



Development  
Trusts Association  
Scotland

A Thriving Community-led Network



# DTA Scotland

## 2023 Membership Survey Findings

---

# Full Report

Research and Insights Team

June 2024

# Executive Summary

---

The Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) represents development trusts across Scotland; at the time of writing DTAS has members in all 32 Local Authority areas in Scotland, apart from Dundee City.

Development trusts are **community-led organisations, working across town, city, rural and island locations, combining community-led action with an enterprising approach**. They aim to bring about **social, economic and environmental renewal**, creating wealth in communities and keeping it there.

There is no legal definition of a development trust, but these organisations have 4 distinct characteristics:



Independent, and community owned and led.



Engaged in the economic, environmental, and social improvements of a defined area.



Committed to working in partnership arrangements that are initiated by the community.



Have an enterprising approach.

DTAS conducts a comprehensive survey of our membership every 3 to 4 years to gauge the size and scope of the development trust movement, provide evidence for advocacy efforts, and better represent our members. The 2023 survey achieved a robust 51% response rate, with 173 out of 342 members participating. To ensure representativity, responses were analysed based on geographic location, rurality, and deprivation. Overall, the survey response was considered representative of the Development Trust movement.

Data collection utilised Microsoft Forms, with subsequent analysis focusing on six core areas: organisation size, activities/services, asset ownership/leasing, renewable energy ownership/community benefit funding, alternative financing, and income/grant reliance. Statistical analysis involved creating pivot tables, linear graphs, and identifying significant trends using R-squared values.

Limitations included the lack of detail in government indicators for deprivation, hindering nuanced analysis of rural and island deprivation, and the inability to compare with previous surveys due to changes in questionnaires and the unmeasured impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Readers are urged to consider these limitations when interpreting the data for practical purposes.

# Key Findings

## DTAS Membership at a Glance:

- Regions with the highest concentration of development trusts per capita are **Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney Islands, Argyll and Bute, and the Highlands**.
- Areas in the central belt, **North Lanarkshire, Inverclyde, Falkirk, and East Renfrewshire**, have lower concentrations of development trusts per capita.
- In terms of absolute numbers, Highland (66), Argyll and Bute (35), Dumfries and Galloway (25), and Glasgow City (21) have the highest number of DTAS members.

## Staffing and Board Members:

- 81% of development trusts employ paid staff, with respondents reporting a total of 1,275 individuals employed across Scotland.
- There's a strong negative linear relationship between SIMD and staffing, with organisations in the most deprived areas being the most likely to employ paid staff.
- The percentage of development trusts employing staff increases with their annual income.
- On average, development trusts have 9 board members, with over 80% of members having under 10 board members.

## Volunteers:

- Average of 28 volunteers per development trusts. DTAS members in SIMD quintile 1 have a higher average of volunteers.
- Remote small-towns have the highest average number of volunteers (48) compared with other SURC categories.
- Asset-owning development trusts tend to have more active volunteers than those without assets.
- Development trusts with staff tend to have more volunteers than those without staff.

## Membership:

- The average number of members for development trusts is 212.
- Rural small-towns have the highest average membership (440).
- Development trusts in more deprived areas have a larger membership, and those in affluent areas have a smaller membership.

## Grant Funding and Reliance:

- Large urban areas and remote rural areas receive the highest average grant funding.
- Orkney, Shetland and Na h-Eileanan Siar receive the most grant funding per capita.
- Almost half of respondents are heavily reliant on grant funding, with groups from more deprived areas being more reliant on it.
- Development trusts who own assets tend to be less reliant on grant funding, and those without staff are less reliant on grants compared to those with staff.

## Earned Income:

- A total earned income of **£16,032,848** per annum was reported, representing **33%** of the reported total annual income.
- Island communities stand out with the highest average annual earned income at £215,937, with 92% of island groups reporting some source of earned income. Earned income constitutes 49% of total annual income for Island development trusts.
- Groups in more deprived areas (SIMD 1 and 2) have a higher amount of average earned income in £ compared to those in more affluent areas. **However, earned income in SIMD 1 areas constitutes only 27% of their total annual income, below the average of 33%.**
- There has been a decline in both the total amount of income earned by development trusts since 2019 and the proportion of earned income to total annual income.

## Alternative Finance Options:

- 64% of DTAS members engage with alternative finance models.
- Renewable Energy (Community Benefit Funds) is the most popular form of alternative finance, with 24.7% of development trusts engaging in this model.
- Crowdfunding, Philanthropic Giving, and Community Lottery are also widely used, with engagement ranging from 17.4% to 20%.
- Development trusts from remote rural areas are the most significant users of alternative finance.

## Renewable Energy:

- Development trusts in rural and island areas are more likely to own renewable energy installations compared to those in urban and central belt regions.
- Development trusts owning renewable energy installations have a more diverse portfolio of assets and are engaged in a greater number of activities.
- Development trusts owning renewable energy installations exhibit lower reliance on grant funding.
- Development trusts with renewable energy installations report significantly higher levels of earned income.

## Community Benefit Funding:

- 23% of surveyed development trusts receive community benefit funds.
- Most development trusts receiving community benefit funding are in the rural areas of the Highlands, Scottish Borders, Argyll and Bute, and Dumfries and Galloway, with only a few in urban areas.
- The average duration of community benefit funding arrangements is 18 years, with annual payments ranging from £2,000 to £672,783. Most groups receive less than £100,000 per year.
- 77% of groups receiving community benefit funds are based in rural areas, primarily on mainland Scotland.
- 87% of development trusts receiving community benefit funds own at least one asset.
- CBF-receiving groups report lower earned income compared to non-receiving groups, with 44% reporting £0 in earned income.

## Asset Ownership:

- 77% of surveyed development trusts own some type of physical asset, with buildings, land/woodland/forestry, and vehicles being the most common types.
- Island communities have the highest prevalence of vehicle and housing ownership.
- Most asset-owning groups fall within SIMD quintile 3.
- Rural areas, islands, and small-towns are more likely to own assets than urban areas.
- Asset-owning groups tend to own a variety of assets, with island groups owning the most diverse range.
- Urban development trusts who were surveyed have a lower-than-average rate of asset ownership.
- Development trusts with assets are more likely to have paid staff and deliver more activities per week compared to those without assets.

## Asset Leasing:

- 35% of surveyed groups lease assets, with an even split between those leasing land, buildings, or both.
- Groups in the most deprived areas (SIMD quintile 1) and large urban areas (SURC 1) are more likely to lease assets.
- There is a strong positive linear correlation between earned income and likelihood of asset leasing, suggesting that leased assets often provide a source of earned income for groups.

## Activities:

- On average, development trusts deliver 9 activities a week.
- Events/festivals/markets are the most common activities delivered by development trusts.
- Environmental initiatives like biodiversity restoration, community growing/allotments, and climate action are increasingly prioritised, especially by development trusts in SIMD quintile 5 and urban areas.
- Active travel and community/sports centres are the most popular aspiring activities.
- There's a strong correlation ( $R = 0.82$ ) between asset ownership and activity count, indicating that owning assets enables development trusts to offer more services.
- Employing staff positively correlates with higher activity counts.

## Development Trusts:

Community-led organisations with 4 distinct characteristics:

1. **Independent, and community owned and led.**
2. **Engaged in the economic, environmental, and social improvements of a defined area.**
3. **Committed to working in partnership arrangements that are initiated by the community.**
4. **Enterprising approach.**

## Community Benefit Funding:

Community benefit funds are voluntary arrangements, typically monetary, offered by renewable energy businesses to communities located near developments, and are not a material consideration in a planning application[1]

## Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 (SIMD):

Standard Scottish Government measure of deprivation across 6,976 data zones across Scotland. SIMD looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime, and housing [2]. For the purposes of the report, SIMD has been split into five quintiles to draw differences between different deprivation profiles, with SIMD 1 being the most deprived and SIMD 5 the least deprived. *See limitations section for more.*

## \*\* Scottish Urban Rural Classification 2020 (SURC):

<b>1 - Large Urban Area</b>	Settlements of 125,000 people and over.
<b>2 - Other Urban Areas</b>	Settlements of 10,000 to 124,999 people.
<b>3 - Accessible Small Towns</b>	Settlements of 3,000 to 9,999 people, and within a 30-minute drive time of a Settlement of 10,000 or more.
<b>4 - Remote Small Towns</b>	Settlements of 3,000 to 9,999 people, and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a Settlement of 10,000 or more.
<b>5 - Accessible Rural Areas</b>	Areas with a population of less than 3,000 people, and within a 30-minute drive time of a Settlement of 10,000 or more.
<b>6 - Remote Rural Areas</b>	Areas with a population of less than 3,000 people, and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a Settlement of 10,000 or more.

\*\* References to 'remote' rural areas, or 'remote' small-towns, will only be made when directly in reference to the SURC 2020. It has been a long-term ask of rural and island communities to refrain from using the word 'remote'.

[1] Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-good-practice-principles-community-benefits-onshore-renewable-energy-developments/documents/>

[2] <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

## Contents

Introduction.....	4
About the Data: Methods and Representativity.....	6
Methodology.....	6
Representativity .....	7
Limitations .....	10
DTAS Membership in Focus:.....	12
Analysis of Survey Results: .....	19
People.....	19
Staff and Board Members .....	19
Volunteers .....	26
Membership .....	29
Funding and Income.....	31
Grant Funding .....	31
Grant Reliance .....	35
Earned Income.....	39
Alternative Finance .....	48
Renewables.....	53
Renewable Energy Ownership.....	53
Renewable Energy Ownership trends .....	55
Community Benefit Funds.....	58
Assets .....	61
Asset Ownership .....	61
Asset Leasing: .....	67
Activities .....	68
Popular Activities by Geographical Classification: .....	73
SIMD and Activities.....	77
Conclusions, Common Challenges Faced by Development Trusts:.....	81
Policy Context, Opportunities and Challenges.....	85
Renewable Energy and Community Benefit Funding .....	85
Challenges with the Community Benefit Funding Landscape:.....	85
Local Democracy.....	86
Fair Work: .....	87
Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Workplace Wellbeing:.....	87

DTAS Role and Response to Membership Needs and Priorities.....	88
Community Ownership Support Service: .....	88
Democratic Finance Scotland:.....	88
DTAS Debates .....	88
Regional Events.....	89
Community Learning Exchange .....	89
Annex.....	90
Case Studies.....	90
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.....	90
Climate Action.....	92
Democracy Matters.....	98

