Councils in Partnership:

A local authority perspective on Marine Spatial Planning

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The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

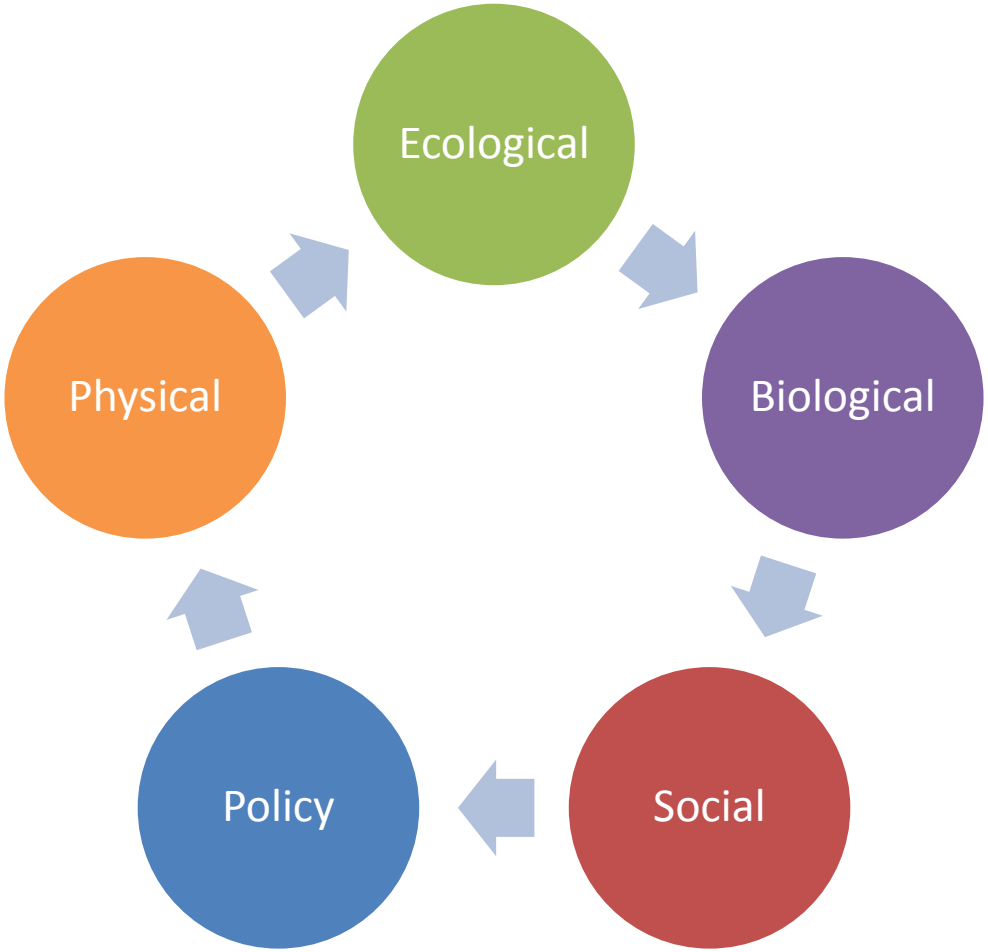
Orkney Islands Council

EIMR
