

Shetland Partnership Fact Sheet



Working Together to Improve Lives: The Shetland Partnership

When people and organisations work together, much more can be achieved than when they work separately. That is the simplest way of describing why we have the Shetland Partnership, and to explain what community planning is all about.

Shetland is a geographically isolated community and while this presents many challenges, it also offers opportunities. If we work together we can build on our strengths to improve our daily lives, our sense of well-being and contentment, and our future. The Shetland Partnership wants to do just that and show what a caring, joined-up community can achieve.



Who's Involved?

A [wide range of organisations](#) have committed themselves to the aims of the Shetland Partnership.

We have...



- **Shetland Islands Council** responsible for education, social care, housing, planning, roads and transport, waste and recycling, as well as parks, libraries and leisure



- **Shetland Charitable Trust**, a charity set up to benefit the people of Shetland, managing and distributing funds in support of local wellbeing and development



- **NHS Shetland and the Health and Social Care Partnership** helping us live healthier lives and providing help and support whenever we need it



- **Hjaltland Housing Association** building new homes to rent, and maintaining and upgrading established stock





- **Highlands and Islands Enterprise**, working with businesses and communities of all sizes to help them develop and grow



- **UHI Shetland** offering apprenticeship, college and university education and qualifications, helping students to take their next steps
- **Skills Development Scotland**, supporting people to develop and apply their skills for career management from school, into further learning and employment



- **Police Scotland**, the **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service** and the **Scottish Ambulance Service** keeping us safe, secure and resilient



- **Shetland Amenity Trust** celebrating and preserving nature, culture and all aspects of our shared heritage



- **Historic Environment Scotland** looking after the past, making sure it is understood and shared for the benefit of today and the future



- **ZetTrans** working to create the best transport links we can have within the islands and beyond



- **Voluntary Action Shetland** supporting, representing and developing community and voluntary action in Shetland



- **Scottish Environment Protection Agency** protecting the environment and human health, and **NatureScot** improving, maintaining and inspiring everyone to care about our natural environment



- **Shetland Arts**, placing the arts at the heart of Shetland, to educate, promote, support and develop the practice and enjoyment of the arts by all



- **Sport Scotland** and **Shetland Recreational Trust** supporting active, healthy lives at all levels



- **Visit Scotland** helping bring people into the islands to experience the best aspects of our home

Some of these have a legal duty to be involved¹, whilst others, who are also key players in Shetland, have signed up to be involved.

¹Through the *Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015*



How Does the Shetland Partnership Work?

All these organisations regularly meet to share their experience and knowledge. Each can learn how their own work has an impact on the work of the other partners.

Changes of policy in one organisation can have significant effects on the work of others, positive and negative. Communication is essential within the partnership as we work towards the common goal of an integrated community plan that works for the benefit of all. Put simply, working together works.²

One example of this might be:

Good transport links (ZetTrans) can unlock quality training prospects for those in rural areas (UHI Shetland) and provide employees to support businesses and industries (HIE), and that can keep people out of poverty, which could have led to poor physical and mental health (NHS).



Another might be:

Supporting young people (Council's School Service) to plant trees (Shetland Amenity Trust), contributing to enhancing Shetland's environment, whilst also supporting them to develop new skills and consider future career opportunities (Skills Development Scotland).

There are [many examples](#) of organisations in Shetland working together to make life in Shetland better.

The Story so Far

The Shetland Partnership has been working on a ten-year plan since 2018. When that plan reaches its conclusion in 2028, a new plan will be established, focused on the new and evolving challenges of the next decade or so.

It's a legal requirement for local authorities in Scotland to have what's known as a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for a local authority. Here in Shetland we call ours the [Shetland Partnership Plan](#). The aim is simple; to offer everyone in Shetland the best possible quality of life and opportunity. Shetland can have a prosperous economy and a thriving, resilient community if we all work together. To achieve this, we have to focus on what organisations can do, working with communities, to reduce things that are unequal for people and communities across Shetland.

²This is set out in Legislation, most recently in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015, and associated guidance



Delivery Plan

How we plan to achieve and maintain that, is in what we call the [Delivery Plan](#).

There are four priorities included in that Delivery Plan:



1. To grow a skilled workforce, increase productivity and innovation, bring clear improvements to the island economy and local communities, with a focus on ensuring all households can benefit, through good wages for all.

2. To play our part in reducing man-made climate change and build a green economy while protecting the natural environment.



3. To build a compassionate, respectful Shetland without stigma and discrimination on any aspect of our lives.

4. To give everyone the opportunity to improve their lives and circumstances and to offer all the support they need to achieve that.



These are linked together – looking at what one community or area needs, and getting everyone living, working and delivering services to work together to help make it better for all – focusing on what’s important to the people who live there. This is, not least, because every locality, every island and every community has their own individual challenges and requirements.

There is already what’s known as a [Locality Plan](#), setting out how to meet the needs and aspirations of the communities in Fair Isle, Fetlar, Foula, Papa Stour and Skerries.



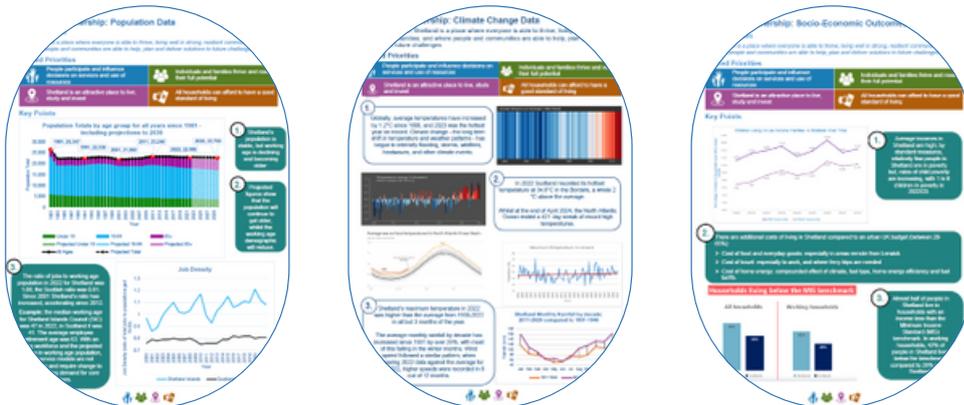
Useful Information

Evidence, from national and local data sources, and from collating the views of people living in Shetland, is useful to shape conversations about Shetland’s future, and what needs to change, as well as to [monitor the impact of what we do](#).

We bring together information from a number of different sources, such as National Records Scotland (NRS), the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Census, along with local data, such as the NHS Shetland Population Health Survey.



Recently we have focused on [areas of particular concern](#) – population change, inequalities and climate change. This shows us that: our working age population is decreasing at a faster rate, particularly in Lerwick and our more remote communities, people are experiencing a poorer quality of life than is expected, compared to other areas; and we are experiencing the impact of climate change.



There are also [‘locality profiles’](#) prepared for each island and regions of Shetland, identifying their distinctive needs.