## [Table of Figures](#)

Figure 1- SURC category of Survey Respondents as compared to Wider DTAS Membership .....	8
Figure 2- SIMD category of Survey Respondents as compared to Wider DTAS Membership .....	9
Figure 3- DTAS Membership Heatmap and Community Ownership in Scotland Heat Map (Source, Scottish Government Community Ownership Report, 2022).....	12
Figure 4- Staff Type, FT, PT and Sessional .....	19
Figure 5 - Types of Employment Roles.....	20
Figure 6 - Staff Employment by SIMD.....	20
Figure 7- Average No. Paid Staff by SIMD.....	21
Figure 8 – Full Time, Part Time and Sessional Staff by SIMD.....	21
Figure 9 - Average Number of Staff Employed by SURC.....	22
Figure 10 - Full Time, Part Time, and Sessional Staff by SURC.....	23
Figure 11- Average Number of Paid Staff by Annual Income .....	24
Figure 12 – Development Trust Board Members.....	25
Figure 13- Development Trust Volunteer Numbers.....	26
Figure 14- Volunteers by SIMD .....	27
Figure 15- Volunteers by SURC .....	27
Figure 16- Asset Ownership and Volunteer Numbers .....	28
Figure 17 - Staff and Volunteer Count.....	28
Figure 18- Development Trust Membership .....	29
Figure 19 - Member Count (SURC) .....	30
Figure 20 - Member Count by SIMD .....	30
Figure 21- Grant Funding Categories (£).....	31
Figure 22- Average Grant Funding by SURC .....	32
Figure 23 - Average Grant Funding by SIMD .....	32
Figure 24- Grant Funding by Local Authority Heat Map .....	33
Figure 25 - Average Grant Funding by local authority per capita .....	34

Figure 26 - Grant Funding Reliance Distribution.....	35
Figure 27- Development Trusts not reliant on Grant Funding by SIMD.....	35
Figure 28- Development Trusts not reliant on Grant Funding by SURC.....	36
Figure 29- Asset Ownership and Grant Reliance.....	37
Figure 30- Employment and Grant Reliance.....	38
Figure 31- Development Trusts by Earned Income (£).....	39
Figure 32 - Earned Income as % of Total Annual Income.....	40
Figure 33 - Earned Income and Rurality.....	41
Figure 34 - Average proportion of earned income/total income by rurality .....	42
Figure 35- Earned Income by SIMD (Including Islands) .....	43
Figure 36 - Average Earned Income by SIMD (Excluding Islands) .....	43
Figure 37 - Average proportion of earned income as % of total income by SIMD (including Islands) .	44
Figure 38 - Earned Income by Local Authority Heat Map.....	45
Figure 39- Earned Income as a % of Total Income Heatmap.....	46
Figure 40- Number of Alternative Finance Models.....	48
Figure 41 - Alternative Finance Types.....	49
Figure 42 - Popular Alternative Finance Models by SURC.....	50
Figure 43 - SIMD and Alternative Finance.....	51
Figure 44 - Alternative Finance Models Planned to use .....	52
Figure 45 - Renewable Energy Ownership Heat Map.....	54
Figure 46 - RE Ownership and Grant Reliance .....	55
Figure 47 – Renewable Energy Ownership and Earned Income.....	57
Figure 48 – Community Benefit Funds by Earned Income Categories .....	60
Figure 49 - Varieties of Assets Owned.....	61
Figure 50 - Asset Ownership by SIMD.....	62
Figure 51- Asset Ownership by Rurality .....	63
Figure 52- Activities Delivered by Asset Ownership.....	66
Figure 53- Number of Activities Delivered by Development Trusts Annually .....	68
Figure 54- Current vs Aspiring Activity Count.....	69
Figure 55- Top 10 Activities .....	70
Figure 56 - Top 10 Aspiring Activities .....	71
Figure 57 - Employment and Activity Count.....	72
Figure 58 - Urban Development Trusts’ Activities.....	73
Figure 59 - Small Town Development Trusts’ Activities.....	74
Figure 60 - Rural Development Trusts’ Activities.....	75
Figure 61 - Island Development Trusts’ Activities.....	76
Figure 62 - Activities SIMD Quintile 1 .....	77
Figure 63 - Activities SIMD Quintile 2 .....	78
Figure 64 - Activities SIMD Quintile 3 .....	78
Figure 65 - Activities SIMD Quintile 4 .....	79
Figure 66 - Activities SIMD Quintile 5 .....	80

## Introduction

Our vision is for 'A Scotland that respects, embraces and supports sustainable and thriving community-led and owned organisations, working in urban, rural and island communities. Places where citizens have the powers and investment to develop their communities sustainably and overcome economic, environmental, social and cultural challenges.' To achieve this vision, Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) provides support and advice to community-led and owned organisations across the nation.

The Development Trust movement started over 20 years ago in Scotland and DTAS has developed its offer of support in line with the needs and demands of communities. The creation, evolution and growth of Development Trusts in Scotland remains our focus, alongside our Community Ownership Support Service to support asset transfer and right to buys and our Community Shares Scotland/Democratic Finance team to help diversify income streams. Together, we aim to create strong community infrastructures and support thriving communities.

Many development trusts across the country are established in response to similar challenges: cuts to public services, community asset closures, increasing deprivation, lack of access to essential services, ageing communities, lack of job opportunities and much more. DTAS members provide a diverse range of services and activities in response to those challenges with the goal of improving the social, economic, and environmental welfare of their community.

The DTAS membership has grown from 270 to 347 (full/provisional) members in 2024 plus 90 aspiring members, organisations that are providing vital services and local solutions, delivered by local people, on what matters to them. A development trust is a community-owned and led organisation, working to combine place-based action with an enterprising approach and as a membership organisation DTAS aims to ensure that each organisation meets our membership criteria.

Since our last survey in 2019, a global pandemic (Covid-19) saw the community sector as a whole step up to the challenge and deliver emergency support. Our members throughout Scotland proved how agile and responsive they are, using local people in support roles and reaching the most vulnerable in their communities. As we got out of the pandemic, the challenges continued with the cost-of-living crisis, increasing demand for essential services locally and an influx of public and privately owned buildings being put up for sale in communities across Scotland.

Although there are many challenges that we are facing across the country, our members are also grasping the opportunities to bring life back to land and buildings, creating jobs and addressing health, environmental and social needs. A development trust is community-led and owned, place-based and enterprising, providing local solutions to challenges and delivering a diverse range of businesses and services/activities such as, community energy schemes, shops, pubs, community hubs, youth and elderly services, employability, active travel, woodlands, and training/volunteering opportunities.

## **The Community Ownership Support Service**

The Community Ownership Support Service (COSS), delivered by DTAS, is a national programme that provides a focal point and central resource for asset transfer and community ownership activity in Scotland, providing information, expert advice, guidance, and support at all stages of the community asset transfer or acquisition process.

Delivered for DTAS members and other community-led organisations in Scotland, this programme aims to support the sustainable transfer of assets into community ownership, saving and developing services and creating jobs and opportunities for local communities.

COSS provides a pre-and post-acquisition Facilities Management service, working with members and community-led groups to help improve the operational and environmental efficiency of their buildings.

The team also facilitates the Scottish Universities Land Unit (SULU) which provides access to law-students from Dundee, Glasgow, and Strathclyde Universities to conduct research into land-related questions.

## **Democratic Finance Scotland**

Our Community Shares Scotland team is evolving into the Democratic Finance Scotland team, building on the success of helping communities across Scotland to raise £20 million in community shares finance since 2014. This community shares support has activated 18,000 citizen investors and helped launch 70 community-owned enterprises including hydro schemes, shops, pubs, and community hubs. The evolution to Democratic Finance Scotland, in partnership with Scottish Communities Finance Ltd, is due to an increasing need and demand for communities to diversify their sources of income. This programme will encourage a move away from grant dependency, promote citizen investment and harness community-led opportunities in renewable energy.

The program aims to:

- Encourage communities to move away from grant dependency.
- Promote citizen investment into democratically controlled community enterprises.
- Boost and circulate local wealth.

The core goal of this program is to enrich communities and encourage local economies that work better for the people who live there.

## About the Data: Methods and Representativity

### Methodology

DTAS conducts a comprehensive members survey once every 3 to 4 years. The organisation sees this survey as an invaluable opportunity to update the size and scope of the development trust movement, provide crucial evidence to assist our efforts in representing our members, and strengthen our case in influencing policy and legislation. The survey is not conducted on an annual basis to avoid declining response rates, survey fatigue among members, and allow the organisation sufficient time to analyse results comprehensively.

The 2023 survey was sent out to the entire DTAS membership in June 2023 and continued to collect results into the end of September of 2023. Overall, the survey attained a response rate of 51% (173 out of 342 members). For a total group size of under 1,000 people, a minimum 30% response rate is the statistical standard to ensure that extrapolated results from the sample are representative of the wider population<sup>1</sup>. The 51% response rate of this survey provides a high level of confidence in the results its analysis will produce.

The 2023 survey and subsequent report seeks to fulfil the following core goals in its analysis:

1. Identify the common characteristics, observed trends and key differences of development trusts in the DTAS membership.
2. Highlight the important and common challenges affecting development trusts.
3. Assess how DTAS can respond to those challenges and opportunities and inclusively represent our membership.

The data was collected through a Microsoft Forms survey, which produced an Excel spreadsheet of results once the data collection process was terminated. The first step in the process was combing through the data to identify and remove duplicate entries, error-check entries which seemed to deviate from the norm and reach out to participants who had left blanks in their responses or conduct desktop research to fill in those blanks. Main sources of information for desktop research were Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) records, Companies House reports, organisations' websites, social media pages, DTAS' internal database, and the COSS asset transfer register.

The following step was to add descriptive details for each entry to identify geographic location, rurality, and level of deprivation in the community. The indicators chosen for these factors were local authority area, Scottish Urban Rural Classification (SURC)<sup>2</sup>, and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)<sup>3</sup>. These indicators are used as standard practice in Scottish Government reporting

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://wp.stolaf.edu/jea/sample-size/#:~:text=For%20populations%20under%201%2C000%2C%20a,ensure%20representativeness%20of%20the%20sample.>

<sup>2</sup> We utilised the 6-category classification for SURC. More about the SURC: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-urban-rural-classification-2020/>

<sup>3</sup> We utilised the quintile classification for SIMD. More about SIMD here: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

on community ownership, therefore they were chosen for this report. The DTAS internal database held these details for all survey respondents, using the address postcode the respondents had listed in their survey response.

