

ANNUAL REVIEW

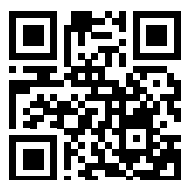
2024 - 2025



& MEMBERS MAP



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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

“ 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 times 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 just over £1 million benefiting 31 groups.

Our Community Ownership Support Service (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 and have launched our New Futures – Former Places of Workshop Programme to support members and community groups who are considering taking on their former church buildings. Our Facilities Management service extended the number of in-person site visits and responded to the increased need for targeted advice.

A key highlight was the August 2024 launch of our Democratic Finance Scotland programme, which broadened our support to include renewable energy, legacy finance and investigating community lotteries. We supported 92 groups and launched 10 new community share offers.

With 236 delegates, including 100 unique members, attending our annual conference, DTAS continues to bridge policy and grassroots practice—championing community-led development across Scotland.



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 for the support of Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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. This year we are also pleased to welcome new support from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, to help us grow our Democratic Finance programme and expand community access to innovative finance solutions.

In addition to the direct support for DTAS capacity to provide support to communities across Scotland, our funders have enabled us to create funding streams that our members can directly access for expert help, capacity building and development. The following table provides information on the distribution of these funds:

Number of Groups Supported

SCP	31	£1,010,854
COSS Expert Help	26	£23,887
Green Shoots	14	£77,313
Crisis Support	7	£11,954
DF Microgrants	6	£18,701
Pockets & Prospects	2	£20,400
FM Experts	2	£6,141



TOTAL
PAID OUT

£1,169,250



ORGANISATIONS
SUPPORTED

81

Policy and Influencing Update

DTAS continues to play a vital role in influencing national policy, ensuring the voices of our members shape decisions affecting communities across Scotland. Acting as a trusted link between government and grassroots organisations, we contribute to policies supporting community-led regeneration, local resilience and economic democracy.

In 2024/25, we engaged in major consultations and policy reviews, submitting written evidence and giving oral testimony to the Scottish Parliament on Land Reform, the Community Empowerment Act review and Community Planning Partnerships. We also responded to consultations on renewable energy, community benefits, shared ownership, Community Wealth Building, the Scottish Government budget scrutiny and the GB Energy Just Transition.

Our team presented at several Cross-Party Groups, including Housing, Social Enterprise, community-led housing, and Democratic Finance, raising awareness of community-led solutions. Our DTAS debates sessions also provided valuable forums for our members input to all our policy and lobbying work.

DTAS contributed to the Inclusive and Democratic Business Models Advisory Group under the Scottish Government's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET), as well as the Planning, Place and Infrastructure Advisory Group. In both, we advocated for economic and spatial development models centred on people and communities.

This year, we also strengthened our lobbying through the Scottish Communities Coalition on Energy, collaborating with Community Land Scotland and Community Energy Scotland to promote community-led energy initiatives.



DTAS Board Members

We thank all our Board members for their dedication and guidance. This year also saw the resignations of Alex Walker and Eric Munro, who have provided outstanding support and leadership throughout their time with DTAS. Their commitment and expertise have been invaluable, and in recognition of their exceptional contributions, we have issued Alex and Eric lifetime membership—a testament to their lasting legacy within our organisation and the wider community sector.

We look forward to continuing our important work with the support of our dedicated Board as we strive to empower communities across Scotland:

Jane Lamont Vice Chair	Tracy Thomson Treasurer (to 27.08.24)	Sandy Brunton	Andy Cuthbertson (appointed 27.08.24)	Stephen McCarron (resigned 27.08.24)	Mark McRitchie Vice Chair (to 27.08.24)	Matt Pearce (appointed 27.08.24)	Melissa Thomson (appointed 27.08.24)	Lindsay Wood
<div> Michael Roy Chair </div>								
Janet Miles Vice Chair (from 27.09.24)	Graham Black Treasurer (from 27.09.24)	Jim Bristow	Sarah Compton-Bishop (Co-opted until 27.08.24)	David Fryer	Ewen McLachlan	Eric Munro (resigned 27.08.24)*	Tom Sneddon	Alex Walker (resigned 27.08.24)*

Visit our website to read more about our board - [Our board – DTAS](#).

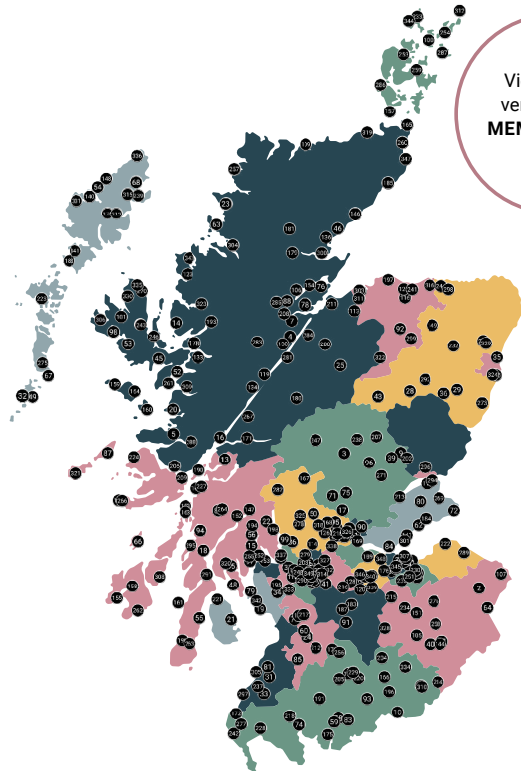


MEMBER SUPPORT

349
TOTAL
MEMBERS



View a larger
version of our
MEMBERS MAP
HERE



276
FULL
MEMBERS

74
PROVISIONAL
MEMBERS

48
ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS

40
NEW MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATIONS

A year of change for the Member Support Team included staff changes with Felix, Chris, Julia and Polly joining. Pamela and Laura left to join the Democratic Finance team and Audrey joined the COSS team as a Churches Advisor. What has remained largely the same is our core service of providing one-to-one support, visiting members, responding to enquiries and delivering training and workshops for boards and staff. We were pleased to secure approval for five new organisations to come into the Strengthening Communities Programme, as well as extending the funding for 26 members, ensuring core staff support continues through this vital programme. The Member Support Team really enjoy bringing members together, for knowledge sharing, networking and energising chats over lunch, this year we organised five events covering: Argyll, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, South Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Highland and Skye. We always want to keep on top of our resources and keep them relevant, so this year we have updated our Management Accounts guidance and created a new toolkit (Vision Mission and Values) to help members with strategic planning.

