



OCPP Steering Group

Draft Minutes of the 35th meeting of the OCPP Steering Group
held at 2.15pm on 10th December 2007 in the Noust, Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall

Present:	Councillor Stephen Hagan Jim Robertson Alistair Buchan Iain Crozier Ken Grant Gaynor Jones Elaine Grieve Anna Whelan	Convener, Orkney Islands Council (<i>Chair</i>) Vice-Chair, NHS Orkney Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council Chief Executive, NHS Orkney Chief Executive, HIE Orkney Executive Director, Voluntary Action Orkney Chair, Partnership Liaison Group Head of Policy, OIC (<i>Secretary</i>)
By invitation:	Peter Diamond Alistair Peebles	Dept. of Education and Rec. Services, OIC (<i>item 7</i>) Chair, Orkney Arts Forum (<i>item 12</i>)
Apologies:	John Ross Scott Edgar Balfour Chief Inspector Mike Cowdry	Chair, NHS Orkney Chair, HIE Orkney Northern Constabulary

1. Minutes of 34th meeting held 5th October 2007

The minutes were agreed.

2. Matters arising

2.1 SIMD (item 7)

The Chair reported that the SIMD meeting of 28 October had been positive and John Swinney had confirmed the conclusions reached by the earlier officers' meeting, viz. that the SIMD was not an appropriate tool to use for the allocation of funding to rural and remote areas. It had been agreed that Government officials would work with local authority representatives to find a solution.

2.2 The Future of Scotland's Islands (item 10)

Alistair Buchan reported that the islands councils had not met since the last Steering Group meeting but the proposal to form an islands community planning forum would be taken forward at the first opportunity. **Action: AB**

3. Public Sector Reform Programme

3.1 Governance and programme management arrangements

Alistair Buchan reported that OIC had secured an additional £150k for the Joint Working programme via the Local Government National Shared Service's Board's Diagnostics programme. The programme will assist councils to:

- Analyse resource allocation across end to end processes to gain a valuable new perspective on an organisation and its staff distribution.
- Undertake a 'gap' analysis against leading practice
- Identifying priority opportunities and potential operating models.

- Determine high level design and cost benefits for opportunities.

3.2 Joint Working in Orkney

3.2.1 Iain Crozier reported that the Health Directorate had turned down Orkney's proposal for a joint post of Director of Finance. This indicated that ministers were not aware of the depth of the Joint Working programme. NHSO was considering appointing to a fixed term post in the interim.

3.2.2 It was noted that Herefordshire Council and Herefordshire Primary Care Trust had recently appointed a joint Chief Executive, the first county to do so.

3.2.3 It was agreed that Arthur McCourt of Lentrans Consulting would be asked to attend future meetings of the Steering Group for Public Sector Reform Programme reports. This would help to bring the PSR Board and the Steering Group closer together, but it was agreed that other mechanisms to achieve this should also be considered. **Action: AFW**

3.3 Joint Build (Schools Investment Programme)

It was noted that a seminar for elected members on the Schools Investment Programme was scheduled for 11 December 2007.

4. **Regeneration Outcome Agreement funding for 2008-09—letter received from Shona Stephen, Scottish Government**

4.1 The letter was noted, as was the current uncertain funding situation. A Scottish Government announcement regarding future community planning funding was expected imminently.

5. **The future of the LECs**

5.1 Ken Grant reported that the LECs were to be abolished with effect from 1 April 2008. The new government's Economic Strategy for Scotland included a skills agency to take on careers staff and some of the existing LEC policy activity. In addition, the joint Business Gateway concept was being rolled out to and by local authorities. The HIEO Board would be meeting later in the week to decide how it wished to reshape or realign itself.

5.2 It was anticipated that there would still be local area teams, but with more focus on:

- Growth of businesses
- Community development infrastructure (in fragile areas)
- Deeper engagement with major regional transformational projects

5.3 It was noted that the Local Economic Forum had never been particularly active and would be allowed to lapse. Alternative methods of business engagement would be sought.

5.4 Alistair Buchan noted that OIC would look at the redeployment in partnership of any redundant posts, in the context of the Business Gateway. It was not anticipated that there would be any compulsory redundancies. Orkney did not want a lesser service and would seek a seamless transition for service users. The Business Gateway vision was of a shared team of people working on community and economic development.

