

Papa Westray **Island Development Plan** 2011-2021

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

Its 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, maritime heath and sweeping sandy bays to 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 and increasingly through 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 principle targets of the community has been to reverse the downward population trend – permanently. From a low point of 54 in the late 1990's Papay's population seems to have stabilised, for the moment at least, at about 75. Houses are being renovated and built across the island, young and new families are setting up home and the island has established a reputation as a vibrant small community.

Papa Westray is in the midst of 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 improved tourist facilities which promote the island's own remarkable story, 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.

Projects 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 economic, education, health and social links between the isles and to access improved transport links to Kirkwall.

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.

Papay Boat Scheme (prioritised)

 Provide additional ad-hoc passenger ferry sailings between Papay and Westray 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.

Projects 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 Chiropodist, Optician, Dentist, Physiotherapist, Dietician and Family Health Services.

Local Dial-a-Bus Transport Service

Provide an accessible dial-a-bus transport service for elderly, disabled and vulnerable members of the community.

Ambulance Services

Work with the relevant authorities to secure an island ambulance vehicle for Papay and a North Isles based Air Ambulance Service with strong public confidence.

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.

Projects include

Papay Community Co-operative - Enterprise Projects (prioritised)

Develop projects and business initiatives which will improve the sustainability of Papay Co-op as our main community enterprise and by doing so create employment, improve local services and develop our tourism industry.

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 in farming, fishing, building trades and tourism.

Explore and Encourage New Business Initiatives

New business initiatives such as computer/internet based businesses, creative industries, local food production and those that fill gaps in existing local skills and services are vital to provide employment opportunities for young folk and new families wanting to live and work in the isle.

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.

Howing

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

Projects include

Gateway Housing (prioritised)

The community will continue to encourage sustainable population growth by providing 'gateway' housing for new islanders. To achieve this Papay Development Trust will carry out extensive repairs and improvements at Morven House to bring the building up to modern, energy efficient housing standards and market the improved facilities to prospective new islanders.

Increase Availability of Housing to Buy or Rent

- 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 more existing private housing into residential use;
- Work with relevant authorities to develop affordable housing solutions such as social housing, shared ownership and other relevant housing initiatives.

Renovate the Croft House at Hookin

Provide a housing and crofting opportunity for existing or new islanders.

Upgrade Unclassified Side Roads

Improve access to existing housing clusters and 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.

Projects include

Creative Youth Enterprise Project (prioritised)

By offering our young people the chance to experience new opportunities and exchange ideas with peers in rural and remote communities overseas we will enable young islanders to develop creative business, employment and life skills appropriate to modern island living.

Youth Involvement

We will ensure that young folk have the opportunity to be included in all aspects of island life and the 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 and Recreation

Improve existing community sports facilities such as the golf course, football pitch and gym equipment in co-operation with land owners, and employ a part-time youth worker to support local youth activities, including sports and recreational clubs.

Intergenerational Activities (prioritised)

Encourage intergenerational projects to exchange skills and knowledge such as traditional work and craft skills, IT skills, music, dance, oral/local history and storytelling.

Music and New Media Initiatives

Provide local opportunities to participate in traditional and contemporary music and live music events,

Education & Training

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

Projects include

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.

Maintain Strong Links with Westray Junior High School

Local school links with Westray Junior High School are of high value for Papay secondary pupils, local families and the wider community.

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.

Heritage

Projects include

Nouster Heritage & Arts Centre (prioritised)

Establish Nouster as a living heritage & arts centre, providing a valuable community and tourism resource by creating a permanent venue for island culture, heritage and art exhibitions and events, a multi-media heritage archive, studio/workshops for local creative enterprises and facilities for boats and yachts.

Heritage & Arts Co-ordinator (prioritised)

Establish a two year post dedicated to kick starting Nouster Heritage & Arts Centre and develop local heritage and arts projects in support of our local creative industry and tourism businesses.

Community Oral History Project

Develop an intergenerational project aimed at collecting and preserving local dialect, memories, stories, folklore and island history through recordings, films and documentary archive.

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.

Projects include

Improve Visitor Facilities

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

Improve Marketing of the island

Develop a local tourism strategy; enhance our island website <u>www.papawestray.co.uk</u>; increase Papay's profile in Orkney and elsewhere; 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.

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.

Environment & Renewable Energy

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

Projects include

Community Renewable Energy Enterprise (prioritised)

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

Coastal Erosion (prioritised)

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 company limited by guarantee and with charitable status, 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. Ten 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 ten years.

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 • Nouster 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

Papay Development Trust is a limited company with charitable status, registered in Scotland No SC 201515 Company Secretary, Shorehouse, Papa Westray, Orkney, KW17 2BU