



## OCPP Steering Group

*Draft* Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OCPP Steering Group  
held at 10.30am on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008 in the Noust, Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall

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Present:	Councillor Stephen Hagan	Convener, Orkney Islands Council ( <i>Chair</i> )
	John Ross Scott	Chair, NHS Orkney
	Alistair Buchan	Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council
	Rhoda Walker	NHS Orkney
	Ken Grant	Chief Executive, HIE Orkney
	David Miller	Northern Constabulary
	Gaynor Jones	Executive Director, Voluntary Action Orkney
	Elaine Grieve	Chair, Partnership Liaison Group
	Anna Whelan	Head of Policy, OIC ( <i>Secretary</i> )
By invitation:	Malcolm Graves	Dept. of Education and Rec. Services, OIC ( <i>item 7</i> )
	Miriam Frier	Dept. of Development Services, OIC ( <i>item 11</i> )
Apologies:	Edgar Balfour	Chair, HIE Orkney
	Iain Crozier	Chief Executive, NHS Orkney
	Chief Inspector Mike Cowdry	Northern Constabulary

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*Note: Item 4 on the agenda was taken first, and item 11 was taken between items 3 and 5.*

### 1. Minutes of 35<sup>th</sup> meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007

The minutes were agreed.

### 2. Matters arising

#### 2.1 HITRANS (*item 9*)

It was agreed to take up this matter under item 5.

#### 2.2 Elected member participation in community planning

Further to discussion at the previous meeting, the Chair moved that the Council's Vice-Convener should be invited to join the Steering Group, and this was agreed. **Action: AFW**

### 3. Public Sector Reform Programme

(*Arthur McCourt in attendance*)

- 3.1 Introducing his report, Arthur McCourt noted that the entire PSR Programme, which had been built up from a number of different strands, had been rebranded "Joint Working in Orkney". The Joint Improvement Team and Orkney Partnership were now part of the programme. The programme was seeking to make up for its shortfall in funding by incorporating other project funding sources, e.g. the shared services "Diagnostics" project (£150,000) and the "Changing lives in remote and rural communities" funding stream (£120k to be spent before June 2008). It was noted that funds received to date were all for preparatory work rather than actual implementation of shared services.

- 3.2 With regard to the Joint Build strand, it was confirmed that a funding bid from NHSO to participate in a shared SPV (special purpose vehicle) had been submitted to the Government. NHSO was enthusiastic about the prospect of co-locating a care home and hospital.
- 3.3 It was anticipated that the outcome at March 2009 would be agreement between the Council and NHS Orkney on the mechanism to be adopted for each shared service. Procurement might be complicated by the need to comply with European legislation, but this could potentially be avoided by the use of a special purpose vehicle.
- 3.4 It was reported that Dr Kevin Woods (Director-General Health and Chief Executive of the NHS in Scotland) was to visit Orkney from 14-15 February and agreed that Alistair Buchan would participate in the programme being arranged for Dr Woods. **Action: JRS/AB**
- 3.5 It was queried when the Third Sector would be invited to engage with the procurement process and noted that European rules applied only to public sector bodies and not the private or voluntary sectors. Including shared services as a standing item on the agenda of the Steering Group would offer a regular opportunity for input from the voluntary sector.
- 3.6 It was reported that HIE was going through a period of change but scope for local links should not be written off. Ultimately, everybody was working to the same agenda (the Government Economic Strategy published November 2007), joining up was happening elsewhere and HIE Orkney was looking at options for co-location with the Council's Economic Development section.
- 3.7 It was agreed that a standing report on the Joint Working in Orkney programme should be submitted to future meetings of the Steering Group, and that Arthur McCourt should be invited to present it if available. **Action: AFW**

#### **4. Islands Youth Development Project—progress report** *(Malcolm Graves in attendance)*

- 4.1 Malcolm Graves introduced the report, and noted that the project was seeking funding to continue after its 2005-08 ROA (Regeneration Outcome Agreement) funding package came to an end on 31 March 2008.
- 4.2 It was noted that the project had employed a third development worker covering Stronsay and Eday between 2002-2004, but the post had proved difficult to recruit and retain, and for the duration of the ROA the project had contracted only two workers, covering Sanday/North Ronaldsay and Westray/Papa Westray.
- 4.3 It was noted that there was some overlap with the work of Orkney Young Scot insofar as the development workers assisted with engaging young people on the isles in the citizenship work carried out by Orkney Young Scot.
- 4.4 It was noted that the project was not intended to impact on antisocial behaviour directly, although this was the angle generally associated with youth development work. Instead its purpose was to enhance the opportunities available to young people in the isles, improve their skills and confidence and encourage them to remain in the community.

#### **5. Partnership Liaison Group**

- 5.1 The minutes of the PLG meeting held on 24 January 2008 were noted.

