



**Item: 13**

**Policy and Resources Committee: 24 September 2024.**

**Climate Change and Net Zero.**

**Report by Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.**

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## **1. Overview**

1.1. This report provides an overview of the Council's developing strategic approach to Climate Change. It includes updates, following the September 2023 report to the Policy and Resources Committee. It also includes a draft vision for the Council. The report itself is also intended as a position summary for the Council on this critical agenda and updates members on a number of relevant developments, including:

- The Partnership Board approved a draft climate change vision for Orkney and following public consultation, the latest revised draft is now attached as Appendix 1. Community planning partners are currently being invited to support the pursuit of this vision.
- A consultation was held by the Scottish Government on Scotland's Draft National Adaptation Plan SNAP3 (2024 – 2029) – 'Actions today, for a climate resilient future'. An officer response was collated and submitted, and this is attached for information at Appendix 2 (including a link to the draft National Adaptation Plan).

1.2. A Climate Intelligence Service - <https://www.climateintelligenceservice.scot/> is currently being developed in Scotland to support net zero transition programmes in Local Authority areas. A further and related initiative will be a Climate Change Delivery Framework between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities. These developments are summarised (and with further information provided in Appendix 3).

### **Requirement for this report**

1.3. In September 2023, the Policy and Resources Committee received a report on progress with the Council's Climate Change Commitments and proposals to support the development of the Council's Climate Change Strategy. The report also recommended that the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and

Infrastructure should submit, to the Policy and Resources Committee no later than March 2024, an interim vision paper on net zero, explaining the Council's ambition, transparently communicating the approach to drive short term action and delivering a route map to achieve net zero. The report was held over from March to this Committee, so that members could consider the proposed draft vision alongside the draft vision from the Orkney Community Planning Partnership.

- 1.4. Members are requested to review this report, its context and the proposals outlined for public statements on both the Council's and the Orkney Partnership's climate change ambition.

### **Climate Change and the Council – Environment, Economy, Resilience**

- 1.5. 'Protecting our Environment and combating Climate Change' is included in the Council Plan as one of five core principles. The priority themes in the Council Plan are built upon these core principles, stating that these will guide future decision making relating to all the Council's aims. The prominence given to this environmental agenda, clearly reflects the commitment from elected members and also the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Council in May 2019. However, addressing Climate Change is imperative for Orkney for multiple and inter-connected reasons and not just for environmental concern alone:
  - The economic opportunity for green jobs associated with the net zero transition is one where Orkney has successful early experience. This reflects through into key commitment themes within the Council Plan, including improved outcomes for communities in the strategic priority of Growing our Economy.
  - The impacts of the changing climate are also threats to our communities in coming decades and potentially in the near term, for example through increased extreme weather events and prolonged weather periods. Adapting to the changing climate and supporting our resilience on behalf of communities, will be increasingly important themes for the Council. These will reflect into the Council Plan themes of Strengthening our communities, Growing our economy and Developing our Infrastructure (for example with Climate Change added into the Council's risk register since 2023).

### **Net Zero Visions – Ambition and Transparency**

- 1.6. The Orkney Partnership, the county's community planning partnership, has developed and consulted upon a draft vision for Orkney's 'just transition' to net zero. The vision is intended as a collaborative commitment from public agencies,

community and business from various sectors to address the pressing challenges of climate change while ensuring fairness and equity for all members of our community. The draft vision sets out principles (developed from the Council's climate change principles in the September 2023 report to this Committee) and an approach to reduce climate change emissions, enhance sustainability, and promote resilience in Orkney. The draft vision document is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

- 1.7. In addition to seeking endorsement of the Partnership's ambition, this report also now sets out a proposed net zero statement for Orkney Islands Council. This statement reflects the approach and principles (agreed at the September 2023 Policy and Resources Committee) and the Council's commitment to urgent action, whilst investigating science aligned pathways for decarbonisation.

Orkney Island's Council – Proposed Climate Change Vision Statement -

***A Net Zero Local Authority, collaborating and innovating for a just transition where Orkney's economy, communities and natural environment all prosper. We will focus on;***

- ***Urgency and Ownership – To understand and to reduce our emissions at the earliest opportunities.***
- ***Collaboration and Co-ordination – Across Council Services and with partners and the community.***
- ***Transparency - In the setting and addressing of our carbon targets.***
- ***Sustainability – Building our resilience and adapting to the changing climate.***

- 1.8. If the Council agrees and confirms this vision, the next steps will be to add this to the Council's webpage, along with information on our strategic approach. The Council's officer working group on climate change communications (subgroup 3) will compile this and will then consider further communication and engagement elements for the Council's developing Climate Change Strategy. Support for the ambition set out by the Orkney Partnership in their draft vision statement is also recommended.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
  - i. Note the Council's developing strategic approach on Climate Change.