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.

SUPPORT
ON
CRISIS

SUPPORT
ON
WORKPLACE
WELLBEING

SUPPORT
ON
COACHING

“ 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.

A mini travel blog

What do oysters, £52 million and wind farm developments have in common?

These are all the things the Board of Stranraer Development Trust had to consider during their DTAS-delivered SORT-IT session. A SORT-IT session aims to help a Board develop a strategic plan across four main pillars of the organisation, namely their business model, finances, organisational structure and, most importantly for Development Trusts, their social impact.

Stranraer DT run the world-famous oyster festival. They have been instrumental in helping to develop a local place plan for Stranraer, and as such, they identified that over £52 million has been earmarked to help regenerate Stranraer. Plans for the large-scale expansion of a nearby wind farm meant there was potential for the Board to deliver even more positive change for their community.

With support from DTAS Development Officers, John and Alice, the Board worked their way through the balanced scorecard exercise to best position their organisation to take advantage of the new and emerging opportunities, whilst taking steps to safeguard their successful community activity. The result was a new 18-month strategic plan that included revising governance documents and exploring a trading subsidiary to manage the Oyster Festival—ensuring its continued success while protecting the Trust's broader mission. What began as a simple planning session, became a bold strategy for community transformation.

Member Support Evaluation Survey

To ensure our support aligns with our members needs and priorities we conducted an evaluation of our member support offering via an online survey. The survey received a total of 69 responses, an estimated 20% of our membership. We were pleased to receive a positive response to this evaluation with 100% of respondents stating that they recommended working with DTAS and that being a DTAS member is good value for money.

The survey showed that direct 1:1 support from staff was the most valued aspect of the service followed by access to networking & events and links to other organisations. This is really helpful feedback and shows where we need to target our time and resources.

The results mentioned that more targeted support around funding would be beneficial as well as more vocal lobbying and advocacy from DTAS, so this is something we'll be prioritising in the coming year.

Most respondents (49%) access DTAS services an average of 3-5 times per year. But 19% of respondents access DTAS services over 10 times per year. It's great to hear that members are making regular use of DTAS services!

MEMBER
SUPPORT
EVALUATION
SURVEY



Become a member - join DTAS Membership

Become part of our inspiring and thriving network by joining as a Full, Provisional or Supporter/Associate member. If you are not quite ready, then you can join as an aspiring member, and we can give you support. Membership of DTAS also means that our grass-roots experience is used to inform and shape the policies of national government, key funders and other important decision makers.

JOIN
DTAS
MEMBERSHIP



DTAS has enabled our organisation to develop and become an anchor organisation, without your support over the years, I am not sure our organisation would be in such a strong position at this present day.

Our staff team



Felix Spittal
Head of
Member Support



Errin Anderson
Regional Support
Development Officer
Fife, City of Edinburgh,
East Lothian and Midlothian



Alice Duthuille
Regional Support
Development Officer
Caithness & Sutherland,
Moray, Orkney Islands,
Shetland Islands



John Main
Regional Support Development Officer
West & South West Scotland - Inverclyde;
Renfrewshire; East Renfrewshire;
East and West Dunbartonshire; Glasgow City;
North, East and South Ayrshire;
North and South Lanarkshire



Lynn Molleson
Regional Support
Development Officer -
Caithness & Sutherland, Moray,
Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands



Julia Dall
Advisor - Aspiring
Development Trusts



Chris Sanderson
Regional Support
Development Officer
Argyll and Bute, Stirling,
Perth and Kinross



Polly Chapman
Regional Support
Development Officer
Highland, Western Isles,
Aberdeenshire



We have received very helpful advice and guidance from our DO. The DTAS Conference and DO Drop-ins are very useful for networking and exchanging good practice.



STAFF
CONTACT
DETAILS



CRISIS AND RESILIENCE SERVICE

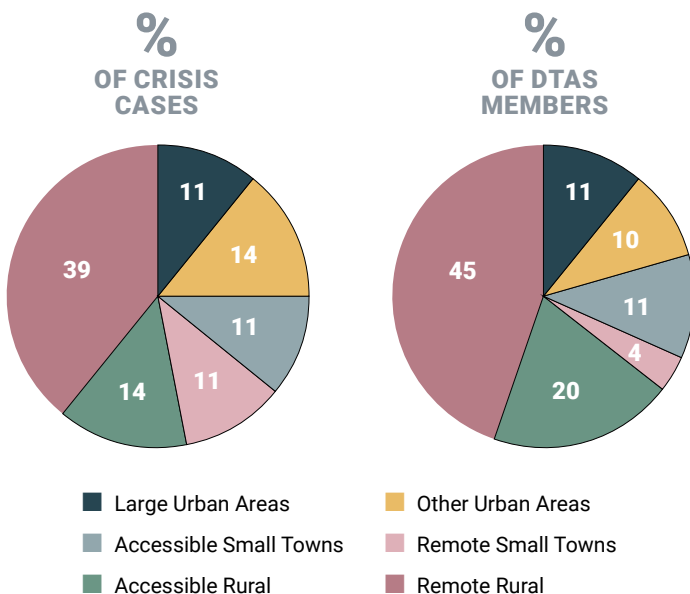
Since the inception of the DTAS Crisis and Resilience Service in November 2023, 28 DTAS members have engaged with the service. 19 have been resolved, 1 organisation wound-up and 8 cases remain active. The percentage of crisis cases occurring across urban/rural classifications aligns closely with DTAS membership figures, suggesting crisis cases are equally as common for urban and rural members.

“ We would not be here if it wasn't for DTAS.

“ There are no words. The support has been there at every turn. Just having someone to talk to that understands and doesn't judge is massive.

“ The strategy intervention that took place over 2 evenings transformed our thinking as a Board and gave us a clear way forward.

SURC (Scottish Urban Rural Classification)



Financial issues were the predominant reason for members seeking crisis support, particularly in urban cases. In rural cases, and particularly in island and remote rural members, capacity and community conflict featured more strongly.

