

# Shetland Islands Council

Shetland has long been a pioneer in the UK's energy journey - one of the first regions to embrace onshore wind and innovative energy solutions. This early leadership has helped cultivate a highly skilled local workforce, with deep expertise across engineering, construction, marine operations, and maintenance. Today, energy is woven into the fabric of island life, and Shetland stands ready to build on this legacy - harnessing its natural resources, island ingenuity, and strategic location to lead the next wave of low-carbon innovation and deliver lasting economic and community benefit.

## Turning grid investment into local opportunity:

- **Investing £700m** in transmission projects in Shetland council area (**2% of T3**)
- **Awarding £121m** worth of contracts to **Shetland-based businesses**
- **Supporting 286 jobs** through investment in Shetland-based projects

## Delivering our projects in alignment with Shetland Islands Council's strategic priorities and the goals of EmPowering Shetland

- Retention of the working-age population by increasing employment opportunities.
- Development of a workforce with the skills needed to deliver a just transition.
- Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity.
- Utilisation of the local supply chain and embedding Community Wealth Building.

## Shetland



**£121m**  
injection into  
Shetland's  
supply chains



A new local  
summer placement  
opportunity with  
SSEN Transmission  
in 2026



**£78m** GVA  
generated in  
Shetland by  
2030

Our investments will deliver benefits which support key priorities of the council. These benefits fall under the five cross-cutting themes:

### 1) Demographic sustainability



#### Delivering up to 218 jobs in construction

27% of the sector's total employment in Shetland

Supporting employment and training opportunities to support retention of the working-age population and develop a workforce to meet future labour demands.

### 2) Inclusive economic growth and fair work



#### 23% boost to construction sector GVA in Shetland

Supporting a sustained increase in the availability of skilled, well-paid employment and training opportunities, boosting local economic resilience.

### 3) Net Zero and climate resilience



#### Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) embedded in all major projects

Protecting natural heritage, including peat and forestry, and generating employment opportunities in the green sector through restoration activities.

### 4) Strong local supply chains



#### £22.3m annual spend in local construction sector

Securing a reliable stream of revenue within local supply chains throughout the T3 period (2026-2031), facilitating growth and strengthening industry.

### 5) Community wealth building and social value



#### Providing funding for community-led projects

Ensuring benefits from the Just Transition are retained and distributed in Shetland, with funding targeting projects designed by the communities who will benefit.