

DRAFT

Island Communities Impact Assessment for Orkney Community Plan 2023 to 2030 (incorporating Orkney's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan)

Step one – Develop a Clear Understanding of your Objectives:	
What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?	<p>The publication of a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) is a statutory duty of the facilitating partners of a community planning partnership under Part 2 (Community Planning) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.</p> <p>The purpose of Orkney Community Plan, which incorporates the statutory LOIP, is to articulate a coherent framework for long term partnership working in Orkney. The proposed planning period of 2023-2030 is intended to focus attention on the Orkney Partnership's ambition to achieve net zero by 2030.</p>
Do you need to consult?	Yes.
How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy or service?	The whole of Orkney is considered to be islands for the purpose of the LOIP. Comparisons are made with the UK or Scottish mainland where applicable, for example where national policy places islands in general, or Orkney in particular, at a disadvantage. In accordance with the requirements of ICIA, special consideration is given to individual islands, and to the ferry-linked isles as a group, where their circumstances and/or the effects of the LOIP may be different from those of Orkney as a whole.
What are the intended impacts / outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?	<p>The strategic priorities and planned outcomes in the 2023-2030 LOIP are:</p> <p>Priority 1: Cost of Living.</p> <p>Our aim is to xxx</p> <p>Our target outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• yyy• zzz <p>Priority 2: Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Our aim is to xxx.</p> <p>Our target outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• yyy• zzz <p>Priority 3: Local Equality.</p> <p>Our aim is to xxx.</p> <p>Our target outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• yyy.• zzz.

	<p>Differential effects on the ferry-linked isles.</p> <p>A key strategy driver behind the LOIP is the need to level up provision on the ferry-linked isles compared with the Orkney mainland / linked south isles. Access to services is significantly worse on most of the outer isles due in large part to sub-standard transport infrastructure and constraints on transport service provision, and sub-standard or non-existent broadband / mobile infrastructure. This inequality is contributing to the continuing depopulation of the ferry-linked isles.</p> <p>Many of the ferry-linked isles have a relatively older population than the Mainland, putting their sustainability at risk. The isles also proved particularly vulnerable to income and food insecurity early in the first lockdown.</p> <p>The Local Equality strategic priority specifically addresses the need to improve the resilience of Orkney’s most disadvantaged communities, including the ferry-linked isles.</p>
<p>Is the policy, strategy or service new?</p>	<p>No. The LOIP has been a statutory plan since the passing of the 2015 Act. In Orkney it is published as a rolling plan, typically of 3 years duration and updated every year. The previous plan, 2021-2023, was atypical as it covered a shorter period and focused specifically on Orkney’s recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The new plan has a longer duration to focus attention on our target date for net zero of 2030.</p>
<p>Step two – Gather your Data and Identify your Stakeholders:</p>	
<p>What data is available about the current situation in the islands?</p>	<p>Most published data sources cover Orkney as a whole, which does not enable comparison between the Orkney Mainland / linked south isles and the ferry-linked isles. There are three main national sources of data which differentiate between the two: the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2020), which is reported at datazone level, Scotland’s Census data, some of which is available at individual island level, and the recently published National Islands Plan Survey report. Census output is limited mostly to demographic data which is useful for equalities considerations but, since the last census in Scotland was done a year late in 2022 we will not have up to date figures at individual island level before 2023 at the earliest.</p> <p>At present the 2020 National Islands Plan survey is the most useful national data available at isles level. Survey responses are split between Orkney Mainland (630) and Orkney Outer Isles (160), and all of the survey data can be interrogated online via the data explorer. Questions cover a wide range of topics including employment and business opportunities, transport, housing, fuel poverty, digital connectivity, health, social care, the environment, climate change, culture and education. Scottish Government has confirmed that the survey will next be repeated in 2023, a year later than originally planned, and thereafter every two years to provide an ongoing data bank for longitudinal analysis.</p>

