



Orkney Community Planning Partnership Steering Group

Minutes of the 54th meeting of the OCPP Steering Group
held at 2.00pm on 15 June 2010 in Kirkwall Community Centre

Present:	Stephen Hagan	Convener, OIC (<i>Chair</i>)
	John Ross Scott	Chair, NHS Orkney
	James Stockan	Vice-Convener, OIC
	Andrew Drever	Northern Joint Police Board and Highlands & Islands Fire Board
	Cathie Cowan	Chief Executive, NHS Orkney
	Ken Grant	Area Manager, HIE
	Gaynor Jones	Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Orkney
	Trevor Johnson	Highlands & Islands Fire and Rescue Service
	Elaine Grieve	Chair, Partnership Liaison Group
	Gillian Morrison	Assistant Director (Strategy & Improvement), OIC
Hannah Laird	Community Planning Officer	
Anna Whelan	Head of Corporate and Community Strategy, OIC (<i>Secretary</i>)	
By invitation	David Mackay	Western Isles Credit Union
	Chris Oswald	Equality and Human Rights Commission
	Ross Martin	Centre for Scottish Public Policy
	Chuck Dalldorf	Centre for Scottish Public Policy (US associate)
	Barbara Foulkes	OCPP Task Force
Apologies:	Alistair Buchan	Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council
	Mhairi Grant	Area Commander, Northern Constabulary

1. Hi-Scot Credit Union

- 1.1 David Mackay gave a presentation on plans to introduce the Hi-Scot Credit union on 1 October 2010. He confirmed that the Western Isles Credit Union (WICU) had permission from the Financial Services Authority to extend its "common bond" to cover the whole of the Highlands and Islands. Hi-Scot services would be available to Orkney residents from that date, although the enterprise would not attempt to establish a presence on the ground until local capacity both required and permitted.
- 1.2 David reported that WICU membership now included 5% of the Western Isles population, compared to a national average of 1%. They had made consistent growth and customer age ranged from 3 months to 86 years. Most of their borrowers would not have had access to high street banking services. WICU aimed to start generating a surplus from early 2011.

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- 1.3 In discussion it was noted that for many people the only alternative to a credit union was doorstep loan companies which charged exorbitant rates of interest. While every lender experienced bad debt, it was managed as part of WICU's business model. Risk free capital had been provided by the Department of Work and Pensions to cover bad debt over the start-up period. WICU had never had any difficulty attracting savers and paid a dividend of 2% on deposits.
- 1.4 It was noted that Shetland was still undecided whether to back Hi-Scot or set up its own credit union but this would not prevent Hi-Scot services being available to people in Shetland.
- 1.5 It was queried whether WICU had any links with the local branch of Citizen's Advice Scotland (CAB) and noted that CAB was not permitted to promote any one lender but WICU could send clients to CAB for money advice. WICU was empowered to provide information but not personal financial advice.
- 1.6 It was concluded that the Orkney operation would grow more quickly with a presence on the ground and this was something which the Partnership might wish to promote. It was thought likely that Orkney would be likely to have a high level of "philanthropic depositing" which would help achieve this.

2. Update from Equality and Human Rights Commission

- 2.1 Chris Oswald reported on major changes coming up in UK legislation on equalities, and its interpretation in Scotland. The focus of the EHRC was now on (e)quality i.e. embedding equalities as part of good quality practice in general. The EHRC accepted that public sector cuts were inevitable but emphasised the need for these to be fair, and for equality impact assessment procedures to be adhered to. The EHRC was looking at budget cuts already in place and would be reporting in September ("Counting the Cost").
- 2.2 Regarding the Equality Act 2010, Chris noted that the socio-economic duty was still in limbo. Guidance was awaited on a number of aspects including equal pay in the private sector. The new public sector duty went further than previous legislation in committing public sector organisations to:
 - be exemplars of good practice
 - demonstrate results
 - foster good relations
- 2.3 With regard to statutory guidance to accompany the Act, it was likely that equality schemes would become optional; but activity would need to be mainstreamed in business plans. A draft Code of Practice for the new public sector duties was expected to be released for consultation in August, for implementation in April 2011. Sectoral guidance was being developed on an ongoing basis. Chris emphasised that the primary purpose of the EHRC was "to help you get this right" and the secondary purpose was "to enforce it if you don't".

