

## **Item: 12**

**Policy and Resources Committee: 22 November 2022.**

**The Orkney Partnership: Update and Annual Report.**

**Report by Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions.**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

To update the Committee on the work of The Orkney Partnership and to consider the Partnership's draft Annual Report for 2021/22.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Committee is invited to note:

#### **2.1.**

The recent activity of The Orkney Partnership as described in section 4 of this report.

**It is recommended:**

#### **2.2.**

That The Orkney Partnership's draft Annual Report 2021/22, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be approved insofar as it applies to the Council.

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1.**

Community planning is about how public bodies work together, and with local communities, to design and deliver better services that make a real difference to people's lives. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (the 'Act') places a duty on Orkney Islands Council and four other public authorities (NHS Orkney, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) to facilitate community planning.

##### **3.1.1.**

Other public authorities, specified in the Act, have a statutory duty to participate in community planning, and four additional partner bodies have been co-opted locally (Voluntary Action Orkney, Orkney Housing Association Ltd, Scottish Ambulance Service and Orkney Community Justice Partnership). These partners comprise Orkney Partnership Board, which leads The Orkney Partnership.

### **3.2.**

Other public, third and private sector partners participate in the Orkney Partnership's delivery groups and short life working groups where they can contribute to particular workstreams.

### **3.3.**

The Act places a duty on community planning partnerships to prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (the 'LOIP') setting out the local outcomes that a partnership has prioritised for improvement. The Orkney Partnership chooses to publish a Community Plan, which incorporates its statutory LOIP. The most recent Orkney Community Plan, for 2021-23, can be accessed on the Orkney Partnership's website [here](#).

## **4. Recent activity of The Orkney Partnership**

### **4.1. Annual Report 2021/22**

#### **4.1.1.**

The current Community Plan 2021-23 focuses on Orkney's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the strategic priorities selected for that period were Connectivity, Community Wellbeing and Sustainable Recovery. Each priority was assigned to a delivery group to progress.

#### **4.1.2.**

The Act requires the Partnership to publish an annual report on progress against its outcomes, attached in draft as Appendix 1 to this report. The draft report describes the progress made during 2021/22 of the three delivery groups and includes the most recent data available with regard to the performance indicators included in the LOIP. The Annual Report 2021/22 will be submitted to the Orkney Partnership Board for approval at its meeting on 14 December 2022 and is appended here for consideration by Members insofar as it applies to the Council.

### **4.2. Review of The Orkney Partnership**

#### **4.2.1.**

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.
- A workshop for each group exploring the findings from their survey and developing potential improvement actions.

#### **4.2.2.**

The output from this exercise is currently being reviewed further by a working group which will draw up a unified improvement plan for consideration by the Board in December 2022.

### **4.3. Economic Recovery Steering Group**

#### **4.3.1.**

The Economic Recovery Steering Group was created in 2020 as a short life working group with a brief to create a strategy for Orkney's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The group developed the ASPIRE strategy and created a company, Aspire Orkney Ltd, to employ a programme manager with financial support from the Council via a grant funding agreement.

#### **4.3.2.**

In the event, a sufficient scale of government funding support for business was received to enable most Orkney businesses to survive and recover without the need for further intervention. The original purpose of the ERSG was therefore redundant. In September 2022 the Orkney Partnership Board decided to merge the group into the Sustainable Recovery Delivery Group and establish a separate Business Forum to channel the views of the business community into the Partnership.

#### **4.3.3.**

A separate report is being submitted to this Committee which will present options for Members to consider with regard to the grant funding agreement between the Council and Aspire Orkney Ltd. The future of the company itself will be a matter for the directors of Aspire Orkney Ltd to determine.

### **4.4. Strategic priorities from 2023**

#### **4.4.1.**

In September 2022, the Orkney Partnership Board held a horizon-scanning workshop to consider future strategic priorities for inclusion in its next LOIP, due to take effect from April 2023 onwards. The workshop took into account such matters as the Orkney public's priorities as identified by Orkney Matters, anticipated new legislation and regulation, the Scottish Government's Programme for Government, forthcoming UK and Scottish national policy developments, the outcomes achieved by the previous LOIP and Locality Plan, the cost of living crisis, climate change and the Partnership's proposed net zero target for Orkney of 2030.

