



Community Planning News – April 2017

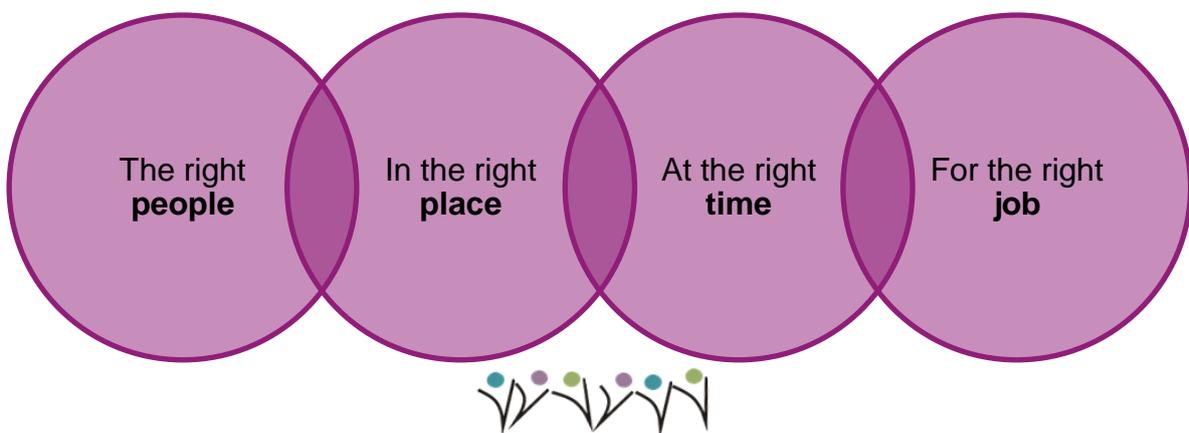
In our last newsletter we let you know that plans were being finalised for the arrival of two young families who were moving to Orkney through the **Syrian Resettlement Programme**. They've now arrived and are beginning the process of settling into a new community that is very different to their own. It's a huge step for them but it helps greatly that this is such a welcoming community.

We've had a terrific response from organisations and individuals, all committed to ensuring that the parents and children soon feel at home in Orkney.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped, both in the planning stages and since arrival.



At our March meeting the Board endorsed **Orkney Islands Skills Investment Plan**. The plan, managed by the Vibrant Economic Environment Delivery Group, was commissioned by Skills Development Scotland. It supports the Orkney Offer and Developing the Young Workforce initiatives and is a great demonstration of how Skills Development Scotland is committed to island-proofing their services. Thanks to the plan, we now have a strong evidence base on the demand for skills which will help ensure the right blend of academic and vocational opportunities are developed. The aim is:



In March we also heard about progress in the **Islands Deal**, a joint initiative of the three Councils in Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles. Last summer, when the annual Islands Summit was held in Kirkwall, a possible islands deal was one of the topics of discussion. Work around the Deal is made up of two interlinked strands of activity. Strand 1 is about enhanced local democracy and autonomy. Strand 2 is

about investment in development that will enable the three island groups to achieve their economic potential. Skills Development Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise have been involved in the inter-island meetings held to develop Strand 2. Our Vibrant Economic Environment Delivery Group will be involved in future work to develop detailed plans for some of the projects selected for inclusion in the Deal. Discussions are continuing with both the Scottish and UK Governments, and we'll keep you informed of progress.

A Masterclass in Co-operation

Your Island Your Choice



That's how this project is described in the Scottish Community Development Centre blog.

From acoustic curtains to gym equipment, you can see the full list of the successful projects in each island [here](#).

To see the results of the final event, you can read the blog [here](#). There are also video clips - well worth watching!

It's worth highlighting that local voters awarded funding to **34 projects**. The final event awarded funding of £6,000 to inter-island projects - and was also an opportunity to celebrate the individual island projects.

Although the Your Island Your Choice project has come to an end, the information gathered during the consultation exercise will be used to develop our **locality plan**. Locality planning is a new duty for us – introduced by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Locality plans make sure our planning is done at a local level and we chose the non-linked isles for our first plan. It will supplement our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and be published later in the year. At the moment we're busy analysing the data.



Do you feel you're stereotyped because you tick the 'over 50' box in surveys? What do you think of this road sign? 'Older People' – what does that even mean? The **Positive Ageing Delivery Group** is planning a live web chat shortly. Those are 'starter for 10' questions and maybe you'd like to answer them, but we're pretty sure you'll have your own questions to ask the chatters. No matter what your age we want you to join in. We'll be publicising the web chat shortly so start thinking now.



If you would like more involvement in community planning, and making a difference to your community, or if you would like this publication in a different language or format, please contact Marie Love by email on corporateservices@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 01856 873535 extension 2153.