

Press release – issued on behalf of Shetland Islands Council, Shetland Charitable Trust and Shetland Islands Citizen’s Advice Bureau

Funding identified for Citizen’s Advice Bureau core services

Shetland Islands Council (SIC) and Shetland Charitable Trust (SCT) have been working closely with Shetland Islands Citizen’s Advice Bureau (SICAB) over recent months, and have now been successful in putting together a sustainable funding package for SICAB’s core services.

At the end of last year, the Bureau was faced with a significant reduction in national funding to support its debt and money advice services, which forced its local funders to refocus and reprioritise their support for the organisation. Shetland Islands Council also continues to work towards drawing in further external funding, as it does for a range of local organisations.

Council Convener Malcolm Bell: “The recent Commission on Tackling Inequalities has highlighted the kinds of problems faced by many people here in Shetland, and the Bureau provides key support in those areas. I’m extremely pleased that we’ve been able to agree a sustainable solution for SICAB, working in partnership with the Charitable Trust and the organisation itself.”

SCT Chairman Bobby Hunter says: “The Trust is pleased to have worked in partnership with Shetland Islands Council and SICAB to help secure a funding package that will ensure the core information and advice services SICAB provides continue to be delivered, supporting specialist advice for those people who are unfortunately facing financial difficulties in Shetland.”

Karen Eunson, Bureau Manager for the Citizens Advice Bureau: “We are delighted to have secured this local funding for our core services. This means that we can continue to provide free, independent and confidential advice to the people of Shetland on a wide range of issues. It also helps to fund our specialist advice on social security benefits and debt.”

Ends.

For more information, contact Malcolm Bell on 01595 744502, Bobby Hunter through Paul Riddell on 01595 697296 or 07739 750543, or Karen Eunson on 01595 694696.

Notes for editors

SICAB provides information, advice and support on a wide spectrum of issues, including employment, immigration, consumer and tax advice, as well as specialist services support folk through financial difficulties, such as debt advice and welfare checks.