



The Orkney Partnership

Working together for a better Orkney

Annual Report 2022 to 2023

Incorporating a progress report on
Orkney's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2021 to 2023

Welcome to the Orkney Partnership's Annual Report 2022-23

This Annual Report covers the second year of our two year Community Plan 2021-23, which we developed to support Orkney to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The priorities for this recovery plan were:

Connectivity – addressing both digital connectivity and transport.

Community Wellbeing – focusing on both individual and community wellbeing and the need to help people retake control of their lives.

Sustainable Recovery - which exploited the synergy between Orkney's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and doing our part to combat the climate emergency.

The year saw massive fuel price rises and the cost of living crisis affect an ever-increasing number of households in Orkney. As well as pursuing the priorities set out in the 2021-23 plan, the Partnership established a Cost of Living Task Force, and agencies across Orkney got together with a sense of urgency to map out what they could do to support those most in need.

The Task Force took as their starting point the actions identified in the Orkney Child Poverty Strategy 2022-26 and the Food Dignity

Report, and continues to look at other ways they can support families and individuals. In the new Orkney Community Plan 2023-30, which took effect from April 2023, the Cost of Living has become one of the Partnership's strategic priorities. Our other priorities are Local Equality, which will focus on Orkney's most disadvantaged communities, and Sustainable Development, which expands on the work begun under the theme of Sustainable Recovery.

Orkney is a community which has challenges, and it is also a community that pulls together to support each other. We want to express our thanks for all the hard work done across Orkney to support people through the pandemic and the initial recovery period. Through its new Community Plan, the Partnership will continue its work to make Orkney an even better place to live.

After several years as Chair and Vice-Chair, we stood down in June 2023 and the Orkney Partnership Board appointed Councillor Heather Woodbridge as its new Chair and Morven Brooks of Voluntary Action Orkney as its new Vice Chair, to take forward the new plan. We wish them both every success in their new roles.

Councillor James Stockan
Chair
Orkney Partnership Board



Meghan McEwen
Vice Chair
Orkney Partnership Board

Our structure during 2022-23



The Orkney Partnership Board is at the centre of our structure. During 2022-23, the Board was chaired by Councillor James Stockan, Council Leader, and the Vice Chair was Meghan McEwen, Chair of the Board of NHS Orkney. Membership is made up of all of the statutory partner organisations named in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, plus locally co-opted partners.

Each of the Board's strategic priorities is assigned to a Delivery Group, whose chairs sit on the Board. Delivery Groups include representatives of any organisation or group that can actively help to deliver the priority assigned to their group.

The Orkney Partnership Board is supported by an Executive Group comprising senior officers of the five partners with a duty to facilitate community planning, plus Voluntary Action Orkney and the Delivery Group chairs.

The Board or Delivery Groups may create short life working groups to address specific issues. During 2022-23, the Partnership had two short life working groups, the Cost of Living Task Force and the First Responders (Isles) Group, focusing on the provision of emergency first responders on the ferry linked isles. Meanwhile, the Council together with Highlands and Islands Enterprise invited private sector businesses to join a new Business Forum, to advise the Partnership on business matters.

The Board regularly reviews and sometimes changes the Partnership's strategic priorities, to make sure they are still right for Orkney and to address any new challenges we need to tackle.

