

## **Item: 16**

**Policy and Resources Committee: 19 September 2023.**

**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 2022/23.

### **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 2022/23, 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. 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. 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. The current configuration of the Partnership is illustrated on page 6 of the Orkney Community Plan which is [here](#) and the configuration for the period of the Annual Report 2022/23 is set out in Appendix 1, page 3.

### **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 Orkney Community Plan for 2021-23, the period covered by the Annual Report 2022/23, can be accessed on the Orkney Partnership's website [here](#). The current Orkney Community Plan is for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2030 and can be accessed [here](#).

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

### **4.1. Annual Report 2022/23**

#### **4.1.1.**

The Orkney Community Plan 2021-23 focused 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, appended in draft at Appendix 1 to this report. The draft report describes the progress made during 2022/23 of the three delivery groups and includes the most recent data available with regard to the indicators included in the LOIP. The indicators are largely drawn from national reports, but a significant number of these reports have not been updated for a number of reasons, some related to the Covid Pandemic. Most of these indicators will continue to be captured by the new 2023-30 LOIP so, even though the Annual Report 2022/23 will not capture the current position, it will be possible to measure these indicators over time.

#### **4.1.3.**

The Annual Report 2022/23 will be submitted to the Orkney Partnership Board for approval at its meeting on 26 September 2023 and is appended here for consideration by Members insofar as it applies to the Council.

## **4.2. Update on the work of the Partnership from 1 April 2023**

### **4.2.1.**

The Orkney Partnership adopted three new strategic priorities for the [Community Plan 2023/30](#), each with its own Delivery Group:

- [Sustainable Development](#) - supporting Community Wealth Building and achieving Net Zero by 2030.
- [Cost of Living Crisis](#) - and tackling the underlying causes of poverty.
- [Local Equality](#) - so residents in all parts of Orkney have equal opportunities.

### **4.2.2.**

At its meeting on 23 June 2023, The Orkney Partnership agreed that supporting the case for the replacement of the internal ferry fleet should also be one of their priorities for the current period.

### **4.2.3. Sustainable Development Delivery Group**

The aim of the group is to exploit the synergy between two linked objectives: developing a wellbeing economy that serves the needs of Orkney's population and combatting the climate emergency. Sustainable development balances the needs of people against those of the environment: the concept behind the [Doughnut Economics](#) model, which the group is adapting for Orkney. The key mechanism for delivery will be [Community Wealth Building](#) (CWB), which use the levers available to the community planning partners and other anchor institutions to ensure that value is retained within Orkney and shared more equitably. The Partnership has established a CWB Working Group to lead on the implementation of this approach in Orkney.

### **4.2.4. Cost of Living Task Force**

The Cost of Living Task Force was set up as a short life working group in June 2022 and, from 1 April 2023, is a full Delivery Group. The group addresses the immediate cost of living crisis and the underlying causes of poverty in Orkney.

### **4.2.5.**

Orkney Money Matters is the most important initiative, to date, from the Cost of Living Task Force. It is a new partnership project between Voluntary Action Orkney, Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau, Orkney Blide Trust, Orkney Islands Council, Orkney Housing Association, NHS Orkney, the Foodbank and the Trussell Trust. Funding for the first year has come from Orkney Islands Council, and the project is seeking funding to continue for 2024-26. It will reduce the levels of financial insecurity in Orkney by increasing access to advice and cash-based support. It will do so through the creation of an 'advice-and-cash-first' referral pathway. The project will develop frameworks and resources to support closer working between organisations, as well as developing a centralised promotion campaign to raise awareness of available support.

#### **4.2.6. Local Equality Delivery Group**

The Local Equality Delivery Group has been tasked by the Board with developing and leading on the delivery of a single locality plan that will address local inequalities across the whole of Orkney. Some of these communities have written their own local development plans and this locality plan will not duplicate these. Instead, the local equality plan will lend support to these existing community development plans.

#### **4.2.7.**

The challenges are different in each part of Orkney so rather than consider all the different areas at once, the Delivery Group has begun by holding a series of workshops to examine how community planning can support people living on the ferry linked isles. While each island is different, they also have much in common, not least the need for good transport to and from the Orkney Mainland. The section of the Locality Plan that relates to the ferry linked isles has been drafted and, once it has been considered again by the Delivery Group, the group will go out to the isles to get the views of community councils, development trusts, community associations and residents.