The Environmental Interactions Of Marine Renewable Energy Technologies

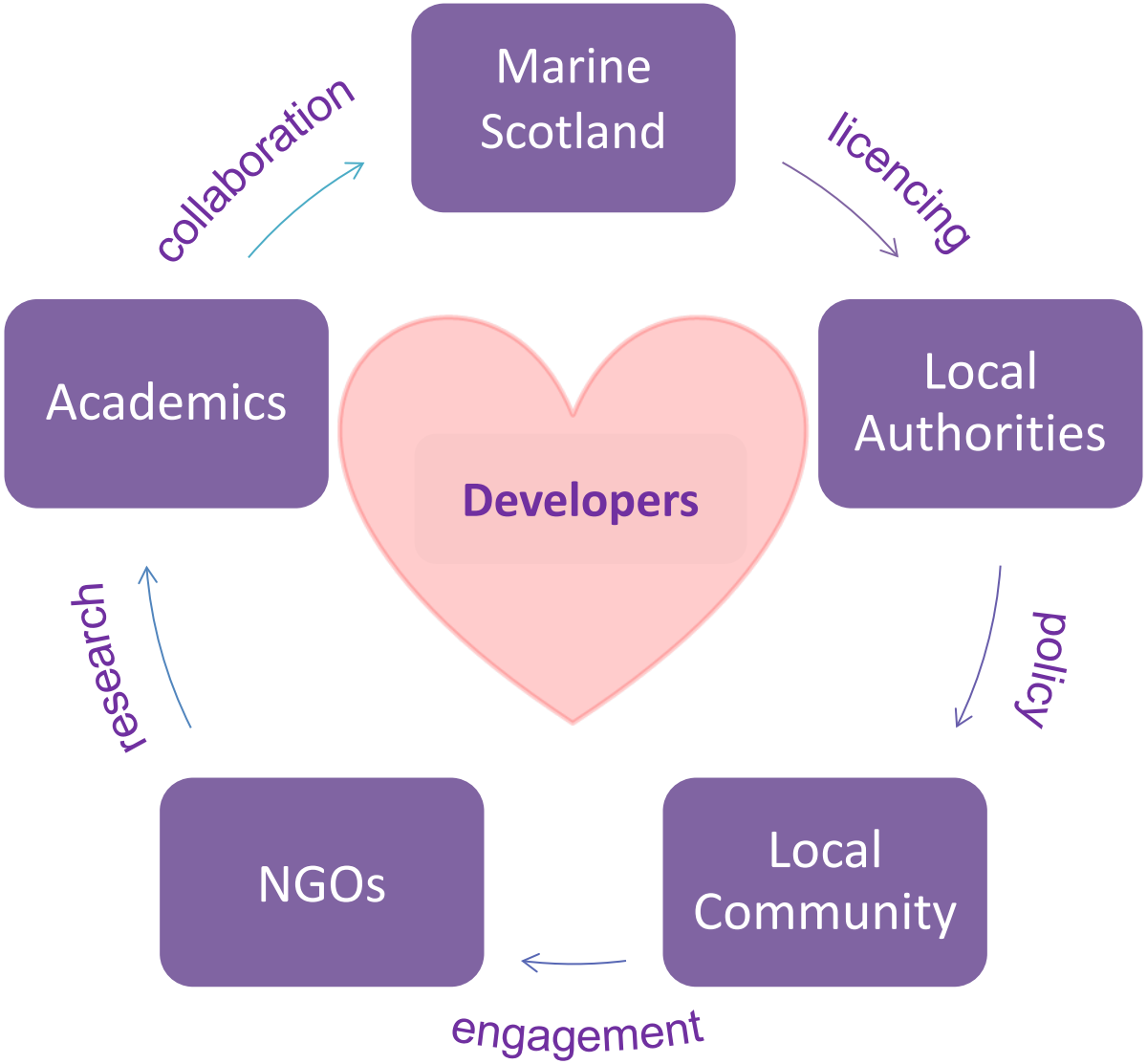
Overview

- Which environment?
- MSP = Interdisciplinary approach
- How two Scottish councils advocate MSP:
    - **S**upport
    - **E**nable
    - **E**ngage
- Conclusions

Which environment?



