



The Orkney Partnership

Working together for a better Orkney

Annual Report

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several parallel, wavy lines in shades of teal and light blue, creating a sense of movement and flow.

2018 to 2019



The Orkney Partnership Board

Five of our partners have a collective duty to facilitate community planning:



Other partners have a duty to participate in community planning



Our Board also includes some local and co-opted partners



Working together for a better Orkney



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If you would like this report in a different language or format, please contact the Community Planning Business Manager
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INTRODUCTION

The Orkney Partnership is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2018/19.

Community planning is something we do naturally here in a small community, and in fact it would seem illogical not to pull together. In the current unsettling economic times all public services are expected to do more in terms of providing improved services to larger groups, yet with less financial resource. Through community planning we must find imaginative solutions within this difficult environment, notably through better joint working. It also means we concentrate on those areas most in need of intervention.

The report contains an update on all our activities and provides some background information on how community planning works in Orkney.

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

Orkney's community planning partners want everybody in Orkney to have an equal opportunity to share in its success in accordance with our mission and values. Our seven key values guide the way we work, together or independently, and influence everything we do.

Our shared mission:

Working together for a better **Orkney**

Our values:



Resilience
Enterprise
Equality
Fairness
Innovation
Leadership
Sustainability

OUR STRUCTURE

The Orkney Partnership Board is at the centre of our structure. The Board is chaired by Councillor James Stockan, Council Leader, the Vice Chair is Ian Kinniburgh, Chair of the Board of NHS Orkney, and membership is made up of all the partners.

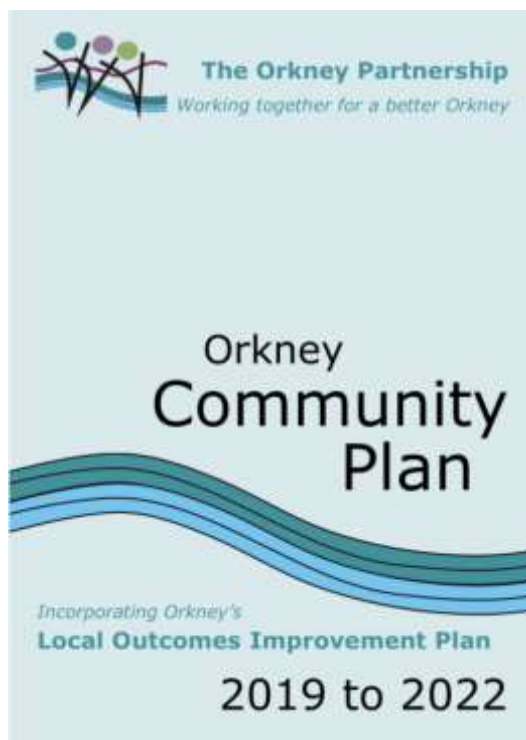
The Orkney Partnership Board is assisted by an Executive Group comprising the five partners with a duty to facilitate community planning plus Voluntary Action Orkney.

Each of the Board's strategic priorities is assigned to a Delivery Group. At present there are three, but this number could change. The Delivery Groups are chaired by members of the Board but membership includes representatives of any organisations / groups that can help to deliver our priorities.

Every year we hold a 'horizon-scanning' session to look at whether our strategic priorities are still right for us and whether there are any new challenges we need to tackle.

We also look at our membership regularly. Although we have statutory facilitating partners and participating partners we also co-opt partners. During the last year we've added the Scottish Ambulance Service to our membership.

ORKNEY COMMUNITY PLAN 2019-22



The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on community planning partnerships to prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP). This document sets out the local outcomes that The Orkney Partnership has prioritised for improvement.

Orkney's new Community Plan 2019-2022 incorporates Orkney's LOIP. It's a three-year rolling plan and is refreshed, updated and reissued every year. It describes what we aim to achieve by working together in partnership and can be found on our pages on the [Orkney Communities](#) platform.

CHALLENGES

An enterprising approach is needed in tackling Orkney's most challenging problems, where obstacles stand in the way of all partner agencies, both individually and collectively. The biggest cross-cutting issues locally are **digital connectivity, transport, housing** and **fuel poverty**, which impact on everything we do. The Board has oversight of these shared challenges and ensures that relevant aspects are being addressed by relevant bodies, and where appropriate by any or all of the Delivery Groups.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We're no strangers to partnership working in Orkney, we've been doing it for a long time. We can't describe everything that the partners do together and we don't record partnership working in areas where it is already working well. The Orkney Partnership focuses on a small number of strategic priorities at any one time that will improve long term outcomes for individuals, families and communities where inequality persists. Currently our priorities are:

- Living Well
- Strong Communities
- Vibrant Economy

The principle of prevention is central to our plan and by focusing collaboratively on early intervention we can reduce negative outcomes for people. We have tasked our three Delivery Groups with delivering these priorities. Our long term visions and medium term outcomes for these priorities are listed here, along with details of what the Delivery Groups are doing to ensure these outcomes are delivered for the people of Orkney. The Delivery Groups are also tasked with delivering some of the actions from the Locality Plan which you can read about in more detail later in this report.