### **5. Links to Council Plan**

The work in this report supports and contributes to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in all the Council Plan strategic priority themes: Growing our Economy and Strengthening our Communities.

### **6. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan**

This report, together with The Orkney Partnership's Annual Report 2022/23, updates the Committee on the work taken in 2022/23 to progress the Community Plan (LOIP) 2021/23, and the work since 1 April 2023 to progress the Community Plan (LOIP) 2023/30.

### **7. Financial Implications**

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

### **8. Legal Aspects**

#### **8.1.**

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

#### **8.2.**

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.

## **9. Contact Officers**

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## **10. Appendix**

Appendix 1: The Orkney Partnership Annual Report 2022/23.



# The Orkney Partnership

*Working together for a better Orkney*

*Draft at 1 September 2023*

## Annual Report 2022 to 2023

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

# Welcome to the Orkney Partnership's Annual Report 2022-23

This Annual Report covers the second year of our two year Community Plan 2021-23, which we developed to support Orkney to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The priorities for this recovery plan were:

**Connectivity** – addressing both digital connectivity and transport.

**Community Wellbeing** – focusing on both individual and community wellbeing and the need to help people retake control of their lives.

**Sustainable Recovery** - which exploited the synergy between Orkney's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and doing our part to combat the climate emergency.

The year saw massive fuel price rises and the cost of living crisis affect an ever-increasing number of households in Orkney. As well as pursuing the priorities set out in the 2021-23 plan, the Partnership established a Cost of Living Task Force, and agencies across Orkney got together with a sense of urgency to map out what they could do to support those most in need.

The Task Force took as their starting point the actions identified in the Orkney Child Poverty Strategy 2022-26 and the Food Dignity

Report, and continues to look at other ways they can support families and individuals. In the new Orkney Community Plan 2023-30, which took effect from April 2023, the Cost of Living has become one of the Partnership's strategic priorities. Our other priorities are Local Equality, which will focus on Orkney's most disadvantaged communities, and Sustainable Development, which expands on the work begun under the theme of Sustainable Recovery.

Orkney is a community which has challenges, and it is also a community that pulls together to support each other. We want to express our thanks for all the hard work done across Orkney to support people through the pandemic and the initial recovery period. Through its new Community Plan, the Partnership will continue its work to make Orkney an even better place to live.

After several years as Chair and Vice-Chair, we stood down in June 2023 and the Orkney Partnership Board appointed Councillor Heather Woodbridge as its new Chair and Morven Brooks of Voluntary Action Orkney as its new Vice Chair, to take forward the new plan. We wish them both every success in their new roles.

Councillor James Stockan  
Chair  
Orkney Partnership Board



Meghan McEwen  
Vice Chair  
Orkney Partnership Board

## Our structure during 2022-23



The Orkney Partnership Board is at the centre of our structure. During 2022-23, 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.

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

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 and the Delivery Group chairs.

The Board or Delivery Groups may create short life working groups to address specific issues. During 2022-23, the Partnership had two short life working groups, the Cost of Living Task Force and the First Responders (Isles) Group, focusing on the provision of emergency first responders on the ferry linked isles. Meanwhile, the Council together with Highlands and Islands Enterprise invited private sector businesses to join a new Business Forum, to advise the Partnership on business matters.