MSP = Interdisciplinary Approach



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Highland

Coastline.... 4,900km

Area..... 26,171km^2

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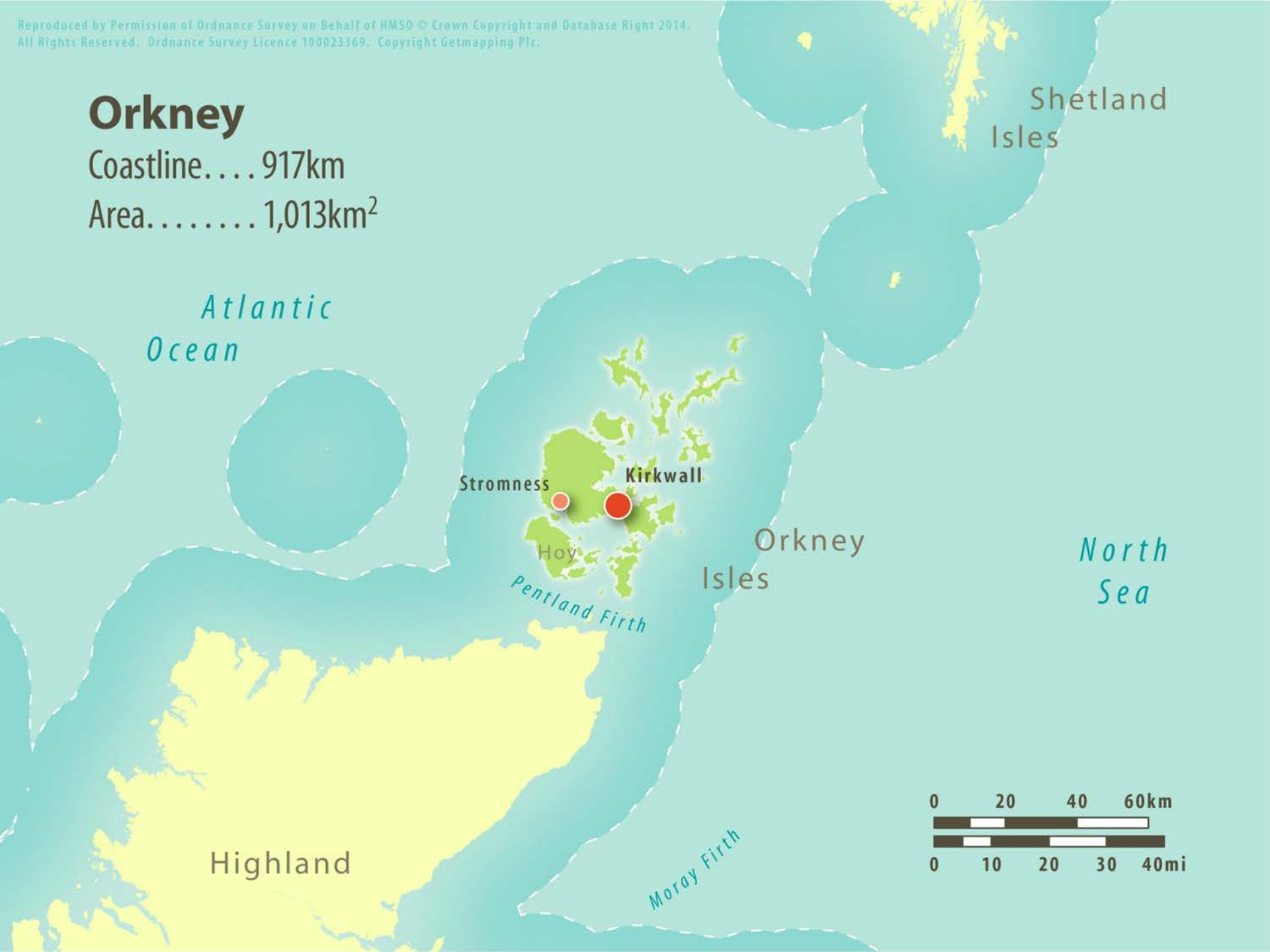
Orkney

Coastline.... 917km

Area..... 1,013km^2



Our council marine planning roles

Support

- EMEC
- Local/Master-planning
- Key consultees
- PFOW Marine Energy Park
- Enterprise Areas

Enable

- Harbour upgrades
- On-shore sub-station applications
- Marine Spatial Plans
- Land purchase

Engage

- Workshops
- Info Days
- Plan Consultations
- Leadership Fora & working groups
- Lobbying

