



Minute of the meeting of the Orkney Partnership Board
held at 13:00 on 22 June 2017 in the Council Chamber, Kirkwall

Present:	James Stockan	Orkney Islands Council (<i>Chair</i>)
	Gail Anderson	Voluntary Action Orkney
	Cathie Cowan	NHS Orkney
	Graeme Harrison	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
	Gordon Deans	Police Scotland
	Paul Edwards	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
	Gillian Morrison	Orkney Islands Council
	Bill Ross	Orkney College
	Caroline Sinclair	Integration Joint Board and Orkney Community Justice Partnership
	Craig Spence	Orkney Housing Association Ltd
By invitation	Gavin Barr	Orkney Islands Council (<i>item 12</i>)
	Luke Fraser	Orkney Islands Council (<i>item 13</i>)
	Wilf Weir	Orkney Islands Council (<i>item 14</i>)
	Garry Burton	Orkney Islands Council (<i>item 15</i>)
In attendance:	Marie Love	Orkney Islands Council (<i>Secretary for this meeting</i>)

1 Apologies for absence Chair

1.1	Ian Kinniburgh	NHS Orkney
	Alistair Buchan	Orkney Islands Council
	Fraser Burr	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
	Seonag Campbell	Skills Development Scotland
	Colin Mair	Improvement Service
	Ken Massie	VisitScotland
	Garry Reid	Scottish Sports Council
	Kristin Scott	Scottish Natural Heritage
	Craig Smith	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
	Anna Whelan	Orkney Islands Council

Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
2	Draft minutes of the last meeting of the Board on 16 March 2017	Chair	To amend as necessary and agree the minutes

2.1	The minutes were agreed (Proposed: Craig Spence, Seconded: Gail Anderson).		
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Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
3	Matters arising	Chair	To consider matters arising from the minutes
3.1	<u>Item 5.3 (Joint Resourcing Plan)</u>		
	The Chair emphasised the importance of completing the Joint Resourcing Plan as soon as possible.		<u>Action: CC/GA/GH/AFW/ML</u>
4	Executive Group report		To report progress
4.1	<u>Update from the Group</u>	Gillian Morrison	
4.1.1	Gillian Morrison reported that the Executive Group had met on 7 June 2017. Re the Review Workshop, the Board agreed that delivery of outcomes should be given priority. Making a difference and adding value must be key going forward. The workshop will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting of progress and outcomes. • Pace of progress. • Structure – what’s working and what isn’t? • Accountability – Board and Delivery Groups. • Links between operational and strategic matters. 		
4.1.2	The Executive Group had also discussed the Locality Plan Workshop. The intention had been to take a bottom-up approach. However, as the Workshop will now take place after the summer recess, members agreed with the suggestion by the Executive Group that a pragmatic approach be taken and the Locality Plan will have to be drafted prior to discussion at the Workshop. <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Action: AFW/ML</u></p>		
4.2	<u>Development Plan update</u>	Marie Love	
4.2.1	Marie Love presented a progress report on the Development Plan. It was agreed to add new actions B4 (Locality Plan), B5 (Place Standard) and B6 (Review Workshop).		
4.2.2	Re. action C1 (Pilot a TOP blog and develop a pilot web event for the Positive Ageing Delivery Group) agreed that, rather than developing a blog, occasional news stories be issued via Partners’ own communication routes, such as the Council’s Facebook page, linking to The Orkney Partnership web pages. <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Action: ML</u></p>		
5	Positive Ageing Delivery Group	Gail Anderson	To report progress
5.1	Gail Anderson presented the progress report for the Positive Ageing Delivery Group. Members noted the community gardening project would operate in such a way that it would not compete with local businesses. She highlighted the recent review of the Group’s Delivery Plan and updated membership list. The Chair complimented her on the good work of the Group.		

Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
6	Vibrant Economic Environment Delivery Group	Graeme Harrison	To report progress
6.1	Graeme Harrison presented the progress report for the Vibrant Economic Environment Delivery Group. He added that work is ongoing around the World Heritage Site and the new visitor centre will open in early July. Members noted the Orkney Energy Strategy will be presented to the Board at its September meeting. <u>Action: ML</u>		
6.2	Gillian Morrison advised the next Northern Isles Digital Forum will include a presentation by the R100 Directorate. It was agreed to initiate a request, on behalf of the Board, to hold an R100 event in July or late August. <u>Action: GM/ML</u>		
7	Healthy and Sustainable Communities	Cathie Cowan	To report progress
7.1	Cathie Cowan presented the progress report for the Healthy and Sustainable Communities Delivery Group. Members noted the success of the ActiveLife Card and hoped it would assist people to make good choices for healthy living.		
8	CONTEST/PREVENT	Gordon Deans	To report progress
8.1	Gordon Deans reported that the Prevent Strategy is now well embedded into daily business for most organisations. Work is ongoing around widening awareness. Locally 'Act Now' training has been carried out with young people. HIAL is carrying out training with its managers. WRAP training is continuing and an internet safety package is being run for youth volunteers. A pilot training exercise had been held with special constables in Caithness around small port visits. The results will be evaluated and good practice rolled out. This will be of particular interest in Orkney.		
9	Integration of Health and Social Care	Caroline Sinclair	To report progress
9.1	Caroline Sinclair reported that the Integration Joint Board had completed its first formal year. The Strategic Commissioning Plan has been published. The year one performance report is currently being finalised and will be presented to elected members and the Board of NHS Orkney shortly. An induction session had been held for new IJB members and a further training session will be delivered by the Scottish Government Policy Team in July.		

Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
10	Orkney Community Justice Partnership	Caroline Sinclair	To report progress
10.1	<p>Caroline Sinclair reported that the Orkney Community Justice Partnership is now well established and has met twice. A work plan has been developed and work around the Joint Resourcing Plan is being taken forward. The Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan has been submitted to Community Justice Scotland (CJS) and it is anticipated feedback will take up to nine months. A representative of CJS will attend one meeting of every CJP. Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive of CJS, had attended the last meeting. This had been followed by an evening event when Karyn had been one of the key speakers along with Pete White, Chief Executive of Positive Prison Positive Future, Jon Humphreys, Health and Care's Criminal Justice Manager and Paul Brannigan, an actor who has personal experience of the criminal justice system. While not particularly well attended, people who did come along found it really interesting. In particular, Paul's description of his own lived experience was very personal and moving. A live Facebook chat is planned for the evening of 20 July 2017.</p>		
11	Elected Member representation on the Board	Gillian Morrison	To provide an update
11.1	<p>Gillian Morrison presented a report explaining changes in Elected Member representation on the Board. It was noted that the Board will now be chaired by the Council Leader. If the Leader is unable to attend the Board, the Depute Leader will represent the Council at the meeting. However, it will still be chaired by the Chair of NHS Orkney who is Vice Chair of the Board.</p>		
11.2	<p>At the request of the Chair, a paper will be submitted to a future meeting on the role of the Chair of the Board to consider the possibility that this could change, or rotate. <u>Action GM/AFW/ML</u></p>		
12	Islands Deal	Gavin Barr	To report progress
12.1	<p>Gavin Barr presented an update on Strand 2 of the Islands Deal. Strand 2 focuses on establishing a package of proposals and projects which will deliver transformational change to the economic prosperity of the three island groups. There could be opportunities to seek additional funding around the grid, digital connectivity and transportation. The Vibrant Economic Environment Delivery Group is expected to be involved in the delivery of actual projects. The next stage includes the formation of detailed business cases for key Strand 2 project activities; the Scottish Futures Trust will provide assistance around that. Gavin will arrange for additional information on the projects to be circulated to members for their input. He asked that comments come back to him no later than 7 August. <u>Action: GBa/ML/All</u></p>		
12.2	<p>The Chair asked that Strand 1 also be circulated. He urged members to provide feedback on current challenges faced in Orkney and to give examples of where island-proofing would be beneficial. Although Strand 1 is being led by Shetland Islands Council, any comments should be sent to Gavin. <u>Action: GBa/ML/All</u></p>		

Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
13	Exploration of key Partnership issues: Housing and Fuel Poverty	Luke Fraser	To note progress and discuss any current issues which would benefit from partnership action

13.1 Luke Fraser provided an update on Fuel Poverty and Housing Development which is attached to this minute. The following key points were noted:

