



Trustee Recruitment Pack

Introduction

Would you like to make a contribution to improving the quality of life for people in Shetland?

To help ensure that future generations benefit from the financial legacy to the islands of North Sea oil and gas, as past and present generations have?

Shetland Charitable Trust is looking for enterprising and energetic individuals for selection to its board of trustees.

The Trust is particularly keen that a more diverse board should shape its activities in the years ahead.

The Trust spent more than £9 million last year on charitable activities throughout Shetland. Since it was created in 1976, the Trust has disbursed over £300 million to a wide range of local charities, organisations and individuals.

Funding from Shetland Charitable Trust has enabled the construction of many of Shetland's recreational, cultural and welfare assets, including rural care homes, swimming pools and leisure centres and the Shetland Museum and Archives.

The Trust continues to support these community assets today through revenue funding to the organisations that operate them.

This funding has a significant impact on people whose lives are enriched by sport, heritage and the arts; on elderly people who require care in rural areas; on elderly or disabled people who require bus services; on people who benefit from a wide range of community projects.

No other part of the United Kingdom has a Trust with this level of resources and the ability to make such a positive difference.

If you are interested, or if you know someone who you think would be able and willing to contribute, please get in touch. Contact details are provided at the end of this pack.

So what's involved?

The Trust meets formally four times a year to oversee and make decisions on Trust governance, investments, finance and accountability.

In addition, there are three advisory committees of trustees – audit and governance, investment and general purposes – and you would be asked to sit on one of these, although you would be free to attend the meetings of the others.

These committees oversee the detailed work of evidence-based policy proposals and make recommendations to the full Trust.

Beyond that the Trust holds a number of working lunches each year for informal discussion and occasional ad hoc meetings to deal with any issues that arise.

What else do I need to know?

Trustees are volunteers, and the day-to-day activities of the Trust are administered by a dedicated team of staff.

The main concern of trustees is the governance of the Trust and the charitable funds it holds. In doing so, trustees are guided by the Trust's own Deed, by charity law and the requirements of the charities regulator OSCR and by financial standards imposed by HMRC and the Trust's own auditors. New Trustees will receive training in specific areas such as charity law.

The Trust also has a set of administrative regulations which describes the roles and responsibilities of Trustees and staff, how the Trust carries out its business and how meetings are run.

An emphasis on good governance, a commitment to the proper custodianship of funds and an understanding of investment are all important attributes of Trustees, who also act as ambassadors for the charity.

Individuals with the personal characteristics we are looking for, but who think they lack skills in particular areas, will be supported in their development.

The Trust has assets worth approximately £240 million in the form of land, equity, government bonds and cash.

It owns commercial property and leasing company Shetland Leasing and Property Developments Ltd (SLAP), Shetland Heat Energy and Power (SHEAP), which operates the Lerwick district heating scheme, and SCT Renewables Ltd, which has a 90 per cent interest in Viking Energy Shetland LLP, the Shetland partner in the Viking Energy wind farm project (the other partner is SSE plc).

Most Trust spending is via grant-aided funding. The largest organisations supported by the Trust are Shetland Recreational Trust, Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland Arts Development Agency, and Shetland Islands Council (for rural care of the elderly).

Why is the Trust looking for new trustees?

Until 2012, the Trust had 24 trustees – all 22 Shetland Islands Council councillors plus the head teacher of the Anderson High School and the Lord Lieutenant of Shetland.

In light of a ruling from the charities regulator OSCR the Trust was reformed, with a smaller complement of 15 trustees comprising seven appointed by the SIC and eight selected by an expert panel.

Following a review of this structure in 2016, trustees approved a reduction in the number of trustees appointed by the SIC to four, with 11 to be selected.

I'm interested, so what's the next step?

If you would like to find out more, or are interested in being considered for selection to the Trust, please contact Dr Ann Black, Chief Executive at:

Email: ann.black@shetlandcharitabletrust.co.uk

Phone: 01595 744994

Address: 22-24 North Road, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0NQ