Once the data was error-checked, completed to the highest level of confidence, and included important segmentation indicators, the analysis began. To fulfil the outlined goals, the survey was designed and segmented into six core areas of operation for analysis:

- Organisation size: board members, volunteers, members, and staff
- Income, grant funding and grant reliance
- Alternative financing
- Renewable energy ownership and community benefit funding
- Asset ownership and leasing
- Activities and services

Average figures and percentages in the above categories were used to create a profile of a 'typical' DTAS development trust with figures such as income, number of members, asset ownership, SIMD, use of alternative finance, employees, and volunteers. This average profile grounded the analysis and served as a baseline comparison for assessing how factors such as rurality, deprivation and location affected these averages, and for assessing how these categories interact with each other and what trends can be observed that deviate from this 'average' picture.

Within these categories, trends were found by creating pivot tables and plotting variables on linear graphs. Statistically significant trends were identified by using the R squared value; if said value was above 0.5, the trend was deemed significant. An R-squared value represents how well the plotted independent variable 'predicts' the result of the dependent variable. The value represents the percentage of the data that 'fits' the predictive model; for example, a value of 0.6 would mean that 60% of the data fits this model. This approach was mainly used to identify linear relationships; however, relationships that were not linear were simply plotted against each other and included in the analysis if there were significant percentage differences.

In addition to analysing the data following these categories, respondents were also segmented by indicators for rurality (SURC), deprivation (SIMD), and geography (local authority). Additionally, members based in island communities were further segmented due to the specific challenges and opportunities faced by island development trusts. In doing this we sought to understand the impact of rurality, location, and deprivation on the profile of our members.

## [Representativity](#)

The first step in analysing the survey was assessing representativity of the responses. Despite the overwhelming response rate of 51%, we needed to assess if the membership was accurately represented in terms of geographic location (local authority area), rurality (Scottish Urban Rural Classification) and deprivation (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Rurality and deprivation were identified as key characteristics for ensuring representation and guiding the segmentation of our membership in the analysis of the survey data because of their proven effect on community organisations and community ownership in Scotland historically and presently<sup>4</sup>.

We utilised the internal DTAS database (which holds basic information such as local authority, rurality, and SIMD statistics for our membership) as the baseline for comparison.

### Rurality – SURC

The survey was found to be sufficiently representative of our membership with only slight variation between wider membership and survey responses (Figure 1- SURC category of Survey Respondents as compared to Wider DTAS Membership Figure 1) and a few notable caveats:

- Development trusts based in SURC 6 – remote rural, were overrepresented.
- Development trusts based in SURC 4 – remote small-towns, were underrepresented.

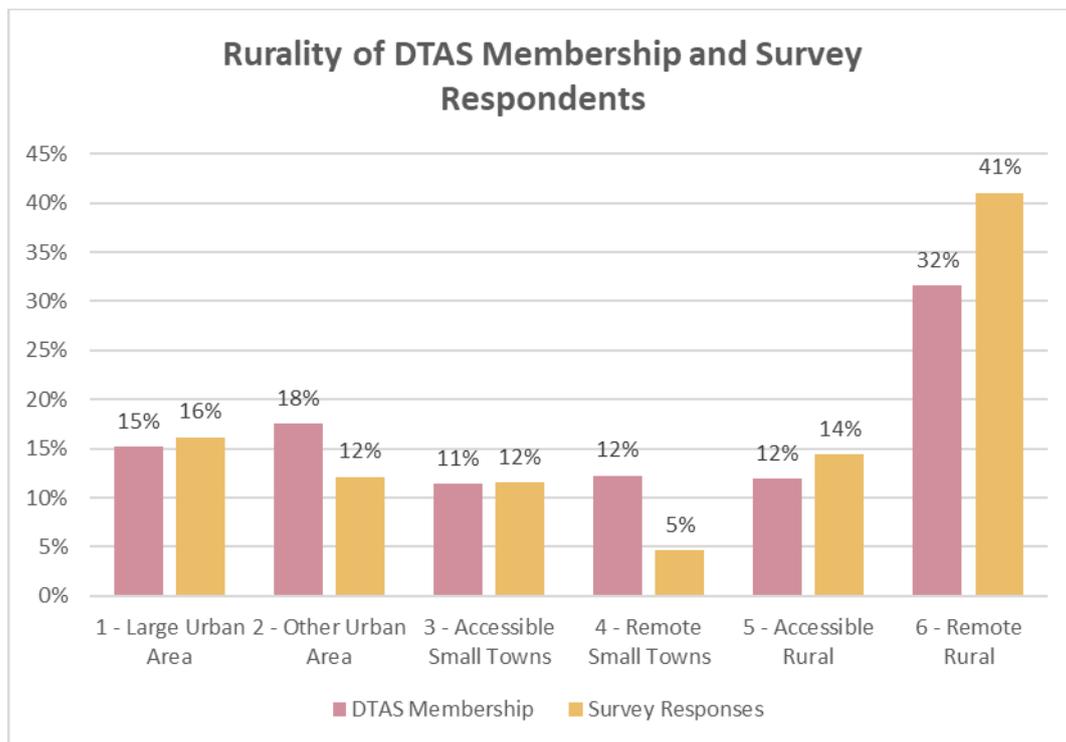


Figure 1- SURC category of Survey Respondents as compared to Wider DTAS Membership

### Deprivation (SIMD)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2023/10/community-ownership-in-scotland-2022/documents/community-ownership-in-scotland-2022---report/community-ownership-in-scotland-2022---report/govscot%3Adocument/Community%2BOwnership%2Bin%2BScotland%2B2022%2B-%2BReport.pdf>  
 COSS Asset Transfer Report, soon to be published.

In terms of deprivation (measured using SIMD) similar results were found, in that the survey was broadly representative of our membership with some caveats:

- Members in SIMD quintile 2 were slightly underrepresented.
- Members in SIMD quintile 3 were overrepresented.

The higher level of responses in development trusts in SIMD quintile 3 correlates with the higher response rate among our rural members (Figure 2).

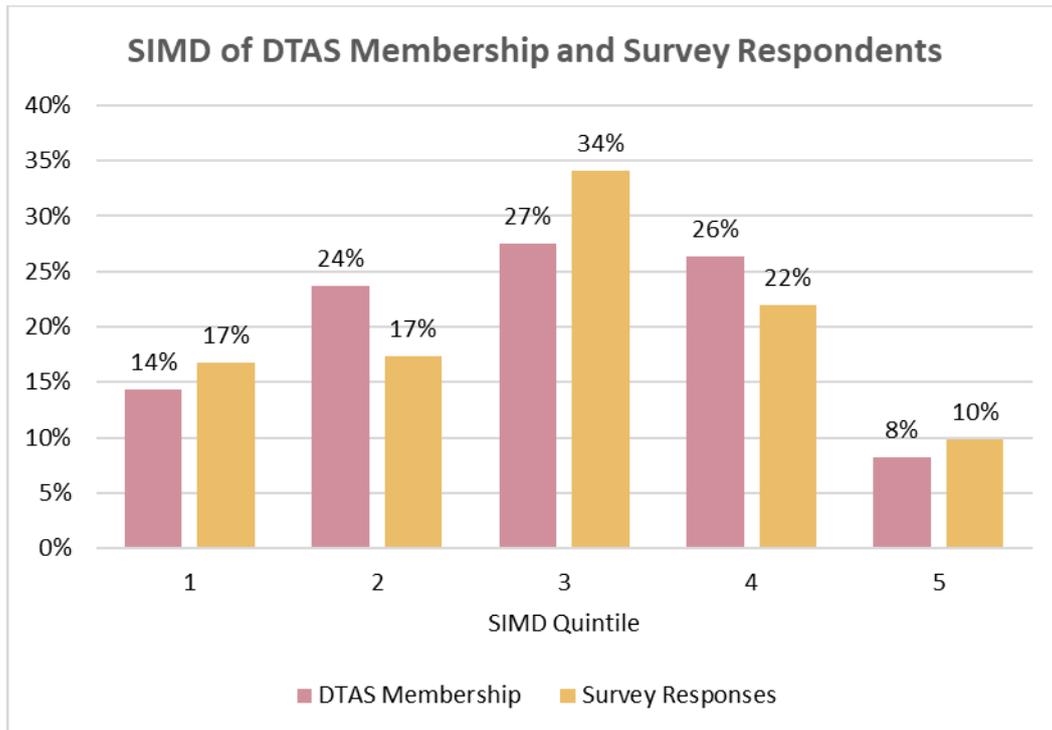


Figure 2- SIMD category of Survey Respondents as compared to Wider DTAS Membership

### Local Authority

To understand the geographic distribution of survey responses versus wider membership, we used local authority area as a common measure. Table 1 details the geographic spread of DTAS membership, unrepresented areas have been highlighted in red, underrepresented areas in orange, and overrepresented areas in green:

Table 1- Local Authority of Survey Respondents as compared to Wider DTAS Membership

Local Authority	Survey Responses	DTAS Membership
Aberdeen City	0.6%	0.6%
Aberdeenshire	4.0%	4.1%
Angus	0.0%	0.6%
Argyll and Bute	9.2%	10.2%
Clackmannanshire	0.6%	1.2%
Dundee City	0%	0%

Dumfries and Galloway	6.4%	7.3%
East Ayrshire	1.2%	1.5%
East Dunbartonshire	1.2%	1.5%
East Lothian	0.0%	0.6%
East Renfrewshire	0.0%	0.3%
Edinburgh, City of	4.6%	3.2%
Falkirk	0.0%	0.6%
Fife	5.2%	4.7%
Glasgow City	8.7%	6.1%
Highland	18.5%	19.3%
Inverclyde	0.6%	0.3%
Midlothian	1.7%	1.8%
Moray	2.9%	3.2%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	2.3%	5.0%
North Ayrshire	1.7%	1.8%
North Lanarkshire	1.7%	1.5%
Orkney Islands	2.3%	2.9%
Perth and Kinross	2.3%	3.5%
Renfrewshire	1.7%	1.8%
Scottish Borders	7.5%	4.1%
Shetland Islands	1.2%	0.9%
South Ayrshire	0.0%	1.8%
South Lanarkshire	4.0%	2.6%
Stirling	4.6%	3.5%
West Dunbartonshire	1.2%	1.5%
West Lothian	4.0%	2.3%

Angus, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, and Falkirk are not represented in survey responses; however, they represent a small proportion of the wider DTAS membership with under 1% of members in those areas. Overall, the percentage difference is not statistically significant. More notable discrepancies in geographic representation are the Western Isles and South Ayrshire, both underrepresented. Glasgow City and City of Edinburgh have been overrepresented, Glasgow with a significant response rate of 2 points more than their proportion of the wider DTAS membership. Dundee City is the only area where DTAS has no members.