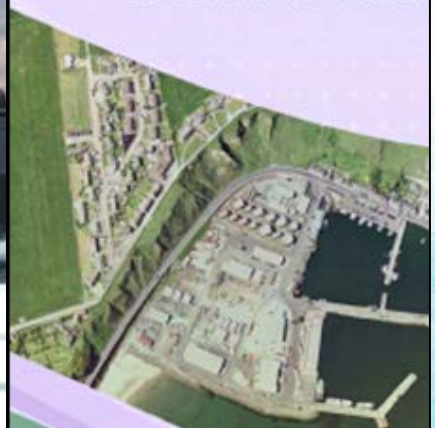
Support: Planning Guidance

EMEC

The European Marine E

planning
protocal c

LOW CARBON & RENEW
SGÌRE IOMAIRT CARBO



TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

HIE
Highlands and Islands Enterprise

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

SEPA

NORTH HIGHLAND
ONSHORE VISION

Growth Strategy for the Marine Renewables Sector

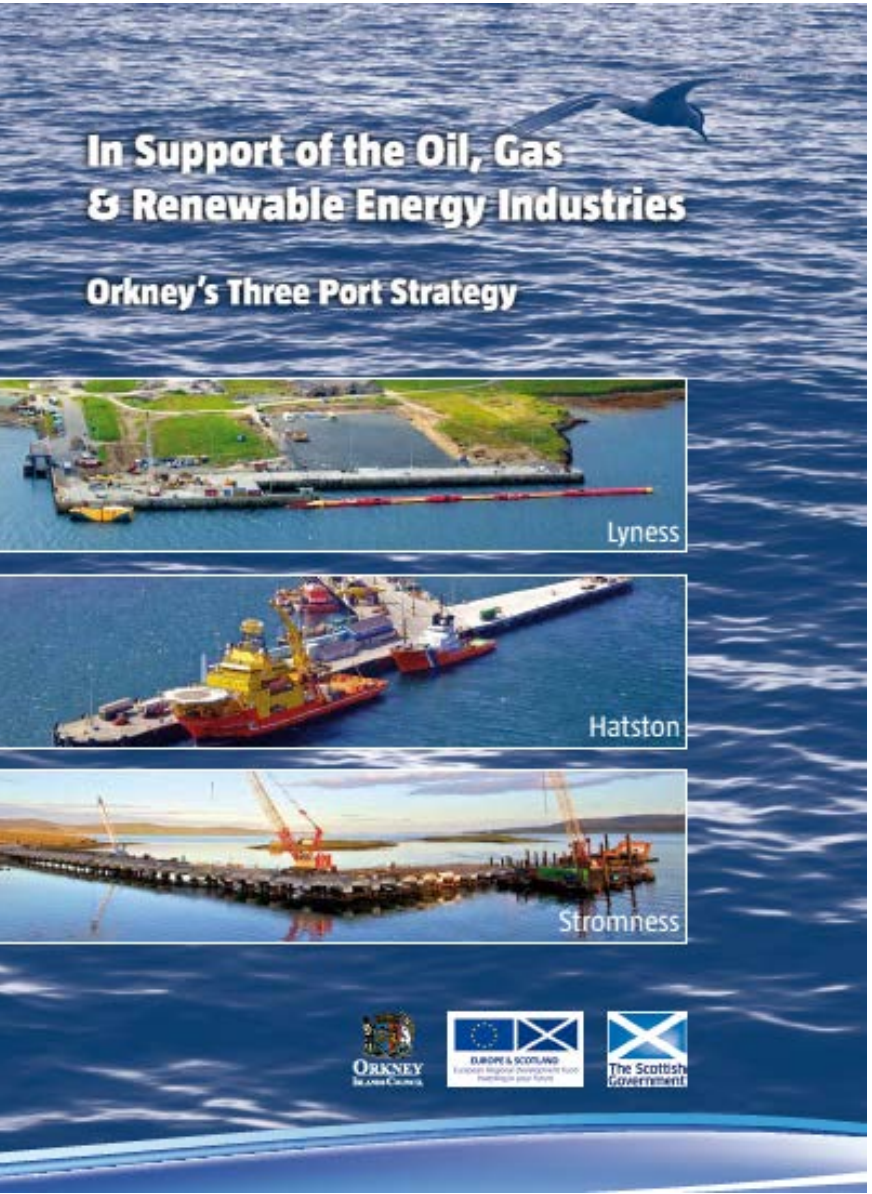
The marine renewables sector – covering wave, tidal and offshore wind energy – is expected to expand significantly in the Caithness and North Sutherland area over the next 20 years. The Highland Council wants to maximise the potential economic benefits and employment opportunities that this could bring to the area. This is reflected as a key priority for the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership, of which the Highland Council is a key partner. The recent designation of the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters as Scotland's first Marine Energy Park should provide further stimulus to the sector and make the area more attractive inward investment.