Living Well

- **Long term vision:** Our people are resilient and live well.
- **Chair:** Gerry O'Brien, Chief Executive, NHS Orkney.
- **Vice chair:** Louise Wilson, Director of Public Health, NHS Orkney.
- **Medium term outcomes:**
 - A. People live in safe, warm, homely settings.
 - B. People have the support they need to adopt healthy lifestyles throughout their lives, and take responsibility for their wellbeing.

- Officers from OIC, OHAL, Care and Repair, THAW and Age Scotland are working together to try and tackle the issues of poor quality housing and low energy efficiency for owner / occupier properties and private sector tenancies. The aim is to maximise the use of any available funding so that less people live in substandard housing, regardless of tenure and a number of pieces of work are ongoing which will progress that. Members of the group have been tasked with investigating the possibility of a pilot project.
- One of our actions was to hold a promotional event for older people by inviting speakers, local groups to offer a wide range of information and activities which support our priorities. This was taken forward by Age Scotland Orkney and more information is available on page 19.
- To complement this promotional event *Dementia Friendly* training is being carried out for the partnership agencies. The training, also by Age Scotland Orkney, is proving popular. Feedback is that it is proving worthwhile in terms of increasing understanding and raising awareness of the issues faced by someone with dementia and their family, thereby helping us all to remove barriers.
- We're developing an easy to understand guide to housing options. This will give people access to information and support to enable informed choices to be made around housing to allow early preventative planning and preparation for life as they get older. It will be available online and in paper format.
- We want to reduce inequalities in relation to physical activity and healthy weight. One step towards doing this is the provision of opportunities to access affordable, healthier food choices and activities so that people are able to improve their own health and wellbeing. Now that Confidence to Cook sessions are well established, our Public Health Team are identifying other actions where partnership assistance is needed and these will be added to our plans shortly.
- Some of our members, including NHS Orkney, OIC, Pickaquoy Centre and Sportscotland, are updating our Physical Activity and Sports Strategy. Alongside this we're looking at ways to encourage people to participate in outdoor physical activity and let them know how to access it. A piece of research work we carried out has shown that there are barriers to active travel such as gaps between cycle paths and walking areas. This has partly been addressed through aspects of the *Your Kirkwall* work around community parkland and active travel opportunities. A similar piece of work may happen around *What's next for Stromness* but that is still at an early stage.
- This work links into our work around active travel. We're working to identify potential funding opportunities and exploring the feasibility of additional new path and cycle routes.

- We offer Community Capacity Building Fund grants to groups to establish new community activities. These must be aimed at adults with long term health conditions, older people or people most in need. The latest recipient is Burray Ball. You can see more about that project, and find out how you can apply, later on in this report.
- The Delivery Group held a Mental Health Services Improvement Day during 2018. Participants from a range of agencies participated in the interactive full day event. It was a challenging day, but one that ultimately resulted in themes and key actions being identified. These are currently feeding into a Mental Health Services Improvement Review, a significant piece of work involving a number of partners. It is nearing completion and we will shortly be in a position to take forward specific recommendations.

Strong Communities

- **Long term vision:** Orkney's communities and individuals are fulfilling their potential.
- **Chair:** Gail Anderson, Chief Executive, VAO.
- **Vice chair:** Francesca Couperwhite, Head of Strengthening Communities, HIE.
- **Medium term outcomes:**
 - A. Our communities have vibrant, innovative, sustainable and inclusive populations.
 - B. Our communities have access to the services, facilities and resources they require to enable them to lead, develop and innovate.
 - C. Partners and communities share trusting relationships and understand their own and others' accountability, responsibility and capacity.

- We provide support to communities to access funding from the Islands Housing Fund to deliver local solutions, increasing the number of houses available to meet local need. Westray, Papay, Sanday, Stronsay, Shapinsay and Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre are all progressing through the application process.
- One of our actions is to establish community led care service in four islands and you can read more on page 21.
- We're currently carrying out a demographics research project to provide enhanced datasets on isles population. This will allow more effective monitoring so that we target resources and projects where they are most needed.