Crisis Service - types of support provided

Support from DTAS	Number
Key Development Officer support	28
Xero/Quickbooks overview	7
Facilities Management Review + Budget (COSS)	7
Strategic Review	5
Title searches (COSS)	5

External support from partner	Number
Just Enterprise	17
HR	9
Legal	2
Accounts	1
Insolvency	2
Mediation	2
Crisis Comms	3



Lynn Molleson

Regional Support Development Officer
Caithness & Sutherland, Moray, Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands

If you'd like access to the Crisis and Resilience Service, you can email lynn@dtascot.org.uk or contact your Development Officer.



WORKPLACE WELLBEING SUPPORT SERVICE (WWSS)

“ The Workplace Wellbeing Service at DTAS has been extremely beneficial for our organisation. It has helped us develop our strategy, and ensure that the wellbeing of our employees and service users is at the forefront of how we work. The team at DTAS were extremely helpful and easy to work with, and allowed us the space to create while guiding us where needed. Introduction to Wellbeing and Wellbeing Brilliance exercise.

To determine any key themes or similarities among engaged organisations, the W&IC documented any patterns of obvious findings or particular challenges faced during assessment stage. The themes were as follows:



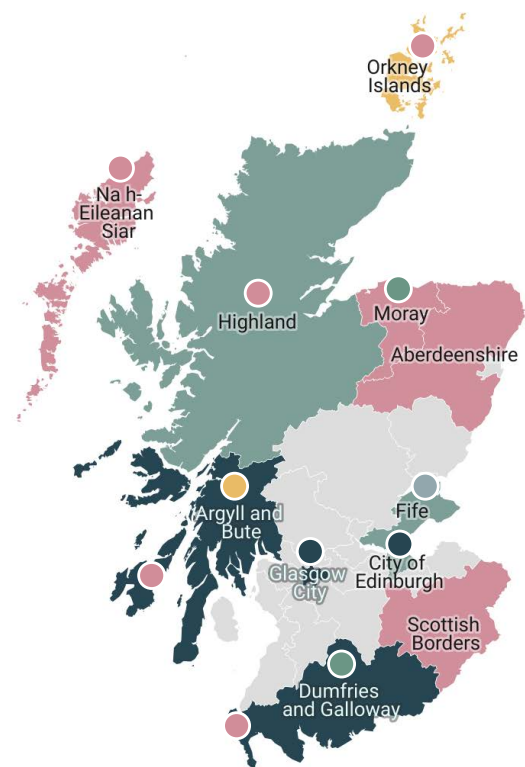
In response to these themes, over the last 12 months of implementation, the W&IC, Amy, developed tools to understand and assess development trusts based on their current level of workplace wellbeing focus. After assessment, the W&IC provided appropriate support to help them improve their focus.

Examples of support include:

- Tailored **resources** or support documents
- **Workshops or engagement sessions** on relevant themes for board and staff teams
- **Strategy reviews** co-delivered with a DTAS Development Officer
- Communication and change management support
- Signposting and **referrals to other DTAS teams**

Facilitated by the Wellbeing & Inclusion Coordinator (W&IC), the WWSS launched in April 2024 with the intention of providing tailored organisational support to DTAS members based on how to promote positive wellbeing in the workplace.

There was a total of 31 individual groups engaged in the service from April 2024 – March 2025.



Total			
Large Urban Areas	8	Edinburgh, City of	3
		Glasgow City	5
Other Urban Areas	2	Fife	2
Accessible Small Towns	5	Fife	1
		Moray	1
		Dumfries and Galloway	3
Remote Small Towns	1	Argyll and Bute	1
Accessible Rural	3	Fife	1
		Scottish Borders	1
		Aberdeenshire	1
Remote Rural	11	Na h-Eileanan Siar	1
		Highland	3
		Orkney Islands	2
		Argyll and Bute	3
		Dumfries and Galloway	2



Amy Punton

Wellbeing & Events Coordinator

If you'd like access to the Workplace Wellbeing Support Service, you can email amy@dtascot.org.uk or contact your Development Officer.



COACHING PROGRAMME

In 2024–25, delivered by Errin, the Coaching Programme supported 20 DTAS member organisations across Scotland, delivering 101 tailored sessions.

Designed to build confidence, resilience, and leadership capacity, coaching helped participants tackle challenges like burnout, communication, and boundary-setting. Each person received six one-to-one sessions with ongoing check-ins, creating space for reflection, growth, and action. The impact extended far beyond the individual, positively influencing team dynamics, organisational culture, and overall effectiveness.

More information and key stats can be found in our Coaching Programme Annual Review.



“ I no longer believe that I’m an imposter... I find it easier to show my true self and be proud of what I’ve achieved.

“ At the start of coaching I only had one tool to fix everything—now I have a toolbox.

“ I’ve been able to set boundaries in my work that have contributed positively to my work/life balance.

“ The coaching gave me clarity and confidence I never thought I’d find. It’s been life-changing.

One participant captured their journey through a creative visual story: Leo the Lion, who began as a small, unsure mouse in a vast empty space. Through coaching, Leo grew into a confident, passionate lion—able to move forward and lead change for them and their organisation.



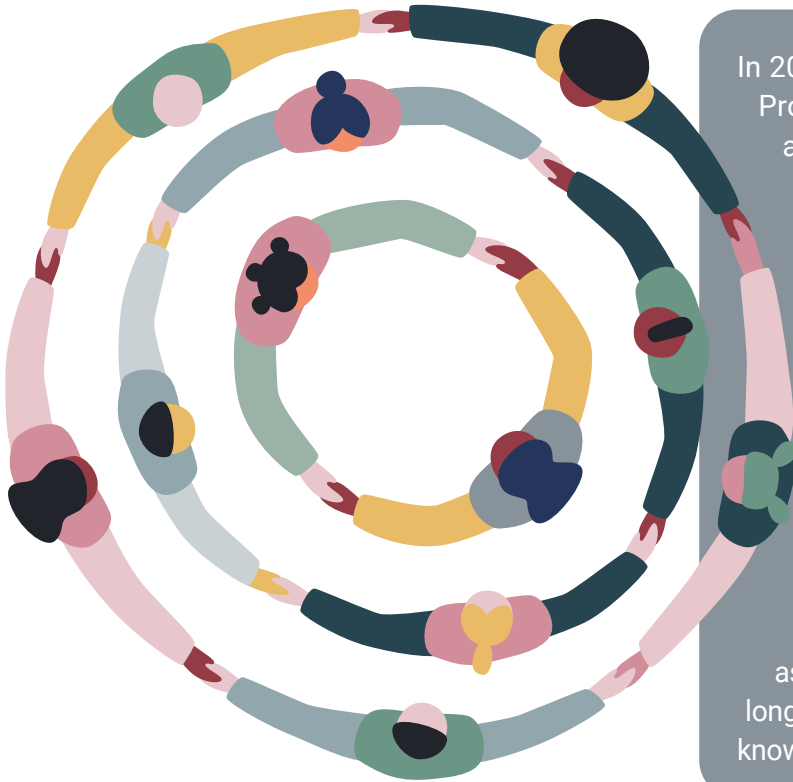
Errin Anderson

Regional Support Development Officer
Fife, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian

errin@dtascot.org.uk



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME



In 2024–25, the Strengthening Communities Programme (SCP) supported 31 community anchor organisations across Scotland, with five new groups set to join in 2025.