#### **4.4.2.**

The workshop generated three provisional strategic priorities which will be worked up into a first draft of a new LOIP for 2023-30, for consideration by the Board at its meeting on 14 December 2022. The working titles of the new strategic priorities are Cost of Living, Sustainable Development and Local Equality. The new LOIP is being drafted in parallel with the new Council Plan for 2023-28, to ensure co-ordination

between the two plans. Elected Members will be invited to comment on the draft LOIP at appropriate stages of its development.

## **5. Corporate Governance**

This report relates to the Council complying with governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

## **6. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for the Council contained in this report.

## **7. Legal Aspects**

### **7.1.**

There are no direct legal implications for the Council arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

### **7.2.**

The facilitating partners of a community planning partnership in Scotland have a joint duty to publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and to report annually on progress against the outcomes contained in that plan.

## **8. Contact Officers**

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## **9. Appendix**

Appendix 1: The Orkney Partnership's Annual Report 2021/22.



# The Orkney Partnership

*Working together for a better Orkney*

# Annual Report 2021 to 2022

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

# Welcome to the Orkney Partnership's Annual Report 2021-22

Covid-19 and the national response to the pandemic had a profound impact on Orkney. The Orkney Partnership decided that it needed to take a shorter term approach than usual to promote recovery and, for 2021/23, created a two-year Community Plan or "recovery LOIP".

The Board adopted a new set of strategic priorities which reflected the need for urgent action to address the immediate problems facing Orkney's people and communities, without losing sight of the Partnership's long-term ambitions:

- Connectivity
- Community Wellbeing
- Sustainable Recovery

**Connectivity** addressed both digital connectivity and transport. These priorities gained a new urgency from the impact of lockdown. Home working and education highlighted digital inequality, while lockdown underlined Orkney's vulnerability to any interruption in lifeline transport services, and the urgent need for modernised transport infrastructure.

Councillor James Stockan  
Chair  
Orkney Partnership Board



**Community Wellbeing** focused on both individual and community wellbeing and the need to help people retake control of their lives. During Covid, many households faced poverty due to loss of income and increased living costs, especially in the ferry-linked isles where local food prices and fuel costs are higher. Mental health took a battering and many people were exhausted after repeated lockdown, family separation and relentless bad news.

**Sustainable Recovery** brings together two complementary strategies. The first is the ASPIRE Orkney strategy for Orkney's economic recovery: to build a better future, Orkney must aspire to be Ambitious, Sustainable, Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient and Enterprising. Coupled and integrated with this agenda is the Partnership's strategy to combat climate change and move towards a more sustainable Orkney for all.

This report describes the Orkney Partnership's progress during the first year of our Community Plan 2021/23.



Meghan McEwen  
Vice Chair  
Orkney Partnership Board

## Our structure during 2021-22



The Orkney Partnership Board is at the centre of our structure. During 2021-22, 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.

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.

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

The Board or Delivery Groups may create short life working groups to address specific issues. During 2021-22, the Partnership had two short life working groups, focusing on child poverty and economic recovery.

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 2021-22

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](http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/CommunityPlanning).

The following pages describe the progress made by our delivery groups during the first year of the plan against their target outcomes. 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 uses for preference 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. This report covers the first year of the 2021-23 plan and some of the indicators will not be available for the report until after the second year.



## Community Wellbeing

	<b>What we aim to achieve</b>
	Our aim is to support Orkney's individuals and communities to withstand and recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts.

	<b>Target outcomes</b>	<b>Progress during 2021-22</b>
A.	Consolidate and develop effective partnerships and collaborative work to support individuals and communities through recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A £300,000 challenge fund was provided by the Council and distributed by Voluntary Action Orkney to Third Sector agencies to support people through Covid and the recovery period.</li> <li>• NHS Public Health launched a 'Making Money Count' leaflet and provided training to those in different agencies working with people at risk of poverty.</li> <li>• £95,500 funding was secured from the Community Recovery Fund to provide a range of support, advice, materials and equipment to community associations and other community spaces to enable them to resume their activities safely.</li> <li>• The Delivery Group was responsible for distributing £100,000+ Mental Health Wellbeing Fund to agencies providing support to people struggling during Covid.</li> </ul>
B.	Improve the resilience and sustainability of Orkney's fragile communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delivery Group supported applications to the Islands Housing Fund from Westray, North Ronaldsay, Shapinsay, Sanday and Stronsay.</li> <li>• The Enhancing Wellbeing in Our Island Communities continued to support individuals in the ferry-linked isles, with over 800 responses received to an evaluation sent out in May 2021.</li> <li>• Funding was secured to establish and deliver the isles digital self-management network. A co-ordinator was recruited, and activities began. There are 120 members from across the ferry-linked isles.</li> <li>• Funding was obtained to launch lunch clubs on the ferry-linked isles.</li> </ul>

