

APPENDIX A: SUSTAINING SHETLAND SUMMARY UPDATE

Sustaining Shetland sets out social, economic, environmental and cultural data for Shetland measuring Shetland’s quality of life and sustainability. A full version can be found at: <http://www.shetland.gov.uk/policy/DataResearchforStrategicPlanning.asp>.

“Sustainability” Gauges

Simple gauges provide an indication of current sustainability in Shetland. The three categories ‘Better’, ‘Worse’ and ‘Stable’ correspond to the most recent information available, and provide a simple assessment on the changes seen in different indicators:



Some indicators are new and lack time series data needed to see if change has occurred, whilst some changes are difficult to interpret as ‘better’ or ‘worse.’ A ‘Don’t Know’ gauge represents these areas.

Sustaining Shetland currently provides information under the following headings. Next years these will be set out under the National Priority headings of Wealthier and Fairer, Greener, Smarter, Healthier and Safer, and Stronger.

	Measure	Indicators
1	Population	Population Size & Structure
2	Health	Avoidable Deaths, Life Expectancy, Drug and Alcohol Use
3	Education & Learning	Opportunity, Participation, Attainment
4	Crime & Safety	Incidents of Crime and Fear of Crime

5	Housing	Quantity, Quality, Appropriateness and Affordability
6	Transport & Communications	Access to Services, Social Facilities, Employment and ICT
7	Natural Resources	Resource Usage and Impact
8	Economy	Economic Activity, Employment & Business Performance
9	Social Welfare	Income Levels and Costs of Living
10	Community	Breadth and Depth of involvement

Population

Overall Level



Natural Increase



Migration



Age Profile



- ◆ Over the last 20 years, the population of Shetland has declined by 3%. Estimates show that the Shetland resident population is fairly static, falling from 21,988 in 2001¹ to 21,940 in 2004, rising to 22,000 in 2005, falling again to 21,880 in 2006 and current estimates stating 21,980².
- ◆ The trend towards centralisation of the population within a 15-20 minute commute of Lerwick continues. Around 41% of the population lives in Lerwick, but this illustrates a decline of 5%. Population increases are seen in Quarff, Gulberwick, Tingwall, Trondra and Sandwick/Cunningsburgh. There has been a 17% increase in population in the South region of Shetland.
- ◆ It has been estimated that, in the next 25 years, Shetland will experience a 50.7% increase in the number of islanders of pension able age, while the working-age population will decrease by 20.7%³.
- ◆ The ratio of males to females has increased in recent years. Females made up 49.5% of the total population in 2009, this is a decrease of 0.4% from 2007 figures.
- ◆ Shetland has a negative migration pattern, meaning that more people leave Shetland than decide to stay. In the period 2001/2002 to 2007/2008 there was negative net migration of 129. Orkney, on the other hand, had a positive net migration of 946 in the same period.⁴

¹ GROS, 2001. *Census, 2001*. [Online] <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm/scotcen2/index.html>

² GROS, 2009. *Mid-Year Population Estimates Scotland; Estimated population by sex, five year age group and administrative area: 30 June 2008*. [Online] <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/mid-2008-population-estimates-scotland/list-of-tables.html>

³ GROS, 2009. *2006-based Population Projections for Scottish Areas*. [Online] <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/popproj/index.html>

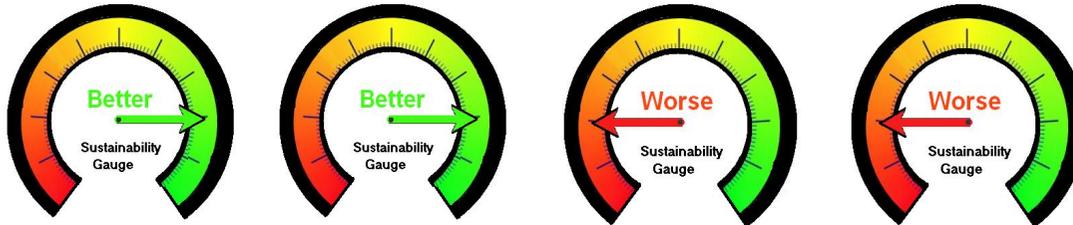
⁴ GROS, In, out and net migration to and from council areas by sex, 2001-02 to most recent, march 2009. [Online] http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/migration/total_mig_flows_councils_2001-02_to_latest_updmay09.xls

- ◆ In Shetland, the birth rate has been consistently higher than death rate⁵, however net migration outwards means the population is in decline. This is more pronounced amongst females of reproductive age.