	<p>Locally, the best source of survey data is the Orkney Matters consultation conducted by Orkney Islands Council between October 2021 and March 2022. This included information gathered via virtual meetings for representatives from small groups of islands so that their particular experiences could be captured.</p>
<p>Do you need to consult?</p>	<p>Yes. Consultation is being done in two stages. Pre-drafting consultation has already been done, with the main input coming from Orkney Matters.</p> <p>The National Islands Plan survey has also provided a wealth of information to compare the experience of residents of the isles with those of the Orkney mainland. The NIP survey is scheduled to be repeated in 2023 (for publication in 2024), and every two years thereafter.</p> <p>A further stage of public consultation will be carried out once the new LOIP has been drafted, to ascertain whether the Orkney public is content with the strategic priorities identified by the Orkney Partnership Board and with the main measures proposed to address them.</p>
<p>How does any existing data differ between islands?</p>	<p>All data sources which differentiate between the isles and the Orkney mainland show differences between the two. SIMD 2020 shows a higher degree of socio-economic deprivation in the ferry-linked isles, due to difficulty in accessing services and lower incomes. The table below shows the correlation between SIMD 2020v2 (Corrected release see Scottish index of multiple deprivation 2020) data and household incomes at that time (The applicable copyright notices for CACI data can be found at Copyright and Third Party Notices), supplied by CACI Paycheck data.</p>

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2020) rankings and corresponding household incomes for datazones in Orkney.

Data Zone	Location	Overall SIMD 2020 rank	Overall decile 2020	Lower quartile household income	Mean household Income	Upper quartile household income
S01011821	Kirkwall - Pickaquooy	1,995	3	£13,202	£27,665	£36,627
S01011827	Hoy, Walls & Flotta	2,097	4	£10,915	£24,092	£31,307
S01011831	Stronsay, Sanday & North Ronaldsay	2,476	4	£12,354	£25,674	£33,566
S01011822	Kirkwall - Town Centre	2,679	4	£14,125	£29,352	£38,940
S01011830	Shapinsay, Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre	2,710	4	£15,161	£30,587	£40,254
S01011824	Kirkwall - The Meadows East	2,749	4	£13,943	£30,876	£41,800
S01011820	Kirkwall - Glaitness Road & Hornersquoy	3,074	5	£14,729	£34,474	£46,610
S01011832	Eday, Westray & Papay	3,153	5	£13,123	£27,604	£36,556
S01011804	Stromness - South	3,187	5	£15,239	£32,734	£43,753
S01011808	Firth	3,402	5	£18,273	£37,753	£50,105
S01011828	South Ronaldsay	3,421	5	£15,969	£34,307	£45,863
S01011819	Kirkwall - South	4,336	7	£14,788	£30,833	£41,204
S01011829	Burray	4,356	7	£20,895	£41,094	£54,104
S01011813	Holm	4,373	7	£21,412	£42,433	£56,600
S01011823	Kirkwall - KGS & Bignold Park	4,412	7	£17,039	£36,474	£48,449
S01011810	Harray	4,434	7	£18,945	£38,175	£50,365
S01011809	Orphir	4,446	7	£20,655	£39,834	£52,300
S01011825	Kirkwall - Papdale West	4,471	7	£17,314	£35,743	£47,441
S01011814	Holm East, Toab & Deerness	4,607	7	£21,139	£40,849	£53,943
S01011812	Evie, Rendall & Gairsay	4,790	7	£20,558	£41,212	£54,840
S01011817	St Ola - West	4,836	7	£20,719	£41,422	£54,711
S01011826	Kirkwall - Harbour and North	4,851	7	£19,226	£38,188	£49,974
S01011811	Birsay & Dounby	4,902	8	£20,168	£39,741	£52,667
S01011806	Stromness - Outer Town	4,911	8	£19,093	£38,916	£51,152
S01011815	Tankerness	4,977	8	£21,532	£43,412	£57,938
S01011818	Kirkwall - Holm Road	5,263	8	£18,129	£38,884	£52,062
S01011807	Sandwick and Stenness	5,424	8	£21,943	£43,139	£57,183
S01011805	Stromness - North	5,566	8	£16,724	£35,085	£46,288
S01011816	St Ola - East	5,616	9	£26,740	£50,836	£66,972

