

**F O C U S**  
**N O R T H**



**DRIVING OPPORTUNITIES  
THAT SHAPE OUR FUTURE**

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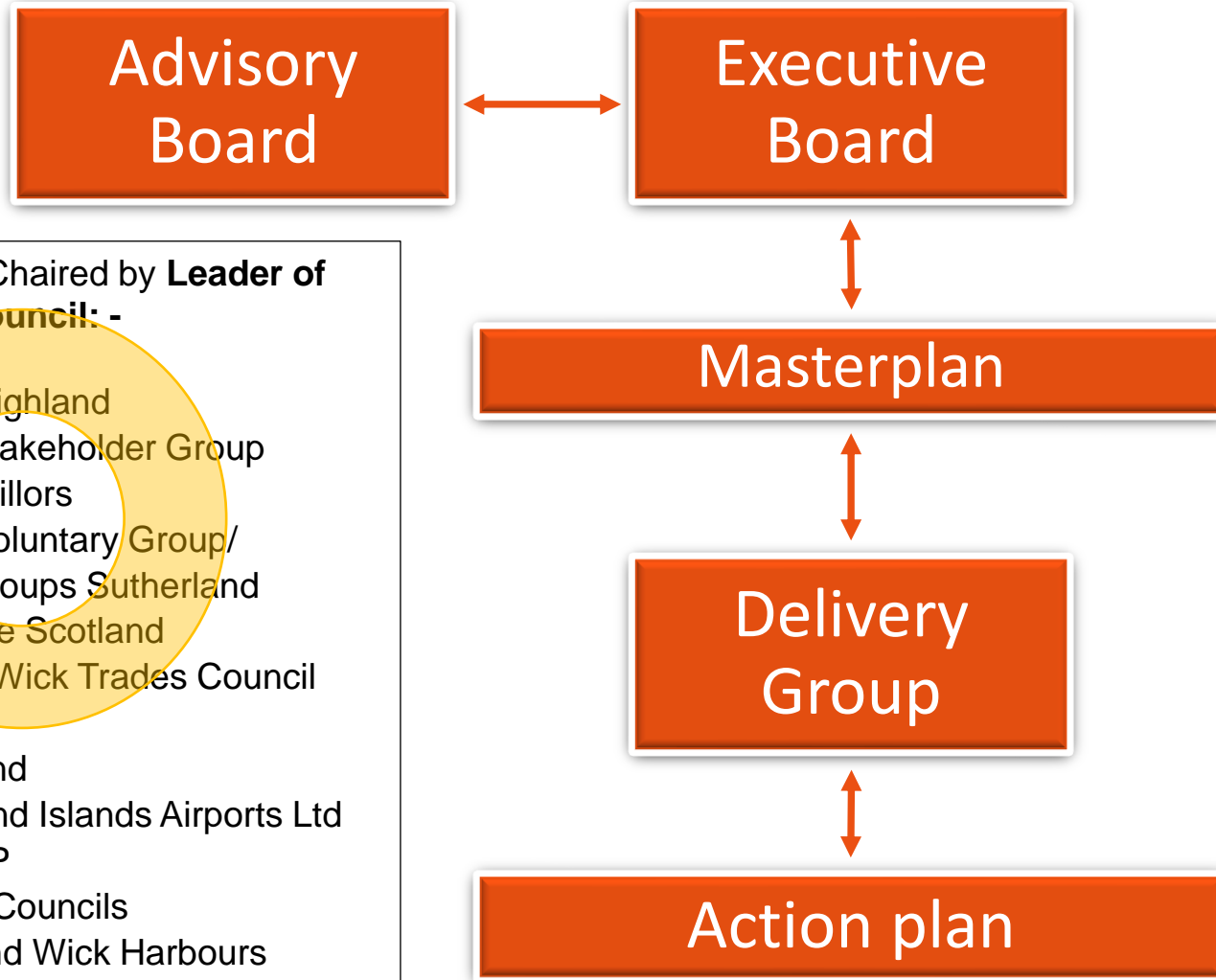
Comms & Admin

# Focus North

What is **Focus North** and why does it exist?

