

Item: 8

Harbour Authority Sub-committee: 21 January 2025.

Orkney Harbours Environmental Policy.

**Report by Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable
Regeneration.**

1. Overview

- 1.1. Marico Marine Limited conducted the annual Port Marine Safety Code audit between 22 to 24 October 2024. One of the recommendations in the audit report was to create and adopt an Environmental Policy for the Harbour Authority.
- 1.2. A proposed Policy has been drafted and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Sub-committee:
 - i. Adopt the Environmental Policy for Orkney Harbours, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

For Further Information please contact:

James Buck, Head of Marine Services, Transportation and Harbour Master, extension 3600, Email james.buck@orkney.gov.uk

Implications of Report

1. **Financial.** None related to the report recommendations.
2. **Legal.** The Council, as Harbour Authority, has certain legal duties with regard to port safety and environmental protection, some of which are referred to in the Port Marine Safety Code (the Code). The Code does not itself create any new legal duties but a failure to adhere to the good practice set out in it may be indicative of a Harbour Authority being in breach of the legal duties relating to port safety. The Code has introduced a national standard for every aspect of marine safety and establishes a measure by which harbour authorities can be accountable for discharging their legal powers and duties to run a harbour or facility safely and effectively. Ensuring compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code will assist the Council in discharging its duties as Harbour Authority.

3. **Corporate Governance.** Not applicable.
4. **Human Resources.** None related to the report recommendations.
5. **Equalities.** No impact.
6. **Island Communities Impact.** An Island Communities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
 - Growing our economy.
 - Strengthening our Communities.
 - Developing our Infrastructure.
 - Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
 - Cost of Living.
 - Sustainable Development.
 - Local Equality.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk.** This establishes the Environmental Policy for the Harbour Authority.
10. **Risk.** Not applicable.
11. **Procurement** None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
12. **Health and Safety.** None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
13. **Property and Assets** None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
14. **Information Technology** None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
15. **Cost of Living** Not applicable.

List of Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1: Environmental Policy for Orkney Harbours.

Appendix 2: Island Communities Impact Assessment.



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Environmental Policy for Orkney Harbours

1. Introduction

1.1 Orkney Harbours is committed to protecting the environment and promoting sustainability in all aspects of its operations. As a key part of the UK's maritime industry, we recognise the importance of preserving our natural resources, reducing our environmental impact, and ensuring the long-term health of the local and global environment.

1.2 This Policy outlines the principles, strategies, and actions that guide our environmental management efforts, ensuring compliance with relevant UK environmental legislation and contributing to broader sustainability goals.

2. Commitment to Sustainability and Environmental Protection

2.1 We will integrate environmental considerations into all aspects of our activities, from planning and development to operations and maintenance. Our primary environmental goals include:

- Minimising the environmental impact of port operations.
- Reducing pollution in all forms, including air, water, and land.
- Promoting the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Reducing the carbon footprint of the harbour operations.
- Supporting marine biodiversity and protecting local marine ecosystems.

3. Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements

3.1 We are committed to full compliance with national and international environmental laws and regulations, including:

- The **Environmental Protection Act 1990**
- The **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**
- The **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**
- The **Waste and Emissions Trading Act**
- The **UK Climate Change Act 2008**
- The **Habitats Directive** and **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** (for biodiversity and habitats)

3.2 We will monitor changes in legislation and regulatory requirements, ensuring that our practices remain up-to-date and compliant.

4. Pollution Prevention and Control

4.1 To prevent and control pollution, we will:

- Implement effective waste management systems to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials.
- Promote the use of environmentally friendly fuels and technologies.
- Monitor and control air and water emissions from port operations and vessels.
- Maintain spill response plans and regularly train staff in emergency preparedness.
- Work with shipping companies, cargo operators, and contractors to reduce their environmental impacts.

5. Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction

5.1 We are committed to improving energy efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint of the harbour:

- Conduct regular energy audits of port facilities and infrastructure.
- Invest in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power where feasible.
- Support the transition to cleaner, low-carbon technologies for vessels, equipment, and port machinery.
- Promote the use of shore power to reduce emissions from ships at berth.
- Implement a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all harbour operations in line with UK climate change goals.

6. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management

6.1 We are committed to preserving and enhancing biodiversity in and around the harbour:

- Monitor the condition of marine ecosystems and work to protect sensitive habitats.
- Support the conservation of local wildlife and their habitats, including protected species and areas.
- Promote sustainable fisheries and marine activities in the harbour area.
- Collaborate with local environmental groups and stakeholders to improve ecosystem health.
- Carry out environmental impact assessments for any major development projects and implement measures to mitigate adverse effects on biodiversity.

