

Reaching our Rural Communities



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The Highland & Islands Context

- The Highland region has 3,000 miles of coastline, covering nearly 16,500 square miles of land.
- Orkney Islands 20 inhabited islands, population just over 22,000



Rural, but very different

This includes some of the most remote, rural and sparsely populated areas of the country.

Fragile communities with aging population

Demand for housing outstripping supply

Literally hard to reach – with some communities being cut off for days with either no ferries or road closures.



Housing in Highlands & Islands



Orkney has just 2 social landlords both with around 1000 homes each – most of the tenants are known by the staff



Just over 15,000 houses and counting. Several social landlords covering different areas. The challenge here is to make sure our tenants can reach us and this is often where the TP team are very visible.

How do we engage



Tried and Tested

- Tenant Forums – in person & online
- Local pop up events
- Estate walkabouts

Highland & Island Challenges

- A team of 6 covering a huge area, lots of miles
- In Orkney we had the added challenge of being on different islands
- Tenants widely spread out
- Digital connectivity



Doing thing the Highland & Island way

How do we address these challenges?



Hybrid forums



Linking in with the
Community Planning
Team to help improve our
local areas



Highland tenant network
– encouraging tenants
talking to tenants



Partnering with other
agencies and attending
their events



Creating a youtube
channel

Why Join a Residents' Group?



Thank you for listening



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