From 2024 to 2025, DTAS paid out £1,010,854 in funding to SCP groups. Delivered by DTAS on behalf of the Scottish Government, SCP empowers organisations to strengthen core capacity, enhance resilience, and lead community-led development. With tailored support from their SCP Development Officer, Alice or Errin, throughout the programme, members increase participation, secure and manage assets, grow social enterprises, and build long-term sustainability, ensuring those who know their communities best lead the change.

“ This grant played an instrumental part in the Trust’s growth and successful delivery towards our aims during this period. As you will be aware, it allowed for the employment of a full-time Development and Engagement Officer, the Trust’s only paid employee. Thanks to this member of staff, the Trust was able to engage further with the community it serves, create strong links with other organisations within the village, leverage further funding for specific initiatives and deliver a range of activities and programmes. This included, but was not limited to, the launch of our regular Farmers Markets, an e-bike loan scheme, various children’s holiday activity groups and a ‘Good Companions’ group.

The future of the role is now secure for a further three years following successful funding awarded from the National Lottery, allowing these initiatives to continue and new ones to develop. We are sincerely grateful for the foundation your funding provided.



Alice Duthuille

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Errin Anderson

Regional Support Development Officer
Fife, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian

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GREEN SHOOTS

Green Shoots continues to be a vital resource for members, helping fund work that addresses the thorny issues that prevent Development Trusts from moving forward. This year DTAS paid out £86,000 to members for a range of projects, meeting our aim to assess applications quickly and make decisions within three weeks. VAT advice remains one of the most common Green Shoots requests alongside legal support and other professional fees.



The DTAS Green Shoots award enabled engagement of an independent VAT specialist, who provided us with an assessment of the VAT implications of our proposed project works as well as analysis of possible governance structures. This helped us to understand that the complexities of VAT accounting and reporting outweighed any benefits we would derive from registering for VAT and being able to recover VAT on construction costs. It also guided us in recognising that, once the revenue generating parts of our Community Hub come into use, we will almost certainly benefit from establishing a trading company.



EXTERNAL SUPPORT PARTNERS

DTAS has established relationships with a range of partners to provide expert advice to members. It's been hugely beneficial to members being able to bring in specialist support from Azets (Finance), Burness Paull (Legal), Keegan & Pennykid (Insurance), Three Sides Mediation (Mediation) and STEP HR (HR). We are delighted to begin working with a new partner this year, Progress Partners who can provide support and advice on Communications to members. We're also currently exploring partnerships with another couple of organisations, so watch this space!

If you are a DTAS member and you'd like access to an external referral, contact your Development Officer.



POCKETS AND PROSPECTS

The 'Community Capacity and Resilience: Pockets and Prospects' programme (known as "Pockets and Projects") is funded by the Scottish Government and aims to mitigate the effects of poverty and build community capacity. The fund supports a community-led approach to addressing issues by providing community-anchor organisations the resource to support local groups and/or deliver essential support in partnership. A key outcome of the programme is to continue to demonstrate that communities deliver on community priorities and can achieve better outcomes when they are in control of resources.

“ Thank you for your funding, it has supported many people in our community and supported lasting, positive change.



“ We are so grateful for these funds and what they have allowed us to achieve over the past two years. Our events have provided support, comfort, friendships, community networks, improved well-being and helped people to cope with the cost-of-living crisis in so many ways. It has also helped us to secure a fantastic board member who fully understands both our work and the community we serve.

£425,529.56
OF FUNDING WAS AWARDED
TO 25 GROUPS OVER 2 YEARS



To find out more about the impact Pockets and Prospects had, read our most recent report.



This year, we launched Democratic Finance Scotland, a new programme building on DTAS's successful Community Shares Scotland initiative. It helps community-led organisations explore alternative, locally sourced finance to fund or grow community enterprises and assets.

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

172

ORGANISATIONS
SUPPORTED

2,048

CITIZENS INVESTING INTO
COMMUNITY OWNED BUSINESSES

11

DEMOCRATIC FINANCE
OFFERS LAUNCHED

40

JOBS CREATED IN
COMMUNITY OWNED BUSINESSES

£1,040,400

RAISED IN
COMMUNITY SHARES

41

WORKSHOPS DELIVERED
TO OVER 1,000 ATTENDEES



“ MOREBATTLE HUB AND PUB

We're delighted that Morebattle Hub and Pub has successfully reopened, delivering real social value for the community. With support from Democratic Finance Scotland, we raised £95,000 in community shares from 335 citizen investors - a powerful demonstration of local belief in the project. Since purchasing the property in February, we've welcomed our first residents and created local employment, including 6 part-time roles for Morebattle residents, 4 of whom are local students. Our experienced tenants have helped revitalise the space, supported by over 50 volunteers from the community. The Hub is fast becoming a vibrant centre for connection, opportunity, and local pride. We're deeply grateful for your role in making this possible.

When Kingsbarns Community Development Trust (KCDT) embarked on its campaign for a community buyout of the local Inn, we had fantastic help and support from DTAS' Democratic Finance team, who provided advice and guidance at every stage, from drafting the share offer prospectus to developing engaging marketing strategies designed to maximise engagement from the local community and beyond.

We are truly grateful to DTAS. They were instrumental in helping KCDT secure a community asset which has been embraced by the community since the successful acquisition and provided a thriving community hub with a bright future for all to enjoy.



