

Community Planning Annual Report 2019/20

Welcome to the third Annual Performance Report on the Community Plan / Local Outcome Improvement Plan for Perth and Kinross, which covers the period from October 2019 to September 2020. This report outlines how the Community Planning Partnership is working towards improving life chances and opportunities for people across Perth and Kinross. We can only achieve our collective vision by working alongside local people and communities. This report is prepared by the [Community Planning Partnership](#), which includes public, private and third sector bodies.

COVID-19 Outbreak

On 23 March 2020 the UK went into a national lockdown as part of efforts to control and suppress COVID-19. Society and how people live their lives changed fundamentally and this resulted in significant changes to service delivery for CPP members, including:

- Closure of numerous corporate buildings and staff working from home;
- Re-tasking staff to undertake essential duties in response to lockdown;
- Closure of schools, with children being home schooled from April – June;
- Moving service provision online into digital settings where possible;
- Working with and supporting community volunteers to respond to local need; and
- The closure of most retail outlets and leisure and cultural facilities.

A Communities and Welfare Workstream was established, led by Perth and Kinross Council and with input from CPP members and other relevant organisations. This workstream focussed on:

- Supporting shielding and otherwise vulnerable people with welfare checks, food parcels, prescription deliveries and other necessary interventions to ensure they had the support they needed and were safe in their homes;
- Coordinating responses and engagement with Scottish Government and NHS to ensure that all vulnerable people were identified and contacted;
- Capturing and sharing information on local voluntary efforts on a new Community Support webpage at <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/communitysupport>. This included downloadable information and maps showing where support was available;
- Monitoring and responding to over 4000 enquiries from a variety of sources through a Community Support Team;
- Offering support and guidance to individual volunteers and voluntary groups who were involved in local efforts to support friends, family and neighbours.

Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 and the resulting lockdown has had a significant impact on the Perth and Kinross economy:

- 4,670 individuals claimed out of work benefits, a 150% increase from February to August 2020 compared to 93% increase in Scotland.
- 34% of eligible jobs signed up to the job retention scheme (furlough) by July 2020.

The Community Planning Partnership recognises these significant challenges and has identified employability as one of our strategic priorities moving forward.

2 Sisters Meat Processing Factory, COVID-19 Outbreak, August 2020

The COVID-19 outbreak in Coupar Angus was a major incident during the pandemic where CPP partners came together to contain an outbreak of COVID-19. Within two weeks of the first positive test a total of 201 cases were recorded in Coupar Angus (174 from factory workers and 27 from close contacts). The factory was closed, and all workers had to self-isolate for a period of two weeks to contain the virus.

The key challenges facing partner agencies were communications, food and welfare.

Communications

The workforce of over 700 permanent employees and around 300 agency staff were almost all foreign nationals, many of whom had limited English. 17 different languages in total were spoken across the affected group. Employees lived in communities across Tayside and in response partners, including the Council, PKAVS, NHS Tayside and partners from across Tayside:

- Distributed information in various languages explaining the situation, encouraging employees to attend a dedicated test centre and giving contact details for welfare support (a multi-language phone helpline).
- Repeated these messages on social media, targeting Facebook groups for eastern European communities in Perth and Kinross.
- Expanded the Tayside Cares website to include a dedicated section for the 2 Sisters outbreak and set up new Facebook and Twitter accounts to support this.
- Recorded interviews in Romanian and Polish with employees going through the testing process and shared these on-line and via social media to encourage others to attend.

By continuing to reinforce clear and simple messages and reassuring affected individuals and families we were able to reduce community transmission and prevent the need for a local lockdown.

Food and Welfare

Over 100 households in Perth and Kinross had door to door checks in the first 24 hours and these continued throughout the period. Each household received a food parcel and information on testing and welfare support in Polish, Romanian and Bulgarian.

Within 48 hours of the outbreak, the Council and community volunteers had delivered over 700 food parcels and completed a doorstep welfare check to every affected household in Perth and Kinross. Colleagues in Angus and Dundee also completed welfare checks and delivered food parcels where necessary.

Comprehensive information on restrictions was provided and crisis cash grants were given to people in serious financial difficulty.

Our Vision

Our vision for the period up to 2027 has been developed through engagement with communities across Perth and Kinross:

Creating a confident, ambitious and fairer Perth and Kinross, for all who live and work here.

