

The Outer Hebrides Community Appraisal Survey – Supplementary report for Harris

Research report for
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar &
Harris Community Planning Partnership



Ipsos MORI

Contents

Introduction	2
Structure of the report	3
Harris Community Questions	4
Satisfaction with living in the Outer Hebrides	4
Priorities for a range of suggested development in Harris	4
Community land ownership and housing in the Harris area	6
Fixed Link between Harris and North Uist	8
Appendix: Harris Questionnaire	9

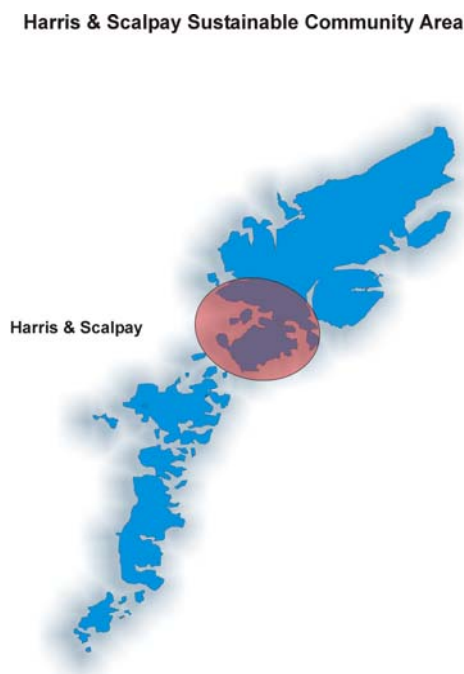
Introduction

This report contains the findings of the Harris Community Planning Partnership area questions included in the Outer Hebrides Community Survey 2007. This survey was conducted by Ipsos MORI Scotland on behalf of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership.

The survey was the first island-wide survey designed to gather information from all residents to inform the future development of the islands and local communities. It represented the key consultation device for the Partnership in their commitment to actively engage with local residents towards improving community vitality throughout the Western Isles.

As part of this, the Harris community partnership planning area included a number of questions that were asked only of Harris residents (see figure 1 for boundaries of the Harris Sustainable Community Area). These include: levels of support for further land ownership and the provision of housing on common grazing land in the Harris area; perceptions of potential future developments in the area and the construction of a fixed link between Harris and North Uist; perceptions of the role of the church in Harris; and prospective household attendance of events and classes if they were provided at the Harris Community Centre.

Figure 1: Boundaries of the Harris Sustainable Community Area



Structure of the report

All households in the Outer Hebrides were invited to participate in the Community Survey by completing a paper questionnaire. Thirteen different versions of the questionnaire were designed, comprising of a core section of questions asked of all households in the Outer Hebrides and an additional section specifically designed to inform the unique local issues and challenges of each Sustainable Community Area. The additional section for Harris enabled local residents to be asked about issues that were specific to the local community.

The core report documents the major findings from questions contained in the core section of the questionnaire and indicates the overall picture of residents across the whole of the Outer Hebrides. This report provides supplementary analysis of the results from the questions asked specifically of residents in Harris. The data tables, available from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, also provide a comparison of responses to the core questionnaire between residents on Harris and those in the rest of the Outer Hebrides.

Harris Community Questions

This chapter focuses on the responses from residents living in Harris regarding a number of topics specific to their local area. It details their views on a number of suggested developments in Harris. It considers their opinions towards further community land ownership and the provision of new housing on common grazing land in the area. In addition, it outlines levels of support or opposition among Harris residents for the construction of a fixed link between Harris and North Uist.

Satisfaction with living in the Outer Hebrides

At the start of the questionnaire, residents were asked if they were satisfied with living on the islands. Most residents (94%) living in Harris are satisfied with the islands as a place to live. The overall satisfaction level across the Outer Hebrides was 94%. This difference is not statistically significant.