How does any existing data differ between islands? (continued).	National Islands Plan survey results show poorer results for many services on the ferry-linked isles. Some sample data are given below.	
National Islands Plan Survey. (selected questions).	Orkney Mainland (including linked south isles)	Orkney Outer Isles
It is easy for young people (under 40) who want to live and work here to do so (% agree or strongly agree).	53.4	21.3
Parents have access to childcare services that suit their working hours (% agree or strongly agree).	29.2	8.5

When I make journeys to or from my home, it is easy connecting between different forms of transport (% agree or strongly agree).	45.9	29.1
In the past year my home sometimes felt uncomfortably cold in the winter (% agree or strongly agree).	31.47	38.0
My internet connection at home is fast enough to do what I want online (% agree or strongly agree).	69.1	45.0
How does any existing data differ between islands? (continued).	Population data estimated locally at January 2021 showed that the long-term trend towards depopulation of the ferry-linked isles has continued since the last Census of 2011. While Orkney's population has risen steadily overall, there has been a drift away from the isles into Kirkwall and the age profile on the isles has risen.	
Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?	<p>Previous editions of the LOIP have highlighted the isles and the Partnership's first Locality Plan 2018-21 specifically targeted the ferry-linked isles. To support the Locality Plan, two successful bids were made to the Scottish Government's Community Choices fund, and participatory budgeting exercises badged "Your Island, Your Choice" were carried out.</p> <p>Nevertheless, key elements of infrastructure remain to be solved, notably transport links and digital connectivity. As shown in the data above, there is a significant differential between service provision on the mainland and the isles. The new LOIP elevates Local Equality to a strategic priority and commits to tackling persistent inequality on the isles. The new delivery group for Local Equality will be tasked with addressing socio-economic disadvantage wherever it occurs in Orkney, with a particular focus on supporting local community-led development plans.</p> <p>The remaining strategic priorities in the new LOIP – Cost of Living and Sustainable Development – are not so specifically focused on the isles but will contribute to their improved sustainability as these factors are critical to small communities where even one house or job can determine whether or not a family is able to stay.</p>	
Step three – Consultation:		
Who do you need to consult with?	A public consultation on the draft LOIP is scheduled for January 2023, following consideration of the draft plan by the Orkney Partnership Board at their meeting of 14 December 2022.	
How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?	The LOIP consultation will be conducted in parallel with the public consultation on the new draft Council Plan 2023-28. The two consultations will be co-ordinated and most likely conducted as a single exercise both to avoid	

