



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

Papay Development Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in Scotland No SC029585
Quarryhoose, Papa Westray, Orkney, KW17 2BU



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

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 1990's Papay's population seems to have stabilised, for the moment at least, at about 90. Houses are being renovated and built across the island, young and new families 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 improved energy efficiency, the consolidation of health, care and education services, and improved tourist facilities which promote the island's own remarkable story,

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

Our Strategic Themes

- Transport
- Health, Care and Community Safety
- 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.

Key objectives

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

Papay Boat Scheme (priority project)

- Provide additional ad-hoc passenger ferry sailings between Papay and Westray outwith scheduled ferry times to access social, recreational and economic opportunities not currently available in Papay.
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- Provide an accessible community transport service for elderly, disabled and isolated islanders to support social inclusion and independent living.

Health, Care and Community Safety

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.

Key objectives

Island Based Health & Care Facilities

Support the ongoing provision of a good quality, full-time, island based health service supplemented by weekly GP surgery and minor emergency cover from Westray NHS surgery.

Provide Itinerant Health Services

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

Local Home Care

Provide appropriate, island based home care services that adequately support less able individuals to live independently at home.

Ambulance Services

Support continued provision of a fully equipped community ambulance vehicle in Papay and a North Isles based Air Ambulance Service with strong public confidence.

Improved Day Care Provision

Offer access to 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 type transport service for elderly, disabled and isolated members of the community to support social inclusion and independent living.

First Responder Service

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

Fire and Rescue Services

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

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.

Key objectives

Papay Community Co-operative - Enterprise Projects (priority project)

Develop 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.

- Eco-refurbishment of community areas and hostel accommodation at Beltane House.
- Building improvements to our community shop and our community house at Aalsker.
- Refurbishment of the former garage/store at Beltane House to create a workshop.
- Develop initiatives to achieve carbon and waste reduction at Beltane House and across the wider community.

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.

Sustainable Development of Existing Local Industries

Support employment opportunities for young people and new families in farming, fishing, building trades, tourism and public services.

- Support the long term sustainability of local farm businesses and community enterprises by creating a new Machinery Store for collectively owned farming and community equipment.

Explore and Encourage New Business Initiatives

Small business initiatives are important in supporting year round employment for young folk and new families who want to live and work in the isle, particularly in creative industries, local food production and on-line business, or opportunities to fill gaps in existing local skills and services.

Community Hub & Learning Centre

Support community-wide access to IT facilities such as wifi, 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.

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.

Key objectives

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;
- Make more affordable housing units available for new families and key workers.
- 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, key workers and those with employment skills currently lacking in the isle.

Gateway Housing (priority project)

We recognise that community owned houses at Morven Gateway House and Aalsker are invaluable in supporting sustainable population growth. Papay Development Trust and Papay Community Co-op will continue to provide rented gateway housing for new islanders or local folk undertaking repairs or improvements to existing housing stock.

Affordable Rented Housing (priority project)

Papay has no social housing or affordable rented housing available to meet increasing need from new families, local young folk and older people. We will work with relevant authorities to develop affordable rented housing solutions appropriate to our needs.

Improve Existing, Local Housing Stock

Share information and encourage uptake of schemes and opportunities to improve insulation and energy efficiency of older housing stock across the isle. Tackle underlying issues that lead to fuel poverty such as low-income and poor housing standards.

Renovate the Croft House at Hookin

Provide a house renovation and smallholding opportunity at Hookin and explore new smallholding 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.

Key objectives

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

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

Housing (priority project)

Enable young people to access to appropriate and affordable housing in Papay.

Intergenerational Activities (priority project)

Encourage intergenerational opportunities to exchange skills and knowledge such as work, craft, IT and traditional skills, and 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.

Key objectives

Island School Education

- **Papa Westray Community School** provides a high quality of 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 role 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** play an important role in the education of island pupils and we will ensure Papay pupils can travel to and from school at convenient times and that they are well supported whilst in Kirkwall.
- **Orkney College** offers valuable, local opportunities for further education and skills training. We will seek support to access appropriate & affordable student accommodation in Kirkwall to ensure island young folk are not disadvantaged in taking up courses.

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.

Heritage

We will celebrate Papay's rich local cultural and built heritage and aim to ensure it remains valued and relevant to modern island life in Papa Westray.