An adequate supply of available sites for development will be central to enabling the expansion of the onshore element of the marine renewables industry in North Highland. In order to identify and promote onshore development land opportunities the Council is undertaking a 'Call for Sites' exercise from 8th August to 3rd October 2012. This provides the opportunity for local communities, landowners and businesses to suggest sites which may be suitable to support the marine renewables sector. The suggestions made will help the Council to prepare a Framework Document which will identify a portfolio of sites where the Council is likely to support planning applications for employment uses.

Sites that are in close proximity to harbours, railways or major roads may be particularly suitable. However, we are happy to consider any suggestions put forward which satisfy the following set of criteria:

- within Caithness or located along the northern Coast of Sutherland to Bettyhill;
- considered to be suitable for employment uses to support the marine renewables sector;
- greater than 0.1 ha in size; and
- believed likely to be available for development within the next 10 years.

Enable: Infrastructure Investment



Enable: PFOW MSP process

Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan

Planning Issues and Options Paper

May 2013

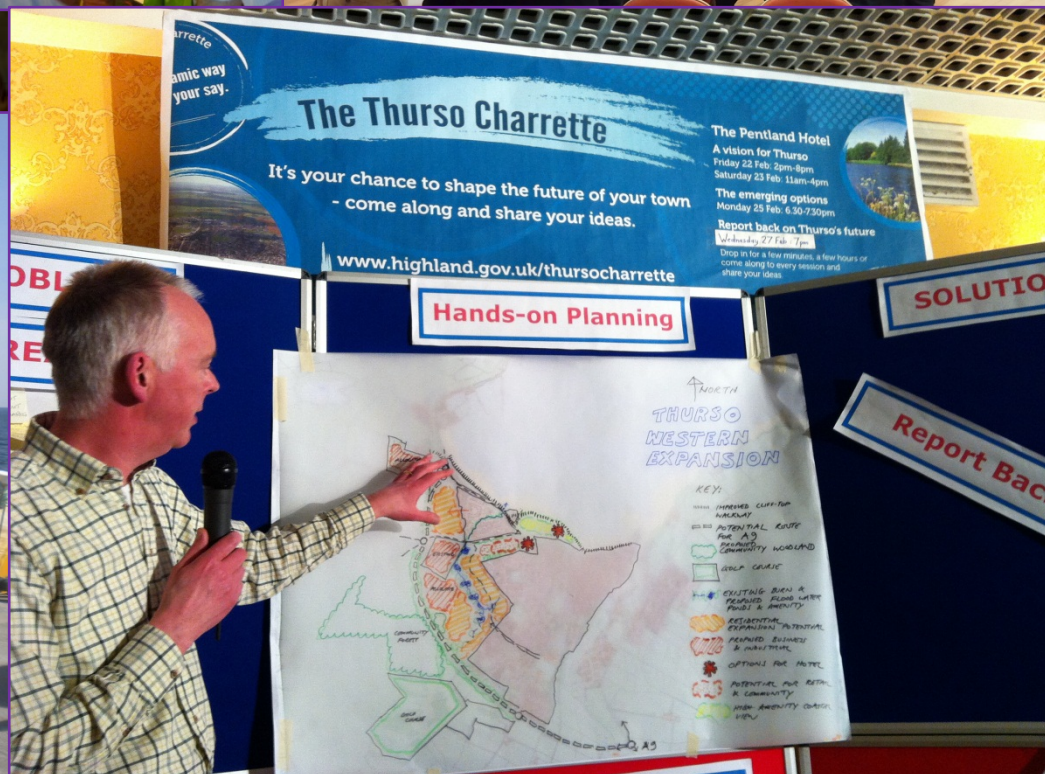
THIS IS UNIQUE!

