

SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS

Leaflet 14 - A Lifelong Learning Perspective

Why should we think about lifelong learning?

Learning throughout life helps people adapt, grow, and contribute to their communities. Planning decisions about land and buildings can support access to education, skills development, and informal learning for all ages.

How does lifelong learning affect land use and buildings?

- Learning spaces can be part of schools, libraries, community halls, or outdoors
 - Digital infrastructure supports remote learning and access to resources
 - Informal learning happens in gardens, workshops, and shared spaces
 - Co-located services can support education, wellbeing, and social connection
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Key concepts:

Learning for All Ages: Opportunities from early years to older adulthood

Digital Access: Reliable internet and devices for online learning

Community Learning Spaces: Halls, libraries, and hubs for courses and events

Skills and Resilience: Learning that supports employment, wellbeing, and adaptation

What does this look like in Shetland?

- **Remote communities** may lack access to formal education or training
 - **Digital learning** is vital for college, Continuous Professional Development, and informal study
 - **Community halls and libraries** host workshops, talks, and clubs
 - **Outdoor learning** connects people with nature and local heritage
 - **Intergenerational learning** supports shared skills and stories
 - **Local skills** like crofting, fishing, and crafts are part of lifelong learning
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Things to think about when planning land and buildings:

- Are there spaces for learning, training, and creative activity?
 - Is digital access available for online courses and resources?
 - Can buildings host flexible learning events for different age groups?
 - Are outdoor spaces used for informal or nature-based learning?
 - Are local skills and knowledge being passed on and celebrated?
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Examples:

- Use community halls for evening classes, talks, and workshops
 - Create digital hubs with Wi-Fi and device access for learners
 - Design flexible indoor and outdoor spaces for learning activities
 - Support local skills training in crofting, crafts, and marine work
 - Encourage intergenerational learning through shared projects
 - Include interpretation and signage to support informal learning
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For information and support:

- [Schools and Learning – Shetland Islands Council](#)
- [Home - UHI](#)
- [Shetland u3a Welcome](#)
- [Voluntary Action Shetland](#)
- [Skills Development Scotland - Skills Development Scotland](#)
- [Future Learn: Free Online Courses and Degrees from Top Universities](#)
- [edX | Free Online Courses, Certificates & Degrees from Leading Institutions](#)