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 2022-23

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





## 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 2022-23</b>
A.	Consolidate and develop effective partnerships and collaborative work to support individuals and communities through recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Group drafted a Poverty Pledge that was adopted by the Partnership: <i>"We believe that it is not acceptable that people in our community live in poverty. Over the coming years, we will commit our time, energy, and resources to do all we can, in partnership, to work towards the elimination of poverty throughout Orkney."</i> This Pledge guided the work of the Partnership through the year up to the present.</li> <li>The partnership published the <a href="#">Orkney Child Poverty Strategy 2022-2026</a> and the VAO published the <a href="#">Food Dignity Report</a> on behalf of the partnership and these documents, along with the Fuel Poverty Strategy currently being drafted, set out how poverty will be tackled in Orkney, including by the Partnership.</li> <li>The cost of living crisis became more urgent during the year, as fuel prices rose, the price of everyday household goods increased and incomes failed to match the higher prices we all had to pay. A dedicated Cost of Living Task Force was established by the Partnership that drew up ambitious plans to challenge poverty, incorporating the actions identified in the Child Poverty Strategy and Food Report, including an advice/cash first approach to help those in need.</li> <li>Funding from the council was provided for a partnership project led by VAO called Orkney Money Matters. This will create new advice posts and deliver a far more co-ordinated approach to ensure those in need are identified and given all the help they need. The project was set up in the first quarter of 2023 2023, with most of the posts recruited to and became live shortly after.</li> </ul>
B.	Improve the resilience and sustainability of Orkney's fragile communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A report on streamlining Multi-agency Groups was produced by the partnership and a central register of all the groups created which sets out the purpose of the group and the contact details. This is revised periodically and circulated to partners.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delivery Group held an online conference 12 May 2022 allowing community organisations across Orkney to share the lessons they learnt from how they had to adapt to the challenges of the Pandemic.</li> <li>• The Delivery Group secured a further £74,000 for a Mental Health Wellbeing Fund which it allocated to agencies providing support to people.</li> <li>• A further £305,000 challenge fund was provided by the Council and distributed by Voluntary Action Orkney to Third Sector agencies to support people through the recovery period.</li> </ul>
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## Measuring progress in Community Wellbeing

How households are managing financially in Orkney (Source: <a href="#">Scottish Household Survey 2019</a> and <a href="#">Data Explorer</a> )					
	2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	2022-23 Outcome	Progress in 2022-23
Managing very well or quite well	66%	66%	66%	n/a	National figures have not been updated since 2021.
Get by all right	31%	32%	34%	n/a	
Don't manage very well and have some financial difficulties	3%	2%	0%	n/a	
<p>In this period, it is likely that the position of households 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. NB This measure is included in the 2023-30 LOIP so it will be possible to measure over time how well people are managing.</p>					
Percentage of dwellings in Orkney in Fuel Poverty (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	Progress in 2022-23	
30.5% (Scottish average 24.4%)	Reduce	Same as Scottish average	National figures have not been updated.	National figures have not been updated.	
<p>Updated figures have not yet been published but it is inevitable that fuel poverty will have been exacerbated by recent high price rises. NB This measure is included in the 2023-30 LOIP so it will be possible to measure over time how well people are managing.</p>					

**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	Progress in 2022-23
21.8% (Scottish average 11.9%)	Reduce	Same as Scottish average	National figures have not been updated.	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. NB This measure is included in the 2023-30 LOIP so it will be possible to measure over time how well people are managing.

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

2020-21 Baseline	2022-23 Target	Progress in 2021-22	Progress in 2022-23
2,862 (Census 2011)	Maintain or increase (Census 2022)	The 2022 census has not yet been published.	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 ([2021-23 LOIP](#)). 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	Progress in 2022-23
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.
	No	4.4	Decrease		
	Don't know	8.4	Decrease		
Orkney Outer Isles	Yes	79.0	Increase		
	No	8.7	Decrease		
	Don't know	12.3	Decrease		

Net migration to Orkney has been positive for the last few decades i.e. the number moving to Orkney is greater than those leaving. National Records of Scotland estimates for 2019-20 indicate that net migration was 170 which is typical of previous years. NB This measure is included in the 2023-30 LOIP so it will be possible to track population levels over time.

<b>Percentage of adults participating in some form of sport or exercise, including walking, in previous 4 weeks</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	Progress in 2022-23
86%	87%	88%	National figures have not been updated.	National figures have not been updated.
<p>Scottish Household Survey 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>				
<b>Access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services - waiting period of 18 weeks or less from referral to treatment</b> (source: <a href="#">Orkney Health and Care Strategic Commissioning Implementation Plan 2021-22</a> )				
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Progress in 2021-22	Progress in 2022-23
90% (NHS Delivery Standard)	90%	90%	Pending	Pending
Outcome data for 2021-22 and 2022-23 is expected shortly and will be added prior to publication.				

