

# Orkney inter-isles connections

## Ferry services



# Orkney inter-isles ferry services

- OIC responsibility
- 13 isles served
- Radial network
- Problems in the network
- **STAG**
  - **Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance**
  - Objective-led
  - Iterative planning process
  - Programme recommendations



# Strategic planning objectives

1. More frequent and faster connections
2. More tourist travel to the isles
3. Reduce business costs and improve business efficiency
4. Increase connectivity
5. Financially sustainable manner



# Present ferry services

- Passengers up 50% (94-06)
- Vehicles up 53% (94-06)
- Last five years
  - Passengers +17%, vehicles +18%
- Last ten years
  - Passengers +23%, vehicles +29%
- All routes levelling off since 2003/04



# Problems with vessels & infrastructure

- North Ronaldsay weekly LO-LO service

- On a reasonable day
- On an impossible day



# Problems with vessels & infrastructure

- **Passenger Access**

- Steep, narrow staircases
- High steps



- **Accommodation**

- Passenger Areas below Vehicle Deck
- Crew Accommodation



# Existing Class 2A Vessels



- mv Earl's Sigurd & Thorfinn
- mv Varagen
- EU Council Directive 98/18/EC



# Things considered

1. Doing the minimum

2. Enhancing the ferry network

3. Increasing / reducing flights

4. Reducing the need to travel

5. Fixed links

5. Fixed links

• Enhancing ferries

- Same as present
- Hub and spoke
- Optimised network

• Air services

- Same as present
- Additional capacity
- Rationalise network



# Planning for network long-term

- New vessels and cascaded vessels
- 'Hold points'
  - Long term options
    - Replacement vessels
    - **OR**
    - Catamarans / trimarans
    - Fixed links
    - Alternative routings
  - Research programme to support decisions