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2.4 In discussion it was noted that the EHRC tried hard not to end up in court but the recent protracted case with Glasgow City Council had left them with no other option. It was queried why EHRC did not merge with the Scottish Human Rights Commission and noted that they were coming from two different legislative directions—Westminster and Holyrood respectively. In practice they liaised closely and assigned caseloads to the most appropriate body. With regard to the three branches of the EHRC, it was noted that all three commissions—UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland—commented on international issues as appropriate.

3. Single Public Authorities

3.1 Ross Martin of the gave a presentation on the joint proposal, which the Centre for Scottish Public Policy was working up on behalf of the three Islands authorities, to create three Single Public Authorities, one for each area. The SPA proposal would pick up from the various stages which the island groups had reached individually, and build in a number of political drivers to create a compelling case.

3.2 Ross noted that the environmental context had changed rapidly, not just economically but culturally in how the Scottish Parliament did business with a minority government. The need for the government to achieve consensus gave rise to opportunities for single-issue or geographical campaigns. There was an opportunity to push for change locally in the lead-up to the Scottish Parliament election in 2011, since the balance of power was slight and local councils would be in a strong position to negotiate. However, there was no certainty that the window of opportunity could be extended after the 2011 election so the island authorities needed to move fast.

3.3 In discussion it was noted that survival was Orkney's main driver. The islands were ideal locations to try out an SPA pilot, but the idea would need nurturing from central government. Public authorities would need budgetary incentives to make it happen, on a "spend to save" basis..

3.4 It was confirmed that the CSPP would proceed along the following lines:

- gather evidence
- put into context
- gather ideas and suggestions to reshape individual proposals in context
- report back to Steering Group

3.5 It was agreed that the draft SPA proposal would be considered at the next Steering Group meeting on 28 September. **Action: AFW**

3.6 It was further agreed that the draft SPA proposal should be appended to the report on shared services to be considered at the Convention of the Highlands in October, that item having been deferred from the cancelled meeting in April 2010 (on current agenda as item 11). **Action: AFW**

4. Draft minutes of 53rd meeting held 16 April 2010

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- 4.1 The minutes were approved subject to two changes to para 2.1.2:
- note that Victim Support are VAO's tenants
 - service is to be managed from Inverness and Shetland.

5. Matters arising

5.1 Funding formulae and population indicators

It was noted that this briefing note had been prepared in response to a query raised at the previous meeting (minute 12.3). The content was noted.

5.2 Health and Wellbeing Group

It was noted that Orkney Health and Care were progressing the formation and development of this thematic group.

6. Standing Items

6.1 Joint Working in Orkney

Elaine Grieve reported that Orkney Health and Care was now fully established and would report twice a year to the Steering Group from September 2010. The shared services workstream had fared less well, with the Special Purpose Vehicle proving on examination to be impracticable. However, the SPA offered an alternative means to pursue the same objective. It was agreed to replace the standing item on Joint Working with the SPA on future agendas.

Action: AFW

6.2 OCCP Action Plan

- 6.2.1 It was noted that progress on the Strategic Transport Forum was red due to lack of capacity in the OIC Transportation section and agreed that NHS Orkney would take it on for the time being. A new Head of Transportation was due to start at OIC shortly and would be invited to attend with a view to taking it back in due course.

Action: CC

- 6.2.2 It was noted that the Partnership Liaison Group had not supported the proposal to invite community council representatives onto thematic groups, on the grounds that community councils represented geographical communities rather than communities of interest. It was suggested that the community councils needed a single forum which could put up a representative and agreed to explore alternative options.

Action: AFW/HL

- 6.2.3 It was agreed that regular monitoring and implementation of the OCCP Action Plan should in future be undertaken by the Partnership Liaison Group, with any intractable difficulties referred to the Steering Group.

Action: HL

7. Fairer Scotland Fund

7.1 Letter from Richard Wallace re. 2009-10 carry-over

The meeting welcomed the news that the Scottish Government had approved Orkney's requested carry-over of £32,192. This freed up the £20k held in reserve from the 2010-11 tranche of FSF to cover the agreed carry-over of the Fast Ferry project's 2009-10 funding.

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7.2 Distribution of remaining funds for 2010-11

7.2.1 The meeting discussed the recommendations made by the Partnership Liaison Group at its meeting of 11 June 2010 with regard to funding applications received for the remaining funds available for 2010-11. It was agreed that further information was needed about one application and this would be sought prior to the next meeting of the Steering Group.