- We're working with Orkney College to increase access to distance learning so that more opportunities are available for people wherever they live. We also need to ensure people are aware of any opportunities available to them so that more of them can participate. This links to opportunities for people to develop their career management skills to allow them to manage their own career paths.
- One way of increasing the number of job opportunities for people in the isles would be to increase the number of home-based work / employment opportunities. We'd like a commitment from partners to develop such opportunities. While this is primarily a cultural shift for some organisations, its progress is heavily dependent on technology as accessing work systems from home requires effective infrastructure and suitable software. This links into the work of the Vibrant Economy Delivery Group around remote working and we liaise closely. Linked to that we're looking at models to maximise the use of skills on our islands, the aim being to increase the number of job opportunities.
- We're currently gathering information on existing community development support. This will identify gaps in capacity and inequalities between islands. The next stage will be to develop solutions towards tackling the identified gaps and inequalities.
- Work is taking place in a number of the isles to develop resources that explain the realities of living on an island. This ensures people thinking about moving to the isles are better informed about what is available to them on each island, and new islanders have a helpful guide which will make them more aware of ways to integrate fully into small island communities.
- A Third Sector conference / event is at an advanced stage of planning. The aim is to share good practice amongst those involved in community development. Third Sector organisations will be able to learn from each and build on what is working well. It will also provide an opportunity to strengthen existing networks and promote Third Sector activity.
- You may have heard about the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#). This provides a new route for communities to take on the ownership of public land and buildings and strengthens their voices in decisions about public services. We want to raise awareness of the benefits for communities and support communities to make use of the powers around community asset transfer and participation requests.
- Anyone going out and about in Orkney can't have failed to notice the variety of sports and activities that are available to children and young people. However, children and young people from the isles or more remote mainland localities may not have the same opportunities to participate. As a first step we're doing some work on identifying exactly what the barriers are, for example is it accommodation? We are

also finding out how many young people are affected, to allow us to take a proportionate approach.

- Access to services and activities is important to everyone, and we are particularly keen that individuals who are socially isolated take part in community activities. We're doing a piece of work to identify both the need for and the gaps in community transport with a view to finding solutions that will enable individuals to access services and activities. This is different from the wider transport review being undertaken by the Vibrant Economy Delivery Group as it relates specifically to community transport.
- In a similar vein we're looking at the need for a mainland based community electric car service. This would provide access to facilities for people without private transport and would be of particular benefit to individuals who are socially isolated. Work is taking place, but there are some quite complex issues that need to be addressed which is taking time. We would ideally like to establish a pilot project.
- We're providing support to isles community organisations to help them add value to projects undertaken as part of the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme, which will improve the project outcomes.
- Throughout our work we know that maintaining an ongoing dialogue with communities is vital as it allows them increased opportunities to contribute to and influence decision making. To this end we're delighted to have a number of isles representatives on the Delivery Group.
- We support communities to collaborate with partners to deliver successful projects. This means communities lead on identifying and delivering solutions to their own challenges and issues. This has been done around the Community Wellbeing Project we mentioned earlier, as well as community land and housing projects.
- Communities also collaborated with us on Your Island Your Choice 2 which resulted from our action to carry out an isles participatory budgeting programme. You can read more about this on page 17.

Vibrant Economy

- **Long term vision:** Orkney has a vibrant economic environment.
- **Chair:** Graeme Harrison, Area Manager, HIE.
- **Vice chair:** Stuart Allison, Economic Development Manager, OIC.
- **Medium term outcomes:**
 - A. Orkney is a location of choice for people to live, work, learn, visit and invest.
 - B. Orkney is widely recognised as a location for innovation and the application of experimental thinking in an island context.
 - C. Orkney's economy offers a broad range of employment opportunities in all localities.

- We have oversight of the Skills Investment Plan and coordinate its activities. We want people to have access to greater employment opportunities within Orkney's businesses / sectors, including work placements, modern apprenticeships, foundation apprenticeships, graduate placements, re-skilling opportunities, volunteering opportunities and supported employment. We also want to ensure that employers / businesses have the workforce they need to address current skills shortages. Partners are currently planning a Skills Education Summit.
- We need to coordinate Orkney's approach to talent attraction; it's important that information about Orkney's public, private and third sectors reaches more people. Our role is to identify the gaps and share this information. We're examining the potential for delivering an enhanced digital job vacancies portal through orkney.com which has been significantly updated, although improvement work is still ongoing.
- There is a need for a piece of research to be done so that we have a better understanding of the profile of advertised job vacancies. We want to work with employers as there may be a need for them to change and update practices and we can help with that. It's important to shape jobs and invest in people, apprenticeships being just one example.
- We want to promote Orkney generally. Undoubtedly if we want to attract people to come and work here, they and their families will want to know more about Orkney and what it is like to live here. And, of course, we want to keep the people we have and encourage them to return if they do move away for education or experience.
- We're involved in lots of policies and strategies. What we're currently doing is mapping these so that we can coordinate them. This is a valuable piece of work as it will allow us to ensure there is no conflict between them and that we actually deliver on our strategies.

