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# NOTE FROM THE SCBF CHAIR

While the first year of managing the Viking Community Fund has not been without its challenges it has also been very rewarding having reached the milestone of approving grants worth over £1.4 million towards 69 projects. A tremendous amount of work by our volunteer directors and staff has gone into ensuring the smooth launch of the fund. We have learnt the lessons of planning, good governance and a straightforward application process and look forward to supporting many more initiatives that will help strengthen our local communities.

Chris Bunyan, SCBF Chair



Colin Clark, SCBF Director, Lindsay Dougan, SSE Renewables Senior Community Investment Manager and Chris Bunyan, SCBF Chair.



# 1. VIKING COMMUNITY FUND

The £2.2million Viking Community Fund launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2024. This followed an extensive Shetland-wide community consultation and publication of the first 5-year business plan for use of the fund.

The VCF has two strands – a 'Strategic Fund' and a 'Community Grant Scheme' which both aim to sustain and develop local communities throughout Shetland.

#### **Strategic Fund**

Applications to the Strategic Fund must also meet one or more of the Strategic priorities,

- More Younger People Wanting to Stay and/or Come Back to Shetland
- Better Transport Links within and Between Communities
- Reduced Cost of Living in Shetland
- Better Broadband and/or Mobile Phone Connections
- Improved Housing Supply and Affordability
- Preservation and Enhancement of Shetland's Natural Environment

#### **Community Grant Scheme (CGS)**

The CGS carries on the good work of the Advanced Grant Scheme (AGS) which operated during the construction phase of the Viking Energy Windfarm. Funding is allocated to all 18 community councils on the same share basis as was used for the AGS.

1 share areas = £6,515

5 share areas = £32,575

Tier 1 Grants of £50 to £1,000	
Tier 2	Grants £1,001 and above
Tier 3	Grants of £200 to £15,000

Tier 1 and Tier 2 decision making lies with the relevant community council. For Tier 3 a funding panel, made up of SCBF directors, allocate funding. Tier 3 is new for the CGS and was created in recognition of the volume of applications to the AGS from Shetland-wide groups and organisations who deliver projects with a wider reach than individual community council areas. SCBF fully administrate the CGS and carry out due diligence, payments and evaluation.



# 2. OVERVIEW OF FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

#### **Viking Community Fund**

The annual fund amount from the Viking Community Fund is £2,215,000 (index-linked).

#### Strategic priorities annual allocation - £1,637,000\*

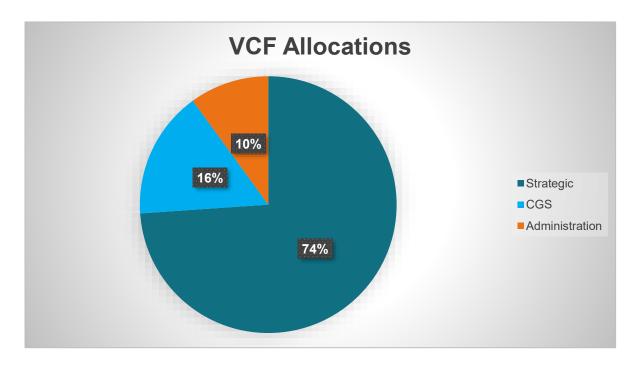
\* This figure was reduced by £200,000 in Year 1 to £1,497,000 to reflect an existing commitment of £200,000 to the MRI Scanner Appeal.

#### Community Grant Scheme annual allocation - £356,500

£221,500 is distributed between Shetlands 18 community councils and Tier 3 for Shetlandwide projects has an annual funding allocation of £135,000.

#### Fund Administration – maximum of £221,500 available

10% of the main fund is available for administration costs to deliver the fund. Such costs include, staffing, legal and accountancy services and website fees. SCBF spent £112,166 on administration costs in 2024/25.



The largest amount of funding, almost three quarters, is focused on the Strategic fund to support the Strategic priorities delivered by the community consultation and adopted by the SCBF Board of Directors.

