

# Shetlands Islands Council submission of 14 February 2024

## PE1862/I: Introduce community representation on boards of public organisations delivering lifeline services to island communities

Thank you for the invitation to provide Shetland Islands Council's views on the petition seeking that island knowledge should be added as an essential criteria for the skills matrix for boards delivering lifeline services to island communities, and the processes for encouraging island residents to apply for these roles.

I can confirm that Shetland Islands Council would welcome the introduction of islands lived experience into the essential skills mix for the Boards delivering lifeline services to island communities.

It would also be beneficial for all other Boards who are Relevant Authorities under section 7(2) of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 including HIE, SEPA and NatureScot to introduce an island perspective to the essential skills mix to support and guide effective Island Communities Impact Assessment in the development and implementation of their policies, strategies or services.

In terms of the processes for encouraging island residents to apply for these roles, the suggestions set out in the petition to secure community participation on the HIAL Board provide an appropriate route for securing public appointments to the Board bringing island knowledge and lived experience. Such mechanisms can be established for each of the Relevant Authorities whilst still achieving the principles of public appointments.

Shetland Islands Council looks forward to hearing your further deliberations and the decision of the Committee in due course.