- Orkney is leading the way in marine energy / energy systems research and development. We want to stay at the forefront and develop further. We'll do this by acting as a demonstrator for innovative technologies and practices within the circular economy / sustainable space.
- Orkney is also positioned as an exemplar in sustainable development and facilitation of a low carbon future, attracting investment and employment opportunities. We make bids as and when funding opportunities arise.
- We're currently engaging with both existing and prospective academic partners to develop opportunities for academic exchanges and collaborations as part of research and innovation activities. This will provide more academic variety and opportunities.
- To support all the research and innovation development we're currently examining options for the provision of student accommodation. The lack of accommodation is a potential barrier, not only to study but to research an innovation development.
- We want to invest in infrastructure and development of strategies that help position Orkney as an exemplar in sustainable development and facilitate a carbon neutral future, with associated investment incentives. This will include taking advantage of any new funding streams and attracting international investment in order to maximise opportunities which might benefit Orkney post Brexit. We know that attracting high value academic / commercial research and development activity will result in improved economic and employment opportunities. Alongside this we continue to promote Orkney's unique offering as a research venue.
- We're currently looking at a long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole to take advantage of blue growth.
- When it comes to work and the local economy we need to ensure any opportunities arising from Brexit are seized.
- We promote opportunities for volunteering and social enterprise within island life and through new initiatives, although we are ever mindful that many people in the isles already spend a lot of time volunteering.
- We're currently investigating the decentralisation of jobs (for example from Edinburgh or from Kirkwall) to identify opportunities for remote working. This will provide more flexible employment opportunities; of course this is dependent on digital connectivity so is linked to our work on that. This is also linked to the work the Strong Communities Delivery Group is doing to increase the number of home-based work / employment opportunities in the isles, although we have a broader scope.
- We're also involved with the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus, which you can read about in more detail on page 16.

One issue that has been raised by all three Delivery Groups and the Orkney Partnership Board itself is that of employment and training opportunities for people over 24. Current legislation and a lack of funding inhibits opportunities for older people to gain apprenticeships. Work experience opportunities are predominantly targeted at school / college leavers. As well as a more equitable funding situation, there is a need for a cultural and attitudinal shift. Partners agreed the need to support people to work longer and continue to develop by retraining if necessary. While it is important to recognise young people, negative attitudes towards older people is disappointing. We want people of all ages to have opportunities for employment and retraining; there are many reasons why older people may want or need to change their career path, particularly with the increasing state pension age. As we have skills shortages in a number of areas giving people the opportunity to retrain or change career paths throughout their working lives would have benefits for all.

Some highlights from the work of the Delivery Groups are included throughout this document.

THE ISLANDS DEAL

Currently one initiative that would have the ability to address our cross-cutting challenges referred to at page 3 is the Islands Deal. This is a joint proposal from the three islands councils (Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles) to the Scottish and UK Governments. It is modelled on the lines of a City or Regional Deal but with elements unique to the islands. The Deal is focused on improving regional economies with a view to tackling economic barriers and maximising opportunities to drive local, regional and national economic growth. Work is continuing to develop more detail around a suite of innovative development projects in each area for inclusion in the Deal proposal.

Because the three islands councils are working together, this enables us to maximise the impact of our collective resources to progress key issues which are critically important to all our islands. The Orkney Partnership Board is fully committed to the Islands Deal and its target outcomes. It is anticipated that all partners will be involved to a greater or lesser degree if a Deal is agreed.

LOCALITY PLAN 2018-2021 FOR THE NON-LINKED ISLES

Full details of how we developed our Locality Plan are contained in our Annual Report for 2018/19, but it may also be helpful to provide some background here. In terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, every community planning partnership in Scotland must produce one or more locality plans. A locality plan identifies local areas which are relatively disadvantaged in terms of social and economic opportunities and sets out what the partnership will do to improve outcomes in the area. The plan takes account of existing work and identifies any gaps or issues that need to be addressed. It makes sure our planning is done at a local level.

After considering available evidence on socio-economic outcomes across Orkney, including the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, all of the evidence pointed to the non-linked isles as being the area of Orkney which was most disadvantaged. The Partnership used the Place Standard model to consult residents in the non-linked isles as to their local priorities for action, followed up by island visits.

In parallel with the consultation, the Partnership conducted a Participatory Budgeting pilot exercise, **Your Island Your Choice**, funded by the Scottish Government's Community Choices fund and topped up by partner agencies. This enabled the isles communities to select some of their own priorities to address immediately, within the resources available to the pilot.

The following themes and outcomes were identified by consultees as their top priorities for the non-linked isles; a conclusion supported by all the independent evidence. All of these priorities are linked and are key to achieving our overall target outcome of a sustainable demographic balance in the populations of each of the non-linked isles:



The plan was adopted by the Orkney Partnership Board and the actions in it assigned to the Delivery Groups. The plan along with appendices and consultation report are available on our web pages [here](#).

The Orkney Partnership Board reviews progress around the actions at every Board meeting. The following are some of the updates over the past year.