Membership of Orkney Partnership Board during 2022-23

Five partners have a collective duty to **facilitate** community planning



Other partners have a duty to **participate** in community planning



The Board includes these local and co-opted partners



Orkney Community Plan 2021-23

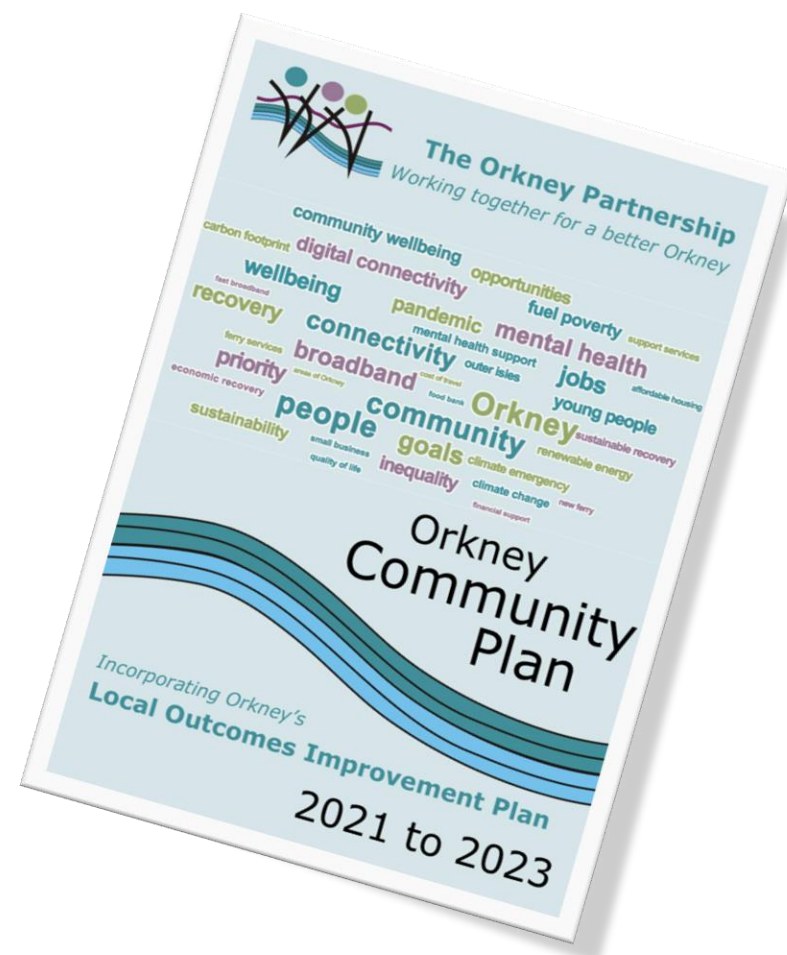
The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on community planning partnerships to prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (often called the LOIP). The LOIP sets out the local outcomes that a partnership has prioritised for improvement. The Orkney Partnership chooses to publish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

Our LOIP had previously been a three-year rolling plan which was refreshed, updated and reissued every year. However, in 2020, The Orkney Partnership Board decided to develop a shorter term recovery plan to cover the two years 2021-23. Public consultation took place early in 2021 and the new community plan was adopted in June 2021. It can be found on the Partnership's website at www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/CommunityPlanning.

The following pages describe the progress made by our delivery groups against their target outcomes, during the second year of the plan. The performance measures reported by each group are not necessarily measures we can control, but are indicators of how well Orkney is doing. For example, the roll out of digital connectivity (The R100 Programme) is the responsibility of the UK and Scottish Governments.

To measure progress against particular outcomes, we rely on various national surveys and data. The Partnership usually uses for information that is collated nationally, to avoid disproportionate effort being put into researching data instead of implementing the plan. The data available nationally is generally reliable, although data collection during Covid-related lockdowns has not been straightforward.

Some of the data we use is not collected annually, e.g. the Scottish Government's survey for the National Islands Plan, but is published regularly enough for our longer term outcomes which require long term strategies. Where possible, the same indicators are used over time making it possible to track progress over time. This report covers the second year of the 2021-23 plan.



Community Wellbeing

| | What we aim to achieve | |
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| | Our aim is to support Orkney's individuals and communities to withstand and recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts. | |
| | Target outcomes | Progress during 2022-23 |
| A. | Consolidate and develop effective partnerships and collaborative work to support individuals and communities through recovery. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Group drafted a Poverty Pledge that was adopted by the Partnership: <i>"We believe that it is not acceptable that people in our community live in poverty. Over the coming years, we will commit our time, energy, and resources to do all we can, in partnership, to work towards the elimination of poverty throughout Orkney."</i> This Pledge guided the work of the Partnership through the year up to the present. The partnership published the Orkney Child Poverty Strategy 2022-2026 and the VAO published the Food Dignity Report on behalf of the partnership and these documents, along with the Fuel Poverty Strategy currently being drafted, set out how poverty will be tackled in Orkney, including by the Partnership. The cost of living crisis became more urgent during the year, as fuel prices rose, the price of everyday household goods increased and incomes failed to match the higher prices we all had to pay. A dedicated Cost of Living Task Force was established by the Partnership that drew up ambitious plans to challenge poverty, incorporating the actions identified in the Child Poverty Strategy and Food Report, including an advice/cash first approach to help those in need. Funding from the council was provided for a partnership project led by VAO called Orkney Money Matters. This will create new advice posts and deliver a far more co-ordinated approach to ensure those in need are identified and given all the help they need. The project was set up in the first quarter of 2023, with most of the posts recruited to and became live shortly after. |
| B. | Improve the resilience and sustainability of Orkney's fragile communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report on streamlining Multi-agency Groups was produced by the partnership and a central register of all the groups created which sets out the purpose of the group and the contact details. This is revised periodically and circulated to partners. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Delivery Group held an online conference 12 May 2022 allowing community organisations across Orkney to share the lessons they learnt from how they had to adapt to the challenges of the Pandemic. The Delivery Group secured a further £74,000 for a Mental Health Wellbeing Fund which it allocated to agencies providing support to people. A further £305,000 challenge fund was provided by the Council and distributed by Voluntary Action Orkney to Third Sector agencies to support people through the recovery period. |
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Measuring progress in Community Wellbeing

