



# North Yell Development Council

Enterprise - Initiative - Self-Help



## NORTH YELL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2022 - 2027

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## 1. Introduction

This development plan covers the period from 2022 to 2027, and is the second produced by North Yell Development Council (NYDC) for the community of North Yell. It follows on from, and builds on, the previous plan which covered the period from 2016 to 2021. Whilst written as a working document for NYDC, it reflects the hopes and aspirations of the North Yell community going forward, as well as the issues and challenges that require to be faced and/or overcome.

The priorities set out in this plan have been identified as a direct result of community consultation, which was undertaken in Spring 2022. This included postal surveys sent to, and online surveys open to, all residents and households in the area, as well as a very well attended full day consultation event at the Cullivoe Hall. Additional consultation was also undertaken with school aged children and local businesses. This has provided NYDC with both the evidence and mandate to develop a plan, matched to the needs and aspirations of our community, which also fits with our founding principles, namely enterprise, initiative and self-help, as well as the charitable nature of our organisation.

This plan reflects the development needs of our community in 2022 and looks forward over the next 5 years. However, we recognise that there is need for flexibility within our plan to account for unexpected changes or uncertainties which might occur. We need look no further back than the last couple of years for evidence of that. Therefore, our plan is viewed as a living document, which will be updated and amended as circumstances dictate. With further consultation undertaken as required, in order to ensure our plan remains relevant and continues to reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

Following on from the achievements of our previous plan from 2016 to 2021 which included...

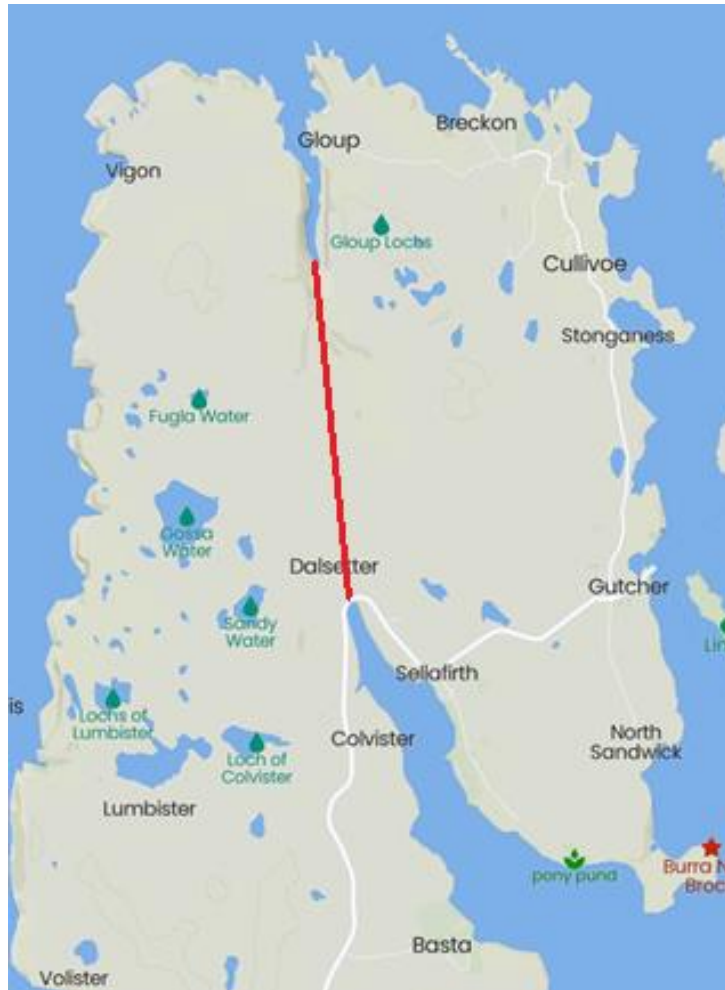
- ✓ Completion of a 4.5 MW community windfarm at Garth. This represents an £8.3m investment by NYDC in an asset which will bring benefit to the community of North Yell for many years to come.
- ✓ Construction of a 10 site extension to the industrial estate at Cullivoe Harbour, with all sites already let to local businesses and employers. Scheduled for opening in Spring 2023.
- ✓ Construction of a 28 berth marina, for commercial, recreational and tourism vessels, opened in May 2022. Almost all available berths are already allocated, with 5 berths kept for visitor use. The marina will include an amenity building with toilet, shower and laundry facilities, as well as a store for electric bikes, which is scheduled for completion in Spring 2023.
- ✓ Investment in the developments at the industrial estate and marina is currently over £3m, with more than £2.6m of external funds attracted to the project, and in excess of £0.5m invested by NYDC from windfarm donations.
- ✓ Delivery of coronavirus survival kits to community households.
- ✓ Purchase of electric bikes and securing funding to commence Britain's most northerly Parkrun.
- ✓ Securing of funding for a 2 year social inclusion programme to Get North Yell Going Again.

NYDC wish to continue forward with an ambitious plan to grow both our economy and our community over the next 5 years, to ensure it remains an amazing place to live, work, visit and invest.

## 2. Our Community

### 2.1 Geography

The area of North Yell sits on the upper East side of the island of Yell. It stretches from Basta Voe (in the South) to Gloup Voe (In the North) and includes the communities of Sellafirth, Gutcher, Cullivoe and Gloup, as shown below.



The land in North Yell is primarily made up of crofting ground of variable quality which is located around the coastline with peat bog inland. The majority of the area is made up of class 1 carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. With a wealth of bird and wildlife resident in a very unspoilt environment, which includes some fantastic scenic spots and the beautiful ‘blue flag’ beach at Breckon, North Yell is a positive destination for Geo tourism. Sitting on the shore of the impressive Bluemull, it is also a very popular attraction for sea anglers and other forms of marine tourists.

## 2.2 Population

North Yell has a population of approximately 225 people spread across an area of approximately 40 sq. km. This gives a population density of 6 people per sq. km, which is just over a 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Shetland average of 16 people per sq. km, and under a 10<sup>th</sup> of the Scottish average of 70 people per sq. km. A population breakdown by age is detailed below.

Total Population	Population Density sqkm	Aged 0-15	Working age population	Aged 65+	Dependency ratio
225	6	14.8%	54.2%	34.3%	0.91
53.7% male; 46.3% female	Shetland 16 Scotland 70	Shetland 18.2% Scotland 16.8%	Shetland 60.8% Scotland 63.9%	Shetland 21.1% Scotland 19.3%	Shetland 0.65 Scotland 0.56
Source: Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2020 + local knowledge of population Dec 2022					

From the above it can be seen that North Yell proportionately has a significantly lower 0-15, and working age population than both Shetland and Scotland, at 14.8% and 54.2% respectively, and a significantly higher 65+ population at 34.3%, or over a third. The dependency ratio for the area is therefore significantly higher at 0.91 compared to 0.65 for Shetland and 0.56 for Scotland.

In line with many other rural and islands areas, our community suffers from a declining and aging population. The population of Yell has halved over the last century, and although remaining relatively stable since 2000, there is anecdotal evidence that it may have fallen further in recent years. We await the results of the 2022 census for confirmation of this. The local primary school roll has fallen from a high of 29 in 2016, to a current level of 9. This not only reflects the aging nature of the population, but also issues relating to a lack of childcare, which have caused some families to leave the area in recent years.

## 2.3 Households

There are around 135 households in the North Yell area, with housing types as set out below.

Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flats, Apartments
78.8%	17.5%	1.9%	1.9%
Shetland 57.6% Scotland 21.5%	Shetland 26.1% Scotland 19.7%	Shetland 7.4% Scotland 20.5%	Shetland 9.0% Scotland 37.7%
Second Homes	Vacant Dwellings		
7.0%	9.0%		
Scotland 1.0%	Scotland 0.0%		
Source: National Records of Scotland 2017/Census 2011 + local knowledge			

From the above it can be seen that around 80% of properties are detached, which is proportionately much higher than in Shetland or Scotland. There is also a much lower level of terraced properties and

apartments, which accounts for only around 4% of housing in North Yell, as opposed to 58% of all housing in Scotland. 7% of properties are used as second or holidays homes. This is seven times the Scottish average. Anecdotally this is felt to be a growing trend, however levels are much lower than currently seen on some islands on the west coast of Scotland, and further growth in second and holiday homes could have significant impact on resident housing availability, as has happened in other islands. There are also a number of vacant dwellings, some of which are in a poor state of repair.

Housing tenure figures are detailed below.