Work and local economies

- The rollout of the Empowering Communities project to Hoy and Sanday was completed in 2018.
- So far, we've identified potential funds to roll the project out further and assisted three community councils to submit applications to these. Although these particular applications were not successful, we continue to highlight funding opportunities and assist with applications on request.

Digital connectivity

- Graeme Harrison, Chair of the Vibrant Economy Delivery Group, is working on the development of a business case for areas in Orkney that don't have affordable and reliable full digital connectivity. He has held a number of focused discussion groups with a range of partners to provide the evidence needed to develop a compelling business case. The Scottish Government has committed to 100% superfast broadband coverage by 2021 and work is currently being undertaken around the next stage of delivery. While a tendering process for delivery has been undertaken, as yet information about which companies have been awarded contracts is unknown. It is necessary to establish delivery and coverage to allow the business case to be finalised and sent to the Scottish Government.
- Despite the commitment to 100% superfast coverage by 2021, we know this is unlikely to reach more remote areas. In areas where there is some coverage service and speed will depend on whether you are connected to the technology and your distance from it. However, it will bring it nearer and there may be opportunities for other solutions to be taken forward. The Vibrant Economy Delivery Group are taking the lead in exploring wireless and other solutions for localities in the non-linked isles that don't have an acceptable and affordable broadband service. Work with the Digital Scotland partnership to investigate how both the project and coverage can be extended will continue.

Getting around the islands

- Orkney Islands Council has called on the Scottish Government to provide funding that would allow cheaper fares on local inter-island ferry routes. The council wants to see road equivalent tariff fares introduced on routes between Orkney mainland and the non-linked isles.

Housing and communities

- We agreed to liaise with the Fuel Poverty Group to identify any opportunities for the Partnership to assist. The Fuel Poverty Group is now represented on the Living Well Delivery Group and any opportunities for assistance will be highlighted.
- We want to ensure individual partner agencies make referrals to ensure schemes to assist with fuel poverty and housing improvements are catching Orkney's most vulnerable households. The Living Well Delivery Group has taken this forward and as a first step training is being carried out for NHS Orkney staff.

Influence and engagement

- One of our actions is to consider adopting the principle of isles-proofing local policy to prevent unfair or unforeseen consequences on the isles. This is being actioned on an individual agency basis and Orkney Islands Council has put a system in place to ensure all its policies are isles-proofed. This has already had an impact. In February 2019, following a proposal that second home discounts be removed, Orkney Islands Council instead agreed a second home discount of 50% should apply where a person's home and work were separated by a body of water and transport provision did not allow daily commuting. The Orkney Partnership Board now isles-proofs policies as a matter of course.
- We need to carry out consultation and engagement activities with our communities from time to time to ensure we're on the right track. We want to improve the way we do this and are already thinking ahead towards the development of our next Locality Plan and a consultation around that. Orkney's Development Plan is due to be renewed during 2020, and there's a statutory duty to consult on that, so we will work together with officers from Orkney Islands Council's Development and Infrastructure Service to carry out a single consultation which will cover both.
- Another interesting piece of work around consultation has just started. Some of the partners are working with Robert Gordon University to scope a potential project to develop an 'Orkney Knowledge Lab'. A substantial amount of consultation and research work has been carried out in Orkney, some focusing on specific areas and others focusing on particular issues. If this information could be stored and shared in an online information repository it would be an invaluable resource and evidence base.
- We undertook to explore new opportunities for participatory budgeting activities and during 2018/19 our second participatory budgeting project was used to help boost the locality plan priorities in the non-linked isles. Voluntary Action Orkney made a successful application to the Community Choices Fund on our behalf and the Strong Communities Delivery Group took Your Island Your Choice 2 forward in collaboration with 13 non-linked islands. You can find more on page 17 of this report.

PROPERTY SHARING PROTOCOL



Our **Property Asset Management Future Property Sharing Protocol** is now in use.

You may recall from previous newsletters that this was put in place because we want to work together and take a more innovative and creative approach to use, disposal and development of our properties. Our target outcome is the improved use of properties. We're already sharing ideas and information and have an operational group that will take specific pieces of work forward.

Leading the way is Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, which has provided office accommodation at Kirkwall Fire Station to the Orkney Drugs Dog Charity. John McKenna said "Scottish Fire and Rescue Services is delighted to be able to assist with the allocation of office space within our Orkney District Office to Orkney Drugs Dog Charity. We enter into this as part of the wider Community Planning Partnership Framework for Orkney Islands and this venture clearly links to the principles and aims of the Orkney Partnership Property Asset Management Future Property Sharing Protocol."



Some time ago it was identified that Police Scotland Officers didn't have designated premises when carrying out activities on the isles. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has nine island stations and it made perfect sense for SFRS to offer Police Scotland access to these station premises whenever necessary. It allows Officers to have a secure base to operate from and provides welfare facilities and access to WiFi. An agreement was drawn up and signed by both organisations as part of the wider Community Planning Partnership Framework for Orkney Islands and links to the principles and aims of The Orkney Islands Partnership Property Asset Management Future Property Sharing Protocol.