Morven Lyon
Head of Democratic
Finance at Development
Trusts Association Scotland



Katie Little
Democratic Finance
Development Officer
at Development Trusts
Association Scotland



Laura Bedford
Democratic Finance
Development Officer
at Development Trusts
Association Scotland



STAFF
CONTACT
DETAILS

“ THE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY COALITION ON ENERGY

We are working with Community Energy Scotland and Community Land Scotland through a Coalition focused on A Fair Energy Deal for Scottish Communities. Scotland's transition to net zero by 2045 offers a major opportunity to support community-owned renewables and ensure the fair distribution of wealth from natural resources. Building on our initial paper outlining key priorities, we have produced four follow-up papers recommending specific actions for the Scottish and UK Governments. These focus on: accelerating community energy, setting new standards for benefit funds, increasing shared ownership opportunities, and establishing a Scottish Community Wealth Fund to address growing inequalities.

Visit our website
to read case studies about the
organisations that benefitted
from our service.



CASE
STUDIES

Visit our website
to access support.



SUPPORT



Isla McCulloch
Democratic Finance
Development Officer
at Development Trusts
Association Scotland



Pamela Barnes
Democratic Finance
Development Officer
at Development Trusts
Association Scotland



Community Ownership Support Service

Development Trusts Association Scotland

The past year has been an extremely busy year for the COSS Team with 252 new enquiries from members and community groups considering a wide range of assets. The 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. The team delivered workshops and presented at 26 events to 734 delegates.

NEW FUTURES:

Former Places of Worship Programme

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.

Take a look at some COSS Case Studies on our website.

COSS
CASE
STUDIES



Linda Gillespie
Head of
Community
Ownership



Fiona Taylor
COSS
Advisor



Onie Tibbitt
COSS
Advisor



Andrew Aldous
Facilities
Management
Advisor



Elspeth Mathieson
Legal
Advisor



Ruth Evans
COSS
Advisor



Duncan Wallace
COSS
Advisor



Audrey Dunn
Churches
Advisor



Harry Whitmore
Churches
Programme
Officer



Claire Martin
Churches
Advisor

ACCESS
COSS
SUPPORT

or call 0131 225 2080.



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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 taken place, and the Facility Management Health Check has been developed and rolled out with member organisations to help identify where support is needed.

Andrew, who leads on the FM service, has also worked with the Crisis Support Service to support a number of groups across the country, as well as, working with SCVO in the development and update of the Village Halls resource and in the planning and implementation of the 2025 Village Hall conference.

A new monthly webinar service has been developed and will be rolled out in year 4 with monthly FM webinars being hosted for members, each one dealing with a specific area of FM.

How do you make a closure into a successful asset that adds value to community?

Portgordon Community Trust

The Community Ownership Support Service team gets alongside communities supporting them to make successful assets out of their buildings (and land) that belongs to public, private and faith-based organisations.

The Portgordon Community Trust developed a very strong business plan as part of their Community Asset Transfer request to Moray Council for a building that now operates as a community hub, housing their offices and a café. They have also purchased the building next door from the Crown Estate Scotland which they have renovated into 3 units of holiday accommodation.

Now in the post-acquisition and development phase, the Trust has accessed the COSS Facilities Management service to help ensure that all their management practices of these complex assets are in good working order.

Speaking after a full auditing visit, Michelle Good of Portgordon Development Trust said

“ This has increased our confidence to manage the areas required for our commercial premises, helped produce processes to monitor, forecast and anticipate booking and ensuring that maintenance is completed as per requirements.

I was very lucky to have Andrew spend a day with me and work through the myriad 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. He also helped me to understand and organise files and folders in a way that I could understand and complete moving forward, such as legionella checks. Whilst a company supported me to get the paperwork in place, this didn't manifest into practical application. By the time he left, my confidence had increased ten-fold and the clarity to continue was increased. I am extremely grateful for the time I had and the way he worked with me not for me. He had a lot of patience.

THROUGH THIS SERVICE

91
GROUPS

have been supported directly in year 3. This is an increase from 75 groups who were supported in the first 2 years of the project.

39
SITE VISITS

have been completed Between April 2024 and March 2025. That is an increase from 32 site visits in the first 2 years of the project.

30
GROUPS

supported were DTAS members. 32 groups were COSS clients.

30
GROUPS

participated in the 2-day FM course.



FACE TO FACE

training sessions held in Glasgow, Moray, West Lothian and Pitlochry.



Andrew Aldous
Facilities Management Advisor

Please contact andrew@dtascot.org.uk for advice and support and to join the Facilities Management Network.



RESEARCH AND INSIGHTS

The Research & Insights team at DTAS will be completing its second year in operation in August 2025. The 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. Having lost one half of the team, Felix Richardson, who went on to complete a master's at the University of Amsterdam, DTAS R&I work moves forward lead by Research Coordinator Julia Carreiro Rolim.

DTAS DEBATES

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.

Thank you to all our panel members that participated in the sessions.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDING

February 2024 • 62 sign ups

What could an equal, consistent and transparent Community Benefit Fund landscape look like?



NATURAL CAPITAL

October 2024 • 58 sign ups

Can Development Trusts harness natural capital to truly benefit their communities, or does it risk driving inequality and exploitation?



BURNOUT IN THE SECTOR

April 2024 • 51 sign ups

A judgement-free space for DTAS members to hear from other members about their experiences of burnout in their organisation and share their experiences or questions about the issue.



COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING

December 2024 • 100 sign ups

Amid a national housing crisis, what is the role of Development Trusts in addressing the housing crisis in their communities?



DTAS DEBATES IN PERSON CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

August 2024 • DTAS Annual Conference

The in person DTAS Debates workshop at the annual conference reflected on big issues within the development trust movement that had arisen from the DTAS 2023 Membership survey. These issues included Community Benefit Funding, Representation, and Asset Ownership.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, REPRESENTATION AND INCLUSION

February 2025 • 89 sign ups

Do development trusts holistically represent the needs and interests of their communities?



THE FUTURE OF FORMER PLACES OF WORSHIP

April 2025 • 51 sign ups

How can Development Trusts play a role in the future use of land and buildings being disposed of by the Church of Scotland, and when should they say no to taking on these assets?



Julia Rolim
Research and Insights Coordinator

julia@dtascot.org.uk



“ 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.

Other events

Have your Say: DTAS' Response to Community Benefits from Net Zero Consultation, 47 sign-ups.

Visit our events page to access the next DTAS Debates.