<b>Owner occupied</b>	<b>Owner-occupied: owned outright</b>	<b>Owner-occupied: mortgage or loan or shared ownership</b>
78.6%	53.4%	25.2%
Shetland 65.4% Scotland 62.0%	Scotland 27.8%	Scotland 34.2%
<b>Social rented households</b>	<b>Rented from private landlord or other rented dwelling</b>	<b>Overcrowded Housing</b>
13.0%	8.4%	0.8%
Shetland 23.7% Scotland 24.3%	Shetland 10.9% Scotland 13.7%	Shetland 5.6% Scotland 9.0%
Source: Census 2011		

Almost 80% of properties in North Yell are owner occupied, which is well above both the Shetland and Scottish averages. Over half of all properties are owned outright, which is twice the Scottish average. A quarter are subject to loan finance, which is well below the Scottish average of just over a third.

13% are social rented, which equates to 17 properties. This is much lower than both the Shetland and Scottish averages which are around 24%. There is also a lower proportion of private rented properties, which includes holiday lets. Less than 1% of housing is classed as overcrowded, which is well below the Shetland and Scottish averages. This is not all that surprising given the aging nature of our population and decline in young families.

Properties Council Tax bands are detailed below.

<b>Council Tax band A dwellings</b>	<b>Council Tax band B dwellings</b>	<b>Council Tax band C dwellings</b>	<b>Council Tax band D dwellings</b>
72.5%	12.5%	11.9%	3.1%
Scotland 20.9%	Scotland 22.9%	Scotland 16.1%	Scotland 13.5%

Source: National Records of Scotland, 2018

Over 70% of properties in North Yell are in Council Tax band A. The Scottish average is 20%. All properties in the area are in bands A-D. Council Tax Bands are based on the relative value of property, with properties in A-D bands considered of lower value. Therefore, given the high proportion of

particularly band A properties in North Yell it could be argued that there is a high level of affordable housing. However, in reality not many properties come on the market, and a number of those that have been sold recently required substantial renovation. Property values also have a great deal to do with location, and similar properties in Lerwick or the Central Mainland command a much higher price than those situated in North Yell. This leads to two major problems for resident population retention and growth in North Yell. Firstly, lower valuations mean it is more likely properties will be purchased as second homes, or holiday lets. Secondly, for those who can secure land for self-builds, higher build costs and lower completion values lead to negative equity i.e. property is worth less than it cost to build, which can lead to difficulties in obtaining finance.

Overall, there is a lack of housing in the area to enable population growth and retention, particularly for workers or families wishing to move into the area, or young people wishing to remain. There are low levels of social and private rental properties, low levels of housing turnover, increasing levels of second and holiday homes and issues with negative equity.

#### **2.4 Transport Links and Restrictions**

Cullivoe is the largest, most populated settlement within North Yell, which contains the local primary school, church, shop, fuel garage, and one of our two halls. In common with the many smaller, more isolated communities within the area, residents often experience difficulties relating to transport due to the nature and condition of single-track roads, lack of public transport and access to amenities.

This has been compounded in recent years as the main road into Cullivoe has had restrictions placed on it, which have hindered development of both industrial and private construction projects. This includes restrictions placed on the NYDC marina development, which led to rock for the breakwater having to be transported from Gutcher to Cullivoe by sea. This greatly increased both the complexity and cost of the project. In addition, development of a caravan park adjacent to the marina, for which NYDC has planning permission, is currently conditional on a new road into Cullivoe being constructed. House building projects, industrial and private buildings and sheds have also been hindered, and it remains to be seen if these restrictions will hamper development at the industrial estate, where all sites are spoken for, and it is believed initially at least 5 buildings will be developed.

As plans for a new Gutcher to Cullivoe road are now at an advanced stage, and the existing road should therefore have a finite life, lifting of these restrictions would remove what is currently a major obstacle to development within the area. As a community we welcome and very much look forward to improved road access to and from Cullivoe.

In common with the vast majority of island communities in Scotland, North Yell relies solely on ferry services. Internally to Shetland these provide access to both the Shetland mainland to the South, and the Islands of Unst and Fetlar to the North. These services are provided by the Shetland Islands Council, as shown below.



Ferries leave from Gutcher in North Yell to Belmont in Unst, journey time 10 mins, and Hamars Ness in Fetlar journey time 20 mins. Access to ferries to the Shetland Mainland is via Ulsta in South Yell, with a journey time from North Yell of around 30 mins. Ferry journey time from Ulsta to Toft on the Shetland Mainland is 15 mins. The onward journey to Lerwick to access services and/or the nightly ferry to Mainland Scotland takes around 40 mins. Travel from Toft to Sumburgh to access air services takes over an hour. All these times assume car travel, which is required due to extremely limited public transport options, and is reflected in vehicle ownership figures per household, which are detailed below.

No cars	One car	Two cars	Three cars	Four + cars
10.7%	44.3%	32.1%	9.2%	3.8%
Shetland 19.1%	Shetland 42.3%	Shetland 28.8%	Shetland 6.8%	Shetland 3.0%
Scotland 30.5%	Scotland 42.2%	Scotland 21.6%	Scotland 4.3%	Scotland 1.3%

Source: Census 2011

From the above it can be seen only 10% of households in North Yell do not own a car. Compared to figures for Shetland of 20%, and Scotland 30%. It is very likely that this is a direct result of restricted public transport options making it a necessity for the vast majority of residents to have access to a vehicle in order to work, access services and socialise.

Travel for residents and visitors, as well as businesses operating to and from North Yell is significantly hindered, not only by restrictions due to ferry timetabling and poor public transport links, but also issues related to ferry service suspension for example due to weather, or technical breakdown, and also latterly due to a lack of crew.





Travel restrictions, principally the ferry service, add significantly to costs for businesses operating into and out of the area. This relates not only to direct financial charges, but also additional man hours and equipment, which in turn have a direct financial impact on residents. These restrictions are especially significant for time sensitive seafood goods both landed and processed at Cullivoe Harbour. In addition, and coupled with poor public transport options, they limit both the mobility of labour into and out of North Yell, as well as impede access to services and social opportunities located off Yell.

Improved access to and from Yell, preferably by means of fixed links, is therefore required, to both sustain current population and economic activity, and allow our community to grow and achieve its full development potential.

## 2.5 Business and Industry

Of the 36 businesses identified as operating within the North Yell area 67% operate in service industries, 22% in primary and 6% each in construction and manufacturing. 63% of primary businesses directly operate in the seafood sector, and 39% of businesses overall are dependent on seafood related activity. It should be noted that these figures relate to business numbers and not employment or output, which are proportionately much more highly dependent on seafood. Of rising significance within the area is tourism, which currently represents around 25% of all businesses. This is mainly linked to angling charters and accommodation. Other businesses include agriculture (figures exclude small croft holdings), quarrying, haulage, transport, retail, textiles and other small-scale manufacturing.

It is vitally important to the area that current economic activity levels are maintained and grown. Particularly in relation to the seafood sector, which is proportionately so extremely important, as well as lifeline community services, and growing sectors such as tourism. Diversification and broadening of the economic base, in line with NYDC's founding principals of enterprise and initiative, are also a goal for our community. This includes utilising advances in ICT technology which should mean that remote working from the area is possible. This is however currently somewhat hindered by limited connectivity, which will be discussed later. Other possible opportunities may arise from renewable developments on the island, as well as decarbonisation. Yell has recently been selected as one of six islands within the Scottish Government's Carbon Neutral Islands Project, which will also be discussed later. North Yell is also very well placed to act as a service hub for any offshore renewable development which might take place to the north of Shetland. In addition, our community is very open to any further development opportunities which may arise in the future.

## 2.6 Cullivoe Harbour

Ranking	Whitefish	Wild Shellfish	Farmed Salmon	Farmed Shellfish
Shetland 3	Landings 2,852 t	Landings 190 t	Landings 30,000 t	Processed 500 t
Scotland 9	Value £6.1m	Value £460,000	Value £130m	Value £546,000
UK 11				

Cullivoe harbour is Shetland’s 3rd largest fishing port, currently ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in Scotland and 11<sup>th</sup> in the UK. Latest annual whitefish landings total over 2,800 tonnes, worth over £6 million, with wild shellfish landings of around 200 tonnes, worth approximately £0.5m. In addition, 30,000 tonnes of farmed salmon worth £130 million are landed, and around 500 tonnes of farmed shellfish worth over £0.5m, are processed at the harbour.



Cullivoe harbour is strategically located in the north of Shetland, close to the fishing grounds and aquaculture sites. It acts as a service hub for marine related businesses, with services including freight, ice, fuel, and stores available locally. It also has spin off benefits for the whole of Yell, including a salmon processing factory in Mid Yell employing around 50 people.

It should also be noted that all 10 sites on the NYDC industrial estate extension have been taken up by businesses either directly operating in, or dependent on the Seafood sector, and that five of the berths at the new NYDC marina have been taken up by angling charter boats operating out of the port. It is vitally important to the economy of North Yell that the Harbour remains an accessible and viable port, at the forefront of issues such as developments in relation to marine fuels, advances in fisheries and aquaculture, and new opportunities which may arise in the future such as offshore renewables, or tourism expansion.

