

SSE plc
Inveralmond House
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth. PH1 3AQ

Dear Neil,

July 4th 2022

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

SSE, through its electricity distribution business, has been an integral part of the Shetland community since establishing Lerwick power station in 1953. Through the development of Viking Energy Wind Farm and the associated Shetland HVDC transmission link, which will connect Shetland to the main GB electricity system for the first time, SSE is further establishing themselves as a major, long-term investor and employer in Shetland, providing significant local socio-economic benefits. The combined investment by SSE in both projects is circa £1.3bn and is employing approximately 500 people during the ongoing construction phase.

We recognise the importance of island interconnectivity as a lifeline service for both businesses and individuals. The necessity of long-term funding to ensure the running of a meaningful service and potential new infrastructure, which will continue to support the community and the needs of businesses, including our own and that of our supply chain, is recognised by SSE. Improved provision to Fair Isle would afford residents an equality of opportunity to employment in other parts of Shetland and allow SSE and other employers to potentially recruit from the Island.

As an inclusive employer we are supportive of the benefits a newer vessel would afford the older Fair Isle population and those who may be less mobile. Add to this the ability to bring personal transport to Mainland Shetland and this improved accessibility will see reduced travel times to Lerwick improving access to work opportunities and services.

SSE fully supports the economic benefits of initiatives that support improvements to the wider Shetland infrastructure, which will improve the quality of life for residents and encourage investment from the wider business community.

With transport powers devolved to Scotland, SSE would also encourage Shetland Islands Council and the UK Government to work together with Scotland's devolved Government to maximise the opportunity to deliver this important investment.

Yours Sincerely,

SSE plc
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