



Papa Westray
Island Development Plan
2016-2026
Draft for consultation, January 2016

Papay has people at its heart, celebrates its heritage and believes in its future –

– our vision goes beyond the landscape



About Papa Westray

Located on the northern fringe of the Orkney archipelago, Papa Westray or Papay as it is known locally, is a remote, low-lying island roughly four and a half miles long by a mile wide; the Atlantic lies on one shore, the North Sea on the other. Our island landscape is diverse ranging from productive farmland and sweeping sandy bays to maritime heath, steep cliffs and rugged Atlantic shores. Farms and crofts are scattered across the isle and houses are generally low-built, hugging the landscape for protection against the winter gales. People find a living through farming, fishing, building trades, tourism, the creative industries and distance working.

In common with many of the remoter parts of Scotland, island population levels dropped steadily over the past century as people sought less austere life further south and one of the principal targets of the community has been to reverse the downward population trend – permanently. From a low point of 54 in the 1990s, Papay's population has recovered to a level of around 80 to 90, which has been reasonably stable from 2000 to 2015. Houses have continued to be renovated and built across the island, new residents have set up home and the island has established a reputation as a vibrant small community.

Papa Westray is undergoing changes as dramatic as any seen in the islands 6000 years of human activity and efforts are now being directed to ensure Papa Westray has a secure future to match its fascinating past. Employment, transport links, opportunities for young people and access to affordable housing are all declared community priorities as are further tourist facilities, a craft and heritage centre, Heritage Ranger post, improved energy efficiency and the consolidation of health and education services.

The island of Papa Westray sits at a crossroads where ancient oceans and new ideas meet.

Our Strategic Themes

Transport ▫ Health & Care ▫ Employment & Economic Development ▫ Housing ▫ Including Young People ▫ Education & Training ▫ Heritage ▫ Tourism ▫ Environment & Renewable Energy

Transport

As any island's lifeline, the quality of our transport links will determine more than anything the well-being of our community.

Ambitions and activity include:

Improved and Integrated Transport Links

- Maintain a regular lifeline air service between Papay & Kirkwall;
- Secure a scheduled year-round passenger ferry service between Papay and Westray to improve existing economic, education, health and social links between the isles and to access more ferry transport links to Kirkwall;
- Install a protective wave screen at the Moclett Pier to improve ferry docking conditions and provide a more reliable Load On Load Off freight service for Papa Westray.

Construct a Harbour at the New Pier

- Guarantee a better ferry service to Kirkwall;
- Provide a base for the ferry service to Westray;
- Offer a safe harbour for local fishing boats.

Community Transport

Provide an improved community transport service for elderly, disabled and isolated islanders to support social inclusion and independent living.

PRIORITY: Papay Boat Scheme

Provide additional ad-hoc passenger ferry sailings between Papay and Westray outwith scheduled ferry times to access social and economic opportunities not currently available in Papay.

Health & Care

We will ensure that we can care for everyone on the island, especially the vulnerable and elderly and in doing so provide valuable employment opportunities.

Ambitions and activity include:

Island-based Health & Care Facilities

Support the ongoing provision of good quality island-based health and care services supplemented by weekly GP surgery and minor emergency cover from Westray NHS surgery.

Provide Itinerant Health Services

Make full use of the NHS surgery to provide services such as a Chiropody, Acupuncture, Physiotherapy, Optician, Dentist, Diet & Family Health advice.

Improved Day Care Provision

Offer twice weekly day care or lunch club sessions for elderly and disabled people to reduce social isolation and support local carers.

Local Dial-a-Bus Transport Service

Provide an accessible dial-a-bus transport service for elderly, disabled and isolated members of the community to support social inclusion and independent living.

Ambulance Services

Support continued provision of a fully-equipped community ambulance vehicle in Papay.

Air Ambulance Service

The Air Ambulance Service is crucial to the island. The performance of the service, including adequacy of response times and availability in different weather conditions at night, is a matter of great importance which will be kept under review.

First Responder Service

Our First Responders provide a valuable support service for island healthcare professionals but we recognise that more trained volunteers are required to consolidate the island First Responder Service.

Employment & Economic Development

Traditionally, islanders turn their hands to a number of jobs to make their living. We will support growth of our existing traditional industries and diversify our economy to create new opportunities, ensure employment for our young folk, attract new people to the island and support a sustainable island population.