- ii. Agree that the Council should support the ambition for Orkney as set out by the Orkney Partnership in their draft Climate Change vision statement.
- iii. Agree the proposed statement in paragraph 1.7 above as a vision and public statement for the Council's own approach to climate change.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1. In 2019, Orkney Islands Council declared a Climate Emergency and reaffirmed its priority with respect to working towards a carbon neutral economy. Subsequent Net Zero statements have been made, including within the new Council Plan and the Council's Delivery Plan 2023-2028. Collaborations such as the Orkney Sustainable Energy Strategy 2017-2025 also proposed ambitious targets towards Net Zero. Progress towards targets remains challenging for Orkney and for other local authorities.
- 3.2. In relation to national targets, the 2019 amendment to the UK's Climate Change Act 2008 set a legally binding target for the UK to reach net zero emissions by no later than 2050. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 increased the ambition of Scotland's to net zero by 2045 and with an interim target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 per cent by 2030.
- 3.3. In April, the net zero secretary confirmed the Scottish Government had dropped that specific 2030 milestone target following UK Climate Change Committee advice. It is understood that Scotland will instead now follow the approach used by the UK and Welsh governments by adopting five-yearly "carbon budgets" and maintaining its net zero target date of 2045. In Scotland, local authorities have a duty to contribute towards the delivery of national emission targets (see section 4 of this report).
- 3.4. The Scottish Government continues to work with national bodies (such as the Improvement Service) and also with representative bodies (such as COSLA), to build and develop further support for Local Government in addressing the challenges of Climate Change. In June 2024, a paper presented to COSLA, sought Leaders' agreement to the establishment of a Climate Delivery Framework. This was agreed and a joint statement is attached at Appendix 3 to this report.
- 3.5. One initiative mentioned in this statement, and which has been developing throughout 2024, is the development and roll out of a new Intelligence Service, which will support Local Authorities and area-based climate and net-zero programmes. The Scottish Climate Intelligence Service is being jointly funded by Scottish Government and Scotland's 32 local authorities and is being delivered by

a partnership between the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI), the Improvement Service (IS) and the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN). The development recognises that reducing Scotland’s emissions to tackle climate change is a massive, complex and systemic problem, in which the sources of emissions are interconnected and where solutions must be designed and delivered at scale. Also, that an area-wide approach is needed to recognise this connectivity, breaking down emissions in a region by source and designing area-wide programmes for emissions reduction. The service is being developed with close Local Authority engagement, seeking to help address challenges such as a lack of capacity, skills and consistent data approaches.

## 4. Council Commitments

4.1. Orkney Islands Council has a number of commitments to Climate Change and Net Zero and these are progressed in line with the Council’s 2023-2028 Delivery Plan. These significantly include priority E1 (extract copied below) but also through aspects such as the Capital Programme (I11) and for example, sections relating to staff working locations, operational property, and estates assets review and development (T5). As stated in the Council Plan, Climate Change is a priority theme and as such will guide future decision making relating to all the Council’s aims.

Net-zero and de-carbonisation (E1)				
Progress towards net-zero and the de-carbonisation of operations through:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with partners in the renewable research and innovation community.</li> <li>Finalisation, approval and implementation of relevant actions in the Orkney Sustainable Energy Strategy and Action Plan.</li> <li>Decarbonisation of vehicle fleet and Council buildings and properties with reference to the Scottish Government Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.</li> <li>Progressing delivery plan to meet Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing 2 by 2032 in line with Scottish Government priorities and availability of funding.</li> <li>Supporting uptake of renewable energy, smart energy, or energy efficient solutions for homes and businesses.</li> </ul>				
Delivery milestones				
Year 1 (2023/24)	Year 2 (2024/25)	Year 3 (2025/26)	Year 4 (2026/27)	Year 5 (2027/28)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the Orkney Sustainable Energy Strategy Action Plan.</li> <li>Council specific action will follow from this delivery plan.</li> <li>Commence development of the Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Scottish Government 'Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan' and update of Orkney Sustainable Energy Strategy completed.</li> <li>Finalise programme of decarbonisation for housing stock.</li> <li>Approve Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise programme of decarbonisation across relevant strands e.g.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School estate.</li> <li>Infrastructure property.</li> <li>Vehicle fleet.</li> <li>ICT estate.</li> <li>Marine and transport.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Replicate Carbon Neutral Islands project on one or more islands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify funding and develop pilot plans.</li> <li>Replicate Carbon Neutral Islands project on one or more islands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver decarbonisation pilot on one key programme strand.</li> <li>Commence decarbonisation programme strands.</li> </ul>

- 4.2. The September 2023 report submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee, indicated how there has been wider (society level) confusion regarding the definition and application of the target of net zero, which in some cases, led to inconsistent practice and misleading environmental claims. The report also referenced how international initiatives have sought to address these issues and how a consensus has emerged, defining net zero (for organisations) as requiring a focus on the pace of emissions reduction. The Committee recommended the following four specific points which together will help the Council to develop a clear approach to this important Climate Change target:
- i. That the Council acknowledge the scale of the challenge of transitioning the Council and services to net zero, confirm its commitment to urgent action and endorse the developing strategic approach, including initial principles and timeline.
  - ii. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should commission an independent study to identify indicative Council transition pathways towards net zero, at an estimated cost of £80,000, to be funded from the Council's Crown Estate Fund.
  - iii. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should submit, to the Policy and Resources Committee no later than March 2024, an interim vision paper on net zero, explaining the Council's ambition, transparently communicating the approach to drive short term action and delivering a route map to achieve net zero.
  - iv. That the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should submit a report, to the Policy and Resources Committee no later than March 2025, on the outcomes of the independent study commissioned to identify indicative Council transition pathways towards net zero.
- 4.3. Further to the September 2023 report to the Policy and Resources Committee, work on the Council's Climate Change Strategy is progressing. In addition to the existing Directorate commitments in the Delivery Plan, an officer working group has been established with four subgroups to support strategy development and coordination. These subgroups have progressed preparatory work for the baseline review of Council emissions and have helped compile a response to the draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan (Appendix 2) and also a position summary for the formative (draft) Orkney Sustainable Energy Action Plan. In addition, a tender exercise was completed for the independent study into indicative Council transition pathways towards net zero. Work has now commenced on this study.

