

**Report to Partnership Meeting 6 October 2022**

**RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

**20 MINUTE RURAL NEIGHBOURHOODS – LIVING WELL LOCALLY**

**Purpose of Report**

This Report provides members with an update on the 20 Minute Neighbourhoods projects in which HITRANS have recently been involved with.

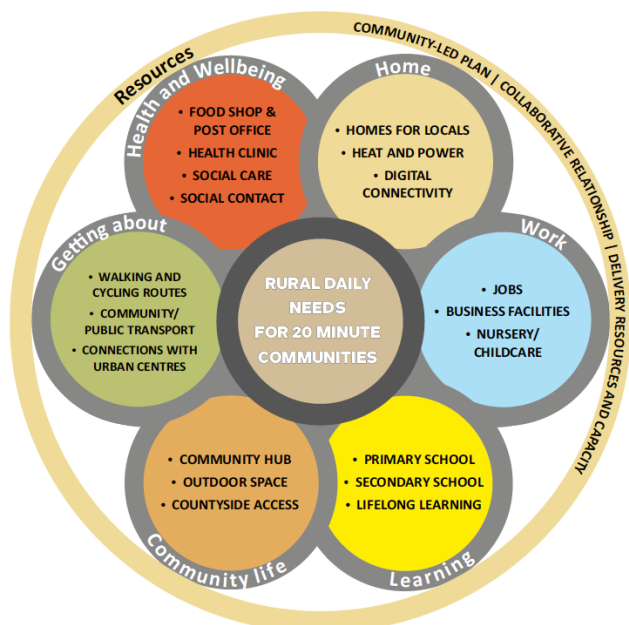
**1. Living Well Locally: 20 Minute Neighbourhoods in a Rural Context**

Following the report to the Board on 20 Minute Neighbourhoods in September 2021, HITRANS commissioned Nick Wright Planning to undertake a piece of work examining 20-minute neighbourhoods in a rural context. Dounby on Orkney, Ullapool in Highland, Tobermory on Mull, and the communities comprising Foyers and Stratherrick on the south side of Loch Ness were included as case study areas considered in the commission which was completed in May 2022. The full report is available on the HITRANS website: [https://hitrans.org.uk/Corporate/Research/Active\\_Travel](https://hitrans.org.uk/Corporate/Research/Active_Travel) in the Active Travel Research section.

The report explores the challenges and opportunities for the HITRANS region presented by the 20 Minute Neighbourhood concept, and emphasises that application of the concept should be adjusted to suit local circumstances, particularly rural areas, and that more work is required to inform what those adjustments should be.

Key features of the daily needs for a 20 Minute Community in the HITRANS region are identified, grouped into six themes:

- Home
  - Homes for local people
  - Heat and power
  - Digital connectivity
- Work
  - Jobs
  - Business facilities
  - Nursery / childcare
- Learning
  - Primary school
  - Secondary school
  - Lifelong learning
- Community life
  - Community hub
  - Outdoor space
  - Countryside access
- Getting about
  - Walking and cycling routes



- Community / public transport
- Connections with urban centres
- Health and Wellbeing
  - Food shop and Post Office
  - Health clinic
  - Social care
  - Social contact

The way these work and interact in practice is examined through the four case study communities.

The report makes a number of adjustments to the draft NPF4 policy framework are recommended to ensure that rural areas are not excluded:

1. Broaden scope from exclusively walking and cycling to sustainable travel;
2. Treat 20 minutes as a target rather than a requirement;
3. Brand as 20 Minute Communities rather than Neighbourhoods

The report highlights work already underway to tackle the challenges identified in applying the 20 Minute concept in rural areas, such as that led by Scottish Rural Action, Scottish Rural and Islands Transport Community, and SURF:

1. Bringing facilities and services into communities
2. Connecting communities through public and active transport
3. Encouraging public participation and behaviour change.

Members are encouraged to read the full report, ***Living Well Locally: 20 Minute Neighbourhoods in a Rural Context***, available on the HITRANS website, and share it within their organisations.

## **2. 20 Minute Communities – Baseline and Mapping**

Following on from the work done by Nick Wright Planning, in April 2022 HITRANS commissioned Ramboll to provide baseline data mapping for 20 Minute Communities in a Rural Context, with funding from the Sustrans Partnerships Fund.

Ramboll wrote the original Climate eXchange paper for Scottish Government, “20 Minute Neighbourhoods in a Scottish Context”, which concluded that communities across Scotland have the required services and infrastructure that would allow them to be 20 minute neighbourhoods – in both urban and rural areas.

In order to implement interventions aligned with creating and sustaining 20 minute communities across the HITRANS region, we will need a strong evidence base to understand the opportunities and challenges involved. Ramboll were asked to produce a baseline for the region to support 20 Minute Community demonstrator projects and wider Spatial Planning.

To do this, Ramboll gathered data provided by each of our 5 Local Authority partners, and analysed it using their 20 Minute Neighbourhood tool developed as part of the Climate eXchange work. The tool has been adapted to the data gathered within the HITRANS region and made more specific where data is available, using as much qualitative data as possible.

Their approach involves using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to interrogate, manage, visualize and analyse spatial data relating to the everyday daily needs identified in the Nick Wright Planning work. Analysis techniques include network and spatial analysis

alongside data-driven modelling, and will help to understand the presence and quality of services and infrastructure required to deliver 20 Minute Communities across the HITRANS region. The work will highlight where there are gaps in the data available, and will help HITRANS and partners to understand the practical challenges to meeting the 20 minute criteria faced by communities across the region. The tool will enable users to see where communities can be easily connected with active travel infrastructure, enabling access to services, recreational opportunities and transport halts.

Ramboll's pragmatic research approach will provide HITRANS with a clear summary of the existing and emerging evidence about the opportunities of the 20 Minute Community concept within the region.

Ramboll will demonstrate the web-based tool they have developed for HITRANS, in a pre-recorded presentation, and will dial in to the meeting to answer any questions and receive feedback from Members. The tool will be made available for Partners to access via a link from the HITRANS website.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note this report.

### **Risk Register**

#### RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports both relevant RTS objectives and those of the Active Travel Framework.

#### Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel policies.

#### Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by Transport Scotland's Regional Active Travel Grant Fund and Sustrans active travel partnership funding.

#### Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS support for active travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers.

**Report by:** Vikki Trelfer  
**Designation:** Active Travel Officer  
**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022