

# SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS

## Leaflet 20 - A Doughnut Economics Perspective

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### What is Doughnut Economics and why should we think about it?

Doughnut Economics is a framework for creating a safe and just space for humanity. It balances **social foundations** (what people need to thrive) with **ecological ceilings** (planetary limits we must not overshoot). Using this approach in Local Place Plans helps communities plan for wellbeing within environmental limits. Doughnut Economics can provide a good framework and context for your LPP.

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### How does Doughnut Economics affect land use and buildings?

- Encourages development that meets community needs without harming ecosystems
  - Promotes circular economy principles: reuse, repair, and reduce waste
  - Supports local resilience by valuing social equity and environmental health
  - Guides decisions on housing, energy, transport, and green space to stay within both social and ecological boundaries
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### Key concepts:

**Social Foundation:** Access to housing, food, energy, education, health, and participation

**Ecological Ceiling:** Limits on carbon emissions, biodiversity loss, land conversion, and pollution

**Safe and Just Space:** The “doughnut” between these two sets of limits

**Local Doughnut:** Applying these principles to Shetland’s unique context

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### What does this look like in Shetland?

- **Energy transition:** Moving from oil dependency to renewables without harming landscapes
  - **Housing:** Affordable, energy-efficient homes that reduce fuel poverty
  - **Transport:** Low-carbon options for inter-island and mainland connections
  - **Food systems:** Supporting local production and reducing imports
  - **Nature:** Protecting peatlands, coastlines, and marine ecosystems
  - **Community wealth:** Keeping economic benefits local through circular economy initiatives
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### Things to think about when planning land and buildings:

- Does this proposal meet essential community needs?
  - Does it respect environmental limits (e.g., emissions, biodiversity)?
  - Can it reduce waste and promote reuse or shared resources?
  - Does it strengthen local resilience and fairness?
  - How does it contribute to Shetland’s net zero and wellbeing goals?
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## Examples:

- Retrofit homes for energy efficiency to cut emissions and fuel costs
  - Create community gardens and local food networks
  - Support shared transport schemes and active travel routes
  - Use vacant land for temporary community uses (meanwhile use)
  - Encourage local repair, reuse, and recycling initiatives
  - Design developments that integrate green and blue infrastructure
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## For information and support:

- [Doughnut Economics Action Lab | DEAL](#)
- [Local Futures is a pioneer of the worldwide localization movement.](#)
- [Circular economy in action | HIE](#)
- [Climate Change – Shetland Islands Council](#)