## 5. Legislative position

- 5.1. Under The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 as amended, duties are placed on the Council, in the exercise of its functions, to contribute to the delivery of emission reduction targets, help deliver any statutory climate change adaptation programme and do this in a way that it considers most sustainable. In accordance with the legislation passed under the 2009 Act as amended, the Council is also under a duty to report annually on compliance with its climate change duties.
- 5.2. The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) 2023 states that Local Development Plans (LDPs) must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring that spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.

### For Further Information please contact:

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### Implications of Report

1. **Financial:** There are no specific financial implications from the report's recommendations.
2. **Legal:** The legal implications are set out in the body of the report.
3. **Corporate Governance:** The development of the Council's climate change strategy and alignment towards a science-based net zero transition, supports and complements the Orkney Partnership's Climate Change ambition. It will contribute towards the shared vision of what net zero will mean for Orkney and contribute through the transition of the Council to become a net zero organisation.
4. **Human Resources:** None.
5. **Equalities:** None directly. The concept of the 'Just Transition' is supportive to equality and justice.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** The Net Zero vision is supportive of Island Communities.
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:** Significant focus for this report.
10. **Risk:** None directly. Appendix 2 addresses Climate Risks.
11. **Procurement:** None directly.
12. **Health and Safety:** None directly.
13. **Property and Assets:** None directly. The Net Zero transition will be a significant consideration.
14. **Information Technology:** None directly.
15. **Cost of Living:** None directly. The appendices do reflect fuel poverty concerns.

### List of Background Papers

Orkney Islands Council Plan (2023-2028)  
Orkney Islands Council Delivery Plan (2023-2028)  
National Planning Framework 4  
Orkney Sustainable Energy Strategy (2017-2025) and the draft 2024 action plan  
Integrity Matters: Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities, UN.  
Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024 (draft)

### Appendices

Appendix 1 - Orkney Community Planning Partnership vision for a climate resilient and Net Zero future.

Appendix 2 - Climate Change Adaptation Consultation, April 2024 - Response to Draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP 3).

Appendix 3 – Local and Scottish Government Climate Delivery Framework – Principles.





# The Orkney Partnership

*Working together for a better Orkney*

*Draft at 20 August 2024*



Net Zero  
Orkney

*Our vision for  
a climate-resilient and  
net zero future*

**Summer 2024**

## Our Vision is a future which meets the challenge head on, where:

- ***The world is transitioning to Net Zero through a radical cut in climate change emissions during the current decade and to achieve Net Zero for Scotland by 2045 and globally by 2050.<sup>1</sup>***
- ***We are doing everything we can to ensure that Orkney will be ahead of the curve, aiming for Net Zero Emissions in as many sectors of our economy as possible by 2030 and a fully decarbonised (zero carbon) island economy by 2045.***
- ***Playing a leading part in achieving a Just Transition where Orkney's economy, communities and natural environment all prosper and benefit, building their resilience, and adapting to the changing climate.***

## A climate resilient and Net Zero future

Climate change poses a serious threat to life on our planet and is driven by human activity. Global warming is impacting us now, and without accelerated efforts to combat it, billions of lives are at risk as more parts of our planet become uninhabitable.

Orkney will not escape these impacts. Many people are worried about their futures: both the future of the planet and their own financial security. This is a major cause of anxiety, especially for young people who will live through more of these social and climate changes.

The good news is that as a society, we have the ability to reduce emissions, to adapt to climate impacts, to protect biodiversity and to sustain and improve our lives. By being at the forefront of change, Orkney can decide on its future while attracting investment to benefit everyone in our society, without costing the Earth, nor societies elsewhere.

This document begins to describe how we as organisations will support the journey from where we are now to where we need to be.

## Principles

**Just Transition:** making sure that the costs of the transition to Net Zero emissions do not burden those least able to pay and the benefits of this transition are felt regardless of where you live, who you are and what you do. Seeking job security for those in industries that will play the biggest part in the transition. See: [Just Transition](#)

**Global and local Climate Justice:** protecting our own vulnerable communities, and accepting our shared responsibility with the rest of the world to lead on reducing climate change emissions. See: [Putting equity and human rights at the core of decision-making and action on climate change.](#)

**A Wellbeing Economy:** that places the wellbeing of humans and our environment at its core. See: [Wellbeing Economy Toolkit.](#)

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<sup>1</sup> There is now clarity internationally on the meaning of Net Zero (for actors below the global level), and this consensus involves cutting emission by (almost) 50% by 2030 from the 2020 levels and achieving net zero emissions by mid-century. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/high-level-expert-group>

**Doughnut Economics:** means ensuring an economy that ensures the needs of all are met without exceeding our planet's capacity. See: [Doughnut Economics](#).

**Community Wealth Building:** is a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people. See: [Community Wealth Building](#).