- HEEPS: ABS (Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes) is the flagship Scottish Government project run through councils. It is hoped the Council will receive funding of £1.4M for 2017/18 from the Scottish Government.
- Another £320k of additional funding was also brought in through Warmzones in 2016/17 on top of the HEEPS: ABS allocation. It is hoped that additional Warmzones, ECO and ECO Flexible Eligibility funding can be attracted into Orkney in 2017/18 and discussions around this are ongoing.
- The Housing Needs and Demand Assessment projects housing need in Orkney over next 20 years. The isles population is declining, and has been for the past 50 years. This is forecast to continue.
- Since 2011 the Council has developed 230 new build properties with OHAL developing a similar number. The majority of properties are in Kirkwall because that is where demand is.
- It is anticipated building programmes will reduce because of financial constraints.
- Prices in the local housing market are on the increase and some local people are finding it difficult to get onto the housing ladder, although there are some very good low cost home ownership options available in Kirkwall primarily. The Council is in discussions with the Scottish Government about options to offer some low cost home ownership options in rural and island areas.
- Private rents are generally quite high.
- The Council is working with HIE to help islands develop bids for the Rural Housing Fund to allow the isles to take on new build developments themselves. North Ronaldsay will probably be the first to start works.
- Work is also ongoing around bringing empty homes back into use and a part-time temporary Empty Homes Development Officer, funded by the Scottish Government and Shelter, has recently been appointed to help drive the initiative forward.
- Re Fuel Poverty, THAW's Annual General Meeting showed the social return on investment; the headline number is over £5.70 for every £1 invested.
- There is no 'magic figure' that will solve Orkney's fuel poverty issues. The key issue is fuel cost. Electricity is expensive, and rising, and there is no mains gas. An 'Orkney tariff' may be a way forward, but there is a long way to go on that. Work will continue to improve Orkney's housing stock and provide advice and information to the public on energy saving measures and tariff switching. As much external funding as possible is being drawn into Orkney to help with this.

Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
13.2	<p>Members noted a wider discussion on housing will take place at the Board meeting in September. While this will provide an opportunity to identify any issues, Gillian Morrison advised that, in her view, housing is being well handled at the moment. Clearly if it becomes a problem area the Board will consider what action could be taken to assist, but in the meantime the Partnership's strategic priorities are its key focus.</p>		
14	Physical activities in Orkney's schools	Wilf Weir Cathie Cowan	To endorse the Plan
14.1	<p>Wilf Weir gave an informative update on physical activities within Orkney's schools. He highlighted that physical activity is different from physical education and every primary school in Orkney delivers at least 2 hours of PE for all children. In addition, a range of physical activity sessions run in school time, break time and in After Schools clubs. Outdoor activities include the Mile A Day Initiative and Scrapstore PlayPod which is proving very popular with children. There is also an outdoor education programme and a range of Active Schools activities. He highlighted that school is, of course, only one component of a child's life.</p>		
14.2	<p>Cathie Cowan agreed the importance of working with families to promote messages around physical activity and healthy options. The Board of NHS Orkney had asked her to raise the Mile A Day Initiative with the Partnership to see if this was being implemented in Orkney's schools. Now that she had done so, and the discussion had been had, she felt Education and Leisure Services should be congratulated for the extensive work that is going on around physical activity.</p>		
14.3	<p>Gillian Morrison advised that she is working with Cathie, Wilf and Caroline Sinclair to explore the possibility of being the subject of a test project by the Improvement Service around young people disadvantaged by obesity.</p>		
15	Regeneration Capital Grant Funding project	Garry Burton	To consider
15.1	<p>Garry Burton advised that the Council and SportScotland are currently developing a Pitch and Facilities Strategy. There may be an opportunity to progress some of the projects using RCG funding. The proposed projects include a purpose built gymnastics arena, indoor bowls and a new pitch at the Pickaquooy Centre. SportScotland could provide funding of up to £100k and the Rugby Club could offer up to £50k. There are other funding sources that may be suitable, such as LEADER.</p>		
15.2	<p>The Chair cautioned that, while the proposed projects are admirable, the RCG funding process is rigorous and the fund is mostly used for urban areas and disused buildings. It was agreed that Garry should submit a Stage 1 application, with the support of the Board.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Action: GBU</u></p>		
<p><i>The Chair left the meeting at this point. Cathie Cowan took the Chair.</i></p>			

Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
16	Integrated Children's Services Plan	Caroline Sinclair Wilf Weir	To note
16.1	<p>Members noted the Integrated Children's Services Plan. Caroline Sinclair highlighted that the Plan had been prepared through collaborative work with a range of partners in Orkney and had taken account of the views of children and young people. Governance sits with various agencies. The plan focused on three main priorities – wellbeing, relationships and poverty and rural disadvantage. These reflect the outcome of the consultation with children and young people.</p>		
17	Arts Development Plan	Gail Anderson	To note
17.1	<p>Gail Anderson presented the Arts Development Plan. The document, entitled 'Orkney's Creative future – A 10 Year Strategy for the Arts' had been developed by Orkney Arts Forum. The Plan is accompanied by the Sector's Aims and Ambitions 2017 – 19.</p>		
17.2	<p>The Plan has the themes of People, Place and Participation. These themes are intended to act as a platform, not only for the arts, but for work in regeneration, economic development, social mobility, education and health and wellbeing. The Plan addresses the shared challenges that may only be overcome by working together. While it looks forward, it also provides an opportunity to celebrate Orkney's achievements in the arts and a small number of case studies showing best practice are included.</p>		
17.3	<p>Cathie Cowan suggested Gail make contact with Rhoda Walker around how the Plan relates to the new hospital. <u>Action: GA</u></p>		
18	New Hospital	Cathie Cowan	To provide an update
18.1	<p>Cathie Cowan advised that work is progressing well. There is an on-site Clerk of Works which is helpful. Construction work is underway and the building will be wind and watertight by March 2018. Hannah Taylor, Robertson's Community Benefits Co-ordinator will attend a future meeting to talk about Community Benefits and provide a full update on the build. <u>Action: CC/ML</u></p>		
19	Property Asset Management Working Group	Gillian Morrison	To provide an update
19.1	<p>Gillian Morrison gave an update on the first meeting of the Working Group. She chairs the Working Group and a number of actions are already in train. It is hoped to make efficiencies through strong property asset management and sharing information is key. A GIS based map and a spreadsheet with an agreed set of criteria showing Partners' collective assets are being developed. While there is a bias towards sharing information, the Working Group had agreed to be respectful of any Partner's decision not to share on certain occasions.</p>		

Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
19.2	Cathie Cowan confirmed that NHS Orkney is happy to share their Property Asset Management Strategy with the Working Group once this has been approved by the Board of NHS Orkney in August. Members agreed the importance of acknowledging successes to date, such as the Warehouse Building and the Research and Innovation Campus in Stromness.		
20	Participation Requests	Gillian Morrison	To provide an update
20.1	Gillian Morrison explained that the Part 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act allowed for certain community bodies to make participation requests to public service authorities to participate in outcome improvement processes.		
20.2	The Council has drafted a policy for the handling of participation requests, along with a locally-adapted version of the Guidance. This includes a locally tailored template for the submission of participation requests. The Council's designated first point of contact will be Anna Whelan with backup from Marie Love. They will offer support to community bodies before and during the submission of a request, including checking the eligibility of the community body and the information supplied.		
20.3	To avoid duplication of effort these resources will be shared along with capacity to handle initial enquiries and validate any information supplied, up to the validation date stage. Anyone who wants assistance should contact Marie in the first instance. It was noted that, while Marie will provide guidance and support, the actual decision must be made by the organisation itself.		
21	Orkney Islands Council's New Audit of Best Value	Gillian Morrison	To provide an update
21.1	Gillian Morrison thanked everyone who had been interviewed. The Auditors' fieldwork fortnight had been intense with lots of visits and meetings. A considerable number of documents had also been requested. It is hoped initial feedback from Audit Scotland will be received in early August. A draft report will be submitted to the Council in October when there will be an opportunity to comment on the accuracy. The report will finally be published in December.		
22	Syrian Resettlement Programme	Gillian Morrison	To provide an update
22.1	Marie Love reported that two young families had been resettled in Orkney in March. A range of support had been in place for their arrival including an interpreter and housing support worker. Arrangements had been made for the most essential appointments during the first few weeks, such as visits to the GP, dentist, optician, health visitor, the bank and JobCentre. Fire safety and police visits had also taken place. ESOL sessions are being provided on a regular basis. Work is ongoing around orientation/familiarisation. The orientation activities were being assisted by volunteer befrienders, some of whom spoke Arabic, managed by VAO. Regular liaison was taking place with COSLA and the Home Office and an evaluation exercise will be undertaken at a later stage.		

Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose
22.2	Members were pleased to note the families had not been subjected to any untoward media attention. Although there had been some interest, this had been channelled through the Council. This issue had been discussed with the families who had been very clear they wanted no media attention whatsoever. The media groups involved had been respectful of this view which was appreciated as that had not been the case in all areas.		
22.3	Members noted that this was an excellent example of community planning in action. Without the commitment of the Partners and the community, Orkney would not have been able to participate in the Programme, thanks to which two families are now living safely in our community.		
23 Any Other Business			
23.1	There was no other business.		
24	Locality Plan Workshop 1 September 2017 at 09:15 Date of next meeting 22 September 2017 at 10.00	Chair	

The meeting closed at 16.25

Annex Fuel Poverty and Housing Development Update

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Fuel Poverty and Housing Development Update

Luke Fraser
Housing Manager (Policy & Planning)



HEEPS: ABS and Fuel Poverty

- Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS: ABS)
- Around 300 cases over 2015/16 and 2016/17 with over £1.6M of Scottish Government funding utilised.
- Over £200,000 of additional outside funding has also been utilised
- The Council is expecting a further £1.4M for 2017/18 from the Scottish Government.
- Discussions on additional funding from Warm Zones, ECO and ECO Flexible Eligibility are underway, this will hopefully bring in at least £350,000 in additional funding.
- Other organisations including OHAL, Home Energy Scotland, Warmworks and THAW are also undertaking projects to tackle fuel poverty and all projects are joined up where possible.

Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA)



	Low Cost Home		Private Rent	Market Purchase	Total	Yearly Requirement
	Social Rent	Ownership				
Kirkwall	96	23	24	37	180	36
Stromness	26	9	13	11	59	12
West Mainland	29	16	19	34	98	20
East Mainland	30	16	27	32	105	21
Isles	27	11	3	20	61	12
Orkney	208	75	86	134	503	101
Declining Isles Population	-5	-5	-2	-10	-22	-4

- The HNDA projects the amount of housing need there will be in Orkney over the next 20 years. It has to be signed off as 'robust and credible' by the Scottish Government
- The above table outlines the next 5 years forecast and as can be seen all areas are expected to need additional housing under the main scenario

Housing Development Main Programme



- The Council and Orkney Housing Association both develop affordable housing
- Mainly social rented, but OHAL also develops some low cost home ownership
- Since 2011 the Council has developed 230 new build properties, OHAL have developed a similar number
- The majority of properties have been developed in Kirkwall, however, other areas on Mainland Orkney and the Isles have also seen development

Resource Planning Assumption to Actual Spend Comparisons – 2007/08 to 2016/17

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
Budget / RPA	£6.000	£5.030	£7.904	£5.062	£3.100		£4.670		£3.338	£3.754	£38.858
Actual Spend	£7.007	£6.287	£7.471	£6.483	£3.465	£2.493	£1.849	£3.295	£5.123	£2.469	£45.941

For reference, over the same period Shetland have spent £29.320M and the Western Isles £35.409M



The Development Programme Going Forward



- Due to financial constraints in the Council and OHAL the level of housing development both organisations will be able to undertake over the next few years will be restricted.
- The Scottish Government have just announced the new funding awards for 2018/19 – 2020/21 and Orkney is seeing a drop in funding to around £3m a year. Although additional funding is expected to be available should it be needed.
- The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is due to be redrafted over the coming months and will take account of changing demographics, an aging population and the desire to sustain the outer islands.

Other Housing Development Projects



- Private developers in Orkney are making the most of access to the Help to Buy scheme. Properties are being developed in Kirkwall and are proving hugely popular.
- Open Market Shared Equity (OMSE) is another low cost home ownership option and OHAL administer it on behalf of the Scottish Government. The Council have had discussions with the Scottish Government about widening the remit of OMSE and we're supporting developers to look at new build OMSE projects.

Other Housing Development Projects



- The Scottish Government launched the Islands Housing Fund and Rural Housing Fund in 2016
- Currently the Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are supporting nine islands to develop projects for additional affordable housing
- The Council has also successfully secured funding for a two year part-time Empty Homes Development Officer to drive forward a project to bring more of our empty properties back into use.