- Partnership of Chamber of Commerce, Dounreay, HC, HIE, NDA, SDS, UHI and SG
- Identity is memorable, states our intent, and asks others to focus here
- It is descriptive but not prescriptive about the boundary

# Governance



- Advisory Board Chaired by **Leader of the Highland Council** :-
- UHI North Highland
  - Dounreay Stakeholder Group
  - Local Councillors
  - Caithness Voluntary Group/ Voluntary Groups Sutherland
  - Crown Estate Scotland
  - Thurso and Wick Trades Council
  - Nature Scot
  - NHS Highland
  - Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd
  - MP and MSP
  - Community Councils
  - Scrabster and Wick Harbours

- Executive Board Chaired by an **Independent Chair** :-
- Caithness Chamber of Commerce - Chief Executive
  - Dounreay Site - Managing Director
  - Highlands and Islands Enterprise – Chief Executive
  - Highland Council - Chief Executive
  - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Director of Socioeconomics
  - Scottish Government - Deputy Director Land reform, Rural and Islands Policy
  - Skills Development Scotland - Regional Skills Planning Lead
  - UHI North Highland – Principal

# Why **Focus North**?

## Regional Opportunities

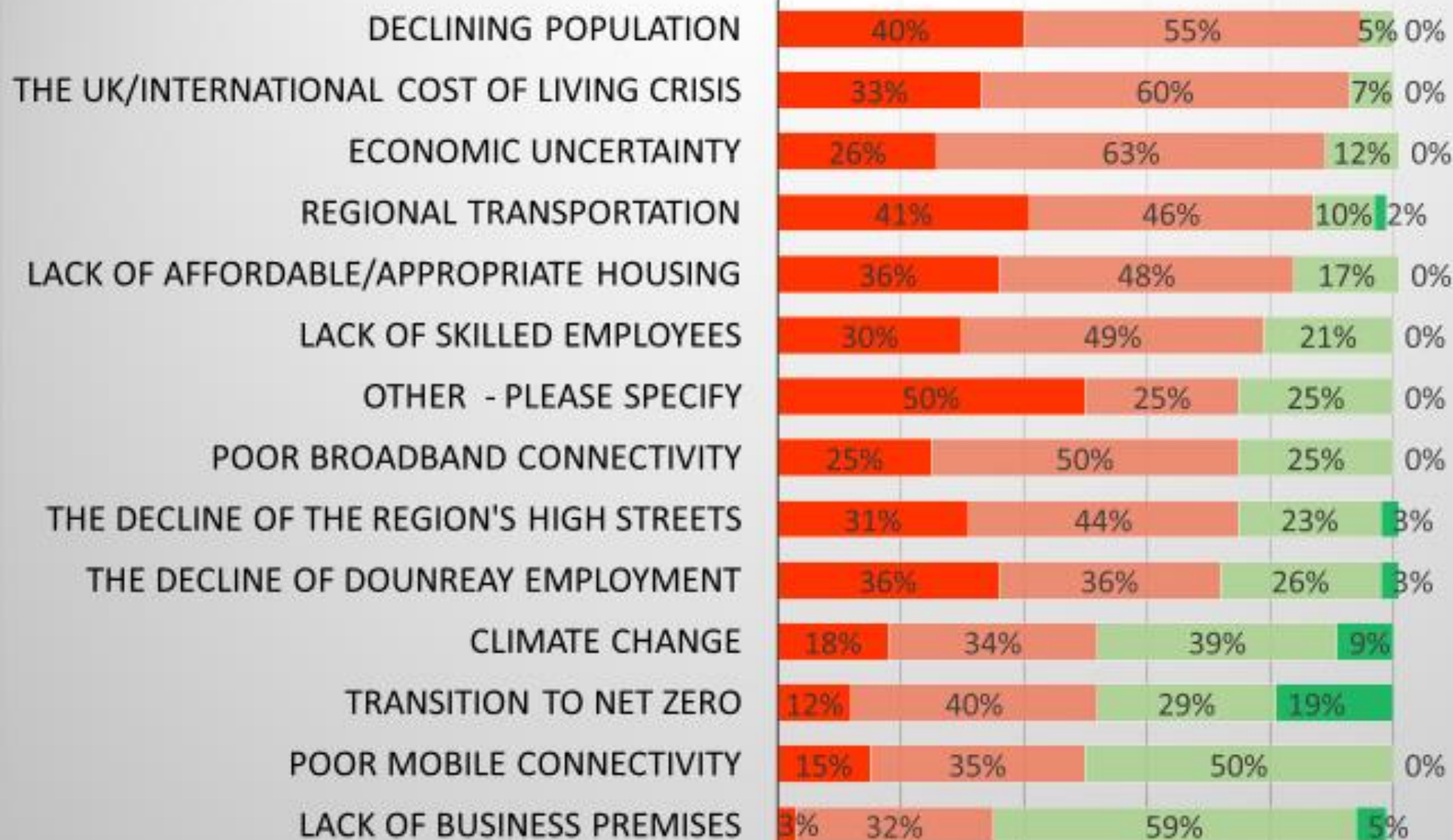
- Renewable energy
  - Pentland offshore floating wind farm
  - West of Orkney windfarm
  - Additional Scotwind sites near our coasts
  - supported by Scrabster and Wick Harbours
  - The MeyGen Tidal stream generation array in the Pentland Firth expansion
  - 2 leading battery R&D and production companies - AMTE and Denchi Power
  - Development of transmission, storage, load balancing and grid stabilisation infrastructure to help balance power production and demand
  - Hydrogen production - 2,000 tonnes per annum being proposed at Gordonbush
  - Hydrogen - hybrid aircraft are being trialled between Wick and Kirkwall in Orkney
  - Hydrogen - hybrid trains are to be trialled between Wick and Thurso in 2024
  - Fantastic opportunities as a result of the Greenport at Cromarty Firth