| How households are managing financially in Orkney (Source: Scottish Household Survey 2019 and Data Explorer) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| | 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | 2022-23 Outcome | Progress in 2022-23 |
| Managing very well or quite well | 66% | 66% | 66% | n/a | National figures have not been updated since 2021. |
| Get by all right | 31% | 32% | 34% | n/a | |
| Don't manage very well and have some financial difficulties | 3% | 2% | 0% | n/a | |
| <p>In this period, it is likely that the position of households in Orkney has deteriorated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rising fuel prices when households in Orkney already pay a significantly higher than average proportion of their income on fuel.• Cost of living, especially food, has gone up and average wages in Orkney are less than the average for Scotland. <p>Consequently, it is likely that the number of people who are managing very well or well has decreased.</p> <p>NB This measure is included in the 2023-30 LOIP so it will be possible to measure over time how well people are managing.</p> | | | | | |
| Percentage of dwellings in Orkney in Fuel Poverty (Source: Scottish House Condition Survey Local Authority Analysis 2019) | | | | | |
| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Progress in 2021-22 | Progress in 2022-23 | |
| 30.5% (Scottish average 24.4%) | Reduce | Same as Scottish average | National figures have not been updated. | National figures have not been updated. | |
| <p>Updated figures have not yet been published but it is inevitable that fuel poverty will have been exacerbated by recent high price rises.</p> <p>NB This measure is included in the 2023-30 LOIP so it will be possible to measure over time how well people are managing.</p> | | | | | |

Percentage of dwellings in Orkney in Extreme Fuel Poverty 2017-19 (Source: [Scottish House Condition Survey Local Authority Analysis 2019](#))

| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Progress in 2021-22 | Progress in 2022-23 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 21.8% (Scottish average 11.9%) | Reduce | Same as Scottish average | National figures have not been updated. | National figures have not been updated. |

Updated figures have not yet been published but it is inevitable that extreme fuel poverty will have been exacerbated by recent high price rises. NB This measure is included in the 2023-30 LOIP so it will be possible to measure over time how well people are managing.

Population of the ferry-linked isles (Source: [Scotland's Census](#))

| 2020-21 Baseline | 2022-23 Target | Progress in 2021-22 | Progress in 2022-23 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 2,862 (Census 2011) | Maintain or increase (Census 2022) | The 2022 census has not yet been published. | The 2022 census has not yet been published. |

National Records of Scotland will begin to release the local results of the 2022 census in 2023. A local estimate as of January 2021 put the population at 2,743 ([2021-23 LOIP](#)). The estimated figure indicates a small (4%) drop in the population since 2011, which is in line with long term trends.

Percentage of adult residents (18-75) planning to stay on the island for the next 5 years (Source: [National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020](#) and [online results explorer tool](#))

| | 2020-21 Baseline | 2022-23 Target | Progress in 2021-22 | Progress in 2022-23 |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orkney Mainland | 87.2 | Increase | Not applicable, survey only every two years. | This survey was originally planned to be repeated every two years but the 2022 survey has been put back to 2023. |
| Yes | 4.4 | Decrease | | |
| No | 8.4 | Decrease | | |
| Don't know | | | | |
| Orkney Outer Isles | 79.0 | Increase | | |
| Yes | 8.7 | Decrease | | |
| No | 12.3 | Decrease | | |
| Don't know | | | | |

Net migration to Orkney has been positive for the last few decades i.e. the number moving to Orkney is greater than those leaving. National Records of Scotland estimates for 2019-20 indicate that net migration was 170 which is typical of previous years. NB This measure is included in the 2023-30 LOIP so it will be possible to track population levels over time.