7. Sustainable Development and Planning

7.1 The Harbour Authority will ensure that development and expansion are carried out in a sustainable manner:

- Adopt a precautionary approach to the development of new infrastructure or expansion of existing facilities.
- Ensure that new developments are designed with environmental impact minimisation in mind.
- Foster the use of green infrastructure and sustainable construction methods.
- Promote sustainable transport links and reduce reliance on road transport where possible.

8. Waste Management and Circular Economy

8.1 We aim to minimise the production of waste and support the transition to a circular economy:

- Reduce, reuse, and recycle materials wherever possible.
- Work with stakeholders to improve waste management and disposal practices.
- Promote the use of sustainable packaging and the reduction of single-use plastics.
- Implement initiatives to manage stormwater runoff and prevent litter in the marine environment.

9. Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness

9.1 We recognise the importance of engaging stakeholders in our environmental activities

- Regularly consult with local communities, businesses, environmental organisations, and government agencies.
- Keep the public informed about the harbour's environmental efforts through regular reports and outreach programs.
- Provide training and awareness programs for all employees to promote environmental responsibility.

10. Monitoring, Reporting, and Continuous Improvement

10.1 We will establish systems to monitor and report on our environmental performance:

- Regularly assess environmental risks and opportunities.
- Collect and analyse data to track progress against environmental targets.
- Publish annual sustainability reports to communicate our environmental performance to stakeholders.
- Set measurable environmental objectives and review them annually to ensure continuous improvement.

11. Responsibility and Accountability

11.1 Environmental management is the responsibility of everyone at Orkney Harbours. Senior management will ensure that adequate resources are allocated to environmental initiatives, and that progress is monitored. Each employee, contractor, and stakeholder will be encouraged to take personal responsibility for environmental protection.

12. Conclusion

Orkney Harbours is dedicated to making a positive impact on the environment through responsible management and continuous improvement. By adopting sustainable practices, reducing pollution, and enhancing biodiversity, we aim to create a harbour that benefits not only current stakeholders but also future generations.

Island Communities Impact Assessment


Orkney Harbours Environmental Policy

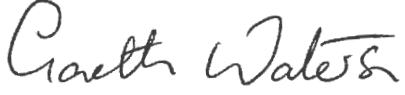
Preliminary Considerations	Response
Please provide a brief description or summary of the policy, strategy or service under review for the purposes of this assessment.	Provide an overarching Environmental Policy for all Harbour areas under the 1974 act and amendments.
Step 1 – Develop a clear understanding of your objectives	Response
What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?	To provide guidance on Environmental standards and requirements to be followed. To provide a framework for environmental protection
Do you need to consult?	No
How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy or service?	Included in the 1974 act
What are the intended impacts/outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?	Nil.
Is the policy, strategy or service new?	Yes
Step 2 – Gather your data and identify your stakeholders	Response
What data is available about the current situation in the islands?	Available from Marine Services environmental unit.
Do you need to consult?	No
How does any existing data differ between islands?	No difference
Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?	Not required
Step 3 – Consultation	Response
Who do you need to consult with?	No one.
How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?	Not required

What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?	Not applicable
What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns have been raised previously by island communities?	Not applicable
Is your consultation robust and meaningful and sufficient to comply with the Section 7 duty?	Not applicable
Step 4 – Assessment	Response
Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities?	No unique impacts
Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?	No
How will you address these?	Not required
<p>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).</p> <p>If your answer is No to the above question, a full ICIA will NOT be required and you can process to Step 6.</p> <p>If the answer is Yes, an ICIA must be prepared and you should proceed to Step 5.</p> <p>To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	
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.	
Consider alternative delivery mechanisms and whether further consultation is required.	
Describe how these alternative delivery mechanisms will improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
Identify resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
Stage 6 – Making adjustments to your work	Response
Should delivery mechanisms/mitigations vary in different communities?	No
Do you need to consult with island communities in respect of mechanisms or mitigations?	No
Have island circumstances been factored into the evaluation process?	Yes
Have any island-specific indicators/targets been identified that require monitoring?	No
How will outcomes be measured on the islands?	Not required
How has the policy, strategy or service affected island communities?	No impact

How will lessons learned in this ICIA inform future policy making and service delivery?	Not required
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 and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it?	No
Who will signoff your final ICIA and why?	Corporate Director of Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration

ICIA completed by:	James Buck
Position:	Head of Marine Services, Transportation and Harbour Master
Signature:	
Date complete:	19 Dec 24

ICIA approved by:	Gareth Waterson
Position:	Corporate Director of Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration
Signature:	
Date complete:	13 Jan 2024