Our vision for Perth and Kinross remains the same, however the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the CPP collectively reviewing and refocussing our priorities.

Recovery and Renewal

The Perth and Kinross Offer is at the heart of the overall approach to recovery and renewal and acknowledges that 'everyone has something to offer'. As the key driver for our recovery and renewal approach, the Offer will ensure that we reflect on the impact of lockdown and work more closely with citizens and communities through forums such as Local Action Partnerships (LAPs) to achieve considerable change in how services are co-created and delivered. These changes to service delivery require greater flexibility and new approaches to tasks such as sharing data and intelligence to shift resources to deal with new priorities and delivering services remotely. Positive developments like this will continue to shape changes to service delivery across the CPP as we move through recovery and renewal.

Review of CPP Priorities

To understand and reflect the impact of COVID-19 on both communities of place and communities of interest across Perth and Kinross, the CPP Board established a short life working group to identify emerging equality issues. These issues were confirmed as:

- Poverty, including food poverty and fuel poverty
- Mental and physical wellbeing
- Employability
- Digital Participation
- Education and Learning

These issues will be the focus of a new Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) to be approved by the CPP Board in spring 2021. The LOIP will set out the key actions the CPP will need to take to address these issues over a 3 year timeframe. The priorities and actions articulated in the LOIP will align with the Perth and Kinross Offer, complementing the priorities and actions identified as a result of our consultation with communities, businesses and other key stakeholders.

A Placed-based Approach

Within Perth and Kinross we have seven Local Action Partnerships (LAPs) covering the following localities:

- ❖ Highland
- ❖ Strathtay
- ❖ Kinross-shire
- ❖ Almond and Earn
- ❖ Perth City
- ❖ Strathearn and Strathallan
- ❖ Eastern Perthshire

LAPs were established in response to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as part of our local community planning infrastructure. LAPs consist of representatives from the local community, local elected members, and staff from the Community Planning Partnership. Each LAP develops and delivers their own Locality Action Plan, which identifies the key inequality issues for their area and the actions they will collectively take to address them.

LAPs are part of our offer to communities and over the last year local citizens have given their time and expertise to deliver change in their communities. Over the past year the Council has provided £150,000 worth of funding which LAPs have used to support local groups and projects.

As each locality area is different, there are a variety of issues being tackled at a local level. Prior to lockdown LAPs were supporting numerous projects and initiatives. These included: youth work provision in Eastern Perthshire; road safety in Highland Perthshire; access to leisure and sporting opportunities in Perth; and provision of free wi-fi in community facilities in Kinross-shire.

Since lockdown restrictions have been eased, LAPs are beginning to reconvene and consider the impact of COVID-19 on their localities and as a result, their priorities. Each LAP is now revising and refreshing its Locality Action Plan, with an aim to have these in place by April 2021.

