

# Development Trusts Association Scotland

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**Development Trusts are:**

- *engaged in the economic, environmental and social regeneration of a defined area or community*
- *independent and aiming for self-sufficiency*
- *not-for-private profit*
- *community-based and owned*
- *actively involved in partnerships between the community, voluntary, private and public sectors*

If you wish to apply for Full, Provisional or Association Membership please contact the Office at the address below for further information.

## **OUR MEMBERS OUR STRENGTH**

### ***We are the community based regeneration network***

Founded in 2003, Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) is the national membership body for development trusts. We currently have over 107 full or provisional members and over 25 associate members and are continually growing. Our mission is to bring about a successful development trust in every community that wants one.

### ***Our aim – to help you grow successfully***

Ultimately our goal is to help our members bring about significant and sustainable regeneration in their communities. We help members thrive by encouraging innovation and creativity through networking and mutual support, by building business skills, by improving quality and diversity. And we create new partnerships and a better policy and financial environment by championing the values and benefits of development trusts.

### ***Everything we do is driven by our members***

Our members are practitioners, and that is our great strength. Member know-how means there is a wealth of practical support, mutual learning, and inspiration – you are no longer on your own once you join DTAS. Member know-how also means we have a seat at the table with local and national government, and with private and voluntary sector bodies.

### ***Our impact is both national and UK wide***

DTAS operates across the whole of Scotland and is also part of a UK wide network along with our sister organisations DTA and DTA Wales. Our management committee is elected by our members.

## Full Membership - £75 per year

This membership is open to development trusts. These are defined as organisations which are:

- ***Engaged in the economic, environmental and social regeneration of a defined area or community***

By this we mean setting up and running an inclusive mix of services or facilities which respond to the needs of a community. Projects undertaken by DTAS members include property development, managed workspace, community businesses, arts programmes, sports and leisure facilities, retail and market space, town centre management, building restoration, environmental improvement, community transport, education work, employment training, information services, community development, social provision, health centres, countryside management, horticulture and agriculture, tourism and cultural industries, and so on.

Development trusts are found in inner cities, on peripheral housing estates, in coastal towns, former coalmining areas, rural communities. We all have a defined sense of place. Additionally, for some people community means not just place but also identification with a common group. This may be at least as important or even more important than identification with the neighbourhood or area in which they live. This is especially true for people from black and ethnic minority groups, and also more generally of groups of people who face intolerance or discrimination and therefore identify themselves as a community because of shared experience. We very much welcome applications from development trusts set up by a "community of interest" as defined in this way.

- ***Aiming for self sufficiency***

Development trusts are in the business of sustainable change. As organisations we should plan to avoid over-dependence on a single funder, and also aim to reduce dependence on grant-aid in the long term. We may create an income-earning asset base, and build up trading operations or contract income. We recognise that in poor communities there is often a "social deficit" and contributions from public or charitable funds may continue to be necessary.

- ***Not for private profit***

Surpluses are applied to the social objectives of the development trust, rather than for private gain.

- ***Community based and owned***

Development trusts are driven by and accountable to their community in various ways. Some have Boards elected by a ballot of all those in the area, others have a membership base from which elections can be made. Others have a structure in which community groups, the local authority, local businesses, and others are represented. Others have arrangements to safeguard balance between sectors, or interest groups. Others involve a mix of people through co-options. And many derive their community legitimacy not only through constitutional arrangements but also from day to day practice - the ways in which we involve local people in our work.

- ***Independent, yet actively involved in partnerships and alliances between the community, voluntary, private and public sectors***

Development trusts occupy the place where the business, public, community and voluntary sectors meet. This is a position of unique strength, but also means that for a development trust to realise its potential it must build active alliances with all these sectors. An organisation which works in an isolated, exclusive or sectarian way is not a development trust.

**There is no standard organisational form for a development trust. Most register as a company limited by guarantee and in a few cases as an industrial and provident society. Many register as charities.**

**We can accept into full membership organisations which are clearly committed to becoming development trusts.**

# **Associate Membership from £75 to £425 per year depending on type of organisation**

**If you are not a development trust but support our aims and would like to become a partner in our movement we would be delighted to welcome you as an associate member.**

Our associate members may include local authorities, national business, intermediary lenders, housing action trusts, regeneration partners in the voluntary sector, rural community councils, voluntary action councils, community foundations, co-op development agencies, enterprise agencies, consultancy practices, academic institutions and individuals.

## **Provisional Membership lasts for up to 3 years free for year 1, £30 fee for year 2, £50 fee for year 3**

Provisional membership is open to emerging development trusts in Scotland and other community based organisations which are committed to becoming a development trust. Provisional membership lasts for up to 3 years and is reviewed annually.

***Together - we achieve great things!***

*What you give and what you get*

**The Association operates on principles of mutuality. When you join we not only ask you for your membership fee but also ask you to:**

- Share experience and information with other members of DTAS
- Welcome enquiries and visits from interested groups
- Attend the annual members' conference
- Support your regional network
- Provide regular information to the DTAS about your organisation and your work
- Promote the development trust movement.

### **Some of the Benefits of membership**

- national and regional information and advice
- quarterly e-bulletin
- access to the member area on the DTAS and DTA website
- discounts on publications
- annual national conference, with discounted fees
- free and discounted training events
- access to grant funds (when available)
- access to a members legal helpline, VAT advice & accounts preparation advice
- access to a discounted members insurance scheme from Finance Redirect
- national and regional support and campaigning
- access to a regional and national practitioners network
- participation and voting rights in the DTAS & DTA

***The more you put in the more you get out!***