## 2.7 Digital Connectivity

In the digital age of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, good connectivity is essential for any community, regardless of how remote they may be considered. The figures below detail broadband speeds and job access scores for North Yell.

Premises with broadband speeds below the USO (2019)	Average broadband download speed (Mbit/s)	Average broadband upload speed (Mbit/s)	Job Access Score (2021)
100%	4.82	0.00	246.2
Scotland 3.7%	Scotland 69.86	Scotland 11.22	Scotland 278910.9

Source: Ofcom 2017 & 2019; UK Onward (2021)

From the above it can be seen that broadband speeds in North Yell are dire. All premises have broadband speeds below the universal service obligation (USO). The average for Scotland is around 4%. Average broadband download speed is 4.8 Mbit/s, compared to the Scottish average of 69.9, and average upload speed is zero, compared to a Scottish average of 11.2 Mbit/s.

Whilst the newly released HIE “My life in the Highlands and Islands” research paper, under everyday challenges, states 21% of respondents said it would be difficult to stream a TV programme or film without pauses or buffering, it is likely this figure is much higher in North Yell. In addition, we are sure many people will have been in online meetings where someone in a more remote location has switched their camera off “to see if it works any better now”. That’s if they can get online at all.

The Shetland Islands Council has installed fibre connections to all public buildings in North Yell, including the public toilets at the Cullivoe Harbour. However private businesses and households cannot access this service. A number of households and businesses have installed 4g internet access, which gives better speeds than broadband, as long as there is mobile reception and 4g is available, and some have installed very expensive satellite links.

Also included in the figures above is North Yell’s job access score. Which gives an estimate of how many jobs you can reach within an hour’s drive or 90 minutes on public transport from your front door. The figure for North Yell is 246, compared to a Scottish average of 279,000. Whilst the population of North Yell is relatively small, not everyone will be qualified for every job, and these figures would tend to suggest that if working age population growth is to be achieved, an element of remote working outwith these commuter distances will be required. Improved digital connectivity will be fundamental to this.

## 2.8 Utilities

A further issue which is currently hindering economic development and population growth, are delays and/or inability to access utilities. Both private and commercial electrical connections and meter installations are very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. In addition, water connections are also problematic and the process very protracted. Approval of the industrial estate water system took over a year and was only approved after intervention by our MSP.

## 2.9 Energy

Recent issues with rising energy prices have highlighted fuel poverty within our area. Figure showing average energy efficiency ratings, consumption and houses lacking central heating are detailed below.

Energy efficiency rating, current (SAP points)	Energy efficiency rating, potential (SAP points)	Energy efficiency gap (SAP points)	Band A-C buildings	Band D buildings
54.29	87.22	32.93	10.26%	79.49%
Shetland 58.30 Scotland 64.94	Shetland 85.20 Scotland 81.72	Shetland 26.90 Scotland 16.78	Scotland 54.53%	Scotland 40.79%

Source: Scottish Government EPC data 2016 - 2020

Electricity consumption (Mwh/meter)	Houses lacking central heating
1.71	7.6%
Shetland 1.61 Scotland 1.00	Shetland 4.1% Scotland 2.3%

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2020, National Records of Scotland 2017

From the above it can be seen that energy efficiency ratings in North Yell are below both Shetland and Scottish averages, however potential efficiency ratings are higher. This leads to a higher efficiency gap for our community, which is twice the Scottish average.

It should be noted that this data is taken from Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) for domestic buildings published by Scottish Government, that have been registered between 2016-2020. Only properties that have been built, bought, sold or retrofitted since 2008 have an EPC. This represents over 50% of homes within the A-C council tax bands in Scotland, but only 10% of those in North Yell. This again highlights low property turnover within the area, as well as a lack of new builds, and property upgrades. 80% of band D properties, which represent only 3% of households in the area, have an EPC, which is twice the Scottish average. This would tend to suggest that new build properties are more likely to be in the upper council tax band for the area. These properties are also likely to be more energy efficient, which will in turn increase average efficiency ratings. This means that it is likely average energy efficiency for North Yell properties is lower than 54.29.

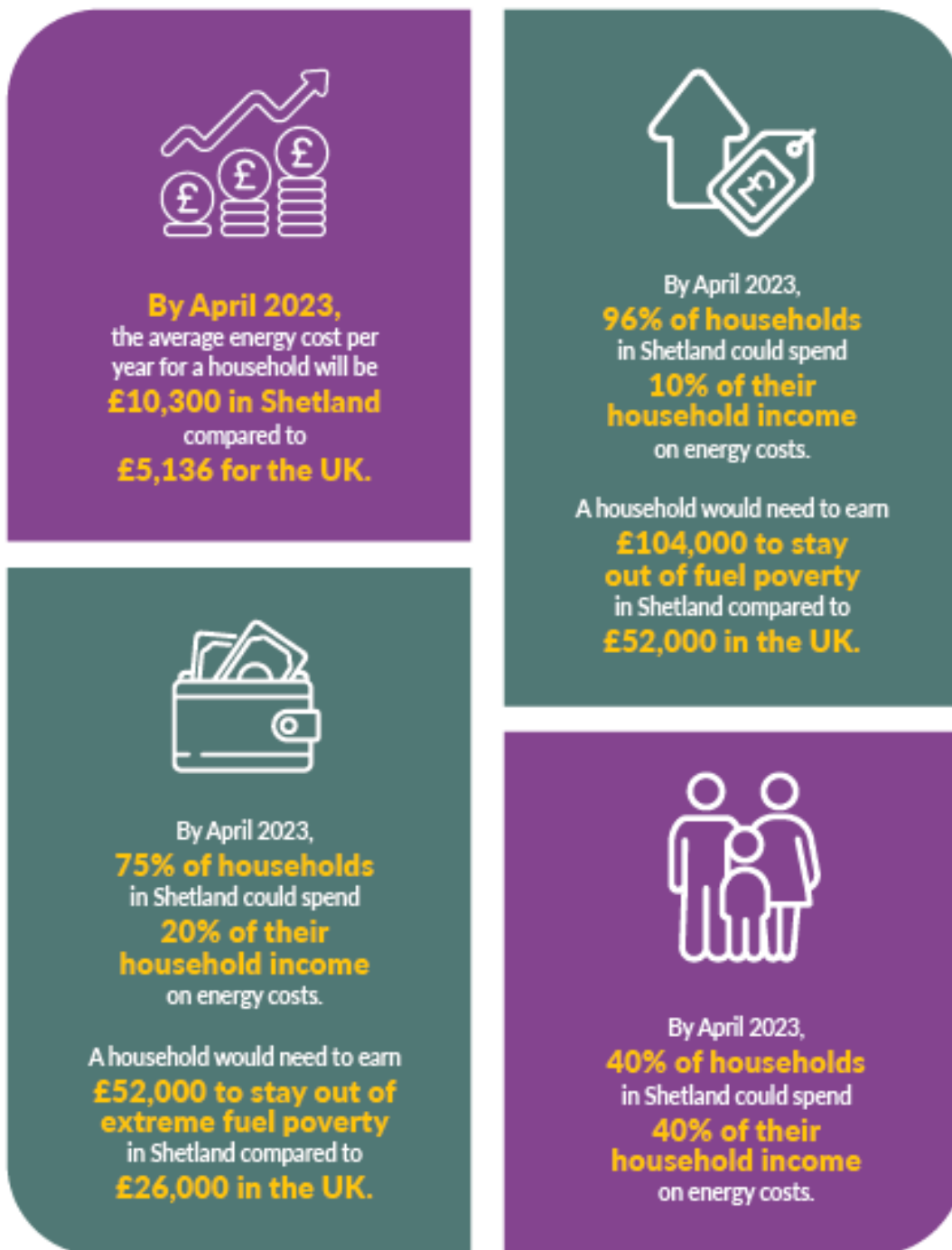
Also, from the above it can be seen that in terms of average electricity consumption, for every MWh used by a household on mainland Scotland, 1.71 MWh is used in North Yell, i.e. 71% higher than the Scottish average. Overall Shetland is 61% above the Scottish average, with North Yell proportionately 6% above the Shetland average. Higher consumption in the islands is due to the cost of heating homes in Shetland being greater than mainland Scotland, partly down to the climate but also the lack of availability of cheaper options like mains gas as well as varying levels of insulation. In addition, and outwith these figures, a number of properties also use oil to heat their homes. Compounding this North Yell has over three times the Scottish average, and almost twice the Shetland average of houses without a central heating system.

To illustrate the energy bills faced by households and residents, figures collated by the Press and Journal in June 2022, showed that, on average, residents in Shetland were paying £2,642 for electricity. The highest of any of the 408 local authorities in the UK. This was 107% above the then price cap of £1,277, as shown below.