NEW VEHICLES FOR DIAL-A-BUS

Orkney Disability Forum, which runs **Dial-A-Bus**, was delighted to receive two new Nissan LEAFs earlier this year. Dial-A-Bus is the largest supplier of community transport in Orkney and, as many of their service users are able to access regular cars, this means the addition of two ultra-low emission cars to its fleet for journeys involving only one to three passengers. The vehicles were funded through the Switched on Fleets Programme, one of the schemes funded by the Scottish Government to support its ambition to phase out new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2032. Transport Scotland made an offer of funding to **Orkney Islands Council** in 2018 to purchase or lease Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles for the council or its community planning partners.

Following discussion, the Orkney Partnership accepted the grant offer on behalf of Orkney Disability Forum. In his capacity as Chair of the Orkney Partnership Board Councillor James Stockan said, *'Orkney Disability Forum is a member of the Partnership's Strong Communities Delivery Group. Transport is a top priority for everyone in Orkney and one of the actions this group has been working on is to identify the gaps in community transport provision and find solutions that meet people's needs. We think this is a great solution and we were delighted to be able to help – it's a win-win for everybody. I'm looking forward to seeing our new LEAFs getting down to work and it will be really interesting to see how well they perform in this role.'*



Hazel Aim, who is manager of the charity, said *'We are delighted by the arrival of the two electric cars, and they will make a big difference to the running costs of Dial-a-Bus. I am sure our passengers will also agree that they will be an asset to the charity and able to give greater access to areas that are trickier with larger vehicles. Dial-a-Bus are also very excited to be doing their part in looking after the environment and reducing harmful emissions.'*

ORKNEY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAMPUS

The **Vibrant Economy Delivery Group** is heavily involved in the multi million pound Orkney Research and Innovation Campus. A joint venture, owned and operated by an OIC / HIE joint partnership, has seen the former Stromness primary school and old Academy transformed into a state-of-the-art campus.

The campus will support the growth of existing research and innovation activity and the expansion of companies in Orkney's world-leading marine renewables, energy and low carbon sector. Work is ongoing to develop collaborative research opportunities and the wider *Orkney as a living laboratory* concept. Together with Heriot-Watt University, Robert Gordon University and the University of the Highlands and Islands, a number of joint research opportunities have been developed which will hopefully enable the universities to broaden the academic footprint, both within the new campus and elsewhere throughout Orkney.



EMEC (the European Marine Energy Centre) moved into the old Academy block in January 2019 and Heriot-Watt have moved into the former primary school just ahead of the new intake of students.

Graeme Harrison, Chair of the Vibrant Economy Delivery Group,

tells us: “We want to widen the breadth of activity on the site and attract more people from around the world to come and study and live here. It will also provide valuable opportunities for people to stay and study in Orkney and gain high value employment. All in all it is a great opportunity for Orkney.”

YOUR ISLAND YOUR CHOICE 2

Our second **Participatory Budgeting** project was used to help boost the Locality Plan priorities in the non-linked isles. Voluntary Action Orkney made a successful application to the Community Choices Fund on our behalf. The **Strong Communities Delivery Group**, chaired by Gail Anderson, took YIYC2 forward in collaboration with 13 non-linked islands.

The projects had to benefit as many people as possible and had to meet at least one of the themes from the locality plan. Local voters awarded a total of **£74,364** to **54 projects**. The full report will be published shortly. For now, here are some of the comments from the sessions and a list of projects.

“Great fun and a fair way to distribute funding”

“I feel very involved”

“Democracy in action”

“Fantastic”

“We got there in the end!”

“It’s good to feel your opinion is valued and matters”

Your Island Your Choice 2



Island	Projects
Eday	Chairs for community room Climbing wall, archery and watersports Interactive activity touch table
Egilsay	Travel, Recreation and Welfare fund Promoting Egilsay Looking after our facility
Flotta	Indoor gym fitness equipment Road/ditches West Hill / Stanger Tower Pipe in ditch at GP surgery Road improvement Stanger Head

Graemsay	Storage shed for community hall Railings for community hall Youth club equipment Lighting for community hall Kitchen equipment for community hall
Hoy	Hoy and Walls lego club North Walls youth club transport St Colm's playpark development
North Ronaldsay	Dark skies lighting Yamaha PA system and accessories Signposts Prepay laundry meters Community washing machine Rowing machine (TBC) Multigym (TBC)
Papa Westray	Farming heritage mural project Papay on film Farming in Papay exhibition Papa winter film screenings Emergency phone for Papay Supporting music tuition on Papay Better school hall acoustics Microphones for music events
Rousay	Past and present history project Teenage social group Brownies and Rainbows flags
Sanday	Early years water wall Sanday youth club Library van visits Sanday community craft hub Sanday community radio podcast
Shapinsay	Climbing club Helping Shapinsay environment GAME ON Shapinsay
Stronsay	Computer club Community cinema and film club Table top games club Musicality
Westray	Spirometry machine Stage equipment Playgroups revamp Westray Connections 2019 Kalisgarth – interactive activity table
Wyre	Rat eradication

DEMENTIA ORKNEY PROJECT – Funded by The Life Changes Trust

One of the Living Well Delivery Group's activities was to hold a promotional event for older people to offer a wide range of information and activities which support our priorities.



