

Issues identified by communities in Yell, Unst and Fetlar to date

May 2018

The following information is a summary of wider information collated by partner agencies about findings from recent engagement exercises with communities in Yell, Unst and Fetlar

Education

- Concern over potential loss of facilities
- Concerns over changes in provision and potential impacts of school closures / even consultation on it:
 - Risk to community events involving young people
 - Sustainability of clubs/services used by young people
 - De-population if people move away / risk to growth / risk to house prices
 - Ability to attract people
 - Risk to young people being away from home
 - Loss of key skills / impacts on recruitment / impacts on business viability
 - Impacts on resilience
 - Impacts on educational attainment

Health and social care

- Lack of healthcare and dental provision
- Difficulty in recruiting GPs, nursing, social care and dental posts
- Issues with dispensing services
- Fetlar:
 - lack of nurse cover
 - road to airstrip in poor condition for medi-vacs
 - no social-care provision

Transport/Travel

- Importance of reliable and affordable transport services
- Impacts on annual running costs for youth groups
- Travel costs
- Ferries:
 - Fear of loss of service
 - Cost of fares
 - Poor communications on timetables
 - Difficult to ask for changes
 - Monday and Saturday single vessel timetables affecting business
 - Number of community hires available
 - Fares on Bluemull sound and associated impacts
 - Festive timetables, linkages with buses (particularly with reduced services)
 - Bookings only runs (to Fetlar)

Services:

- Fetlar – not enough volunteers for retained fire cover (one person in training and more applications in)
- No registrar locally – all must travel to Lerwick (issues for vulnerable)
- Loss of Post Office (Yell)
- Childcare provision – none in Yell
- Lack of shops (Fetlar)

Environment

- Importance of safeguarding the environment for future generations

Population

- Concerns over depopulation – particularly due to economy and risk if school closures

Participation

- Hold meetings locally

Infrastructure and telecommunications

- Lack of broadband – poor or no connectivity
- Fetlar:
 - Road to airstrip in or condition
 - Culverts in wrong places
 - unsafe pavements outside sheltered housing
- Unst:
 - Road to kirkyard, beach and local sites in poor condition

Housing

- Lack of housing potentially restricting business (no direct evidence)
- Planning permission refusal for houses in Yell (environmental health grounds)
- Private and social care housing needed –particularly Fetlar

Economy and Jobs

- High cost of living – potentially driving people away from islands
- Lack of appropriate job opportunities – particularly for young people

Opportunities:

- Devolve SIC jobs away from Lerwick
- More employment opportunities
- Develop visitor economy
- Fetlar - Small farm plots to encourage new families
- Potential to explore fixed links
- Usage figures to help make case for ferries
- Smartcard machines for ferries

Other:

- Sale of local kirk in Yell may lead to loss of access to war memorials to community