In August 2022 Shetland Islands Council published “Shetland’s Household Energy Situation in Numbers”, which gave the following figures for average household energy costs in Shetland from April 2023.





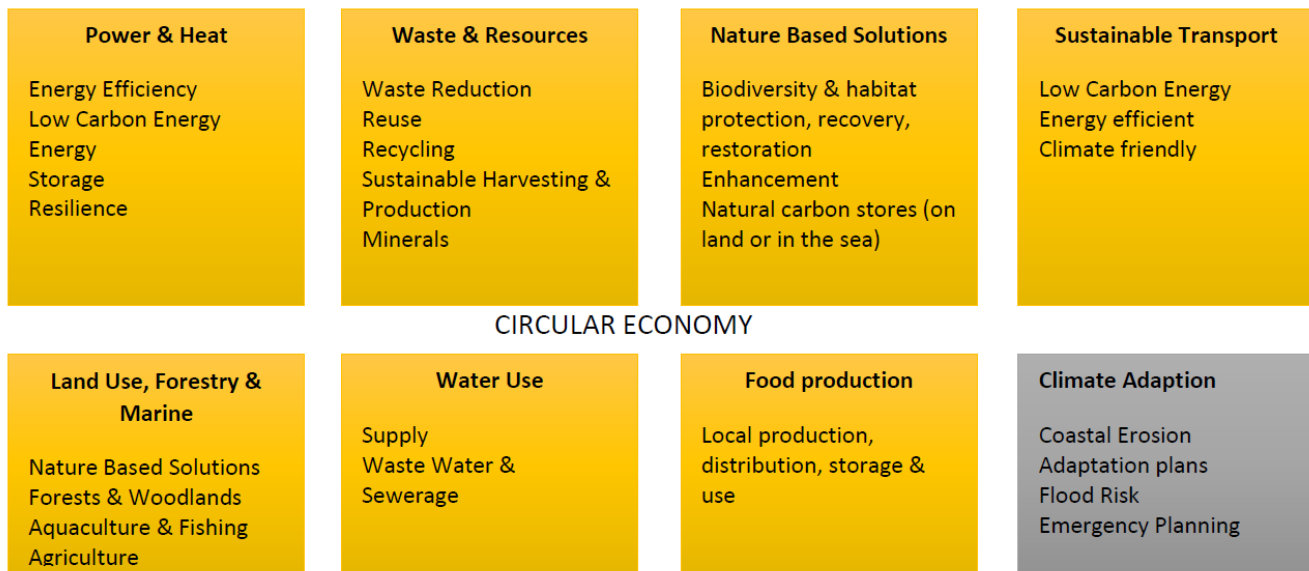
The government has since announced emergency measures to cap domestic and business energy prices, but despite this people in Shetland are still faced with domestic electricity bills that could be higher than £5,000 per year. These emergency measures are now due to end in April 2023. The average UK household energy bill is then predicted to rise to £5,136, and in Shetland rise to twice that at £10,300. The average cost for North Yell households is likely to be £11,000.

With business and community facilities currently being quoted as high as £1.20 per unit, without emergency measures, rising energy costs therefore represent a significant and immediate threat to the future viability of our community.

### 2.10 Decarbonisation

Decarbonisation’ is the process of lowering the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced, and has been brought to the fore by the need to address climate change, and create more sustainable communities.

Yell has been selected as one of six Scottish islands to participate in the Carbon Neutral Islands (CNI) project. This is a Scottish government commitment aimed at supporting islands to become carbon neutral by 2040. NYDC has been appointed as the anchor organisation for CNI in Yell. The initial outputs from this project will be a carbon audit, climate change plan and investment strategy for the island covering the eight climate themes set out below.



This project will give the entire community of Yell, an opportunity to assess and address its carbon footprint. In addition, it is hoped that achievable actions will be identified within the initial outputs of the project, that can enhance both the environmental and economic sustainability of the island, including ways to help address the current energy crisis.

### 2.11 Social

North Yell is a very close-knit area, where people know and interact with their neighbours, and a sense of community prevails. With scores well above both Scottish and Shetland averages in terms of the strength of social relationships, sense of belonging and satisfaction as a place to live.

<b>Local social relationships</b>	<b>Belonging</b>	<b>Satisfaction with local area as a place to live</b>
<b>0.089</b>	<b>0.108</b>	<b>0.029</b>
Shetland 0.054	Shetland 0.065	Shetland 0.011
Scotland 0.003	Scotland -0.003	Scotland 0.022
Figure: Community Dynamic scores for belonging, relationships and satisfaction Source: Social Life (modelled from the annual Community Life Survey), 2015/2016		

However, in common with all communities during the covid pandemic there was little opportunity to socialise. Events, clubs and opportunities to intermingle were suspended, and this led to increased exclusion and isolation within our peripheral community. Therefore getting social opportunities and events back in place is a priority, to encourage social interaction and tackle social exclusion. As part of this NYDC has secured funding from the Lottery Communities Fund to “Get North Yell Going Again”. This is a two year programme which aims to get our community back to the levels of volunteering and social interaction seen before the pandemic, but also build on this to foster additional opportunities to tackle social exclusion, particularly among the most vulnerable and at risk within our area.

### **2.12 Heritage**

North Yell has a strong heritage centred round both the sea and the land, as well as its people, dialect, folklore and community. Whilst there are heritage sites within the area such as the Gloup disaster memorial, there is no central point to collate or exhibit heritage artefacts, nor undertake historical analysis. In addition, as residents move on or pass on, their recollections and stories disappear with them. Whilst we welcome, and indeed require, new blood within our community, it is also important to recall and record the history of our community, including changes over time. Preserving our heritage is therefore of great importance to our community.

### **2.13 Garth Windfarm**

Following a public consultation in 2003, NYDC decided to investigate a community renewable energy project. A study was undertaken which recommended 5 wind turbines with a total capacity of 4.5MW, sited at Garth. Fourteen years later, in 2017, the wind farm was completed at a cost of £8.3 million.



Photo Colin Dickie



Since this time the windfarm has produced over 90,000 Mwh of energy and has generated funds to enable NYDC to invest in community projects such as the industrial estate extension and marina at the Cullivoe Harbour, as well as get North Yell going again. Corona virus survival kits to households, and funding to various community bodies within the area, have also been provided. It has also enabled us to employ a development manager.

Whilst it is hoped and very much anticipated that Garth will continue to generate funds for NYDC, to invest in the economic and social development of our community for many years to come, it should be noted that a slight operating loss was recorded in the financial year 2021/22.

This was directly caused by poor service from our maintenance contractor, who failed to fulfil their contractual obligations, to attend maintain, service and repair our turbines. This led to turbine availability of only 79% as opposed to the warranted 97%, resulting in lost income of around a third of output. This meant that after servicing debt, no funds remained for investment in the community.

Production during 2022/23 has risen significantly from 2021/22. The main reason for this has been improvements relating to delays in getting repairs carried out. Following discussions with our contractor, the response time of engineers has improved, but this still remains a major risk to the profitability of the windfarm.

An increased tariff rate was achieved in April 2022 which has resulted in increased earnings. The windfarm will be moving to an even better tariff rate in April 2023 which should lead to significantly increased earnings from Garth in 2023- 2024, provided timeous repairs are undertaken.

What the past two years has made NYDC extremely aware of, is that skills gaps within Shetland, and the procedures and attitude of external companies towards using local labour, require to be addressed, in order that services such as these can be undertaken by Shetland based contractors. This should result not only in improved availability and more timeous service, but also an increased level of accountability.

### 3. North Yell Development Council

North Yell Development Council (NYDC) is one of Shetland’s oldest and most successful development groups with a history stretching back to the 1940s. NYDC was established to strengthen the community and enhance the local tradition of pulling together to get things done, with a focus on making North Yell a better place to live, work and visit. From the outset the group identified the importance of Enterprise, Initiative and Self-Help, which continue to be our fundamental principles.

