

Political Engagement Strategy

Purpose: To enhance and integrate the Council's political engagement in respect of its key strategic priorities.

Aim: To achieve maximum focus in respect of political engagement to ensure the outcomes of the Council's key strategic priorities are vigorously promoted and achieved.

Introduction

The present political environment is fraught with uncertainty. It is considered imperative that the Council focuses its political engagement in an efficient and proportionate manner having regard to resources available. It will be important to build resilience owing to Brexit and other external challenges. Unlike most other councils, the majority of our members are independents and there is little recognised political affiliation.

At present, the Council has various Project Boards to promote key strategic priorities with varying degrees of political input. It is considered that the Council should seek to build on its existing structures with a view to enhancing political input, thereby ensuring clear and consistent messaging through lobbying or other means of political engagement.

Risk

It is considered that a key factor of the strategy will be to pre-empt risks the Council may face. A risk register can be developed to identify some key risk issues, the triggers that would give rise to them occurring, likely impact, probability of ever occurring and any mitigating factors to reduce impact.

New Meeting arrangements

The Chief Executive, in agreement with the Leader, has agreed new meeting arrangements which are key to achieving the aim of the Strategy. The new meeting arrangements structure monthly meetings follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| First Monday | All Elected Members and the Chief Executive |
| Second Monday | All Chairs and the Chief Executive |
| Third Monday | All elected members, MP, MSP's, and the Chief Executive |
| Fourth Monday | Senior Councillors and Senior Management Team |
| If a fifth Monday | To be kept for other sessions to be determined by Chief Executive together with the Leader |

