



STRATEGIC ECONOMIC FORUM

Recent meeting dates:

23 Sept 2013
18 January 2013
11 October 2012 (procurement seminar)
6 July 2012
6 March 2012
26 January 2012

Future meeting dates:

April 2014

Chair: Councillor Stockan
Elected Member: James Stockan
Secretary: Stuart Allison
PLG representative: Stuart Allison

Minutes:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/index.asp?pageid=2850>

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Orkney's Economy (National Outcome 1)

Recent achievements and challenges

The Strategic Economic Forum was formed in March 2011 from the former Task Force, and has met regularly since then. Its purpose is to support Orkney's businesses and promote new enterprise. The Forum invites visiting speakers to discuss the business environment and prospects for their sector in Orkney. This permits the Forum to engage in depth with representatives of a wide range of business sectors without over-committing any one individual. Sectors covered to date include agriculture, marine renewables facilitation (EMEC), inshore fishing, ICIT/marine renewables research, jewellery manufacture, entrepreneurship, archaeology, the business side of the arts in Orkney, the construction sector and food/drink producers and Orkney's craft industries. Future plans include a mid-term review of the Orkney Economic Strategy.

Public sector procurement remains a recurring topic and the January 2013 meeting invited Stephen Kemp to update from a Construction industry perspective and Gary Butler (OIC) outlined the political activity that was progressing with Nicola Sturgeon. During 2013 the Kirkwall Business Improvement District was established with a town centre manager appointed who will attend the next meeting of the Forum.



Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Council and LEADER have funded key sector development posts for Food & Drink, Crafts and Renewable Energy and along with the local Tourism co-ordinator all are invited to input to the Forum. The Orkney Renewable Energy Forum Co-ordinator is Craig MacInness (joint funded by OIC, HIE and LEADER for two years), Orkney Food and Drink and Orkney Crafts Association Co-ordinator is Edgar Balfour (joint funded by OIC, HIE and LEADER for two years) and Orkney Tourism Group Manager is Sam Berston (joint funded by OIC and HIE until April 2014).

SDS issued a draft Skills Investment Plan and the forum will welcome the opportunity to further discuss and engage with local implementation.

EMPLOYABILITY STRATEGIC GROUP

Recent meeting dates:

30 January 2014
6 August 2013
30 May 2013
11 April 2013
7 February 2013

Future meeting dates:

28 March 2014

Chair: Karen Johnstone, Job Centre Plus
Elected Member: Harvey Johnston
Secretary: Doreen Rendall
PLG representative: Karen Johnstone

Minutes:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/index.asp?pageid=2313>

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Employment (National Outcome 2)

Recent achievements and challenges

- The partnership has solely funded an Employment Worker post over the last year, and is likely to be able to fund through to August 2014. This post is being seen as critical amongst many of the partners, with support currently being offered to Jobcentreplus, Lifeskills, Orkney College and Employability Orkney clients. The joined up approach with employers and



the support to sell incentives such as YES (Youth Employment Scotland) and Wage Incentives has been hugely successful.

- The ESG has also secured Scottish Government money (through OIC) to carry out further work in relation to the Employability Pipeline. The finished product will be a fully costed Pipeline at all stages, and will help to determine under and over provision in the county. The final report is to be submitted to the Scottish Government in April and then to the CPP Steering Group in June. It is hoped that a separate bid to the Scottish Government can be made for the continuation of this work in relation to Provider health checks and possible work on new or developing provision which is lacking within our current pipeline. It will also be useful in relation to the new European Structural and Investment Fund demands.
- YES offers employers an incentive for employing an 18-24 year who has been unemployed for less than six months by paying 50% of wage for 6 months. This funding has been made available in Orkney through the Council and the group have, through the YEAP (Youth Employment Action Plan) sub group, supported this initiative with a successful uptake in Orkney. The YEAP also ran an employer event to support the uptake, many of the ESG partners supported and helped organise this event.
- Welfare Reform/Universal Credit information continues to be shared through the group and what likely impact the changes will have on clients in Orkney.
- Fortunately in Orkney our Youth Unemployment has dropped considerably since this time last year, and the success of YES, Employability Orkney's Supported Employment, Community Jobs Scotland and other partner support have all had a positive impact on this.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY LEARNING GROUP

Recent meeting dates:

19 December 2013
08 November 2013
25 June 2013
31 January 2013

Future meeting dates:

TBC for April

Chair: Karen Greaves, Council



Secretary: Kerry Spence, Council
PLG representative: Karen Greaves

Minutes: To be made available on website

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Learning and Research
(National Outcome 3)

Recent achievements and challenges

- Recent (Feb 14) Kirkwall Grammar School Community Learning Inspection by HMIE – formal report will be published at the end of June. Overall outcome was very positive with some areas for improvement.
- Self-evaluation workshops were held in preparation for inspection.
- Consideration of the new Strategic Guidance for Community Learning and Development. To aid this – workshops facilitated by Education Scotland were held on 10 and 11 March
- Continuation of programme of training for partners
- Overseeing ESOL provision
- Re-establishment of the Orkney Learning and Guidance Forum for practitioners.
- Continue to work closely with the North Alliance.