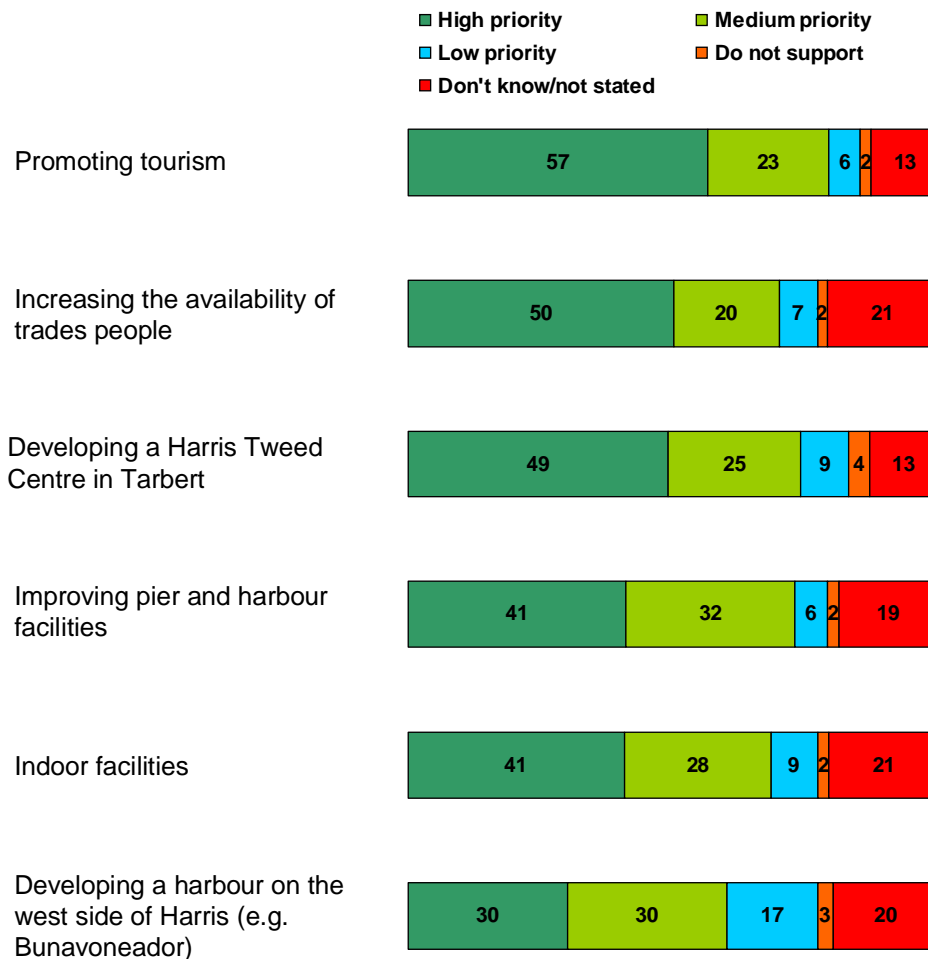
Over half (56%) say they are very satisfied, while 38% say they are fairly satisfied with the islands as a place to live. Only 2% of residents who returned a questionnaire say that they are dissatisfied.

Priorities for a range of suggested development in Harris

Asked how much of a priority should be given to six suggested developments in the Harris area, residents are most likely to say that promoting tourism should be given a high priority (57%). They are slightly less likely to give high priority to increasing the availability of trades people in Harris (50%) developing a Harris Tweed Centre in Tarbet (49%) improving pier and harbour facilities (41%) and indoor facilities (41%). Residents are least likely to say that a high priority should be given to developing a harbour on the west side of Harris (30%) (see figure 2 below).

Figure 2: Prioritising developments in Harris

Q A number of developments have been suggested for West Side. How much of a priority, if any, should be given to the following in the area?



Base: All respondents (264)

Source: Ipsos MORI

Community land ownership and housing in the Harris area

Around 6 in 10 residents (58%) support proposals to build new affordable housing on common grazing land. Around 1 in 6 (14%) residents oppose this proposal (see Figure 3).

Over half of residents (52%) support proposals to provide new social rented housing on common grazing land, with 17% of residents opposing this proposal.

Half of residents (50%) support further community land ownership in this area. Less than 1 in 10 (8%) oppose this proposal.

Figure 3: Levels of support for community land ownership and the provision of housing on common grazing land

Q *In principle, how strongly would you support or oppose the following.....?*



Base: All respondents (264)

Source: Ipsos MORI

These questions were asked in most Community planning areas across the Outer Hebrides (see Table 1).

Table 1: Levels of support by area

<i>In principle, how strongly would you support or oppose the following?</i>													
	Barra and Vatersay	South Uist and Eriksay	Benbecula	North Uist and Bereray	Harris	Paic and Kinloch	North Lochs	Stornoway	Point	Broadbay	Uig and Bernera	West Side	Ness
<i>Base: All</i>	111	216	105	180	264	110	97	666	217	309	132	377	211
% Support	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
(Further) community land ownership in this area	54	-	45	33	50	62	46	-	-	-	54	50	-
Building new affordable housing on common grazing land	59	60	47	48	58	60	53	-	49	51	61	60	46
The provision of new social rented housing on common grazing land	55	54	36	40	52	50	41	-	37	39	55	47	36

Source: Ipsos MORI

Fixed Link between Harris and North Uist

Overall, a majority of Harris residents (60%) support the construction of a fixed link between Harris and North Uist. Two fifths (41%) strongly support the proposal, while 19% tend to support it. One in five residents (17%) oppose the proposal.

Support for the proposal is largely in line with that of residents in other areas where this question was asked- Benbecula, North Uist and Berneray and South Uist and Eriskay. However, residents in Harris are more likely than those in South Uist and Eriskay to oppose the plans (see table 2).

Table 2: Levels of support by area

<i>How strongly would you support or oppose the construction of a fixed link between Harris and North Uist?</i>					
	All four areas	Benbecula	Harris	North Uist and Berneray	South Uist and Eriskay
<i>Base: Selected Areas</i>	765	105	264	180	216
% Support	63%	66%	60%	58%	69%
% Oppose	15%	11%	17%	22%	9%

Source: Ipsos MORI

Appendix: Harris Questionnaire