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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

ON BEHALF OF TRANSPORT SCOTLAND: ISLANDS CONNECTIVITY PLAN ENGAGEMENT

Representatives of Transport Scotland will be in Shetland next week to host small group workshops and drop-in sessions as part of their Islands Connectivity Plan engagement. With lots of opportunities planned for the coming months, you can now book for the following events:

- Lerwick – Monday 4 March
- Sumburgh – Tuesday 5 March
- Yell – Wednesday 6 March (TBC)
- Whalsay – Thursday 7 March
- Brae – Friday 8 March

Pre-booking is required for the small group workshops. More details and links to pre-book at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/public-transport/ferries/islands-connectivity-plan/#76196>

Drop-in sessions where you can ask questions and share feedback more informally will also be available. No booking is needed for the drop-in sessions.

The Public Consultation for Islands Connectivity Plan – Strategic Approach Paper and Vessels and Ports Plan is now open until 3 May 2024. The Paper is available to view [here](#).

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESILIENCE WATER RELATED ISSUES SURVEY

The [National Centre for Resilience](#) (NCR) are looking to gather your input and knowledge of the water-related issues facing communities across Scotland.

- Does your community or area have issues with too much or too little water?
- What challenges do you face when planning for, responding to and recovering from significant water-related events?

With the collected information NCR are looking to invite respondents to an event in March which will bring together community members, practitioners and academics to discuss potential projects or gaps in knowledge.

CALLING ALL ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDRAISERS – SURVEY ON ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING CHALLENGES

The [Environmental Funders Network \(greenfunders.org\)](#) is inviting all fundraisers to contribute to their research. They are interested in your experience when applying for environmental grants and want to highlight any good practices among grantmakers.

On behalf of Shetland Islands Council and NHS Shetland

FEEDBACK ON DRAFT JOINT SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL AND NHS SHETLAND BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (BSL) PLAN REQUESTED

Deadline: 7 March 2024

Shetland Islands Council and NHS Shetland are asking for your views on the Draft BSL Plan for Shetland. All comments and feedback are welcomed on the contents of the Plan. Click [here](#) to access the draft Plan and see the many ways you can provide feedback.

On behalf of Social Security Scotland

DROP IN SESSIONS: MARKET HOUSE, LERWICK

Social Security Scotland can provide you with information on all benefits currently available. You can book an appointment with a Client Support Adviser by contacting Social Security Scotland free on 0800 182 2222 or by webchat. For more information on their benefits, please see www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/benefits

Social Security Scotland will be holding information sessions at Market House every Friday, between 2pm and 4pm (except for 15th March) to raise awareness of their benefits and provide information on their Local Delivery service. Information will be provided on all benefits currently available, including Adult Disability Payment.

The Shetland Local Delivery Team will be on hand to tell you about the benefits they deliver and how to access the support they provide at your home, in the local community or on either video or phone calls. People in every Local Authority, including Shetland can book an appointment with a Client Support Adviser by contacting Social Security Scotland free on 0800 182 2222. For more information on Social Security Scotland benefits, please see www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/benefits or www.mygov.scot/benefits

CHANGES TO VAT ON ENERGY SAVING MEASURES

A change that has been made to the VAT rules for energy saving measures. The VAT rate for certain measures has been revised to 0%, effective from 1 Feb 2024, and buildings that are solely used for a relevant charitable purpose are included as eligible for this. Find out more [here](#).

There are no changes to the VAT treatment of supplies of grant-funded installations of heating equipment, currently applied at the reduced rate of VAT (5%). You can read the full notice on the [UK Government website](#).

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

[CHANGES TO CHARITY LAW AND THE WAY WE REGULATE](#)

Legislation was laid in the Scottish Parliament today to bring into effect (or 'commence') some of the changes contained in the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023. These changes will take effect on 1 April 2024.

OSCR has been working hard to make sure charities and the public get maximum benefit from the improvements these changes will bring. While there is no immediate action required on the part of charities or charity trustees, we want to make sure that the sector and those who advise it know what changes are coming up. Any relevant guidance on our website will be updated once the changes take effect.

REPORT: [LEARNING FROM OSCR'S INQUIRIES: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT](#)

The report details ten key lessons to support good financial governance. Important themes for trustees are:

- Financial controls and procedures need to be transparent, easily understood, and effectively used
- All trustees should have a good understanding of how the charity's finances work to ensure effective oversight and good collective financial decision-making
- Communication is key, amongst staff and trustees, but also more widely when appropriate.