Over the early years the group was responsible for many initiatives and developments, including:-

- Promoting the development of the local pier in conjunction with Shetland Islands Council
- Supporting local public hall associations and other groups
- Supplying shared equipment to local crofters
- Planning, building and running a 5000 m<sup>2</sup> industrial estate
- Actively promoting various forms of renewable energy
- Attracted a considerable amount of investment into the local area
- Pursuing and representing the local community’s interests with the Local Authority and other agencies

In 2003 NYDC became a Company Limited by Guarantee (SC245227) and a registered charity (SC030659), in order to encourage even more community development and participation. The objectives of NYDC (as written in 2003) are:-

1. To relieve poverty and unemployment among the residents of North Yell
2. To advance education among the residents of North Yell, particularly among the young and the unemployed
3. To promote and/or provide training in skills of all kinds, particularly in skills that will assist residents of North Yell in obtaining employment
4. To promote/establish and operate other schemes of a charitable nature for the benefit of the community of North Yell.
5. To promote trade and industry, for the benefit of the general public

Since this time NYDC has played a very active role in the economic and social development of the area including:-

- Completion of a 4.5 MW community windfarm at Garth. This represents an £8.3m investment by NYDC in an asset which will bring benefit to the community of North Yell for many years to come.
- Construction of a 10 site extension to the industrial estate at Cullivoe Harbour, with all sites already let to local businesses and employers. Scheduled for opening in Summer 2023.
- Construction of a 28 berth marina, for commercial, recreational and tourism vessels, opened in May 2022. Almost all available berths are already allocated, with 5 berths kept for visitor use. The marina will include an amenity building with toilet, shower and laundry facilities, as well as a store for electric bikes, which is scheduled for completion in Summer 2023.
- Delivery of coronavirus survival kits to community households.
- Purchase of electric bikes and securing funding to commence Britain’s most northerly Parkrun.
- Securing of funding for a 2 year social inclusion programme to Get North Yell Going Again.

With over 50 registered members from across the community, and an active board of 12 directors, NYDC is well placed to create this 5 year Community Development Plan for North Yell.

#### 4. Community Consultation

In Spring 2022 NYDC undertook consultation to begin the process of creating a community development plan on behalf of the residents of North Yell, covering the period from 2022 to 2027. Public consultations and surveys were conducted in order to discuss and identify the issues which people in the area felt should be addressed in order to make North Yell a better place to live, work, visit and invest. This included postal surveys sent to, and online surveys open to, all residents and households in the area, as well as a very well attended full day consultation event at the Cullivoe Hall. Additional consultation was also undertaken with school aged children and local businesses. This has provided NYDC with both the evidence and mandate to develop a plan, matched to the needs and aspirations of our community, which also fits with our founding principles, namely enterprise, initiative and self-help, as well as the charitable nature of our organisation. Summary outcomes of this consultation are detailed below.

##### 4.1 Development Priorities

Respondents were asked to assess development priorities for the area, under the following headings:-

- Housing
- Business and Industry
- Environment and Land Use
- Tourism
- Young People
- Older Generation

Scored ranked results are detailed below.

Priority	Rank
Improved connectivity, broadband access	1
Create quality jobs for young people to stay/return	2
Ensure warm, safe comfortable accommodation	3
Make North Yell an attractive place to live	4
Increase renewable energy availability e.g. heating	5
Support medical services in the area	6
Increase in trades and apprenticeships	7=
Develop cultural and environmental assets	7=
Increased cafes/eateries	7=
Increased local training opportunities	8=
Increased opportunities for career development	8=
Increased tourism accommodation/campsite	9
Improved recycling, waste management, skips	10
Improve access to events/services	11
Provision of local business advice and support	12=
Enhance environmental assets/natural environment	12=
Increased marine tourism	13
Increase availability of rented accommodation	14=
Support for new builds	14=
Provide transport for young/youth groups	15
Identify suitable properties for renovation	16
Increased access to land for young families	17
Increased access to land for new businesses	18
Provision of allotments/polytunnels	19
Reduce dependency on public sector employment	20
Purchase land for new builds	21

From the above it can be seen that the top 5 priorities identified in the consultation were:-

- Improved connectivity
- Quality jobs
- Warm accommodation
- Attracting people to live in North Yell
- Increased renewable energy

#### 4.2 Potential Development Projects

Respondents were asked opinion in relation to potential development opportunities for the area. Scored ranked results are detailed below.

Opportunity	Rank
Support provision of childcare	1
Provision of community skips	2
Support transport requirements for all ages.	3
Support socialising opportunities for all ages	4
NYDC office and community hub	5=
Support for local business start ups	5=
Increase opportunity for local recycling	6
Support training for individuals and groups/businesses	7
Support for new build and renovated housing	8
Establish a Heritage Centre	9
Community polytunnels and allotments	10=
Outdoor play and seating area at Cullivoe Hall	10=
Upgrading and maintenance of locally owned assets	11
Renovation of the Old Mill	12
All weather entrance area at the Cullivoe Hall	13
Further development at the Gloup Memorial	14=
Recladding and extension of Sellafirth Hall	14=
Outdoor play area and polycrub at Sellafirth Hall	14=
Further development at the Galley Shed	15=
Increased ownership of buildings for community usage	15=
Renovation of the Coastguard Hut	16

From the above it can be seen that the top 5 opportunities identified in the consultation were:-

- Childcare provision
- Community skips
- Support for transport
- Support for socialising
- NYDC office/community hub
- Support for local business start up

Interesting among this is the top ranking of childcare provision, given the falling number of school age children in North Yell. This further highlights the fact that the community has seen a lack of childcare as the reason for a number of young families leaving the area.

### 4.3 NYDC Community Representation

Respondents were asked their opinion in relation to priorities for NYDC in representing the community. Scored ranked results are detailed below.

NYDC Representation	Rank
Connectivity and mobile/broadband access	1
Fixed link Yell Sound	2
Fixed link Bluemull Sound	3
Rising energy cost and fuel poverty	4
Childcare	5
Social exclusion and isolation/transport issues	6
Renewables development and decarbonisation	7
Restrictions on current Cullivoe to Gutcher Road	8
Healthy living/health improvement	9
Covid recovery – both economic and social	10
Centralisation of services	11

From the above it can be seen that the top 5 areas identified in the consultation were:-

- Connectivity
- Fixed links
- Rising energy costs/fuel poverty
- Childcare

It should be noted that this survey was undertaken prior to the most recent rises in energy prices. Given that it is now estimated an average annual household electricity bill in North Yell is likely to be over £11,000 by April 2023, it has been assumed that energy prices and fuel poverty are currently the top priority for community representation by NYDC.

### 4.4 Other Comments Made

Summarised comments made and issues raised included:-

#### Development Priorities

- Cullivoe road upgrade required for development to occur
- Better ferry service or fixed links required for population growth
- Development of houses, job and facilities for families required
- Need to ensure people can afford to stay
- Need for more social events
- Undertake a housing demand survey
- Graduate placement opportunities
- Supporting opportunities for women
- Balance between nature and climate emergency and increasing biodiversity
- Farming diversification and farmers markets
- Repair of the old hill road
- Old cars

### Development Opportunities

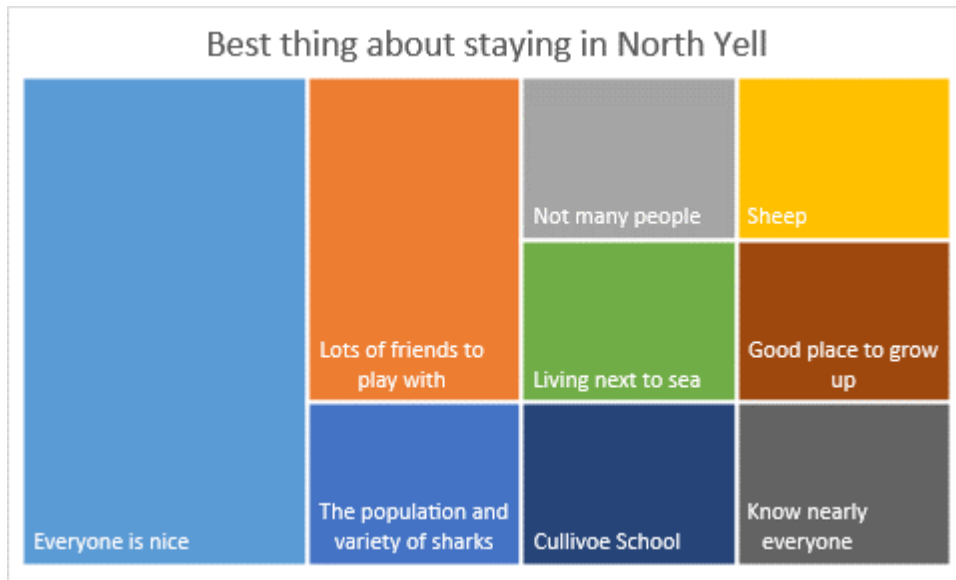
- Long term plan required for use of windfarm funds
- Community must not become too dependent on NYDC funding
- Garth income to be used to tackle fuel poverty
- Unbiased renewable energy advice
- Interest free loans for renewables
- Connectivity key to development
- Mix of profit making and non-profit development required
- More tourism, have a Yellfest, puffin trail, otter trail
- Bruckland scheme like Northmavine
- More electric car chargers
- Independent carer service
- Larger Cullivoe Hall development including new kitchen
- Community sixareen linked to heritage centre
- More community events