	<p>duplication and to emphasise the relationship and interaction between the two plans.</p> <p>The Council Plan consultation will follow consideration of the draft Council Plan by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee at their meeting of 22 November 2022.</p> <p>We will offer a range of options for public response, with the primary channel being an online survey but with paper copies posted out and written responses accepted where this is the channel preferred by respondents.</p> <p>Respondents will be asked which island they live on, in order to differentiate between the answers received from those on the Orkney Mainland/south linked isles, or on the ferry-linked isles. To avoid breach of confidentiality for those on smaller islands, we will include an option to say simply which of those groups they are in.</p> <p>The joint consultation will be open for four weeks to allow time to build feedback on the draft plans into the final iterations. The final version of the Council Plan is scheduled for submission to Policy and Resources Committee on 21 February 2023, and the final version of the new LOIP is scheduled for submission to the Orkney Partnership Board in March 2023. Both plans will take effect on 1 April 2023.</p>
<p>What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?</p>	<p>The consultation will ask questions about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether respondents are content with the priorities selected in both plans and the delivery plans proposed to address them. • What they would change (if anything) about those priorities or plans. • Whether anything in either plan might impact differently on their own island compared with any other island (positively or negatively) or with the Orkney Mainland/linked south isles. • Whether there are any negative impacts on their own island which they feel require mitigation. • How they would like that mitigation to be achieved.
<p>What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns have been raised previously by island communities?</p>	<p>The results of the National Islands Plan survey and Orkney Matters are noted above.</p> <p>Concerns raised at Orkney Matters meetings by island representatives included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifeline ferry services – sustainability, critical need for new fleet, timetabling to enable access to services and social events.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited capacity of inter-island air travel. • Community-led planning with a single plan for each island or community • The need for housing to attract new residents • Gaps in digital connectivity • The potential for community hubs for local/visiting workers • Mental health and access to healthy living/gym facilities <p>The National Islands Plan survey revealed significant disadvantages in access to services, facilities and employment opportunities for isles residents compared with Orkney Mainland residents.</p>
Is your consultation robust and meaningful and sufficient to comply with the Section 7 duty?	We believe the two consultations taken together – Orkney Matters and the public consultation on the draft plan – comply fully with the duty.
Step four – Assessment:	
Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities?	With regard to localities within Orkney, depopulation is unique to the ferry-linked isles. Other impacts, e.g. limited transport availability and substandard digital connectivity, are exacerbated on the isles but are not unique to them.
Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?	There are significant cost barriers to the improvement of connectivity infrastructure. These are contributing to the depopulation problem on the isles.
How will you address these?	A delivery group is being convened to focus specifically on Local Equality. This will not be restricted solely to the isles but will address issues of socio-economic inequality wherever they occur, including on the isles. Our other two delivery groups will also address issues of inequality which arise in their strategic priority areas of Cost of Living and Sustainable Development.
<p>You must now determine whether in your opinion your policy, strategy or service is likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities).</p> <p>If your answer is NO to the above question, a full ICIA will NOT be required and you can proceed to Step Six.</p> <p>If the answer is YES, an ICIA must be prepared and you should proceed to Step Five.</p> <p>To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered:</p>	

Does the evidence show different circumstances or different expectations or needs, or different experiences or outcomes (such as different levels of satisfaction, or different rates of participation)?	Yes.
Are these different effects likely?	Yes.
Are these effects significantly different?	Yes.
Could the effect amount to a disadvantage for an island community compared to the mainland or between island groups?	Yes.
Step five – Preparing your ICIA:	
In Step Five, you should describe the likely significantly different effect of the policy, strategy or service.	
Assess the extent to which you consider that the policy, strategy or service can be developed or delivered in such a manner as to improve or mitigate, for island communities, the outcomes resulting from it.	<p>The inclusion of Local Equality as a strategic priority in this plan focuses attention on the need to mitigate the disadvantages currently experienced by the ferry-linked isles.</p> <p>Escalating Local Equality to a strategic priority for the Partnership overall will ensure that socio-economic disadvantage in the isles remains at the top of the Partnership agenda. This will help to focus effort and resources.</p>
Consider alternative delivery mechanisms and whether further consultation is required.	<p>The Partnership has already tried an alternative mechanism (the Locality Plan 2018-21) and while this was successful at generating local action on the isles, it was not able to resolve barriers at national level.</p> <p>The previous LOIP had a strategic priority of Community Wellbeing which included an ambition to improve the resilience of Orkney’s most fragile communities, including the isles. This group was tasked mainly with social recovery from the pandemic and the subsequent fuel price crisis has taken it towards a new focus on poverty and the cost of living. While this is undoubtedly a vital concern for many isles residents, it means that the attention of this group has necessarily been focused on responding to the immediate crisis.</p> <p>The new delivery mechanism proposed in this plan highlights the strategic importance of Local Equality by assigning it to a dedicated delivery group reporting directly to the Board.</p>
Describe how these alternative delivery mechanisms will improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	<p>The Local Equality Delivery Group will focus attention on levelling up outcomes for Orkney’s most disadvantaged localities, including the isles. Partnership attention can make a significant difference. For example, a current Partnership short life working group is addressing the issue of inequality in First Responder provision, and the terms and conditions for First Responders on</p>