⁵ GROS, 2009, *Estimated population, births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships, numbers and rates, by administrative area, Scotland*. [Online]
<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/quarter/index.html>

Health and Well Being (Healthier)

Life Expectancy Avoidable Death Substance Abuse Mental Health



- ◆ Shetland's overall life expectancy continues to increase. Current estimates (2007/08) state that life expectancy at birth is 75.0 for men and 81.5 for women⁶. This is above both the Scottish and EU average.
- ◆ Levels of avoidable deaths have improved in recent years. Mortality caused by coronary heart disease, road accidents, and suicides has reduced, and cerebrovascular mortality has remained stable. Cancer has been the only cause of death that has continued to increase⁷.
- ◆ 1,941 patients are currently registered with the 10 GP practices in Shetland as being obese. This is an improvement on 2008 data, where 2,019 patients were registered.
- ◆ Drug misuse is increasing, with a rise in use of more dangerous drugs such as heroin and cocaine, while the age of starting drug use is becoming lower. The numbers of young people presenting with self-harm is also increasing.
- ◆ Recent research into deprivation and social exclusion found that 75% of respondents who were deprived and/or socially excluded experienced anxiety and depression.

⁶ GROS, 2009. *Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland 2006 – 2008*. [Online] <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/life-expectancy/life-expectancy-at-scottish-administrative-area-and-special-area-level/index.html>

⁷ Information and Statistics Division (ISD) NHS, 2009. *Various Tables*. [Online] <http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/3348.html> (Suicide data was obtained from the following: GROS, 2009. *Death for which the underlying cause was classified as 'intentional self harm'*. [Online] <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/deaths/suicides/index.html>)

Education (Smarter)

School rolls School Attainment Adult Opportunity Destinations



- ◆ Student rolls in both primary and secondary schools have declined. However, Shetland College enrolments have increased, and NAFC enrolments have remained stable.
- ◆ Attainment levels in schools continue to be high, with 89% of S4 pupils achieving 5+ awards at SCQF level 4, in 2008/09⁸, compared to the Scottish Average of 77%.
- ◆ In the year 2008/09, 1,766 people took part in the SIC Adult Learning Classes (an increase of 90 on the previous year)⁹. There are currently 15 volunteer literacy tutors and 75 evening class tutors¹⁰.
- ◆ Shetland College continues to have high enrolment levels, particularly in part time further education courses. Enrolment in NAFC remains stable in all available courses.
- ◆ During the year 2005/06 there were a total of 280 people that left school and made it into a positive destination and this increased to 333 in 2007/08¹¹. 34 students have enrolled in the Student Bridges Programme for 2009/10¹².

⁸ The Scottish Government. SQA Examination Results in Scottish Schools, 2008/09. [Online] <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/17165819/0>

⁹ SIC, 2009. *Adult Learning Service Quality and Standards Report, 2008/09*. [sourced via e-mail] (adult learning classes include ESOL (English language for Speakers of Other Languages), literacy classes, and evening classes)

¹⁰ SIC, Adult Learning, 2009. [sourced via e-mail]

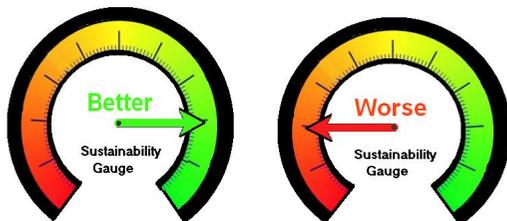
¹¹ Skills Development Scotland, 2009. *Shetland School Leavers Destination Report – 2007/08*. [Online] <http://www.careers-scotland.org.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=18042&SID=36624>

¹² SIC, Education and Social Care, 2009. [sourced via e-mail] (Student Bridges is a student-initiated outreach program that connects students with local community-based organizations and schools through tutoring-mentoring partnerships, college awareness activities, and policy advocacy).

Crime and Safety (Safer)

Crime Levels

Fear of Crime



- ◆ From 2005/06 to 08/09 there has been a decline in the total number of criminal offences. Shetland also has one of the highest clear up rates for criminal offences in the UK (70%).
- ◆ Fatalities on Shetland's roads improved, with 2008/09 seeing no fatalities on Shetland's roads and only 23 reportable road accidents. This is an improvement on 86 road accidents in 2007/08 with 9 fatalities.
- ◆ The Northern Constabulary reported that the number of people who rated the area within 15 minutes of their home as safe or very safe as 90% in 2008¹³. This had been 95% -99% in previous years.
- ◆ 80% of respondents from the 2008 spring edition of Your Voice¹⁴ felt that Shetland was very safe.