6. **Elected member participation in community planning**

6.1 The report was discussed and it was noted that the membership of the Community Health Partnership was quite specific and included ex officio OIC representation, namely the Convener.

6.2 The option of appointing a second representative of OIC on to the Steering Group—possibly the Vice-Convenor—was considered but no decision reached.

6.3 The recommendations were approved and it was noted that the report actioned at recommendation 9.3 would need to take into account the findings of the recent OIC Audit of Best Value and Community Planning. **Action: AFW/EG**

7. More choices, more chances (NEET Strategy)

(this item was taken first, with Peter Diamond in attendance)

7.1 Peter Diamond reported on progress against the NEET Strategy. The recent change in terminology to "More choices, more chances" to describe provision for this service user group was noted. It was noted that the specific funding stream associated with NEET provision would cease at the end of March 2008, but it was anticipated that it would be rolled up into block grant and the outcomes carried forward into councils' single outcome agreements.

7.2 It was reported that statistically Orkney was predicted to have c. 70 young people in the NEET category but this was overstated. It had become evident through close partnership working that the actual number was much smaller and all were already known to be hard to reach. It was noted that there had been little research on the long term outcomes of standard recommended interventions, but it was unlikely that any broad structural measures would meet the needs of Orkney NEETs who had to be considered as individuals.

8. Orkney Youth Café—progress report

8.1 The report was noted. Concern was expressed that Edinburgh had been acting as gatekeeper for the Young People's Lottery Fund in respect of this and other bids.

9. HITRANS involvement in Orkney Community Planning Partnership

9.1 It was noted that HITRANS was seeking membership of the OCPP Steering Group. Following discussion, it was considered that the appropriate route for HITRANS to participate in community planning in Orkney would be through one of the thematic groups. It was noted that, at present, there was no single thematic group for transport. It was agreed to action the Partnership Liaison Group to bring together the existing transport interest groups into a single unified group, and invite HITRANS to be a founder member. **Action: EG**

10. Community Planning—Delivering the Benefits, Tulliallan, 27 November 2007

10.1 The Chairman reported that the meeting had mainly reiterated themes which were already familiar, but had confirmed that Single Outcome Agreements were to be extended to community planning partnerships as well as councils.

11. Orkney Data Sharing Partnership: Annual Report

11.1 Elaine Grieve summarised the DSP's annual report. It was noted that the system proposed for Scotland would permit the sharing of data without it all having to be kept in one place, and was therefore more secure than the English system.

11.2 It was noted that OIC was currently costing the transfer of all email addressed to a secure gsi link.

11.3 Full and continuing co-operation with the project from NHSO was confirmed.

12. Orkney Arts Development Plan

(Alistair Peebles in attendance)

- 12.1 Introducing the plan, Alistair Peebles noted that he was hoping to establish the level of interest on the part of the Steering Group in what came next. The arts were integral to people's lives, and the Arts Forum hoped that interest in the arts could be carried forward in a productive way.
- 12.2 The Chairman acknowledged the importance of the arts in improving the quality of life. The role of the Arts Forum would be to prioritise and advise the Steering Group on what the Partnership should be doing.
- 12.3 It was noted that it was planned to appoint OIC elected members to thematic groups but they would not be in a position to make commitments on behalf of the Council.
- 12.4 Iain Crozier noted the increasing evidence for a link between health and wellbeing and the arts. While it would be inappropriate to use exchequer funding to fund arts programmes, the NHSO had an endowment fund which could be approached. It was suggested that the Arts Forum might invite a representative from NHSO to join the Forum. **Action: AP**

13. Partnership Liaison Group

- 13.1 The minutes of the PLG meeting of 23 November 2007 were noted.

14. Any other business

- 14.1 The Chairman reported that Orkney's M.P. and M.S.P. had expressed an interest in attending a meeting of the Steering Group. It was agreed that they should be emailed agendas of forthcoming meetings, and invited to attend if they wished. **Action: AFW**

15. Date of next meeting

The next Steering Group meeting will be on Tuesday 5 February 2008 at 10.30am.

Anna Whelan
14 January 2007