</sup> Fortrose Academy, *Standards and Quality Report 2021*, sourced at [https://www.fortroseacademy.co.uk/files/ugd/c0bf9c\\_9e7d6cf45c1b4389a59a57b600668001.pdf](https://www.fortroseacademy.co.uk/files/ugd/c0bf9c_9e7d6cf45c1b4389a59a57b600668001.pdf), October 2023.

<sup>39</sup> SIMD Data-Map Scotland, *Scotland's Primary Performance Map, 2003*, sourced at <https://datamap-scotland.co.uk/2022/02/primary-school-ranks-scotland/>, October 2023.

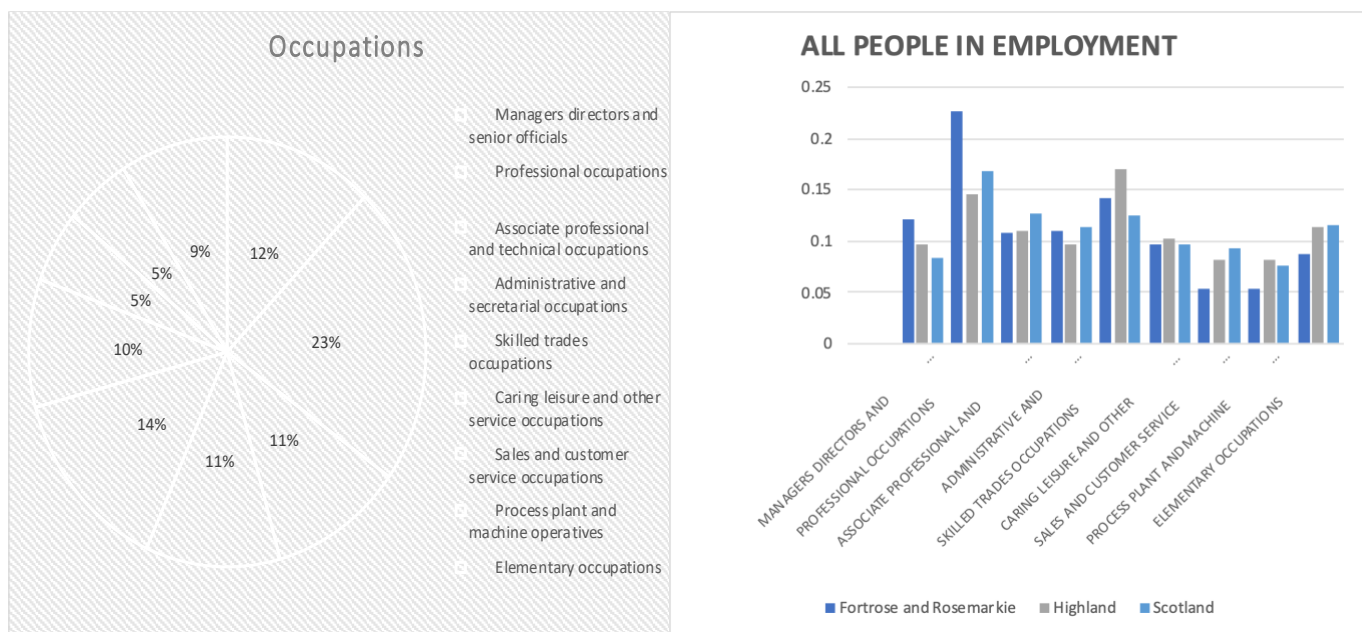


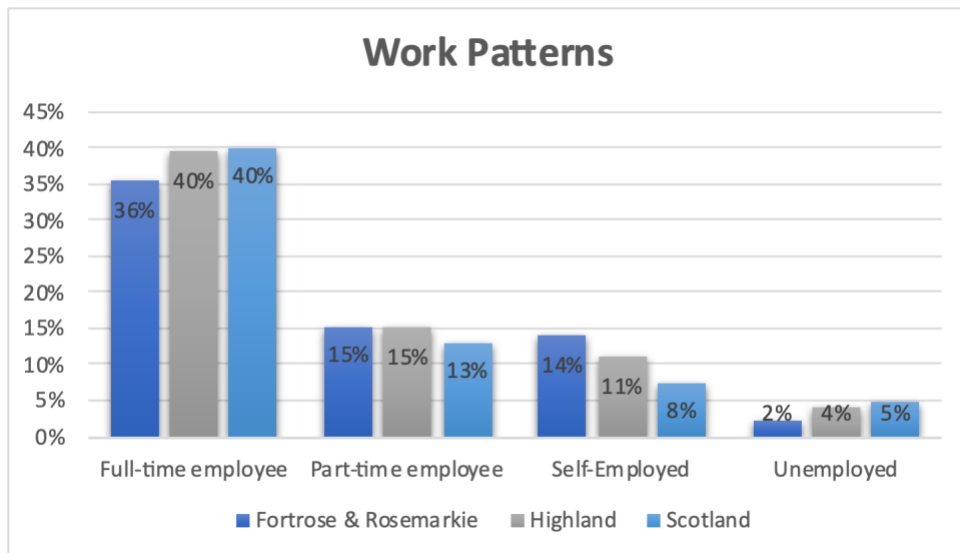
Overall unemployment levels are very low, and below both regional and national averages. However, at the 2011 census, unemployment is proportionately higher amongst young people age 16-24. (It should be noted, however, that these proportions come from a very low numeric base – 17 people in total – and that small changes in numbers can therefore have a disproportionate impact). In high-level data recently released for the 2022 Census, unemployment for the 16-24 age group sits at around 3.1% across Highland, compared to 3.4% nationally.

Of the economically inactive population, a higher proportion of people are retired than at either national or regional levels.



Of the people who are employed, employment covers a wider range of sectors. However, a significantly higher proportion are in professional occupations than average. Fewer than average are employed in Customer Service or Manufacturing roles.





Fewer of the working population are full-time employees compared to Highland and Scottish averages; and a higher percentage are self-employed.

