



OCPP Steering Group

Draft Minutes of the 34th meeting of the OCPP Steering Group
held at 10.00am on 5th October 2007 in the Noust, Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall

Present:	Councillor Stephen Hagan Jenny Dewar Alistair Buchan Rhoda Walker Ruth Kirkpatrick Elaine Grieve Anna Whelan	Convener, Orkney Islands Council (<i>Chair</i>) Chair, NHS Orkney Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council Interim Director of Nursing & AHPs, NHS Orkney Senior Development Manager, HIE Orkney Chair, Partnership Liaison Group Head of Policy, OIC (<i>Secretary</i>)
By invitation:	Drew Ratter Jane Thomas Kathrine Sibbald Gillian Morrison	Crofters' Commission (<i>arrived 11.30</i>) Crofters' Commission Audit Scotland (<i>observer</i>) Orkney Islands Council (<i>observer</i>)
Apologies:	Edgar Balfour Iain Crozier Ken Grant Chief Inspector Mike Cowdry Gaynor Jones	Chairman, HIE Orkney Chief Executive, NHS Orkney Chief Executive, HIE Orkney Northern Constabulary Executive Director, Voluntary Action Orkney

1. Minutes of 33rd meeting held 3rd July 2007

The minutes were agreed, subject to two corrections: Iain Crozier, Chief Executive, NHS Orkney had not given apologies but been present at the meeting; and references to Orkney Enterprise were corrected to HIE Orkney.

2. Matters arising

2.1 Community Economic Development Orkney

2.1.1 A revised and updated report on the formation of the CEDO was presented by Ruth Kirkpatrick of HIE Orkney. It was noted that there was still scope to fine-tune the membership of the LEADER Local Action Group (LAG), although the composition of the group was largely pre-determined by statutory LEADER programme rules.

2.1.2 It was reported that LEADER was EU money that came through the Scottish Government to each area and that there were specific guidelines as to the formation of the LAG, including percentages of public/private sector membership and even male/female membership. A key element of LEADER was also that decisions were made in a bottom up fashion. The funding decisions made by the LAG were made in accordance with clear guidelines from Europe and according to a local business plan. The local business plan had to be submitted by the end of October so it would not be possible to submit it to the Steering Group for formal approval, although it could be circulated for information and comment. It was acknowledged that the LAG would need to submit the business plan so that the monies could be made available to Orkney.

- 2.1.3 It was queried whether there was any scope for OIC elected member representation on the LAG (specifically the Chair of the Council's Economic Development Committee) and agreed that HIE Orkney would investigate and report back. **Action: RK/KG**
- 2.1.4 It was noted that the future role of all the local enterprise companies (LECS) was under debate and requested that a report on the future of the LECS be brought to the December meeting if possible, or failing that the February meeting. **Action: RK/KG**
- 2.1.5 It was agreed that the CEDO report should be brought back to the next meeting of the Steering Group for further discussion. **Action: AFW**

3. OCPP income and expenditure 2005-07 and budget forecasts 2007-08

- 3.1 The income and expenditure statement and budget forecasts were noted.
- 3.2 Alistair Buchan reported that Iain Crozier had confirmed that NHS Orkney would contribute £20k to dedicated community planning support in the present financial year. The Council and NHS Orkney would meet to discuss how the funds would be used. **Action: AB/IC/AFW**

4. Public Sector Reform Programme

4.1 Governance and programme management arrangement

It was reported that the *Public Sector Reform Programme: Draft Governance and Programme Management Approach* circulated at the previous meeting had been approved by the Board of NHS Orkney on 26 July 2007 and by the Council on 4 October 2007. The Council had engaged Lentrans Consultants (Arthur McCourt) to assist with the programme direction.

4.2 Joint Working in Orkney

It was reported that some scoping work was currently being done by Arthur McCourt to map the issues to be addressed under each workstream, and noted that Fiona Smith of NHS Orkney would be able to help with this.

4.3 Joint Build (Schools Investment Programme)

It was reported that Alan Moar (formerly Head of Corporate Property, OIC) had been appointed project manager to the Schools Investment Programme. The Council was in discussion with Scottish Government civil servants with regard to financing. A decision would be taken soon on the location of the new Kirkwall Grammar School, and a seminar for elected members was planned for the week commencing 8 October.

5. Regeneration Outcome Agreement

- 5.1 It was noted that the Partnership had received very positive feedback from Communities Scotland on the Annual Report submitted for 2006-07. One significant issue which was highlighted was the need to do some additional work on engaging minorities, and this was being addressed at item 9 on the agenda.

