

2.9.26

**Jersey Employment Trust Executive Officer Penelope Shurmer to stand down**

Penelope (Penny) Shurmer, Executive Officer of the Jersey Employment Trust (JET), will stand down from her role in November 2026 to focus on her health and wellbeing.

JET is an independent charitable trust that provides a specialist employment service for Islanders who have a disability or long-term health condition. It delivers its work through three main areas: the Employment Service, the Acorn Training and Development Service, and its social enterprise, Acorn Enterprises (Acorn Reuse, plant nursery and Woodshack).

During Mrs Shurmer's tenure as Executive Officer, JET has continued to grow its reach and impact while navigating a period of rising demand, increasing complexity and financial uncertainty. Under her leadership the organisation has, among other achievements:

- \*Supported 516 client referrals in 2025, sourced 114 new jobs and 52 new work experience placements, and maintained an 81% job retention rate for roles held beyond six months.

- \*Launched the JET Ambassadors programme in March 2025, in memory of the late Dean Lowe, which has grown from eight founder members to a network of more than 25 Ambassadors contributing over 700 volunteer hours.

- \*Delivered significant economic and social value, with independent analysis estimating some £7 million in economic value and £10.3 million in social value — a total net value of around £15 million, or £1.70 for every £1 spent.

- \*Grown Acorn Enterprises as both a commercial and social venture, with Acorn Reuse alone generating £1,363,000 in sales and diverting some 484,000 items from the waste stream in 2025.

- \*Advanced JET's sustainability commitments, including investment in electric vans and solar panels in support of the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2030.

- \*Strengthened partnerships across the Island, including the Partnership Pathway with Andium Homes and a pilot paid internship scheme with the Government of Jersey.

Announcing her decision, Mrs Shurmer said: "It has been a privilege to lead JET and Acorn Enterprises and to work alongside such a dedicated team, our clients,

our Ambassadors and our many partners across the Island. Together we have helped hundreds of Islanders secure and sustain meaningful employment, and we have shown the real difference that acceptance, adaptation and good leadership can make. I am grateful also for the public support for JET and Acorn."

Mrs Shurmer has led JET since 2022. She joined the charity after 12 years with the Government of Jersey, where she developed and led the Trackers apprentice programme and brought together Skills Jersey as its Head of Service, bringing to the role extensive knowledge of the Island's labour market, employment and skills landscape.

Dan Perkins, Acting Chair of the Board of Trustees, paid tribute to Mrs Shurmer: "On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank Penny for her outstanding dedication and commitment to JET. She has led the organisation through a demanding period and has been a passionate advocate for Islanders who have a disability or long-term health condition. We wish her every success for the future."

The Board of Trustees will shortly begin the process of recruiting a new Executive Officer.

## **Ends.**

### **Photo**

JET executive officer Penny Shurmer, pictured in 2025 showing the Lieutenant Governor His Excellency Vice Admiral Jerry Kyd CBE and his Chief of Staff Major Justin Oldridge around Acorn Woodshack



### **Notes to editors**

The Jersey Employment Trust is an independent charitable trust (registered with the Jersey Charity Commissioner: No. 158) that provides a specialist employment service for Islanders who have a disability and/or long-term health condition. JET delivers its work through the Employment Service, the Acorn Training and Development Service and its social enterprise, Acorn Enterprises (Acorn Reuse, Acorn Nursery and Acorn Woodshack). More information is available at [www.jet.co.je](http://www.jet.co.je) and [www.acorn.co.je](http://www.acorn.co.je).