EVENTS
PAGE

Information on further research can be found here:



DTAS Members Survey
Community Benefit Funding and
Shared Ownership Report



Development Trusts:
Community Ownership
Economic Impact



DTAS Deep Dives:
Kyle of Sutherland
Case Study



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.

Our event programmes strive to provide those working in the community sector with:

- Networking opportunities
- Improved organisational capacity
- Opportunity to influence policy
- Knowledge sharing
- Tailored advice and support
- Learning and skills improvement

“ We love DTAS! I always tell people that it's the most valuable network we are part of. The annual gathering, training and networking opportunities are fantastic. There's always a risk with these things that you feel that you've 'wasted' a day that could be spent doing something else, but this has never been the case for me with any DTAS training or event.

The online events have been highly relevant and very informative, especially learning from about other DTs.

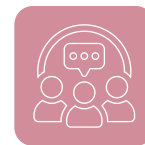


**TOTAL
EVENTS DELIVERED**
58



**TOTAL
ATTENDEES**
1,415

Our event report showcases details on our events ran from January – December 2024



**ORGANISATIONS
ENGAGED**



APR - JUN
139



JUL - SEP
254



OCT - DEC
201



JAN - MAR
136



Visit our website for more information on our current events

Conference

The Annual Conference 2024 delivered a rich programme of plenary sessions, workshops and study visits.

The structured sessions were interspersed with time for networking or visiting the marketplace space which exhibited the funding and support available to development trusts.

236
ATTENDEES

134
ORGANISATIONS

REGIONAL GATHERINGS DELIVERED

South Lanarkshire

Skye

North Highlands

Argyll, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

60
ORGANISATIONS
attended regional
gatherings

8
of whom were
aspiring groups



Environmental and sustainability work

Our Events and Sustainability Coordinator, Annie, has been working on our environmental strategy and has calculated our baseline emissions for the annual year of 2024.

SCOPE 3
Business
travel
69.8%

SCOPE 1
Office gas
usage
23.8%

SCOPE 2
Office electricity
usage
6.4%

TOTAL
20.78 tCO2e

Our baseline indicates our emissions are 20.78 tCO2e. To reduce our emissions by 90% by 2045 – we will need to reduce our footprint by at least 18.7 tCO2e.

We're looking forward to focusing on this work over the next year. Keep an eye on our website for a full carbon reduction plan.



