



Item: 6

Orkney Towns Board 7 February 2025

Programme Framework and Sub-themes

1. Overview

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of a Programme Framework and sub-themes to direct the development of the Orkney Towns Board “Long Term Plan” Strategic Vision and Delivery Plan document.
- 1.2. Orkney Islands Council’s Economic Development officers have reviewed the extensive outputs of the engagement exercise which took place during 2024. The purpose of this work was to draw out the key themes emerging from the data to help the Board to develop its strategic vision and priorities. The UK Government Guidance which was published during 2024 was also a key reference for this work, to ensure that the Towns Board can evidence alignment of its activities with the UK Government requirements. Item 4 on the agenda provides further detail on the engagement process and outputs.
- 1.3. Revised Guidance from the UK Government is expected during the first quarter of 2025. Whilst this may present additional information which the Board will require to observe as it develops its vision and priorities, advice from UK Government officials is that the core elements of the 2024 Guidance will not change.
- 1.4. The UK Government has set specific core Investment Themes which Towns Boards across the UK must align as follows:
 - i. Safety and security.
 - ii. High streets, heritage and regeneration.
 - iii. Transport and connectivity.
- 1.5. The UK Government requires Town Boards to prepare and submit a “Long Term Plan” for approval. This Long Term Plan must articulate a 10 year vision for the work of the Board as well as a 3 year investment plan, with reference to the UK Government priorities detailed above.

- 1.6. A draft Framework to support the next phase of work of the Orkney Towns Board was presented to an informal Board workshop on 27 November 2024. This workshop led to further refinement and development of a Programme Framework which is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.7. Appendix 1 establishes the Following Pillars and sub-themes:
- i. **Pillar 1 Healthy and active communities:** sub themes - “young people”, “sport and recreation” and “entertainment and culture”.
 - ii. **Pillar 2 Investing in heritage, buildings and spaces to create vibrant, secure and attractive places:** sub themes - “secure, welcoming public spaces”, “heritage, conservation and regeneration” and “retail and creative working spaces”.
 - iii. **Pillar 3 Connected and caring communities:** sub themes - “connectivity and movement”, “circular economy and fuel poverty”, “specialist needs, employment and skills” and “tourism within our communities”.
- 1.8. The next stage of work will be to further develop these pillars and sub-themes to prepare and present the Orkney Towns Board’ “Long Term Plan” document to Orkney Islands Council and the UK Government. This work will be undertaken during the first half of 2025, with reference to the forthcoming revised Guidance from the UK Government once this is available.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Orkney Towns Board:
- i. Approve the Programme Framework and Sub-themes, attached at Appendix 1.

3. Appendix

Appendix 1 – Programme Framework and Sub-themes.

Appendix 1

OTB Programme Framework	Sub-theme	Impact and Value Measures (note these are illustrative only)
Pillar 1 Healthy and active communities	P1a - Young people	Development or delivery of Youth facilities/activities Positive Feedback from Young People Reduced anti-social behaviour stats
	P1b Sport and recreation	Development or delivery of sports/recreation facilities/activity programmes Increase in uptake in sports/activities Competitiveness of Orkney athletes in sports Improved wellbeing/health statistics
	P1c Entertainment & culture	Development of creative/arts/entertainment facilities/activity programmes
Pillar 2 Investing in heritage, buildings and spaces to create vibrant, secure and attractive places	P2a Secure, safe, welcoming public spaces	Development of green/public spaces Development of public realm facilities/features/arts Reduced anti-social behaviour Health and Wellbeing index feedback
	P2b Heritage, conservation and regeneration	Development of new buildings or renovation of older buildings Historic building repair/bringing old buildings back into new use
	P2c Retail and creative-working spaces	Retail/shop front improvements Town Centre furniture/facilities improvements Improved town centre viability and vitality - health checks Creative workspace-facility development/programmes
Pillar 3 Connected and caring communities	P3a Connectivity and movement	Increased transportation options to connect communities Infrastructure/Programmes to improve accessibility to all Improved road safety statistics Digital Connectivity
	P3b Circular Economy and fuel poverty	Improved economic measures Improved fuel poverty statistics Facilities/programmes to enable circular activity/reduced use of natural resources Development of local infrastructure to enable creation of local produce eg food-stuff
	P3c Specialist needs, employment and skills	Development of facilities/programmes which address additional support needs including mental health/ inequality and poverty reduction Improving accessibility of Orkney infrastructure to suit range of abilities Improved employment/employability statistics
	P3d Tourism within our communities	Development of facilities to support community and tourist access to Orkney sites and amenities Improved interpretation/outdoor access infrastructure Improved tourism satisfaction ratings