



Minute of the meeting of the **Orkney Partnership Board**
held at **2pm** on **19 January 2021** via Microsoft Teams

Present:	James Stockan Meghan McEwen Gail Anderson Seonag Campbell Dougie Campbell Cheryl Chapman Michael Dickson Andy Fuller Karen Greaves Graeme Harrison Alan Johnston Roddy MacKay Leslie Manson John Mundell Graham Neville Gillian Skuse Craig Spence Matt Webb Anna Whelan Rachael King	Orkney Islands Council (Chair) NHS Orkney (Vice Chair) Voluntary Action Orkney Skills Development Scotland Scottish Fire and Rescue Service VisitScotland NHS Orkney Scottish Ambulance Service Orkney Islands Council Highlands and Islands Enterprise Scottish Government Orkney Islands Council Orkney Islands Council Orkney Islands Council Scottish Natural Heritage Age Scotland Orkney Orkney Housing Association Limited Police Scotland Orkney Islands Council (Secretary) Integration Joint Board
By invitation:	Jim Lyon Glen McLellan Paul Olvhoj	Orkney Islands Council Economic Recovery Steering Group - ASPIRE Marine Services
In attendance:	Andrew Kemp	The Orkney Partnership

1. Apologies

Gavin Barr David Drever Alan Dundas Raymond Fallon Thomas Knowles Gillian Morrison	Orkney Islands Council NHS Orkney SEPA Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Historic Environment Scotland Integration Joint Board and Orkney Community Justice Partnership
Garry Reid Marcus Shearer Mark Shiner Graham Sinclair	Scottish Sports Council Scottish Ambulance Service Orkney College / UHI HITRANS

2. Draft minute of the meeting of the Board on 6 November 2020

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1. At 3.1 under matters arising, the Climate Emergency working group had been due to report back at this meeting but will instead report back to the next Board meeting in April. There is also a desire for the group to work with the Economic Recovery Steering Group to ensure they are aligned with the ASPIRE Orkney recovery strategy and avoiding duplication.

Action: GN

- 3.2. At 3.3 under matters arising, regarding funding for the nursery provision, it was highlighted that OIC has committed to revenue funding for this provision as part of the economic recovery programme, especially to ensure that skilled and qualified health and local government staff can continue working, with the intention that this facility reverts to private sector in due course.

- 3.2 At 16.2, it was confirmed that NHS Orkney would contact the Scottish Futures Trust when time allows, current resources at the old Balfour site being focused on vaccination roll-out.

4 Marine services update

- 4.1 Papers on Marine Development and Cruise had been circulated before the meeting.
- 4.2 In their sectoral marine plan, Marine Scotland has identified development opportunities for offshore wind around Orkney, with potential locations finalised in December 2020.
- 4.3 Bidding for development sites opened in January and will close in March 2021. Marine Services is working with 15 potential developers for sites west and east of Orkney. Each bid requires a detailed supply chain statement describing how they will use local resources.
- 4.4 Orkney has a variety of locations including marshalling and construction areas, including Scapa Flow, Kirkwall, Stromness, Lyness, Flotta, using both floating and fixed sites.
- 4.5 Marine traffic in Orkney is already moving away from hydrocarbons to carbon-free fuels including ammonia. LNG-fuelled vessels are already working in Scapa Flow, and LNG bunkering facilities are included in plans.
- 4.6 Emphasis on the significant scale and opportunities of Scapa Flow as a strategic asset for Scotland and the UK; some matters are reserved to the UK government including shipping, energy, connectivity, aviation.
- 4.7 Job and skills training, to upskill and reskill the local workforce to meet the demands of the supply chain, must be addressed within Orkney to build our circular economy.

4.8 Local stakeholders are meeting to plan for the return of cruise ships visits to Orkney. Protocols will need partnership expertise in public and environmental health.

4.9 Cruise is polarising in the community, so there's a need to build local support for cruise resumption, as is building back what Orkney wants. Careful public communication is important.

5 Skills Charter and Assessment update

5.1 The ambition of the charter is to align strategic plans, share intelligence, collaborate to deliver improved outcomes and test innovation, and meet our commitment to the National Islands Plan.

5.2 Charter priorities address efficiency, workforce planning, coordination of support, and skills provision to address impact of Covid-19 and Brexit and capitalise on future opportunities, taking the Islands Deal into account.

