

The Shetland Partnership

Working together to improve the lives of everyone in Shetland

What is The Shetland Partnership?

The [Shetland Partnership](#) is Shetland's Community Planning Partnership - a collaboration of more than 20 public bodies and third sector organisations working together and with communities to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities across the islands.

Established under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Partnership is required to prepare and deliver Shetland's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, known locally as the Shetland Partnership Plan, and to review and report publicly on progress.

Our Vision

“Shetland is a place where everyone is able to thrive - living well in strong, resilient communities and where people and communities are able to help plan and deliver solutions to future challenges.”

What We Do

- **Set shared long-term priorities** - agreeing collectively on where our combined efforts will have the greatest impact
- **Work in partnership** - bringing organisations and communities together, not in parallel
- **Direct resources where most needed** - particularly towards reducing inequalities that affect quality of life across the islands
- **Measure and report progress** - keeping partners and communities informed on what is and is not working

Developing the Next Plan (2028 onwards)

The [current Plan](#) concludes in 2028. Work is now underway to develop the next Plan - a new long-term strategic framework that will set Shetland's collective direction for the decade ahead and beyond.

Why Now?

The current Plan reaches its conclusion, and the challenges Shetland faces - including a declining working-age population, the effects of climate change, and persistent inequalities - require a fresh, collective response.

A Different Kind of Process.

This is not a public consultation starting from scratch. Shetland's organisations and communities have already shared a great deal through years of surveys, research and engagement. This process draws on all of that. Rather than asking the same questions again, it brings together the people best placed to make sense of what we already know - and to agree what to do about it.



Who is Involved?

Around 70 people drawn from the Partnership's 21 strategic partner organisations, Shetland's 18 Community Councils, and 21 Community Development organisations are being invited to work together in the same room, hearing the same evidence, and building a shared direction.

When?

A series of structured sessions will run from May 2026 to March 2027, covering themes including inequalities, population and economy, housing, climate, and public sector reform. The new Plan will be in place ahead of 2028.

Sessions and dates:

- **Session 1:** Scene Setting – 21st May 2026
- **Session 2:** Inequalities – 25th June 2026
- **Session 3:** Population & Economy – 2nd September 2026
- **Session 4:** Housing & Connectivity – 7th October 2026
- **Session 5:** Climate & Biodiversity – 2nd December 2026
- **Session 6:** Public Sector Reform & Communities – 21st January 2027
- **Session 7:** Final Session – 18th February 2027



These will all be held at Mareel: 3.45pm Registration, for a 4-6pm session.

Why This Matters

Shetland is a remarkable place. It has strong institutions, active communities, and a proven track record of innovation and self-reliance. What this process is about is making the most of all of that - bringing organisations and communities together to agree a shared direction and build the collective commitment needed to face the next decade with confidence.

Reducing inequalities is central to this. Research consistently shows that more equal communities perform better on almost every measure - from health and education to economic resilience. Addressing inequality is not a separate agenda, it is core to Shetland's ability to thrive.

Find Out More

Visit the [Shetland Partnership](https://shetlandpartnership.org) website or contact the [Community Planning Support Team](#) to find out more about the Partnership and how to get involved.

shetlandpartnership.org