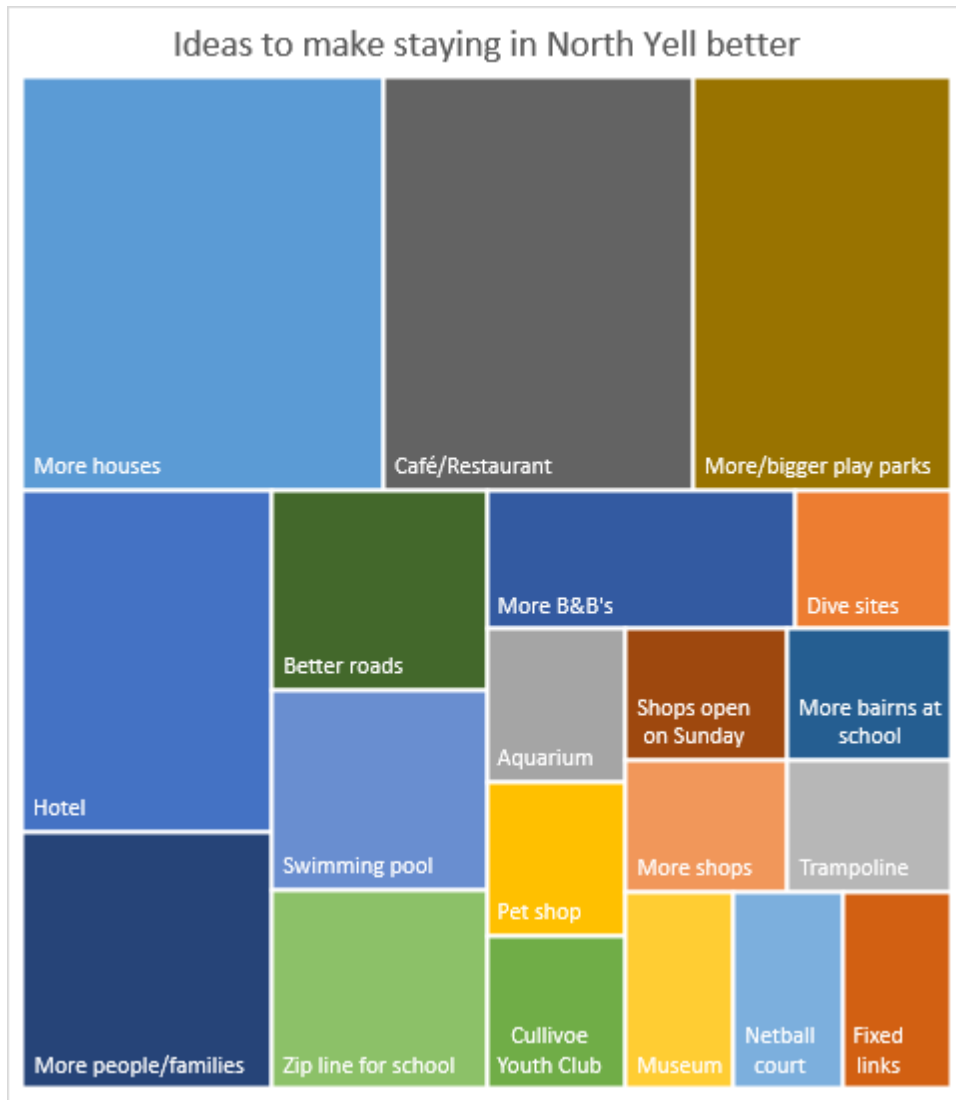
### NYDC Community Representation

- I am proud to be part of this community, and of what NYDC has achieved to date. Keep up the fantastic work
- Current model of encouraging industry by providing infrastructure is good and should be continued
- Strongly support lobbying by NYDC, but pick your battles
- Need to be looking at the longer term, 15+ years
- NYDC strategy needs to first identify the threats and opportunities we face as a community
- Key threat is depopulation of those of a family age, mainly due to childcare issues
- Help households to get renewables and tackle rising cost of living
- Work with all local employers and external agencies to promote employment
- Concern about large scale renewables development
- Direct involvement in housing could be a minefield
- Encourage the SIC to remember us in their housing policies

### **4.5 Bairns**

Consultation was undertaken with pupils at the Cullivoe Primary School, their thoughts are depicted in the graphics below. Boxes are sized to reflect the numbers of children providing the same answer.





#### 4.6 Outcome of Consultation

It is clear that many issues are of common concern to people of North Yell, and a number of opportunities are available for our community to try and tackle these. Of most concern to the community currently are:-

- Rising energy costs and fuel poverty, warm accommodation and the rising cost of living
- Increased renewable energy information and support
- Attracting people, particularly families, to live in North Yell, including childcare, housing and jobs
- Improved connectivity
- Fixed links
- Support for local business, NYDC office, community hub
- Support for socialising including transport provision

This Community Development Plan outlines how we can continue to work progressively, to make positive and lasting change within our community. It takes account of ongoing development work and identifies a direction for future development and growth. It should be noted that this plan is a working document which will be updated and amended as circumstances dictate in order to remain relevant and responsive to the needs of our community.



## 5. Vision, Priorities and Actions

### 5.1 Vision

**Our vision for North Yell over the next 5 years is...**

*To remain a thriving community, both socially and economically.  
To sustain and grow our population, and support and diversify our economic base.  
Through tackling any challenges we might face, and  
taking full advantage of any opportunities which might arise.*

**Our vision for NYDC over the next 5 years is...**

*To support the community of North Yell to remain an amazing place  
to live, work, visit and invest, through enterprise initiative and self-help*

### 5.2 Research and Consultation Outcomes

Based on the research and consultation undertaken, the following priorities and actions have been identified for the community of North Yell. There are areas where direct action can be undertaken locally. However, there are other issues where we can only take action to try and influence others to support, or act in the best interests, of our community. In addition, there will be times when it is appropriate to pursue issues solely on behalf of the community of North Yell, and others where it is more appropriate to collaborate or join forces, whether that be for the island of Yell as a whole, the Northern Isles, Shetland, or with other island or rural/remote areas. As a community we are both willing and open to taking action at a level beyond our community, in order to strengthen and improve the viability of our community.

Whilst we can not predict the level of funds that may become available from Garth to invest in the community over the next 5 years, it is anticipated that the windfarm will generate revenue, which NYDC can in turn direct toward community projects. That said, any funds available will be targeted at priority projects, and used wherever possible to lever in external funding. Projects will only be solely funded by NYDC where they are of significant benefit to our community, and no alternative funding can be identified.

### 5.3 Priorities for Action

#### Population

- Need to sustain and grow the population of North Yell
- Focus on families and those of working age
- Links to associated issues of housing, employment and childcare

### **Housing**

- Lack of housing to enable population growth and retention
- Low levels of social and private rented properties and private housing turnover
- Number of vacant dwellings in a poor state of repair
- Increase in second and holiday homes
- Negative equity

### **Transport**

- Restrictions placed on Cullivoe to Gutcher road
- Extremely limited public transport options
- Ferry service disruption and timetabling
- Significant costs for businesses operating into and out of the area
- Issues for time sensitive seafood goods both landed and processed at Cullivoe Harbour
- Limits on mobility of labour, access to services and social opportunities
- Longer term solution fixed links to sustain and grow population and economic activity

### **Business, Industry and Jobs**

- Sustain and grow current economic activity levels particularly in relation to seafood, lifeline community services, and growing sectors such as tourism
- Ensure Cullivoe Harbour remains an accessible and viable port, at the forefront of new advances and developments
- Diversify and broaden the economic base, including increasing remote working, and opportunities which may arise from onshore/offshore renewables or decarbonisation
- Remain open to any further development opportunities which may arise
- Support local businesses, business start-up and the creation of employment
- Support childcare provision to enhance access to employment
- Encourage skills development within the workforce

### **Digital Connectivity**

- Improve digital connectivity including broadband, fibre and 4g access and speeds
- Encourage and support remote working to improve access to employment

### **Utilities**

- Improve access to both private and commercial electricity and water connections and meters

### **Energy**

- Rising energy costs represent a significant and immediate threat to the future viability of our community
- Highlight and assess resident population in, or at risk of, fuel poverty
- Highlight and assess issues relating to higher energy costs and consumption
- Highlight and assess energy efficiency issues with properties
- Support measures to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs

### **Decarbonisation**

- Participate in CNI to address climate change, and create a more sustainable community
- Undertake achievable actions from outputs of CNI to enhance environmental and economic sustainability, including ways to help address the current energy crisis

### **Environment and Land Use**

- Increase renewable energy information and opportunities
- Provision of recycling opportunities and community skips
- Provision of allotments and polytunnels