### Limitations

Efforts to increase survey responses in areas that were underrepresented, either by rurality, local authority area or SIMD ranking, were undertaken to address the issues of representation. The team sent out targeted emails, extended the deadline, and sent various reminders to groups that had not completed the survey. Although these efforts yielded a small increase in replies, extending our response rate above 50%, they made a statistically insignificant difference to the noted caveats of representation.

Another limitation to the data used is the lack of detail and nuance in Scottish government indicators for deprivation.<sup>5</sup> SIMD tends to obfuscate rural deprivation as data zones in rural areas are much larger than in urban areas, so small pockets of deprived communities are often aggregated with more affluent communities producing an ‘average’ deprivation score for that data zone. Additionally, issues pertaining particularly to rural communities such as low connectivity, ageing populations, and social isolation are not specifically measured by SIMD.<sup>6</sup> It is important to note that while they may provide accurate analyses for urban communities, the results for rural communities should not be solely relied upon. The use of SIMD in this survey analysis is due to a lack of alternative for detailed measuring of the impact of deprivation.

A further limitation of the SIMD indicator is its use of the word ‘deprived’. The word ‘deprived’ to describe often working-class communities has received criticism for removing the agency of individuals in these communities, ignoring the concept of class, the responsibility of statutory stakeholders and the positive aspects of working-class communities. This report will refer to ‘deprived’ areas and ‘deprivation’ as it is the consistent wording used by Scottish Government to report on such areas. However, we acknowledge the criticisms and limitations of this wording.

Figures for grant funding are also limited as we recognise that grant funding figures might be skewed for some groups who are currently undertaking big capital projects (which generally require a lot of grant money).

Furthermore, one of the initially proposed outputs of this report was a comparison with the previous 2019 DTAS members survey. However, this comparison was not possible, mainly due to a lack of baseline as the 2019 survey did not include the same questions asked in the 2023 survey. Additionally, the substantial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the development trust movement would make it virtually impossible to address the causality of observed trends, specifically around income and grant reliance.

Ultimately, this survey’s high response rate and the minor variation in representation of survey respondents in terms of location, rurality, and SIMD (under 10 points variation between survey responses and wider membership) enables us to be confident that the data is representative of the DTAS membership. Additionally, the standards for response rate and representativity are more moderate as this data will not be used to predict future trends or establish direct causality between observed trends. Readers must simply bear in mind the identified limitations of the data when forming conclusions and utilising the data to support proposals.

---

<sup>5</sup> Read <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2017/02/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-rural-deprivation-evidence-and-case-studies/documents/rural-deprivation-an-evidence-review/rural-deprivation-an-evidence-review/govscot%3Adocument/rural%2Bdeprivation%2Bevidence%2Breview.pdf> for more on the limitations of the indicator

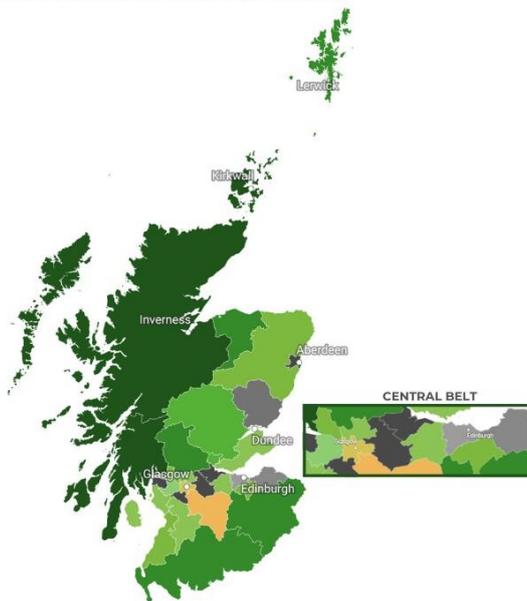
<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

## DTAS Membership in Focus:

The heatmap outlines the number of full DTAS members ‘per capita’ by local authority (**Error! Reference source not found.**). These figures were calculated by taking the population of the local authority area and dividing it by the number of development trusts in DTAS’ membership in that same local authority area. The final numbers represent the number of development trusts in each local authority area per every 1,000 people. A lower number indicates a higher concentration of development trusts relative to the population of the local authority. For example, if the number for an area is 1, there is on average 1 development trust per every 1,000 individuals living in that area, and if the number is 9, there is 1 development trust per 9,000 individuals living in that area.

### Development Trust Hot and Cold Spots 2023

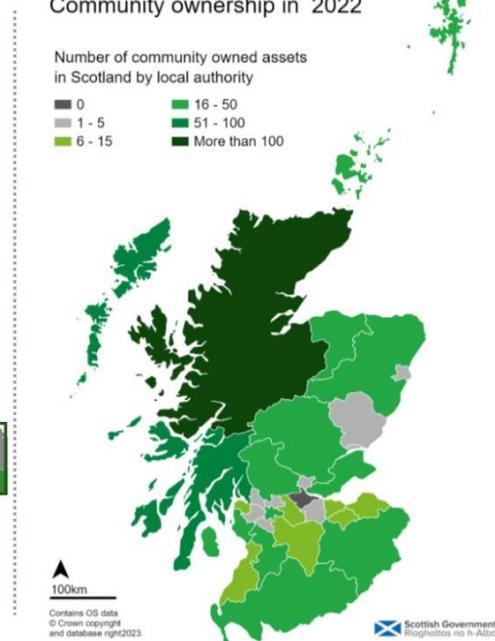
Values represent the number of thousands of people per DT in a given local authority area. Lower values indicate higher concentration of development trusts relative to population.



Map data: © Crown copyright and database right 2019 · Created with Datawrapper

### Community ownership in 2022

Number of community owned assets in Scotland by local authority



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2023.

Scottish Government  
Riaghaidh na h-Alba

Figure 3- DTAS Membership Heatmap and Community Ownership in Scotland Heat Map (Source, Scottish Government Community Ownership Report, 2022)

The areas with the highest concentration of development trusts are Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney Islands, Argyll and Bute and the Highlands. Glasgow boasts a high number of development trusts but given its population this amounts to an average development trust concentration. Areas with the lowest concentration of development trusts are clustered around the central belt: North Lanarkshire, Inverclyde, Falkirk, and East Renfrewshire. However, since 2021 we have had a slight increase in representation in Falkirk, which previously had zero development trusts in DTAS membership. Dundee city remains a cold spot for DTAS membership.

The geographic distribution of the DTAS membership mirrors historic geographic trends in community ownership in Scotland (Figure 3). The highlands and islands have been strongholds of community

ownership in Scotland and regularly report high rates of community owned assets in the annual Scottish Government Community Ownership in Scotland Report. In 2023, the Highlands and Argyll and Bute local authorities together represent 36% of all the assets in community ownership. Similarly, Na h-Eileanan Siar contains 72% of the total land area in community ownership<sup>7</sup>.

Despite these differences in development trust representation and concentration across the country, we utilised the data gathered from the members survey to create a picture of the 'average' Development Trust.

Additionally, we utilised the segmentation indicators for rurality, by coupling urban areas, small-towns, remote areas and adding further segmentation for island-based development trust to create geographically specific 'average' development trusts.

**See below infographics:**

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2023/10/community-ownership-in-scotland-2022/documents/community-ownership-in-scotland-2022---report/community-ownership-in-scotland-2022---report/govscot%3Adocument/Community%2BOwnership%2Bin%2BScotland%2B2022%2B-%2BReport.pdf>



# Average Development Trust

Overview of the key average statistics for development trusts across Scotland in DTAS Membership. Based on findings from the 2023 Members Survey.

## OVERVIEW

Organisation size and Membership



## INCOME AND FUNDING

**£277,552**

Average Annual Income

**£92,775**

Average Earned Income



## ALTERNATIVE FINANCE

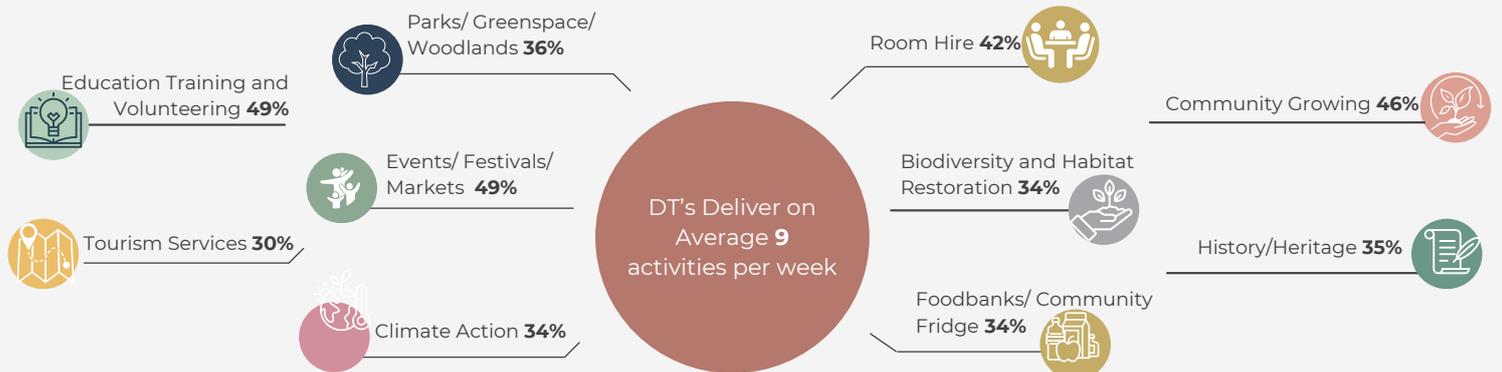


47% Of DTs not using AF plan to use some form of it in future.



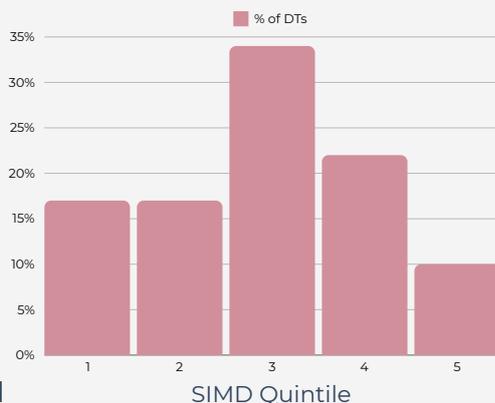
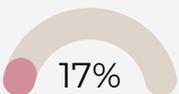
- Most Popular AF Used:**
1. Community Lottery
  2. Crowdfunding
  3. Philanthropic Giving

## TOP 10 ACTIVITIES



## DEPRIVATION (SIMD)

\*Note that SIMD is not an entirely accurate measure as it tends to obscure rural deprivation.



