



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Neil Grant
Director of Development Services
Shetland Islands Council

By e-mail

24 June 2022

Dear Mr Grant

Fair Isle Ferry - Application to UK Government Levelling Up Fund – Round 2

Thank you for your letters of 21 June and the associated documents detailing the council's bid to Levelling Up Fund in relation to the replacement for the Fair Isle ferry service and the associated works you have outlined.

We are pleased at the focus that has been given by the Levelling Up Fund on remote and rural communities, particularly on our islands and coasts. The upgrade of the service to the Fair Isle would have undoubted advantages for this remote community and the Shetland Isles more widely and would be an excellent example of positive investment from the UK Government.

The case for improving the island's vital ferry connection is considerable and well-evidenced. We recognise the importance that the council has placed on this project following the Shetland Inter-Island Transport Study and the work that has gone into analysing the benefits of the proposal.

The upgrade would offer not only increased connectivity for residents and visitors, but also goods and services that are vital to ensuring a sustainable future for the island. As such, we are pleased to offer our support to the application to the Levelling Up Fund and wish the council every success in pursuing the necessary support to make this project a reality.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament
Highlands and Islands region

Edward Mountain MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament
Highlands and Islands region

Donald Cameron MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament
Highlands and Islands region

Douglas Ross MP MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament
Highlands and Islands region