<b>Measuring progress in Community Wellbeing</b>					
<b>How households are managing financially in Orkney</b> (Source: <a href="#">Scottish Household Survey 2019</a> and <a href="#">Data Explorer</a> )					
	2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Progress in 2021-22	Comment
Managing very well or quite well	66%	66%	66%	National figures have not been updated.	<p>In this period, it is likely that the position in Orkney has deteriorated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rising fuel prices when households in Orkney already pay a significantly higher than average proportion of their income on fuel.</li> <li>• Cost of living, especially food, has gone up and average wages in Orkney are less than the average for Scotland.</li> </ul> <p>Consequently, it is likely that the number of people who are managing very well or well has decreased.</p>
Get by all right	31%	32%	34%		
Don't manage very well and have some financial difficulties	3%	2%	0%		
<b>Percentage of dwellings in Orkney in Fuel Poverty 2017-19</b> (Source: <a href="#">Scottish House Condition Survey Local Authority Analysis 2019</a> )					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Progress in 2021-22	Comment	
30.5% (Scottish average 24.4%)	Reduce	Same as Scottish average	National figures have not been updated.	Updated figures have not yet been published but it is inevitable that fuel poverty will have been exacerbated by recent high price rises.	

**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	Comment
21.8% (Scottish average 11.9%)	Reduce	Same as Scottish average	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.

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

2020-21 Baseline	2022-23 Target	Progress in 2021-22	Comment
2,862 (Census 2011)	Maintain or increase (Census 2022)	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 ( <a href="#">2021-23 LOIP</a> ). 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	Comment
Orkney Mainland – Yes	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. Scottish Government aim to complete it every two years thereafter.
No	4.4	Decrease		
Don't know	8.4	Decrease		

Orkney Outer Isles – Yes	79.0	Increase		Net migration for Orkney has been positive (i.e. the number moving to Orkney is greater than those leaving) for the last few decades. NRS estimates for 2019-20 indicate that net migration was 170 which is typical of previous years. <b>Check before publication</b>
No	8.7	Decrease		
Don't know	12.3	Decrease		

**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	Comment
86%	87%	88%	National figures have not been updated.	<p>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 <a href="#">National Islands Plan Survey</a> 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	Comment
90% (NHS Delivery Standard)	90%	90%	Pending from NHSO	

## Sustainable Recovery

	<b>What we aim to achieve</b>
	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.

	<b>Target outcomes</b>	<b>Progress during 2021-22</b>
	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"> <li>• The Economic Recovery Steering Group supported the successful implementation of the Kickstart apprenticeship scheme for young people and worked alongside Community Learning and Development on overlapping employability opportunities.</li> <li>• The Local Employment Partnership was established and that has supported numerous projects which have helped many people obtain ongoing employment.</li> <li>• Funding was provided by Orkney Islands Council to appoint a Programme Manager to support the work of the Economic Recovery Steering Group from June 2021.</li> <li>• A report was developed for the ERSG and SRDG to better understand the housing demand and supply constraints affecting Orkney's economy.</li> </ul>
	A "Just Transition" towards a well-being economy with a focus on climate change, fair work, and diversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Orkney Partnership and Skills Development Scotland drew up and launched a Skills Charter which committed the Partners to skilling up local people so that they can benefit from the employment opportunities that will arise in the local economy, notably from the expanding renewables sectors.</li> </ul>
	Measurable progress towards Scotland's target of net zero emissions by 2045.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration, a dedicated full-time post of Climate Change Officer was created, and work begun in drawing up plans to reduce Orkney's carbon emissions.</li> <li>• The SRDG recommended that Orkney should aim to achieve Net Zero by 2030, a target which was subsequently approved by the Orkney Partnership Board.</li> </ul>