Ambitions and activity include:

Fire and Rescue Services

An island-based fire & rescue service is vital for the safety of our community and provides valuable local employment opportunities. We will aim to secure the continued operation of this service in Papay by supporting measures to fill Retained Fire Fighter vacancies and encourage relevant authorities to provide appropriate training as locally as possible.

Superfast Broadband

Recognising that faster Broadband is key to developing enterprise and employment opportunities in Papay we will work to secure Superfast Broadband links for the isle to ensure our community is not economically or socially disadvantaged by poor connectivity.

PRIORITY: Community Enterprise Projects

Develop and support Papay Community Co-operative and Papay Development Trust as providers of an increased range of community enterprise services. These will create employment, improve local services, develop tourism and improve all aspects of the sustainability of the island.

Community Hub & Learning Centre

Provide community access to improved IT facilities such as fast broadband and video conferencing to support opportunities for remote working, grow local businesses, provide linked facilities for public sector employees, improve access to distance learning for island-based students and develop community networking.

Sustainable Development of Existing Local Industries

- Support employment opportunities for young people and new families in farming, fishing, building trades and tourism.
- Support the long term sustainability of local farm businesses and boat owners by creating a new Community Equipment Store for shared farming equipment, boats and other community equipment.

Explore and Encourage New Business Initiatives

New, small business initiatives are important in supporting year round employment for young folk and new families wanting to live and work in the isle, particularly in creative industries, local food production and computer/internet based business, or opportunities to fill gaps in existing local skills and services.

Rentable Business Spaces

Stimulate local regeneration through the development of key unused or derelict island buildings to create attractive, commercial business space for affordable local rental.

Housing

To expand our community we need more quality, affordable housing, blending as far as possible with the traditional island environment.

Ambitions and activity include:

Increase Availability of Housing to Rent or Buy

- Ensure young and elderly members of our community who want to stay in the isle have access to appropriate and affordable housing;
- Actively seek opportunities to bring empty homes back into residential use;
- Work with relevant authorities to develop affordable housing solutions such as social housing, community housing, shared ownership or other appropriate housing initiatives.
- Utilise Local Lettings Policies to maximise the benefit of community owned rented housing by prioritising tenants with school age or preschool children, local young people, new Retained Fire Fighters and those with employment skills currently lacking in the isle.

Gateway Housing

The Development Trust will continue to encourage sustainable population growth by provide rented gateway housing at Morven House to new islanders, or to local folk carrying out repairs or improvements to existing housing stock.

Aalsker Key Workers House

Papay Community Co-operative will carry out extensive repairs and improvements at Aalsker to bring the building up to modern, energy-efficient housing standards and make it available as rented Key Worker / gateway housing.

Rose Cottage

The Development Trust will carry out extensive repairs and improvements at Rose Cottage to improve the property and its energy-efficiency, making it available for winter lets and for the RSPB warden each spring and summer.

Renovate the Croft House at Hookin

Provide a house renovation and crofting opportunity at Hookin and explore new crofting opportunities for existing or new islanders.

Development of Unused or Derelict Housing

Upgrade unclassified side roads improving access to existing housing clusters to support development of derelict or unused housing.

Including Young People

Access to employment, housing, advanced education and recreational opportunities are vital for young folk to be able to live in the isle after full-time education. We will strive to meet these needs and to include young folk in all aspects of island life.

Ambitions and activity include:

Youth Involvement

We will ensure that young folk have the opportunity to be included in all aspects of island life. The island development trust, community council and community association will actively seek representation by young folk and consider the views of young folk in local decision making and in planning community activities.

Sports, Recreation and social inclusion

- Improve existing community sports facilities such as the golf course, football pitch and gym equipment in co-operation with land owners, and provide support for sports and recreational groups.
- Provide access to affordable, inter-island transport in the evenings and at weekends where possible to allow young Papay folk to participate in youth activities with peers in Westray.

PRIORITY: Intergenerational Activities

Encourage intergenerational opportunities to exchange skills and knowledge in areas such as work, craft, IT, traditional skills, music, dance, dialect and oral & local history.

Music and New Media Initiatives

Provide local opportunities to participate in traditional and new music, live music events and video/film making activities.

Education & Training

Good quality educational opportunities are crucial to our community. We aim to maintain the high quality of local school education provided on the island and make use of developing technology to improve local delivery of educational opportunities whenever possible.