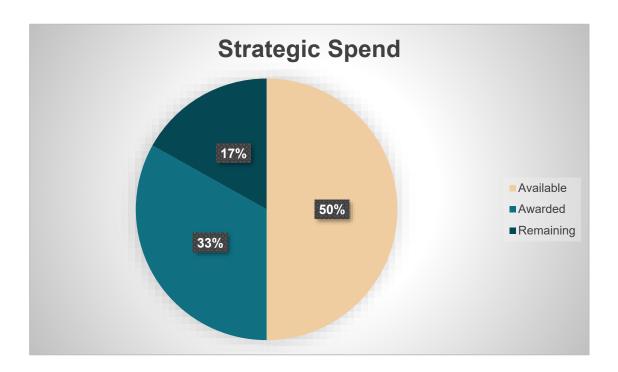


# 3. STRATEGIC FUND

#### **VCF Strategic Fund**

£1,637,000 was available to projects and intiatives which supported the VCF Strategic priorities for funding. £1,084,460 has been awarded up to the 31st of August 2025 when the first year of funding ended. This figure includes an earlier drawdown of £200,000 in October 2020 to support the local MRI Scanner Appeal and also £32,710 to support a volunteer development worker post which crosses between the Strategic Priorities and the CGS.

The unspent £552,540 has been carried over and added to the funding available for 2025/26.

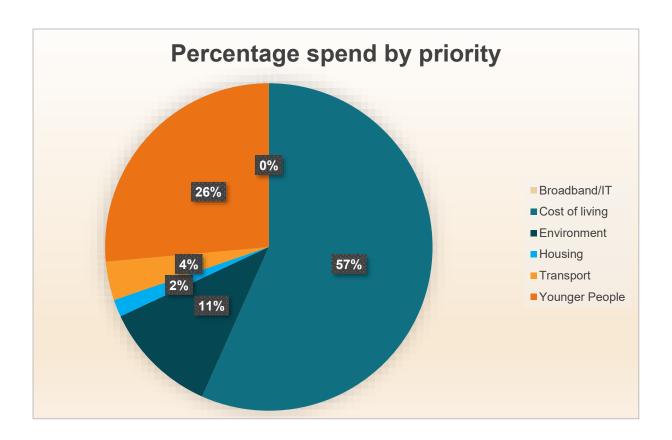


#### Actual spend across each priority area

Reduced Cost of Living in Shetland	£484,516	
More Younger People Wanting to Stay and/or Come Back to Shetland		
Preservation and Enhancement of Shetland's Natural Environment	£97,073	
Improved Housing Supply and Affordability		
Better Transport Links within and Between Communities	£32,770	
Better Broadband and/or Mobile Phone Connections	£0.00	







Strategic funding supported 12 projects/initiatives, 64 individuals with bursaries and training grants and 11 businesses through the apprenticeship support fund for small businesses. A full list of strategic projects supported by the fund can be found on page 11.



### 4. THE VCF BURSARY FUND

SCBF implemented three funding schemes centred around studying, apprenticeships and training to target the priority of 'More Younger People Wanting to Stay and/or Come Back to Shetland'.

#### **Bursary Fund**

The bursary fund opened for the first time in October 2024 for young people up to 25 studying full-time at UHI Shetland or undertaking a local apprenticeship. 71 awards were made in 2024/25 totalling £61,763. Feedback on the scheme was very postive.

"The SCBF bursary fund really helped me get started with my modern apprenticeship in carpentry & joinery. It enabled me to purchase some of the basic tools I need to learn and develop my skills required for my apprenticeship.

I would highly recommend the bursary fund to any apprentices or students working/studying in Shetland"

Michael, Joinery Apprentice

"The process was simple and easy to follow. The people involved were easy to contact and explained everything to me well. I would recommend it to other apprentices"

Ewan, Plumbing Apprentice

"It's been a very positive and beneficial experience, thank you for this opportunity"

Magnus, Electrical Apprentice

"Made my experience of my studies easier and more relaxed"

Reece, Civil Engineering Apprentice

"It was a great help to get a bursary and the process was kept straightforward.

