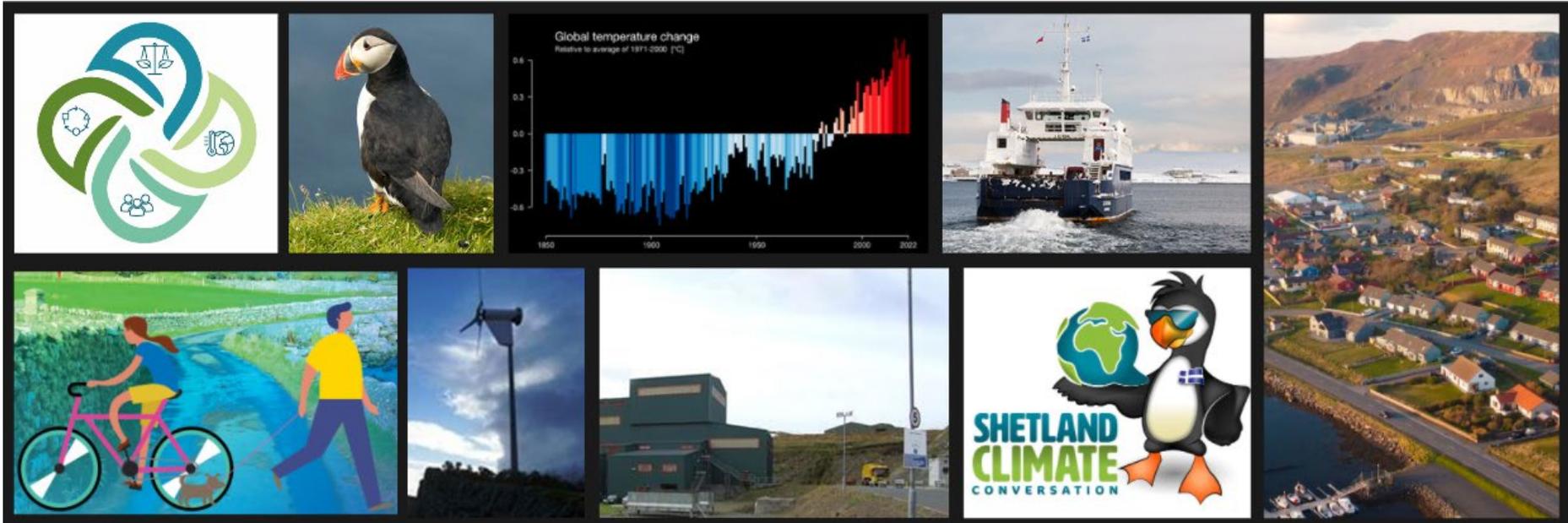


SIC Climate Change Programme 2025-26 Priorities



Supporting the “Our Ambition” Corporate Plan:
**“Working together for a positive, confident and sustainable
future for Shetland”**

Introduction

Shetland Islands Council acknowledged a Climate Emergency in January 2020. In response the Climate Change Programme was established, with the purpose to minimise the risks of climate change, and to make the transition to net zero as beneficial as possible to the Shetland community.

The approach of the Climate Change Programme is to:

- Be proactive in addressing Climate Change mitigation and adaption in Shetland.
- Progress a range of immediate actions and priority areas.
- Act in partnership with other agencies, business and communities.

The objectives of the Climate Change Programme are:

- Development of the strategy, governance arrangements, target development and action planning required to adapt to, and mitigate, climate change in Shetland.
- Contribute to an effective Scotland, UK and international response.
- Inform the identification of issues and options
- Assist in evidence-based planning and decision making so that environmental, economic and social needs are recognised, balanced and met.

Outcomes

During the development of the Shetland Islands Council Climate Change Strategy extensive stakeholder engagement took place, both across internal services and key external stakeholders. This led to the identification of the following Climate Change Programme aims:

- **We are an organisation and community that is resilient to our changing climate.**
- **We are a net zero organisation and community.**
- **Equality and fairness are at the heart of the transition to net zero.**
- **Opportunities to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefit to the community are optimised.**

Background

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. The treaty states that globally we must limit global warming to 'well below 2 degrees centigrade' to have a liveable future. It was agreed to pursue limiting the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels of warming in order to avoid climate change tipping points; the threshold at which the Earth's natural systems stop regulating themselves and begin to exacerbate change. To meet this target, the world is required to have 'net zero emissions' by 2050.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said emissions must peak before 2025 and drop sharply to keep even the more conservative Paris Agreement warming goal of two degrees centigrade in play. We are now at a crossroads where the 2020's must be a decade of action to keep this target within reach.

The UK has set a target date of net zero by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement. Scotland has set a more ambitious target of net zero by 2045, based on advice from the independent UK Climate Change Committee.