Annie Etherington

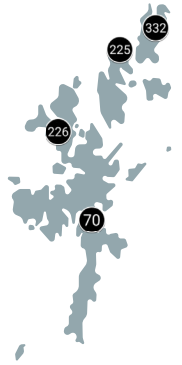
Events and Sustainability Coordinator

annie@dtascot.org.uk



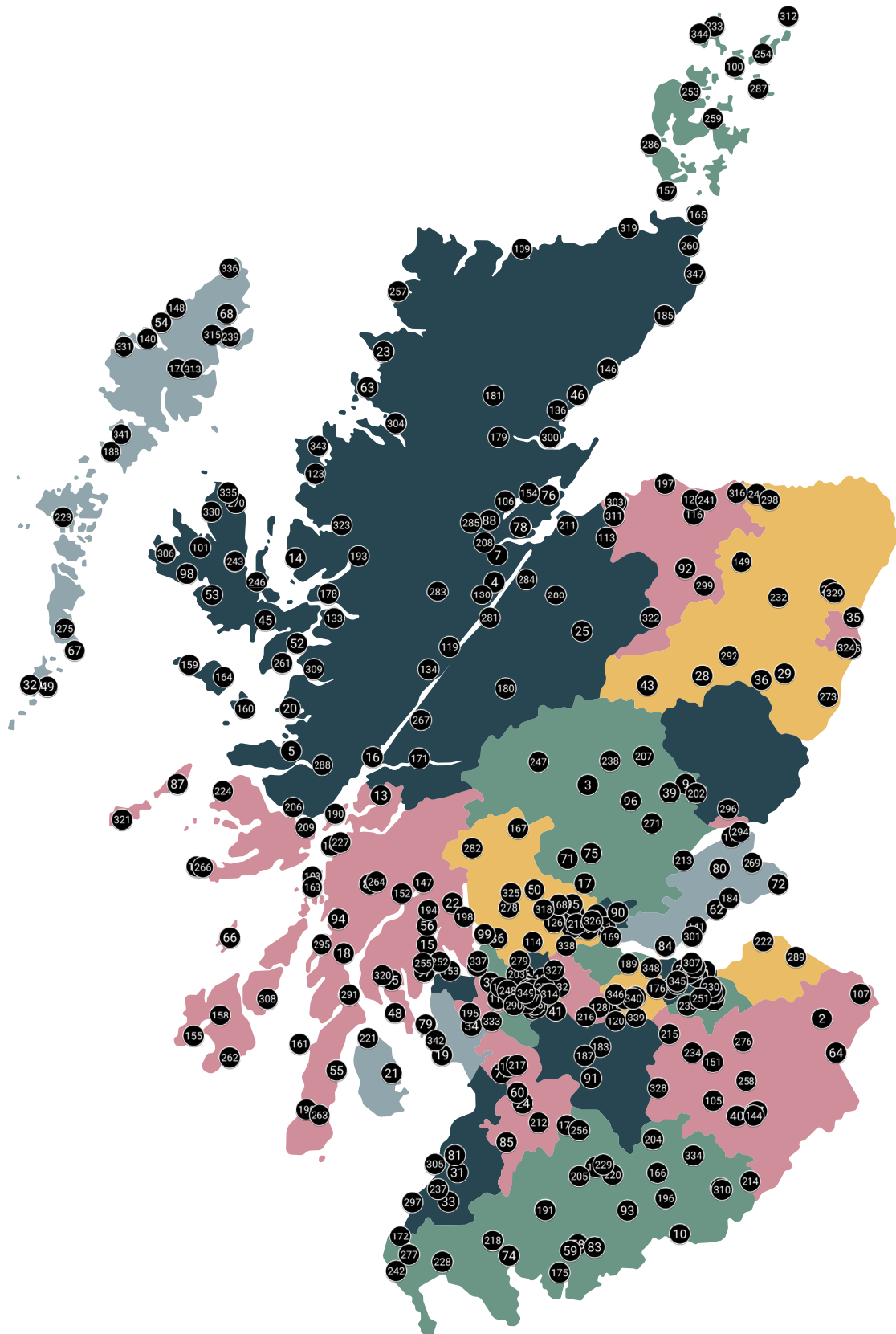
Development Trusts Association Scotland

A Thriving Community-led Network



MEMBERS MAP

349 members at June 2025



1	A Greener Hawick
2	A Heart for Duns
3	Aberfeldy Development Trust
4	Abriachan Forest Trust
5	Acharacle Community Company
6	Action Porty
7	Aird Community Trust
8	Alva Development Trust
9	Alyth Development Trust
10	Annan Harbour Action Group
11	Annexe Communities
12	Antermory Development Trust
13	Appin Community Development Trust
14	Applecross Community Company
15	Ardentiny Community Trust Ltd
16	Ardgour Glensanda Development Trust
17	Ardoch Development Trust
18	Ardishaig Community Trust
19	Ardrossan Community Development Trust
20	Arisaig Community Trust
21	Arran Development Trust
22	Arrochar & Tarbet Community Development Trust
23	Assynt Development Trust
24	Auchinleck Community Development Initiative
25	Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust
26	Baldernock Community Development Trust
27	Balerno Village Trust
28	Ballater (RD) Ltd
29	Banchory Community Trust
30	Barmulloch Community Development Company
31	Barr Community SCIO
32	Barra & Vatersay Community Ltd
33	Barrhill Development Trust
34	Beith Community Development Trust
35	Belhelvie Community Trust
36	Birse Community Trust
37	Bishopston Community Development Trust
38	Blackhall Community Trust
39	Blaigowrie and Rattray Development Trust
40	Borthwick Water Community Development Trust
41	Bothwell Futures
42	Braehead, Broomridge & District Community Development Trust
43	Braemar Community Limited
44	Bridgend Farmhouse
45	Broadford And Strath Community Company
46	Brora Development Trust
47	Burnfoot Community Futures
48	Bute Community Land Community Ltd
49	Buth Bharraigh
50	Callander Community Development Trust
51	Cambusbarron Community Development Trust
52	Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative
53	Carbost Pier Ltd.
54	Carloway Estate Trust (Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh)
55	Carradale Community Trust
56	Carrick Castle Community Trust Limited
57	Cassiltoun Trust (sub of Cassiltoun Housing Association)
58	Castle Douglas Community Centre Development Trust
59	Castle Douglas Development Forum
60	Catrine Community Trust
61	Clackmannan Development Trust
62	CLEAR Buckhaven & Methil
63	Coigach Community Development Company
64	Coldstream Community Trust
65	Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust
66	Colonsay Community Development Company
67	Comann Eachdraidh Eiriseigdh
68	Comann Eachdraidh Sgìre a Bhac
69	Community Central Hall
70	Community Development Company of Nesting
71	Comrie Development Trust
72	Crail Community Partnership
73	Cranhill Development Trust
74	Creetown Initiative Ltd
75	Crieff Community Trust
76	Cromarty Community Development Trust
77	Crossroads Community Hub
78	Culbokie Community Trust
79	Cumbræ Community Development Company
80	Cupar Development Trust
81	Dailly Community Development Trust SCIO
82	Dalavich Improvement Group
83	Dalbeattie Community Initiative
84	Dalgety Community Trust
85	Dalmellington Parish Development Trust
86	DCDT Enterprise Company Limited
87	Development Coll
88	Dingwall Community Development Company
89	Discover Bridge of Allan Ltd (Development Trust)
90	Dollar Community Development Trust
91	Douglas St Brides Community Group
92	Dufftown Trust
93	Dumfries High Street Ltd (T/A Midsteeple Quarter)
94	Dunadd Community Enterprise
95	Dunblane Development Trust
96	Dunkeld, Birmam & District Community Development Trust
97	Dunoon Community Development Trust
98	Dunvegan Community Trust SCIO
99	East Loch Lomond Community Trust
100	Eday Partnership
101	Edinbane and Communities Co.Ltd
102	Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust
103	Eilean Eisdéal Trust
104	Ekopia Social Investments Ltd
105	Ettrick & Yarrow Community Development Company
106	Evanton Community Trust
107	Eyemouth Development Trust
108	Fallin Community Voice
109	Farr North Community Development Trust
110	Fauldhouse & Breich Valley Community Development Trust
111	Ferguslie Park Community Development Trust
112	Ferguslie Park Housing Association
113	Finderne Development Trust
114	Finty Development Trust
115	Fittie Community Development Trust
116	Fochabers Village Association
117	Forgar Arts Centre

