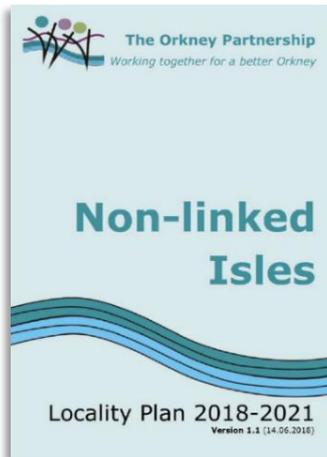




The Orkney Partnership

## Community Planning News – Autumn 2018

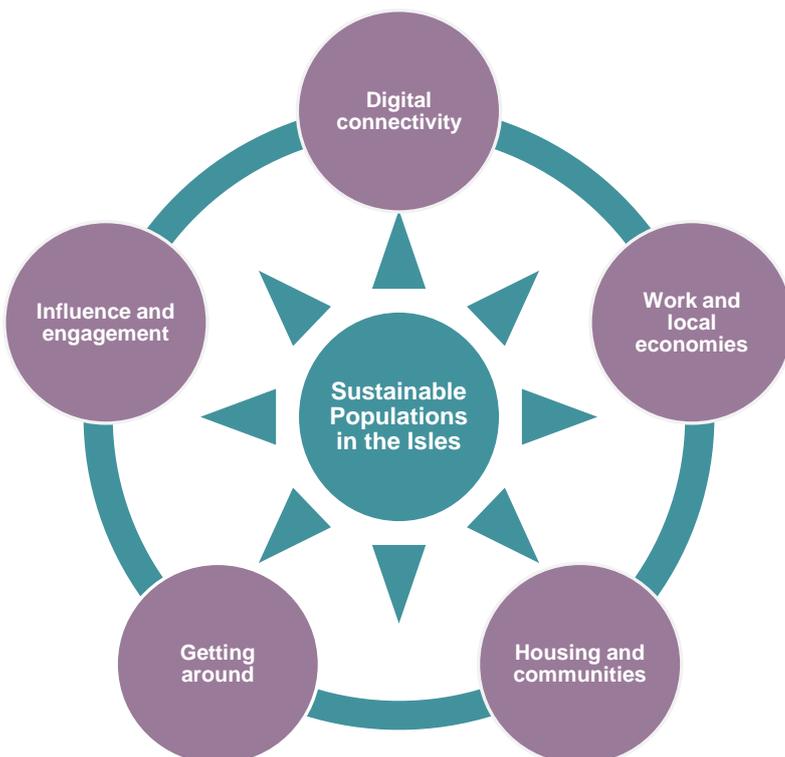


### Locality Plan and Your Island Your Choice

In our last newsletter we said we'd just published our first Locality Plan. The Plan details the top priorities for action identified by isles residents themselves through the **Your Island Your Choice** consultation exercise and sets out what we plan to do to address them.

When we were carrying out our consultation exercise some of you told us that organisations consulted residents, went away and you never heard from us again. Well, we're back. As well as giving you regular updates on our progress we have some exciting news.

**Your Island Your Choice 2** is coming very soon. The Orkney Partnership agreed that another Participatory Budgeting project could be used to help boost the Locality Plan priorities. Voluntary Action Orkney made an application to the Community Choices Fund on our behalf and we're delighted to tell you that this was successful. The **Strong Communities Delivery Group**, chaired by Gail Anderson, is taking YIYC2 forward and is already making good progress.



### Your Island Your Choice 2



Last time we had a total funding pot of £36,000 and this time it is £69,695. Your project has to fit in with one of these five priorities identified in the Locality Plan. Other than that, **you decide!**

And while we're on the subject of consultation, we've just refreshed and updated our **Community Consultation and Engagement Guide**. This contains guidance, tips and best practice. It's available for use by any organisation and you can find it [here](#). You'll also see our updated **Strategy for Communication and Community Engagement**. This tells you who our stakeholders are, what we want to say and the ways we will engage with you. Why not have a look and see where you fit in.



We recently published our **Annual Report 2017/18**. If you want to have a catch up with what we've been doing you can find it [here](#). You can also find out why Scotland is upside down – or is it ...



**Digital Connectivity** is one of the priority areas identified in the **Locality Plan**. The Orkney Partnership Board had a session on the Digital Scotland Reaching 100% programme with Scottish Government representatives when the challenges around digital connectivity in the isles was discussed at length. Graeme Harrison, Chair of the **Vibrant Economy Delivery Group**, has started work on the development of a business case for areas in Orkney that don't have affordable and reliable full digital connectivity. A tender process for delivery of access to Next Generation Access Broadband started in March 2018 and we expect contracts to be awarded early next year. The **Vibrant Economy Delivery Group** will take the lead at that point to explore interim wireless solutions for localities in the non-linked isles that don't have an acceptable broadband service.

The **Living Well Delivery Group** recently held a Mental Health Services Improvement Day. This was a very successful event and work is ongoing to take forward a number of important actions following on from that. More to come on that one along with the other activities the group plans to deliver for the Board. In the meantime, you might be interested in the small grants being offered, details on the next page.

The **Strong Communities Delivery Group** has been busy developing an ambitious list of actions and have already started with Participatory Budgeting and **YIYC2**. We'll report on the other actions as they progress, but to give you a flavour of what is happening these include a pilot community led wellbeing service in four of the isles, a Third Sector conference on community development and increased access to distance learning opportunities.

**Influence and engagement** is one of the priority areas identified in the **Locality Plan**. One of our actions is to consider adopting the principle of isles-proofing local policy. Work has started on this and Orkney Islands Council is about to put a system in place to ensure all its policies are isles-proofed.



One of the **Vibrant Economy Delivery Group's** aims is that Orkney is widely recognised as a location for innovation and the application of experimental thinking in an island context. The recent news that Microsoft had sunk a data centre in the sea off Orkney to investigate whether it can boost energy efficiency provided some very welcome PR on that front, courtesy of a tweet from the Chief Executive of Microsoft UK.



**Microsoft UK** ✓

@MicrosoftUK

Follow

The Orkney Islands in Scotland just became one of the most exciting places in tech.

## Do you want a small grant?

If so, the Community Development and Capacity Building Fund might be just what you're looking for. Small grants from this fund are offered to communities / community groups throughout Orkney in association with the Orkney Partnership. These are offered through the **Living Well Delivery Group** to support the establishment and / or development of new and innovative activities in local communities that will help keep people with long term health conditions, including older people, active and socially engaged.



More information and details of how to apply in our **Annual Report 2017/18**.

The ongoing work around digital connectivity is a priority for the **Vibrant Economy Delivery Group**. It is also heavily involved in the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus and report that the project is on target and on budget. Several funding bids have been submitted for innovation schemes. Dialogue continues with the three universities who are keen to be involved and new activity is planned. Activity is also taking place around the skills agenda and talent attraction with a workshop due to be held shortly.

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](mailto:corporateservices@orkney.gov.uk) or telephone 01856 873535 extension 2153.