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| Percentage of adults participating in some form of sport or exercise, including walking, in previous 4 weeks (Source: Scottish Household Survey 2019 and Data Explorer) | | | | |
| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Progress in 2021-22 | Progress in 2022-23 |
| 86% | 87% | 88% | National figures have not been updated. | National figures have not been updated. |
| <p>Scottish Household Survey figures for 2020 and 2021 have not yet been published. Anecdotal evidence would indicate that during lockdown, exercise increased as many people took daily walks.</p> <p>The National Islands Plan Survey found that 83.5% of people agreed that “...there are places I could go to take part in sports and physical exercise.”</p> | | | | |
| Access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services - waiting period of 18 weeks or less from referral to treatment (source: Orkney Health and Care Strategic Commissioning Implementation Plan 2021-22) | | | | |
| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Progress in 2021-22 | Progress in 2022-23 |
| 90% (NHS Delivery Standard) | 90% | 90% | 94% | 93% |

Sustainable Recovery

| Sustainable Recovery | | |
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| | What we aim to achieve | |
| | Our aim is to exploit the synergy between two linked priorities: Orkney's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and combatting the climate emergency. | |
| | Target outcomes | Progress during 2022-23 |
| | A demonstrable upturn in Orkney's economy, supported through co-ordination and implementation of the ASPIRE Orkney action plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partnership adopted Community Wealth Building as the approach to develop Orkney's economy, moving towards Net Zero and a Wellbeing Economy. Community Wealth Building will ensure that more of the wealth generated in Orkney remains in the county and is shared across the community but also that economic activity is sustainable, i.e., Doughnut Economics. In February 2023, the Partnership organised a workshop with partners, councillors and the Scottish Government to explore what Community Wealth Building could look like in Orkney and how best to take it forward locally. The Partnership published the report from the Economic Recovery Steering Group: Housing in an Economic Context: A Review of The Last 20 Years of Population Growth in Orkney and The Effects This Has Had on Housing Provision and Availability. |
| | A "Just Transition" towards a well-being economy with a focus on climate change, fair work, and diversity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just transition will be central to Orkney's vision for Community Wealth Building. It was agreed to set up a Skills Working Group, led by Skills Development Scotland and working closely with the Local Employability Partnership, to ensure that local people develop the skills necessary to grow Orkney's wellbeing economy. This will support the Skills Charter. Core to Just Transition is energy jobs, and a conference was convened by Orkney Renewable Energy Forum (OREF) 26 March 2023 to develop an Action Plan to deliver the Orkney Strategy Energy Strategy. |
| | Measurable progress towards Scotland's target of net zero emissions by 2045. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scotland has a target of Net Zero by 2045, halving emissions by 2030. The Partnership has taken the view that Orkney should be more ambitious with a NetZero target for 2030. This would contribute to reducing the damage caused by climate change and allow Orkney to take advantage of funding opportunities and economic development by being early adopters. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hoy was selected by the Scottish Government to be one of its six pilot Carbon Neutral Islands, benefiting from government support to become carbon neutral by 2040. Community Energy Scotland is coordinating the three implementation phases – carbon audits, community climate change action plans and investment strategies. The Partnership have led initial discussion between NatureScot, HIE and the Council to develop a project to restore Orkney's peat lands in a carbon off-setting project with local businesses. |
| | An adaptation strategy to protect our citizens, businesses, habitats and wildlife from the effects of climate change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Orkney Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028, developed the Council and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), was finalised in 2022. During 2022-23, the Council recruited a permanent Climate Change Officer, who will work with partners to take forward an adaptation strategy for Orkney. |