Local Action Partnership Grants

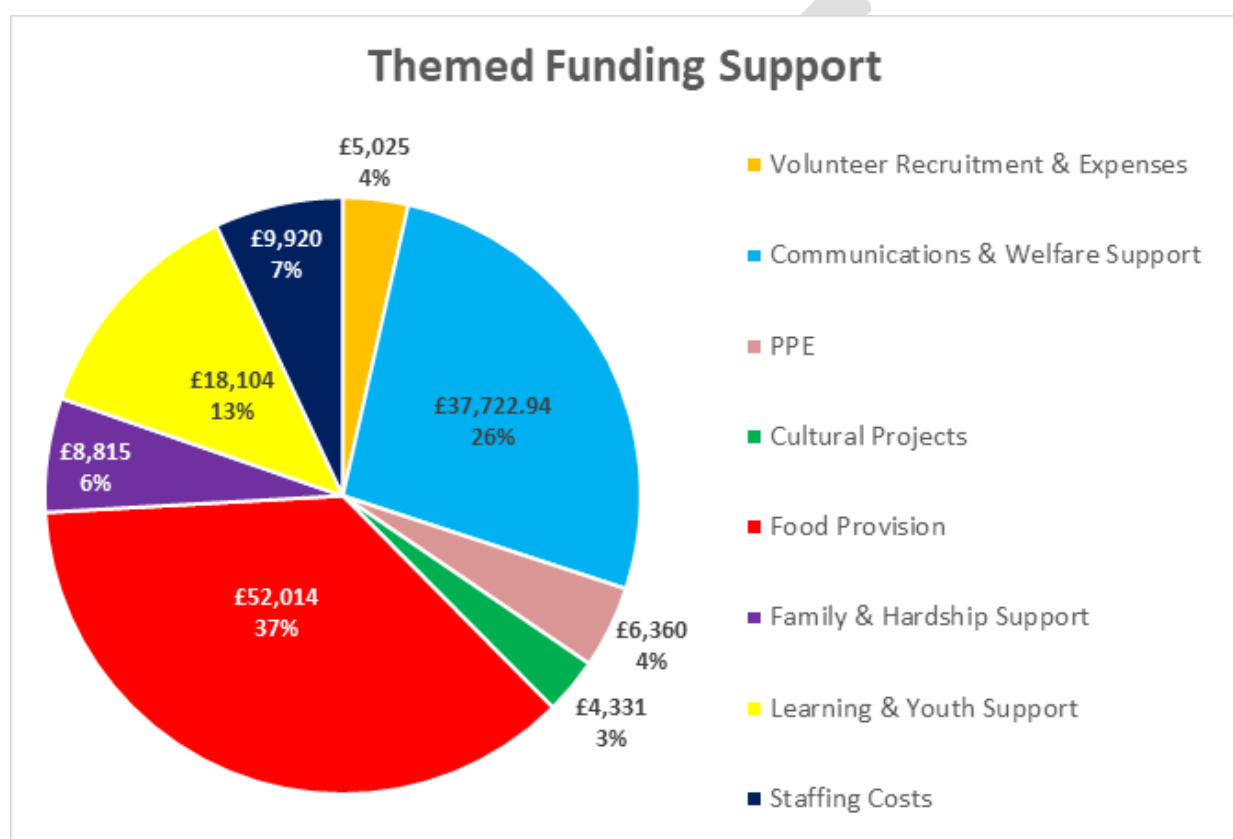
Perth City Local Action Partnership supported Live Active Leisure's 'All Ability Cycling', a scheme where people with disabilities can enjoy a cycle independently or with the support of a carer or staff member round the North Inch on a specially purposed bike. The funding allowed Live Active Leisure to hire a staff member to support the scheme in 2019/20 and the number sessions increased by 55% compared to 2018/19. Without this support many people with disabilities would not have an opportunity to be active outside, which is important for mental and physical wellbeing. The Perth City LAP agreed to continue this support in 2020/21.

Eastern Perthshire LAP gave financial backing to support the establishment of a 'Men's Shed' in Scone. Men's Sheds are community run spaces for men to converse and be creative, thereby providing a safe space for service users and reducing social isolation. The funding allowed the Men's Shed in Scone to buy equipment, including workbenches, an extraction fan and workshop tools.

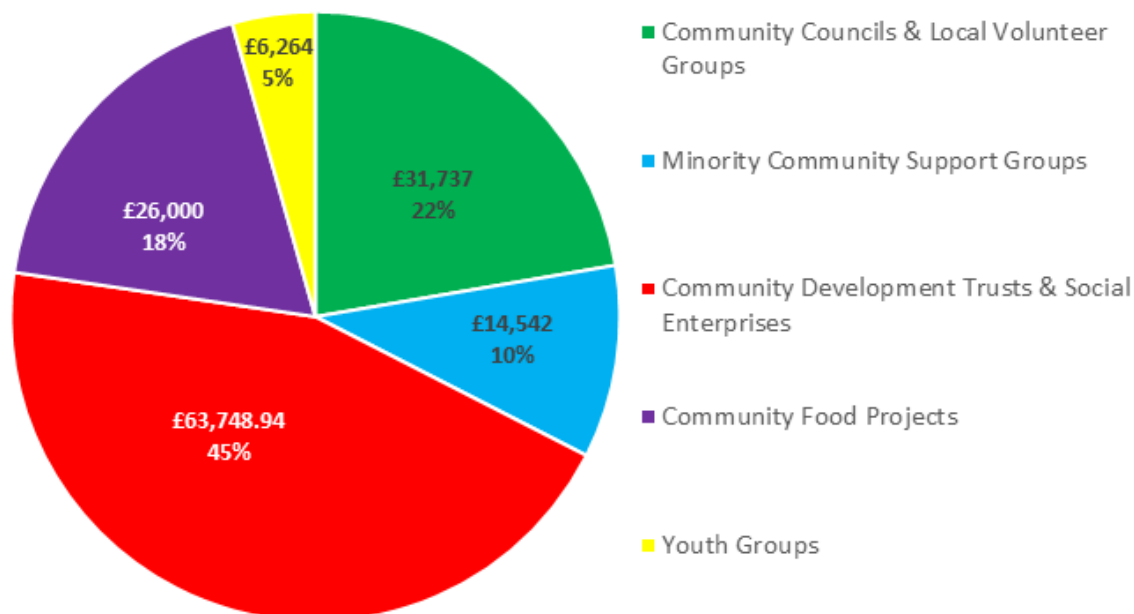
Local Action Partnerships and COVID Response