This was taken forward through the Age Scotland Orkney's Dementia Orkney Project and was funded by The Life Changes Trust.



Gillian Skuse, Managing Director of Age Scotland Orkney and a member of the Living Well Delivery Group gave us this update.

'Across three days in May 2019 we hosted storytelling sessions for people with dementia and their unpaid carers, a Screen Memories session and a Dance & Jive with Food & Fun at the Old Library in Kirkwall - featuring the Bigsy Whalps and the Orkney Jivers - which was attended by 120 people. The conference took place at the Picky Centre in Kirkwall and was attended by 109 delegates, including people living with dementia and carers. The morning session included presentations around the theme of community and dementia. Following a rousing performance by the Dementia Friendly Orkney Choir to open the conference, attendees heard from Sally Shaw, the Chief Officer of Orkney Health & Care, Pam Marwick, Occupational Therapy Lead for Orkney Adult Services and Gillian Skuse, Managing Director of Age Scotland Orkney.'



‘Councillor Harvey Johnston then gave his reflections on the day so far, in the form of a touching yet witty poem. Ann Tait and Merle Walls, who are both carers for someone with dementia, then read their self-penned poem about the experience of being a carer. You can watch the full conference on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/LifeChangesTrust/videos/>

‘These events were planned and delivered by local people, for local people, as we believe that collaborating locally will deepen our understanding of what is working well and can offer solutions that can be addressed at a grassroots level. The information and feedback gathered from the events will be used to help develop services; work on that is starting shortly.’

‘The last word should go to people with dementia. Here is what they told us ...’



Highlights from round table discussions

<p>Respite: more collaboration and more flexible approaches needed - dial-a-carer?</p>	<p>Diagnosis: not a one size fits all approach - involve the hub to reduce isolation. PDS outwith the mainland.</p>	<p>Self-Directed Support: more awareness and clear guidance needed.</p>	<p>Dementia friendly communities: more intergenerational projects, more service-led options.</p>	<p>Carers: better communication between carers and community awareness of the importance of unpaid carers.</p>
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COMMUNITY LED CARE IN THE NON-LINKED ISLES

Work around Community Led Care in the Non-linked Isles was taken forward through the Strong Communities Delivery Group. In 2018 Voluntary Action Orkney, in collaboration with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, seven development trusts and Robert Gordon University, commissioned research into community led care in the non-linked isles. The research was carried out by Rosie Alexander, Research Officer, and the report recommended that the isles communities continue to build and extend existing community services and identify the potential for bringing new services to the isles.

As a result, an Enhanced Wellbeing in Our Islands Communities project, funded by the Aspiring Communities Fund, has been co-produced between Voluntary Action Orkney, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Robert Gordon University, Papay Community Council, and the Development Trusts on the islands of Hoy, Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, Shapinsay, Stronsay and Sanday, with the aim of enhancing the wellbeing of older people living on our non-linked isles.

Community Wellbeing Co-ordinators have now been appointed and are available for on-isles assistance and / or information and advice.

The co-ordinators are working hard to produce delivery plans for their individual islands and these plans will be publicly available in the autumn of 2019. Some of the activities already being carried out include organising a dementia friendly workshop on Rousay, providing an outlet for small daily living aids on Hoy and Walls with the support of Selbro, supporting isles initiatives such as setting up Men's Sheds and looking at ways to encourage the use of existing island assets such as the Healthy Living Centres. They have also provided crucial support to the Community Led Support team to set up workshops in Sanday.

The Co-ordinators have produced a Delivery Plan for their individual islands and these plans will be made publicly available shortly. If you would like a copy or want more information on how the project can support you then please do get in touch initially with Rosalind Aitken, Project Manager Rosalind.aitken@vaorkney.org.uk

The research document and further information is available here:

<http://vaorkney.org.uk/information/orkney-information-hub/1659-research-project-community-led-care-in-orkney>

PARTICIPATION REQUESTS

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about participation requests. The [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) allows some community bodies to make requests to public service authorities to participate in ‘outcome improvement processes’. The intention is to open up a new channel for communities to start formal dialogue with public service authorities about issues that are important to them, although they’re not intended to replace good quality existing community engagement or participation processes. The request can involve one or more community planning partners. Whether you’re a partner or a community body, please get in touch if you want more information.