Challenge is now to implement the new Statutory Instrument for CLD and the areas for improvement as identified in the Inspection report.

A report on these issues will be presented to the Steering Group shortly.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Recent meeting dates:

22 January 2014

Future meeting dates:

12 March 2014

18 June 2014

17 September 2014

17 December 2014

Chair: Marie O'Sullivan, Council

Elected Members: Janice Annal and John Richards

Secretary: Claire Laughton

PLG representative: Marie O'Sullivan

Minutes: Not currently published on the website



Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Education and Improving Life Chances (National Outcomes 4 and 8)

Recent achievements and challenges

Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) completed and published. Re-establishment of group & redefined purpose (as defined in ICSP). Children's services Inspection action plan completed and actions progressed.

CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP

Future meeting dates:

- 27 March 2014
- 26 June 2014
- 4 September 2014
- 11 December 2014

Chair: Janice Annal
 Elected Members: Janice Annal and John Richards
 Secretary: Claire Laughton
 PLG representative: Marie O'Sullivan

Minutes: Not currently published on the website
 Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Early Years (National Outcome 5)

Recent achievements and challenges

Early Years Collaborative sessions and projects leading from this. Early Years event with Suzanne Zeedyk as Keynote speaker. Support worker post – shared between education, health and social care. Supporting training for practitioners - Sleep Scotland, Triple P. Learning disabilities event for practitioners. Supporting play therapy sessions and a pilot at Papdale school.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES GROUP

Recent meeting dates:

- 11 December 2013
- 18 September 2013
- 19 June 2013
- 27 March 2013
- 15 January 2013



Future meeting dates:

TBC

Chair: John Ross Scott, NHS Orkney

Elected Member: Russ Madge

Secretary: Derek Curtis

PLG representative: Suzanne Baird

Minutes: Not currently published on the website

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Health (National Outcome 6) and (National Outcome 15 Independence in Later Life)

Recent achievements and challenges

The Healthy Communities Group is comprised of a range of agencies involved with creating healthier communities including NHS Orkney, Scottish Health Council, Orkney Islands Council and voluntary groups such as Age Concern. The group continues to work to deliver on the [Joint Health Improvement Strategy 'Working Together for Better Health'](#) 2011-14, which feeds into the Orkney Community Plan and sets out the strategic framework for improving health in Orkney. The group has also received topical presentations on smoking, physical activity and mental health and has been involved with developing the relevant aspects of the new Single Outcome Agreement.

Terms of reference and membership were reviewed in January 2013 and an amended list of members was revised as many people on the list have moved on. Actions following discussion of specific topics at meetings are drawn up and create on-going action plans for relevant members within the group. The Active Orkney group has been re-established as a sub-group following the meeting in March 2013 and has its own Action plan. This sub-group has met four times since being re-established. Topics for discussion in 2014 include Domestic violence and inequalities.

ORKNEY EQUALITY FORUM

Recent meeting dates:

13 December 2013

13 September 2013

24 May 2013

1 March 2013

Meeting dates in 2014:

10 March

17 June



17 September
11 December

Chair: Frazer Campbell, Blide Trust
Elected Member: Gwenda Shearer
Secretary: Marie Love
PLG representative: Frazer Campbell

Minutes:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/index.asp?pageid=1740&msg=Content%20Updated>

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Equalities (National Outcome 7)