Local Action Partnerships (LAPs) are given a budget to support the delivery of their Locality Action Plan. In March 2020 LAPs agreed to open their budgets to bids from local community groups and voluntary organisations who were responding to needs in their community as a result of COVID-19 and lockdown.

From March until the end of September 2020 over 70 different funding bids were supported by LAPs, committing over £180,000 in financial support to a variety of different projects and initiatives. The following graphs detail the spread of this funding by theme and by the nature of the group that was funded. The final section includes some short case studies.



Funding Support by Group



FeldyRoo received funding to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people who were socially isolated in the Aberfeldy and wider Breadalbane area. The group delivered over 40,000 meals during this period and has received national recognition for their outstanding work in supporting community members during lockdown.

Logos received a small grant to fund a Zoom account so they could deliver their youth activity sessions virtually and prevent young people from becoming isolated. This small grant has had a big impact on young people who could continue using the service in the Strathearn and Strathallan area throughout lockdown.

Food Support in Perth involved numerous organisations in Perth providing support for the most vulnerable during the lockdown period. Groups worked in partnership to set up places to access food throughout Perth city and provided a delivery and check-in service. Examples of specific activities include:

- **Letham4All** purchased a larger refrigeration unit to store donated food from local businesses to support families in need of free or discounted food.
- **National Christian Outreach Centre** delivered 500 hot meals to elderly and vulnerable people living in the Perth area each week for 10 weeks.
- **Perth Welfare Society** supported people using Zoom, in Urdu and Punjabi, to apply for financial support, such as Universal credit. The group worked with local takeaways to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people in Perth.

Reporting Progress

In order to achieve our vision, the partnership initially identified five strategic objectives, which support the overarching National Performance Framework:

1. Giving every child the best start in life
2. Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
3. Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
4. Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
5. Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

These priorities are being changed in light of COVID-19 and lockdown, however they form the structure for our progress report for the period between October 2019 and September 2020.

A revised LOIP will be presented to CPP Board in the first half of 2021 and our next Annual Performance Report will be structured around the revised priorities.

Best Start in Life

Our children and young people have the best start in life and Perth and Kinross is the best place in Scotland to grow up.

Updates

- ❖ Our Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach has ensured that support and intervention has been prioritised for children, young people and families with higher levels of vulnerability throughout the COVID-19 emergency response.
- ❖ New ways of delivering effective learning and teaching through online learning and digital technologies have been developed in response to lockdown. Through technology we were able to ensure children continued to learn through virtual classrooms.
- ❖ The [Perth and Kinross Play Framework](#) launched in June 2019. To support learning and play at home, Play Z cards, with simple play ideas for parents were produced and distributed through the Early Years and Childcare Teams, Schools and the Parenting Team to families to try at home. The Z Cards were also available on the Play Talk Read Bus (PTRB) when it visited Perth and Kinross between 16 and 20 September and was visited by 148 families and 220 children over five locations. 82% said they had learned something new and 90% said they would try different ways of playing with their children at home.
- ❖ Active Schools undertook a project to encourage more physical activity in children under ten. This resulted in several schools investing their Pupil Equity Funding to extend this project and consequently nine Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport groups were established.

Case Studies- improving the lives of looked after children

Between 2016 to 2019 the has number of looked after children has remained steady at between 280 and 286 children. Since 2015 the proportion of children being looked after in a safe residential setting has increased from 92% to 96% in 2019/20, meaning that an increasing proportion of looked after children are finding a positive family environment. The multi-disciplinary REACH team offer intensive and flexible support to young people and families to improve outcomes for young people who are looked after or who are at risk of being accommodated and are therefore “on the edge of care.” REACH provides individualised support to help young people to remain in their families, schools and communities and prevent the need to move into care. *(please note more information is expected on this case study)*

Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens

Everyone in Perth and Kinross has a stake in creating a confident, ambitious and fairer place to live, learn, work and visit. We will support children, young people, adults and communities to develop their skills and active participation in their communities.