## ASSETS



Most members own two types of asset (land/woodland and buildings).



# Rural Development Trusts

Overview of the key statistics for rural mainland development trusts in DTAS Membership. Based on findings from the 2023 Members Survey

## OVERVIEW

Organisation size and Membership



## INCOME AND FUNDING

**£240,185**

Average Annual Income

**£69,629**

Average Earned Income



78% Have Earned Income



47% DTs are very reliant on grant funding

## ALTERNATIVE FINANCE



76% Of DTs use at least 1 form of Alternative Finance

**41%**

Of DTs not using AF plan to use some form of it in future.

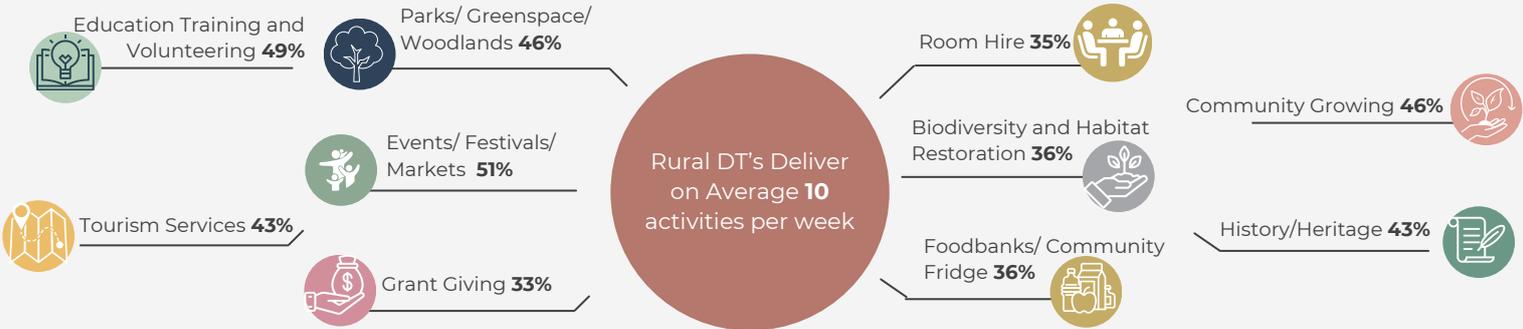


36% Receive CBFs from Renewable Energy

### Most Popular AF Used:

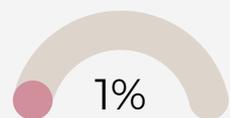
1. Renewable Energy
2. Philanthropic Giving
3. Crowdfunding

## TOP 10 ACTIVITIES

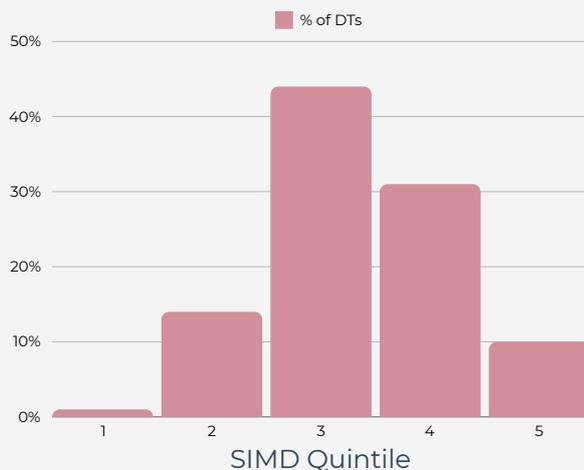


## DEPRIVATION (SIMD)

\*Note that SIMD is not an entirely accurate measure as it tends to obscure rural deprivation.



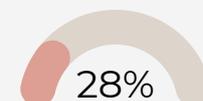
1% Of DTs are in the 20% most Deprived communities in Scotland



## ASSETS



86% Of DTs own 1 or more Assets



28% Of DTs lease an asset



Most members own two types of asset (land/woodland and buildings).



# Island Development Trusts

Overview of the key statistics for island development trusts in DTAS Membership. Based on findings from the 2023 Members Survey

## OVERVIEW

Organisation size and Membership



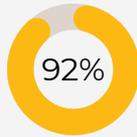
## INCOME AND FUNDING

**£439,553**

Average Annual Income

**£215,973**

Average Earned Income



## ALTERNATIVE FINANCE



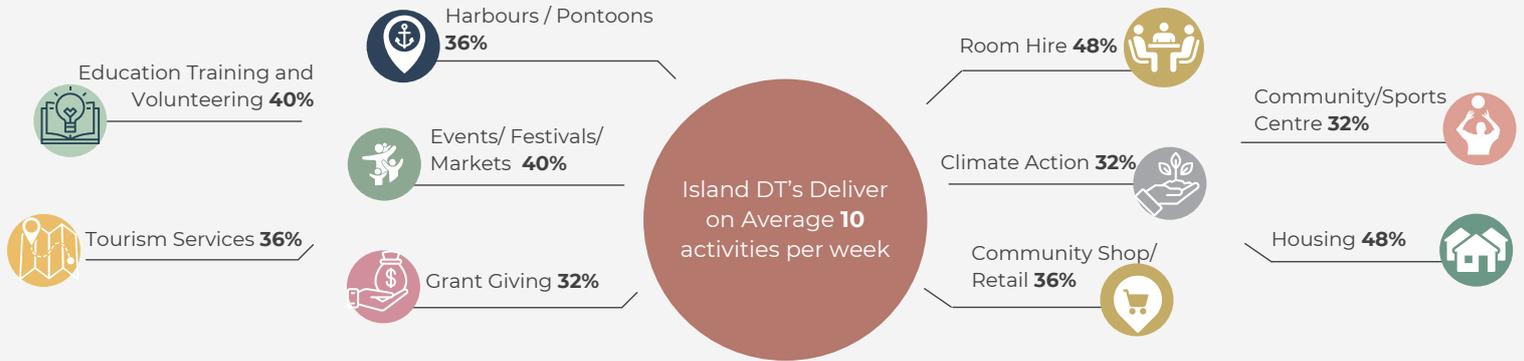
**55%** Of DTs not using AF plan to use some form of it in future.



### Most Popular AF Used:

1. Crowdfunding
2. Renewable Energy
3. Community Lottery

## TOP 10 ACTIVITIES

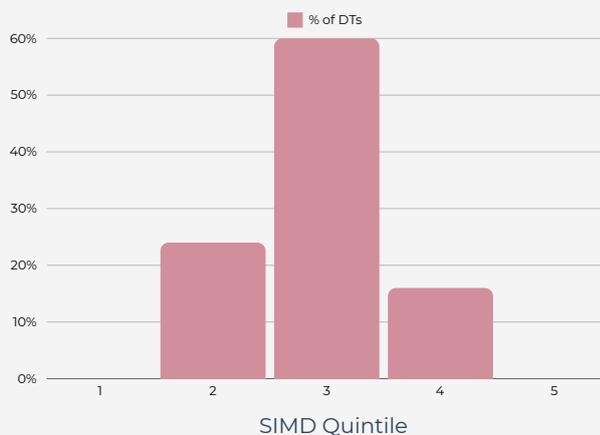


## DEPRIVATION (SIMD)

\*Note that SIMD is not an entirely accurate measure as it tends to obscure rural and island deprivation.



Of DTs are in the 20% most Deprived communities in Scotland



## ASSETS

**96%** Of DTs own 1 or more Assets

**40%** Of DTs lease an asset

Most members own **four** types of asset (land/woodland, buildings, vehicles and other).



# Small Town Development Trusts

Overview of the key statistics for development trusts in Small Towns in DTAS Membership. Based on findings from the 2023 Members Survey

## OVERVIEW

Organisation size and Membership



## INCOME AND FUNDING

**£247,526**

Average Annual Income

**£78,593**

Average Earned Income



## ALTERNATIVE FINANCE



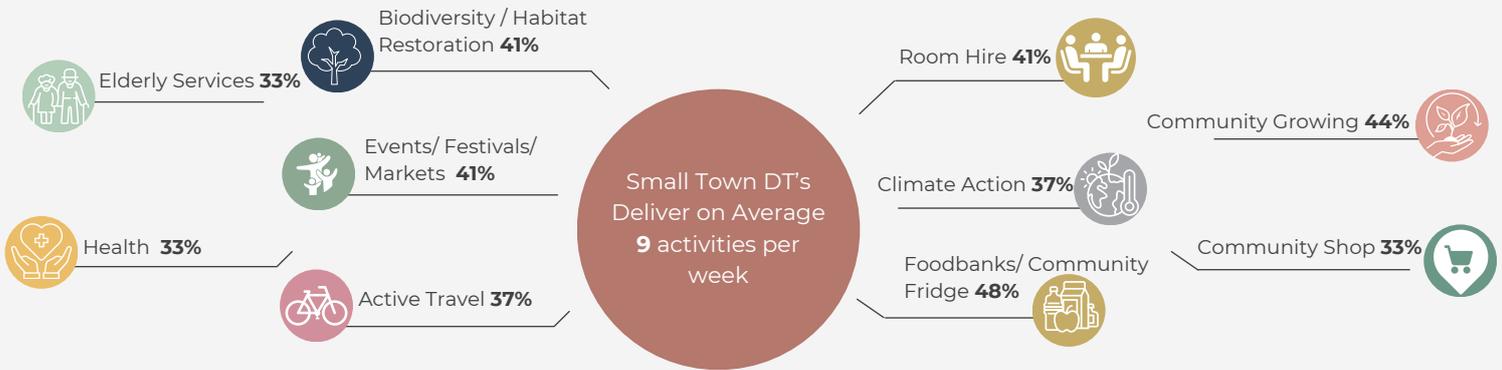
70% Of DTs not using AF plan to use some form of it in future.



### Most Popular AF Used:

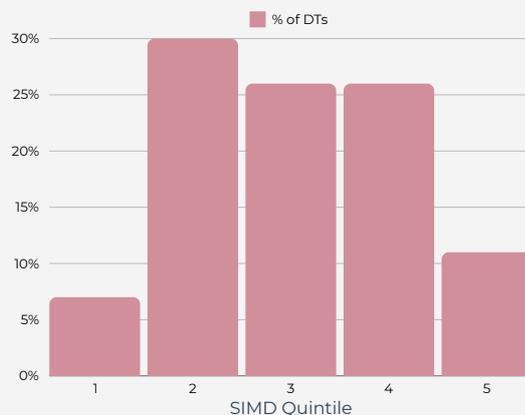
1. Community Lottery
2. Philanthropic Giving
3. Renewable Energy

## TOP 10 ACTIVITIES



## DEPRIVATION (SIMD)

\*Note that SIMD is not an entirely accurate measure as it tends to obscure rural deprivation.



