

Statement from Shetland Charitable Trust

Shetland Leasing and Property Developments Ltd (SLAP)

Shetland Charitable Trust has given its full backing to the directors of SLAP over their handling of the sale of the site at Commercial Road in Lerwick.

SLAP, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust, is a private company run by an independent board of Directors.

Trustees met recently to discuss a briefing paper on the sale provided by the Chair of SLAP, Susan Groat. Trustees also had an opportunity to question Ms Groat directly.

SCT Chairman Bobby Hunter said: "SLAP is tasked by the Trust to generate income and Susan and her fellow Directors have proven very effective at this, returning more than £7 million in the last three years.

"Under company law, it would be an offence for the Trust to interfere in the running of SLAP.

"However in line with best practice in corporate governance, the Trust receives regular reports on its activities from the directors of the company, most recently on the sale of the site partly occupied by HNP (Lerwick) Engineers Ltd.

"The Trust is satisfied that the directors of SLAP and Trustees have acted entirely correctly in the handling of this matter."

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.

Registered Charity No. SC 027025