## What this means for Orkney

- Orkney is a small place, but we can make a disproportionately large contribution to addressing climate change while enabling our communities to continue to benefit from the investment in our economy, well paid jobs and steps to reduce fuel poverty.
- We have set a high ambition that will require new ways of. Our aim is to innovate and collaborate at pace. All partners are clear that a step change is now required.
- We are a testbed for innovative developments that will help the world conduct a Just Transition and we want Orkney to be recognised and our communities to benefit from our pioneering contribution, with no one left behind. This work needs to be supported and opportunities explored to grow and develop sustainable and impactful initiatives in the green and blue (marine) economies.
- As well as underpinning our agricultural sector and islands' economy, our soils and pastures are also an important carbon store. We will work with our farming community to benefit from and support Net Zero transition opportunities.
- We need to reduce our own emissions, including the necessary investment in active and sustainable travel, moving rapidly towards low and zero emission forms of transport. Not just a shift from private petrol cars to private electric vehicles, but a move to more public transport and active travel journeys.
- We can and should make a disproportionate contribution to the production of renewable energy through a range of different developments. Alongside this, we must ensure that we continue our success in attracting green jobs (400 jobs already in the renewable sector alone), and that these jobs are long-term and contribute to the community.
- We will ensure that more of the wealth generated in Orkney is retained in the county and shared more equitably through Community Wealth Building, including community ownership in the energy sector and lobbying for a market structure that meets the need for a Just Transition.
- We want the heating in our homes and buildings to be green and affordable with modern forms of heating and improved insulation and building standards. This will deliver homes that are warm and dry, with no-one living in fuel poverty.
- We will help Orkney to become resilient to the changing climate, adapting and addressing projected impacts like flooding, sea levels, increased extreme weather and associated impacts such as supply chain vulnerability.
- We recognise that some of these changes will also have negative impacts that we will need to resolve or alleviate.

## How we will work as partners

- **Community engagement** – This vision can only be achieved with the active participation of and leadership from the whole community.
- **Collaboration and Co-ordination** – Active collaboration both through the Orkney Partnership, private sector, third sector and residents<sup>2</sup>.
- **Urgency and ownership** – All Partners will actively understand and manage down their emissions towards Net Zero and individuals should be supported and encouraged to do the same.
- **Active Planning** – Focus is required on investigating options and preparing cases for emission savings at the earliest opportunities possible.
- **Transparency** – Partners will be transparent in addressing the climate emergency, setting interim and longer-term targets and collectively reporting on our progress.
- **Sustainability** – In addressing the Climate Emergency, we will seek ‘Island Proofed’ and sustainable approaches, by following [Doughnut Economics Principles of Practice](#) to meet human needs ‘without overshooting Earth's ecological ceiling’.

## Our priorities will include:

- Collaborating to understand the transition challenge, to collate partner’s specific targets and to promote data and knowledge sharing.
- Working with others to help them ensure that plans for different key sectors of our economy support this vision, including for farming, housing, energy, transport, tourism, construction and the public sector.
- Decarbonisation and Net Zero projects that require partners to innovate and work together and which can secure funding to support Orkney’s transition.
- Initiatives to restore our natural environment, such as peatland restoration, maintaining and increasing organic matter in soils and vegetation and other nature-based climate change mitigation opportunities across our islands and in our seas.
- Urgently reducing fuel poverty through both reactive and proactive measures, with a focus on household and business energy efficiency and use.
- Accelerating the work to promote the Circular Economy (promoting the reuse of materials). See the [Circular Communities Toolkit](#).
- Supporting Climate Adaptation and Resilience, helping Orkney to understand and respond to projected and emerging climate change impacts for our islands and communities.
- Develop a Community Wealth Building strategy as the means to deliver a wellbeing economy and supports the Just Transition principles and this vision for Net Zero.

*Front photograph taken by and copyright Colin Keldie.*

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<sup>2</sup> Including active engagement with innovative collaborations such as the Orkney based [Islands Centre for Net Zero](#) - and initiatives like Carbon Neutral Islands (Hoy) -

## APPENDIX 2

### Climate Change Adaptation Consultation – April 2024 – Response from Orkney Islands Council

[Draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan \(2024-2029\) \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Consultation Question.		Response.
1.	What do you think the current effects of climate change are on people in Scotland?	Orkney Islands Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. The Council recognises the importance of the adaptation and resilience agenda and has incorporated Climate Change into its Risk Register.
2.	The next Scottish National Adaptation Plan will cover the period of September 2024 to 2029. What effects, if any, do you expect climate change will have on people in Scotland over the next five years?	<p>Over the period in question (to 2029), it is expected that climate change impacts will continue to develop and affect people across the Orkney islands (although impacts can be masked by the inherent resilience of long-term island living). Issues that are already causing concern include, increasing impacts from weather events (e.g. storms, floods and surface water), the effects of prolonged weather periods (e.g. prolonged saturated ground impacting farming) and coastal flood risks effecting settlements and communities. For residents, impacts are felt both at home and in relation to access and services (for example disruptions via ferry delays or closing of barriers connecting island communities).</p> <p>Since the introduction of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and V2.1 flood mapping in 2023, SEPA has been of the opinion that the Kirkwall Harbour Flood Protection Scheme (KHFPS) no longer provides protection equivalent to the 1:200 year return event plus climate change uplift (CCU) that it was designed and constructed to, when completed in 2018. The KHFPS is still considered to provide effective long-term protection from the 1:200 year climate change events. However, unless it can be demonstrated with further detailed study of coastal flood risk at Kirkwall, that the KHFPS does provide protection equivalent to the Revised 1:200 + CCU level, then SEPA is likely to continue to object to a range of development types in central Kirkwall due to what they understand as future coastal flood risk.</p> <p>These developing risks will potentially restrict the land available in Kirkwall for important development including the housing required to address the county’s housing shortage.</p>

