

ORKNEY WIDER LOCAL ECONOMIC FORUM

NOTE OF MEETING

THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2001

Present:

Jim Foubister, Orkney Islands Council	David Murdoch, Orkney Housing Association
Ken Grant, Orkney Enterprise	Mr Judd, Eday Community Council
Ken Watson, Orkney Enterprise	Shona Flanagan, Voluntary Action Orkney
Jeremy Baster, Orkney Islands Council	Bill Barbour, Royal Bank of Scotland
Shona Croy, Orkney Islands Council	James Cooper, Stronsay Community Council
Brian Kynoch, Orkney Enterprise	Tony Miller, Support Training
Duncan Maclean, Orkney Chamber of Commerce	Charlie Flett, Foubister & Bain
Ian Carse, Orkney Opportunities Centre	Lindsay Cradock, Stromness Business Forum
Karen Johnstone, Employment Service	John Hinckley
Stewart Crichton, Orkney Quality Food & Drink	Leslie Tait, Scottish Building (Orkney)
John Garrioch, NOSWA	Alan Shearer, Clydesdale Bank
Douglas Sinclair, SEPA	Danny Harcus, Westray Community Council
Dr J Curnow, Orkney Health Board	Nickie May, Markcool Ltd, Shapinsay
Kenny Slater, NFU Orkney	Billy Muir, North Ronaldsay Community Council
George Baikie, Scottish Agricultural College	Doris Hutchison, Orcadia
Ian Johnstone, Stromness Community Council	Andi Ross, Orkney Craft Industries Association
David Oddie, J & D Oddie	Elaine Bentley, Orkney Craft Industries Association
Ian Matheson, Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Dept	
Brian Lanni, Bank of Scotland	

Apologies:

Alan Coghill, Orkney Fisheries Association
Karen Scholes, A J B Scholes
Alan Long, The Long Partnership
Richard Burn, Scottish Homes
Archie MacNab, Crofters Commission

1 Introduction

Jim Foubister welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Orkney Local Economic Forum (LEF). Apologies were noted.

2 Purpose/Remit of LEF

Ken Grant presented a series of slides which gave an overview of the establishment and purpose of the LEF.

During the discussion following the presentation a number of people suggested that there should be more private sector representation on the core forum. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next core forum meeting.

3 Economic Overview of Orkney

Tracey Slaven, Head of Corporate Planning & Economics, Highlands & Islands Enterprise gave a brief presentation on the general economic situation in Orkney. Particular issues which were highlighted were the relatively low unemployment levels and the seasonality of employment.

During discussion it was noted that the figures for those employed in the agricultural sector did not include self-employed farmers. There was also concern expressed at the number of young people leaving the islands and at skills shortages in certain vocations.

4 Mapping of Business Development Services in Orkney

Ken Grant provided some information on the main task of the forum – taking a close look at delivery of business development services in Orkney. A consultant has been engaged to carry out this mapping exercise and, although not yet complete, a number of interesting points have already been raised. This includes considering some form of joint application and/or appraisal system for financial assistance schemes.

5 Close

Jim Foubister thanked everyone for their time in attending the meeting. It was agreed that the wider forum should meet twice a year with the next meeting taking place once the mapping exercise was complete and before the action plan is submitted to Scottish Executive.

J Kirkpatrick
4 July 2001