

Item: 6

The Orkney Fund Board – 25 February 2026

Future Consultation

1. Overview

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a structured outline for themed roundtable discussions and to invite Board direction on scope, facilitation approach, and next steps.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Orkney Fund Board:
 - i. Note the proposed approach to themed roundtable discussions.
 - ii. Provide any comments on scope, themes, sequencing; and
 - iii. Direct officers to proceed with preparatory work, taking into account any amendments to themes, scope, sequencing or format arising from Board discussion.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Board has identified the need for more theme-specific engagement to inform future strategic direction and funding priorities.
- 3.2. While previous consultation has generated valuable insight, a more structured and theme-focused engagement model has been requested to test emerging ideas, identify delivery partners, and explore collaboration opportunities for projects with no clear lead but many beneficiaries. Participation in the roundtables will not imply funding commitment but will inform future strategic positioning and investment consideration.
- 3.3. The roundtable discussions will aim to:
 - Gather informed stakeholder insight.
 - Identify priority challenges and opportunities within each theme.
 - Generate potential project concepts aligned with Board priorities and suitable for further development.
 - Map key organisations, potential project leads and delivery partners.

- Identify opportunities for collaborative or cross-sector initiatives.
- 3.4. The proposed format is five two-hour long discussions that are facilitated independently. Each session will be open to the public, and individuals with expertise or relevance to the discussion will be invited to attend.
- 3.5. The proposed roundtable discussions are currently grouped under the following themes. These categories are indicative only and remain subject to further consideration and direction from the Board.
- i. **Community Safety:** to identify and prioritise strategic investment opportunities that support safe, connected, inclusive communities across Orkney.
 - ii. **Sports and Leisure:** to explore collaborative investment in sports and leisure infrastructure that strengthens wellbeing, participation, and intergenerational inclusion.
 - iii. **Performing Arts and Festivals:** to explore strategic collaboration within the festivals and performing arts sector, identifying shared infrastructure needs and opportunities to improve cultural vibrancy across Orkney.
 - iv. **Heritage, Regeneration, and Public Realm:** to explore regeneration opportunities that strengthen town centres, improve public realm, and leverage heritage assets to support economic vitality and community wellbeing.
 - v. **Business Development and Tourism:** to explore strategic interventions that strengthen high streets, visitor experiences, and support sustainable business growth across Orkney.
- 3.6. Work has been undertaken to identify potential facilitators and relevant contacts for the roundtable discussions. Subject to approval of the recommendations, officers will commence procurement to secure a facilitator and confirm associated costs. Facilitation costs are currently estimated at approximately £1,000 per session. A further update will be provided to the Board once procurement is complete.
- 3.7. Roundtable discussions will commence following approval of the Regeneration Plan, which is scheduled for approval by the end of March. The Plan will provide important context for the facilitator and will inform development of the discussion brief.
- 3.8. It is not proposed that all sessions take place simultaneously. Given existing discussion and project momentum in certain areas, Sports and Leisure and Performing Arts and Festivals may be prioritised initially. The remaining themes require further scoping to clarify focus and identify key stakeholders.

3.9. Following each session, it is proposed that the facilitator would prepare a written summary report. Consolidated findings would be presented to the Board to inform future strategic direction and potential investment decisions.

For Further Information please contact:

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