### **Social**

- Maintain and grow our sense of community and strength in terms of social relationships, sense of belonging and satisfaction as a place to live
- Increase and encourage social interaction and reduce social exclusion particularly among the most vulnerable and at risk within our area, including the provision of transport
- Explore measures to tackle the rising cost of living

### **Heritage**

- Preserve our physical and cultural heritage

### **Young People**

- Create opportunity for the young to live, work and socialise in our community
- Provide opportunities for skills development

### **Older Generation**

- Reduce social exclusion and support access to social activities
- Support access to medical services and warm safe accommodation
- Encourage participation in the preservation of our cultural heritage

### **Garth**

- Maintain sustainability of Garth to ensure funds are created to invest in our community

### 5.4 Actions

Action	Predicted Outcome/Impact	Timescale	Partners/Funders
<b>Population</b>			
Lobby for and address issues relating to population retention and growth such as access to housing, employment and childcare.	Stabilisation and growth of population in North Yell. To increase the resident population by 10% or 22 by 2027.	Ongoing	SIC, Hjaltland, HIE, local businesses and landowners
Marketing drive to promote North Yell to families and those of working age, as a place to move or return to.	To increase and rebalance the population demographic, prioritising those under 65, with employment in North Yell or beyond, and school aged children.	2023/24	Promote Shetland, other media outlets
<b>Housing</b>			
Compile and keep an up-to-date register of all accommodation available for sale, rent or renovation in area	Provide clarity for those looking to move to North Yell, encourage people to move into the area, boost population.	2023 onwards	Hjaltland, SIC, local property owners
Lobby for increased levels of social and private rented housing	Increase the housing stock supply and boost population.	Ongoing	Hjaltland, SIC, local property owners
Approach local land owners to assess potential availability of land for future development and compile and keep an up-to-date register	Identify potential sites for development, making it easier for both landowners and potential buyers/builders, encourage new developments, boost population.	2023 onwards	Local land owners, potential home builders
Investigate the possibility of developing community housing in North Yell, with priority for workers and families with school age children.	Stabilise and grow the population of North Yell, rebalance the population demographic. Provide affordable quality housing, labour for businesses and increase the school roll.	2023/24	Communities Housing Trust, Scottish Land Fund, local businesses and landowners
Compile a register of vacant dwellings including state of repair. Approach owners regarding plans for the property	Identify potential properties for redevelopment, encourage new development, boost population.	2024	Local property owners
Compile a register and monitor levels of second and holiday homes in the area	Provide clarity in relation to growth in numbers of these properties, and assess trends	2023 onwards	Local property owners
Investigate the potential to provide support toward negative equity for new build housing in the area.	Mitigate risk for house builders. Help bridge the gap between build cost and available loan finance. Boost population.	2025	Potential home builders
<b>Transport</b>			
Lobby for restrictions on the existing Cullivoe to Gutcher road to be removed	Remove restrictions on development in the area	2022/23	SIC roads dept
Lobby for improved public transport links to, from and within North Yell, including new Cullivoe to Gutcher road and ferry services	Allow access to employment, services and social activities for residents and visitors.	Ongoing	Zettrans, SIC ferries
Lobby for and support research relating to the development of fixed links on both Yell Sound and Bluemull Sound	Allow unrestricted access to employment, services and social activities for residents and visitors. Sustain and grow population and economic activity	Ongoing	MSP, MP, SIC, HIE, community councils, tunnel action groups, businesses and individuals Scottish and UK governments

<b>Business, Industry and Jobs</b>			
Complete 28 berth marina at Cullivoe Harbour	Support business, leisure and tourism activities; sustain and create employment and economic activity; increase income and assets of NYDC	May 2022	RCGF, Crown Estate, SIC EDU, Charitable Trust, local contractors
Complete amenity building and site servicing, including renewables development, for marina and caravan park operations.	Support business, leisure and tourism activities; sustain and create employment and economic activity; increase income and assets of NYDC	2023	RCGF, SIC EDU, CLLD, Charitable Trust, local contractors
Complete extension to NYDC’s existing industrial estate at Cullivoe Harbour	Support existing businesses to expand their operations, encourage new business into the area, generate new employment opportunities, increase the income and assets of NYDC	2023	RCGF, SIC EDU, HIE, MFS, Charitable Trust, local contractors
Community Shop	Investigate the possibility of establishing a community shop in North Yell	2023	Local busi, external advisors and funders
Provide business advice and information, including business planning, start-up and grants	Promote enterprise, encourage people to establish and grow their own businesses, increase employment opportunities and economic activity	2022 onwards	Business gateway, HIE, SIC
Establish office hub and facilities for use by small local businesses, including support services	Support local businesses to develop and grow, increased income into the local community, generate new employment opportunities and increase the income and assets of NYDC.	2023/24	Business gateway, HIE, SIC
Promote and coordinate training requirements of local businesses and individuals, including apprenticeships	Encourage local people to develop themselves and their employability, help ensure that local businesses and voluntary groups remain up to date and legally qualified for the work they do.	2023 onwards	Train Shetland, UHI outreach, NILP, Skills dev. Scotland, Local business and individuals
Lobby for improved childcare provision to enhance access to employment within the area	Improve access to employment for working families, boost population, increase school roll	Ongoing	SIC
Lobby on behalf of, support, sustain and grow economic activity levels particularly in relation to seafood, lifeline community services, and growing sectors such as tourism	Sustain and grow economic activity and employment within the area. Sustain and grow population. Ensure viability of community.	Ongoing	Local businesses, external advisors and funders
Lobby on behalf of, encourage or undertake further development to ensure Cullivoe Harbour remains an accessible and viable port	Sustain and grow most significant area of economic activity and employment within the area. Sustain and grow population. Ensure viability of community.	Ongoing	SIC
Seek to diversify and broaden the economic base, including increasing remote working, and opportunities which may arise from onshore/offshore renewables or decarbonisation	Sustain and grow economic activity and employment within the area. Sustain and grow population. Ensure viability of community.	Ongoing	Public bodies, private businesses
Establish an NYDC training grant scheme	Encourage local people, businesses and voluntary groups to develop	2023	Local businesses, groups and people

Establish an NYDC business and voluntary group grant scheme	Encourage local businesses and voluntary groups to develop and grow	2023	Local groups and businesses
<b>Digital Connectivity and Utilities</b>			
Lobby to improve digital connectivity including broadband, fibre and 4g access and speeds.	Improve business efficiency, encourage and support remote working, improve social connectivity and access to services	Ongoing	MP, MSP, SIC, BT
Lobby to improve access to both private and commercial electricity and water connections and meters	Remove barriers to development, encourage business development and house building	2023	MP, MSP, Scottish Water, SSE
<b>Energy</b>			
Lobby to highlight rising energy costs, fuel poverty, energy efficiency issues, heightened charges and consumption	Raise awareness of heightened energy costs and fuel poverty within North Yell, and potential improvements and savings which could be made.	Immediate	MP, MSP, Scottish and UK gov, SIC, energy suppliers, local businesses and households
Undertake household and business survey in relation to energy costs, fuel poverty and energy efficiency	Increase evidence of fuel poverty and energy issues within North Yell. Seek potential ways to mitigate this.	2023	CNI, local businesses and households
Source and provide advice relating to energy usage, potential savings and available support and finance	Improve information flow, increase efficiency, reduce consumption and help alleviate fuel poverty	2022 onwards	CNI, CAB, Heatsave Shetland, SIC, local businesses and households
Investigate measures to directly alleviate fuel poverty in North Yell	Reduce fuel poverty and improve community viability	2022 onwards	MP, MSP, Scottish and UK gov, SIC, energy suppliers, CNI, local businesses and households
<b>Decarbonisation</b>			
Participate in the Carbon Neutral Islands Project	Yell to become carbon neutral by 2040.	2022 onwards	CNI, CES, Yell steering group
Undertake achievable actions from initial outputs of CNI	Enhance environmental and economic sustainability, including ways to help address the current energy crisis	2023 onwards	CNI, CES, Yell steering group, Scottish Gov
<b>Environment &amp; Land Use</b>			
Continue to monitor, assess and participate in renewables, marine energy and marine fuel developments and projects as appropriate	Potential investment into community, potential creation of local jobs, increased awareness of North Yell as a potential development site. Maintain viability of Cullivoe Harbour	Ongoing	Orion, SIC, Scottish Gov, onshore/ offshore renewables and marine fuel developers
Investigate provision of community skips and waste management facilities	Safe, environmentally friendly disposal of waste items (Oil, Tyres, Bulky Items, Cars & Machinery)	2023	UP, SIC, CNI, YCC
Creation of community polycrubs, allotments and composting facilities at former Cullivoe playpark and Sellafirth Hall	Provide secure, covered and serviced spaces for community to grow own produce, provide composting facilities to reduce landfill waste and carbon emissions	2023/24	SIC, CNI, NCDC, Transition Turrifield
Review, raise awareness and enhance recycle/ upcycle/re-use opportunities in the local area	Greater amounts of materials recycled, reduced carbon emissions, community members able to participate	2023	Yell for Cancer Support, CNI, SIC