5.2 It was noted that the PLG was seeking further guidance from the Steering Group on the role they perceived for a single transport thematic group. Experience suggested that thematic groups worked best where they formed spontaneously in response to need.

5.3 It was agreed that the OIC Policy Unit should be actioned to liaise with Naomi Coleman (Head of Transportation, OIC) in preparing a joint report for the next meeting of the Steering Group outlining the options with regard to transport within the OCPP framework.

**Action: AFW**

## **6. Single Outcome Agreements and the Fairer Scotland Fund**

6.1 The situation with regard to the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) was noted. It was noted that 2008-09 would have to be considered a transitional year. It was recognised that the future changes in funding could be potentially divisive and should be put on the table from the start. It was also recognised that future changes in governance arrangements could potentially dilute the powers of community planning partnerships.

6.2 It was noted that Orkney already had its own outcome agreement in the form of the community plan, and the SOA would be entirely consistent with the existing plan so should not be contentious. Although OCPP would not need to sign up to the 2008-09 SOA, it was agreed that a draft should be circulated to the Steering Group for comment and input prior to its submission to the Scottish Government on 31 March 2008.

**Action: AFW**

6.3 Ken Grant offered assistance from HIE Orkney staff in drafting the SOA, and it was agreed to follow this up after the meeting.

**Action: KG/AFW**

## **7. Proposed distribution of the Fairer Scotland Fund for 2008-09, and longer-term options**

7.1 A report was tabled, and introduced by Elaine Grieve. It was noted that during 2008-09 there would be a disentangling exercise going on with regard to the past recipients of the former funding streams which had been merged into the FSF. A longer-term strategy would need to take account of the human element since it was not fair to keep staff on short term contracts year after year.

7.2 Four options for the distribution of the FSF budget for 2008-09 (£189k) were presented for consideration. It was agreed to endorse Option 3, which was the "least disruptive" option in terms of existing staff contracts, and included match funding of a contribution of £20k from NHSO to fund infrastructure support for community planning. The Option 3 distribution was as follows:

Proposed FSF expenditure 2008-09	£
Local capacity building (island development trusts)	25,000
Orkney Re-use Centre - enhanced furniture project	5,000
Supported employment	20,000
Youth Development work on the outer isles	36,000
Orkney Young Scot (Dialogue Youth)	63,000
Additional support for learning (OIC CSS Dept)	20,000
Community Planning Officer (match funding)	15,000
Community Planning office set-up/running costs	5,000
	189,000

7.3 It was noted that a report was to be submitted to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 12 February 2008, recommending that powers be delegated to the Chief Executive to agree with the OCPP Steering Group the distribution of Fairer Scotland Fund

grant for 2008-09. If agreed, and if subsequently ratified by the General Meeting of the Council on 26 February 2008, Option 3 could be implemented immediately afterwards.

## **8. Community Economic Development Orkney**

- 8.1 It was noted that the CEDO was related to the previous discussion in that it would be another factor to take into account in finding a way forward for community development in Orkney.

## **9. Consultation on designation of new areas for crofting**

- 9.1 It was agreed to submit a response to the consultation on behalf of OCPP expressing support for the proposed change in legislation. **Action: AFW**

## **10. The Scotland Rural Development Programme 2008-13**

- 10.1 The SRD programme and covering report were noted.

## **11. Research project: Are Local Authorities fit for responding to community concerns in the land use plan and community plan?** *(Miriam Frier in attendance)*

- 11.1 Miriam Frier described her proposed MSc research project and noted that one outcome would be a set of best practice recommendations. She wished to enlist the help of the Steering Group in order to see what the planners could learn about community planning and how it linked with land use planning.

- 11.2 It was commented that the research could be groundbreaking and land use planning was in the process of moving away from a traditional approach towards a community based decision making model.

- 11.3 It was agreed that the Steering Group would co-operate with the research and all members present offered to be interviewed. **Action: All**

## **12. Any other business**

### 12.1 Community resources in Stromness

David Miller reported that the police had been conducting an internal review of services with a view to moving resources to officers on the street. It was proposed to reduce the opening hours of the Stromness station and to not re-employ the seasonal traffic warden in Stromness in summer 2008. Consultation had revealed some contention, but there was potential to work with the CPP to see if a joint solution could be put in place for 2009-10. **Action: DM**

### 12.2 Audit of Best Value and Community Planning

Alistair Buchan reported that the council was expecting the draft audit report shortly. Preliminary feedback from the auditors had suggested that community leadership came out well in the report, but there was a need to improve performance management in both the Council and OCPP. This was already being addressed but would be ratcheted up in response to the report.

## **13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed to be on Thursday 17 April 2008 at 10.30am.