Thank you"

Kieran, NC Engineering Student



### 5. ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS

# Scottish Government Area Based Scheme - £200,000 grant top-up/windows and doors funding - delivered by Shetland Islands Council

Shetland Islands Council are administering £200,000 in grant top-up funding from the VCF alongside the Scottish Government's Area Based Scheme (ABS). The ABS is awarded to local authorities to develop and deliver energy efficiency programmes in areas with high levels of fuel poverty. It is a blended model of grant funding and owner contribution for energy efficiency measures. The Viking Community Fund is being used to top-up the ABS grant where the homeowner is unable to contribute to the costs themselves. Funding is also available for windows and doors, which are not currently covered as a primary measure, under the ABS. New windows and doors reduce make a great difference to heat loss particularly in exposed areas. 9 properties have benefitted so far with a further 13 approved for funding and awaiting installation.



# Training Grants - £23,680 - Hjaltland Housing Association and Shetland Renovations Ltd

An award of £10,000 to Hjaltland Housing Association finalised the funding required to deliver Air Tester, Retrofit Co-ordinator, Retrofit Assessor and Retrofit Advisor training to up-skill staff in energy efficiency measures. Having this skill within the in-house staff team will assist in planning retrofit measures on existing stock, support future funding bids and ensure the letting of new builds is not delayed through the requirement for air testing.

Shetland Renovations Ltd were awarded £13,680 to train 3 members of staff to NVQ level in 'Room in Roof (RIR) and 'In Wall Insulation (IWI)' retrofit energy efficiency measures. This project aims to improve the supply chain of installers qualified to PAS2030 and tackle the backlog of insulation measures requiring completion in Shetland.

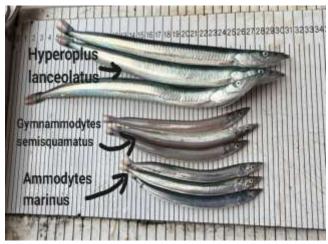


# 6. STRATEGIC PROJECT IN FOCUS - FIRMO

#### Fair Isle Research Marine Organisation - £17,273

Supporting the Strategic Priority of the 'Preservation and Enhancement of Shetland's Natural Environment' the Fair Isle Research Marine Organisation was awarded £17,273 in February 2025 towards the costs of carrying out a sand eel survey in the waters around Fair Isle. The fine weather in May allowed for long survey days and the marine scientists from UHI Shetland achieved good survey coverage with 18 valid tows on sandbanks between the east and west of the island.





So far, preliminary results demonstrate clear spatial differences in the catch rates and species compositions that relate to both depth and east vs west, with overall catch rates generally highest on the shallowest areas of each of the banks. Results show three species of sandeel including smooth sandeel *Gymnammodytes semisquamatus*, greater sandeel *Hyperoplus lanceolatus* and Raitt's sandeel *Ammodytes marinus* with the bulk of catches being smooth.

More detailed findings from the survey will be coming soon following formal analysis. This important research will help to gain a better understanding of Fair Isle sandeel populations, how they compare to populations across the rest of Shetland and other areas, and what this might mean for Fair Isle's seabirds.

