

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Shirley Whiteman

Vice Chair: Damian Stout

REACHING 100% BROADBAND (R100) PROGRAMME UPDATE

Stronsay Community Council has received an update on progress in delivery of the R100 programme and has pleasure in being able to share this with residents.

The update is intended to give a high-level overview of the work that the Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration section in Orkney Islands Council is currently delivering relating to digital connectivity to maximise the impact of the services and funding available.

The R100 Programme is made up of a combination of the R100 main contract being delivered by Openreach and the R100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme (R100 BVS).

The table below provides detail on progress with the build – the number of properties that are in the Openreach main build, the number who have access to fibre services and the number of properties surveyed.

R100 main build

<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Total Contractual Premises</u>	<u>Premises Surveyed</u>	<u>Premises In-Build</u>	<u>Premises Built* (inc. overspill)</u>
Orkney Islands	Lot 1 North	3,320	1,215	655	847

An estimated date for delivery of infrastructure by exchange is detailed below.

R100 North Contract Planned Build by Exchange November 2022

<u>Exchange</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Contractual Phase</u>	<u>Expected 'Ready for Service' by</u>	<u>Contracted Premises</u>
STRONSAY	Orkney Islands	Phase 15.4	31 December 2025	206

To find out when R100 contracted premises are scheduled to be connected, or to check eligibility for a voucher, visit the online address checker at: scotlandsuperfast.com

Residents may be unaware that the installation of a fibre connection does not automatically result in access to faster services. To “activate” access to faster services, apply at <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-checker>

The Scottish Government is developing an Islands Engagement plan in partnership with Openreach to ensure that communities are made aware, in advance of proposed works, of the impact the build may have on each island and hear back from the community on any local issues. This follows a successful pilot on Lismore

and you can read more about the challenges of island build in a recent blog from the Scottish Government ‘[Deploying Broadband on Scottish islands](#)’.

Orkney Islands Council officers have agreed to assist Openreach and the Scottish Government in all community engagement activity. Officers intend to support engagement events on the islands when the R100 build dates draw closer.

Orkney Islands Council are seeking support from members of the community council to help spread the word within their ward to encourage residents and businesses to check if they are due to receive a fibre service, and if so apply for a connection at <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-checker>

Project Gigabit

For those properties not currently benefiting from a fibre connection, the UK Government has announced a further funding round labelled Project Gigabit. The programme aims to fund delivery of gigabit-capable digital connectivity across all areas of the UK with an aim of delivering 85% UK-wide coverage by 2025 and a nationwide target of 99%+ coverage by 2030.

The Scottish Government and the UK Government are working together to launch the next phase of Project Gigabit activity in Scotland.

The first Project Gigabit procurements in Scotland are expected to launch in the first part of 2024 and Orkney Islands Council is actively engaging with the Scottish Government to ensure the “Orkney build” will be one of the earlier areas going out to tender.

4G Infill Programme

The Scottish Government’s Scottish 4G Infill Programme (S4GI) is a £28.75 million initiative delivering 4G infrastructure and services in 55 mobile “notspots” in rural and island parts of Scotland.

Coverage in Orkney has been extended thanks to investment in 4 new mast sites as detailed below.

<u>Site Location</u>	<u>Progress update.</u>
Rackwick	4G services are now available from EE
Deerness	4G services are now available from EE, VMO2 and Vodafone.
Burray	4G services are now available from EE, VMO2 and Vodafone.
Stronsay	4G services are now available from EE.

Stronsay is due to receive significant investment as part of the main build which is estimated to be completed by end of December 2025. Residents and businesses will then have access to gigabit capable services.

If additional information is required, help or support then please signpost to digital@orkney.gov.uk or contact Ewan Kennedy at 01856 873 535 Extension: 3668

Members of Stronsay Community Council are also available to hear your comments, contact details being:

Shirley Whiteman	t: 616438	e: shirleywhiteman@icloud.com
Damian Stout	t: 616258	e: damienstout@btinternet.com
Shane Hourston	t: 0759396500	e: s.houston@yahoo.co.uk
David Locke	t: 07776448301	e: dlocke@churchofscotland.org.uk
Leonardo Martini-Brown		e: lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk
James Seaton	t. 07470111871	e: safehandsn0-1@hotmail.com

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