

News release from Shetland Charitable Trust

Trustees appoint new fund manager

Shetland Charitable Trust has appointed a new fund manager as it seeks to generate more money for the benefit of the community.

Baillie Gifford will manage half of the Trust's equities in a new active equity fund.

Meanwhile Insight, which currently looks after the Trust's investments on the bond markets, is to manage a diversified growth fund.

It follows the decision made by trustees in February to adopt a new investment strategy.

The new approach, devised with the support of financial consultancy Mercer, is part of an overall financial strategy which will help the Trust achieve its goal of financial sustainability by 2020.

Drew Ratter, Chairman of the Trust's Investment Committee, said: "Since we adopted our new investment strategy in February, we have been through an exhaustive process, supported by Mercer, to choose new fund managers.

"We believe that Baillie Gifford and Insight are the right fit to help us increase income in order to be able to continue to support social care, the arts, heritage and leisure in Shetland for future generations in the way that it has for current and past generations."

Ends

Notes to editors

Shetland Charitable Trust is one of the largest such trusts in Scotland. The value of its investments is currently around £224m, with some £192m invested in the world's markets and £23m in the local economy. Funded originally by Shetland Islands Council's "disturbance payments" from the oil industry between 1976 and 2000, it now relies entirely on its investment income.

The trust formerly comprised all councillors plus two independents. This changed in 2012 and it is now a completely separate organisation from the council, with a built-in majority of independent trustees.

Shetland Charitable Trust owns three companies: Shetland Leasing and Property Developments Ltd (SLAP); Shetland Heat Energy and Power Ltd (SHEAP); and SCT Renewables Ltd.

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