<sup>\*</sup>Photos credit Shaun Fraser



# 7. FULL LIST OF STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Applicant/Overview	Amount
Shetland Health Board Endowment Fund	£200,000
MRI Scanner Appeal	
Shetland Islands Council – Energy Efficiency	£200,000
ABS grant top-up and Windows/doors funding for fuel poor and extreme	
fuel poor households	
VCF Apprenticeship Support Fund	£139,999
To support 11 businesses who are employing an apprentice under the	
age of 25 across years 1-3 of their apprenticeship	
Brae Rural Energy Hub	£114,349
Towards staff costs of 1.6 FTE for 4 years Nov 25 to Oct 29	
Fair Isle Electricity Company	£86,487
Towards critical technical upgrade of micro grid	
South Nesting Boating Club	£79,800
Environmental Impact Assessment for marina project	
VCF Bursary Fund	£61,763
71 students and apprentices awarded up to £1,000	
Scalloway Community Development Company	£60,000
Towards district heating feasibility study	
Royal Voluntary Service (RVS)	£32,770
Part-time driver for accessible vehicle over 3 years	
Voluntary Action Shetland	£32,710
VAS Volunteering Development Worker	
Shetland Youth Voice	£23,850
To deliver 6 Shetland Youth Voice summits on varied themes	
Fair Isle Marine Research Organisation	£17,273
Sand eel Survey	
RCS Ltd and L&L Fraser Ltd	£14,500
25 days of housing consultancy support to community groups	
Shetland Renovations Ltd	£13,680
Energy efficiency training (IWI and RIR NVQ for 3 Learners)	
Hjatland Housing Association	£10,000
Training to up-skill staff in retrofit energy efficiency works	
VCF Training Fund	£2,279
Accredited training funding for young people	
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## 8. COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

#### **Community Councils Spend overview**

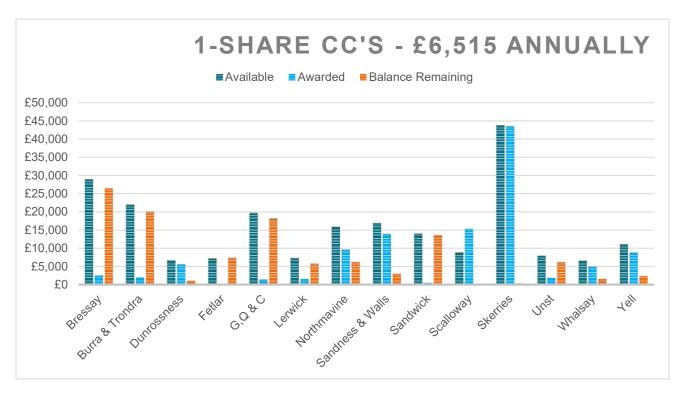
Community councils began the 2024/25 funding year with varying opening balances due to funding of £316,015 carried forward from the Advanced Grant Scheme (AGS) which ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2024. Community councils with unspent AGS funds had these added to their CGS allocations for 2024/25. £221,500 was then divided between them on a 1 or 5 share basis.

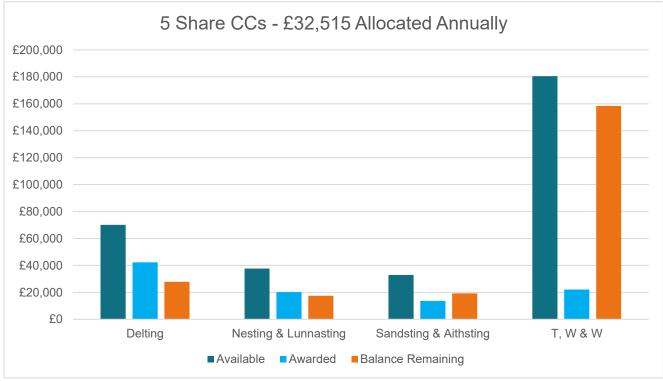
Community	Funding	2024/25	Funding	Total	Balance
Council	carried	allocation	available	spend	Remaining
Courion	forward	anocation	2024/25	2024/25	rtemaning
	from AGS		202-1/20	202-1/20	
Bressay	£22,398	£6,515	£28,913	£2,476	£26,437
Burra & Trondra	£15,471	£6,515	£21,986	£2,000	£19,986
Delting	£37,512	£32,575	£70,087	£42,284	£27,803
Dunrossness	£160	£6,515	£6,675	£5,606	£1,069
Fetlar	£630	£6,515	£7,145	£0	£7,415
Gulberwick, Quarff & Cunningsburgh	£13,055	£6,515	£19,750	£1,400	£18,170
Lerwick	£779	£6,515	£7,294	£1,500	£5,794
Nesting & Lunnasting	£5,062	£32,575	£37,637	£20,146	£17,491
Northmaven	£9,336	£6,515	£15,851	£9,674	£6,177
Sandness & Walls	£10,392	£6,515	£16,907	£13,944	£2,963
Sandsting & Aithsting	£302	£32,575	£32,877	£13,643	£19,234
Sandwick	£7,467	£6,515	£13,982	£400	£13,582
Scalloway*	£2,307	£6,515	£8,822	£15,302	-£6,480
Skerries	£37,250	£6,515	£43,765	£43,500	£265
Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale**	£147,882	£32,575	£180,457	£22,116	£158,341
Unst	£1,448	£6,515	£7,963	£1,833	£6,130
Whalsay	£0	£6,515	£6,515	£5,000	£1,515
Yell	£4,564	£6,515	£11,079	£8,756	£2,323