RESOURCES

[SCVO NEW CHARITY LAW HUB](#)

The Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023 will mean important changes for all charities registered with OSCR. If you'd like to find out more, check out [SCVO's new Charity Law hub](#) and the [recording of a recent webinar](#) to see how the changes will affect your charity.

[YOUTHVIP - WEBSITE LAUNCH](#)

[YouthVIP](#) have launched a new website! As part of their mission to get young people in Scotland volunteering, this site will be a central hub of tools, top-tips and support for young people looking to volunteer as well as organisations looking to help out.

[MEET THE MARKET PROGRAMME](#)

This programme is designed to help businesses in Scotland develop ways to reduce waste and increase sustainability by joining the circular economy. The programme consists of in-person workshops and online customer panels where businesses can test new ideas with potential customers.

[CHECKLIST FOR START-UPS - SETTING UP YOUR DIGITAL PRESENCE](#)

This checklist from Business Gateway explains how to set up a digital presence for your business. The information is aimed at start-ups that are getting ready to launch, but includes useful tips for any business seeking to establish a presence online.

[CLIMATE SPRINGBOARD SUPPORT PROGRAMME](#)

Net Zero by 2045 is fast approaching, is your business ready? Climate Springboard is a free business support programme for Scottish SMEs from any sector, where you will learn how the transition will impact your business and give you the tools to prepare.

Community Engagement & System Redesign, Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS)

[ENGAGING WITH LGBT+ COMMUNITIES: WEBINAR RECORDING](#)

LGBT+ communities are a marginalised group often overlooked in healthcare. Engagement is essential in building systems and processes that include them and promote their health and wellbeing. This webinar shared examples of good practice when engaging with the LGBT+ community.

[NEW TOOL ADDED TO OUR ONLINE PARTICIPATION TOOLKIT: TALKING MATS](#)

Talking Mats is a visual communication framework which supports people with communication difficulties to express their feelings and views, including about what matters to them.

On behalf of the Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA)

The February 2024 newsletter is now available to view. Click [here](#) to read the latest newsletter.

On behalf of Digital Health and Care Scotland

THE NEAR ME FINAL REPORT: USE OF VIDEO CONSULTATION IN SCOTLAND

The report covers early use, the evolution of Attend Anywhere, the approach to co-production, scale-up, developments, evaluation, and feedback. Click [here](#) and scroll down page to access the Final Report.

BUSINESS ENERGY SCOTLAND WEBINAR RECORDING: [COULD YOU HEAT YOUR BUSINESS FOR LESS WITH A HEAT PUMP?](#)

- Learn the basics of how heat pumps work.
- Understand the benefits a heat pump provides (financial, operational, carbon).
- See if a heat pump could be a potential energy saving solution for your business.
- Find out typical installation costs including [financial support](#) from the Scottish Government.
- Hear from businesses that have already taken action.

CRANFIELD TRUST – [WEBINAR LIBRARY](#)

The webinars have been developed to meet the needs of charities - from senior leaders, trustees and managers through to those aspiring to learn and develop their skills. They offer practical skills training, advice & guidance on key management topics in four areas: Leadership & strategic direction Performance & impact Financial management People management

[SOCIAL PROCUREMENT: A GUIDE FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES](#)

Social procurement is a powerful tool for corporations to leverage their purchasing power to drive positive social change.

[WEBINAR RECORDINGS - DTAS](#)

[Development Trusts Association Scotland \(DTAS\)](#) has a collection of training webinars to help explain [asset transfers for local authorities](#) and [assets for people and place](#), run by the Community Ownership Support Service. These webinars are free and readily available to watch online.

SCVO GOOD GOVERNANCE: PRACTICAL HINTS AND TIPS

SCVO's [January Good Governance webinar](#) looked at how the Third Sector Governance Code and SCVO's Good Governance Checkup have been reviewed and updated. SCVO's new governance trainer was there to give her five top tips for trustees too and to highlight our training on:

- [Effective board meetings](#)
- [Defining strategy, culture and values](#)
- [Board and staff relationships](#)

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

[SCVO RUNNING VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS WEBINAR, THURSDAY 14 MARCH 12-1PM, ONLINE](#)

Are you involved in running a village hall? Thinking about taking on a community space? At this FREE webinar, you'll learn how to make the most of [SCVO's brand new Village and Community Halls handbook](#) as they share advice, support and top tips on the day-to-day running of your community hall.

[SCCAN ANNUAL GATHERING - SURVIVING AND THRIVING, FRIDAY 22 MARCH 9:30AM-4:30PM GLASGOW](#)

[Scottish Communities Climate Action Network \(SCCAN\)](#)'s annual gathering in Glasgow is well worth the trip... You'll have the opportunity to take part in interactive workshops, speeches, networking activities, and explore topics like place-based planning, power in the community, and communicating climate change!