<b>Consultation Question.</b>		<b>Response.</b>
3.	What actions, if any, would you be willing and able to take to adapt to climate change? You may wish to consider the action you could take a) in your community and b) around your home and/or business.	No response made.
4.	What factor(s), if any, would prevent you from taking action to adapt to climate change and become more climate-resilient?	The primary barriers are financial constraints, knowledge and awareness (understanding the risk and uncertainties) and competing short term priorities.
5.	What action(s) do you think the Scottish Government should prioritise in order to build greater resilience to the impacts of climate change?	<p>The challenge is complex and cannot be solved by single actors in isolation. The Scottish Government has collaborated with Local Authorities, supporting with resources and recognising their important role (in effect on the front line working with communities). This situation is especially relevant in island settings and therefore a key priority is this need for strong collaboration and support to Island Councils.</p> <p>In relation to the SNAP 3 priorities listed, OIC would also emphasise the Council’s Marine Planning function and the imperative of Orkney’s Archaeology (see specific response on both at Q8).</p> <p>The Scottish Government’s Priorities should also address actions identified by the UK Climate Change Committee in their report “Adapting to Climate Change – Progress in Scotland” - November 2023.</p> <p>As an example relevant to Orkney (and not to exclude other equally important recommendations), this should include the following CCC recommendation regarding financial constraints.</p> <p><i>Facilitate access to finance to install proactive adaptation measures for overheating and flood resilience in buildings. This could be via grant schemes or green finance for private owners, with public funding targeted at low-income</i></p>

Consultation Question.	Response.
	<p><i>households or buildings with vulnerable occupants, alongside energy efficiency retrofit.</i></p> <p>As well as financial barriers, there can be other barriers, such as regulations, associated guidance and its interpretation. An example also mentioned at Q13 below, is the flexibility for some households to continue to use ‘direct emission heating’ at least as a back-up during extreme weather events and grid disruptions.</p> <p>A further situation (see below) relates to conservation areas and the ability of residents to protect their property and contents.</p> <p><i>Guidance on flood resilience measures that allow for adaptation of listed buildings and houses in Conservation Areas, such as door flood barriers. The identification and use of appropriate materials resilient to increased rainfall and temperature fluctuations should be provided, and guidance against use of tropical hardwoods such as teak, in adapting Listed Buildings and buildings in Conservation Areas given. Current planning guidance can incorporate the balance between climate adaptation and the protection of the character and appearance of buildings and areas, to potentially include non-traditional materials or finishes, particularly for temporary installations, to help communities adapt buildings to become more resilient.</i></p>
<p>6. Which of the following actions should the Scottish Government prioritise? Please check all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. More trees and green spaces in built-up places for flood resilience and cooling</li> <li>ii. More joined up natural habitats (“nature networks”)</li> <li>iii. Managing pests and diseases which will be more prevalent with climate change</li> </ul>	<p>The Scottish Government should not prioritise any one of the listed initiatives but should seek to ensure that all measures can contribute appropriately and where most effective (i.e. as adaptation resilience measures and whilst maximising co-benefits). In addition to coastal ‘barriers’, the Government should also consider marine habitats and their role in coastal protection.</p> <p>Nature network opportunities should be prioritised with local decision making on what the optimum option is to deliver them depending on the location and specific circumstances. This approach would be able to incorporate ‘trees and green spaces in urban areas’ as well as ‘restoration of peatland habitats and new woodlands’ (there are no native forests in Orkney) and ‘natural coastal barriers’, help build resilience to deal with pests and diseases, as well as other opportunities that would be best suited to local</p>

<b>Consultation Question.</b>		<b>Response.</b>
	iv. Restoring forests and peatland v. Reinforcing natural coastal barriers such as dunes vi. Other	<p>circumstances and that would benefit both nature, climate and people.</p> <p>Nature based adaptation projects should themselves include consideration and where appropriate, assessment of impact, for example on archaeological and historic environment assets and how to avoid adverse effects. Non-designated assets should be identified by consulting the Local Authority Archaeologist.</p>
7.	<p>When you consider your local natural space e.g. park, canal, woodland or beach, what would you like to see improved in terms of blue and green space in your local area?</p>	<p>At the moment, the majority of public green space in Orkney is closely mown grass, with little biodiversity value, limited carbon sequestration (a situation common to many communities across Scotland). It does not provide any shelter from the elements, nor attractive or distinctive features for people. It would be great to see such green spaces made more diverse for both nature and people with a variety of planting and functions (eg surface water management, active travel routes, etc that incorporate biodiversity, and provide both shelter and shade. Guidance and funding could be helpful for realising greater holistic benefits of nature-based solutions, and in particular at local (rather than landscape) scale.</p> <p>Like other locations in Scotland, Orkney beaches suffer from plastic litter that is washed ashore. However there is also a significant amount of waste washing ashore from creel fisheries and fish farms, for example from creel lines and pots dislodged during bad weather that get snagged on rocks and then wash ashore, and fish farm infrastructure such as pipes, polystyrene tubes and ropes that get washed ashore and/or become loose during on-shore works on fish cages, are not removed and become embedded in the coastal edge or end up back in the sea. Waste such as this creates a hazard for wildlife, causes pollution as it breaks down and looks unsightly (which is important in a location such as Orkney that relies on the natural environment to attract tourists, who are important to the local economy). It would be beneficial for a system of reporting and removal to be set up so that such waste is removed from the marine and terrestrial environment, particularly if it could be reused or recycled, to avoid releasing embodied emissions.</p>
8.	<p>For Scotland to adapt to the impacts of climate change, lots of</p>	<p>As outlined in response at Q5, OIC recognises the climate change adaptation and resilience challenge as complex and requiring collaboration and clarity between the Scottish</p>