<sup>\*</sup>Scalloway CC opted to drawdown funding from 2025/26 and will begin 2025/26 with £35 (£6,515 - £6,480 drawndown).

<sup>\*\*</sup>TWW CC plan to utilise their funding for a large upcoming project.







Community councils are permitted to drawdown funding from future years (up to 5) if they want to support projects but have insufficient funds to do so. Any drawdown is reflected in the following years availability of funds. Some communities will also be aware of larger projects due in future and may opt to retain funds for these.



#### **Tier 1 and Tier 2 Applications**

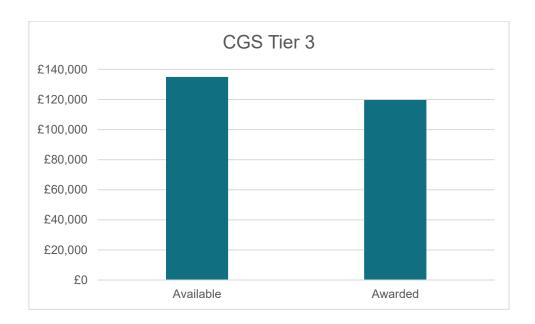
Community councils supported 21 Tier 1 and 21 Tier 2 applications throughout the 2024/25 funding year.

Tier 1 applications between £50 and £1,000 accounted for £17,057 in grant awards with Tier 2 applications over £1,001 being awarded £192,523 between them.

#### **Tier 3 Community Grant Scheme (CGS)**

SCBF introduced Tier 3 to the CGS for organisations delivering projects with a wider reach than individual community council areas. An annual funding pot of £135,000 was made available with 3 application rounds opening throughout the year.

£119,624 was shared between 12 projects. The underspend of £15,376 will be carried into the CGS Tier 3 in 2025/26.



Grants supported 2 multi-year projects, one for an educational drugs delivery programme and the other for a Netball Training co-ordinator. The other 10 projects were one-off events, renovations or 1-year staffing costs. A full list of projects supported by the CGS can be found on pages 18 and 19.



# 9. CGS – PROJECTS IN FOCUS

#### **Shetland Community Bike Project - New shop flooring - £8,059**





A fresh new look for the Shetland Community Bike Project following an award of £8,059 from the Viking Community Fund CGS Tier 3 in November 2024. The existing flooring was 20 years old and in need of a revamp.

The shop serves the whole Shetland community and the new flooring enhances the inside of the shop making it a more pleasant experience for customers, staff and volunteers.



#### Feedback from applicant

"The fund application and award process was very straightforward. The board of directors, staff and clients are extremely grateful to SCBF for the grant award. Thank you!"

Shetland Community Bike Project Manager, Caroline Adamson



#### The Outpost - Generator - £1,000



The Outpost received funding in October 2024 towards the purchase of a back-up generator to use during power cuts. Service users and their support workers could often have sessions disrupted due to power outages and the new generator ensures peace of mind and safety for all visitors.

