

FINANCE COMMITTEE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

SUBMISSION FROM SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL

1. Shetland Islands Council is currently supporting work placements for a range of individuals experiencing high levels of multiple deprivations including those with learning disabilities, mental health conditions, school leavers out with employment & education, and the long term unemployed.

2. These supported work placements are in conjunction with the following partner organisations:

- **The Moving On Employment Project**

The Moving On Employment Project is a charity based organisation which has been running for around 15 years. Moving On supports people with barriers to employment into employment, volunteering and training.

- **Job Centre Plus**

Job Centre Plus refers prospective employees through the current Government return to work initiatives 'The Work Programme' and 'Work Choices'.

- **The Bridges Project**

An alternative learning intervention aimed at helping young people aged 15 - 19 years to return to education, training and or employment.

- **Lifeskills Ltd, Shetland**

Lifeskills Ltd, Shetland, is a progressive and innovative provider of training and support for not only unemployed people, but also aimed at those wishing to enhance and sustain their employment opportunities.

3. In addition to providing supported placements, Shetland Islands Council fund the employment of approximately 12 Modern Apprenticeships per year in a range of disciplines across services, although these are not specifically targeted at vulnerable individuals.

4. Shetland Islands Council also signposts potential employees who require any assistance with making job applications and acquiring interview skills to the Council's Adult Learning Service. These services include Job Seeking courses as well as individually tailored support when making job applications.

5. I trust that this information is satisfactory for your initial survey of the public sector.