

Orkney Environment Partnership Meeting

21st March 2013, SNH, Kirkwall

Attendees:

Chris Matthews (Chair)	SEPA
Alastair Morton	OIC Energy & Utilities Officer
Eileen Summers	OIC Environment Officer
Brian Moss	National Farmers' Union
Anna Whelan	OIC, Strategic Policy Advisor
Jenni Kakkonen	OIC, Marine Services
Barbara Foulkes	Visit Scotland
John Crossley	Orkney Field Club
Alan Younie	Scottish Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate
Jill Sutcliffe (Minutes)	Orkney Islands Council

Apologies:

Alice Lyall	WHS Co-ordinator
Garam Bel	OIC Waste Officer

1.	<p>Introductions & staffing updates:</p> <p>CM welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. There was a special welcome for Brian Moss to his first meeting.</p>	Action
2.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising from Last Meeting (24th January 2013):</p> <p>3. AW queried who was to action this, CM confirmed that it would be himself and ES</p> <p>4. It was confirmed that it was Fiona Matheson who suggested the inclusion of “<i>encourage derogation to existing legislation to enable locally caught fish to be landed and sold locally</i>” rather than Gail Churchill.</p>	CM/ES
3.	<p>Revision of Current Orkney Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement (SOA):</p> <p>On 6 March CM and ES presented the draft Environment Strategy to a meeting of the Partnership Liaison Group (PLG) where members had generally been impressed by the document. During discussion on the Strategy Sally Inkster (OHAL) commented that Orkney is marked down for using electric heating. This reflects the fact that on mainland UK much of the electricity is generated by coal-fired power stations, and also that gas is a lower carbon option. However, mains gas is not available in the islands and, as so much electricity is generated locally from renewables, it is considered that this should be recognised through a “greener” rating for electric heating in Orkney. There should be a local carbon level in the Climate Change Declaration. Carbon emissions need to be looked at and energy efficient housing should be given greater recognition.</p> <p>ES to ask Sally for clarification of what needs to be amended in National Outcome 14, in conjunction with AM and Robert Leslie.</p> <p>AM mentioned that Building Regulations may be amended in future to make them more “local” – clarification on this needs to be sought from Jack Leslie.</p> <p>CM suggested that under National Outcome 14 we should include a sentence stating “we are doing what we can with what we have”.</p> <p>AW confirmed the SOA timescales as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft to be sent to Scot Government by the end of March 2. Consultation period to follow 	ES/AM

	<p>AW concerned that the SOA is too lengthy, as it must be in size 12 font, need to try and compress it.</p> <p><u>National Outcome 12</u></p> <p><i>Where Are We Now? section</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend sentence beginning “Promote the appropriate” to include “our” after “of” and remove “resources”. • CM to précis paragraph “As well as having”. • Remove repetition throughout, and make it plain English. • The last two paragraphs of this section are broadly similar; they should be rationalised. <p><i>Where Are We Going? section</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove paragraph “In a separate initiative.....Caithness and Sutherland” • Remove paragraph “SEPA has identified.....sections of this Plan” • Paragraph “The Council Plan” to be abbreviated • Paragraph “The Ness of Brodgar” to be moved to the Where Are We Now section and updated. • AM suggested that paragraph “Environment education and awareness” could be included as an indicator. • Remove paragraph “Two areas have undergone.....land and seascapes”. • Amend paragraph “In 2013 the Council” to included mentions of regeneration as well as restoration and repair <p><u>Outcomes and Targets Table</u></p> <p>12.1 – Alice Lyall has advised that she can provide information on footfall at Skara Brae and Maeshowe as required.</p> <p>12.2 – Remove the 2011-12 column, and add new columns for 2014-15 and 2015—16.</p> <p>12.3 -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove 2006/10 average Baseline column and make 2011-12 column the new Baseline 2. Remove the wording “should equal or exceed the mean of the previous five years” 3. EU funding may be reduced/withdrawn – AW will add a note to the effect that the target will be amended if the scheme is discontinued <p>12.4 -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change heading to “Percentage of Protected Areas” 2. ES to discuss figures with GC – a new Baseline figure is required from SNH <p>12.5 – Aim should be to maintain or increase existing hen harrier chicks reared levels</p> <p>CM mentioned that there are no specific marine targets; do we need to monitor all marine invasive non-native species? JK advised that Marine Services are currently working to establish a baseline in Scapa Flow.</p> <p><u>National Outcome 14</u></p> <p><i>Where Are We Now? section</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the sentence beginning “The Council will continue to liaise” in the paragraph beginning “A Flood Local Advisory Group”. • Remove paragraph “Replacement windows have been fitted”. • Update paragraph “During 2010, the council received” to reflect the current renewables situation, and emphasise the need for the additional cable to help meet Govt. targets. • Move paragraph “Fly-tipping is another issue” to National Outcome 12. • Update paragraph “The Schools Investment programme”. The ground source heat pump trial is still ongoing, and AM will confirm the number of houses being updated to heat pumps. 	<p>CM</p> <p>ES</p> <p>ES</p> <p>AW</p> <p>ES</p> <p>AW</p>
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	<p><i>Where Are We Going? Section</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the paragraph beginning “On behalf of Orkney Community Planning Partnership” it should be mentioned that 5 vehicle charging points have already been installed, and more are being investigated. <p><u>Outcomes and Targets Table</u></p> <p>14.1 – Update figures to 2014/2015. 14.2 – Figures need to be updated by waste management staff at OIC. 14.3 & 14.4 – Update figures to 2014/15 & 2015/16. 14.5 – Update – AW to provide figures for 2012 and revised targets.</p> <p>There was general discussion about an anaerobic digester, AM mentioned a feasibility study taking place at OIC.</p>	AW
4	<p>Draft Environment Strategy:</p> <p>ES explained that the deadline for finalisation of the Orkney Environment Strategy should be in line with the SOA and Community Plan i.e. the end of June 2013.</p> <p>The Strategy needs to now be updated to reflect the changes made to National Outcomes 12 & 14.</p> <p>All comments made on draft document by ES were agreed.</p> <p>The words “Islands Council” to be removed from the sentence “Conserve biological diversity” on Page 1.</p> <p>Replace the word “believed” with “seen” in the paragraph “Increasing numbers of greylag geese” on Page 12, and add “There are concerns that the increase in the resident breeding population is having an impact on small water bodies, but this has yet to be investigated”. The investigation needs to be added to the action plan.</p>	ES ES
5	<p>AOCB</p> <p>None</p>	
6	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>No future meeting date has yet been set</p>	