Updates

- ❖ Perth and Kinross Schools have been considering ways they can poverty-proof the school day. Many primary schools are using the Child Equity Funding to offer free school trips.
- ❖ 273 tablets were provided to enable families to support their child's education during lockdown.
- ❖ For the fifth consecutive year, Perth & Kinross (95%) remains higher than the national average (92%) overall, as well as in each individual age group, for the proportion of 16-19 year-olds participating in education, training or employment.
- ❖ Community Investment Fund invests in new and innovative community-led projects which improve quality of life and tackle issues of inequality. In 2019/20 a total of £623,000 was invested in 127 projects, with 75% of that total pot going to over 60 grassroots community organisations, thereby supporting capacity building and community-led local development.
- ❖ The Adult Literacy partnership comprising of Perth College, Churches Action for the Homeless, PUSH, HMP Perth, Murray Royal Hospital and PKC developed new blended approaches to learning in order to continue to support adult learners. Around 250 people took part on average each month prior to lockdown restrictions.

Case Study: Online Adult Learning Hub

During lockdown all face to face adult literacy services were suspended and by May 2020 the likelihood of in-person adult learning restarting seemed unlikely, impacting on some of our most vulnerable people in need of learning support to gain new skills and (for working age people) increase their employment chances.

Groups such as Churches Action for the Homeless were able to host online groups for cooking, quizzes and taster courses. NHS Tayside and Perth College continued to support learners: 10 achieved their College Connect Certificate; 57 community learners completed their College Certificate in Literacies, developing skills in numeracy, communication, employability and personal finance; and 15 learners received SQA an accreditation across a variety of disciplines. Through online learning, partners were able to deliver courses which boosted people's confidence, employability skills and kept people connected in a time when learners were at risk of feeling isolated.

(please note more information is expected on this case study)

Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy

We live in fairer Perth & Kinross which promotes inclusive economic growth and a thriving economy.

Updates

- ❖ Between March and October, the unemployment claimant count in Perth and Kinross rose by 137% (up 2,555 individuals), with the unemployment rate rising from 2% to 4.8%. In Scotland this increased from 3.3% to 6.1% in the same period. We estimate that the total number of redundancies is over 550, and we expect this to grow rapidly over the coming year.
- ❖ To respond to this significant challenge, the COVID-19 Business Task Force was established comprising the Council, Business Gateway, Scottish Enterprise, Perthshire Chamber of Commerce, Growbiz, Federation of Small Businesses, Perthshire Tourism Partnership and the Perth Traders Association. This Task Force has continued to meet weekly during the response phase to look at what support partners can offer, including the development of on-street dining to help with social distancing.
- ❖ The Economic Wellbeing Plan for Perth and Kinross was published in August 2020 for consultation to support the economic recovery of the region. The report sets out how business will employability services across the partnership will work with the third sector to support local business. The report final plan will be considered in December.
- ❖ The [agreed heads of terms](#) for the Tay Cities Deal will see over £150m of new Scottish and UK Government investment in our area over the next 10-15 years, in addition to the significant £600m capital investment already committed by the Council. The Heads of Terms are expected to be signed off in 2020/21.

Case Study- Employability Pipeline

The Employability Pipeline supported 153 individuals with employability skills through third sector and in-house delivery in 2019/20. The poverty and social inclusion stream supported 70 individuals with money/debt management skills by Perth Citizens Advice Bureau. The European Social Fund Employability Outreach Service delivered employability services to 71 clients throughout Crieff, Kinross, Blairgowrie and Rattray. This programme seeks to assist those facing multiple barriers to employment, providing one to one support and working in partnership with various organisations to help people realise their potential and progress towards their goal of employment.

Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives

People in Perth and Kinross lead independent, healthy and active lives, with choice and control over the decisions they make about their health, care and support.