¹³ SIC, 2009. *Your Voice, 2008*. [Online] <http://www.shetland.gov.uk/consultation/documents.asp>

¹⁴ Shetland Citizens panel, 600 members

Housing (Stronger)

Quantity



Quality



Availability



Homelessness



- ◆ The total number of houses continues to increase by over 100 per year required to meet our long-term target.
- ◆ The rate of new builds has increased from 114 in 2007/08, to 169 in 2008/09, of which 59 was Hjaltland and 110 was private.¹⁵
- ◆ Demand for socially rented housing remains high. The Council and Hjaltland Housing Association operate a common housing register with 1103 applicants on the waiting list in August 2009. This is an increase from 908 applications in 2007.
- ◆ The Council and Hjaltland Housing Association (HHA) are actively planning investment in their stock to ensure compliance, continuing to work towards achieving the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015¹⁶. There is no equivalent standard for the private sector.
- ◆ The number of Homeless presentations continues to increase, 262 in 2007/08. This has a knock on effect to the quantity and availability of housing as the housing service must meet target - 'all unintentionally homeless households will be entitled to settled accommodation by 2012'

¹⁵ Assessor and Electoral Registration Office. Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board, 2009. [sourced via e-mail]

¹⁶ SIC, 2009. *Housing Service, Service Plan, 2009/10*. [Online] <http://www.shetland.gov.uk/performance/documents/HousingSP0910.pdf>

Transport and Communications (Stronger)

Internal Transport External Transport Electronic Communications



- ◆ Bus passenger numbers have risen steadily. Recorded passenger numbers on Shetland's inter-island ferries has seen an increase of 8.9% between 2007 and 2008. Vehicle numbers on inter-island ferries has seen a 2.7% decrease¹⁷.
- ◆ Both internal and external air passenger numbers, flying to Scottish airports, have remained relatively stable in recent years.
- ◆ The cost of fares increased for all internal and external forms of transport.
- ◆ Shetland continues to have high uptake of broadband Internet connection where possible.

¹⁷ SIC, Infrastructure, 2009. [sourced via e-mail] (figures are from 1st Jan – 31st Dec of each year)

Natural Resources (Greener)

Environment

Resource Use¹⁸

Waste & Recycling

Energy



- ◆ Existing data available to measure the quality of the environment in Shetland, such as air and water quality, paint a good picture. However, further measures are required to ensure the situation is fully understood.
- ◆ The carbon footprint for Shetland and Shetland Islands Councils is currently being established.
- ◆ Recycling opportunities continue to expand and diversify and new renewable energy possibilities are being explored.
- ◆ Marine Litter is improving with clean up of Shetland's beaches collecting less litter year on year despite more volunteers
- ◆ Energy generation levels from fossil fuels and renewable sources seem fairly stable

¹⁸ Shetland's consumption of global resources and carbon footprint; further research is needed.

Economy (Wealthier)

Workforce



Unemployment



Gross Pay



Business Start-Ups



- ◆ 87.5% of the working age population is currently economically active, with the public sector dominating all employment.
- ◆ Shetland has a job density of 1.08 compared to 0.84 in Scotland. The density figures represent the ratio of total jobs to working-age population.
- ◆ Despite a recent decline in unemployment rate, Shetland continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.
- ◆ The average wage per week increased by ~£60 between 2005 and 2009, and remains above the Scottish average
- ◆ The Gross Regional Domestic Product per capita of Shetland is lower than the rest of the UK. Fisheries output, oil and the public sector remain the three largest sectors in the economy, considerably higher than agriculture, tourism and knitwear.
- ◆ The number of new business start-ups has increased from 2007 – 2008.

Social Welfare

Income Poverty

Benefit Uptake

Fuel Poverty

Child Protection



- ◆ The cost of living is higher, particularly for essential items. This makes it particularly difficult for those on low income and/or national benefits.
- ◆ The uptake of national benefits remains stable, but is felt to be lower than entitlement. Only 6.1% of the Shetland population are claiming key benefits.
- ◆ There is a lack of registered childminders throughout Shetland and there are still gaps in provision, which restricts parents access to learning and employment opportunities.
- ◆ Fuel poverty remains high with any gains in insulation etc. being offset by increasing fuel prices.
- ◆ There is a rise in numbers of children being referred to the Child Protection Agency, however, Shetland still remains to have the lowest number of children registered in Scotland.

Community (Stronger)

Voting



Volunteering



Sports & Culture



Community Inclusion



- ◆ The total Community Council electorate in Shetland has increased from 17,168 and 17,331 between 2006 and 2008.
- ◆ Community groups and volunteering continue to flourish, with an increase in the number of grants awarded in 2008/09.
- ◆ There are signs of decreased involvement in sport and leisure activities, and use of library and learning centre facilities.
- ◆ Work continues on community inclusion, focusing on specific target groups. Enrolment in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes has increased.