# More regional opportunities

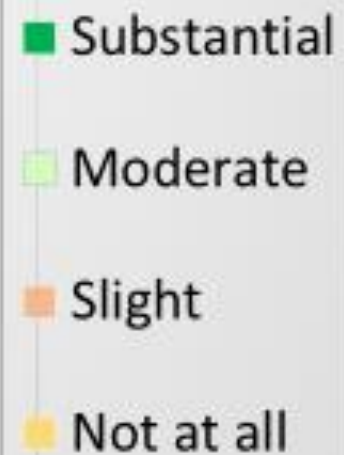
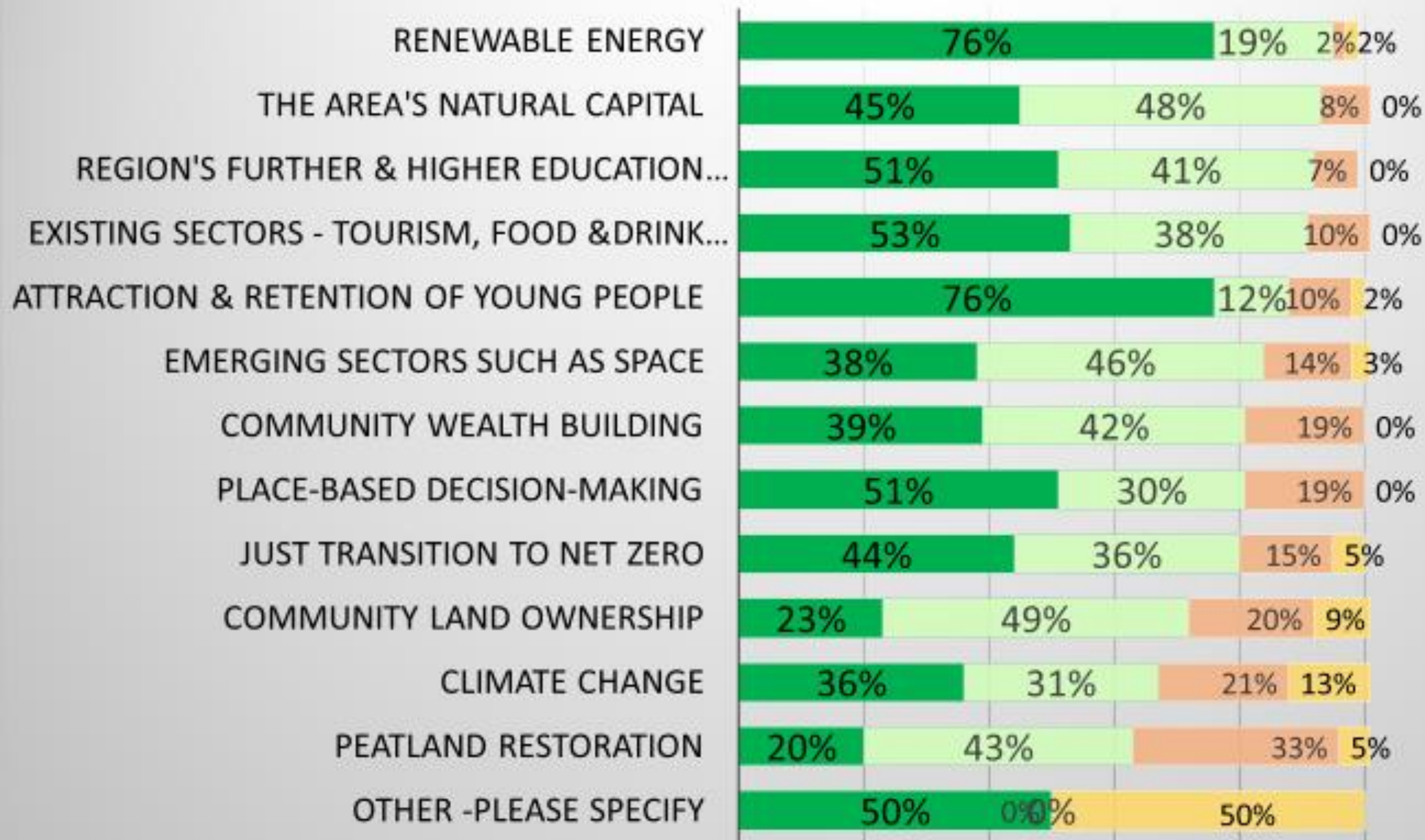
- The Space Industry
  - The Mhoine peninsula - Sutherland Spaceport opening in 2024
  - A developing space cluster to attract supporting industries
- The Natural Environment
  - The Environmental Research institute, world class research into the natural environment, including the peatlands of the flow country
  - The Flow Country, internationally important carbon sink and hopefully future UNESCO World Heritage site during 2023
  - The Flow country finance initiative - attracting ethical private investment in support of peatland restoration and management of this vital ecosystem.
- Existing Sectors:-
  - Nuclear decommissioning - Dounreay is here for some time to come
  - A rich variety of other businesses