	<p>An adaptation strategy to protect our citizens, businesses, habitats and wildlife from the effects of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the SRDG has been unable to develop an overarching strategy for Orkney owing to the lack of resource, substantial work is being done by many agencies, notably the Council, to make necessary adaptations.</li> <li>• The Council worked closely with the Scottish Flood Forum (SFF) in raising awareness of flood risk, supporting week-long visits 2021 and 2022 by SFF to share information on property level flood protection and carry out free Property Floor Resilience surveys to householders in Orkney. These visits have led on to members of the community from St Margaret's Hope and Burray forming Orkney's first Flood Action Group, supported by SFF and the Council.</li> </ul>
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Measuring progress in Sustainable Recovery					
Measurement					Comments
<b>Employment rate (16-64 years)</b> (source: <a href="#">NOMIS Official labour market statistics</a> )					
2018-19 Baseline	2019-20 target	2020-21 target	2021-22 target	Actual 2021-22 figure	
88.7%	>85%	>85%	>85%	78.5%	This is a 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 may also be a result of some people deciding to retire early. As the economy recovers, these figures will be monitored to ensure that they move closer to the target.
<b>% of 16-19 year olds participating in education, employment and other training and development activities</b> (source: <a href="#">Skills Development Scotland, Annual Participation Measure August 2019</a> and <a href="#">2021</a> )					
2018-19 Baseline	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Actual 2021 figure	



95.4%	Target: Maintain	Target: Maintain	Target: Maintain	93.4%	The figure for Orkney is still higher than the average for Scotland (92.2%) but has dropped 2% in Orkney, while nationally it has increased by 0.6%.
<b>Businesses in the Highlands and Islands that are optimistic over their future prospects in the next 12 months (Source: <a href="#">HIE Business Panel June 2021 report</a> and <a href="#">HIE Business Panel Report, February/March 2022 report</a>).</b>					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	Feb/March 2022	Comment
75% Jan/Feb 2020	80% June 2021	Maintain or improve	>80%	77%	While the target has not been met, there has been some improvement.
<b>House build completions in Orkney, all sectors (source: <a href="#">Scottish Government housing statistics</a>; source for 2020-21: OIC Development and Marine Planning)</b>					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	First two quarters of 21- 22	Comment
92	144	130	225	33	TBC (different sources inconsistent)
% Orkney pupils' journeys to school by walking/cycling/scooter/skate (all schools excluding nursery) (Source: <a href="#">Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey 2020 and 2021</a> )					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2021	Comment
33.7%	Improve	Improve	>40%	36.7%	There has been significant progress in meeting the five-year target.
% Walking journeys to work as a proportion of all journeys in Orkney (Source: Scottish Government <a href="#">2019 Transport – Travel to Work and Other Purposes</a> )					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2021-22	Comment

27%	Improve	Improve	>35%	The figures have not been updated by the SG.	Pending updated figures.
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Local Authority territorial 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](#))

	2019 Baseline*	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2020 (latest figure)	Comment
Commercial	8.9 (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	Progress has been made towards meeting the target.  Should the Partnership adopt a net zero target of 2030 in the next LOIP, these targets may need to be revisited.
Public Sector	2.6 (2.4) kt				2.5 kt	
Domestic	42.0 (36.4) kt				36.4 kt	
Transport	31.1 (32.4) kt				26.7 kt	
LULUCF**	135.6 (124.1) kt				123.9 kt	
Total for Orkney	277.2 (251.6) kt				240.3 kt	

\*The 2019 estimates, since the publication of the LOIP, were recalculated and the new figure is set out in brackets.

\*\*Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

## Priority: Connectivity

### What we aim to achieve

	<p>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.</p>	<p>In 2021-22, the Delivery Group focused on Transport. The leading agencies on transport are the Orkney Islands Council and the Scottish Government, and the Partnership, which brings together the key public authorities, the third Sector Interface (Voluntary Action Orkney) and the business sector (including through the Economic Recovery Strategy Group). The Delivery Group did work identifying Orkney's transport needs and that contributed to the development of the Local Transport Strategy and informed lobbying by the Partnership and Partners of the Scottish (<a href="#">Strategic Transport Projects Review 2</a>) and UK Governments.</p>
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### Our target outcomes are:

	<p>Equal standards of digital connectivity to elsewhere in the UK, with mobile and broadband services available and affordable to all in Orkney.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government's R100 programme was examined by the Delivery Group, the short comings identified, and Partners lobbied government and providers leading to adjustments to the scheme and, in summer 2022, to the provision of extra resources.</li> </ul>
	<p>Integrated, sustainable and affordable transport services which meet the needs of Orkney's residents, businesses and visitors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying by Partners of the Scottish Government had led to the Government providing additional revenue funding for the inter-island ferries but, to date, no funding had been secured to begin to replace the fleet.</li> <li>• The replacement public bus fleet, procured by Orkney Islands Council, was now in use and the Council have reported that since the fleet had been deployed, no complaints about the service had been received.</li> <li>• Free bus fares were introduced for all under 22s from January 2022.</li> </ul>

<b>Measuring progress in Connectivity</b>					
<b>% Orkney premises unable to access 10Mbps/s Broadband (Sources: <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2020</a> and <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2022</a>)</b>					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	2022 Figure	Comment	
20.7%	10%	0%	19.7%	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 these targets have not been met. In summer 2022, further investment was announced that will extend R100 to an additional 1000 properties in Orkney and the Council is working with the Scottish Government to improve on that.	
<b>% Orkney premises unable to access 30Mbps/s Broadband (Sources: <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2020</a> and <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2022</a>)</b>					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2022 Figure	Comment
31.5%	20%	10%	0%	32.9%	As set out in the previous section.
<b>% Orkney residents whose internet connection at home is fast enough to do what they want online (Source: <a href="#">National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020</a> and <a href="#">online results explorer tool</a>)</b>					
	2020-21 Baseline	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2022	Comment
Orkney Mainland	70%	Increase	100%	Not applicable,	As set out in the previous section.

Ferry-linked isles	45%	Increase	100%	survey only every two years.	
<b>% Orkney residents who have a good mobile phone signal at home (Source: <a href="#">National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020</a> and <a href="#">online results explorer tool</a>)</b>					
	2020-21 Baseline	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2022 Figure	Comment
Orkney Mainland	78%	Increase	100%	Not applicable, survey only every two years.	The Scottish Government is leading on this, and the Shared Rural Network (SRN) is an agreement involving the 4 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.
Ferry-linked isles	27%	Increase	100%		
<b>% of people in Orkney very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public transport (Source: <a href="#">Scottish Household Survey 2019</a> and <a href="#">Data Explorer</a>)</b>					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	2022 Figure	Comment	
61%	70%	80%	National figures have not yet been updated.	Although the figures for 2022 are not yet available, the Council has reported receiving no complaints regarding buses since the roll out of the new fleet (Oradian, 15 September 2022).	
<b>% of Orkney residents who agree “When I make journeys to or from my home, it is easy connecting between different forms of transport” (Source: <a href="#">National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020</a> and <a href="#">online results explorer tool</a>)</b>					
	2020-21 Baseline	2022-23 Target	2022 Figure	Comment	

Orkney Mainland	46%	60%	Not applicable, survey only every two years.	As set out in the previous section.
Ferry-linked isles	29%	50%		

# Activity of Short Life Working Groups in 2021-22

## Child Poverty Task Force

*“I feel there is a big divide - some people seem to have a lot and some (probably more than we know of) have very little. I think making everyone aware of that and trying to find ways that we can all help each other would be good, but I don't know how we do that.”*  
 “Making Ends Meet” survey respondent, 2021

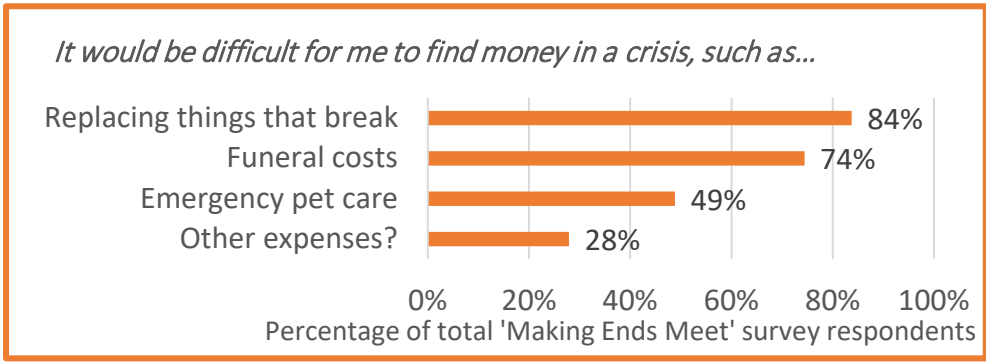
During 2021-22, we saw the economy start to recover from the pandemic, but any gains from this have been offset for many families by the steep rise in the cost of living. Inflated food and energy prices have caused household bills to jump sharply and record numbers of households in Orkney have sought advice and assistance, some for the first time. Published statistics indicate that at least three hundred families in Orkney are struggling to get by but there may well be more than we know of, as our survey respondent suggested.

