

SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS

Leaflet 3 - An Equality Perspective

Why should we think about equality?

This leaflet highlights equality considerations relevant to your community. Equality is about ensuring everyone has fair access to opportunities, services, and spaces—regardless of age, gender, physical and cognitive ability, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background.

How does equality affect land use and buildings?

The way land and buildings are planned, developed, and used can either promote inclusion or reinforce barriers. For example:

- Poor access for disabled people
 - Lack of safe spaces for women and children
 - Inadequate provision for older people
 - Lack of consideration of minority groups
 - Unequal access to green space, transport, or community facilities
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Equality in Planning

- **Inclusive Design:** Ensuring buildings and public spaces are accessible and welcoming to all.
 - **Community Voice:** Involving diverse groups in shaping local plans.
 - **Equitable Access:** Making sure everyone can benefit from local developments.
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What does inequality look like in Shetland?

Examples might include:

- Limited transport options for remote or low-income households
 - Inaccessible buildings or paths – steep gradients, narrow doorways, poor seating, poor acoustics
 - Underrepresentation of certain groups in community decision-making
 - Unequal digital access or service provision
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Things to think about when planning land and buildings:

- **Access:** Are paths, buildings, and services accessible to all?
 - **Safety:** Are spaces designed to feel safe for everyone?
 - **Representation:** Have you consulted a diverse range of voices on the services offered or the design of improvements?
 - **Opportunity:** Are facilities and spaces distributed fairly across the community and/or accessible to folk from the whole community?
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Examples:

- **Inclusive Design:** Install ramps, tactile paving, places to rest and shelter, sound deadening, accessible toilets....
 - **Community Engagement:** Use multiple formats (online, in-person, translated materials) to reach different groups...
 - **Equitable Provision:** Ensure green spaces, play areas, and community hubs are usable by as many folk as possible...
 - **Safe Spaces:** Design lighting, visibility, and layout to improve safety for vulnerable groups – *feeling safe* is just as important as being safe...
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For information and support:

- [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Inclusion Scotland](#)
- [Voluntary Action Shetland](#)
- [Scottish Community Development Centre](#)