

**Subject:** Letter of Support  
**From:** Yell CC <clerk.ycc@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 23/09/2025, 20:28  
**To:** "jim.wilson@ed.ac.uk" <jim.wilson@ed.ac.uk>

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Yell Community Council wholeheartedly supports Viking Genes initiative 'Shetland Community Screening Project' which proposes screening 5000 members of the Shetland population to ascertain identifying actionable genes which could lead to preventative actions to improve community health.

The original Viking study identified Yell as an area with high incidences of particular genes. From the original study findings, a number of individuals with actionable genes were identified and had follow up investigations to ascertain how these genes may affect them. This early intervention has ensured that conditions were actioned and/or monitored.

The proposed Shetland Community Screening Project will follow on from this work ensuring a greater number of residents are identified and appropriate actions are taken. The costs of undertaking this work is £1 million and although there have been a number of magnificent local fundraising activities, £1 million is an immense target to attain within our small population.

Residents from all areas of Shetland were identified in the earlier study, and no doubt all areas will be impacted in this future study. We therefore wholeheartedly support the request for funding from the Shetland Community Benefit Fund.

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