Action: HL

7.2.2 The remaining recommendations were agreed subject to the approval of a report submitted to the Council's pending Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 22 June. This report will seek approval to distribute the remaining funds, but does not include any detail as to specific recipients. It was noted that subject to approval by Committee and confirmation by the General Meeting of the Council on 6 July 2010, contracts would be drawn up and the funds disbursed.

Action: HL

7.2.3 Projects recommended for funding were:

	Project	Applicant	Project description	Proposed FSF funding
1	Hoy Youth café	Hoy Devt Trust	Funding for a 10 hour per week Youth Development Worker to progress plans for a Youth Café in Hoy.	4,845
2	Horticulture supported learning	Orkney College	To provide a facility for supported learners from St Colms, KGS and Orkney College to work collaboratively on an inclusive horticultural project. This would expand the range of goods currently offered by this group.	3,000
3	In School Counselling	OACAS	A counselling service offered to pupils and staff at KGS.	Further information required
4	Shapinsay Community bus	Shapinsay Devt Trust	Purchase of a community wheelchair accessible minibus operated on a dial a bus basis.	18,000
6	Advocacy service	Advocacy Orkney	This project will enable the advocacy service to continue to meet demand for support from vulnerable members of the public.	6,428
7	Job Coaching	Employability Orkney	Provision of job coaching services for young people attending the Get Ready For Work Programme in Orkney.	5,000

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	Project	Applicant	Project description	Proposed FSF funding
8	Supported Learning	Orkney College	To provide a range of supported learning experiences for pupils from KGS with additional support needs.	4,250
10	Papa Westray minibus maintenance	Papa Westray Thursday Club	Funding for maintenance of a specially adapted minibus to provide transport for residents during 2010/11.	600
11	Papa Westray additional ferry services	Papa Devt Trust	Additional ferry sailings as required between Papay and Westray.	1,400
	Total to date			43,523

8. Capable Communities

- 8.1 Gaynor Jones introduced the report by ippr and PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and noted that the idea of co-production potentially offered new ways of working. Cathie Cowan reported that she had gained a positive impression of co-production in action when in Alaska. Ross Martin observed that the Fairer Scotland Fund projects included some examples of co-production whether consciously or not, for example the Hoy Youth Cafe. The report was noted and it was agreed that the Council would seek opportunities to progress the concept. **Action: GM**

9. NHS Orkney Local Delivery Plan—Feedback

- 9.1 Introducing the paper, Cathie Cowan noted that it was a draft for comment and showed what NHS Orkney was required to return. It was agreed that it would be desirable to streamline the OIC and NHSO performance management systems as far as possible.

10. OCPP Communications Strategy version 1.1

- 10.1 Introducing the Strategy, Gillian Morrison noted the additions which had been made regarding joint communications. John Ross Scott commended the changes and noted that NHS Orkney was starting a programme comprising a series of meetings to communicate directly with the public. Cathie Cowan reported that a meeting on Rousay on 14 June had been heated at times, but productive. Stephen Hagan confirmed that the Council was interested in the possibility of joint road shows as it was appreciated that the public did not want to attend repeated meetings.

11. Shared Services in the Highlands and Islands

- 11.1 It was noted that the April meeting of CoHI had not in fact taken place due to volcanic ash disruption, so the paper would go to the next meeting in October.

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It was agreed that the draft SPA document should be linked to it at the CoHI meeting, which would be a good focus to discuss the concept. **Action: AFW**

12. Any other business

12.1 Meeting times

Trevor Harrison requested that afternoon meetings of the Steering Group should in future start at 1.00pm so as to accommodate flights south later in the afternoon. It was agreed to do this starting with the September meeting and to provide a sandwich lunch. **Action: AFW**

13. Press release

13.1 It was agreed that the post-meeting press release would focus on budgetary constraints and new ways of working, with commentary on HiScot, the Equality Act and the SPA. The Fairer Scotland Fund would be held back for a separate press release pending formal approval by the Council. **Action: HL**

14. Date of next meeting – 28 September 2010 at 2.00pm

14.1 It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 28 September 2010 starting at 1.00pm with lunch provided. **Action: AFW**

Anna Whelan
16 July 2010