[QUALITY STANDARDS IN VOLUNTEERING, THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2-3:30PM](#)

Volunteer Scotland invite you to join in this FREE workshop where they will discuss the Quality Standard and the Quality Pipeline, to provide you with more information on each product, the standards, process and the difference this can make to volunteers experience.

[ASSETS FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE TRAINING, STARTING THURSDAY 14 MARCH 10AM-12:30PM, ONLINE](#)

Explore this webinar series covering all aspects of Asset Transfer, run by the [Community Ownership Support Service](#) and aimed at community groups. The free online programme will run throughout 2024 and will provide sessions on asset acquisition right through to asset management.

[WEBINAR: 'MUSIC AS MEDICINE – USING PLAYLISTS IN PROCEDURES AND APPOINTMENTS FOR PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA', 27TH MARCH 2024, 10AM – 11AM](#)

Could you use music as medicine? If your work brings you into contact with people living with dementia, you might benefit from a free seminar detailing how to use meaningful music in dementia care. Join a webinar from Playlist for Life suitable for health professionals, social prescribers or people working in hospitals.

[PLAYLIST FOR LIFE AND INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS, WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2024, 10:30AM - 12:00PM, ONLINE](#)

The session will offer a practical resource aimed at young people which talks about the process of finding songs for someone living with dementia, and the tools Playlist for Life can offer to help with this. And how we can make this truly intergenerational so that relationships are formed that are reciprocal and meaningful to both generations.

[SCOTTISH COMMUNITIES CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK \(SCCAN\) ANNUAL GATHERING, 22 MARCH](#)

The SCCAN Annual Gathering will be taking place in Glasgow at Maryhill Burgh Halls and the theme this year is 'Surviving and Thriving'. You'll have the opportunity to hear from SCCAN members who are working in community-led climate action and to take part in interactive workshops and activities. For more information about attending, including details on creche facilities and SCCAN's travel and access fund, please contact info@sccan.scot.

All sessions are free to participate in and are funded through the Shetland Community Led Local Development Fund 2023/24.

Local Energy Scotland:

[INTRODUCTION TO SHARED OWNERSHIP, WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024, 1PM TO 2PM, ON ZOOM](#)

This Local Energy Scotland online event is for community groups and other organisations interested in shared ownership. [Shared ownership](#) gives community groups the chance to make an investment in a commercially owned renewable energy project. This provides an opportunity for income as well as many other benefits. In this session we'll introduce you to shared ownership, how it works, and the support available from the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) that could help you explore opportunities in your area. We'll have our Shared Ownership Manager and Specialist on hand to answer any questions you have.

Please email [Christina Hinds](#) to book your space. Please include 'Shared Ownership event – Wednesday 20 March' in the subject line and remember to include the name of your organisation in your email.

[STRUCTURES FOR COMMUNITY SHARED OWNERSHIP, WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2024, 1PM TO 2PM, ON ZOOM](#)

Join this online event with Burness Paull, to hear more about the advantages of different types of structures for setting up a body to invest. This will give you a good understanding of why groups sometimes set up a Company, a Community Benefit Society, or other types of organisation for shared ownership. This event are free, but you'll need to book in advance.

Please email [Christina Hinds](#) to book your space. Please include 'Shared ownership event – Wednesday 27 March' in the subject line. Please remember to include the name of your organisation in your email.

DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT, THURSDAY 21 MARCH 11AM – 12NOON

Are you considering developing a community energy project? We'll be sharing our expertise on supporting communities to develop or own a share in renewable electricity generation projects. Attend to find out more about the following topics:

- Supporting communities to investigate sustainable solutions.
- Empowering communities to understand project feasibility and overcome complexities.
- Enabling community ownership through innovative business models

CONFERENCE: ALL-ENERGY AND DCARBONISE 2024, WEDNESDAY 15 AND THURSDAY 16 MAY, GLASGOW

The conference will take place over two days at Glasgow's SEC. All-Energy offers an opportunity to meet, network and make connections with the renewable energy community with two days of uninterrupted business.

SCVO: PLANNING BETTER ENDINGS, 23 APRIL, 1PM – 2PM, ONLINE

In Scotland around 800 new charities are set up every year, and 600 wind up. The signs are that this will be no different in 2024, and organisational closures may be on the increase. Endings are inevitable, whether through choice or necessity. But better endings, to a project, or an organisation, can be achieved with enough time, planning and funding.

[The Decelerator](#), a free support service for charities and voluntary sector organisations. They offer information, tools, and hands-on support to help organisations anticipate and design closures, mergers, and project endings.

