



## SFT connect

Positive Impacts  
2016



## Calls on Coll

Modern digital connectivity is an essential component of creating a successful country. For businesses and social enterprises it enhances productivity and drives innovation. In rural communities it has the potential to boost economic development, retain young people and attract new residents.

An example of the impact good connectivity delivers can be illustrated on the island of Coll after SFT became involved.

Being able to use a mobile phone, no matter where you are, is regarded as a vital element of modern living. But on the Isle of Coll, the remoteness and rugged landscape of the Inner Hebridean island meant there has never been a mobile reception which impacts negatively on local businesses, the community and tourist trade. The fact that mobile phone operators would not deliver mobile services using their standard business models meant a solution was urgently required.

Working in partnership with numerous stakeholders including Development Coll (a community trust set up to generate income through local enterprise), SFT developed an innovative and long-term solution to the islander's problem with a state-of-the-art telecoms mast (funded by Scottish Government), now owned and maintained by Development Coll, with the mobile network supplied by Vodafone.

The Isle of Coll was the first Scottish island to have 4G mobile coverage which is now opening up many commercial opportunities for local businesses, such as that owned and run by Pete Mackay, that are taken for granted on the mainland.

Working on that project SFT was able to develop additional approaches that today sees Orkney and Shetland joining Coll as being 4G connected.



**£13bn**

When Scotland becomes  
digital world-leader, economy  
is predicted to grow by  
**£13 billion**



**4G**

Orkney and Shetland now  
4G connected