Measuring progress in Sustainable Recovery

| Employment rate (16-64 years) (source: NOMIS Official labour market statistics) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2018-19 Baseline | 2019-20 target | 2020-21 target | 2021-22 target | Actual 2021-22 figure | Actual 2022-23 figure (Jan to Dec 2022) |
| 88.7% | >85% | >85% | >85% | 78.5% | 87.5% |
| There was an initial significant drop in the employment rate because of lowered economic activity in Orkney, especially in the tourist sector, as a result of the impact of Covid-19, and we may also be seeing the impact of some people deciding to retire early. There has been an almost complete recovery of employment levels during 2022. | | | | | |
| % of 16-19 year olds participating in education, employment and other training and development activities (source: Skills Development Scotland, Annual Participation Measure) | | | | | |
| 2018-19 Baseline | 2019-20 target | 2020-21 target | 2021-22 target | Actual 2021 figure | Actual 2022 figure |
| 95.4% | Maintain | Maintain | Maintain | 93.4% | 93.9% |
| Orkney's participation rate dropped 2% in 2021 but partially recovered in 2022, giving a net 1.5% decline over the two years. National participation rates have increased by 0.8% over the same period but at 92.4% remain marginally lower than Orkney. | | | | | |

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| Businesses in the Highlands and Islands that are optimistic over their future prospects in the next 12 months (Source: HIE Business Panel June 2021 report and HIE Business Panel Report, February/March 2022 report). | | | | | |
| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Five-year target 2026-27 | Feb/March 2022 | April 2023 (% optimistic over future prospects for the next 6 months) |
| 75% Jan/Feb 2020 | 80% June 2021 | Maintain or improve | >80% | 77% | 85% |
| HIE changed this indicator in 2023 from a 12 month optimism forecast to a 6 month optimism forecast. It is likely that, had the original indicator remained unchanged, our original target for 2022-23 would still have been met. | | | | | |
| House build completions in Orkney, all sectors (source: OIC Building Standards) | | | | | |
| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Five-year target 2026-27 | 2021-22 Outcome | 2022-23 Outcome |
| 92 | 144 | 130 | 225 | 119 | 93 |
| % Orkney pupils' journeys to school by walking/cycling/scooter/skate (all schools excluding nursery) (Source: Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey 2020 and 2021, and 2022). | | | | | |
| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Five-year target 2026-27 | 2021 | 2022 |
| 33.7% | Improve | Improve | >40% | 36.7% | 33.7% |
| Over the period of this plan, we have not seen any overall improvement to this indicator. | | | | | |
| % Walking journeys to work as a proportion of all journeys in Orkney (Source: Scottish Government 2019 and 2021 Transport – Travel to Work and Other Purposes) | | | | | |
| Baseline (2019) | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Five-year target 2026-27 | 2021 | 2022 |
| 27% | Improve | Improve | >35% | 14% | n/a |
| The statistics indicate a considerable drop in the number of people walking to work. This may partially be related to changes in work patterns during and since the pandemic. Figures for 2022 have not yet been updated by Scottish Government. | | | | | |

Local Authority territorial area - CO2 emissions estimates 2019 and 2020 (kilotonnes CO2) (Sources – [UK Government local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics 2005-2019](#) and [2005-2020](#))

| | Original 2019 Baseline* | Revised 2019 Baseline* | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Five-year target 2026-27 | 2020 (latest figures) |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Commercial | 8.9 kt | 5.6 kt | Reduction commensurate with achieving NetZero by 2045 | Reduction commensurate with achieving NetZero by 2045 | Reduction commensurate with achieving NetZero by 2045 | 3.8 kt |
| Public Sector | 2.6 kt | 2.4 kt | | | | 2.5 kt |
| Domestic | 42.0 kt | 36.4 kt | | | | 36.4 kt |
| Transport | 31.1 kt | 32.4 kt | | | | 26.7 kt |
| LULUCF** | 135.6 kt | 124.1 kt | | | | 123.9 kt |
| Total for Orkney | 277.2 kt | 251.6 kt | | | | 240.3 kt |

*Since the publication of the LOIP 2023-30, the 2019 baseline estimates have been recalculated and the new figure is set out in brackets.

**Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

Figures are for the whole of a local authority's territorial area, not the local authority itself.

No updates have been available since 2020 but, up to then, some progress has been made towards meeting the target.

NB These are long term targets and this measure has therefore been included in the 2023-30 LOIP.

