

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR IMPACT



MEMBER SUPPORT

398

TOTAL
MEMBERS

276

FULL
MEMBERS

74

PROVISIONAL
MEMBERS

48

ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS

40

NEW MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATIONS



DEMOCRATIC FINANCE

92

ORGANISATIONS
SUPPORTED

11

DEMOCRATIC FINANCE
OFFERS LAUNCHED

£1,040,400

RAISED IN
COMMUNITY SHARES



COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP SUPPORT SERVICE

26

EVENTS
PRESENTED TO

734

DELEGATES

252

NEW ENQUIRIES FROM
MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SERVICE

39

SITE VISITS HAVE
BEEN COMPLETED

30

OF THE GROUPS SUPPORTED
WERE DTAS MEMBERS

32

GROUPS WERE
COSS CLIENTS



**Development
Trusts Association
Scotland**

A Thriving Community-led Network



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ANNUAL REVIEW

2024 - 2025



& MEMBERS MAP



Scan the QR code to visit our website



www.dtascotland.org.uk



**Development
Trusts Association
Scotland**

A Thriving Community-led Network



**DEMOCRATIC
FINANCE
SCOTLAND**

Transforming community wealth



**Community
Ownership
Support Service**

Development Trusts Association Scotland



Pauline Smith
Chief Executive



Welcome to the DTAS Annual Review 2024/25. This is a snapshot of the last 12 months at DTAS, including our members map. We have also created a digital, more detailed review that you can find by scanning the QR code.

The 2024/25 year has been one of continued growth, resilience and impact for DTAS as we support communities across Scotland through challenging but also exciting time of growth and development. Our membership now stands at **350 development trusts**, joined by **49 newly established groups** and 48 associate members, reflecting a strong and growing movement.

We remain at the forefront of delivering national policy on community empowerment and local infrastructure. As a core partner in the Scottish Government's Strengthening Communities Programme, we distributed nearly **£1 million** in grant funding to **30 organisations**—benefiting around a quarter of our members.

DTAS Events

DTAS has delivered a diverse range of events, accessed by full, associate, provisional and aspiring members; as well as intermediary organisations, local authorities and clients of the Democratic Finance programme and Community Ownership Support Service.



**TOTAL
EVENTS DELIVERED**
58



**ORGANISATIONS
ENGAGED**
730



**TOTAL
ATTENDEES**
1,415



Acknowledgement of Funders

DTAS gratefully acknowledges the continued financial support from the Scottish Government, including the Third Sector, Regeneration and Economy Directorates - the Social Justice, Regeneration and Social Enterprise Divisions, and the Land Reform Unit. We also appreciate this year's support from Acorns 2 Trees, along with ongoing funding from the National Lottery Community Fund for the Community Shares Scotland programme, and the William Grant Foundation for our facilities management programme. For our New Future: Former Places of Worship Programme, we are grateful to Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund for their financial support.

We continue to play an active role in the UK-wide consortium delivering the Community Ownership Fund, funded by the UK Government's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

This year also saw the launch of the UK Connectors programme, developed in partnership with our Four Nations colleagues and supported by the National Lottery UK. This exciting initiative offers a wide range of learning and support opportunities, including the Trailblazers strand—encouraging the exchange of ideas, innovation, and expertise across our networks.

DTAS Member Support

Our dedicated Development Officers provide advice and support for communities throughout their journey, from start-up onwards. By phone, email, video or face-to-face interactions, our Development Officers listen to our members and strive to identify solutions, whether that be on governance, business planning, finance, HR or other operational issues. We can also advise on engaging with your community or dealing with difficult situations. We provide specialist support on crisis, workplace wellbeing, and personal development coaching. We can refer you to expert professional advice.



Really value and appreciate the ongoing support. All staff members we have encountered go above and beyond and always so friendly - keep up the excellent work.

The support DTAS have given has been tremendous. As a small organisation, it fills you with confidence knowing that someone has your back, and that whatever you are trying to achieve, they have knowledge and connections that you need to make it happen.

“ The insights from the debates, such as the session on burnout, have provided useful information for stress management and community health, which is vital for the sustainability of my projects.

Research and Insights

The Research & Insights team has produced robust evidence highlighting the impact of community organisations by conducting a series of investigations into the DTAS membership, COSS clients, and DF clients, and wider movement. This evidence has been used to showcase the vital work delivered by community organisations on the ground and support DTAS' advocacy and policy work.

The research and insights team delivered 7 DTAS debates events in the past year, covering a diversity of issues relevant to the DTAS membership and the wider development trust movement.



DEMOCRATIC FINANCE SCOTLAND

Transforming community wealth

We supported **92 community groups** - from pubs and hubs to renewable energy projects - offering guidance on legal structures, community shares and bonds, engagement, financial modelling and more. 11 finance offers launched, raising over **£1 million** from **2,048 investors** and unlocking **£2.8 million** in grants and loans.

Our partnership with Plunkett UK has helped grow Scotland's community-owned pub network. Over the year, **41 events and webinars** were hosted, reaching more than **1,000 people**. We also co-produced the Community Shares Finance Guide and a report on shared ownership in offshore wind. A Local Legacy Giving pilot was also launched, alongside ongoing development of a Community Shares Booster Fund.

Thanks to Esme Fairbairn, Acorns 2 Trees and the Scottish Government, programme funding is secured through to 2027, supporting our next development phase.

Scan the QR code to read case studies about the organisations that benefitted from our service.



Facilities Management

The Facilities Management (FM) service continues to grow in year 3 with increased support provided to DTAS members, COSS clients and additional groups. Increased site visits have been taken place and the Facility Management Health Check has been developed and rolled out with member groups to help identify where support is needed.

“ I was very lucky to have Andrew spend a day with me and work through the myriads of requirements to be compliant in the area of FM. There were areas where I was compliant (but didn't necessarily know it), and Andrew worked with me at my pace, sometimes backtracking and finding my way forward, which increased my confidence and understanding of what was right for my premises.

Community Ownership Support Service

Development Trusts Association Scotland

The COSS team continues to support communities across the full range of services from one-to-one Advisor support, providing training and networking opportunities, Expert Help and access to a comprehensive web resource. The rolling programme of Assets for People and Place Modules for communities continued throughout year as did the CPD for Local Authorities and the TSI network.

COSS supported an unprecedented number of community cases with 252 new asset opportunities into the service. Through our collaboration with four nations partners, we helped secure £22 million for 58 community assets via the Community Ownership Fund. In December the COSS service launched our New Futures: Former Places of Worship Programme to support members and community groups who are considering taking on their former church buildings.

With the rationalisation of the Church of Scotland's estate, communities have been reacting to the closure of these key local assets with enquiries relating to church buildings rose to 35 during year. COSS has been able to secure funding from Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Fund to create dedicated advisory team to support the repurposing of these buildings. The New Future: Former Places of Worship Programme was launched in December has been funded for 3 years.



Scan the QR code to take a look at some COSS Case Studies on our website.