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# Island Communities Impact Assessments

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## ZetTrans Budget and Charging Proposals



**SHETLAND**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

**Island Communities Impact Assessment**  
**ZetTrans Budget and Charging Proposals**

| PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS                                                                                                         | Responses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| Please provide a brief description or summary of the policy, strategy or service under review for the purposes of this assessment. | <i>ZetTrans 2026/27 budget and charging proposals</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| STEP 1 - Develop a clear understanding of your objectives                                                                          | Responses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?                                                                        | <i>Continue existing transport arrangements with no material change to services, routes, timetables, or charging structures. The proposal maintains a stable and balanced budget that sustains current operations while ensuring there is no significantly different impact on island communities.</i> |
| Do you need to consult?                                                                                                            | <i>Not required because the 2026/27 ZetTrans Budget and Charging Proposal introduces no material change to existing services, charges, or access arrangements.</i>                                                                                                                                     |
| How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy or service?                                                     | <i>Applies consistently across all Shetland islands, with no differentiation between communities and no material change to services. As this is a continuity proposal, no specific island-based distinctions are required.</i>                                                                         |
| What are the intended impacts/outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?                                         | <i>Maintain the current level of transport provision with no material change to services, access, or charging. As the proposal is purely a continuation of existing arrangements, it is not expected to create any new impacts, positive or negative, for island communities.</i>                      |
| Is the policy, strategy or service new?                                                                                            | <i>No. The 2026/27 ZetTrans Budget and Charging Proposal is not new; it represents a continuation of existing arrangements with no material change to services, access, or charging.</i>                                                                                                               |
| STEP 2 - Gather your data and identify your stakeholders                                                                           | Responses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| What data is available about the current situation in the islands?                                                                 | <i>ZetTrans draws on locality-level data from the Shetland Partnership, including demographic and socioeconomic indicators for island groups such as Yell, Unst &amp; Fetlar and</i>                                                                                                                   |