Connectivity

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| | What we aim to achieve | |
| | Our aim is to improve Orkney's connectivity by resolving the issues holding up the delivery of 21st century mobile, broadband and transport networks to all of Orkney's communities. | |
| | Target outcomes | Progress during 2022-23 |
| | Equal standards of digital connectivity to elsewhere in the UK, with mobile and broadband services available and affordable to all in Orkney. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government's R100 programme has continued to roll out providing more homes with better connectivity, but progress by BT OpenReach has been significantly slower than planned. • Additional funding has been acquired which means that around 1,000 additional households, mainly on the ferry linked isles, will be connected by the end of the programme in 2028. |
| | Integrated, sustainable and affordable transport services which meet the needs of Orkney's residents, businesses and visitors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following pressure from the Council and community planning partners, the Scottish Government agreed to convene a Taskforce to work with the Council and other partners to address the funding needed to replace the inter-isles ferry fleet. The Taskforce met once in February 2023 but was subsequently suspended due to the SNP leadership campaign. • The Partnership made a submission to the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) consultation arguing that Orkney's internal ferry service should be included as a life-line service and continues to challenge the decision made to sift out council-funded services. • The Scottish Government, following lobbying by the Council and community planning partners, continued to provide the additional revenue funding required to run the inter-island ferry service. • The junior rate for ferry fares has been extended to all those aged up to 22, paid for by the Council. • The Partnership continued to lobby Scottish Ministers about the case for Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) to be rolled out to Orkney. |

Measuring progress in Connectivity

% Orkney premises unable to access 10Mbps/s Broadband (Sources: [Ofcom Connected Nations 2020](#), [Ofcom Connected Nations 2022](#), and [Ofcom Connected Nations 2023](#))

| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | 2022 Outcome | 2023 Outcome |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 20.7% | 10% | 0% | 19.7% | 17.2% |

% Orkney premises unable to access 30Mbps/s Broadband (Sources: [Ofcom Connected Nations 2020](#), [Ofcom Connected Nations 2022](#), and [Ofcom Connected Nations 2023](#))

| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | Five-year target 2026-27 | 2022 Outcome | 2023 Outcome |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 31.5% | 20% | 10% | 0% | 32.9% | 31% |

% Orkney residents whose internet connection at home is fast enough to do what they want online (Source: [National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020](#) and [online results explorer tool](#))

| | 2020-21 Baseline | 2022-23 Target | Five-year target 2026-27 | 2022 Outcome | 2023 Outcome |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orkney Mainland | 70% | Increase | 100% | Not applicable, survey only every two years. | The survey scheduled for 2022 was postponed to 2023. Updated results will not be available until 2024. |
| Ferry-linked isles | 45% | Increase | 100% | | |

Commentary on broadband speed indicators:

The Scottish Government launched the Reaching 100% programme (R100) in 2017 with the aim of having full coverage in Scotland for all premises with a minimum speed for 30 Mb by 2021. There were significant delays during the tendering progress and consequently these targets have not been met.

In summer 2022, further investment was announced that will extend R100 to an additional 1,000 properties in Orkney and the Council is working with the Scottish Government to improve on that.

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| % Orkney residents who have a good mobile phone signal at home (Source: National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020 and online results explorer tool) | | | | | |
| | 2020-21 Baseline | 2022-23 Target | Five-year target 2026-27 | 2022 Outcome | 2023 Outcome |
| Orkney Mainland | 78% | Increase | 100% | Not applicable, survey only every two years. | The survey scheduled for 2022 was postponed to 2023. Updated results will not be available until 2024. |
| Ferry-linked isles | 27% | Increase | 100% | | |
| The Scottish Government is leading on this, and the Shared Rural Network (SRN) is an agreement involving the four largest mobile network operators: EE, O2, Three and Vodafone. Government has provided subsidies to build masts but even with these subsidies, the companies consider there is little commercial case for many developments. Four EE sites have been built which include two (September 2022) waiting to go live. | | | | | |
| % of people in Orkney very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public transport (Source: Scottish Household Survey 2019 and Data Explorer) | | | | | |
| 2020-21 Baseline | 2021-22 Milestone | 2022-23 Target | 2022 Outcome | 2023 Outcome | |
| 61% | 70% | 80% | National figures have not yet been updated. | National figures have not yet been updated. | |
| This indicator is taken from the Scottish Household Survey, which publishes much of its data as three-year rolling averages. This is more robust for small populations and smooths out anomalous years. Due to inconsistencies in data collection during the pandemic, the SHS has not been updated since 2019 data was published, and we have been unable to measure progress in a quantitative way. | | | | | |
| % of Orkney residents who agree “When I make journeys to or from my home, it is easy connecting between different forms of transport” (Source: National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020 and online results explorer tool) | | | | | |
| | 2020-21 Baseline | 2022-23 Target | 2022 Figure | 2023 Figure | |
| Orkney Mainland | 46% | 60% | Not applicable, survey only every two years. | The survey scheduled for 2022 was postponed to 2023. Updated results will not be available until 2024. | |
| Ferry-linked isles | 29% | 50% | | | |