At the 2011 census, around 16% of the working age population in Fortrose and Rosemarkie worked or studied from home. This was slightly higher than the Highland average of 15%, and above the Scottish average of 11%. Since the pandemic, it can reasonably be expected that this proportion has increased.

## TRANSPORT

Fortrose and Rosemarkie lie on the A832, which connects directly to Cromarty to the North, and to the A9 via Tore or Munloch to the West. It is around a 25-minute commute by car to the more urban centres of Inverness (13 miles), Dingwall (15 miles) or Alness/Invergordon (18 miles).

Bus routes are provided through Stagecoach. The 26/26A Cromarty to Inverness operates runs hourly. A direct 21 bus route to Dingwall operates four times a day most weekdays. There is no direct route to Inverness UHI Campus. The nearest train station is Inverness. Around 14% of people travel to work by bus, minibus or coach. This is around the national average, but considerably higher than the Highland average of 9%.

52% of people who travel to work do so by car or van, as a driver or passenger. This is broadly the same as for Highland overall, and only slightly higher than Scottish the average.

Vehicle ownership by all households is around average for one vehicle at 45%, but a much higher proportion of households have access two or more vehicles. This is likely to reflect the rural nature of the area with a high dependence on travel by car for work and higher education by multiple household members, limitations of rural public transport connections, and provision of work vehicles for some occupations.

