



**Shetland
Charitable Trust**



Become a Trustee

Help shape Shetland's future

Summer 2026



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Introduction

Shetland Charitable Trust (the Trust) is a community-based funder, and we exist to improve the quality of life in Shetland.

We want Shetland to be a place to live a happy and confident life, surrounded by a community that encourages and supports everyone. We have agreed our Strategy 2025-2030 which sets out our planned approach for the coming years.

Why become a Trustee?

The Trust is looking for enterprising and upbeat individuals who would like to join us to help ensure that future generations benefit from the financial legacy, as past and present generations have.

The Trust is particularly keen that a diverse board should shape its activities in the years ahead. Joining the Trust now, will give you the opportunity to progress the Trust's Strategic Plan for 2025-2030, and provide funding to maintain extensive community facilities which enrich lives through culture, music, arts and sport and bring Shetlanders together.



Making a difference in Shetland

The Trust has disbursed over £360 million to a wide range of local charities, organisations and individuals. We are very proud of our work and our community, but at the Trust, we are most proud of the organisations we support and the positive impact they have on people's lives.

Funding from the 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.

It is rare for a community to have 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 Board of Trustees provide strategic leadership to our small staff team, creating a strong and resilient organisation. The board 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. They meet as and when there is a business requirement.

Beyond that, the Trust holds several Trustee working lunches each year for informal discussion and there are occasional ad-hoc meetings to deal with any issues that arise.

The Trust provides grant funding to local and national organisations through unique support programmes that enable charitable and voluntary organisations to meet some of the needs of individuals and communities in Shetland. This is currently administered through the Trusts Large Grant Scheme, Small Grant Scheme, Innovation Grant Scheme, Capital Grant Scheme and through the Capital Works Bridging Loan Scheme.

What else do I need to know?

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

The main concern of Trustees is the governance of the Trust and the charitable funds it holds. 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.





The Trust's decision-making and activity are guided by our four main guiding principles:

Equality, Inclusion, and Accessibility:

Our goals are better achieved when different voices and needs are heard and responded to, and impact is experienced across our islands.

Sustainability:

We are focused on meaningful change for residents and helping to ensure Shetland is looked after for future generations.

Outcome led:

A strong focus on outcomes helps us and our supported organisations make good decisions, adapt to changing conditions, and maximise impact.

Collaboration:

We believe working effectively together will lead to better solutions and create more impact.

An emphasis on good governance and a commitment to manage our investments so that we can continue to use earnings to provide support now and long into the future, are important attributes of Trustees, who also act as ambassadors for the charity.

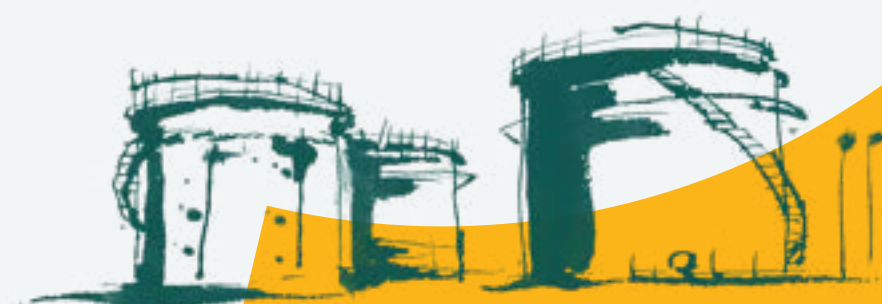
Individuals with the personal characteristics we are looking for, but who think they lack skills in particular areas, will be supported in their development.

About the Trust's structure

The Trust owns [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 (the other partner is SSE plc).

Most Trust spending is by grant 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).

More information can be found on our website shetlandcharitabletrust.co.uk.



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

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

If you would like to find out more or have an informal chat, please contact Dr Ann Black, Chief Executive:

Email: ann.black@shetlandcharitabletrust.co.uk
Phone: **01595 744 994**
Address: **22-24 North Road, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0NQ**

or contact the Trust for an application pack to be sent to you:

Email: mail@shetlandcharitabletrust.co.uk
Phone: **01595 744 994** for a paper or electronic copy.

Closing Date for applications:
Monday 2 November 2026 at 12 noon.

Interviews are planned for
the week commencing 16 November.