## ASSETS



Most members own two types of asset (land/woodland and buildings).



# Urban Development Trusts

Overview of the key statistics for urban development trusts (SURC 1 and 2) in DTAS Membership. Based on findings from the 2023 Members Survey

## OVERVIEW

Organisation size and Membership



## INCOME AND FUNDING

**£266,350**

Average Annual Income

**£71,745**

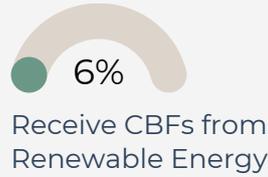
Average Earned Income



## ALTERNATIVE FINANCE



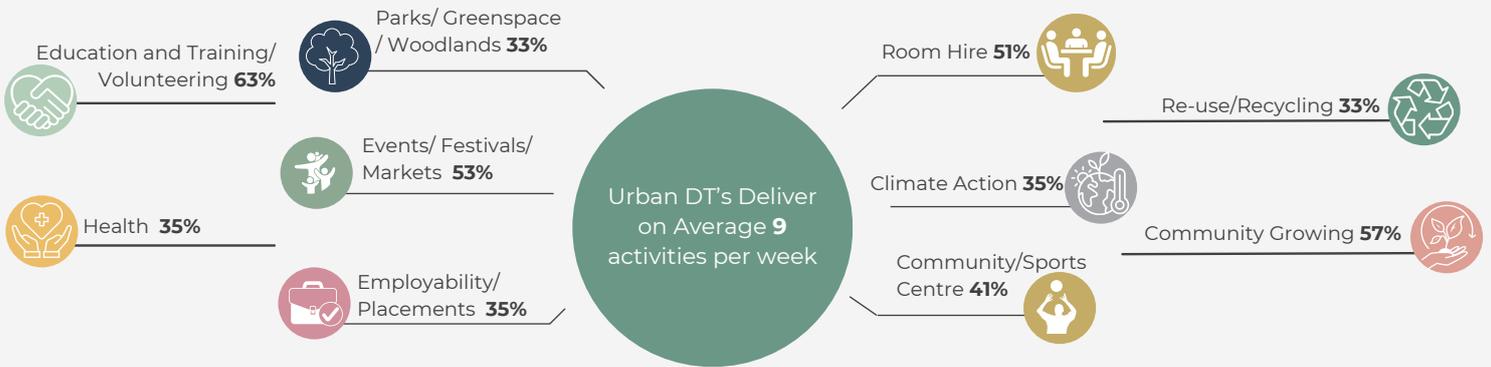
38% Of DTs not using AF plan to use some form of it in future.



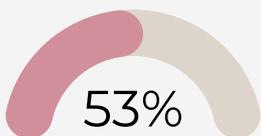
### Most Popular AF Used:

1. Community Lottery
2. Crowdfunding
3. Philanthropic Giving

## TOP 10 ACTIVITIES



## DEPRIVATION (SIMD)



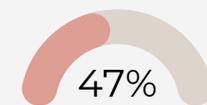
Of DTs are in the 20% most Deprived communities in Scotland



## ASSETS



Of DTs own 1 or more Assets



Of DTs lease an asset

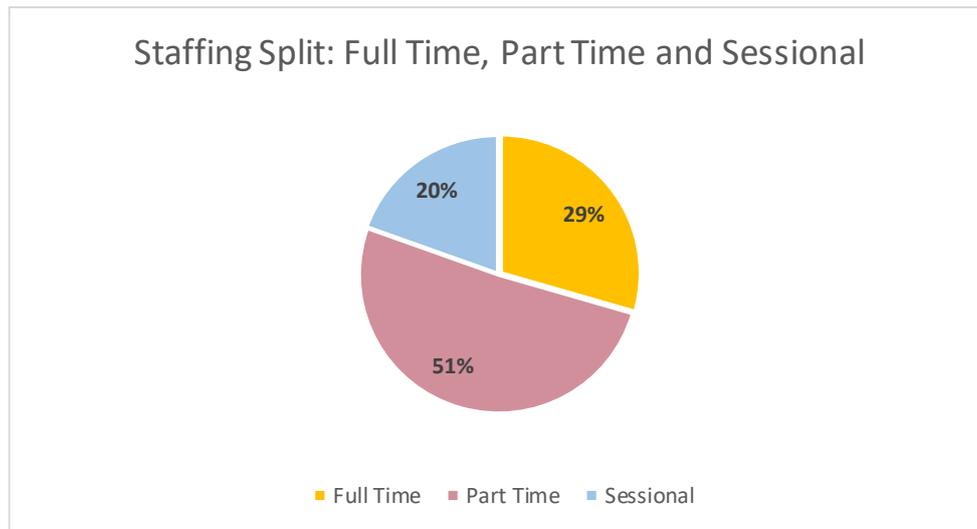
Most members own only one type of asset (Buildings).

## Analysis of Survey Results:

### People

#### Staff and Board Members

There are a total of 1,275 individuals employed by development trusts that filled in the survey. A total of 81% of development trusts employ paid staff in their organisation. Within that employment there is a mix of full time, part time and sessional staff, with most staff being part time (Figure 4).



*Figure 4- Staff Type, FT, PT and Sessional*

There is an even split between permanent and time-limited contracts, with most development trusts employing a mixture of both. Similarly, 50% of development trusts employ staff for a mixture of project roles, management roles and administrative roles. See Figure 5 for a further breakdown.

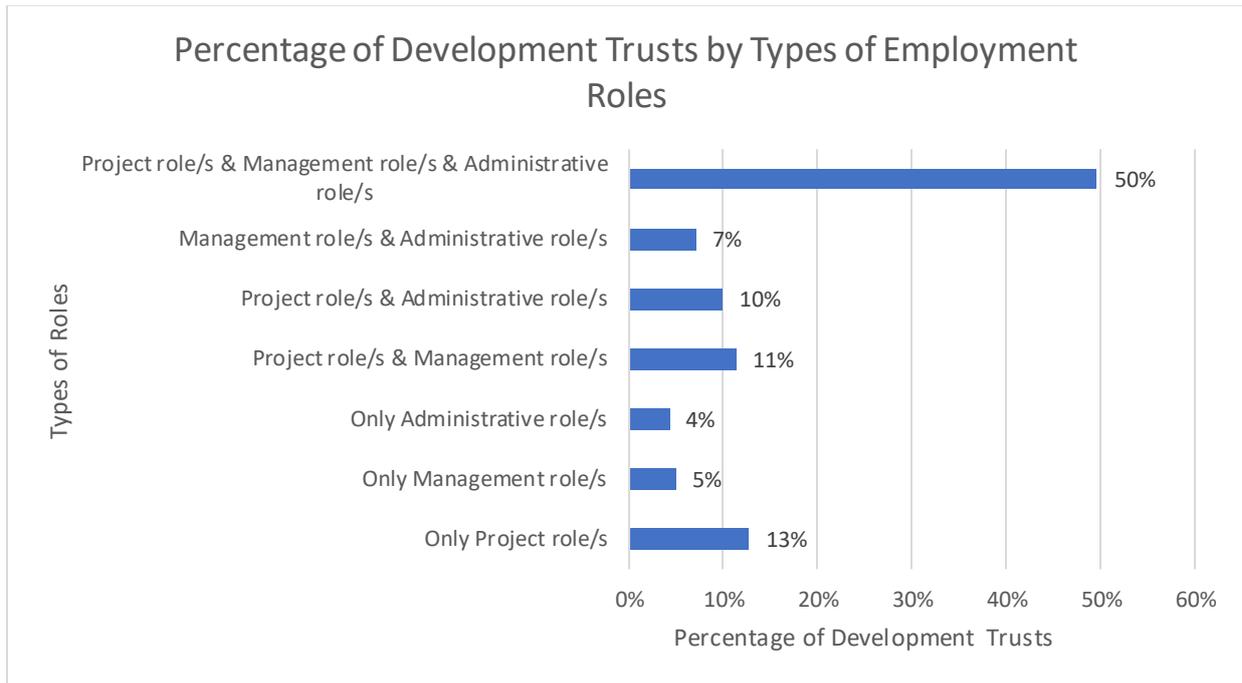


Figure 5 - Types of Employment Roles

The deprivation level of communities according to SIMD seems to have a strong link with the fact that development trusts employ staff. The R squared value of 0.76 in Figure 6 indicates a strong negative linear relationship between SIMD and staffing, with organisations in the most deprived areas being the most likely to employ a paid member of staff. This follows other trends for SIMD, where organisations in SIMD quintile 1 are more likely to lease assets and are more likely to receive grant funding.

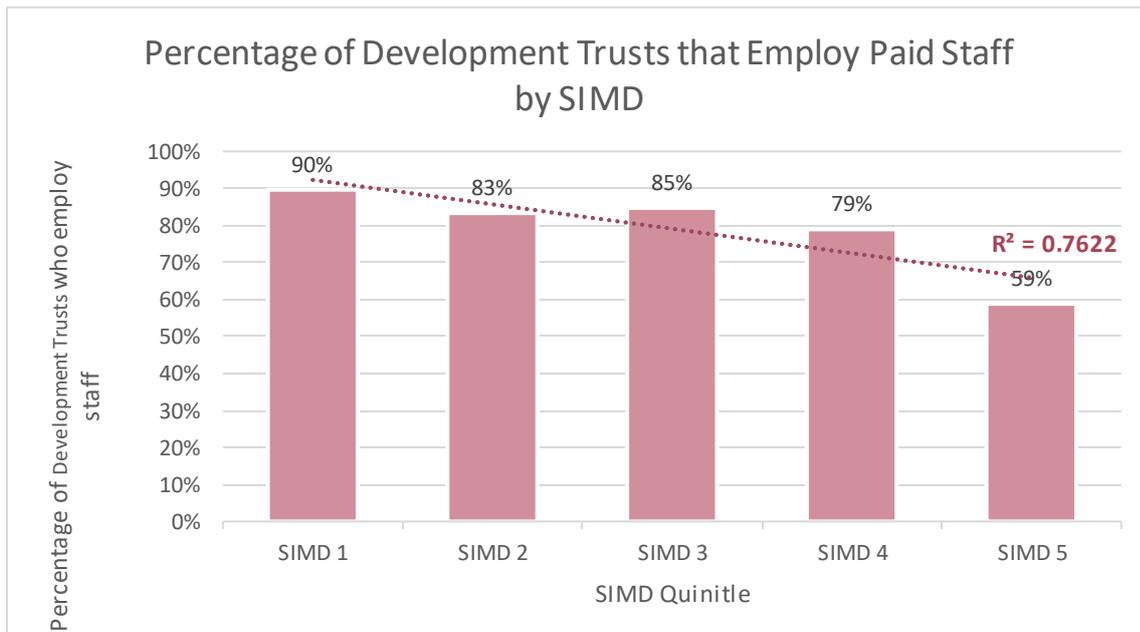


Figure 6 - Staff Employment by SIMD

Organisations in SIMD quintiles 1 have more than double the average number of paid staff members than those in other SIMD quintiles, with more than three times as many staff members as development trusts in the most affluent communities. This could be explained by the use of sessional staff for services such as employability and youth services. See Figure 7.