Recent achievements and challenges

- In February 2013 the Forum published the results of its survey on Attitudes to Discrimination and Positive Action. The survey had taken place in 2012 following a discussion at a meeting of the Forum on the findings from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey when members had wondered if attitudes in Orkney would be reflective of the Scottish results. The results were in fact broadly similar to the Scottish results in that they were generally positive and indicated that the majority of people didn't hold discriminatory views. However, they also demonstrated that there were unfortunately people in this community who did experience prejudice. The results were publicised by an article in The Orcadian and can be accessed at the following link:
<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/news.asp#a3628>
- The Forum submitted responses to consultations on MSP Mark Griffin's British Sign Language (BSL) (Scotland) Consultation and Orkney Islands Council's consultation on the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2013. The Forum was also part of the consultation and involvement exercises when Orkney Islands Council and NHS Orkney and Orkney Health and Care were developing their Equality Outcomes.
- As well as discussing a wide range of agenda items the Forum heard presentations from members and invited guests. Topic included: Pathways to Independence Course at Orkney College; Scottish Autism Orkney Services; Mental health issues and the work of the Blide Trust; and Orkney Foodbank.
- In November 2013 one of Stonewall Scotland's policy officers visited Orkney and a special meeting of the Forum was held to allow members to meet her during her time here. She gave advice on good practice and a



range of LGB&T (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) issues were discussed.

- The Forum developed a short informative leaflet on equality. The leaflet is easy to read and sets out in plain language how the Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination and other prohibited conduct. From January 2014 the leaflet will be available to the public and employees from all the partner organisations and on the Orkney Communities website: <http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/documents/MINUTES/Orkney%20Equalities%20Forum/Orkney%20Equality%20Forum%20-%20Equality%20Leaflet%20January%202014.pdf>.
- The Forum decided to submit a bid to the Council's Culture Fund to allow them to hold an Equality and Diversity Conference and bring Mara Menzies, an African storyteller, to Orkney, both later in 2014. Mara Menzies had previously visited Orkney in 2011 when her workshops in schools had been a huge success. That trip had been funded partly by a previous Culture Fund award to the Forum and partly through Mara's generosity in reducing her fees and costs. Initial contact has been made with the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Stonewall Scotland who are both keen to participate the Conference along with local groups. (At the time of writing confirmation had been received that the bid was successful, however the Fund was heavily oversubscribed so the award was limited. The Forum was delighted to receive an award and work will progress to see what can be achieved with the funding available.)

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Recent meeting dates:

21 January 2014

24 September 2013

18 March 2013

Future meeting dates:

13 May 2014

Chair: Jon Humphreys, Council

Elected Member: Andrew Drever

Secretary: Gillian Learmonth/Joyce Gray

PLG representative: Jon Humphreys

Minutes:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/index.asp?pageid>



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Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Community Safety (National Outcome 9)

Recent achievements and challenges

The Community Safety Partnership works towards an annual five point work plan, which is linked back to National Outcome 9 in the Single Outcome Agreement. By March 2014 all targets were met and the group are now underway in producing a new work plan. These targets were:

- **Support Driving Ambition programme.** Key partners support and deliver pre-driver education programme: Driving Ambition to all senior and junior high pupils.
- **Research to be undertaken into water safety including piers and lochs.** Relevant partners to undertake a piece of work considering potential risks and other safety concerns around open water in Orkney, and report findings back to the CSP.
- **Embrace the new Strategic Co-ordinating Group Structure resulting from the Police and Fire Reform** due 1 April 2013 and ensure that any new response systems/chains of command down to and up from the Orkney Local Emergency Co-ordinating Group are fit for purpose and become part of the normal practise during an incident/emergency.
- **Re-establish the Domestic Abuse Forum.** The Domestic Abuse Forum operated as a partnership group with the aim of reducing and preventing incidents of domestic abuse. The group has not met for some time and it should be re-established and report to the Community Safety Partnership. A key initial aim for the Forum is to try to find a suitable local means of establishing and supporting the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) approach.
- **Alcohol Innovation Funding Project.** The ADP offer a funding stream specifically for tackling alcohol related issues in Orkney. The fund shall support bids of up to £2,500 from all sectors of the community providing that they meet the specific criteria set by the ADP.

Other achievements of the Community Safety Partnership were:

- reached agreement between a wide range of agencies on the use of some funding to sustain CCTV
- supported Safe Islander events
- provided communication and updates on Police and Fire Service restructuring, the Northern Community Justice Authority, and the Road Safety Forum
- provided a number of publicity items including advice on a safer approach to Blackenings



ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP

Recent meeting dates:

20 February 2014
26 November 2013
29 August 2013
23 April 2013

Future meeting dates:

23 April 2014
27 August 2014
3 November 2014

Chair: Don Currie, Baptist Kirk
Elected Member: John Richards
Secretary: Katie Spence
PLG representative: Katie Spence

Minutes: <http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/OADP/>

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Community Safety (National Outcome 9)

Recent achievements and challenges

Challenges

- Ongoing issues with Orkney having the second highest alcohol related hospital admissions in Scotland – the ADP is looking at commissioning opportunities to tackle this.
- Emerging issues around New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) or 'Legal Highs' – the ADP have trained local trainers to cascade information and awareness raising sessions throughout Orkney.

