

TEAM UPDATES

Community Ownership Support Service

Development Trusts Association Scotland

In the last year the COSS Team has supported 84 new cases of DTs and community groups considering taking on assets and a further 127 existing projects develop their proposals. Interestingly, there has been a strong interest in land with 57% of these new enquiries including a distinct land component.

Facilities management and building efficiency was of particular interest during the year with those at both the pre and post-acquisition stage of asset ownership keen to explore the best approaches available to make improvements. This will continue to be an area of focus for COSS during the coming year.

Interest in church assets has also increased significantly. In conjunction with the Heritage Trust Network and Historic Churches Scotland, COSS produced the Your Church, Your Community publication to assist communities consider implications of taking on church buildings. To support this, a further workshop programme is planned.

Community Shares Scotland

DTAS' Community Shares Scotland (CSS) programme has had a productive year, supporting numerous groups with democratic finance guidance. This has led to the launch of 7 community share offers, collectively raising over £750k. The CSS team also launched its first fully supported community bond offer, for a Space and Flight Visitor Centre in Kinross, which reached its ambitious target of £250k. Community led tourism has been a key trend this year with Northton Heritage Trust on Harris, Glengarry Community Woodlands and Alloa Hub demonstrating creative and sustainable approaches.

In addition, CSS delivered a series of CPD training sessions - these were offered to third and public sector community development advisors to upskill on community business and democratic finance.

The most exciting advance this year has been the development of a national Democratic Finance programme, in partnership with Scottish Communities Finance Ltd. The programme will be a significant remit expansion for the CSS team and will focus on supporting communities to use other models of local democratic finance that increase community wealth.

Community Ownership Fund (COF)

DTAS is now part of a UK-wide consortium providing support to communities looking to access the Community Ownership Fund. This fund allows communities to acquire and develop assets that are at risk of being lost through sale, dereliction or an unsustainable business model. We oversee the delivery of a wide range of support in Scotland, ranging from responding to initial enquiries and delivery of webinars to an in-depth support package which helps communities develop a strong application. DTAS has already supported over 50 organisations and will work with many more over the next two years.

Pockets & Prospects (P&P)

The Pockets and Prospects programme continues to lead with a light touch, non-prescriptive approach for community-anchor organisations, taking a bottom up rather than top-down approach. DTAS believes that communities can better support grassroots projects, developments and build local partnerships when funding is given directly to them and produce better outcomes as a result. In 2022 to 2023, 30 groups received funding of £213,000.

Strengthening Communities Programme (SCP)

Continuing to work with Scottish Government in this transformational programme, our two dedicated SCP staff are currently working with a total of 31 community anchor organisations throughout Scotland.

We have also supported 12 members to access the SG capital funding, providing the support and assistance to shape their applications and ensure that they are in shovel ready positions. £473k of capital funding has now been invested in these members and enabling building refurbishment/adaptations/renovations, floodlights, accessible toilets and community gardens.

Working with the wider DTAS team, a further 5 organisations are being supported through this programme for 22-25 cohort. This has involved having team discussions on the membership and potential developments that organisations have coming up to ensure that they are at the right stage of development for the fund.

DTAS would like to acknowledge the ongoing financial support received from Scottish Government from their Third Sector Unit, the Social Justice and Regeneration Division and the Land Reform Unit. This year we gratefully acknowledge support from Acorns 2 Trees as well as ongoing grant funding from the National Lottery Community Fund for the Community Shares Scotland programme and the William Grant Foundation for our facilities management pilot programme.

This year, DTAS joined a UK-wide consortium working in partnership with the UK Government Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities to provide assistance with the Community Ownership Fund.