As a Local Authority, Shetland Islands Council has a statutory duty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with Scotland's national target of 2045, and to demonstrate we are working towards this. This is set out within section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 requires local authorities to report annually on their corporate carbon emissions in compliance with their Section 44 duties since 2015-16.

Strengthened reporting requirements were introduced by the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020. This updated legislation provides a consistent approach and requires that, by November 2022, all local authorities, where applicable, report a target date for achieving zero direct emissions and targets for reducing indirect emissions.

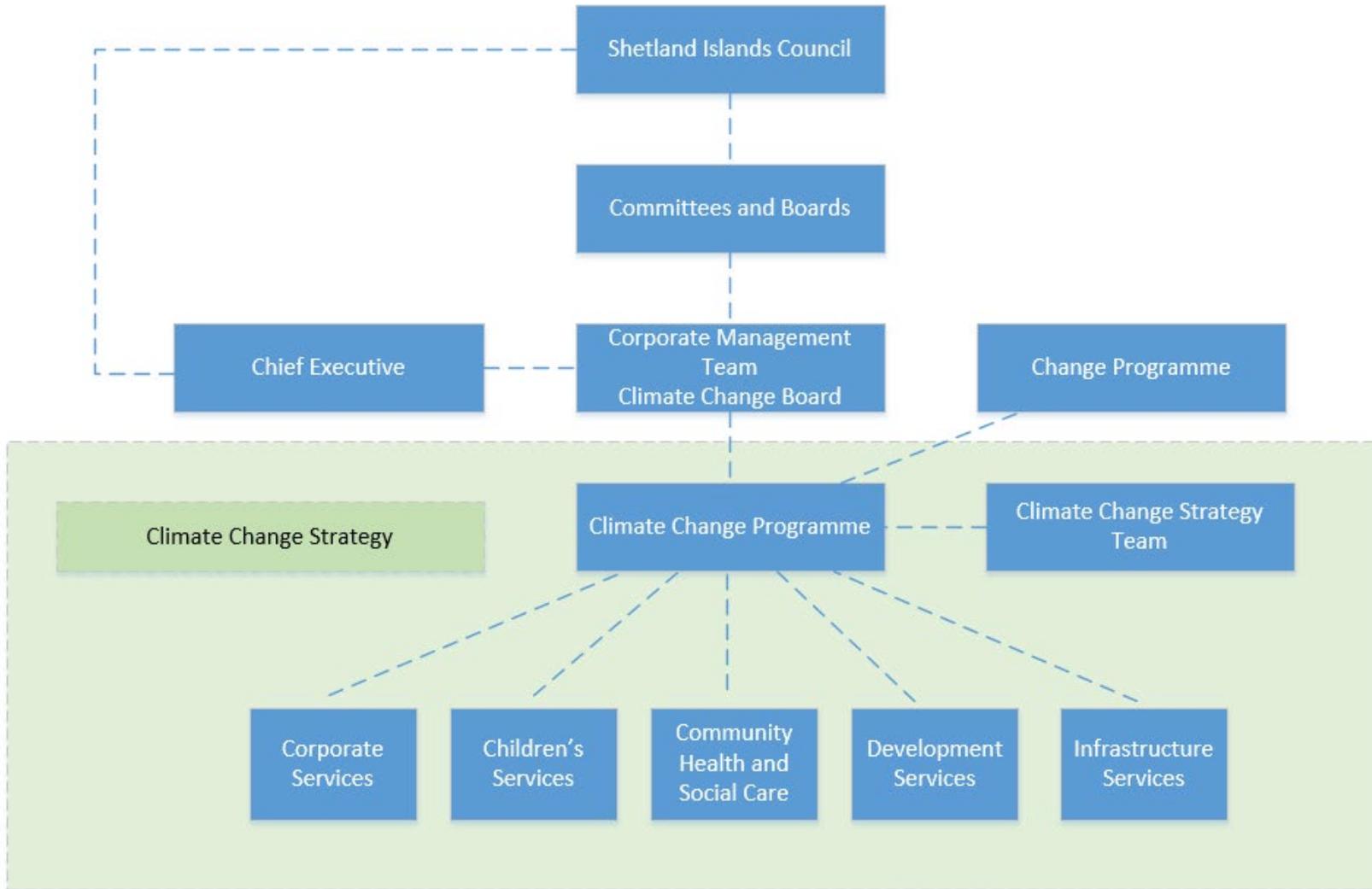
The Shetland Islands Council Climate Change Programme, Strategy and Action Plan provide a mechanism for the council to comply with legislation through setting out robust actions to meet climate targets, with a framework for monitoring and reporting on progress.

Governance and Reporting Framework

Effectively addressing climate change requires an agreed framework for the management of climate change, within which governance, roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, policy, strategy, objectives and processes are set out and channels and timescales for reporting are agreed.

The following governance structure for the management of climate change provides a framework for delivering, developing, maintaining and governing climate change management throughout the organisation.