Achievements

- The ADP have commissioned a number of new services for the next two financial years to support those in the community affected by substance misuse.
- Over the last year we know that all clients attending the alcohol and drug treatment service (CMHT) waited less than three weeks for an appointment which is meeting the national HEAT target set by the Scottish Government.
- The ADP and Police Scotland (Orkney Division) are in the process of putting together a community alcohol action plan where the Orkney wide community will be consulted on their attitudes towards alcohol and their



own experience of alcohol locally. At present the questionnaire is out for consultation (to agree the range and type of questions) across a number of community planning groups and the Licensing Forum.

- A new website is currently being put together (we already have one through the Orkney Communities page) however this new website will have larger capacity and the ability to be more interactive with a live commentary facility which should enable us to hold 'surgeries' in different topic areas.

HOUSING FORUM

Recent meeting dates:

19 February 2014
28 November 2013
15 May 2013
29 August 2013

Future meeting dates:

13 May 2014

Chair: Cllr Janice Annal
Elected Member: Cllr Janice Annal
Secretary: Raema Campbell
PLG representative: Sally Inkster

Minutes: Made available to the elected and governing body members of the member organisations.

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Orkney's Economy (National Outcome 10)

Recent achievements and challenges

Recent discussion items include:

- Housing Forum membership
- House Build programme for Orkney
- Fuel Poverty Steering Group
- Local House Condition Survey

Achievements:

We meet regularly with the Scottish Government Inverness team to discuss investment in affordable housing and have been successful in securing for Orkney a significant share of the available funding and in obtaining higher levels of subsidy per unit than the Scottish benchmark.



TRANSPORT FORUM

Recent meeting dates:

14 November 2013

22 March 2013

Future meeting dates:

TBC

Chair: Councillor Graham Sinclair

Elected Member: Graham Sinclair

Secretary: Laura Cromarty

PLG representative: Brian Archibald

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Orkney's Infrastructure (National Outcome 10)

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORKNEY GROUP

Recent meeting dates:

15 January 2014

11 July 2013

12 February 2013

Future meeting dates:

TBC for April/May

Chair: Francesca Couperwhite, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Elected Member: Stephen Hagan

Secretary: Valerie Sinclair

PLG representative: Francesca Couperwhite

Minutes:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/index.asp?pageid=2711>

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Strengthening Communities (National Outcome 11)

Recent achievements and challenges



The CEDOG was successful in securing funding for a post through the Citizens Online project to work with individuals and communities to tackle the issues of digital exclusion and to make sure that they are able to take advantage the broadband roll-out. This project has just completed its first year and has proved to be a great success. The project has a further year to run and the CEDOG will be active in seeking to identify funding to enable it to continue.

The CEDOG is a relatively informal but valuable liaison group which provides an opportunity for members to update each other on the activities of their organisations with a view to avoiding duplication and identifying opportunities for joint working. Members have a better understanding of the work of others as a result of these meetings and share information on funding opportunities. Where possible members share resources to enable projects to proceed.

The CEDOG also has a sub-group which focuses on the support needs of social enterprises. This group, the Social Enterprise Group Orkney (SEGO) has been successful this year in maintaining a Social Enterprise Network. The partners involved in the SEGO (Business Gateway, HIE & VAO) have drawn up an agreed strategy and produces an annual action plan. Where appropriate, partners will pool resources to ensure that planned activities/events have maximum reach.

THIRD SECTOR FORUM

Recent meeting dates:

March 2014
January 2014
November 2013

Future meeting dates:

22 May 2014
24 July 2014
25 September 2014
20 November 2014

Chair: VAO Board members rotate
Elected Member: Jack Moodie
Secretary: Cath Russell
PLG representative: Gail Anderson
Minutes:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/index.asp?pageid=2492>

<http://www.vaorkney.org.uk/index.php/engagement/third-sector-forum>

Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Working Together (National



Outcome 15)

Recent achievements and challenges

The Forum exists to strengthen the collective voice of the sector in local and national decision making and to improve communication within the sector and with public sector partners.