<b>Consultation Question.</b>	<b>Response.</b>
<p>different groups, such as individuals, communities, businesses and public bodies, will need to work together and support each other. How could others support you (or your organisation) to adapt to climate change over the next five years? You might want to think about some of the groups listed below and the roles that they could take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central and local government</li> <li>• Other public bodies, such as NHS Boards or enterprise agencies</li> <li>• Small and large businesses</li> <li>• Third sector organisations</li> <li>• Communities</li> </ul>	<p>Government and Local Authorities (resourcing and recognising their important role). This is especially important on the following areas unique to Orkney.</p> <p>Marine Environment / Marine Planning</p> <p>Annex A NC4 concerning marine planning should be prioritised with Regional Marine Plans and decision making on what the optimum option is to deliver marine and coastal planning depending on the location and specific circumstances. Only NMP and NMP2 are referred to in the SNAP Annex A NC4.</p> <p>OIC supports Objective NC4 which aims to increase the climate resilience of marine ecosystems and the blue economy and identifies evidence informed planning and management as key delivery mechanism. On page 30 of the Draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan, marine planning, including the National Marine Plan and National Marine Plan 2, is highlighted. This is welcomed and it is hoped that National Marine Plan 2 will align with National Planning Framework 4; prioritising the climate and nature crises, giving significant weight in decision making to these matters.</p> <p>It is also welcomed that the Marine Directorate intends to prepare a marine restoration plan for 2026-2045 within the next 2 years. This strategy will need to be ambitious and commensurate with the scale biodiversity loss and the need for restoration at scale.</p> <p>This section of Draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan needs to acknowledge the importance role that Regional Marine Plans play in setting locally developed marine planning policy, spatial planning and supporting guidance. It is recommended that the following text be included in the adaptation plan:</p> <p>Regional Marine Plans are prepared by Marine Planning Partnership to help guide public authority decisions on sustainable development and activities within the Scottish marine regions. They enable local communities and stakeholders to take forward locally appropriate marine planning policies and spatial planning to deliver sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the protection and enhancement of the marine environment. These plans provide a significant opportunity for coastal communities to take forward opportunities to</p>

Consultation Question.	Response.
	<p>deliver multiple benefits including biodiversity enhancement, adaptation and blue carbon innovation.</p> <p>Historic Environment and Archaeology</p> <p>Annex A C5 refers only to the work and function of Historic Environment Scotland. Many of the outcomes, objectives and adaptations are achieved at a local level through the Local Planning Authority, local development plan policies and by consultation with the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist and Historic Environment Record. These should be included within the document, contributing to a mutually supportive system.</p> <p>SCAPE is only one of a number of bodies working on coastal erosion and threatened heritage. Local community heritage groups, various universities and other bodies around Scotland, such as The Swandro – Orkney Coastal Archaeology Trust, are all responding to the effects of climate change on our coastal heritage assets. All of them require support and collaboration.</p>
<p>9. what way(s) could the plan help different groups across Scotland and/or its regions to collaborate on climate adaptation? Please offer suggestions that could support collaboration on climate adaptation. For example, the plan could describe how different groups should work together and support each other. Or the plan could define geographic areas, roles and responsibilities for responding to climate change risks. Please offer suggestions that could support</p>	<p>It is noted that the draft plan includes the following statement –</p> <p><i>Across the period of this Adaptation Programme, the Scottish Government want to drive collaboration on adaptation planning and investment with a broader set of partners, covering all of Scotland’s regions. Scottish Government will work in partnership with local government and a broad range of others to facilitate mature regional adaptation partnerships and collaborations covering all regions in Scotland by 2029.</i></p> <p>This is a positive statement on collaboration and the Orkney Islands Council is itself committed to collaborative working on the climate emergency. For some geographic areas a regional approach may prove effective. For Orkney, it is likely that adaptation planning would be best progressed to the natural geography of the islands.</p> <p>Within Orkney, Community Planning is proceeding, and a Sustainable Development Delivery Group exists, addressing the climate emergency (also a Community Wealth building group). Of course, public bodies engaged are all addressing their statutory purpose and financial and immediate pressures can limit the attention given to the medium-term</p>

<b>Consultation Question.</b>		<b>Response.</b>
	<p>collaboration on climate adaptation.</p> <p>You might want to think about collaboration between some of the groups listed below: • Central and local government • Other public bodies, such as NHS Boards or enterprise agencies • Small and large businesses • Third sector organisations • Communities.</p>	<p>challenge of adaptation and resilience. Nonetheless, the partnership exists and provides a basis for collaboration and some shared planning across the islands.</p> <p>It could be very positive for the Adaptation Plan (SNAP3) to consider the potential of Community Planning Partnerships and the information, guidance and support that could be made available to support. It is notable that in Scotland a Climate Intelligence Service will now be developed to support the climate mitigation agenda, but will not address adaptation and resilience. This is therefore a gap and continued and further support on the adaptation agenda will be welcome.</p>
10.	<p>Scotland's net zero targets are part of global efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C. At the same time, the Climate Change Committee's advice is to adapt now to a minimum global temperature rise of between 1.5 and 2°C for the period 2050 – 2100, and to consider the risks of up to a 4°C warming scenario. Should the Scottish Government adopt the Climate Change Committee's advice to 'adapt to 2°C and assess the risks for 4°C'?</p>	<p><i>Strongly Agree</i></p> <p><i>Agree</i></p> <p><i>Don't know</i></p> <p><i>Disagree</i></p> <p><i>Strongly Disagree</i></p> <p><i>Please share detail on your answer</i></p> <p>This advice should be followed but it needs to be recognised that a) the current global trajectory will overshoot 2 degrees and b) the severity of change and geographic spread of impacts will be variable. In this regard, adapting to (only) 2°C could be inadequate for some front-line communities.</p> <p>There is a case for not just assessing risks for 4°C but also commencing some proportionate and strategic planning (such as the formative use of adaptive pathway planning).</p>
11.	<p>Some decisions, for example those in relation to long-term planning or infrastructure investment, may require greater</p>	<p>Yes / No ?</p> <p>YES - Guidance on recommended scenarios will be useful but this should not be prescriptive and blanket guidance. Local context will be important.</p>