Orkney Islands Council | The Highland Council / Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd | marinescotland

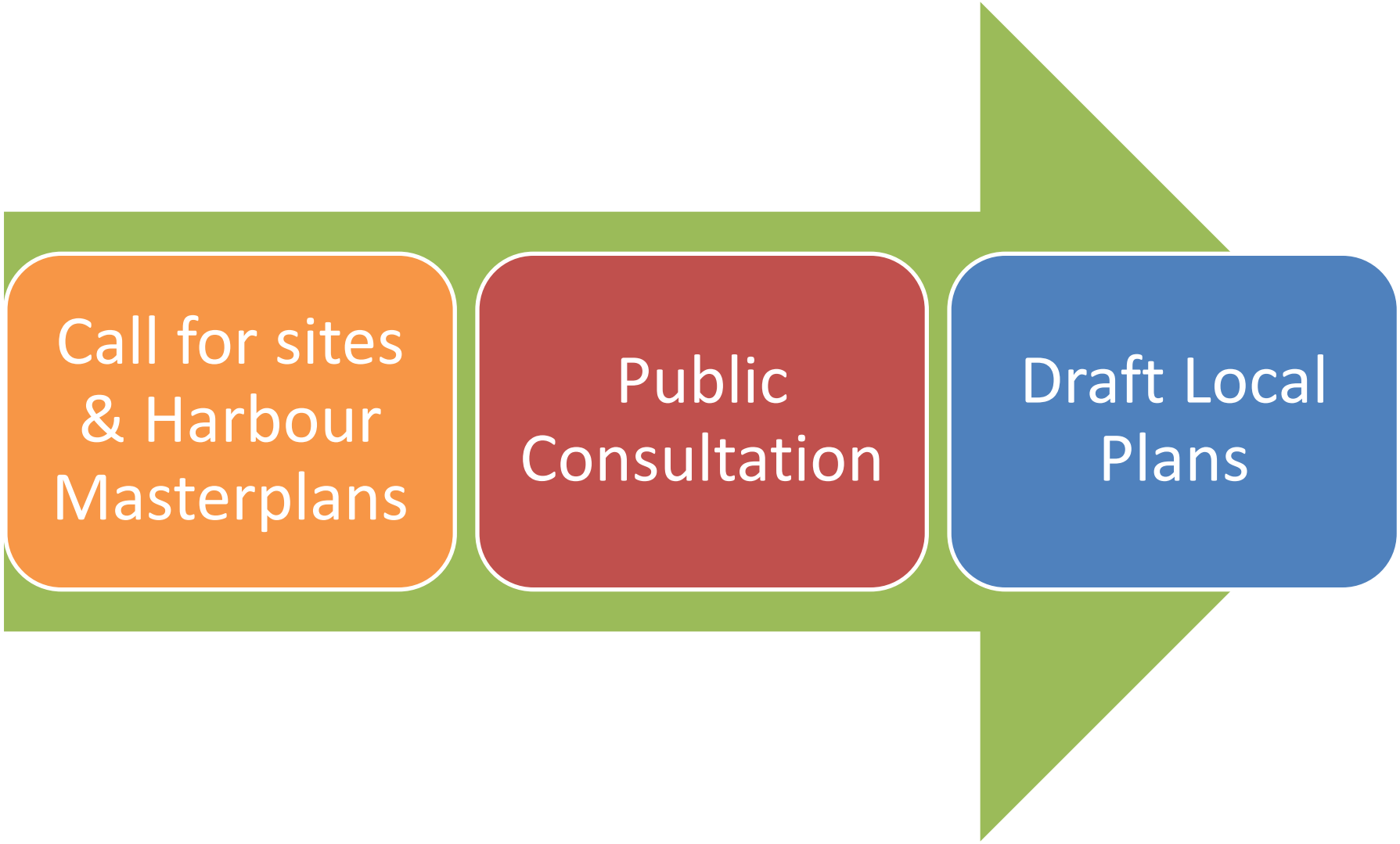
The Scottish Government, Edinburgh 2013

Orkney Islands Council | The Highland Council / Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd | marinescotland | The Scottish Government / Riaghaltas na h-Alba