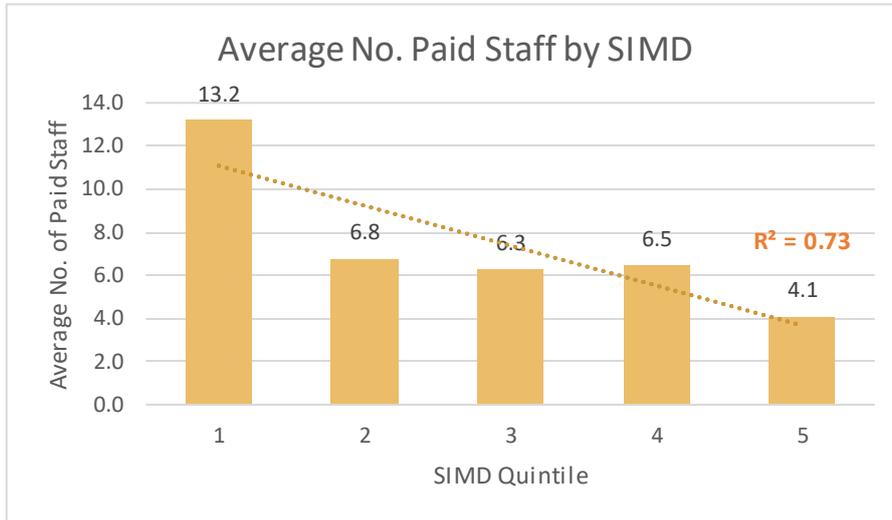


Figure 7- Average No. Paid Staff by SIMD

SIMD has little impact on the distribution of part time, full time, and sessional staff within organisations. All organisations are more likely to hire part time staff, followed by full time staff, with sessional staff being the least popular option. See below graph.

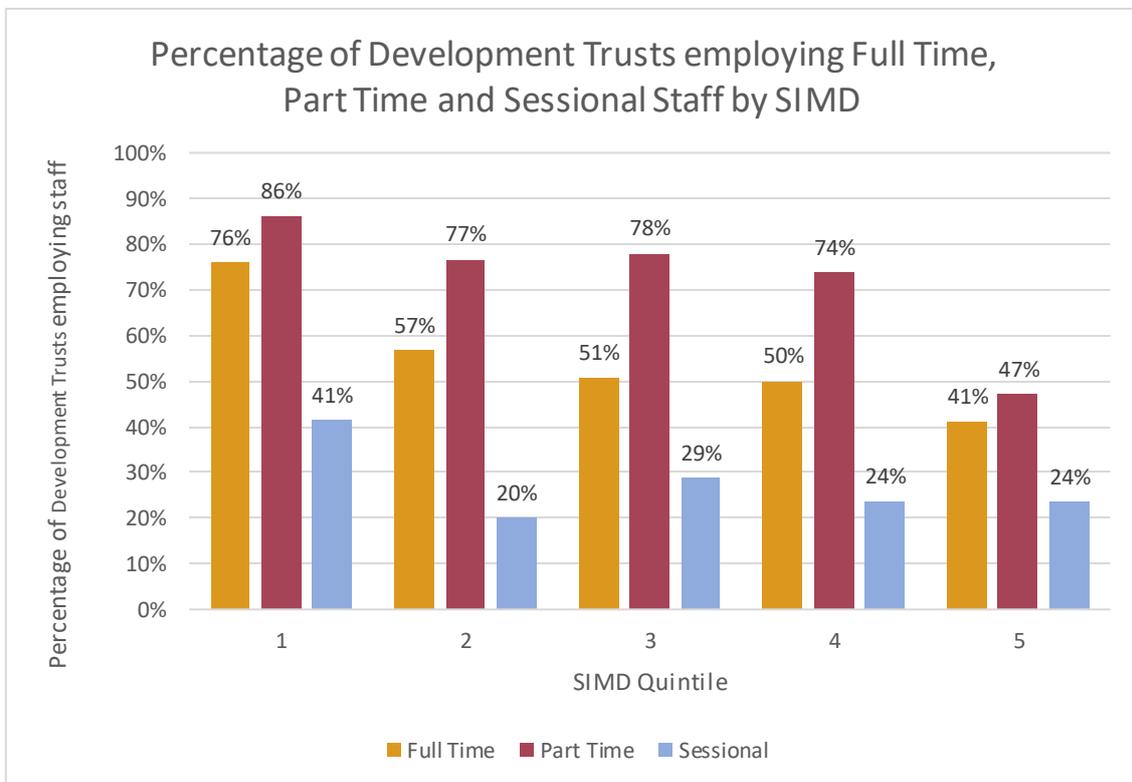


Figure 8 – Full Time, Part Time and Sessional Staff by SIMD

## Rurality

There is no linear correlation between rurality, as measured by SURC, and the likelihood of a development trust employing a paid member of staff. Employment figures for other urban areas (SURC 2), and remote small towns (SURC 4) deviate from the average. There are no obvious reasons as to why development trusts in other urban areas have a lower likelihood of employing paid staff, or why those in remote small towns have a 100% rate of employment, these trends could be due to sampling issues.

The average number of staff employed when plotted against SURC mirror the trends seen with SIMD and employment almost exactly, this is likely because over 50% of DTAS members in urban areas are also in an area of high deprivation (SIMD 1). This might be because many of DTAS' urban members are in high SIMD areas. Groups in large urban areas have on average double the number of staff in employment compared to groups in other rural classifications. Despite the significant difference between employment numbers of groups in SURC 1, the rest of the SURCs have similar averages therefore the linear relationship between these variables is moderate with an R squared value of 0.46. See below figure.

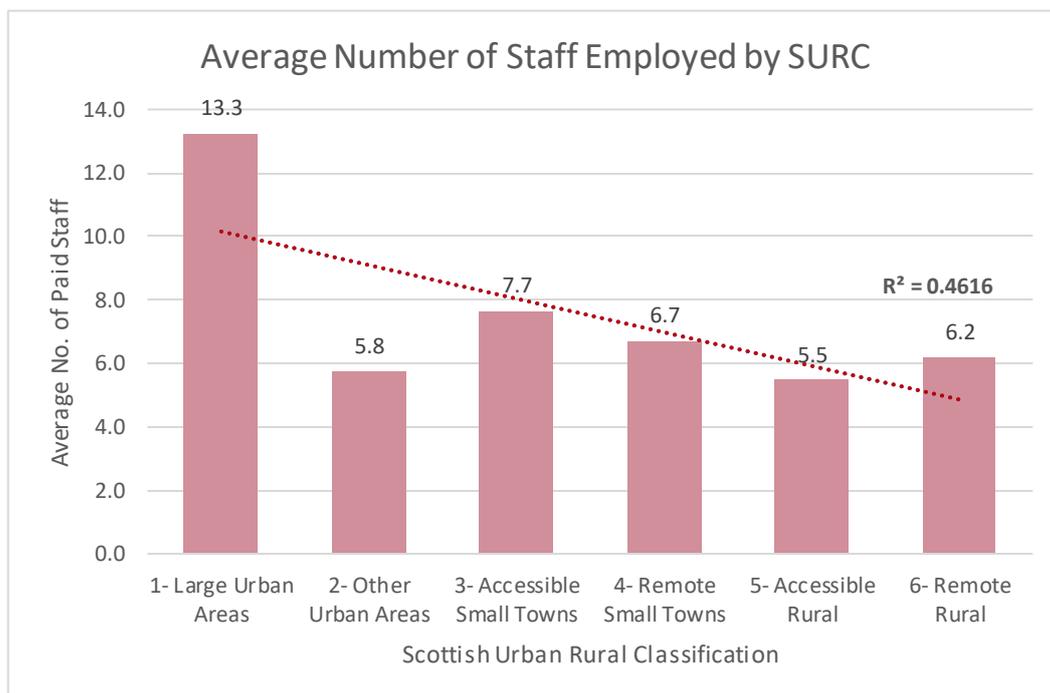


Figure 9 - Average Number of Staff Employed by SURC

Groups in accessible small towns and accessible rural areas have a below average employment of full-time staff. From on the ground trends observed by practitioners, this could be due to housing issues in these areas, with a lack of housing for people moving to the area permanently for work.

Groups in urban areas have an above average likelihood of employing sessional staff (Figure 10). This can be due to the popularity of activities such as youth work and employability schemes in urban areas, which are more likely to employ sessional staff.