<b>Consultation Question.</b>		<b>Response.</b>
	consideration of future climate conditions. Would further guidance on the appropriate future climate scenario(s) to consider when you (or your organisation) are making plans and investment decisions be useful?	
12.	If yes, what sort of information or advice would be useful for you or your organisation when considering future climate scenarios in long-term planning or investments?	<p>Information exists on sea level projections and is available on temperature, precipitation and wind. Projections at a more granular and island level would be beneficial. In addition, (although challenging) information and projections regarding the frequency and strength of storms, extreme weather events and weather periods.</p> <p>Although Orkney is not associated with heatwaves and impacts will likely be lower than mainland based Local Authorities, understanding future likelihood of prolonged heat would be helpful in some situations.</p> <p>As well as weather related projections, it could be beneficial to receive related economic scenarios (i.e. projected costs and impacts of the future weather).</p>
13.	Climate change makes extreme weather more likely in Scotland. When weather events disrupt one part of our infrastructure (e.g. energy, telecoms, transport networks), the impacts can quickly “cascade” out to disrupt other infrastructure networks or vital services. For example, an interruption in electricity will quickly affect businesses, hospitals and transport.	<p><i>Yes/ No? Please share your reasons.</i></p> <p><i>YES-</i> For dispersed and island populations, the “cascade” can be instant when extreme weather hits. Further assessment of risks could be helpful in island areas where transport and access can be disrupted (given the importance of ferry linked and barrier connected islands). Any such assessment should be progressed locally and with front line public services.</p> <p>For supporting households in remote and rural areas, there are concerns about the resilience of the energy supply. This is a concern in island and rural populations, especially for those who have decarbonised (or will in coming years). New houses will no longer have traditional alternative heating (e.g. wood or peat burning stoves). It could be appropriate to further assess their risks.</p>

<b>Consultation Question.</b>		<b>Response.</b>
	Would an assessment of “cascading” risks from weather-related disruptions to infrastructure help you or your organisation to adapt?	
14.	The Climate Change Committee suggests more Scottish businesses should be assessing and responding to climate risks. What, if any, are the barriers to businesses accessing advice and support on climate risks? 1	<p>Businesses are primarily occupied with near term issues, or medium-term issues where they can at least make an informed assessment. A barrier to adaptation or to seeking advice, is a) awareness, b) capacity to engage and c) uncertainty (perceived confidence gaps) in the climate risk projections and how they specifically will impact the business.</p> <p>A further barrier is access to time (cost) and expertise to undertake and engage in key activities such as energy audits/business assessments. There is an appetite to pursue low carbon initiatives (which have the dual benefit of reducing cost of doing business/energy use) but pursuing this agenda can be beyond company knowledge/expertise or financial means. This could be resolved by provision of advisory services, targeted at local businesses to support energy audit and signpost businesses towards most efficient and accessible interventions; and also support with application for potential funding. In addition to this specific funding measures to support energy audit and energy efficiency improvements would be well received.</p> <p>If the Scottish Government is looking to increase available advice or additional funding measures to businesses, it could be sensible to do this within existing services or arrangements for example channelling this through local Business Gateway or Economic Development service teams.</p>
15.	Climate change is projected to increase disruption of international and domestic supply chains. How do you anticipate disruption to domestic and/or international supply chains caused by climate change will	<p>This is a particular concern for island communities and businesses. To an extent, many have already had to build their resilience to survive disruptions (given their island context and as part of their business continuity). However, resilience is often based upon confidence in supplies quickly re-opening from the mainland. Clearly if mainland supply chain operations become increasingly disrupted, there would be concerns of consequent impacts (knock-on effects). In short island communities are at “the end of the line” for supplies and it is essential that national emergency</p>

<b>Consultation Question.</b>		<b>Response.</b>
	affect Scottish business, industry and consumers?	planning ensures that there is sufficient resilience across the chain to ensure that remote communities are a core part of delivery.
16.	What, if any, should the role of government be in supporting more resilient supply chains?	Emergency Planning provision for enhanced logistics planning and resilience measures. Support for regular local supply chain training and exercise would be beneficial – to include financial support to enable local businesses to commit the time for staff training and development. Potential support for businesses to invest in infrastructure or technology improvements which could enhance resilience and capability to respond.
17.	Farming, fishing and forestry sectors are particularly exposed to impacts of climate change. How should farming, fishing and forestry businesses be supported to adapt to climate change	<p>Farming and fishing are particularly important sectors for Orkney.</p> <p>Support will be required including knowledge exchange and funding for adaptation. Island communities are particularly vulnerable in terms of reliance on transport connectivity for imports and exports. This should be a key part of emergency planning and preparation to ensure the sustainability of supply and export from traditional sectors. For islands, important to ensure that natural capital/re-wilding policies and support mechanisms fully recognise the constraints of local context and physical geography. For example, the Orkney Islands do not support traditional productive forestry. In this regard essential that support mechanisms to agriculture are sufficiently flexible and tailored to ensure that Island farming businesses are not prejudiced in terms of options to deliver natural capital projects.</p>
18.	Scottish businesses will face challenges as a result of climate change impacts. However, climate change will also present business and innovation opportunities. What, if any, do you think are the business and innovation opportunities arising from climate change in Scotland?	<p>Tourism opportunities – cool climate environments in a heating world.</p> <p>Local energy systems – wind and wave energy solutions abundant in island economies – but existing electricity market and regulatory systems limit capability to establish and manage local energy systems.</p> <p>Natural capital – opportunities to manage land and marine / coastal areas to support natural environments – noting this needs to accommodate specific island environmental opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>Energy efficiency – means to reduce cost of doing business through investment in technology.</p>