Increase information and encourage small-scale renewable energy projects	Reduced carbon emissions and increased community resilience	2023 onwards	CNI, CES, Heatsave Shetland
Approach local land owners to assess potential availability of land for future improvement or development	Make better use of land, provide more land for crofting/building purposes, encourage people to become more active in working the available land	2023 onwards	Crofting Commission, Land owners
<b>Tourism</b>			
Develop a caravan park at the Cullivoe Harbour	Encourage tourism, provide employment opportunities, enhance economic activity	2027	Currently held up by road restrictions
Support café and eatery projects in North Yell	Encourage tourism, provide places for local people to eat out, employment opportunities, enhance economic activity	2023 onwards	Local halls, groups and businesses
Support community and business projects which enhance tourism within the area	Encourage tourism, provide employment opportunities, enhance economic activity	2023 onwards	Local halls, groups and businesses
Investigate viability of community hotel/chalet facilities, and if appropriate proceed with development	Encourage tourism, provide accommodation for local people’s family and friends, employment opportunities, enhance economic activity	2026	HIE, SIC, SLF, YCC
<b>Social</b>			
Operate the Get North Yell Going Again project	Encourage social interaction for all ages and tackle social exclusion. Build on and increase levels of volunteering.	2022 - 2024	Lottery, local halls and groups, advice agencies
Foster and support projects which maintain and grow social activities and interaction within our community.	Maintain and grow levels of satisfaction in relation to sense of community, strength of social relationships, sense of belonging and satisfaction as a place to live	2022 onwards	Local halls, groups, businesses and individuals
Lobby for and collaboratively support provision of transport for social events	Encourage social interaction for all ages and tackle social exclusion.	2022 onwards	Community groups on Yell/North Isles, Zettrans, SIC, YCC, external funders
Explore measures to tackle rising cost of living	Raise awareness of heightened costs within North Yell, and potential mitigation which could be made. Improve information flow and community viability.	2022 onwards	SIC, CAB, community groups, advice agencies
Undertake household and business survey in relation to rising cost of living	Increase evidence of rising cost of living within North Yell. Seek potential ways to mitigate this.	2023	Local businesses and households
Support Sail Yell event to coincide with Tall Ships Race cruise in company	Encourage social interaction for all ages, tackle social exclusion and promote North Yell as a place to visit.	2023	Sail Yell, Sail Shetland, Swan Trust, SIC, Coastal Communities, community groups and businesses,
Explore Yellfest, Party at the Pier Annual Event.	Encourage social interaction for all ages, tackle social exclusion and promote North Yell as a place to visit.	2024	Community groups and businesses

<b>Heritage</b>			
Explore the establishment of a heritage centre in North Yell	Encourage Tourism, collate/preserve local historical information.	2025	Old Haa, Yell History Group, local people
Explore the potential to undertake an oral history project in North Yell	Collate/preserve local historical information.	2023	Old Haa, Yell History Group, local people SAT, SAMT, SCT
<b>Young People</b>			
Carry out an audit of seasonal employment opportunities available to young people and share/advertise these within the local community.	Encourage young people to seek seasonal employment, develop their employability skills, support local employers to meet their staffing needs	2023 onwards	Local employers, HIE, NILP
Audit local opportunities for young people to attend youth groups and social activities on a regular basis. Advertise locally in shops, schools, online	Encourage involvement in various activities, young people better at socialising and develop skill set, raised fitness levels, local groups better supported	2023 onwards	SRT, SIC, NILP, Schools, Halls, youth groups on Yell and in North Isles
Investigate possible transport solutions for these activities, transport pool, use of public transport, providing subsidised transport	Equality of access for all young people, encouraged participation, parents feel supported, encourage people to move to the area.	2023	Transport Providers, SIC, YCC, youth groups on Yell and in North Isles
Investigate and support training opportunities for local young people in various subjects which would benefit their chances of employment or securing further training/education.	Young people better skilled and motivated, local employers able to identify training required, young people do not need to travel far for training, increased chances of employment	2023 onwards	NILP, Train Shetland, SIC, Local employers, NYDC grant scheme
<b>Older Generation</b>			
Ensure all Senior Citizens in North Yell are aware of and have access to information regarding the schemes and entitlements they have available to them.	Reduced fuel poverty, increased standards of living, improved housing stock, improved health, better communication between senior citizens and other agencies	2022 onwards	SIC, YCC, CAB, NHS, community groups and public agencies
Audit recreational activities available to senior citizens on the island of Yell, collate information and advertise/share.	Increase social opportunities for senior citizens, help promote local groups, decrease isolation of residents	2023 onwards	YCC, NILP, SRT, Islehaven, SIC, NHS
Investigate the need for transport for senior citizens in the North of Yell	Provide access to social activities, support to attend medical appointments	2023	Transport Providers, SIC, NHS, voluntary groups on Yell and in North Isles
Establish a group of volunteers who would be willing and available to support the transport needs of senior citizens in our area, and/or operate a delivery service for groceries and prescriptions	Develop voluntary sector in North Yell, increase multigenerational relationships, decrease isolation of senior citizens.	2023 onwards	All residents of North Yell
Encourage and support senior citizens within our community to share their memories and knowledge of North Yell over time.	Collate/preserve local cultural heritage and historical information.	2023 onwards	Old Haa, Yell History Group, local individuals



<b>Garth</b>			
Maintain sustainability of Garth windfarm	Ensure funds are created to invest in our community	2022 - 2027	External contractors and finance providers
Lobby for and support filling skills gaps within Shetland related to maintenance and repair of renewables infrastructure	Improved availability, output and income, more timeous service, and increased level of accountability.	Ongoing	UHI, HIE, local businesses, other renewable operators
<b>NYDC</b>			
Maintain a full board of 12 directors from a wide spectrum within the community	Ensure full community representation on NYDC.	2022 - 2027	Local individuals
Maintain a Development Manager.	Enable progression of this development plan, and management of NYDC's existing and future operations. Promote and assist economic and social development within the area.	2022 - 2027	
Maintain a Project Co-ordinator for Get North Yell Going Again	Encourage social interaction for all ages and tackle social exclusion. Build on and increase levels of volunteering.	2022 - 2024	Lottery
Act as anchor organisation and maintain an Environment Officer to support the CNI project	Yell to become carbon neutral by 2040. Enhance environmental and economic sustainability, including ways to help address the current energy crisis	2022 - 2024	CNI, CES, Yell steering group
Maintain an office at the Schoolhouse in Cullivoe	NYDC presence and focal point within the community	2022 - 2027	Primary school
Explore additional premises to expand services of NYDC	Reinforce presence within the community and expand/enhance services offered by NYDC	Ongoing	
Develop website to highlight the activities and achievements of NYDC; as well as the area North Yell.	Promote North Yell as an amazing place to live, work, visit and invest	2023 onwards	Digital Boost, NB Communications
Represent and lobby on behalf of the community of North Yell, and maintain links and memberships with relevant groups and other areas.	Keep abreast of issues that will impact on the area, both positively and negatively. Collaborate with others to promote the interests of our community.	Ongoing	DTAS, SIF, Orion, Scottish Renewables. H&I climate hub
Operate the existing Cullivoe Harbour Industrial Estate	Support businesses to conduct their operations, encourage new business into the area, maintain and generate new employment opportunities, increase the income and assets of NYDC	2022 - 2027	Local businesses
Operate 28 berth marina at Cullivoe Harbour	Support business, leisure and tourism activities; sustain and create employment and economic activity; increase income and assets of NYDC	2022 - 2027	Local businesses and individuals, visitors to the area
Operate amenity building for marina and caravan park operations.	Support business, leisure and tourism activities; sustain and create employment and economic activity; increase income and assets of NYDC	2023 - 2027	Local businesses and individuals, visitors to the area

Operate extension to NYDC's existing industrial estate at Cullivoe Harbour	Support existing businesses to expand their operations, encourage new business into the area, generate new employment opportunities, increase the income and assets of NYDC	2023 - 2027	Local businesses
Operate caravan park at Cullivoe Harbour	Support leisure and tourism activities; sustain and create employment and economic activity; increase income and assets of NYDC	2027	Visitors to the area
Recruit and where appropriate secure external funding for further members of staff to support community projects.	Support the community of North Yell to remain an amazing place to live, work, visit and invest, through enterprise initiative and self-help	2022 - 2027	External funders
Support and where appropriate secure external funding for further business, community, economic and social development projects.	Support the community of North Yell to remain an amazing place to live, work, visit and invest, through enterprise initiative and self-help	2022 - 2027	External funders