Strategic Need

- MV *Good Shepherd IV* is almost 50-years old and in urgent need of replacement.
- The equipment required to pull the vessel out of the water at Fair Isle also needs to be replaced.
- The service is unreliable and rarely runs to timetable.
- Limited capacity (weight and volume) – vessel frequently sails full.
- Weight limitation of 1.5t on vessel-based crane – severely limits goods which can be taken on and off of the island.
- Physical access to the current vessel is via ladder and mobility impaired users can be craned on in a crate.

Inputs

- Shetland Inter-Island Transport Study Strategic Business Case.
- Fair Isle Outline Business Case.
- Fair Funding Group – agreed funding and procurement strategy.
- Detailed design and development.
- Contract placement with a shipyard and marine civil engineering contractors.

Outputs

- Maximum 24m LOA Ro-Ro monohull vessel.
- Classified under the Workboat code.
- Faster than current vessel.
- Installation of a linkspan at Fair Isle, together with increase in height of breakwater.
- Replacement of equipment to remove vessel from water and widening of noust at Fair Isle.
- New linkspan and pier extension at Grutness.
- Crew training and succession plan.

Outcomes

- Reduced / no capacity constrained sailings (either in terms of hold volume or deadweight capacity)
- Removal of crane-related capacity constraints – ability to move larger pieces of equipment to / from the island
- Reduced crossing time
- Reduced turnaround times in port
- More sailings operated to timetable
- More sailings operated overall
- Potential to increase the frequency of the service (i.e. additional timetabled sailings)

Impacts

- Population retention / growth
- Career path / development / progression for future island residents working on the vessel
- Reduced cost of moving goods to & from the island and maintenance of on-island assets
- Housing development / refurbishment
- Efficiencies in service delivery – e.g. health
- Increased tourism
- Reduction in tourism bed nights lost as a result of transport-related disruption