Key objectives

Kelp Store Heritage, Arts & Craft Centre (prioritised project)

The Kelp Store Heritage, Arts & Craft Centre is a valuable local asset providing a permanent venue for island culture, exhibitions, workshops and events, a heritage archive. We will work to ensure long-term sustainability of this facility whilst creating new opportunities for temporary exhibitions, archive storage, creative/archive residencies and studio/ workshop space.

Heritage & Arts Co-ordinator (prioritised project)

Establish a new Programme & Exhibitions post dedicated to developing a programme of cultural, heritage, craft and art events, workshops, exhibitions and activities relevant to local people and island visitors and in doing so create employment and support sustainability of the Kelp Store, tourism businesses and our local creative industry.

Community Local History Projects

We recognise that the island population is changing and developing but is still rich in local history and traditional ways. A series of intergenerational projects will aim to capture these, collecting, preserving and promoting our 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 as valuable income generating trades.

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.

Key objectives

Improve Visitor Facilities

- Develop Papay Co-op Hostel and new Community Café facilities at Beltane House;
- Develop changing exhibitions and activities within the Kelp Store Heritage, Arts & Craft Centre;
- Support the development of a variety of quality tourist accommodation for the isle.
- Establish a Papay Ranger post to lead quality tours and activities which support sustainable tourism.
- Improve signposting and marked paths and make up-to-date maps available to island visitors;
- Provide services for visiting yachts.

Improve Marketing of the island

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

Promote Opportunities for Cultural Tourism

Growth in cultural tourism is identified as an 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 short 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. Conservation and improvement of the environment must be integrated in all our planning and we will consider energy saving and renewable energy initiatives to reduce our environmental impact and increase our sustainability as an island community.

Key objectives

Protect Papay's Biodiversity

- Papay's biodiversity needs careful management, such as our nationally important Scottish Primrose colonies and breeding areas for threatened bird and marine species. Activities include support for continued management of the North Hill nature reserve and habitat conservation initiatives with local 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 Local Nature Conservation Sites designated under the Orkney Local Development Plan and Marine Protected Areas.

Sustainable Papa Westray (prioritised project)

Develop a low carbon project aimed at improving the sustainability of our island community buildings and homes, reducing waste and energy use, increasing access to local food and low carbon travel.

Coastal Erosion (prioritised project)

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

Community Renewable Energy Enterprise

Establish a community renewable energy enterprise to improve sustainability of our community buildings and potentially generate income for local community development projects.

Community Allotment & Polytunnel, Market Garden & Farmers Market

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

Community Development in Papa Westray

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 Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), 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 in 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. Seventeen years on we are proud of our community's achievements and we will continue to build on these over the next four years guided by the updated development plan.

Some of Our Community Achievements 2000-2010

Increased Island Population • Island-wide Housing & Building Boom • Papay Community School & Nursery Extension • Community-owned Gateway House • Papay Co-op Shop Upgrade • St Ann's Kirk, Community Room & NHS Surgery Project • Winter Boat Scheme • 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 Kelp Store Heritage Centre (Phase 1 Completed) • Thursday Club Garage • Community Acquisition of Disused Croft at Hookin for Development • Papay Community Development Worker • Local Management Agreement for the North Hill Nature Reserve

More of Our Community Achievements 2011-2017

Continued Population growth and increased school role • Continued island-wide housing & building boom • Fewer empty homes • Community Gateway House refurbishment • Community acquisition and upgrade of Key Workers House and Rose Cottage • Kelp Store Heritage, Art & Craft Centre opened • Papay Boat Scheme • New community minibus and boat • Volunteer First Responder Service • Island based ambulance vehicle • Employment opportunities for young people • Papay Ranger Service • Papay Market Garden • Farmers Markets • Continuation of Community Development Worker post • Core Funding support for PDT • Island Link Officer and Empowering Communities pilot project • Continuation of RSPB Papay Warden Post • Updated Management Agreement for the North Hill Nature Reserve • Additional tourist accommodation and Beltane House eco-refurbishment • Improved sustainability of Papay Community Co-operative • Increased island tourist numbers • New cultural events & activities (Gyro Nights, OY Festival, Auk Weekend, Doondie Dialect, island cinema, photo archive) • Annual Papay Fun Weekend • Old Pier Repairs • Coastal erosion projects • Refurbishment of island Core Path stiles • Upgraded car parks & track at St Ann's and St Boniface • Sustainable Papa Westray energy & waste saving project •