
Island Communities Impact Assessments

Template Form



SHETLAND
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Island Communities Impact Assessment

Shetland Climate Change Strategy

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS	Responses
<p>Please provide a brief description or summary of the policy, strategy or service under review for the purposes of this assessment.</p>	<p>The Shetland Climate Change Strategy (SCCS) is a strategy that aims to enable a community that prioritises the changing climate and the opportunities of a sustainable low carbon future. We will build a green economy that supports the resilient communities and businesses of Shetland while protecting and restoring our natural environment. The SCCS aims to encourage proactive and collaborative working across organisations to become more resilient and adaptable to climate change with positive climate action.</p>
STEP 1 - Develop a clear understanding of your objectives	Responses
<p>What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?</p>	<p>The objectives of the SCCS are: <u>Long-term Outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are a community that is resilient to our changing climate. • We are a net zero community. • We are a community that protects and restores our natural environment. • We are a community that optimises the opportunities of a sustainable low carbon future. <p><u>Medium-term outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are a community that collaborates and shares intelligence and knowledge. • We are a community that fosters innovation to develop and deliver solutions. • Our behaviours are changing to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to protect our natural environment. • We are influencing Local and National Policy and Regulatory

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	<p>Change in the drive to Net Zero is fit for purpose, with flexibility to meet the needs of our remote and island context.</p> <p><u>Short-term outcomes (priority areas):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governance and Leadership - We have strong leadership and governance to ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation is a significant driver for sectors and industries across Shetland.• Building Awareness – We have an effective approach to informing and enabling people to make positive climate conscious choices.• Resource Investigators – We are creative in the use of our resources and proactive in accessing external funding to achieve positive change across sectors and communities.• Specialists – We monitor then evaluate the impact of climate conscious activity, using our specialist knowledge and data intelligence.• Collaboration – We provide opportunities for collaboration across sectors and communities, to enable innovation and solve problems.
Do you need to consult?	Yes, we hosted a number of engagements including the Islands with Small Populations Event, the Shetland Climate Conversations and workshops with different organisations, leads and members across six different sectors: Transport, Waste, Buildings, Land Use, Energy and Business & Industry. We then had a follow up workshop with the wider Shetland Partnership Network that completed a deep dive into the five

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	enablers (priority areas): Governance and Leadership, Building Awareness, Resource Investigators, Specialists and Collaboration.
How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy or service?	The SCCS will affect everyone and all communities across Shetland, both on mainland Shetland and on the islands, as we continue to decarbonise buildings and transport, restore our natural environment and reduce carbon emissions. Islands are those which are populated, but, not connected to the Shetland mainland. Fair Isle and Foula (outer islands) may see greater impacts of transport disruption due to increased adverse weather effects of climate change. It will be more difficult for the outer isles to adapt their built environment and ensure contractors can attend the outer isles and adapt buildings to be more energy efficient for climate change. The SCCS will need to be adapted and delivered as appropriate to include the outer islands and ensure they are not left behind.
What are the intended impacts/outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?	With a changing climate, there are numerous risks Shetland is exposed to, it is essential that we proactively and collaboratively act to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation to minimise the worst effects and be prepared. The SCCS will provide a common vision and approach to undertaking climate action across Shetland. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased collaboration across organisations.• Avoided duplication of effort across organisations.• Efficiencies across organisations.• Increased investment in climate related action across Shetland.• Accelerated climate action.

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	All communities across Shetland will be impacted by climate change, it may vary between areas and islands as certain areas are more for example, at higher flood risk or ferries for island communities require decarbonisation.
Is the policy, strategy or service new?	Yes
STEP 2 - Gather your data and identify your stakeholders	Responses
What data is available about the current situation in the islands?	<p>Shetland’s Net Zero Route Map - Shetland Islands Net Zero Routemap (NZSR) The route map provides information on how Shetland can work together towards achieving net zero emissions. It provides options on how to decarbonise an organisation, a public body, an industry sector or an entire region over set timescales.</p> <p>Shetland Community Conversations on Climate Change - Shetland Community Conversations on Climate Change – Shetland Islands Council A summary of key discussion points, observations and reflections regarding main priorities and concerns about climate change from a series of workshops held with communities across Shetland in 2022. While this report is from conversations all over Shetland including the mainland and islands, it highlights some issues specific to islanders. These include ferries not being able to dock, ferries not running as frequently, the possibility of fixed links, and concern that those in outer islands are more vulnerable to climate change.</p> <p>Shetland Climate Conversation 2021 Survey Report - Shetland Climate Conversation 2021 Survey Report – Shetland Islands Council A survey carried out to better understand the community’s thoughts, feelings and</p>