118	Forres Area Community Trust
119	Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company
120	Forth & District Development Trust
121	Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust
122	Fuse Youth Cafe
123	Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum (GALE)
124	Galston Community Development Trust
125	Garbh Allt Community Initiative GACI
126	Gargunnoch Community Trust
127	Garmouth & Kingston Community Association
128	Getting Better Together Ltd
129	Glasgow Eco Trust
130	Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association
131	Glenbarr Community Development Association
132	Glenboig Development Trust
133	Glenelg & Arnisdale Development Trust
134	Glengarry Community Woodlands
135	Glenkens Community & Arts Trust
136	Go Golspie
137	Gorebridge Community Development Trust
138	Govanhill Baths Community Trust
139	Govanhill Community Development Trust
140	Great Bernera Community Development Trust
141	Greener Kirkcaldy
142	Grow 73
143	Growing21
144	Hawick Development Trust
145	Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust
146	Helmsdale & District Development Trust
147	Here We Are (Cairndow) Ltd
148	Horshader Community Development Trust
149	Huntly Development Trust
150	Inchinnan Development Trust
151	Innerleithen Community Trust
152	Inspire Inveraray
153	Inverclyde Community Development Trust
154	Invergordon Development Trust
155	Iomairt Chille Chomain
156	Iona Renewables
157	Island of Hoy Development Trust
158	Islay Development Initiative
159	Isle of Canna Community Development Trust
160	Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust
161	Isle Of Gigha Heritage Trust
162	Isle of Kerrera Development Trust
163	Isle Of Luìng Community Trust
164	Isle of Rum Community Trust
165	John O'Groats Development Trust
166	Johnstonebridge Community Centre Trust
167	Killin and Ardeonaig Community Development Trust
168	Kilmadock Development Trust
169	Kincardine Community Association
170	Kinloch Historical Society
171	Kinlochleven Community Trust
172	Kirkcolm Community Trust
173	Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Development Trust
174	Kirkcowan Community Development Trust
175	Kirkcudbright Development Trust
176	Kirknewton Community Development Trust Ltd
177	KPT (Keir, Penpont, Tynron) Development Trust
178	Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust
179	Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust
180	Laggan Forest Trust
181	Lairg & District Community Initiatives
182	Lambhill Stables
183	Lanark Community Development Trust
184	Largo Communities Together
185	Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Development Company
186	Lenzie Community Development Trust
187	Lesmahagow Development Trust
188	Leverhulme Community Hub
189	Linlithgow Community Development Trust
190	Lismore Community Trust
191	Local Initiatives in New Galloway
192	Lochbroom and Ullapool Community Trust
193	Lochcarron Community Development Company
194	Lochgool Community Trust Ltd
195	Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust
196	Lockerbie Old School Community Hub
197	Lossiemouth Community Development Trust
198	Luss & Arden Community Development Trust
199	Machrihanish Airbase Community Company
200	Maryhill Burgh Halls Trust
201	Mayfield & Easthouses Development Trust
202	Meigle and Ardlar Community Development Trust
203	Milngavie Community Development Trust
204	Moffat Town Hall Trust
205	Moniaive Initiative
206	Morvern Community Development Company
207	Mount Blair Community Development Trust
208	Muir of Ord Development Trust
209	Mull & Iona Community Trust
210	Muthill Village Trust
211	Nairn Improvement Community Enterprise
212	New Cumnock Development Trust
213	Newburgh Community Trust
214	Newcastleton & District Community Trust
215	Newlands Community Development Trust
216	Newmains Community Trust Ltd
217	Newmilns Regeneration Association
218	Newton Stewart Initiative
219	Newtongrange Development Trust
220	Nith Valley Leaf Trust
221	North Arran Community Benefit Society Ltd
222	North Berwick Community Development Company
223	North Uist Development Company Limited
224	North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited
225	North Yell Development Council
226	Northmavine Community Development Company (NCDC)
227	Oban Communities Trust
228	Old Luce Development Trust
229	Old School Thornhill
230	One Dalkeith
231	Out of the Blue Arts and Education Trust
232	Oyne Community Association
233	Papay Development Trust

234	Peebles Community Trust
235	Penicuik Community Development Trust
236	Pentlands Community Space
237	Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development SCIO
238	Pitlochry Community Action Trust
239	Point & Sandwick Trust
240	Polbeth Community Hub SCIO
241	Portgordon Community Trust
242	Portpatrick Community Development Trust
243	Portree & Braes Community Trust
244	Portsoy Community Enterprise
245	Possilpark People's Trust
246	Raasay Development Trust
247	Rannoch Community Development Trust
248	Renfrew Development Trust
249	Renton Community Development Trust
250	Rosemount Development Trust
251	Rosewell Development Trust
252	Rosneath Peninsula West Community Development Trust
253	Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust Ltd
254	Sanday Development Trust
255	Sandbank Community Development Trust
256	Sanghar Enterprise Company
257	Scourie Community Development Company
258	Selkirk Regeneration (SCIO)
259	Shapinsay Development Trust
260	Sinclair's Bay Trust
261	Sleat Community Trust
262	South Islay Development
263	South Kintyre Development Trust
264	South Loch Awe-side Community Company
265	South Seeds
266	South West Mull and Iona Development
267	Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry SCIO
268	Spirit of Springburn SCIO
269	St Andrews Environmental Network Limited
270	Staffin Community Trust
271	Stanley Development Trust
272	Steps Community Development Trust
273	Stonehaven Town Partnership
274	Stoneyburn and Bents Future Vision Group SCIO SC046760
275	Storas Uibhist
276	Stow Community Trust
277	Stranraer Development Trust
278	Strathard Community Trust
279	Strathblane Community Development Trust
280	Strathdearn Community Developments
281	Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust
282	Strathfillan Community Development Trust
283	Strathglass and Affric Community Co Ltd
284	Strathnairn Development Company
285	Strathpeffer & District Community Development Trust
286	Stromness Community Development Trust
287	Stronsay Development Trust
288	Sunart Community Company
289	Sustaining Dunbar
290	Swamp Creative Media Centre
291	Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust
292	Tarland Development Group
293	Tarves Development Trust
294	Tayport Community Trust
295	Tayvallich Initiative Ltd
296	Tealing Development Trust Ltd
297	The Ballantrae Trust
298	The Boyndie Trust
299	The Cabrach Trust
300	The Dornoch Area Community Interest Company
301	The Ecology Centre
302	The Eskdale Foundation
303	The Findhorn Village Conservation Company
304	The Garve & District Development Company
305	The Girvan Town Team
306	The Glendale Trust
307	The Heart of Newhaven
308	The Isle of Jura Development Trust
309	The Knoydart Foundation
310	The Langholm Initiative
311	The Leacholl Trust
312	The North Ronaldsay Trust
313	The Pairc Trust
314	The Pavillion (Greater Easterhouse)
315	The Stormoway Trust
316	The Three Kings Cullen Association
317	Thenue Communities (trading sub of Thenue Housing Association)
318	Thornhill Development Trust
319	Thurso Community Development Trust
320	Tighnabruach District Development Trust
321	Tiree Community Development Trust
322	Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust
323	Torridon District Community Association
324	Torry Development Trust
325	Trossachs Community Trust
326	Tullibody Community Development Trust
327	Twechar Community Action
328	Tweedsmuir Community Company
329	Udny Community Trust Company Ltd
330	Uig Community Trust Company (UCT)
331	Uig Development Trust
332	Unst Partnership Ltd
333	Uplawmoor Development Trust
334	Upper Eskdale Development Group
335	Urras Ionad Thòrainnis
336	Urras Oighreachd Ghahsainn
337	Vale of Leven Trust
338	Valley Renewables Group
339	WAT IF
340	West Calder & Harburn Community Development Trust
341	West Harris Trust
342	West Kilbride Community Initiative Ltd
343	Wester Loch Ewe Trust
344	Westray Development Trust
345	WHALE Arts Agency
346	Whithorn & District Community Development Trust
347	Wick Development Trust
348	Winchburgh Community Development Trust
349	Woodlands Community Development Trust

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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info@dtascot.org.uk (for general enquiries)
membership@dtascot.org.uk (for membership enquiries including setting up a development trust)