# Risks to the region





# Regional opportunities



# What next when you finish your studies?





| Our Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 3-Yr Vision                                                                                                                                                          | Strategic Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Driving the opportunities that shape <i>Our future</i>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Our Partnership <i>makes the difference</i> by growing the economic prosperity of Our communities.</p>                                                            | <p><b>#1: Masterplan</b><br/>Publish an agreed plan which is current, has measurable goals and time scales with identified owners.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Our Core Values                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 3-Yr Goals                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>#2: People</b><br/>All partners provide relevant and empowered representatives supported by the full capability of their parent organisation</p>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambitious for <i>Our future</i>:</b> Being creative and determined in exploiting the art of the possible in every opportunity.</li> <li>• <b>Being <i>One</i> team:</b> Continuously building trust whilst respecting our differences, within and outside the Partnership.</li> <li>• <b>Planning as <i>One</i> Team:</b> Being open and honest in envisioning our future by setting ambitious strategic objectives and goals, appropriately resourced to succeed</li> <li>• <b>Being proud to deliver:</b> Do what we say we will do and hold each other to account; don't dither - Deliver.</li> <li>• <b>Communicating as <i>One</i>:</b> Shared consistent narrative, demonstrating a commitment to the importance and value of the Partnership.</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economic Growth</li> <li>2. People/Communities</li> <li>3. Partnership Effectiveness</li> <li>4. Sustainability</li> </ol> | <p><b>#3: Funding</b><br/>Attract partner, public and private sector investment to deliver the masterplan.</p> <p><b>#4: Impact</b><br/>Deliver the masterplan, measure progress, and demonstrate results.</p> <p><b>#5: Profile</b><br/>Promote the region and the Partnership's objectives, activities, and impact.</p> |

# Key initiatives

1. Lack of skilled personnel (with housing of personnel being a significant repeating issue)
2. Transport for employees
3. Digital economy including broadband connectivity
4. Promotion of the region and its opportunities – Just Transition + [Focus-North-for-a-Sustainable-Future.pdf \(focusnorth.scot\)](#)
5. Project specific actions
  - Offshore Wind 2GW becomes 30 + 5GW
  - Space cluster Build Commenced!
  - Peatland restoration – Progress

All of this on top of ensuring successful decommissioning of Dounreay and Vulcan

# Just Transition

Region is perfectly placed to lead the Just Transition to net zero

- Microcosm of Scotland, with less than 40,000 citizens
  - Includes coastal; fishing and fish farming; agricultural (including crofting), dispersed remote and hard to reach communities and urban centres with a mix of some affluent areas juxtaposed with some of the poorest council wards in Scotland.
- Region already produces 12.5x (1,250%) the electricity consumed from entirely renewable sources and is at the centre of the renewable energy transition. Regional success is vital to Scotland's transition to net zero
- Pilot size programmes here will provide long term solutions and could be rolled out in other parts of Scotland at much lower cost/risk as a result .

# What do you think?

- Have we identified the right priorities?
- What can we do more/should we do less?
- How can we help you achieve your goals?
- Comments/Questions welcome

# Contact details

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