The Shetland Islands Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan sets out the background, context, aims, strategic objectives, delivery mechanism and monitoring and reporting framework for the Shetland Islands Council in relation to addressing climate change.



What We Do

Climate Change Strategy Team

The Climate Change Strategy Team is tasked with driving the council's response to Climate Change, both mitigation and adaptation. This requires developing and coordinating the Shetland-wide strategy and SIC strategy, and embedding climate conscious practices within the council, Partnerships and throughout the community. The team are also tasked with raising awareness and understanding around climate change, within the council and throughout Shetland.

This team manages the delivery of the Climate Change Programme, which includes:

- Monitoring and reporting on climate change progress within SIC. Currently the team collect and analyse data related to emissions and climate KPIs, complete the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report and produce the annual SIC Climate Change Report including making recommendations for improvement.
- Alignment of plans, projects and works across the council in relation to climate change.
- Alignment of climate change objectives and works across Shetland. This includes establishing the Shetland Climate Change Steering Group, which is developing a place-based Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan for Shetland, under the Shetland Partnership.
- Alignment with climate change works nationally. This includes being the link between SIC and groups such as Islands Centre for Net Zero, Carbon Neutral Islands Project and Sustainable Scotland Network.
- Providing Climate Emergency Training – a Shetland bespoke course has been developed and is currently offered to SIC employees and all Shetland Partnership organisations.
- Shetland Climate Conversation – This includes the Shetland Climate Festival, Climate Yarns, Shetland Climate Change Forum and Schools Climate Roadshow.
- Identifying multi-disciplinary projects for decarbonisation or adaptation to climate change and leverage in funding to progress projects. A recent example is the Rural Energy Hub Project which leveraged £4.9 million for a fully funded project.
- Climate Change Impact Assessments
- Identifying gaps in SIC holistically addressing climate change and highlight steps required to fill these, including undertaking project management role and working with departments to develop proposals. Recent examples include SIC Land Strategy, SIC Estate Decarbonisation Project, SIC Car Club and LiDAR Data Project.

Climate Change Programme – Priorities - 2025-26

Enablers					
Leadership and Governance	Shetland Climate Conversation	Climate Emergency Training	Data and Alignment	Climate Adaptation and Resilience	Sustainable Procurement
SIC Annual Climate Change Report Lead - Climate Change Strategy	Climate Website and Digital Resources Lead - Climate Change Strategy	Climate Emergency Training Programme Lead - Climate Change Strategy	Service Efficiency Through Digital and AI - ICT	Local Development Plan Lead - Planning	Sustainable Procurement Policy Lead - ACP
Shetland Climate Change Strategy Lead - Climate Change Strategy	Shetland Climate Change Forum Lead - Climate Change Strategy		Climate Change Impact Assessments Lead - Climate Change Strategy	LIDAR Data Project Lead - Planning	Scope 3 Emissions Lead - ACP
Shetland Energy Strategy Lead - Future Energy	Climate Yarns Lead - Climate Change Strategy		Directorate Plan Climate Change Lead - Climate Change Strategy	Climate Risk Assessment Proposal Lead - Climate Change Strategy	Update BRO Guidance Lead - Finance
ICNZ Shetland Projects Lead - Future Energy	Shetland Climate Festival Lead - Climate Change Strategy				
Workforce Transition - Skills Development Lead - HR	Schools Roadshow Lead - Climate Change Strategy				
SIC Carbon Budget Lead - Climate Change Strategy	Participation & Engagement Policy Lead - Community Planning				
Identifying Affordable Energy Lead - Future Energy	RTS Community Engagement Lead - Future Energy				
LOIP Lead - Community Planning					
Shetland Power Systems Working Group Lead - Future Energy					

Key	Category
	Programme
	Active
	Stalled
	Not Started
	More Information Required

Buildings			
Non Domestic Estate Decarbonisation	Housing Decarbonisation	Shetland Building Decarbonisation and Efficiency	Commercial Estate Decarbonisation
Decarbonising the Non-Domestic Estate Lead - Climate Change Strategy	Social Housing Net Zero Standard Strategy lead - Housing	LHEES Lead - Env and Estate Ops	REH: Brae Youth Centre Refurbishment Lead - ACP
Building Manager Energy Training Lead - Env and Estate Ops	Knab Redevelopment lead - Housing	Domestic Energy Efficiency Funding Lead - Env and Estate Ops	Commercial Energy Audit Lead - ACP
Construction Standards Lead - ACP	North Road Mid Market Rent lead - Housing	REH: Brae District Heating Project Lead - Climate Change Strategy	
New Campus in Brae - Schools	HRA Business Plan - Housing	Smart Meter Roll Out - Future Energy	
	Strategic Housing Investment Plan - Housing	Fuel Poverty Advice Project - Energy Efficiency	