Updates

- ❖ The target for delivering new affordable homes was met one year early. Perth & Kinross Council, Hillcrest Homes, Kingdom Housing Association, Caledonia Housing Association and Fairfield Housing Co-operative worked together to exceed our 2016–2021 Local Housing Strategy target to deliver 861 additional affordable homes. Across the Perth & Kinross area just under £21m has been invested on affordable housing.
- ❖ In Eastern Perthshire local feedback suggested January was a time of stress and loneliness. As a result, local volunteers and partners collaborated to establish the Big January Get Together. This involved a month-long series of events which attracted 500 attendees, providing a platform for engagement with individuals whom we were then able to signpost to appropriate support services.
- ❖ The South Perth Wellbeing Day was held in the later stages of winter during the time in which people are most likely to be experiencing feelings of loneliness and isolation. This information day focused on promoting health and wellbeing for residents, with 50 community stallholders involved and over 250 people in attendance. This celebrated and promoted the work being done by groups across the community and created opportunities for people to come together locally and build important connections with active community groups and organisations.
- ❖ Unpaid carers have been critical throughout the pandemic. The Health and Social Care Partnership has been working with PKAVS to provide additional support to unpaid carers. Locality integrated care teams will improve urgent care for people with a range of conditions to remain at home.

Case Study

The PKAVS Carers' Hub together with 'Outside the Box' and the Care and Wellbeing Cooperative have implemented the 'Support Choices' project. This provides information on Social Care and Self Directed Support options to people and their carers. This can be done over the phone or face to face. Short term one to one support is available to help people identify the outcomes they would like to achieve and the support they require. This has given people more choice around the care packages that they receive.

Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Perth and Kinross is a sustainable, safe place for everyone to live, work and visit, and we make the most of our outstanding urban and rural environment for the benefit of all.

Updates

- ❖ The second [Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan](#) was adopted in November 2019 following examination by the Scottish Ministers. The Plan addresses a wide range of policy issues, including housing, retail, business, industry, transport, recreation, natural heritage, placemaking, climate change and impact public service providers and establishes a framework for the sustainable growth of Perth and Kinross to 2029.
- ❖ Greenspace management and development plans have been completed for Kinnoull Hill and the Lade in Perth, and the Knock in Crieff through partnership working with the local communities.
- ❖ We prepared and approved “Net Zero Perth and Kinross” an interim climate emergency report and action plan. We secured external funding to develop key clean growth projects: Low Carbon Transport Hub and Perth Smart Energy Networks. We installed eight public electric vehicle charging points and three at partnerships depots for fleet vehicles
- ❖ Partners are developing infrastructure to make it easy and safe for people to walk, cycle, and work remotely, through dedicated safer spaces for walking and cycling, and resilient digital technology to help get us back to work in a more sustainable way.
- ❖ 33 rural community groups now have resilience plans in place, to be ready for extreme weather, flooding, power outages or any other disruption to normal activities. Local resilience plans that have been put into place to date by various voluntary community groups, with support and guidance from the Tayside Local Resilience Partnership (TLRP).
- ❖ We now have six social workers and three senior practitioners trained in assessment and delivery of the Caledonian System and the Respect Programme to combat domestic abuse, through the rehabilitation of male offenders. *(please note more information is expected on the Violence Against Woman Partnership)*

Case Study- Protecting our natural assets

As Scotland left lockdown natural beauty spots in Perthshire were attracting large numbers of day-trippers and campers. Partners took a multi-agency approach, where hot spot areas were identified and a task force including Community Wardens, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, Forestry & Land Scotland and Countryside Rangers supported the community to tackle illegal parking and environmental damage. Partners were on the ground engaging with people enjoying our countryside to ensure they were behaving in a responsible manner. Two projects in Perth and Kinross have been submitted to the Scottish Government’s Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund to improve infrastructure and facilities in tourist hotspots. This initiative is still ongoing, with regular feedback from all involved.

Looking to the Future

Community Plan Refresh and the Perth and Kinross Offer

The Community Planning Partnership will refresh our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) in 2021. The refreshed LOIP will have a focus on key joint actions partners can make together to improve equality in Perth and Kinross. The refreshed plan will be accompanied by new governance arrangements, designed to help the Community Planning Partnership improve the impact it has on the issues which matter most to the people of Perth and Kinross.

The Plan will be developed under the umbrella of the Perth and Kinross Offer. The Offer is our vision for a new sustainable approach to public service delivering, in which services are shaped and delivered in partnership with communities and service users. We believe that this approach leads to better services and improved outcomes.

We will really welcome your views. To do this, contact us at:

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