

News release from Shetland Charitable Trust

New investment strategy agreed by Shetland Charitable Trust

Shetland Charitable Trust has agreed a new investment strategy that seeks to generate more money for the benefit of the community.

Trustees today (Thurs) approved plans that aim to increase returns on its global stock market and property investments.

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: "The Trust must increase its 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.

"Having reviewed our disbursements it was incumbent upon us to look at our investment strategy as well.

"We are dependent upon the income we receive from these investments to support our activities, and it is vital that we spend only this income and do not deplete our capital reserves if we are to achieve financial sustainability over the long term."

Ends

For further information, please contact Paul Riddell of Platform Shetland on 07739 750543, 01595 697296 or paul.riddell@platformshetland.co.uk

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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