- Consultations: Local Policing Plan; new hospital site; Local Fire and Rescue Plan.
- Regular updates/discussions arising from CPP Steering Group, PLG and thematic groups' activity
- Single Outcome Agreement update
- Regular reports from Citizen's Advice Bureau PASS service
- Regular updates/discussions on national and local legislation/policy/issues – a focus group responded to consultation on the Community Empowerment Bill
- Review of group remit, membership and processes

Sub Group: Third Sector Working Group

meetings - last Thursday of each month

Chair: Gail Anderson

- Presentation by Caroline Sinclair and Rosemary Colsell on the work to establish a procurement process
- Discussion and testing of the OIC procurement matrix – introduction deferred until April 2015
- Request to OHAC that current funding arrangements continue until that date
- Home Care Review information
- Feedback on Joint Concern/Referral Form for children's services
- Feedback on the Integrated Children's Services Plan
- Collaborative application to SCIPP
- Peer support – Action Learning Sets trialled
- LEADER consultation – focus group
- Review of group remit, membership and processes



ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

Recent meeting dates:

6 March 2014
27 November 2013
30 July 2013
21 March 2013
24 January 2013

Future meeting dates:

TBC

Chair: Gail Churchill, SNH
Elected Member: Rob Crichton
Secretary: Eileen Summers
PLG representative: Eileen Summers

Minutes:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/index.asp?pageid=920>

Relevant sections within Orkney Community Plan: Our Environment and Combating Climate Change (National Outcomes 12 and 14)

Recent achievements and challenges

The Environment Partnership have completed the Orkney Environment Strategy 2013-2018 and it was presented to the Steering Group on 4th November 2013. Work is ongoing to finalise the Action Plan.

Following the retirement of Chris Matthews, during the November meeting Gail Churchill was voted in as Chair and Barbara Foulkes agreed to be Vice-chair.

ARTS FORUM

Recent meeting dates:

12 December 2013
12 September 2013
10 June 2013
14 March 2013

Future meeting dates:

13 March 2014



Chair: Leslie Burgher, Chartered Architect
Elected Member: Owen Tierney
OIC coordinator: Pam Beasant
PLG representatives: Clare Gee and Pam Beasant

Minutes: <http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/ORKNEYARTSFORUM/>
Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Our Culture (National Outcome 13)

Recent achievements and challenges

The Orkney Arts Forum has been the main driver of the application to Creative Scotland in 2012 and 2013 for a Creative Place award of £150,000. Orkney was shortlisted both years, which is an achievement in itself. Although we weren't successful in winning the award, some good has come from the application process, and arts development is joining with the Centre for Nordic Studies to hold a creative conference in September 2014. This initiative was part of the Orkney bid to Creative Place. The Forum is also re-visiting the arts development plan, *Orkney's Creative Landscape: an Arts Development Plan for Orkney 2012-2015*, to update the action plan. Other initiatives in film and theatre are progressing. The West Side Cinema, coordinated by film representative Mark Jenkins, which grew out of the Orkney Moving Image Society (a Forum initiative) is thriving, and the new theatre-in-education company, Makk a Deu, is now fully constituted as a SCIO.

HERITAGE, VISITOR AND ATTRACTION FORUM

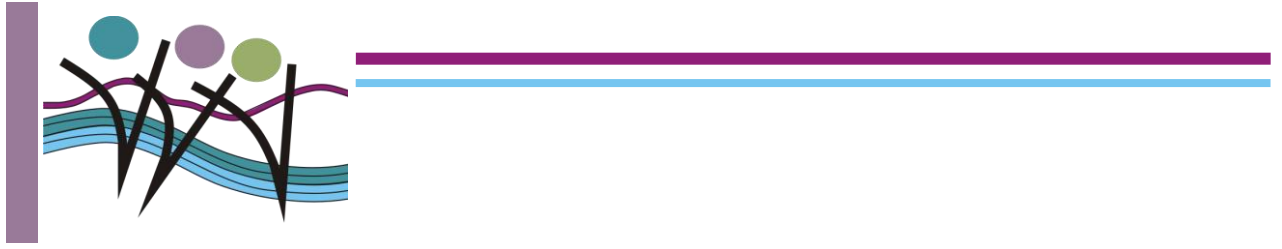
Recent meeting dates:
No meeting dates this year
Future meeting dates:
No meeting dates set

Chair: Clare Gee, Council
Secretary:
PLG representative: Clare Gee

Minutes: Not available on website
Relevant section within Orkney Community Plan: Our Culture (National Outcome 13)

Recent achievements and challenges

The group are presently reviewing the best way of representing Heritage,



Archaeology and visitor attractions within the community planning framework, in the light of the recent review of, and change to, the management of the World Heritage Site, and recent work looking at establishing the key priorities for heritage over the medium and longer term.