VILLAGE HALLS WEEK – 18 -24 MARCH 2024

Scottish Rural and Islands Parliament is joining with ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) to celebrate Village Halls Week, which runs from 18th to 24th March 2024. You can find out more on [ACRE's website](#) and we'll be adding more to the [SRA website](#) soon on how to get involved!

THE FUTURE IS PEER ONLINE EVENT, WED, 20 MAR 2024 11:00 - 16:00 GMT

Scottish Recovery Network are hosting an online event live from their studio for The Future is Peer, sharing ideas on how to bring peer support to more people and places. Highlights will include an online workshop, first access to two films, and organizations from around the country sharing info about their peer support work. This event is ideal for those involved in developing, managing and delivering peer support including peer workers and volunteers. This online event will coincide with their sold-out in-person event and is completely free.

SIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WINTER POP-INS

Held on Wednesdays, from 10 January until 20 March: 10 am – 12 noon

Pop along for hot drinks, board games, wellbeing activities & crafts and good company. Starting 10 January at the Lerwick Jubilee Flower Park Pavillion.

Held on Thursdays, from 11 January until 28 March: 3 pm – 5. 30 pm

Pop along for hot drinks, board games, after school snacks and good company. Starting 11 January 2024 in St Ringans Hub, Lower Hillhead, Lerwick.

If you would like support to attend the above pop-ins, or would like more information about each of these, please contact Joanne.Fraser3@shetland.gov.uk or telephone 01595 743889.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

No Updates

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

REPORTS

CIRCULAR ECONOMY (SCOTLAND) BILL REPORT

The [Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee](#) published its [stage 1 report](#) on the [Circular Economy \(Scotland\) Bill](#) on 28 February. In its report, the committee calls for systems-wide change to deliver a circular economy and says the Scottish Government must look at additional opportunities to act.

REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

A [report](#) published by the [Public Audit Committee](#) raises concerns over significant pressure on Scotland's adult mental health services.

CALLS FOR VIEWS: THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT IS OPEN TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON A RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING:

[FAIR WORK FIRST - BUSINESS & REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SURVEY](#)

Deadline: 12 March 2024

Scottish Government is carrying out a Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) on the mandatory Fair Work First Conditionality that was added to public sector grants awarded from 1 July 2023 - payment of the real Living Wage and provision of mechanisms of Effective Voice. The [FWF BRIA SURVEY](#) aims to capture views on the impact of the requirements, which will inform Minister's policy position on conditionality going forward. We are seeking input from organisations that have experience of applying for or awarding public sector grants.

[LEARNING DISABILITIES, AUTISM AND NEURODIVERGENCE \(LDAN\) BILL](#)

Closes: 21 April 2024

Views are being sought on proposals to better protect, respect and champion the rights of people with learning disabilities, autistic and neurodivergent people. There is an explanation of how to respond and the consultation paper is provided in alternative formats, including: Easy Read, audio, British Sign Language, child-friendly version with an accompanying adult's guide, and a summary version. You can also request paper copies. You can also submit a response in writing, audio, video, or BSL video by sending via email to LDAN.Bill@gov.scot.

JUDICIAL FACTORS (SCOTLAND) BILL

Closes date: 15 March 2024

The [Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee](#) is seeking your views on the Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill. A judicial factor is an individual appointed by the court to manage the property of those who, for whatever reason, are unable or unwilling to do so.

SCOTLAND'S COMMISSIONER LANDSCAPE: A STRATEGIC APPROACH

Closing date: 11 March 2024

The [Finance and Public Administration Committee](#) is looking for your views on Scotland's approach to commissioners. The committee would like to hear whether a more coherent, strategic approach is needed for creating any future commissioners.

DELIVERING NET ZERO FOR SCOTLAND'S BUILDINGS - HEAT IN BUILDINGS BILL: CONSULTATION

Closes: 8 March 2024

The Scottish Government is seeking your views on proposals for greener and warmer buildings in Scotland. [The Heat in Buildings Bill: consultation](#) is open for responses until Friday 8 March 2024.

Clean heating systems will replace polluting heating systems in Scotland's homes and buildings by 2045 under proposals [published by the Scottish Government](#).

Under legislation to be introduced in 2025, those buying new homes or buildings would be asked to move to a "clean" heating system, such as a heat pump or connection to a heat network, within a fixed period of time following that purchase. Minimum energy efficiency standards for Scotland's homes could also be introduced to make them warmer and less expensive to heat.

SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY

Closes: 29 March 2024

The [Equalities Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee](#) is running a short inquiry into the Scottish Government and COSLA's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2032 and would welcome your views.