DO YOU NEED A SMALL GRANT?



If so, the [Community Development and Capacity Building Fund](#) might be just what you’re looking for. Read on to find out if you’re eligible.

In 2014 the Scottish Government made additional resources available to local health and social care partnerships to support the delivery of improved health and social care outcomes, with a focus on prevention and strengthening our approach to tackling inequalities. Small grants from this fund are offered to communities / community groups through the [Living Well Delivery Group](#). The funding is available to support the establishment and / or development of new activities in local communities that will help to keep people active and socially engaged. If your proposal would benefit any of the following groups you could apply:

- Adults, including older people, who have long term conditions.
- Older people who are socially isolated.
- People who are in most need (addresses inequality of provision).

If your group applies you’ll be asked to explain how you will sustain the activity following the initial period of pilot funding. You’ll also need to demonstrate existing inequality of provision and how your project will meet local need. It’s important you ensure that there are measurable outcomes at the end of the funding period.

If you’re interested contact gail.anderson@vao.org.uk at Voluntary Action Orkney or write to Voluntary Action Orkney, 6 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, KW15 1HR.

The latest project was in Burray and you can read more about the [Burray Ball](#) in the next section.

BURRAY BALL

In June the **Living Well Delivery Group** awarded funding of £844.66 to **Burray Ball (Be Active Long Life) Group** from the **Community Development and Capacity Building Fund**.

Burray Ball provides exercise and social activities for people aged 60 and over. Its aims are to reduce social isolation, increase mobility, lessen the risk of falls and improve wellbeing. This in turn increases confidence and self esteem. As well as improved physical health and mental wellbeing, one of the benefits is being a valued part of the community.

It's no surprise that the group is very popular and now has around 18 members.



Members are forming new friendships with people who live nearby that they wouldn't otherwise have had the opportunity to meet.

The group has a range of activities to suit everyone.



FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS

Free sanitary products are now available in a range of public buildings in Orkney. This follows on from August last year, when free products were supplied in schools and colleges. The initiative is assisted by funding from the Scottish Government and has now been extended. Orkney’s community planning partners, including OIC and Voluntary Action Orkney, are distributing the free sanitary products to other facilities including community centres, libraries, community halls and a range of voluntary sector organisations.

Hayley Green, OIC’s Head of IT and Facilities, said: “In its 2018 Programme for Government, the Scottish Government made a commitment to increase the number and range of places where sanitary products are available for those who need them. Sanitary products are not a luxury product, they are a necessity for a very large part of someone’s life. We want to encourage people who need them to take the products — taking enough for their entire period, not just for that day. It doesn’t have to be for themselves either; they can pick them up for someone else.”



We’re doing some work with the schools as well to make sure sanitary products are available in the toilets, no one should have to ask for them. Remember to stock up for the school holidays if you need to.

Get in touch if you want to provide free sanitary products in the toilets in your building.

Keep your eye on our web pages on the Orkney Communities website as we’re going to include a list of buildings in each area where free sanitary products are available once our rollout is complete.

You may already have seen the products in your local public buildings. If haven’t and you want more information on how you can be involved in the initiative, do get in touch. Please also get in touch if you’ve any feedback at all on the initiative.

SYRIAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

Last, but certainly not least, our involvement in the Syrian Resettlement Programme resulted in another two Syrian families coming to Orkney in March 2019 to become part of our community. They join the two families who arrived in 2017 bringing the total number of refugees we have resettled to 18. (You can find out more about the Syrian Resettlement Programme [here](#).)

A range of support measures was developed for implementation by public agencies and the voluntary sector in Orkney, all focused on supporting positive outcomes.

This is not one of the priorities contained in the LOIP, assisting with a humanitarian crisis can't be planned for, but by working together we made a concerted effort to help. It is a huge step for families moving to a new home that is so different to their own, but it helps that this is such a welcoming community. We've had an enormous amount of help from organisations, businesses and individuals in our local community, both in the planning stages and since arrival. This is an excellent example of partnership working as, without the commitment of the partners and the community, Orkney would not have been able to participate in the Programme.



*Life in the
refugee camps*



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

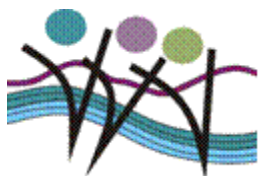
We give regular updates on what we're doing. We want anyone who's interested to be able to find out more so we publish newsletters regularly.



All of this information and much more can be found on our web pages on the Orkney Communities platform:

www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/COMMUNITYPLANNING/

If you can't find what you're looking for there, or if you want more information, please do get in touch as we'd love to hear from you. Contact Marie Love by email on corporateservices@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 01856 873535 extension 2153.



Working together for a better Orkney