

Orkney Islands Council

From welcoming the UK's first grid-connected wind turbine in 1951, to hosting the world's leading marine energy test centre, EMEC, Orkney has long been a pioneer in the energy sector. Currently, Orkney generates well over 100% of the islands' electricity needs from renewables. Today, severe grid constraints prevent this clean power from reaching Scotland's mainland, thus blocking further investment and potential opportunities to secure inclusive growth and community benefits in Orkney through the Just Transition. SSEN Transmission is working to expand our electricity transmission infrastructure, alleviate these grid constraints, and unlock local benefits. To-date, SSEN Transmission has:

- spent £33 million across 27 local businesses
- supported more than 100 local jobs.

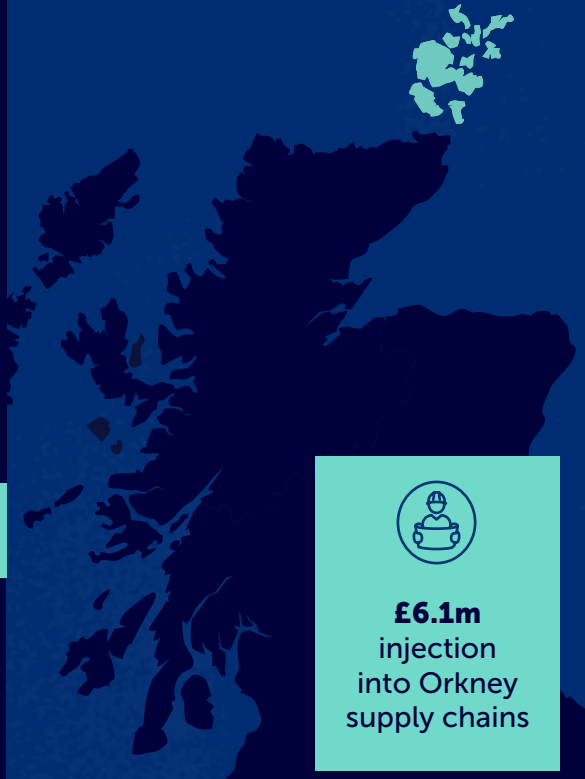
Turning grid investment into local opportunity:

- **Investing £230m** in transmission projects in Orkney Council area (**1% of T3**)
- **Awarding £6.1m** worth of contracts to **Orkney-based businesses**
- **Supporting 14 jobs** through investment in Orkney-based projects

Delivering on council priorities (Orkney Community Plan, 2025-2030):

- Boosting the number of employment opportunities, offsetting job insecurity.
- Providing well-paid local employment.
- Embedding Community Wealth Building.
- Protecting Orkney's natural heritage while also combating climate change.

Orkney



£6.1m
injection
into Orkney
supply chains



3 New EAYL
roles at SSEN
Transmission in
2026



£3.8m GVA
generated in
Orkney by
2030

Our investments will deliver benefits which support key priorities of the council. These benefits fall under the five cross-cutting themes:

1) Demographic sustainability



Supporting up to 9 jobs in construction
1.3% of the sector's total employment in Orkney

Supporting employment and training opportunities to support retention of the working-age population and develop a workforce to meet future labour demands.

2) Inclusive economic growth and fair work



2 new graduate roles at SSEN Transmission in 2026

Supporting a sustained increase in the availability of skilled, well-paid employment and training opportunities, boosting local economic resilience.

3) Net Zero and climate resilience



Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) embedded in all major projects

Protecting natural heritage, including peat and forestry, and generating employment opportunities in the green sector through restoration activities.

4) Strong local supply chains



£0.94m annual spend in local construction sector

Securing a reliable stream of revenue within local supply chains throughout the T3 period, facilitating growth and strengthening industry.

5) Community wealth building and social value



Providing funding for community-led projects

Ensuring benefits from the Just Transition are retained and distributed in Orkney, with funding targeting projects designed by the communities who will benefit.