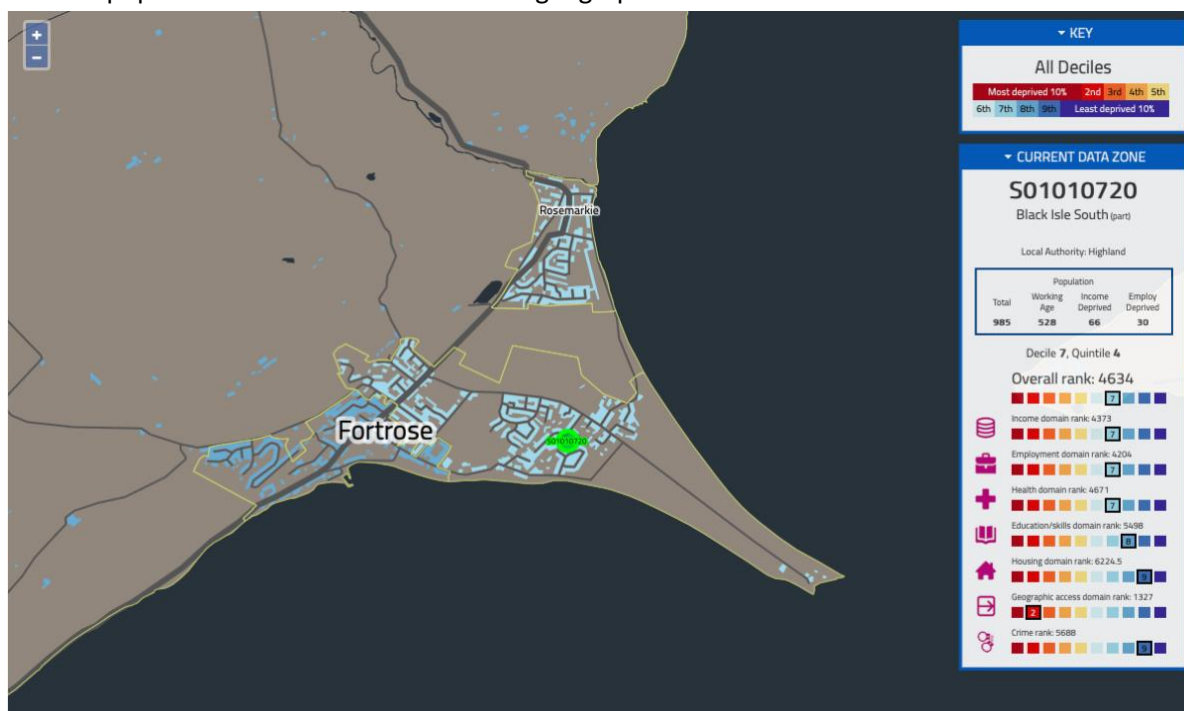
Only 13.3% of households have no access to a car or van for travel – significantly lower than both the Scottish and Highland averages of 21% and 31% respectively.

Only 13% of people travel to work by foot, lower than both Highland and Scottish averages of around 18%.

## SIMD OVERVIEW

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) ranks areas from the most deprived to the least deprived based on a matrix of indices relating to housing, income, employment, health, education and access to core services and facilities. The SIMD ranks areas, not individuals, and there will be differing experiences at an individual level within each data zone. Data zones in rural areas can be especially problematic as they tend to cover a large land area and reflect a more mixed picture of people experiencing different levels of deprivation. This means that SIMD is less helpful at identifying the smaller pockets of deprivation found in more rural areas, compared to the larger pockets found in urban areas. SIMD domain indicators can still be useful in rural areas combined with other data.

There are three SIMD data zones that cover Fortrose and Rosemarkie, as shown in the map below. In all three zones, data indicators across all if the indices are low and within the fourth quintile for the Scottish population on all factors other than geographic access to facilities.



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## VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2020, around 6% of the (working age) population were classed as income deprived (142 people), and around 5% as employment deprived (64 people).<sup>40</sup>

In 2020, around 15% of the population were being prescribed drugs for depression, anxiety or psychosis, similar to levels across the Black Isle generally.<sup>41</sup>

Across the Black Isle, the proportion of the working population in receipt of in-work benefits and in work poverty is low compared to the rest of the Highlands. Statistics have not been sourced at community council level.

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<sup>40</sup> SIMD, data zones S01010719, S01010720 and S01010721, 2020

<sup>41</sup> As above