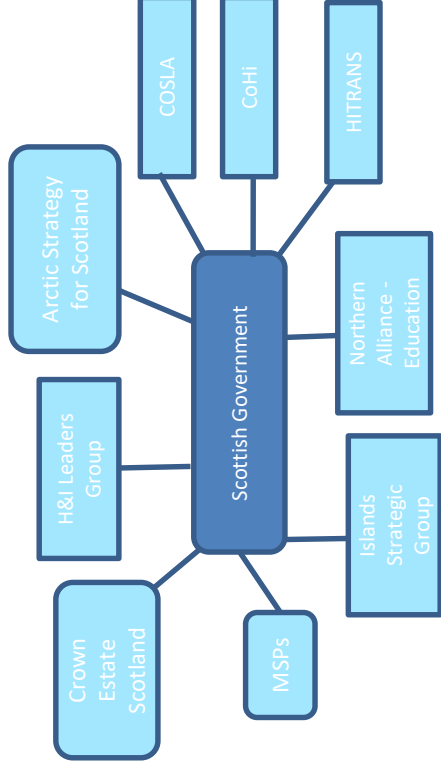
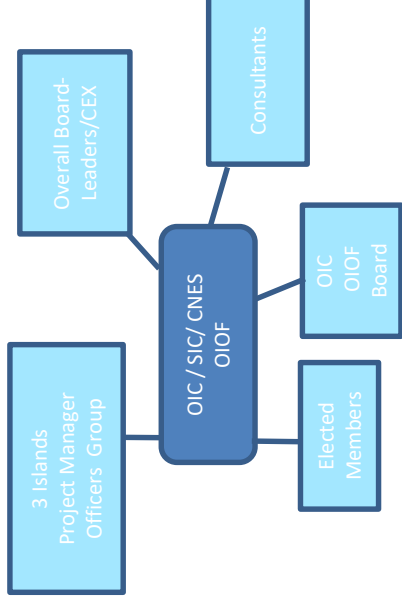
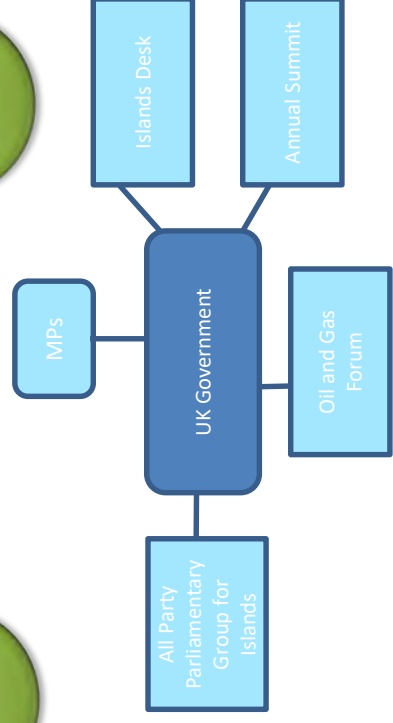
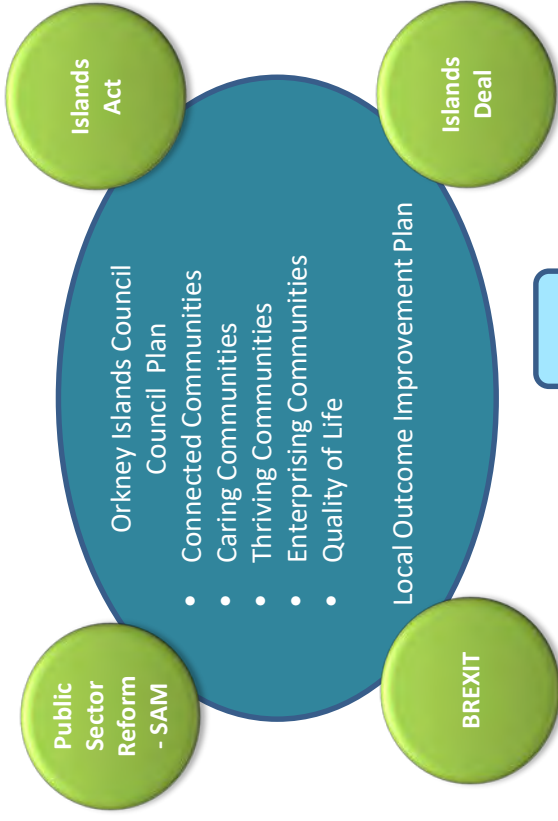
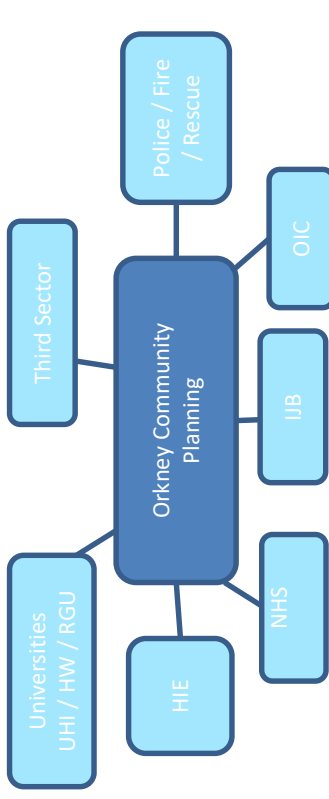
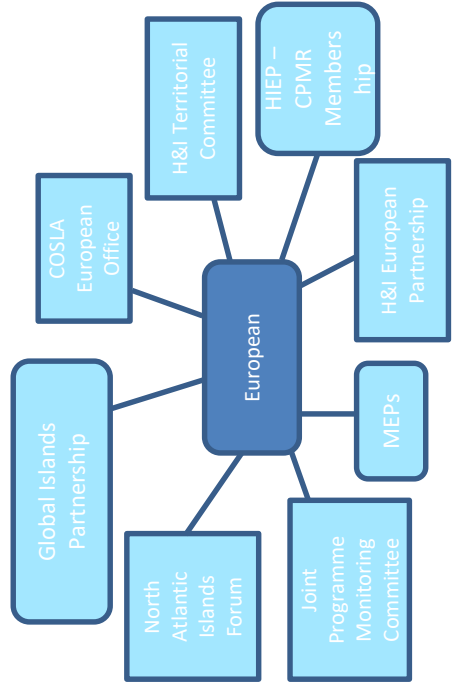
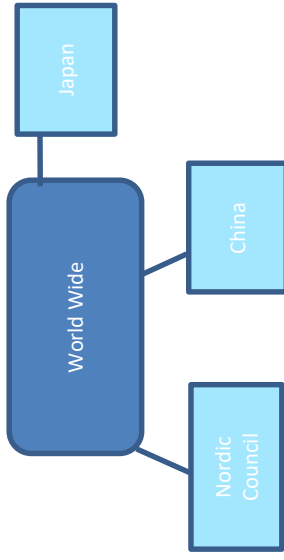
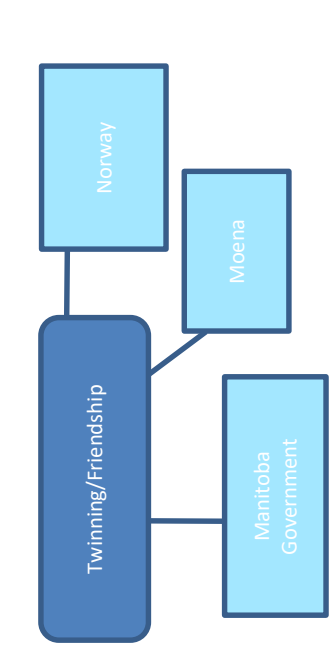
Having regard to the outcomes of the Council's key strategic priorities, these meetings will:

- Provide support for the Political Leader.
- Identify opportunities for political engagement.
- Instruct political engagement.
- Advise and help develop the Council's Political strategy.
- Enhance collegiate approach for effective strategic leadership.
- Raise awareness and commitment to key strategic priorities.
- Allow the Political Leader to co-ordinate/ lead and where appropriate delegate political activity.
- Allow the Political Leader to report effectively to all members.

Political Engagement Strategy Diagram

The attached diagram details the myriad bodies that the Council presently engages with, linking these with the Council Plan and the Orkney Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The diagram demonstrates the extent of ongoing political engagement. The strategy document and associated diagram are working documents which will be continuously monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.

Orkney Islands Council Political Engagement Strategy



Key to Acronyms

- UHI – University of Highlands and Islands.
- RGU – Robert Gordon University.
- HW – Heriot-Watt University.
- HIE – Highlands and Islands Enterprise.
- NHS – National Health Service.
- IJB – Integration Joint Board.
- OIC – Orkney Islands Council.
- SIC – Shetland Islands Council.
- CNES – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.
- OIOF – Our Islands Our Future.
- CEX – Chief Executives.
- MSPs – Members of Scottish Parliament.
- H&I – Highlands and Islands.
- COSLA – Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.
- CoHI– Convention of the Highlands and Islands.
- HITRANS – Highland and Islands Transport Partnership.
- MPs – Members of Parliament.
- HIEP – Highlands and Islands European Partnership.
- CPMR – Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions.
- SAM –Single Authority Model.
- MEP – Members of European Parliament.