## 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 2022-23</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 Partnership adopted <a href="#">Community Wealth Building</a> as the approach to develop Orkney’s economy, moving towards Net Zero and a Wellbeing Economy. Community Wealth Building will ensure that more of the wealth generated in Orkney remains in the county and is shared across the community but also that economic activity is sustainable, i.e., <a href="#">Doughnut Economics</a>.</li> <li>• In February 2023, the Partnership organised a workshop with partners, councillors and the Scottish Government to explore what Community Wealth Building could look like in Orkney and how best to take it forward locally.</li> <li>• The Partnership published the report from the Economic Recovery Steering Group: <a href="#">Housing in an Economic Context: A Review of The Last 20 Years of Population Growth in Orkney and The Effects This Has Had on Housing Provision and Availability</a>.</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>• Just transition will be central to Orkney’s vision for Community Wealth Building.</li> <li>• It was agreed to set up a Skills Working Group, led by Skills Development Scotland and working closely with the Local Employability Partnership, to ensure that local people develop the skills necessary to grow Orkney’s wellbeing economy. This will support the Skills Charter.</li> <li>• Core to Just Transition is energy jobs, and a conference was convened by Orkney Renewable Energy Forum (OREF) 26 March 2023 to develop an Action Plan to deliver the Orkney Strategy Energy Strategy.</li> </ul>
	Measurable progress towards Scotland’s target of net zero emissions by 2045.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scotland has a target of Net Zero by 2045, halving emissions by 2030. The Partnership has taken the view that Orkney should be more ambitious with a NetZero target for 2030. This would contribute to reducing the damage caused by climate change and allow Orkney to take advantage of funding opportunities and economic development by being early adopters.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hoy was selected by the Scottish Government to be one of its six pilot <a href="#">Carbon Neutral Islands</a>, benefiting from government support to become carbon neutral by 2040. Community Energy Scotland is coordinating the three implementation phases – carbon audits, community climate change action plans and investment strategies.</li> <li>The Partnership have led initial discussion between NatureScot, HIE and the Council to develop a project to restore Orkney’s peat lands in a carbon off-setting project with local businesses.</li> </ul>
An adaptation strategy to protect our citizens, businesses, habitats and wildlife from the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">Orkney Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028</a>, developed the Council and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), was finalised in 2022.</li> <li>During 2022-23, the Council recruited a permanent Climate Change Officer, who will work with partners to take forward an adaptation strategy for Orkney.</li> </ul>

## Measuring progress in Sustainable Recovery

<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	Actual 2022-23 figure (Jan to Dec 2022)
88.7%	>85%	>85%	>85%	78.5%	87.5%
There was an initial 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 we may also be seeing the impact of some people deciding to retire early. There has been an almost complete recovery of employment levels during 2022.					
<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</a> )					
2018-19 Baseline	2019-20 target	2020-21 target	2021-22 target	Actual 2021 figure	Actual 2022 figure
95.4%	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain	93.4%	93.9%
Orkney’s participation rate dropped 2% in 2021 but partially recovered in 2022, giving a net 1.5% decline over the two years. National participation rates have increased by 0.8% over the same period but at 92.4% remain marginally lower than Orkney.					

**Businesses in the Highlands and Islands that are optimistic over their future prospects in the next 12 months** (Source: [HIE Business Panel June 2021 report](#) and [HIE Business Panel Report, February/March 2022](#) report).

2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	Feb/March 2022	April 2023 (% optimistic over future prospects for the next 6 months)
75% Jan/Feb 2020	80% June 2021	Maintain or improve	>80%	77%	85%

HIE changed this indicator in 2023 from a 12 month optimism forecast to a 6 month optimism forecast. It is likely that, had the original indicator remained unchanged, our original target for 2022-23 would still have been met.

**House build completions in Orkney, all sectors** (source: OIC Building Standards)

2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2021-22 Outcome	2022-23 Outcome
92	144	130	225	119	93

**% Orkney pupils' journeys to school by walking/cycling/scooter/skate (all schools excluding nursery)** (Source: [Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey 2020 and 2021, and 2022](#)).