Development Trusts Association Scotland

A Thriving Community-led Network

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022 - 2023



& MEMBERS MAP



Development Trusts Association Scotland

A Thriving Community-led Network

DTAS, 1B Washington Lane, Edinburgh, EH11 2HA

0131 220 2456

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

www.dtascotland.org.uk



Michael Roy
Chair of the Board

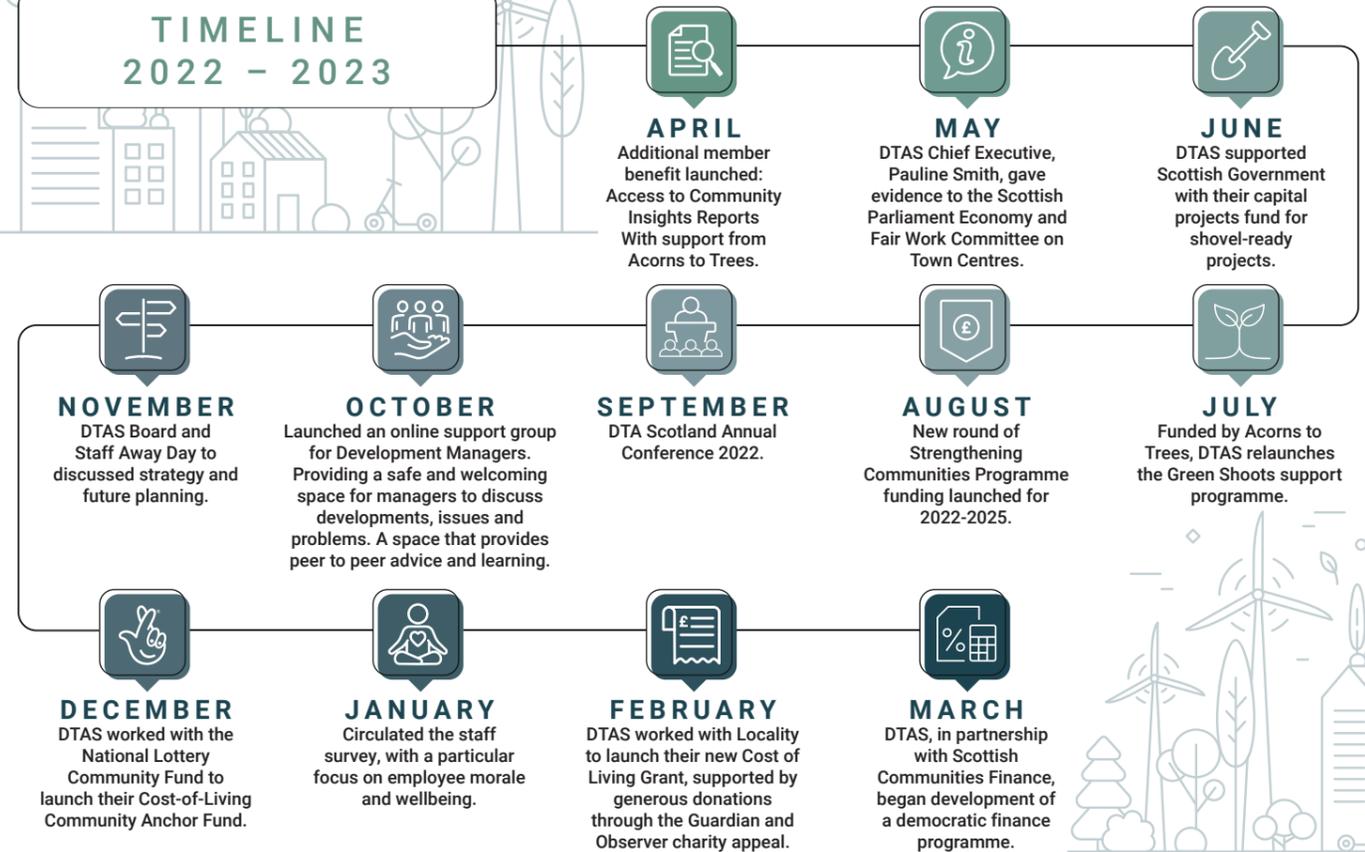
It is a privilege to present this annual review that highlights our work with development trusts and communities across Scotland through our Development Officers, Community Ownership Support Service and Community Shares teams. Over 2022-23 we've all been working and living in challenging economic circumstances and with communities across the country working hard to support each other. This significant anniversary of development trusts in Scotland and the continued work of communities has never been more needed and important. The DTAS Board and staff will continue to help deliver support and influence government policy and legislation that empowers local people at a local level to make positive change.



Pauline Smith
Chief Executive

This 20 year annual review takes the time to celebrate 2022-23 achievements, new members and developments but also recognise our journey. Over two decades the development trust movement has grown, with communities in urban, rural and islands across Scotland taking control and leading positive change. Our members continue to meet the challenges head on – addressing climate issues, the cost-of-living crisis, physical and mental health concerns, housing provision, ownership of land and buildings are just a few! Our members are recognised for their strength and positive impact across the country and we will continue to support aspiring communities and established development trusts to achieve their goals that make Scotland thrive.

TIMELINE 2022 - 2023



STATS

349 MEMBERS
Our team of Development Officers continue to support our membership of 349 (277 – Full Members, 72 – Provisional Members) at year end.

