



OCPP Steering Group

Minutes of the 47th meeting of the OCPP Steering Group
held at 2.15pm on 20 April 2009 in the St. Magnus Centre, Kirkwall

Present:	Stephen Hagan James Stockan John Ross Scott Alistair Buchan Ken Grant Les Donaldson Gillian Morrison Anna Whelan	Convener, OIC (<i>Chair</i>) Vice-Convener, OIC Chair, NHS Orkney Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council Area Manager, HIE Northern Constabulary Assistant Director (Strategy & Improvement), OIC Head of Policy, OIC (<i>Secretary</i>)
Apologies	David Pigott Gaynor Jones David Miller Elaine Grieve Hannah Laird	Interim Chief Executive, NHS Orkney Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Orkney Chief Inspector, Northern Constabulary Chair, Partnership Liaison Group Community Planning Officer
By invitation	Barbara Foulkes Dawn Sherwood	Islands Manager, VisitOrkney Head of Executive Support, OIC (<i>for item 3</i>)

1. Draft minutes of 46th meeting held 27 March 2009

The minutes were agreed.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising not already on the agenda.

3. Joint Working in Orkney

(Dawn Sherwood in attendance)

3.1 Dawn Sherwood presented Arthur McCourt's update report on the joint working projects. It was noted that:

- work on the schools project was going well;
- a joint health and social care agreement was in place regarding premises;
- a group had been set up to address legal and governance issues relating to the start-up of Orkney Public Services Ltd;
- Information Services had been confirmed as the first service to migrate to OPSL;
- Duncan Macaulay had been appointed director of the shadow Community Health and Social Care Partnership, and eight members appointed to the CHSCP Board (four from OIC and four from NHSO)
- the CHSCP would report in early summer to the Public Sector Reform Programme Board, OIC and NHSO;

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3.2 John Ross Scott noted that the first year's shadow period would give the CHSCP extra time to get started. It would be a big challenge but all needed to stay on board through the difficult times ahead.

4. Single Outcome Agreement

4.1 It was reported that the OCPP's draft Single Outcome Agreement for 2009-11 had received positive feedback from Orkney's Scottish Government liaison team, and the Integrated Area Profile in particular was to be highlighted as an example of good practice. A few minor changes had been requested, and partners would be contacted individually about any of these where they might have an interest.

4.2 Alistair Buchan put on record his thanks to the OIC Policy Unit for compiling the SOA and to all members of the Partnership who had contributed to it.

5. Tourism

(Barbara Foulkes in attendance)

5.1 It was noted that the state of the tourism market had arisen as a topic of particular interest at the Steering Group meeting in January 2009 which had heard a presentation from HIE on the effect of the recession on Orkney, and it had been suggested that Barbara Foulkes be invited to a subsequent meeting to discuss the subject with the group.

5.2 Barbara Foulkes reported that tourism was doing very well in Orkney this year and a busy summer was expected. Of scheduled cruise ship visits, one had cancelled and another one had gone out of business. Visitors to Scara Brae were 5% up on the same time last year. There had been some slowing in investment, but shops were making an effort to attract customers and appreciated that summer tourism was what kept them going through the winter. In general Orkney was doing fine as a destination and appeared to be on the crest of a wave.

5.3 It was noted that the structure of VisitScotland was not optimal for island groups. Shetland had opted out, but Barbara advised that Orkney should remain with VisitScotland for now as it provided "more bang for your buck".

5.4 In discussion, it was noted that VisitOrkney had never felt 2009 would be of concern, as most bookings were long term, but it was too soon to say what would happen in 2010. However, the exchange rate was helping boost the European market, and VisitOrkney remained quietly confident. Orkney was a niche destination and most of those who had lost their jobs recently would have been in the sunshine holiday market.

5.5 Investment was discussed, and it was noted that there was scope for some accommodation providers to upgrade. There was a trend away from B&B towards self-catering, but it was not cheap to get here so providers had to give value for money; for example, food had become relatively expensive without improving in quality. Providers had to get the balance right. Orkney still needed a 5 star hotel, or at least 4 star to attract business conventions at the top end of the market, where travel costs were not material. It was suggested that the proposed Recession Task Force look into the question of how to offer advice to providers in advance of 2010. **Action: KG/AFW**

5.6 It was noted that the Tourist Information Centre was still important for visitors once they were here, but most now did their research in advance via the internet. Orkney was scoring 45,000 hits per month on its VisitOrkney website, and VisitOrkney was keen to encourage direct bookings.

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5.7 Barbara reported that there was an untapped market in renewables tourism, which the renewables industry was not picking up. It was suggested that this could be another area for the Task Force to consider. **Action: KG/AFW**

6. Review of community planning

6.1 Gillian Morrison introduced the proposed review of community planning, and noted that the object of the exercise was to ensure that Orkney maintained its top position with regard to best practice. The proposals included reviewing three thematic areas which had not been working properly for various reasons to do with lack of capacity. The review would also consider the option of establishing permanently the Community Planning Officer post.

6.2 Following discussion it was agreed that:-

- the review should proceed;
- incorporation should be included in the review as a governance option; and
- community councils should be involved.

Action: GM

7. CoHI tasks for CPPs arising from Arran meeting

7.1 It was reported that the Convention of the highlands and Islands was asking all community planning partnerships to co-operate in drawing up a consolidated list of planned capital projects, with a view to producing a combined programme for the region which could then be explored for future trends and potential synergies between projects. The programme would include SEPA and Scottish Water.

7.2 It was agreed that CoHI was a good forum to undertake the project, and agreed to participate in it. **Action: AFW**

8. Any other business

50th meeting of the Steering Group

Alistair Buchan noted that the 50th meeting of the Steering Group would take place later in 2009 and it was agreed that this might be an appropriate time to review what had been achieved to date, and perhaps hold an event to celebrate.

9. Date of next meeting

9.1 The Chair suggested that, now the Single Outcome Agreement was nearing completion, the Steering Group could revert to its previous frequency of meetings (5-6 per year) and would not need all the dates scheduled for 2009. It was agreed to drop the scheduled May meeting and meet next on 15 June 2009.

Anna Whelan
13 May 2009