2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2021	2022
33.7%	Improve	Improve	>40%	36.7%	33.7%

Over the period of this plan, we have not seen any overall improvement to this indicator.

**% Walking journeys to work as a proportion of all journeys in Orkney** (Source: Scottish Government [2019 and 2021 Transport – Travel to Work and Other Purposes](#))

Baseline (2019)	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2021	2022
27%	Improve	Improve	>35%	14%	n/a

The statistics indicate a considerable drop in the number of people walking to work. This may partially be related to changes in work patterns during and since the pandemic. Figures for 2022 have not yet been updated by Scottish Government.

**Local Authority territorial area - 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](#))

	Original 2019 Baseline*	Revised 2019 Baseline*	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2020 (latest figures)
Commercial	8.9 kt	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
Public Sector	2.6 kt	2.4 kt				2.5 kt
Domestic	42.0 kt	36.4 kt				36.4 kt
Transport	31.1 kt	32.4 kt				26.7 kt
LULUCF**	135.6 kt	124.1 kt				123.9 kt
Total for Orkney	277.2 kt	251.6 kt				240.3 kt

\*Since the publication of the LOIP 2023-30, the 2019 baseline estimates have been recalculated and the new figure is set out in brackets.

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

Figures are for the whole of a local authority's territorial area, not the local authority itself.

No updates have been available since 2020 but, up to then, some progress has been made towards meeting the target.

NB These are long term targets and this measure has therefore been included in the 2023-30 LOIP.

## Connectivity

What we aim to achieve	
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.	
Target outcomes	Progress during 2022-23
Equal standards of digital connectivity to elsewhere in the UK, with mobile and broadband services available and affordable to all in Orkney.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government's R100 programme has continued to roll out providing more homes with better connectivity, but progress by BT OpenReach has been significantly slower than planned.</li> <li>• Additional funding has been acquired which means that around 1,000 additional households, mainly on the ferry linked isles, will be connected by the end of the programme in 2028.</li> </ul>
Integrated, sustainable and affordable transport services which meet the needs of Orkney's residents, businesses and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following pressure from the Council and community planning partners, the Scottish Government agreed to convene a Taskforce to work with the Council and other partners to address the funding needed to replace the inter-isles ferry fleet. The Taskforce met once in February 2023 but was subsequently suspended due to the SNP leadership campaign.</li> <li>• The Partnership made a submission to the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) consultation arguing that Orkney's internal ferry service should be included as a life-line service and continues to challenge the decision made to sift out council-funded services.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government, following lobbying by the Council and community planning partners, continued to provide the additional revenue funding required to run the inter-island ferry service.</li> <li>• The junior rate for ferry fares has been extended to all those aged up to 22, paid for by the Council.</li> <li>• The Partnership continued to lobby Scottish Ministers about the case for Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) to be rolled out to Orkney.</li> </ul>

## Measuring progress in Connectivity

<b>% Orkney premises unable to access 10Mbps/s Broadband</b> (Sources: <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2020</a> , <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2022</a> , and <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2023</a> )					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	2022 Outcome	2023 Outcome	
20.7%	10%	0%	19.7%	17.2%	
<b>% Orkney premises unable to access 30Mbps/s Broadband</b> (Sources: <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2020</a> , <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2022</a> , and <a href="#">Ofcom Connected Nations 2023</a> )					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2022 Outcome	2023 Outcome
31.5%	20%	10%	0%	32.9%	31%
<b>% Orkney residents whose internet connection at home is fast enough to do what they want online</b> (Source: <a href="#">National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020</a> and <a href="#">online results explorer tool</a> )					
	2020-21 Baseline	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2022 Outcome	2023 Outcome
Orkney Mainland	70%	Increase	100%	Not applicable, survey only every two years.	The survey scheduled for 2022 was postponed to 2023. Updated results will not be available until 2024.
Ferry-linked isles	45%	Increase	100%		
<p>Commentary on broadband speed indicators:</p> <p>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 consequently these targets have not been met.</p> <p>In summer 2022, further investment was announced that will extend R100 to an additional 1,000 properties in Orkney and the Council is working with the Scottish Government to improve on that.</p>					