74 ASPIRING MEMBERS
Our dedicated Membership and Engagement Officer provides essential support to aspiring development trusts and members. At year end, we were actively supporting 74 aspiring groups throughout Scotland which cover all 32 local authority areas within Scotland.

15 NEW MEMBER SHOUT OUTS

15 new members who have joined the DTAS network!

- | | |
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| FULL | PROVISIONAL |
| Antermony Development Trust | Carbost Pier Ltd. |
| Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust | Farr North Community Development Trust |
| Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company | Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust |
| Lochgoil Community Trust Ltd | Inspire Inveraray |
| Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development SCIO | Newtongrange Development Trust |
| Strathfillan Community Development Trust | Portgordon Community Trust |
| | Scalpay Community Association |
| | Struan Community Development Group |
| | Thornhill Community Trust |

12 LONG-STANDING MEMBER SHOUT OUTS

12 members who have been with DTAS since our first year – congratulations on your 20th anniversary!

- Carluke Development Trust
- Colonsay Community Development Trust
- Ekopia Resource Exchange Ltd
- Glenkens Community & Arts Trust
- Gorebridge Community Development Trust
- Mull & Iona Community Trust
- Govanhill Community Development Trust,
- Kilmadock Development Trust
- Morvern Community Development Company
- Princess Royal Sports & Community Trust
- Renton Community Development Trust
- Westray Development Trust

DTAS Board of Trustee 2022/2023

- Chair** Jim Bristow, Individual Associate Member (until 04.09.22)
Michael Roy, Antermony Development Trust (from 16.09.22)
- Vice Chairs** Reid Hutchison, Aberdeenshire Council (until 04.09.22)
Jane Lamont, Beith Community Development Trust (from 16.09.22)
Mark McRitchie, Community Central Hall (from 16.09.22)
- Treasurer** Eric Munro, Individual Associate Member (until 04.09.22)
Tracy Thomson, Royal Bank of Scotland (from 16.09.22)
- Trustees** Graham Black, Moffat Town Hall Redevelopment Trust
Sandy Brunton, Mull & Iona Community Trust
Sarah Compton-Bishop, Isle of Jura Development Trust
David Fryer, Torry Development Trust
Lesley Garbutt, Kirkcudbright Development Trust (retired 04.09.22)
Stephen McCarron, Auchinleck Community Development Initiative
Janet Miles, Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum
Tom Sneddon, Carluke Development Trust
Alex Walker, Ekopia Social Investments
Lindsay Wood, Burnfoot Community Futures

DTAS EVENTS



Conference 2022

This was the first in-person conference since before Covid. 211 delegates attended the event including DTAS members, early-stage groups, associates, local authorities, government etc. The conference theme was 'Gather, Connect and Thrive' with a focus of bringing people together to share ideas, be inspired and voice their needs.

Regional Events

Throughout the year, we hosted 5 regional network meetings. These sessions provide an essential opportunity for members at all stages of developments to meet each other across Scotland. At the end of the year, 35 members had attended events all over Scotland in Skye, Tain, Isle of Kerrera, Isle of Gigha and West Lothian.

Webinars

A total of 119 people attended a range of webinars. The sessions continue to be popular and provide support and information on a wide range of topics with several partners including: HR & Health and Safety Essential; VAT; Community Shares; Inclusive Innovation; Local Transport Solutions; Paths Development LTS; Cycling Scotland; Home Energy Scotland; Crown Estate Scotland – Sustainable Communities Fund; Rural Housing and Just Enterprise.



Wellbeing: Supporting the workforce

Over the last 12 months, we've been prioritising staff wellbeing within DTAS. We've made a few internal changes including introducing a new wellbeing statement and a staff led Wellbeing Group that advises DTAS on how we can support our employees! We recently circulated a staff survey, and the results were great with 95% of staff that answered stating they'd recommend DTAS as a place to work.

Staff: New and old

In the past year, we said goodbye to a number of staff including Lucy Espeland and David Henderson. Thank you to all of them for their hard work.

We had a number of staff moving internally into new roles. We also welcomed new staff members Pamela Barnes, Errin Anderson and John Main into the Development Officer team and Craig Allan, Fiona Taylor, Jan MacPherson, Nick Paterson and Julia Carreiro Rolim into the COSS team.

DTAS Governance

The DTAS Board of Trustees, and the two standing sub committees, continued to meet on a quarterly basis. Our wholly owned trading subsidiary, DTAS Trading Ltd, is being wound down. DTAS also continued to build the reserves of the organisation.