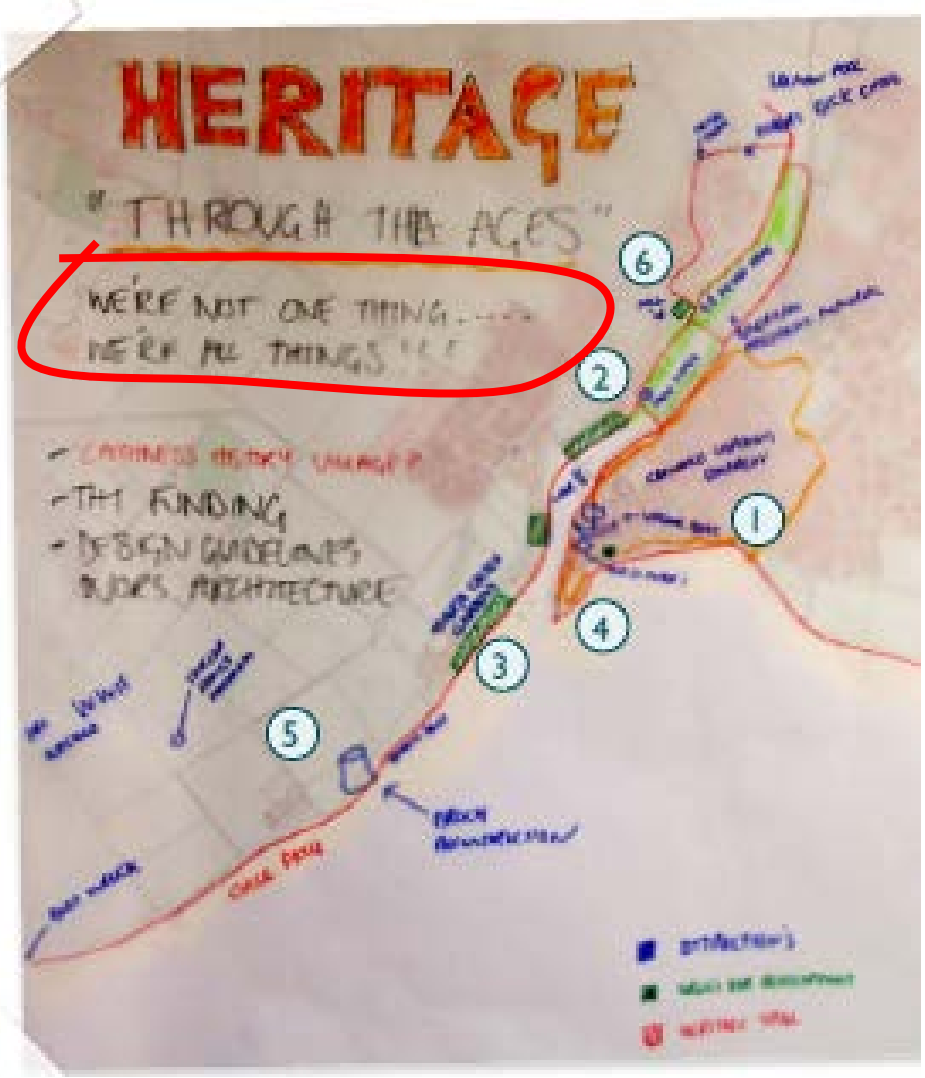
Engage: Talk to People



Engage: Provide Opportunities



Engage: Policy versus Practice



"… analysis indicates that benefits may be gained from ***testing*** *government* ***renewable energy policies*** *against the different worldviews….****that move away from homogenised views of public opinion****"*

West *et al,* (2010)

How we can help each other…

- Provide concise summaries of key research/policy work, highlighting main implications
- Sign up to be a stakeholder in the PFOW marine spatial plan process
- Come and talk to us, phone us or email us

Summary

- Highland and Orkney Islands Council are playing a key role in **supporting** Marine Spatial Planning in Scotland.
- Significant investment in harbour upgrades and land provision is **enabling** development and economic growth.
- By **engaging** with a wide variety of stakeholders, we are the key link between developers, academics, SG agencies and the local communities we serve.