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	perceptions around climate change. The survey gathered 836 complete responses.
Do you need to consult?	No
How does any existing data differ between islands?	This is unknown. While impacts of climate change and working towards net zero are relatively similar throughout Shetland, as mentioned above, there are some examples that are specific to islanders, which would/may not affect those on Shetland mainland. For example, difficulty sourcing contractors available to visit the outer islands and carry out decarbonisation works or ferry travel disruption.
Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?	No
STEP 3 - Consultation	Responses
Who do you need to consult with?	Sectors, industries, organisations, Shetland Partnership Network, elected members.
How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?	Regular workshop sessions from April to August.
What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?	Islands With Small Populations Event – what are the barriers to decarbonisation on the islands?
What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns have been raised previously by island communities?	Workshops to help guide the direction of the strategy and gain feedback. For example from the Islands with Small Populations Event information was gathered surrounding barriers to decarbonisation; it is challenging to access grants, to secure contractors, difficult to undertake work on buildings/renewables, making projects less viable than on the mainland, (outer isles) are off-grid islands and reliance on diesel if the infrastructure isn't maintained, opportunities could be looked at to incentivise businesses to undertake work in island communities to make it easier to access.

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Is your consultation robust and meaningful and sufficient to comply with the Section 7 duty?	Yes
STEP 4 - Assessment	Responses
Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities?	All islands and mainland Shetland will be affected by the SCCS. The outer isles will need to be considered due to further challenges/barriers to decarbonisation.
Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?	All islands and mainland Shetland may encounter barriers to climate change action but the outer isles may face more barriers to decarbonisation than those on the mainland.
How will you address these?	We would recommend that any future projects as a result of the SCCS should complete an Islands Impact Assessment.
<p>You must now determine whether in your opinion your policy, strategy or service is likely to have an effect on an island community, which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities). <u>NO</u></p> <p>If your answer is NO to the above question, a full ICIA will NOT be required and <u>you can proceed to Step SEVEN.</u></p> <p>If the answer is YES, an ICIA must be prepared and <u>you should proceed to Step FIVE.</u></p> <p>To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the evidence show different circumstances or different expectations or needs, or different experiences or outcomes (such as different levels of satisfaction, or different rates of participation)? • Are these different effects likely? • Are these effects significantly different? • Could the effect amount to a disadvantage for an island community compared to the mainland or between island groups? 	
STEP 5 – Preparing your ICIA	Responses
In Step Five, you should describe the likely significantly different effect of the policy, strategy or service:	

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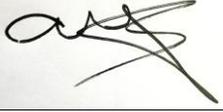
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Assess the extent to which you consider that the policy, strategy or service can be developed or delivered in such a manner as to improve or mitigate, for island communities, the outcomes resulting from it.	
Consider alternative delivery mechanisms and whether further consultation is required.	
Describe how these alternative delivery mechanisms will improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
Identify resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
STEP 6 - Making adjustments to your work	Responses
Should delivery mechanisms/mitigations vary in different communities?	
Do you need to consult with island communities in respect of mechanisms or mitigations?	
Have island circumstances been factored into the evaluation process?	
Have any island-specific indicators/targets been identified that require monitoring?	
How will outcomes be measured on the islands?	
How has the policy, strategy or service affected island communities?	
How will lessons learned in this ICIA inform future policy making and service delivery?	
STEP 7 - Publishing your ICIA	Responses
Have you presented your ICIA in an Easy Read format?	No
Does it need to be presented in Gaelic or any other language?	No
Where will you publish your ICIA and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it?	Island Communities Impact Assessments – Shetland Islands Council
Who will sign-off your final ICIA and why?	Executive Manager - Environment and Estate Operations

ICIA's must be signed off by the staff member who completes it. They must then be approved and signed off by an executive manager or director. If an executive manager completes the ICIA, then the director should approve the ICIA.

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ICIA completed by:	Anne Leask
Position:	Climate Change Officer
Signature:	Anne B M Leask
Date complete:	19/11/2024

ICIA approved by (Executive Manager or Director):	Carl Symons
Position:	Executive Manager - Environment and Estate Operations
Signature:	
Date approved:	15 May 2025

Once approved and both the signature boxes are complete, you should publish the ICIA in PDF format on the [Island Communities Impact Assessments](#) page of the Shetland Islands Council website. All services should have a staff member who can edit the website. If not, please contact Community Planning and Development.

Even if a full assessment is not required (where the answer to Step 4 is no), this should still be published.