

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR IMPACT



MEMBER SUPPORT

398
TOTAL
MEMBERS

279
FULL
MEMBERS

71
PROVISIONAL
MEMBERS

48
ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS

38
NEW MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATIONS

90
ACTIVE ASPIRING
DEVELOPMENT TRUSTS



DEMOCRATIC FINANCE

283
SUPPORT
INTERVENTIONS

14
DEMOCRATIC FINANCE
OFFERS LAUNCHED

£584,850
RAISED VIA DEMOCRATIC
FINANCE OFFERS



COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP SUPPORT SERVICE

249
NEW ASSET
TRANSFER OR
COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP
ENQUIRIES



ANNUAL REVIEW 2025 - 2026



& MEMBERS MAP



Scan the QR code to visit our website



www.dtascotland.org.uk



Pauline Smith
Chief Executive

Welcome to the DTAS Annual Review 2025/26. This is a snapshot of the last 12 months at DTAS, including our members map.

It has been a demanding year for development trusts and community-led enterprises. Rising costs, a competitive funding environment, and increasing expectations have added pressure to organisations working at the heart of their communities. In response, we have worked alongside our members and partners to adapt and strengthen our support and advocacy/lobbying work to reflect what is needed most.

Our Member Support team has continued to provide tailored advice and support to over **390 members**, including dedicated funding programmes, governance advice, training and strategic development. Our Democratic Finance team has expanded our work on citizen investment models, helping communities access the finance they need. The work of our Community Ownership Support Service has offered vital guidance to groups taking on assets, turning local ambition into long-term community benefit.

We remain committed to championing the work of all our members and clients and evolving our offer to ensure every member has the tools, knowledge and support needed to succeed.

Thank you for
being part of the
DTAS network.

Scan me

for a digital, more
detailed review



Acknowledgements

Thank you to our funders whose support enables us to help communities across Scotland.

Our Member Support Team is supported by the Scottish Government Third Sector Division, Acorns 2 Trees, the National Lottery Community Fund and Foundation Scotland. This backing enables the development and delivery of our tailored member support package and key programmes including Strengthening Communities, Green Shoots, the Recovery & Resilience Programme and Crisis Interventions.

We are grateful to the Scottish Government Regeneration Division, Historic Environment Scotland, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and William Grant Foundation for their support of our Community Ownership Support Service (COSS), helping communities across Scotland to take on and manage local assets including churches.

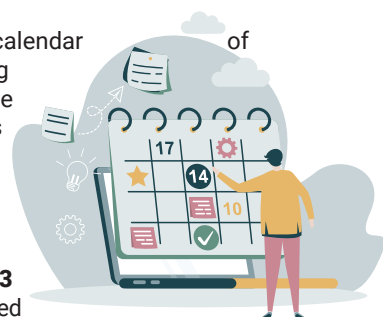
Our Democratic Finance Scotland team is supported by the Scottish Government, Acorns 2 Trees, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, enabling us to grow and develop innovative approaches to community and citizen-led finance.

Their collective investment and commitment play a vital role in supporting development trusts and community-led enterprises to thrive and strong community infrastructure across Scotland.

DTAS Events

2025 delivered a strong and varied calendar of in-person and online events reaching communities across Scotland. These provided opportunities for members to share knowledge, network, expand their skills and gain valuable support.

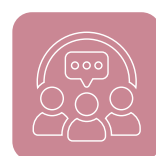
The DTAS Annual Conference was a highlight, with **321 attendees from 173 organisations** enjoying a rich and varied programme, interspersed with networking and the marketplace.



**TOTAL
EVENTS
61**



**TOTAL
ATTENDEES
1,385**



**ORGANISATIONS
ENGAGED
789**

DTAS Member Support

This year we reflected on what good member support looks like — redefining our services, clarifying what we do and don't do, and making sure our offer is consistent across the network. We developed DTAS's first ever Membership Handbook - a clear and accessible guide to membership, how our support is structured, and what members can expect from us.

We continued to support around **350 development trusts across Scotland**, and we welcomed **18 new members into the network**.

The biggest development this year was the launch of the Recovery and Resilience Programme in October 2025, made possible by £5 million from Foundation Scotland. The programme was collectively shaped by all DTAS teams and over 100 DTAS members took part in our consultation. Since launch, over 88 organisations have submitted a self-assessment and over £800,000 in funding has already been approved, making a difference to our members.



Scan me

for more information in our digital,
more detailed Annual Review.

“Thank you so much for the session on Friday, I think everyone took a lot away from the day and we've been working on some of the things we discussed (and with new energy!).”



Transforming community wealth

This has been an exciting year for DTAS' Democratic Finance programme. We launched our 'Decade of Community Shares in Scotland' report, outlining our support for 70 community share offers which raises over £21million from over 21,468 investor members across a diversity of sectors and communities.

283

SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

14

DEMOCRATIC FINANCE OFFERS LAUNCHED

6 community shares • 2 crowdfunding • 6 local legacy giving

£584,850

RAISED

1751

CITIZENS INVESTED

36

JOBS CREATED

“The team's specialist yet sympathetic support on the technicalities and practicalities of running a Charitable Community Benefit Society has been invaluable as we navigate the ongoing reality of managing our wonderful hub for the community.

We can't rave about DTAS enough!

Facilities Management

Demand for the FM service has continued to grow with support requests coming from COSS clients, DTAS members and other community organisations. The roll out and use of the FM Health Check has proven to be an invaluable tool in assisting members to address their legal requirements and there is an increasing need for realistic budget planning support.

The FM service visited groups in **Dumfries and Galloway, Moray, Highlands, Aberdeenshire and Argyll and Bute and more.**



**TOTAL AWARDED
2025-26**

£4,686.86

“The FM health check was a real benefit to our charity, particularly as we have recently undergone a change of Board. It helped ensure our governance arrangements are up to date and fit for purpose. The review was thorough and identified several areas we had not previously considered, giving us a clear understanding of where improvements were needed, particularly in relation to Health & Safety compliance. The process has given us greater confidence that we are operating in line with current standards and best practice.



**Community
Ownership
Support Service**

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Over the year the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) responded to **249 new (non-Church) asset transfer/ community ownership enquiries**. This is the second year of unprecedented demand with the team operating at full stretch.

The referrals covered a broad range of asset types and, as with previous years, are both proactive enquiries on potential opportunities and reactive to the large-scale disposals. Hot spot areas included Dumfries and Galloway, Perth and Kinross, Scottish Borders and Highland. We have been picking up unusually high levels of enquiries from Glasgow City and Dundee City.

“The CRtB support received by us from COSS was much appreciated. We were guided through the initial daunting stages of the process with enthusiasm and patience. Thank you for all the COSS support. Without your help, we would not have achieved success.

Churches Programme

The Churches Team is fully operational and supported over 90 communities this year to consider their options in relation to their churches/ halls/ glebe land.

The pace at which the Church of Scotland is disposing of these assets makes it challenging for members and other community groups to move quickly to secure these buildings. The team supported several groups to use Community Right to Buy to help secure their interests and give them time to go through a feasibility process.

Two new resources were developed including the [Churches Crowdfunder Guide](#) and the [Churches Route Map](#).



**OVER
90**

**COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS
SUPPORTED**



14

WORKSHOPS



140

ATTENDEES LOOKING AT

85

DIFFERENT PLACES OF WORSHIP