Activity of Short Life Working Groups in 2022-23

Cost of Living Task Force

The Cost of Living Task Force was set up as a short life working group in June 2022 and, from 1 April 2023, is a full Delivery Group. The group addresses the immediate cost of living crisis and the underlying causes of poverty in Orkney.

The Task Force has drawn together the actions from Orkney's Child Poverty Strategy, and the Orkney Food Dignity Report into a single action plan. When the Orkney Fuel Poverty Strategy is finalised, any additional actions will be incorporated into this plan.

The Orkney Partnership produced the Orkney Child Poverty Strategy 2022-26 and has published several statutory Local Child Poverty Action Reports, the most recent of which is linked below.

- [Orkney Child Poverty Strategy 2022-2026](#)
- [Orkney Local Child Poverty Action Report 2021-22](#)
- [Food Dignity Recommendations Report](#)

Orkney Money Matters is, to date, the most important initiative of the Task Force. It is a new partnership project between Voluntary Action Orkney, Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau, Orkney Blide Trust, Orkney Islands Council, Orkney Housing Association, NHS Orkney, the Foodbank and the Trussell Trust. It has initially been funded by Orkney Islands Council. It will reduce the levels of financial insecurity in Orkney by increasing access to advice, and cash-based support, through the creation of a 'advice-and-cash-first' referral pathway. The project will develop frameworks and resources to support closer working between organisation, as well as developing a centralised promotion campaign to raise awareness of available support.

First Responders (Isles) Group

This group was set up because of the situation some islands found themselves in where all voluntary first responders had resigned, and the lack of first responder cover was particularly exacerbated by gaps in primary and emergency medical cover on islands. In a medical emergency, the waiting times for patient transfer to secondary care can be lengthy, so the on-island medical professional relies on first responders to drive the ambulance and assist the medical professional as required. Among the island communities there is a significant disparity in numbers of responders, consistent cover, voluntary cover and different paid responder schemes. Upon the setup of this group, there was concern that the Scottish Ambulance Service would experience significant issues in ensuring recruitment of voluntary first responders due to the inequalities in contractual arrangements between islands and significant concerns about the current strategy to rely on volunteer responders going forward. Ultimately there is a real concern that the Scottish Ambulance Service will be unable to meet its statutory responsibilities to deliver first responder services to all areas of Orkney without first addressing the current inequalities in contractual provision across all island communities. The working group was called together to explore options to provide an equitable and sustainable service and is still working to resolve this challenge.

Review of The Orkney Partnership

Early in 2022, the Orkney Partnership Board invited the Improvement Service to conduct a review of the Partnership's operation and effectiveness, with a focus on the Executive Group and the Board itself. The review was carried out during summer 2022 using a methodology based on the Public Sector Improvement Framework. This comprised two main stages: a survey questionnaire which was completed by members of each group and submitted to the Improvement Service for analysis, and a workshop for each group exploring the findings from their survey and developing potential improvement actions.

The Partnership agreed on a range of issues on which to focus improvement work, including performance reporting, resourcing the delivery groups, greater contribution and challenge from all partners, shared leadership, clearer lines of accountability, more effective early intervention and prevention, and better co-ordinated community engagement. An improvement plan was agreed by the Board in December 2022 and many of these workstreams were under way by the end of 2022-23.



The Orkney Partnership

Our shared mission is: *Working together for a better Orkney*

Our shared values are:

Resilience
Enterprise
Equality
Fairness
Innovation
Leadership
Sustainability

All the information in this report, and much more, can be found at:
www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/CommunityPlanning

If you would like this report in a different language or format, or just
require more information, please contact us at:

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