	<p>different islands, both within Orkney and in comparison with other island authorities. The aim of this group is to achieve the levelling up of First Responder provision on every island to the best model currently in operation. Partner agencies are supporting those agencies with statutory duties to find a resolution.</p> <p>Ultimately, the long-term success of the LOIP with regard to the isles will be measured in a reversal of depopulation and a more sustainable demographic balance.</p>
Identify resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	<p>The resources required to improve outcomes permanently for isles residents are substantial. Replacement of the existing inter-island ferry fleet will cost many millions. Extending superfast broadband provision to all island premises is both a financial and logistical challenge. These issues will take years to resolve but it is important to keep them on the agenda so that when an opportunity arises to make progress, we can move fast.</p> <p>Other issues may require less resource but more imagination and flexibility. For example, some inequalities in health provision can be addressed through remote access, or though enabling health professionals to travel to patients rather than the other way about. Sometimes the most important resource is the commitment and goodwill of partner agencies towards partnership working, and their willingness to work together to find a collective solution.</p>
Step six – Making adjustments to your work:	
Should delivery mechanisms / mitigations vary in different communities?	Yes.
Do you need to consult with island communities in respect of mechanisms or mitigations?	This will form part of the planned second phase consultation on the draft LOIP.
Have island circumstances been factored into the evaluation process?	Yes.
Have any island-specific indicators / targets been identified that require monitoring?	Yes.
How will outcomes be measured on the islands?	The LOIP will include a selection of indicators to measure differential impacts on islands. The National Islands Plan repeat surveys will be especially welcome as they are conducted by

	<p>Scottish Government and the results published nationally. Where necessary we will collect bespoke data although we generally avoid this where an alternative source is available due to the future resource implications.</p>
<p>How has the policy, strategy or service affected island communities?</p>	<p>The previous LOIP and Locality Plan did not resolve the long-term strategic issues impacting on the isles. The Locality Plan led to the piloting of participatory budgeting and the facilitation of a range of community-led projects funded by Community Choices funding, but further progress was hampered by the pandemic.</p> <p>Keeping Local Equality on the agenda as a strategic priority demonstrates that the Partnership remains firmly committed to the sustainability of all Orkney's island communities. We will monitor, evaluate and report outcomes periodically throughout the lifetime of the LOIP.</p>
<p>How will lessons learned in this ICIA inform future policy making and service delivery?</p>	<p>We have always considered the impact of policy and plans on the ferry-linked isles, so that aspect of ICIA is not new. The requirement to produce and publish an ICIA encourages more detailed consideration of the circumstances of individual islands and gives those islands a stronger voice in influencing policy making and service delivery. The process leads to more transparency in decision making and should ultimately result in more equitable policy.</p>
<p>Step seven – Publishing your ICIA:</p>	
<p>Have you presented your ICIA in an Easy Read format?</p>	<p>Not specifically. We try to use plain language and avoid jargon at all times.</p>
<p>Does it need to be presented in Gaelic or any other language?</p>	<p>No, but like all Partnership documentation it can and will be made available in other languages or formats on request.</p>
<p>Where will you publish your ICIA and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it?</p>	<p>The ICIA will be published on the Orkney Partnership's website and will be readily accessible. As with all our publications, hard copies and other languages / formats will be made available on request.</p>
<p>Who will sign-off your final ICIA and why?</p>	<p>The draft ICIA will be considered by the Orkney Partnership Board alongside the draft Community Plan/LOIP 2023-30 at their meeting of 14 December 2022.</p> <p>Following the second phase of consultation, the Orkney Partnership Board will sign off the finalised ICIA alongside the finalised LOIP in March 2023.</p>

Contact officers.

Anna Whelan, Service Manager, Strategy and Partnership,
anna.whelan@orkney.gov.uk.

George Vickers, Community Planning Business Manager, The Orkney Partnership,
george.vickers@orkney.gov.uk.