

Island Communities Impact Assessment

Local Housing Strategy 2024 - 2029

Preliminary Considerations	Response
Please provide a brief description or summary of the policy, strategy or service under review for the purposes of this assessment.	Local Housing Strategy 2024-2029
Step 1 – Develop a clear understanding of your objectives	Response
What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?	<p>The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) sets out the housing vision of the Council and its strategic partners for the future of housing across all tenures and types of accommodation, taking account of national priorities as well as local needs.</p> <p>It is based on a detailed Housing Needs and Demand Assessment and statistical analysis of figures on population and economy.</p> <p>The main purpose of the Strategy is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the housing needs of all persons in the area, across all housing tenures drawing on the Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2023. • Develop strategies to meet those needs; • Sets out the priorities and actions required for new housing supply including investment requirements, housing quality including energy efficiency, fuel poverty and the drive to net zero, and access to housing for all households.

<p>Do you need to consult?</p>	<p>Yes. The Housing Needs and Demand Assessment and the draft Local Housing Strategy has been developed over 12 months January to December 2023 through the Orkney Housing Market Partnership which encompasses the Council's Member Officer Working Group. It comprises a range of stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orkney Islands Council Elected Members • Orkney Islands Council - Education, Leisure & Housing; Neighbourhood Services & Infrastructure; Enterprise & Sustainable Regeneration; Strategy, Performance & Business Solutions; Orkney Health & Care. • Orkney Housing Association (OHAL) • Orkney College UHI • The Development Trusts' housing consultant • Highland & Islands Enterprise (HIE) • Housebuilders • NHS Orkney • Scottish Government More Homes Division • Scottish Water <p>The Partnership held 8 meetings between January and December 2023 to oversee production of the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment, and then to develop the Local Housing Strategy. This process involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Housing Strategy topic papers and presentations • Workshops on each topic with a total of 20 break out groups over the development period including a total of 45 stakeholders. Most Partnership members attended multiple workshops. <p>The Housing Market Partnership's work built on wider community consultation led by the Council in late 2021 and early 2022 – 'Orkney Matters', with findings feeding into the Housing Need and Demand Assessment, and the Local Housing Strategy development. The focus was on community and place with questions asked on what's working, what's not working so well and what would the community like to improve. The engagement was through survey, online consultation, and art workshops for harder to reach groups. This project involved all Council teams including the Housing Service and partner agencies from Orkney's Community Planning Partnership.</p>
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	<p>The Local Housing Strategy consultative draft has been issued for public consultation with a questionnaire to ask for feedback on the housing vision, priorities, outcomes and actions. The consultative draft will be disseminated through proactive media engagement with the established network of organisations and community groups including Community Councils and the Development Trusts. Separate consultation took place with the 10 Development Trusts during the production of the Housing Needs Assessment. The Development Trusts' housing consultant is also a member of the Housing Market Partnership and there will be a presentation to the Development Trusts on the draft Housing Strategy. Findings from the consultation will be reported and integrated into the final strategy.</p>
<p>How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy or service?</p>	<p>The strategy covers the whole local authority area which includes all the inhabited islands. The LHS identifies 5 separate Housing Market Areas (HMAs) which are used for analysis, action planning and resource allocation alongside the separate Strategic Housing Investment Plan. The HMAs are Kirkwall, Stromness, West Mainland, East Mainland and the Linked South Isles, and Isles.</p>
<p>What are the intended impacts/outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?</p>	<p>The Local Housing Strategy sets out 3 priorities and associated outcomes and actions – More Homes, Quality Warm Homes, and Access and Choice of Housing for All. The Outcomes identified are:</p>

Housing priorities and outcomes

Priority	Outcomes
More Homes	More homes are supplied for rent or to buy across Orkney Islands communities.
	The capacity to deliver more affordable homes is increased by attracting new housing providers to Orkney, and/or by creating new supply mechanisms.
	Housing supply processes are more efficient within the Council, and across partners to enable more supply.
	Empty homes are brought back into use for Orkney residents and essential incoming workers.
	The number of Short-Term lets and second homes are monitored to understand the impact on Orkney's housing system.
Quality, Warm Homes	The quality and energy efficiency of social housing is improved through the use of up-to-date technology, and construction methods.
	The quality and energy efficiency of existing private housing is improved through information, advice and grant support.
	Carbon emissions across all the housing stock are reduced under a just transition to net zero.
	Fuel poverty in Orkney is reduced.
	The design of new homes optimises the principles of good placemaking and sustainability.
Access and Choice of Housing for All	Homelessness is prevented as far as possible, and when it does occur, the time spent homeless is kept to a minimum.
	Access to housing and choice of housing is improved for all.
	People live independently and safely at home or in a homely setting in their own community, with access to support when they need it.
Monitoring and review	The local Housing Strategy implementation is monitored, and changing drivers in the housing system (demographic, economic and housing market factors) are understood.

