Special Shetland Islands Council – 4 November 2026
Shetland Islands Council Committee Information - Meetings

Item	Subject	Decision
1	Education and Children's Services Additional Funding	The Council: **APPROVED** adjustments to the 2026/27 budget to reflect additional funding for the following general revenue grant allocation to Shetland Islands Council for the proposals set out in Section 4 of the report, and summarised as follows: • £150,000 for Reduced Class Contact Time Preparatory Work (Paragraphs 4.1 – 4.4) • £102,000 for National Breakfast Club Rollout (Paragraphs 4.8 – 4.12) • £50,000 for Children and Young People's Neurodevelopment Support Fund (Paragraphs 4.5 – 4.7) **APPROVED** offsetting existing expenditure and a contribution to Directorate overheads as agreed in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (Report No: F-21-26) set out in Section 6.6. **DELEGATED** authority to Director of Education and Children's Services (or her nominee) to: • accept the funding received from the Scottish Government and authorise expenditure on each of the proposals up to the respective sum of funding allocated as summarised in Section 1.1.1 of the report • ensure funding is fully utilised on the proposals set out in Section 4 of the report and, if required, to reallocate spending between proposals should an over/underspend occur or be likely to occur, or as otherwise may be deemed necessary or desirable by the said Director (or her nominee) in response to any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances • take all such actions and decisions as may be required to enable the proposals set out in Section 4 of the report to be actioned and completed.

2	Public Service Reform	The Council: **NOTED** the Programme for Government (PfG), the subsequent National renewal through public sector reform - a proposal paper, 21 September. **CONFIRMED** continued participation with other Public Sector bodies, COSLA and Scottish Government in the formulation of proposals specifically for Shetland under Public Service Reform. **APPROVED** the Council taking the lead in setting up a Shetland Partnership working group to include representation from affected public bodies, Chairs of principal Council Committees and Directors as advisors on their areas of expertise; and the creation of a Council Sounding Board with a Member from each Council Ward. **CONSIDERED** and **APPROVED**, the principles set out in paragraph 4.4.3 of the report as a basis for officer engagement with Scottish Government Civil Servants and elected member engagement with Government Ministers, and for sharing as appropriate with COSLA and other professional associations at national level, with the following amendment to principle (d): “Proposals for reform should be evidence-based, with a clear demonstration of the anticipated benefits, costs and risks relative to the existing arrangements and alternative options. Where evidence is incomplete or unavailable, particularly in relation to innovative approaches, assumptions and uncertainties should be explicitly identified with appropriate evaluation and safeguards established before decisions on implementation are taken. This distinguishes between the evidence needed to explore a model and the evidence needed to implement it.” **DELEGATED AUTHORITY** to the Chief Executive to:

		(a) **WRITE** to the Scottish Government, in consultation with the Council Leader and Chair of the Shetland Partnership confirming an intention to engage on a preliminary premise that Shetland Islands Area continue to be recognised as a distinct area for Local Governance and Public Service delivery which retains existing strategic functions at local level, including existing and any emerging regional functions, fiscal autonomy and powers to deliver. (b) **DEVELOP** a proposed model for further consideration and Council approval which reflects the output of the working group set up under 1.3 of the report and is designed to deliver the most beneficial outcomes for all Shetland Residents. The model to specifically reference the work in preparation for the new Shetland Partnership Plan (2028-2033). **RESOLVED** to seek a further update report from the Chief Executive as soon as there is available a response to 1.5(a) of the report, and seek further guidance on the preparation of proposals. This is expected to be available December 2026 or early January 2027.

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