

ORKNEY LOCAL ECONOMIC FORUM

NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2005 AT AYRE HOTEL, KIRKWALL, ORKNEY

Present:

Orkney Enterprise	represented by	Brian Kynoch (joint chair) Ken Grant Ruth Kirkpatrick (observer) Graham Sinclair (observer)
Orkney Islands Council		Jim Foubister (joint chair) Shona Croy (observer) Jim Love (observer)
Orkney Quality Food & Drink Ltd Jobcentre Plus Orkney Craft Industries Association Orkney Renewable Energy Forum VisitOrkney Orkney Tourism Group Orkney Housing Association Ltd		Bob Nelson Rhona Shearer Lizza Hume Michael Holgate Barbara Foulkes John Hinckley David Murdoch
Orkney Marketing Services (item 4)		John Clarke

1 Apologies:

Orkney Islands Council	Jeremy Baster Anna Whelan (observer) Brian Burns (observer)
Brian Burns Associates	George Argo Kenny Slater Norma Campbell
Stromness Community Business Forum	Duncan Mclean Alan Coghill
NFU Scotland	Billy Muir Bill Ross
Voluntary Action Orkney	Joyce Slater Colin Risbridger
Orkney Jewellery Group & Orkney Chamber of Commerce	Karen Johnstone
Orkney Fisheries Association	
Isles Forum	
Orkney College	
Careers Scotland	
Orkney Renewable Energy Forum	
Jobcentre Plus	

2 Note of previous meeting – 8 June 2004

The note of the meeting held on 8 June 2004 was approved.

3 Matters arising

None.

4 Orkney the Brand - Presentation and update by John Clarke

John Clarke gave members a presentation on Orkney the Brand which covered the history of branding in Orkney (Orkney Marketing Schemes), the importance of brand values and ongoing branding work for the future.

Members felt that an integrated approach to Orkney the Brand should continue. This should involve the public sector, private sector and the wider Orkney community. Members gave their full support to the continuation of the branding programme.

5 Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Network Strategic Review and Consultation – presentation by Ken Grant, Orkney Enterprise

Ken Grant gave members a presentation on the background to the network's strategic review and current consultation process. Members were urged to respond to the consultation as individuals via the HIE web site. The LEF chairs are to submit a response highlighting the following issues:

- maintaining and improving an appropriate/integrated/viable infrastructure (transport, water and sewage, housing, etc)
- retaining and recruiting appropriately skilled people
- perception of centralisation of services and a focus on centres of population risks the exclusion of the needs of the more rural and island areas in the strategy

Members discussions then led on to wider socio-economic issues for the area and it was agreed that the requirement for a review of the Orkney 2020 plan would be raised at the next Policy Implementation Group (PIG) meeting.

6 LEF and Community Planning monitoring and reporting – Jim Love, Orkney Islands Council (OIC)

Jim Love updated members on the Public Performance Reporting (PPR) guidance issued by the Scottish Executive and advised that OIC would be publishing a report on the performance and achievements of Community Planning (CP). To enable this to be done, all 3 partnerships, including the LEF, require to review their progress against their action plans and provide and update to OIC.

7 Orkney Tourism Group – update from John Hinckley, Chairman

John Hinckley updated members on the current situation regarding Orkney Tourist Board, the imminent change over to VisitScotland/VisitOrkney and the formation of the Orkney Tourism Group.

8 Any other business

Scottish Water - water and waste water infrastructure

David Murdoch advised members that Orkney Housing Association Ltd is to meet with Jim Wallace, MSP to discuss the issue of current restrictions on water and waste water infrastructure development restricting housing and economic development in Orkney. LEF members supported David Murdoch's views on the situation. David Murdoch is to circulate any correspondence and/or notes from this meeting to LEF members for information.

Labour market issues

Jim Foubister raised the issue of a need for Orkney to undertake a survey/assessment of labour market issues. Ruth Kirkpatrick advised that a recent Futureskills report on tight labour market issues had been completed for Orkney along with three other HIE areas. This highlighted that although Orkney has low unemployment it also has a low number of job vacancies, indicating that the labour market is not as tight in Orkney as some other areas. HIE is currently undertaking a review of migrant workers in the network area. Reports of both reviews will be made available to the LEF.

Renewable Energy Strategy

In order to correct a previous LEF paper, Michael Holgate requested that it be noted that the Orkney Renewable Energy Strategy document had not yet been finalised.

9 Date of next meeting

It was proposed that the next meeting be held in September 2005. It was also requested that LEF meetings would alternate between being held in the evenings and during office hours. Final arrangements for the next meeting will be issued in due course.

G Sinclair
15 March 2005