References

West, J., Bailey, I. & Winter, M. (2010) Renewable energy policy and public perceptions of renewable energy: A cultural theory approach. *Energy Policy*, **38**, 5739-5748

Acknowledgements

EIMR
Peter Alexander, Highland Council
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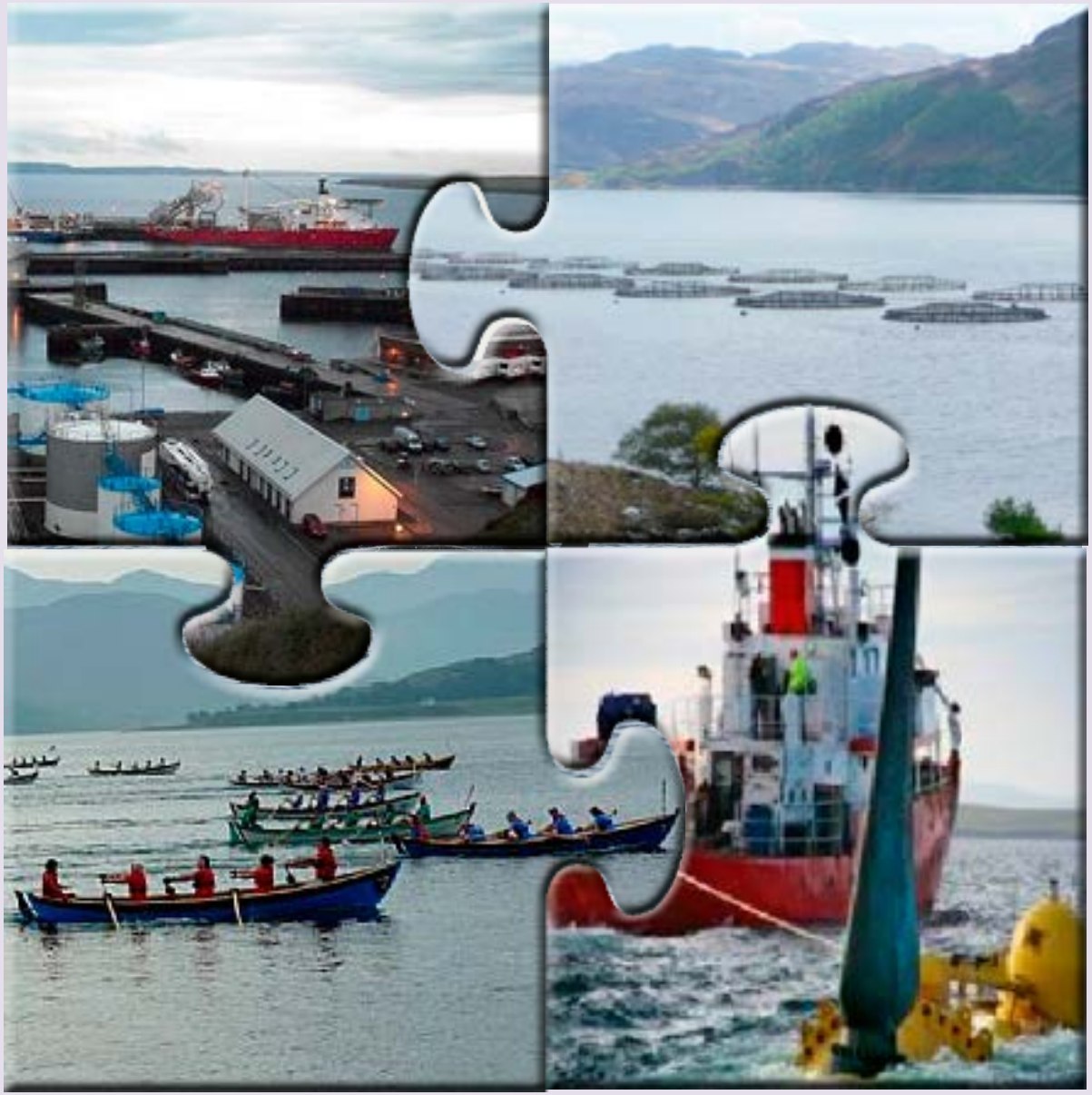

THANK YOU - EIMR2014-130