Ambitions and activity include:

Papa Westray Community School

The island's school provides high-quality nursery and primary school education for our children and plays a key role in the success of the island community. We will actively seek to maintain a healthy school roll and ensure staff and pupils are well supported.

Maintain Strong Links with Westray Junior High School

We recognise that school links with Westray Junior High School are of high value for Papay secondary pupils, local families and the wider community and we will support these links and encourage strong relationships between the island school communities.

Kirkwall Grammar School and Papdale Hostel

KGS and the accommodation for in Papdale Hostel is very important role to the education of island pupils. We will ensure Papay pupils can travel to and from school at convenient times and that they are well supported whilst in Kirkwall.

Community Centre for Learning

Establish the Papay Community School as a centre that provides access to fast Broadband and IT communication facilities in support of local and distance learning.

Local Skills and Business Training

Access local training courses in business and employment related skills such as business start up, technical and craft skills and service industry qualifications to improve employment opportunities, develop local businesses and fill existing skills gaps.

Cultural Heritage

Papa Westray has an extraordinarily rich heritage. Our archaeology – along with our wildlife – deserves global recognition. The social history, cultural heritage and sense of place are fundamental to quality of life here, for local people and for visitors. Indeed, this cultural heritage, indivisibly bound with the island's wildlife and landscape, is the principal reason why Papay gets so many visitors.

Ambitions and activity include:

PRIORITY: Kelp Store Crafts & Heritage Centre

Establish the Nouster Kelp Store as a living heritage & crafts centre, providing a valuable community and tourism resource by creating permanent island culture, heritage and art exhibitions, a venue for events and a multi-media heritage archive.

PRIORITY: Heritage Ranger

Maintain the post which supports the Kelp Store Crafts & Heritage Centre, develops and delivers an imaginative range of heritage, wildlife, crafts & art events and activity, and supports the local creative and tourism businesses.

Community Local History Projects

We recognise that the island population is changing and developing but is still rich in local history and many of the old traditional ways. A series of intergenerational projects will aim to capture these, collecting and preserving the distinctive Papay dialect, memories, stories, folklore, family and island history through oral recordings, pictures, films and documentary archive. The island community will also continue to encourage the use of local dialect through a series of events and activities pushing local dialect to the fore.

Built Heritage

Ensure conservation of our traditional built heritage, bringing old and derelict buildings back into use, maintaining traditional stone dykes, piers, boat nousts, carsies and other structures and preserving traditional building techniques and skills.

Tourism

Visitors come to Papay to experience the unique qualities of our island. Acknowledging the importance of tourism to our economy we are aware that this must be developed in a sustainable manner.

Ambitions and activity include:

Improve Visitor Facilities

- Develop the Papay Co-op Hostel and Community Café facilities at Beltane House;
- Develop the Nouster Kelp Store Craft, Heritage & Art Centre;
- Support the development of a variety of quality tourist accommodation for the isle.
- Improve signposting and marked paths;
- Provide services for visiting yachts.

Improve Marketing of the island

Develop a local tourism strategy; enhance our island website www.papawestray.co.uk; increase Papay's profile in Orkney and elsewhere; promote the Papay Peedie tours; improve advertising of local accommodation, island tours, local tourist facilities and the popular 'Worlds Shortest Scheduled Flight'; promote local nature/wildlife and archaeological sites which are of national and international importance; investigate niche tourist markets and promote local events and activities.

Develop Boat Trips to the Holm of Papay

As part of the Coastal Communities Fund heritage project, Papay Development Trust has secured funding for a boat which can be insured & coded for visits to the Holm of Papay, to be undertaken by appropriately trained staff. This business activity, will be developed with the involvement of the owners of the Holm, and with full regard to its use for grazing of Holmie sheep, and its precious and vulnerable wildlife and archaeology. This business will provide employment and encourage visitors to spend longer on Papay whilst allow more opportunity to visit one of the most special places in all of Orkney.

Promote Opportunities for Cultural Tourism

The growth of cultural tourism has been identified as a significant economic development opportunity for Papay and by building on existing island community and arts events, promoting local creative industries and developing new, cultural activities and facilities we will aim to extend the tourist season, secure sustainable growth in visitor numbers and increase visitor spend in the isle.

Promote Papay for Wildlife Tourism

Ensure effective promotion of the rich and varied wildlife-watching opportunities on Papa Westray. Look at opportunities of working with the Orkney Nature Festival. Develop Papay Wildlife Club holidays through Papay Development Trust to provide increased income to the island from tourism, and profit for the Trust to support its community economic development activities.