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|                                                                                    | <i>Whalsay &amp; Skerries. This evidence highlights differences in population, access, and transport needs across islands, supported by small-population locality profiles covering areas like Fair Isle, Foula, Papa Stour, Fetlar, and Skerries—all of which inform understanding of current transport conditions across Shetland.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Do you need to consult?                                                            | <i>Not required.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| How does any existing data differ between islands?                                 | <i>Existing data shows that transport-related needs differ between islands due to variations in population size, demographics, cost of living, and levels of access to services. Locality profiles for groups such as Yell, Unst &amp; Fetlar and Whalsay &amp; Skerries highlight differing challenges for smaller and more remote islands, including those identified in the Shetland Partnership's Islands with Small Populations locality data. These differences help contextualise demand and access across the network, though they are not affected by the 2026/27 proposal as no material change is being made.</i> |
| Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?                    | <i>Yes. ZetTrans already has established design features and practices that ensure transport services remain accessible and appropriate for island communities. These include adherence to national community engagement standards, use of locality-specific data, and operational approaches that account for differing needs across islands, similar to those used in Shetland Council policies where engagement tools ensure island needs are considered in service planning.</i>                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>STEP 3 - Consultation</b>                                                       | <b>Responses</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Who do you need to consult with?                                                   | <i>Not required.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?                   | <i>Not required</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?      | <i>Not required</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns | <i>Not required</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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| have been raised previously by island communities?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Is your consultation robust and meaningful and sufficient to comply with the Section 7 duty?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <i>Not required</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>STEP 4 - Assessment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Responses</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <i>No. The assessment does not identify any unique impacts on island communities. Because the 2026/27 ZetTrans Budget and Charging Proposal introduces no material change to services, access, or charging, there is no potential for a significantly different effect on island communities.</i>                                             |
| Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <i>No. The assessment does not identify any potential barriers or wider impacts. Because the 2026/27 ZetTrans Budget and Charging Proposal maintains existing services with no material change, there is no alteration to access, affordability, connectivity, or service delivery that could create new barriers for island communities.</i> |
| How will you address these?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>No actions are required. As the assessment identifies no potential barriers, unique impacts, or wider effects arising from the 2026/27 ZetTrans Budget and Charging Proposal, there are no issues that require mitigation.</i>                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>You must now determine whether in your opinion your policy, strategy or service is likely to have an effect on an island community, which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities).</b></p> <p>If your answer is <b>NO</b> to the above question, a full ICIA will NOT be required and <b><u>you can proceed to Step SEVEN.</u></b></p> <p>If the answer is <b>YES</b>, an ICIA must be prepared and <b><u>you should proceed to Step FIVE.</u></b></p> <p>To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the evidence show different circumstances or different expectations or needs, or different experiences or outcomes (such as different levels of satisfaction, or different rates of participation)?</li> <li>• Are these different effects likely?</li> <li>• Are these effects significantly different?</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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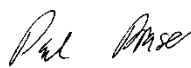
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could the effect amount to a disadvantage for an island community compared to the mainland or between island groups?</li> </ul>                                       |                     |
| <b>STEP 5 – Preparing your ICIA</b>                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Responses</b>    |
| In Step Five, you should describe the likely significantly different effect of the policy, strategy or service:                                                                                                | <i>Not required</i> |
| Assess the extent to which you consider that the policy, strategy or service can be developed or delivered in such a manner as to improve or mitigate, for island communities, the outcomes resulting from it. | <i>Not required</i> |
| Consider alternative delivery mechanisms and whether further consultation is required.                                                                                                                         | <i>Not required</i> |
| Describe how these alternative delivery mechanisms will improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.                                                                                                   | <i>Not required</i> |
| Identify resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.                                                                                                                            | <i>Not required</i> |
| <b>STEP 6 - Making adjustments to your work</b>                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Responses</b>    |
| Should delivery mechanisms/mitigations vary in different communities?                                                                                                                                          | <i>Not required</i> |
| Do you need to consult with island communities in respect of mechanisms or mitigations?                                                                                                                        | <i>Not required</i> |
| Have island circumstances been factored into the evaluation process?                                                                                                                                           | <i>Not required</i> |
| Have any island-specific indicators/targets been identified that require monitoring?                                                                                                                           | <i>Not required</i> |
| How will outcomes be measured on the islands?                                                                                                                                                                  | <i>Not required</i> |
| How has the policy, strategy or service affected island communities?                                                                                                                                           | <i>Not required</i> |
| How will lessons learned in this ICIA inform future policy making and service delivery?                                                                                                                        | <i>Not required</i> |
| <b>STEP 7 - Publishing your ICIA</b>                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Responses</b>    |
| Have you presented your ICIA in an Easy Read format?                                                                                                                                                           | <i>No</i>           |
| Does it need to be presented in Gaelic or any other language?                                                                                                                                                  | <i>No</i>           |

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| Where will you publish your ICIA and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it? | <i>Publish ICIA screening decision within 2026/27 ZetTrans budget and charging proposals report – ZTP Board meeting 26/02/2026.</i> |
| Who will sign-off your final ICIA and why?                                                   | <i>Executive Manager – Finance, as ZetTrans Proper officer for Finance.</i>                                                         |

ICIAs must be signed off by the staff member who completes it. They must then be approved and signed off by an executive manager or director. If an executive manager completes the ICIA, then the director should approve the ICIA.

|                    |                                                                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ICIA completed by: | <i>Maria Forrester</i>                                                            |
| Position:          | <i>Management Accountant</i>                                                      |
| Signature:         |  |
| Date complete:     | <i>17/02/2026</i>                                                                 |

|                                                   |                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ICIA approved by (Executive Manager or Director): | <i>Paul Fraser</i>                                                                  |
| Position:                                         | <i>Executive Manager – Finance</i>                                                  |
| Signature:                                        |  |
| Date approved:                                    | <i>18/02/2026</i>                                                                   |

Once approved and both the signature boxes are complete, you should publish the ICIA in PDF format on the [Island Communities Impact Assessments](#) page of the Shetland Islands Council website. All services should have a staff member who can edit the website. If not, please contact Community Planning and Development.

Even if a full assessment is not required (where the answer to Step 4 is no), this should still be published.