<b>Consultation Question.</b>		<b>Response.</b>
19.	What, if any, support would be required to encourage businesses in Scotland to take advantage of innovation opportunities arising from climate change?	Specific grants and finding support to invest in new technology – including first phase energy audits and technology assessments.
20.	How could the Scottish Government support communities impacted by climate change across the world?	The Carbon Neutral Islands initiative, offers some early potential for connecting island communities and for sharing experience and learning points internationally. Building on this, there is potential for communities to be supported in building global connections including cultural and artistic (Orkney has been especially active in this regard). Such initiatives offer scope for building a broader awareness of climate change.
21.	Scotland is known for its excellence in climate change research. Are there international adaptation focussed research opportunities which Scottish-based academic work should focus on?	Expertise based in Scotland should be encouraged. The development of the Climate Vulnerability Index for heritage assets was workshopped in Scotland by Professor Jane Downes of the UHI Archaeology Institute and by Historic Environment Scotland. Professor Downes is working internationally as part of ICOMOS’s Climate Change and Heritage Working Group.
22.	Both public finance and mechanisms to leverage greater private finance will be required to deliver adaptation action. What do you see as the main barrier to private investment for adaptation action?	Adaptation mainstreaming suffers by not having a clear metric (no equivalent to carbon). In this regard, any improvements on climate projections and scenarios will continue to be helpful. It will also be important for those projections to be referenced into requirements placed on the private sector.
23.	How can SG support/incentive more private investment? Some potentials ways of promoting private investment are provided below. • Blended finance	All listed options should be explored.  Private investment in adaptation measures can be achieved by greater integration of adaptation and resilience into requirements. This can be done through legislation, but other options are also available such as the use of standards and conformity assessment. Procurement also has a role to play.

<b>Consultation Question.</b>		<b>Response.</b>
	models • Mainstreaming adaptation in existing market codes • Grant funding schemes • Open data platform and industry-led common metric	
24.	The draft Adaptation Plan sets out plans to develop an adaptation monitoring and evaluation framework.... Do you agree with the proposed approach to monitoring adaptation?	No response made.
25.	Do you have suggestions of data or indicators that could be used to track adaptation outcomes in Scotland? The proposed outcomes and objectives of this draft Plan are set out here.	No response made.
26.	What, if any, impacts do you think this Adaptation Plan will have on groups/individuals who share the aforementioned protected characteristics?	No response made.
27.	What, if any, measures could be taken to strengthen any positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts in this respect?	No response made.



<b>Consultation Question.</b>		<b>Response.</b>
28.	What, if any, impact do you think this Plan will have on inequality caused by socioeconomic disadvantage?	This is unclear at this point. However, fuel poverty is a significant concern locally and fair pricing for electricity should be integrated as a key safeguard for community resilience to cold weather events and periods.
29.	What, if any, measures could be taken to strengthen any positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts in this respect?	No response made.
30.	What, if any, impact do you think the Adaptation Plan will have on children's rights and wellbeing?	No response made.
31.	What, if any, measures could be taken to strengthen any positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts in this respect?	No response made.
32.	What, if any, impacts do you think the Adaptation Plan will have on Island communities?	The plan is an opportunity to positively address climate risks that exist now, and which will continue to develop for island communities. It will be important for unique islands context to be incorporated into the Adaptation Plan. See responses above and in particular – 2, 5, 6, 8, 13 and 15.
33.	What, if any, measures could be taken to strengthen any positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts in this respect?	No response made.

## **Local and Scottish Government Climate Delivery Framework**

COSLA and the Scottish Government have agreed a new collaborative approach to delivering our shared ambitions on climate change. We will work together to ensure that Scotland is a net zero nation by 2045 and is resilient to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. This 'Climate Delivery Framework' sets out our underpinning principles, how we will work together and the priority areas of work that we will jointly take forward.

### **Principles**

1. The Framework should foster close collaboration between national and local political leaders.
2. The Framework should include political oversight, programme governance and delivery.
3. The Framework should be cognisant of wider adaptation and just transition implications, and not focus exclusively on the reduction of emissions.
4. The Framework should consider the full role that local authorities have in influencing the reduction of emissions and not be limited to local authorities' corporate emissions.
5. The Framework should focus on solving the toughest climate challenges which are necessary to achieve a just transition to the 2045 target.

### **Working together**

Through this Framework, we will establish shared governance and joint working arrangements, which will include:

- A political oversight group consisting of Scottish Government Ministers and senior Local Government politicians;
- A delivery board consisting of senior Scottish Government officials, senior COSLA representatives, senior Local Government officer representatives and external experts;
- A programme management office, jointly resourced by national and Local Government staff to provide secretariat, monitor and report progress; and
- A delivery team, jointly resourced by national and Local Government staff to take forward the priority areas of work.

### **Priorities**

The shared priority areas of work will be reviewed and updated each year. For 2024/25, the proposed priorities are:

1. Establish a joint programme focused on the high carbon sectors;
2. Improve data and climate informed decision making through the rollout of the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service;
3. Develop a comprehensive roadmap to reduce emissions, aligned with the new national Climate Change Plan;
4. Develop a national approach to build the capacity and support local authorities with attracting private investment for net zero and adaptation projects;
5. Provide a forum to jointly shape key climate change policies, including the sectoral Just Transition Plans, the Scottish National Adaptation Plan and the Climate Change Plan; and
6. Review discretionary funding programmes available to local authorities for climate change projects and explore options for multi-year funding.