

Preamble to the constitution of the Orkney Manifesto Group

The Orkney Manifesto Group is a registered political party which exists to promote good governance for the Orkney Islands, in particular through strengthened democratic arrangements within the framework of the United Kingdom.

We support increased autonomy for Orkney through the creation of a Single Public Authority solely for the Orkney Islands.

We support party politicisation of the Orkney Islands Council as one means of increasing democratic accountability and transparency. We believe that a council of independent members lends itself to weakened political scrutiny and places excessive power in the hands of unelected individuals.

We believe that the party politicisation of Orkney Islands Council is a prerequisite for developing it into a Single Public Authority. Along with increased powers, the Orkney Islands Council or its successor must have strong democratic credentials and attract high quality candidates for election.

We aspire to a fair, free and open society of equal opportunity where each individual has a right of self-determination and in which no one should be disadvantaged by poverty or ignorance.

We value individual freedom, dignity, well-being and empowerment. We believe that all should have the opportunity to contribute fully to their communities and to take part in the decisions which affect their lives.

We believe that each generation has a responsibility for safeguarding the environment. Stewardship of the environment requires maintaining a balance between sustainable economic development and conservation.

Upholding values of individual and social justice, we reject all prejudice and discrimination based upon race, colour, religion, age, disability, sex or sexual orientation, and oppose all forms of entrenched privilege and inequality.

We will foster a strong and sustainable economy which develops and uses the skills of the people and works to the benefit of all. However, we believe that the role of local government is to enable, not to manage business.

We seek to make public services responsive to the people they serve, to encourage variety and innovation within them and to make them available on equal terms to all.

The Orkney Manifesto Group is not affiliated with any national political party and shall always remain non-affiliated.