	The legislative requirement is the same across all the Orkney Islands. The consultation and LHS development process involved consultation with representatives living on the ferry linked isles who made recommendations on action for the islands. These are included in the action plan across the different priorities and outcomes, although some of the outcomes and actions are valid for all communities across the Orkney Islands.
Is the policy, strategy or service new?	New for the period 2024/25 to 2029/30
Step 2 – Gather your data and identify your stakeholders	Response
What data is available about the current situation in the islands?	The key document which underpins the LHS is the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) 2023 and has been assessed as robust and credible by the Scottish Government Centre for Housing Market Research. This is the key reference source which contains a broad range of secondary data on demographic, the local housing system and housing market drivers, by different Housing Market Areas (5 HMAs, identified above).
Do you need to consult?	Yes. As above.
How does any existing data differ between islands?	This has been set out in full in the HNDA and the LHS.
Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?	There are a range of aspects to delivering housing supply, and related housing services and care and support services which require different responses across different island communities. For example, the cost of new housing supply on the islands is higher and more difficult to procure than Orkney mainland. Housing and care and support services are more challenging to deliver due to workforce constraint. Fuel poverty is likely to be greater in more remote and rural locations due to lower household income, type of property and greater exposure to harsh climate. The delivery plan sets out actions to address these challenges.
Step 3 – Consultation	Response

Who do you need to consult with?	The consultation process is set out above and includes consultation representatives with the full range of stakeholders including the different islands Development Trusts and elected members from different communities including the ferry linked isles.
How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?	Through the Housing Market Partnership, public consultation, email and SMART survey. There will be specific consultation meetings offered to the 10 Development Trusts.
What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?	Throughout development of the LHS, and through public consultation we have/will ask what are the challenges and solutions for new housing supply on the islands, for achieving good quality, warm homes, and to ensure access to and choice of housing for all.
What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns have been raised previously by island communities?	As set out above there are a range of aspects to delivering housing supply, and related housing services and care and support services which require different responses across different island communities. For example, the cost of new housing supply on the islands is higher and more difficult to procure than Orkney mainland. Housing and care and support services are more challenging to deliver due to workforce constraint. Fuel poverty is likely to be greater in more remote and rural locations due to lower household income, type of property and greater exposure to harsh climate. The delivery plan sets out actions to address these challenges.
Is your consultation robust and meaningful and sufficient to comply with the Section 7 duty?	Yes. The consultative survey will be administered by the Council's Communications team to ensure the consultative draft is disseminated as widely as possible, e.g. through traditional media and existing networks and social media. The Communications team will analyse survey in line with data protection requirements and report on findings for inform development of the finalised strategy.
Step 4 – Assessment	Response

Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities?	Yes
Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?	Yes
How will you address these?	The Local Housing Strategy identifies a range of action to work with island communities to address the housing needs. These include ensuring continued new supply which will require enhanced investment resources to make this viable in some communities (funding through Scottish Government), addressing fuel poverty which is greater in island areas, and enhancing access to housing for key/essential workers through reviewed housing policies and procedures.

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).

If your answer is **No** to the above question, a full ICIA will NOT be required and **you can process to Step 6.**

If the answer is **Yes**, an ICIA must be prepared and **you should proceed to Step 5.**

To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered:

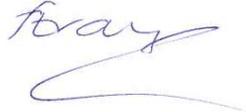
- Does the evidence show different circumstances or different expectations or needs, or different experiences or outcomes (such as different levels of satisfaction, or different rates of participation)?
- Are these different effects likely?
- Are these effects significantly different?
- Could the effect amount to a disadvantage for an island community compared to the Scottish mainland or between island groups?

Step 5 – Preparing your ICIA	Response
In Step 5, you should describe the likely significantly different effect of the policy, strategy or service:	N/A.
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.	N/A.
Consider alternative delivery mechanisms and whether further consultation is required.	N/A.
Describe how these alternative delivery mechanisms will	N/A.

improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
Identify resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	N/A.
Stage 6 – Making adjustments to your work	Response
Should delivery mechanisms/mitigations vary in different communities?	As noted above - The Local Housing Strategy identifies a range of action to work with island communities to address the housing needs. These include ensuring continued new supply which will require enhanced investment resources to make this viable in some communities (funding through Scottish Government), addressing fuel poverty which is greater in island areas, and enhancing access to housing for key/essential workers through reviewed housing policies and procedures.
Do you need to consult with island communities in respect of mechanisms or mitigations?	Consultation will be undertaken through public consultation, with specific consultation meetings targeted for island Development Trusts.
Have island circumstances been factored into the evaluation process?	Yes, island circumstances are factored into the Local Housing Strategy and the related policies and procedures across a broad range of island communities.

Have any island-specific indicators/targets been identified that require monitoring?	Yes – ensuring housing supply targets are met across different islands and Housing Market Area, identification at a lower geography on fuel poverty and potential review to housing letting policies to enable key/essential workers to live on the outer islands.
How will outcomes be measured on the islands?	The outcomes will be measured through reporting on the LHS delivery action plan – quarterly and annually to the Housing Market Partnership and annually to the Council.
How has the policy, strategy or service affected island communities?	As above.
How will lessons learned in this ICIA inform future policy making and service delivery?	It will feed into ongoing review of the LHS, and development of related policy and action.
Step 7 – Publishing your ICIA	Response
Have you presented your ICIA in an Easy Read format?	Yes.
Does it need to be presented in Gaelic or any other language?	No.
Where will you publish your ICIA	Orkney Islands Council's Website with Committee Report and Minute on the Local Housing Strategy.

and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it?	
Who will signoff your final ICIA and why?	James Wylie, Corporate Director of Education, Leisure and Housing – line manager of Frances Troup.

ICIA completed by:	Frances Troup
Position:	Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing
Signature:	
Date complete:	15 January 2024

ICIA approved by:	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date complete:	