<b>% Orkney residents who have a good mobile phone signal at home</b> (Source: <a href="#">National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020</a> and <a href="#">online results explorer tool</a> )					
	2020-21 Baseline	2022-23 Target	Five-year target 2026-27	2022 Outcome	2023 Outcome
Orkney Mainland	78%	Increase	100%	Not applicable, survey only every two years.	The survey scheduled for 2022 was postponed to 2023. Updated results will not be available until 2024.
Ferry-linked isles	27%	Increase	100%		
<p>The Scottish Government is leading on this, and the Shared Rural Network (SRN) is an agreement involving the four 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.</p>					
<b>% of people in Orkney very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public transport</b> (Source: <a href="#">Scottish Household Survey 2019</a> and <a href="#">Data Explorer</a> )					
2020-21 Baseline	2021-22 Milestone	2022-23 Target	2022 Outcome	2023 Outcome	
61%	70%	80%	National figures have not yet been updated.	National figures have not yet been updated.	
<p>This indicator is taken from the Scottish Household Survey, which publishes much of its data as three-year rolling averages. This is more robust for small populations and smooths out anomalous years. Due to inconsistencies in data collection during the pandemic, the SHS has not been updated since 2019 data was published, and we have been unable to measure progress in a quantitative way.</p>					
<b>% of Orkney residents who agree “When I make journeys to or from my home, it is easy connecting between different forms of transport”</b> (Source: <a href="#">National Islands Plan Survey Report 2020</a> and <a href="#">online results explorer tool</a> )					
	2020-21 Baseline	2022-23 Target	2022 Figure	2023 Figure	
Orkney Mainland	46%	60%	Not applicable, survey only every two years.	The survey scheduled for 2022 was postponed to 2023. Updated results will not be available until 2024.	
Ferry-linked isles	29%	50%			

# Activity of Short Life Working Groups in 2022-23

## Cost of Living Task Force

The Cost of Living Task Force was set up as a short life working group in June 2022 and, from 1 April 2023, is a full Delivery Group. The group addresses the immediate cost of living crisis and the underlying causes of poverty in Orkney.

The Task Force has drawn together the actions from Orkney's Child Poverty Strategy, and the Orkney Food Dignity Report into a single action plan. When the Orkney Fuel Poverty Strategy is finalised, any additional actions will be incorporated into this plan.

The Orkney Partnership produced the Orkney Child Poverty Strategy 2022-26 and has published several statutory Local Child Poverty Action Reports, the most recent of which is linked below.

- [Orkney Child Poverty Strategy 2022-2026](#)
- [Orkney Local Child Poverty Action Report 2021-22](#)
- [Food Dignity Recommendations Report](#)

Orkney Money Matters is, to date, the most important initiative of the Task Force. It is a new partnership project between Voluntary Action Orkney, Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau, Orkney Blide Trust, Orkney Islands Council, Orkney Housing Association, NHS Orkney, the Foodbank and the Trussell Trust. It has initially been funded by Orkney Islands Council. It will reduce the levels of financial insecurity in Orkney by increasing access to advice, and cash-based support, through the creation of a 'advice-and-cash-first' referral pathway. The project will develop frameworks and resources to support closer working between organisation, as well as developing a centralised promotion campaign to raise awareness of available support.

## First Responders (Isles) Group

This group was set up because of a shortage of emergency first responders on some of the ferry linked isles. When someone gets into trouble, it can be some time before the ambulance and trained medics can reach people, so the Scottish Ambulance Service relies on islanders to come forward as First Responders. Unfortunately, too few volunteers were prepared to come forward. The view of some is that the problem is exacerbated because, on some islands First Responders are paid, while on others they are not. The group came together to explore options to resolve the problem, including lobbying the Scottish Government for the resources needed for an equitable service. The group is still working to resolve this challenge.

## Review of The Orkney Partnership

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

The Partnership agreed on a range of issues on which to focus improvement work, including performance reporting, resourcing the delivery groups, greater contribution and challenge from all partners, shared leadership, clearer lines of accountability, more effective early intervention and prevention, and better co-ordinated community engagement. An improvement plan was agreed by the Board in December 2022 and many of these workstreams were under way by the end of 2022-23.



## 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:

[community.planning@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:community.planning@orkney.gov.uk)