Shetland Canoe Club - bringing a trainer to Shetland to deliver Trip Leader/Coach training - £2,000





Travelling to the mainland to access training can be cost prohibitive for many local organisations who rely upon volunteers for delivery of their clubs/services. Shetland Canoe Club were able to bring a Trip Leader/Coach trainer to Shetland at the end of April 2025. Alongside other funding a grant of £2,000 from the VCF supported the total cost of £3,370. Being able to deliver the training for free to volunteers removed the financial barrier to access the training. 27 people directly benefited from the training sessions with the club now expecting to offer coaching to ~100 different people over a year, with sessions offered multiple times per week.

#### VJ Day Volunteer Group (Unst) – 80th Anniversary of VJ Day Social Event - £833



A group of volunteers were able to deliver a free social event in the North Unst community hall to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day.



# **10.FULL LIST OF CGS PROJECTS**

### A total of £329,204 has been allocated to CGS Projects

Applicant Overview	Amount
Skerries Community Hall To purchase a scaffolding tower, windows and fire escape doors	£43,500
Brae Community Hall Upgrades to hall car park	£34,200
Dogs Against Drugs Funding towards delivering a drugs educational program across 3 years	£30,000
Community Development Company of Nesting (CDCN) Installation of Solar PV panels and battery storage at the Aald Skul Community hub	£15,492
Shetland Netball Association Funding towards employing a Netball Development Co-ordinator across 3 years	£15,000
Ability Shetland Funding to employ an activities co- ordinator for 1 year	£15,000
Win Furt Funding towards Phase 1 of Paths for All	£12,850
Edinburgh Science To deliver 'Our Changing Climate' workshops in Shetland primary schools	£12,757
ALICE Theatre Project Theatre Course in Liverpool and production in Shetland	£10,244
Fraser Park Trust To purchase a ride on mower and pedestrian mower	£10,302
Mind Your Head Wellbeing 1000 groups practitioner for 1 year	£10,000

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Applicant Overview	Amount
Walls & District Agricultural	
Society	£10,000
Funding towards constructing a steel	210,000
framed shed	
Shetland Community Bike	
Project	£8,059
New shop flooring	
Tingwall Community Hall	£7,500
Hall upgrade costs	21,000
Voe & District Agricultural	
Society Ltd	£7,092
New cattle gates	
Yell Show Committee	
Re-cladding of wall and replacing roof	£7,000
sheets of shed	
Delting Dolphins ASC	
Purchase of swimming equipment &	£6,448
rebranding costs	
Shetland Youth Orchestra	
Summer school and equipment	£6,270
purchases	
Walls Regatta Club	00.440
Purchase of new rescue boat &	£6,143
engine	
The Shetland Clarsach Society	£5,000
Purchase of harps	
Whalsay Sports Development	
Trust	£5,000
Upgrade the perimeter fencing at Harbison Park football pitch	
Scalloway Community	
Development Company Consultancy Support for Spellowey	£5,000
Consultancy Support for Scalloway Waterfront Redevelopment Project	
Shetland Film Archive	
Towards cost of a Project Manager to	
lead 'Connecting Communities	£4,624
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Towards outings and events / activities for the local community  1st Aith Rainbows  £1,000	Whiteness & Weisdale Good		
Towards outings and events / activities for the local community  1st Aith Rainbows £1.000	Companions	£1 000	
for the local community  1st Aith Rainbows £1.000	Towards outings and events / activities	£ 1,000	
£1.000	for the local community		
Towards trip to Lerwick museum	1st Aith Rainbows	C4 000	
	Towards trip to Lerwick museum	£1,000	