Local authorities and health boards in Scotland have a duty to report annually on activity they are taking, and plan to take, to reduce child poverty. In Orkney, these reports have to date been compiled by the Child Poverty Task Force, a short life working group of The Orkney Partnership, which published its fourth Local Child Poverty Action Report for 2021-22 in October 2022.

During 2021-22, the Task Force developed a new strategy to provide a coherent framework for the joint planning and implementation of future action to combat child poverty, monitor progress and report on results. We held a public consultation in autumn 2021, “Making Ends Meet”, asking families for their experiences of living in hardship in Orkney, and what would make the most difference to them. Many families told us about their own day to day challenges, bringing to life the statistics on poverty and underlining the importance of this work.

We are grateful to everyone who responded, and we have used the results to inform Orkney’s Child Poverty Strategy 2022-26. The strategy includes an outline action plan to meet our ambitions for children and families in Orkney, around five themes. The actions include measures to support families through the immediate cost of living crisis, together with longer-term actions which will address the underlying causes of poverty and help parents into sustainable work.

<b>Pockets</b> Every family can make ends meet	<b>Prospects</b> Every child has a good start in life	<b>Places</b> Every family has a sustainable home	<b>Prevention</b> Future generations can escape from poverty	<b>Priorities</b> No child is left behind
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Related partnership work during 2021-22 included the Orkney Food Dignity Project led by Voluntary Action Orkney, which reported in May 2022. The recommendations from this project, together with the actions in the Child Poverty Strategy, are being co-ordinated by a new Cost of Living Task Force, bringing together the various groups and workstreams addressing poverty across Orkney. An underlying principle of this group is to develop a “cash first” approach which enables people who find themselves in difficulty to avoid falling into crisis, maintain their dignity and regain control of their lives.



## Economic Recovery Steering Group

The Economic Recovery Steering Group was created in 2020 as a short life working group with a brief to create a strategy for Orkney's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The group developed the ASPIRE strategy, adopted by The Orkney Partnership in November 2020 to steer recovery and ongoing development:

- A**mbitious: harnessing Orkney's unique resources to drive our future
- S**ustainable: balancing the interests of people with those of the planet
- P**rosperous: investing in the local economy to build community wealth
- I**nclusive: committing to equal wellbeing, opportunity and access
- R**esilient: bouncing back from adversity, challenge and change
- E**nterprising: empowering our communities to achieve their ambitions

In 2021, the ERSG created a special-purpose vehicle in the form of a not-for-profit company, Aspire Orkney Ltd, to help implement the strategy, with financial support from the Council. A Programme Manager was recruited by Aspire Orkney Ltd. to support this work. During 2021-22, the Economic Recovery Steering Group focused on the following workstreams:

- The development of an online engagement platform, EngageOrkney, for use by Partnership groups and individual community planning partners.
- Research and data analysis to support strategy development and funding bids by Partnership groups and community planning partners.
- Supporting the Kickstart programme to fund start-up jobs with local employers for young people at risk of long term unemployment.
- Opening channels of communication with businesses and business sector groups on a range of topics.
- The establishment of a Skills Think-and-Do Tank to assess the skills requirements of different business sectors and develop options to help fill skills gaps and prepare for the future.
- Engagement with sectoral groups, local and national organisations in order to connect common objectives, activities and ideas, and to aggregate local cross-sectoral feedback.
- Engagement with Scottish Government to input local intelligence into various proposals including the use of Islands Bonds to reverse population decline in Scotland's islands, economic development in an island context and island profile datasheets.
- Engagement with local stakeholders on data-sharing projects.

## 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](http://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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