5.3 Over the next 20 years the working age population in Orkney is expected to fall by about 1100 people, and about 500 jobs are expected to become available in the public sector.

5.4 Insight and intelligence are being communicated monthly to inform provision. A skills assessment is planned to produce detailed evidence for Orkney.

5.5 The Orkney Skills Think Tank is working with reference to the Climate Emergency Skills Action to analyse research, provide collective intelligence, and prepare pre-emptive solutions, aiming to support businesses through this period of economic uncertainty.

5.6 Forecasts suggest the economy will bounce back, with 800 jobs being replaced, with growth in other occupations. Apprenticeships are a major focus, as is the Developing the Young Workforce programme.

5.7 The Vibrant Economic Environment charter will coordinate skills training and alignment across Orkney College and UHI, the Orkney Economic Recovery Group, the Orkney Employability Partnership.

5.8 Data is being shared with the Economic Recovery Steering Group and ASPIRE Orkney team.

5.9 Some minor language amendments were suggested.

5.10 The Board approved the Charter.

6 Covid-19 community recovery update

- 6.1 The Community Recovery Liaison Group reported issues relating to transport, connectivity, and poverty. Level 3 has meant schools remain closed while parents need to work while also managing childcare and home schooling.
- 6.2 Care for People Group - concern re ongoing restrictions, school closures, mental health, and transport issues.
- 6.3 Transport issues for both groups include deliveries of building materials so contractors can work.
- 6.4 Economic Recovery Steering Group - funding has been agreed and the delivery model set up.
- 6.5 OIC will meet John Swinney, Deputy First Minister, to discuss Covid-19 and community-related issues for islands, including connectivity and schools.
- 6.6 ERSG received funding to progress the ASPIRE Orkney economic recovery strategy. Other recovery groups will receive suitable support in due course.

7 Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019-2020

- 7.1 Thanks to Anna Whelan for writing the report on behalf of the working group. Noted that the report had been written to comply with the legislative requirement to report annually on action taken locally to address child poverty but in the absence of an underlying strategy its limitations were acknowledged.
- 7.2 The forthcoming Child Poverty Strategy will need a good baseline understanding of what is meant by child poverty, and the requirements of the legislation. It will need close working with partners to agree actions to address some of the issues.
- 7.3 If approved, the report will be appended to the Children's Services Plan due on 31 March 2021.
- 7.4 The Good Parenting Plan (Orkney's corporate parenting plan) has already been approved by the Board and will also be appended to the Children's Services Plan.
- 7.5 A progress report on the Children's Services Improvement Action Plan arising from the Care Inspectorate report of February 2020 is in preparation for submission to OIC committees and the IJB in February 2021.
- 7.6 The Child Poverty strategy will allow future reports to quantify the impact of action taken locally in Orkney to address child poverty, drawing on approaches from elsewhere in Scotland. Benchmarking will be important, especially looking at hidden poverty.

7.7 There was concern about paternalist language in the report, and a suggestion that treating people with dignity and respect should be central to its aims.

7.8 While acknowledging the limitations of the report as noted at 7.1, a hope was expressed that the forthcoming Child Poverty strategy would address gaps between partners and be outcomes driven, emphasising deliverables so that future reports would include actions and the differences made to children's lives made taken by the Orkney Partnership as a group, rather than simply listing their individual activities.

8 Community Planning Annual Report

8.1 The report was approved.

9 Terms of Reference update

9.1 Two changes were agreed, per submitted paper, to:

- clarify voting arrangements
- clarify accountability of the Chief Officers Group to the partnership

9.2 As the meeting had overrun, discussion of the request from the Youth Forum for a young person's representative was deferred to the next meeting.

10 Community Planning Joint Resourcing

10.1 Agreed in principle on the basis that (i) the figures proposed for community planning support were an estimate as the staff budgets for 2021-22 had not yet been set, and (ii) facilitating partners absent from this part of the meeting will be asked if they object.

11 Any other business

11.1 Matt Webb noted that he had an item to raise under AOB but since the meeting was out of time he would defer it to the April meeting.

11.2 The presence of Orkney's Scottish Government Liaison Director in this meeting was welcomed.

11.3 Facilitating Partners would follow up on digital connectivity concerns, writing to both governments.

12 Date of next meeting

12.1 6th April 2021, 2-5pm – this meeting was moved to 10 May to avoid the pre-election period.

The meeting closed at 5.10pm.

AFW/AK/JB
06/04/21