6. Partnership Liaison Group

- 6.1 Elaine Grieve reported on the first meeting of the Partnership Liaison Group, which had been well attended. She emphasised that her role on the PLG was to represent the Data Sharing Partnership, a thematic group which she chaired, and it was in this capacity that she had been elected to chair the PLG. There was no intention that the Council should dominate PLG proceedings..

6.2 It was noted that the purpose of the PLG was to be a bridge between the Steering Group and the thematic groups. The PLG would meet in advance of every Steering Group meeting so that it could contribute to the setting of Steering Group agendas. The PLG's minutes would be reported to Steering Group meetings, along with a verbal report from the Chair.

7. The use of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation in the allocation of funding

7.1 The joint letter to Nicola Sturgeon MSP from the council convenors and health board chairs of Shetland, Orkney, Western Isles, Highland and Argyll and Bute was noted. It was reported that a follow-up meeting had been held in Inverness between officers from all the councils involved, HIE, NHS Highland and the Scottish Government's units for rural policy, regeneration, statistics and analytical services. The meeting had concluded that the SIMD was a good tool for identifying pockets of urban deprivation, as it was designed to do, but was not able to identify disseminated rural deprivation and alternative methods should be researched of more relevance to remote and rural areas. A meeting had been called by John Swinney for the evening of Sunday 28 October 2007 to discuss SIMD with interested council leaders/convenors in advance of the next CoHI meeting on Monday 29 October, which OIC would be invited to attend. **Action: SH/AFW**

8. OCPP performance management, evaluation and reporting

8.1 It was reported that the members of the Partnership Liaison Group had agreed at their recent meeting that each would select a few relevant performance indicators already in use by their thematic groups, to be compiled into a balanced scorecard for the Partnership.

8.2 It was confirmed that the Council's Policy Officer (Eileen Linklater) would attend meetings with thematic groups and/or their PLG representatives to assist them with selecting their indicators.

9. Proposed community engagement programme 2007-08

9.1 The programme of community engagement projects proposed for 2007-08 was approved.

Action: AFW

10. Discussion Paper: The Future of Scotland's Islands

10.1 Alistair Buchan reported that he had drafted the discussion paper in his capacity as unofficial secretary of the islands councils' convenors/chief executives' group. He emphasised the difference between "islands councils" and "councils with islands", which tended to have different challenges. It was agreed that the islands authorities would have a stronger voice together than individually, and a conference every three years or so would help to raise their profile.

10.2 The proposal to widen the joint approach to include community planning partners was welcomed, and the title "Islands Community Planning Forum" was suggested as a more inclusive option than a board. Politically, it was agreed that the time was right to promote the islands' agenda.

10.3 It was suggested that Shetland would be the best venue for the first ICPF conference, since Orkney had hosted the 30th anniversary event. An opportune time would be the next but one CoHI meeting, with the conference arranged for the day before. It was agreed to raise the prospect with Shetland Islands Council. **Action: AB**

BREAK

11. Presentation by the Crofters' Commission

- 11.1 Drew Ratter, Convener to the Crofters Commission, gave a presentation describing the work of the Crofters Commission and the potential they saw for working more closely with other agencies within a community planning context. (For more details of the presentation, please see the presentation slides annexed to these minutes.)
- 11.2 It was noted that crafting was often considered insignificant in Orkney but there were in fact nearly 500 crofts in Orkney. However, most were owner-occupied rather than tenanted, which meant that some of the resources available through the Crofters Commission—notably house grants—were not available to them.
- 11.3 It was proposed that the Crofters Commission could provide a mechanism for consultation with crafting communities, and a liaison service where crofters came up against the planning system. It was confirmed that the Council was prepared to put some resource into developing policy in partnership with the Crofters Commission.
- 11.4 An issue of potential interest to Orkney was the possibility of splitting up farms into new crofts as a route to planning consent for housing. There was also scope to address population decline by this means where the economic drivers for larger agricultural businesses had declined. Crofters would be able to keep up some agricultural activity alongside other things. It was thought that this approach could be of interest to the isles development trusts, and agreed to invite the Crofters Commission to a meeting of the isles development groups.

Action: RK

12. Any other business

None raised.

13. Date of next meeting

The next Steering Group meeting will be on Monday 10 December 2007 at 2.15pm.

Anna Whelan
17 October 2007