

Programme One – Community Services and Infrastructure

Large Grants – Introduction to Outcomes

Shetland Charitable Trust has always cared about the community benefit created by the funding we disburse to local community and charitable organisations. In our new strategy, we are adjusting our approach and processes to place increased emphasis on understanding how Shetland and its residents benefit from our funding. This is reflected in our strategic principle of being outcome-led: *A strong focus on outcomes helps us and our supported organisations make good decisions, adapt to changing conditions, and maximise impact.*

We're using the word outcome, but we could equally use consequence, impact, or benefit. We know the language of outputs and outcomes can be confusing. In this note we explain what being outcome-led and outcomes means to us.



It usually starts with an idea or a need

You decide to invest money and effort into pursuing the idea or meeting the need

What you create with money and effort is a mix of activity and outputs

Your activity and outputs will lead to consequences for someone, ideally your target beneficiary

Source: Anderson Solutions

Outcomes are the consequences of your activity and outputs. Understanding outcomes often requires hearing from and listening to those that benefit or are impacted by your activity.

We still want to know how you spend our funding, but we want to better understand the impact you're having. We are aware the organisations we support have different approaches to monitoring their success, with some more outcome focused and some more activity focused. If you have concerns about how you might report on outcomes, or meet our requirements, please contact us.

Our outcome-led approach is designed to bring benefits to both you and to us. We hope that by better understanding and sharing the value Shetland and its residents gain from your hard work, we will all learn and benefit.