

SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS – LEAFLET 1

Leaflet 1 - Building a Thriving Community: Your Guide to Shetland's Local Place Planning Topics and their Links to Planning Policy

What is a Local Place Plan?

A Local Place Plan (LPP) is a community-led vision for how **land and buildings** should be **developed, used, and conserved**. It helps shape planning decisions and gives your community a stronger voice.

Why these topics?

Each topic reflects a key aspect of community life that can be influenced through land use and planning. Together, they support a thriving, inclusive, and resilient place.

Shetland's Local Place Plan Topics at a Glance

Topic	Focus
1. Building a Thriving Community	Overview of all leaflets and how to use them
2. Climate Change	Mitigation, adaptation, net zero
3. Equality	Inclusive planning for all
4. Health & Wellbeing	Active lifestyles, access to services
5. Community Safety	Safe spaces, emergency planning
6. Local Economy & Employment	Jobs, enterprise, local business
7. Transport & Digital Connectivity	Mobility, broadband, access
8. Housing	Affordable, appropriate homes
9. Biodiversity & Natural Environment	Habitats, green and blue infrastructure
10. Heritage, Culture & Archaeology	Identity, built heritage, archaeology
11. Young People & Education	Youth voice, schools, play, teenage spaces
12. Ageing Well in Place	Independent living, accessible design
13. Multigenerational Approach	Spaces for all ages and shared use
14. Lifelong Learning	Adult learning, skills, community capacity
15. Hazards & Resilience	Risk awareness, adaptation measures
16. Meanwhile Use	Temporary use of land and buildings
17. Energy	Local generation, efficiency, resilience
18. Strategic Environmental Assessment	How to evaluate the environmental effect of your proposals
19. Impact Assessments	How to evaluate the impact of your proposals on society
20. Doughnut Economics	Fitting your proposals into the 'bigger picture'
21. Utilities & Infrastructure	Water, drainage, heat, power, transport & digital connectivity

Building a Thriving Community

Your Local Place Plan is more than a document — it's a tool to shape a better future for your place. By thinking about how land and buildings serve your community, you can help create a place that works for everyone.

Why link to planning policy?

Local Place Plans (LPPs) influence statutory planning decisions. Aligning your community's ideas with existing policy strengthens your voice and ensures proposals are realistic and deliverable.

Key Policy Frameworks

Shetland Local Development Plan (LDP) 2014

Adopted September 2014, sets out spatial strategy and policies for sustainable development. Includes General Policies (GP1–GP3), Natural Heritage (NH1–NH7), Historic Environment (HE1–HE4), and topic-specific policies on housing, energy, transport, and more.

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

Came into force February 2023. Part of the statutory development plan. Includes 33 national policies grouped under **Sustainable Places**, **Liveable Places**, and **Productive Places**. Key themes: climate and nature crises, net zero, biodiversity, housing, transport, energy, digital infrastructure, and community wealth building.

The Shetland Partnership Plan (2018–2028)

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Shared priorities: **Participation**, **People**, **Place**, **Money**. Focus on reducing inequality and improving wellbeing.

Links to Shetland Partnership Plan

- **Participation:** Engage communities in shaping LPP proposals
 - **People:** Address health, education, and equality outcomes
 - **Place:** Support attractive, sustainable settlements
 - **Money:** Promote affordable housing and local economic resilience
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How to use the leaflets

- Read the ones most relevant to your community
- Use them to spark discussion and gather ideas
- Refer to them when drafting your Local Place Plan
- Share them with others to build support
- Follow the links in each to find out more

Links by Topic

Topic	Relevant LDP and Other Policies	Relevant NPF4 Policies
Climate Change	GP1 Sustainable Development	1 Tackling climate & nature crises; 2 Climate mitigation & adaptation
Equality	GP2 General Requirements	15 Local Living & 20-minute neighbourhoods; 23 Health & safety
Health & Wellbeing	GP3 Layout & Design	21 Play, recreation & sport; 23 Health & safety
Community Safety	GP2 General Requirements	23 Health & safety
Work & Local Economy	Economic Development Policies	25 Community wealth building; 26 Business & industry
Transport & Digital Connectivity	Transport Policies	13 Sustainable transport; 24 Digital infrastructure
Housing	Housing Policies	16 Quality homes; 17 Rural homes
Biodiversity & Natural Environment	NH1–NH4; NH5 Soils; NH7 Water Environment	3 Biodiversity; 4 Natural places; 20 Blue & green infrastructure
Heritage, Culture & Archaeology	HE1–HE4 Historic Environment	7 Historic assets & places; 31 Culture & creativity
Young People & Education	GP3 Layout & Design	21 Play, recreation & sport
Ageing Well in Place	GP3 Layout & Design	14 Design, quality & place
Multigenerational Approach	GP3 Layout & Design	14 Design, quality & place; 15 Local Living
Lifelong Learning	Community Facilities Policies	31 Culture & creativity
Hazards & Resilience	NH7 Water Environment	22 Flood risk & water management; 23 Health & safety
Meanwhile Use	Brownfield & Vacant Land Policies	9 Brownfield, vacant & derelict land
Energy	Energy Policies	11 Energy; 19 Heat & cooling
Utilities & Infrastructure	GP1 Sustainable Development; GP2 General Requirements; TRANS1 Integrated Transport; WD1 Flooding Avoidance; NH7 Water Environment; Energy Policies	11 Energy; 13 Sustainable Transport; 19 Heat & Cooling; 20 Blue & Green Infrastructure; 24 Digital Infrastructure

For information and support:

[Local Place Plans – Shetland Islands Council](#)