Applicant Overview	Amount
1st Aith Brownies	£1,000
To introduce a film-making focus	21,000
Bressay Up Helly Aa Committee	
Purchase of pallet truck, electric pump	£976
and COSHH cabinet	
Bigton Collective	£956
Hosting straw workshop	2330
Lunnasting Young Ones Club	
Purchase of new equipment and roller	£920
skates	
Voe Children's Party	
Towards Christmas party/presents &	£850
equipment	
VJ Day Volunteers	£833
To host a social evening for VJ Day	LOSS
Tingwall Youth Club	
Purchase of sports equipment and	£766
craft kits	
Yell Community Council	
Funding for 2025 'Keep Scotland's	£756
Beautiful' Scottish Beach Awards	
Shetland Golf Club	
Towards hosting a golf competition for	£670
blind or partially sighted competitors	
Cunningsburgh Under Fives	
Purchase of STEM toys and	£500
equipment	
Gulberwick Toddlers	CEOO
Purchase of new toys	£500
Bixter & Aith Parent Group	
Funding towards outings and	£500
Christmas party/presents	
1st Aith Guides	
Towards cost of summer camp trip to	£500
Aberdeenshire	
St Magnus' Episcopal Church	CEOC
Upgrade to tourist information boards	£500
Delting Dolphins ASC	
Towards costs of attending 2025	CEOO
Aquatics GB next Gen	£500
Championships	



# **II. FUNDING MAPS**

Funding has been awarded throughout Shetland from Unst to Fair Isle supporting a wide variety of projects. To access the interactive funding map please visit - <u>SCBF - Funding Map</u>



21 Tier 1 Projects21 Tier 2 Projects12 Tier 3 projects15 Strategic Projects



#### CGS - Tier 1 Projects

- The Outpost
- 🐼 Cunningsburgh Under 5's
- Gulberwick Toddlers
- Sandness Parent Council
- 🔯 Bixter & Aith Parent Group
- 🔉 Brae Christmas Party
- 🔀 Lunnasting Young Ones Club
- Bigton Collective
- 😢 Voe Children's Party
- 🔞 Bressay Up Helly Aa Committee
- 🔉 1st Aith Rainbows
- 🔯 1st Aith Brownies
- 🔉 1st Aith Guides
- Tingwall Youth Club
- Yell Community Council
- St Magnus' Episcopal Church
- Lerwick Community Council
- 🔀 Langsound Community Development Group
- 2 Delting Dolphins ASC
- Whiteness & Weisdale Good Companions
- 😢 VJ Day Volunteers



#### CGS - Tier 2 Projects

- O Baltasound JHS Parent Council
- O South Mainland Amateur Swimming Club
- Walls & District Agricultural Society
- O The Gruting & District Community Association
- O Win Furt
- O Westside Sharks Swimming Club
- O Hillswick Shop Ltd
- O Brae Community Hall
- O Bigton Community Shop
- O Hillswick Public Hall SCIO
- O Yell Show Committee
- O Community Development Company of Nesting
- O Tingwall Community Hall
- O Whalsay Sports Development Trust
- O Ella's Park
- O Skerries Community Hall
- O Voe & District Agricultural Society Ltd
- Scalloway Community Development Company
- O Delting Dolphins ASC
- O Walls Regatta Club
- O Fraser Park Trust





#### CGS - Tier 3 Projects

- O Dogs Against Drugs
- Shetland Netball Association
- Shetland Community Bike Project
- O Shetland Youth Orchestra
- ALICE theatre Project
- O Shetland Gold Club
- Ability Shetland
- C Edinburgh Science
- Shetland Canoe Club
- The Shetland Clarsach Group
- Mind Your Head (SCIO)
- Shetland Film Archive

#### Strategic Projects

- Shetland Islands Council Energy Efficiency
- A Hjatland Housing Association
- Royal Voluntary Service
- Scalloway Community Development Company
- South Nesting Boating Club (SCIO)
- Brae Rural Energy Hub CIC
- Shetland Youth Voice
- Tair Isle Marine Research Organisation
- O VCF Bursary Fund
- O VCF Apprenticeship Support Fund
- O VCF Training Fund
- Company
- O Voluntary Action Shetland
- O RCS Ltd and L&L Fraser Ltd
- O Shetland Renovations Ltd