Environment & Renewable Energy

Papay's environment is fundamental to its special character, and we must protect our natural landscape, habitats and wildlife which are so important to our tourist industry and quality of life. We will consider renewable energy and energy-saving initiatives to reduce our environmental impact and increase our sustainability as an island community. Conservation and improvement of the environment must be integral to all we do.

Ambitions and activity include:

PRIORITY: Community Renewable Energy Enterprise

Establish a community renewable energy enterprise and promote energy-saving initiatives to improve the sustainability of the isle and generate income for local community development projects.

PRIORITY: Coastal Erosion

Carry out projects to prevent coastal erosion through the restoration of natural dunes and repair of traditional sea defences/carsies.

Community Allotment, Polytunnel & Farmers Market

Establish a scheme to encourage local food production and a regular farmers market providing an outlet for producers to sell fresh, seasonal local food and produce.

Protect Papay's Biodiversity

- Papay's biodiversity needs careful management, such as our nationally important Scottish Primrose colonies and breeding areas for threatened birds. Activities include support for continued management of the North Hill nature reserve and local corncrake and habitat conservation initiatives with landowners;
- Ensure continuation of an RSPB Summer Warden service for long-term monitoring of the North Hill reserve and other areas and for local ecotourism;
- Support the conservation management of new Local Nature Conservation Sites designated under the Orkney Local Development Plan.

Community Development in Papay

Papay Development Trust was established in 1999 with a remit from the community to prepare a development plan and drive forward improvements for the island which would help reverse population decline. As a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Trust works in partnership with others to achieve development appropriate to the changing needs of our community.

Papay Community Co-operative is a social enterprise at the heart of our community. Established in 1979 the Papay Co-op has been central to our recent past and is crucial to our future providing vital local services and employment in the isle. One of the main priorities for the community for achieving its vision for the future is to assist and support the co-operative to develop as a sustainable and thriving enterprise.

The Papay Development Plan was originally launched in 2000 as part of Initiative at the Edge with the aim of reversing population decline in Papa Westray. Fifteen years on we are proud of our community's achievements, and using our updated development plan we will build on these achievements over the next five years, whilst constantly looking further ahead to ensure the future that the island deserves.

Some of Our Community Achievements 2000-2010

Increased Island Population • Island-wide Housing & Building Boom •
Papay Community School & Nursery Extension • Refurbished Community Centre & Hall • Community-owned Gateway House • Refurbishment of the Papay Co-op Shop •
Winter Boat Scheme • St Ann's Kirk, Community Room & NHS Surgery Project •
Island-wide Expansion of Papa Westray Private Water Scheme •
H&I Fire Station & Employment of Local Retained Fire-Fighters • Children's Playground Equipment & Adventure Track • Island Cinema • Annual Papay Fun Weekend Event • Renewed Participation in the North Isles Sports • Berth for Visiting Yachts •
Kelp Store Heritage Centre (Phase 1 Completed) • Thursday Club Garage •
Community Acquisition of Disused Croft at Hookin for Development •
Papay Community Development Worker • Provision of Important Habitat for Breeding Corncrakes •
Local Management Agreement for the North Hill Nature Reserve

Some of Our Community Achievements 2010-2015

Sustained Island Population • Continued island-wide housing & building boom •
Improved sustainability of Papay Community Co-operative • Papay Private Water Scheme •
Community-owned gateway house refurbished • Community ownership of Aalsker Key Workers House and Rose Cottage • Kelp Store Craft & Heritage Centre (Phase 2 Underway) • Papay Boat Scheme •
New community minibus • Island-based community ambulance vehicle • First Responder Service •
Employment opportunities for young people • Papay Community Development Officer • Island Link Officer and Empowering Communities pilot project • Papay Ranger providing creative & heritage activities • Purchase of boat for providing tourist service to Holm • Support for RSPB Papay Warden Post • Local Management Agreement for the North Hill Nature Reserve • Local cultural events & activities (Gyro Nights, Auk Weekend, Doondie Dialect, island cinema) • Annual Papay Fun Weekend •
More island visitors • Participation in the North Isles Sports • Papay Farmers Market • Core Funding support for PDT • Old Pier Repairs • Refurbishment of island Core Path stiles • refurbishment of St Ann's and St Boniface car parks & track