

# SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS

## Leaflet 7 - A Transport and Digital Connectivity Perspective

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### Why should we think about transport and digital connectivity?

Connected communities are more resilient, inclusive, and economically active. Planning decisions about land and buildings can influence how easily people move around and access digital services, especially in remote or rural areas.

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### How does transport and digital connectivity affect land use and buildings?

- Roads, ferries, and airfields affect where development is viable
  - Broadband and mobile networks enable remote working, education, and healthcare
  - Poor connectivity can isolate communities and limit opportunities
  - Transport and digital infrastructure shape access to services and social connection
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### Key concepts:

**Active Travel:** Walking and cycling routes that connect homes, schools, and services

**Digital Inclusion:** Ensuring everyone can access reliable internet and mobile networks

**Transport Access:** Reliable, affordable connections by and between active travel modes, bus, ferry, car, and air

**Resilient Infrastructure:** Systems that can cope with storms, power cuts, and emergencies

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### What does this look like in Shetland?

- **Inter-island ferries and air travel** are lifelines for remote communities
  - **Limited public transport** means many rely on private vehicles
  - **Patchy mobile coverage and slow broadband** affect rural areas
  - **Weather disruptions** can isolate communities and interrupt services
  - **Community transport schemes** and digital hubs help bridge gaps
  - **Road-end Car Parks** help folk share journeys and access public transport
  - **Digital exclusion** affects older people and low-income households
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### Things to think about when planning land and buildings:

- Are there safe walking and cycling routes between homes and community facilities?
  - Is there reliable public transport or community transport nearby?
  - Is broadband and mobile coverage sufficient for remote work and services?
  - Can buildings support digital access (e.g. shared Wi-Fi, digital hubs)?
  - Are transport and digital systems resilient to Shetland's weather?
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## Examples:

- Create paths linking homes to community services and facilities in rural areas
  - Support electric vehicle charging points and community transport schemes
  - Work with providers to improve broadband and mobile coverage
  - Use community halls as digital hubs with shared internet access
  - Design housing with space for remote working and good connectivity
  - Ensure transport links are considered in planning new housing or services
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## For information and support:

- [Transport – Shetland Islands Council](#)
- [CTA in Scotland | Community Transport Association](#)
- [Digital ethics and inclusion - Digital - gov.scot](#)
- [Shetland Community Transport | Royal Voluntary Service](#)
- [A changing nation: how Scotland will thrive in a digital world - gov.scot](#)
- [ZetTrans](#)