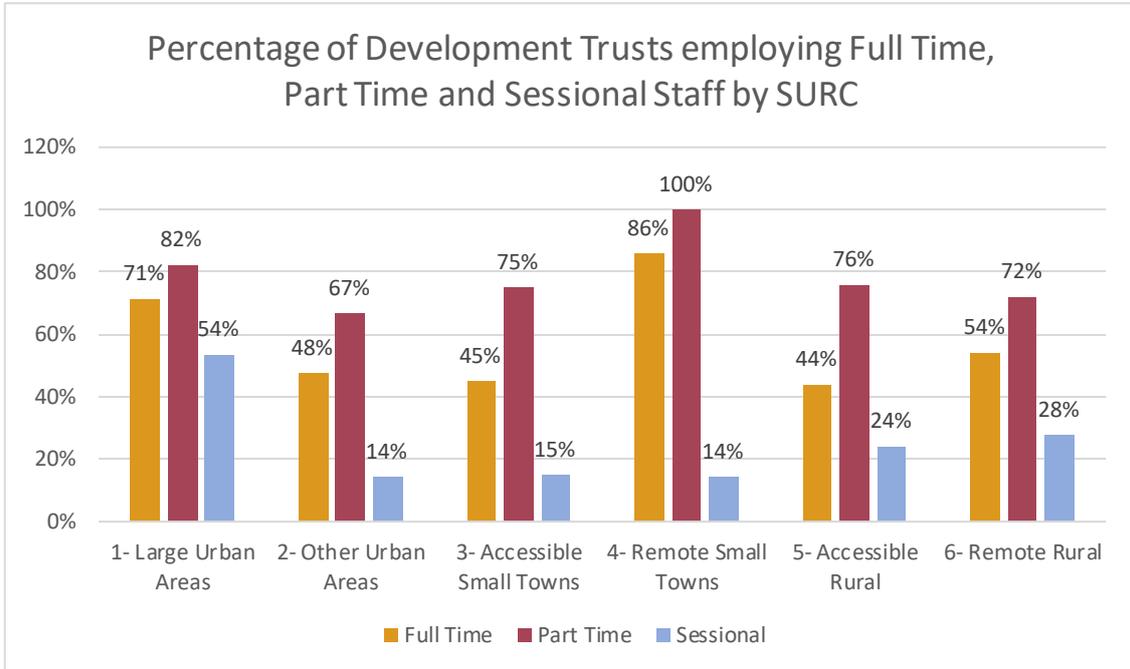


Figure 10 - Full Time, Part Time, and Sessional Staff by SURC

### Annual Income

There is a moderately strong correlation between an organisation’s total annual income, including earned income and grant funding, and the average number of paid staff they employ. This relationship is a positive linear one, with the number of staff increasing as income increases (Figure 11). This correlation is likely due to the mutually constitutive relationship between staffing and income, organisations with income are more likely to have the funds to hire paid staff and organisations with paid staff are more likely to have the capacity to generate income.

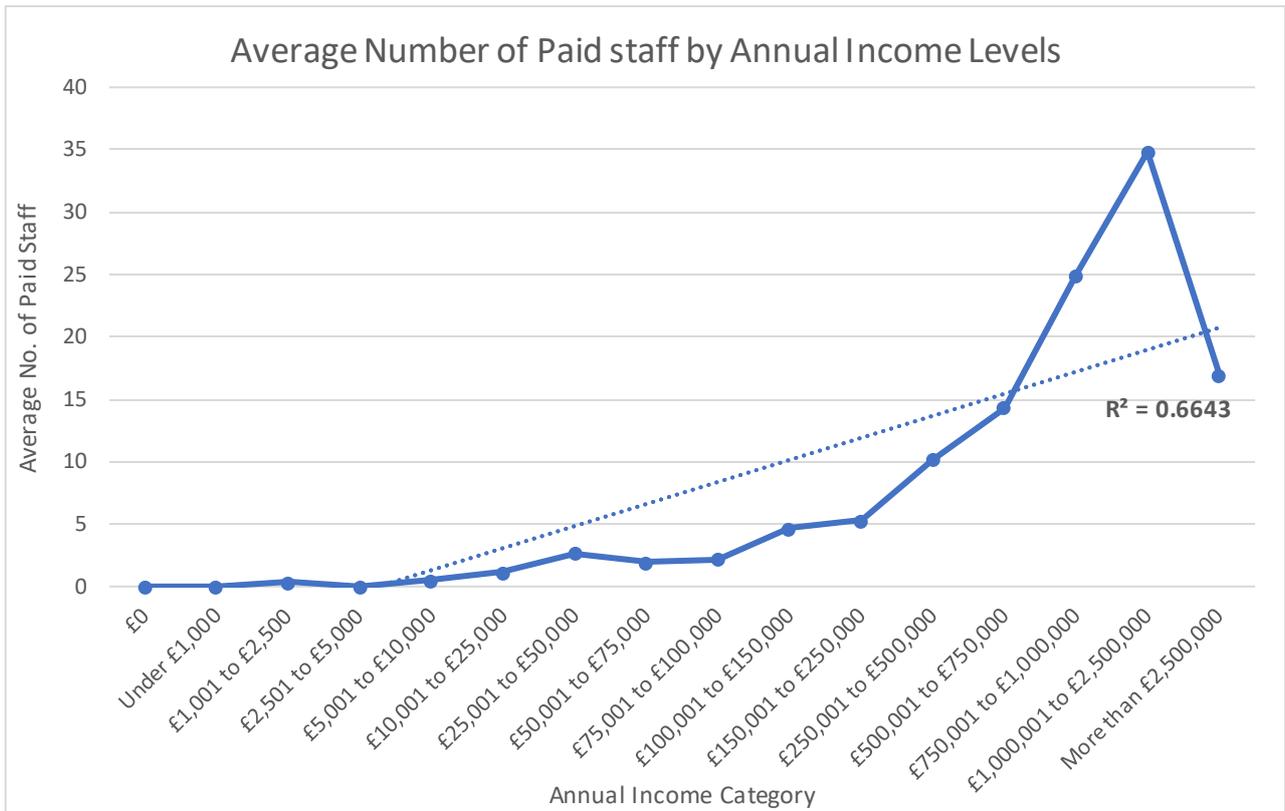


Figure 11- Average Number of Paid Staff by Annual Income

## Board Members

Development trusts have on average 9 board members, with a high proportion of all groups surveyed having under 10 board members. The organisation with the most board members reports having 25 board members<sup>8</sup>, and the organisation with the least reports having 4. See below graph for distribution of board members.

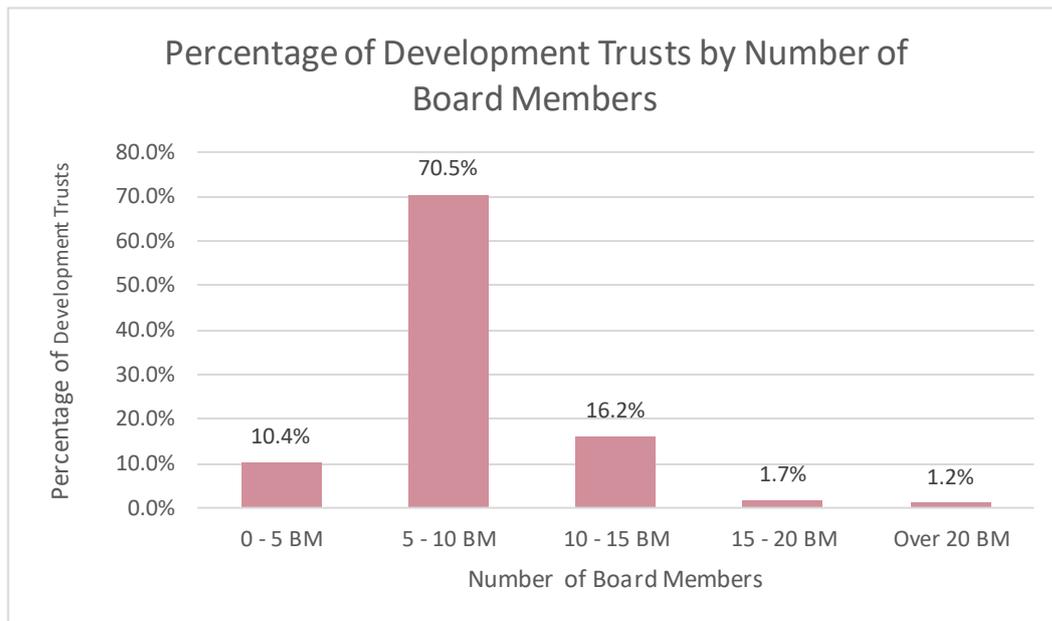


Figure 12 – Development Trust Board Members

There is no significant difference in board member numbers when segmenting groups by level of deprivation (SIMD).

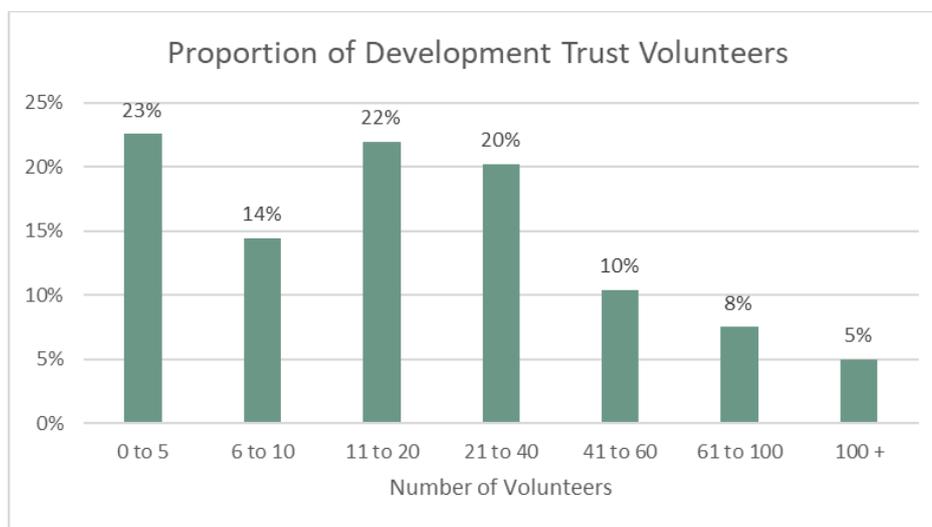
There is also no significant correlation between rurality and board member figures. The key statistics, averages, minimums, and maximums, for board members remains virtually the same across different ruralities. The maximum number of board members in the sample increases from urban areas with a maximum of 15 to island areas with a maximum of 25.

<sup>8</sup> Note that development trusts that report high number of board members have trading subsidiaries with different board members therefore increasing their totals.

## Volunteers

Volunteers are essential for development trusts. Without individuals dedicating their free time to these groups, development trusts would not be able to deliver services, provide activities and ultimately serve their communities.

DTAS members were asked how many active volunteers they have involved in their organisation, excluding board members. The average number of volunteers per development trust is **28**. Proportionally, Figure 13 shows that development trusts have a large variety of volunteer numbers, with 23% having between 1 and 5 volunteers. The second largest category was for development trusts with 11 to 20 volunteers (22%), followed closely by those with 21 to 40 volunteers (20%). Few development trusts had over a hundred volunteers with just 5% answering so in the survey.



*Figure 13- Development Trust Volunteer Numbers*

### Volunteers and SIMD

Figure 14 below shows the development trusts' average number of volunteers by SIMD quintile. The largest average number of volunteers came from quintile 1 and quintile 5 with 36. Closely behind was quintile 2 with an average number of 35 volunteers. SIMD quintile 3 saw the lowest average volunteer count with 18.

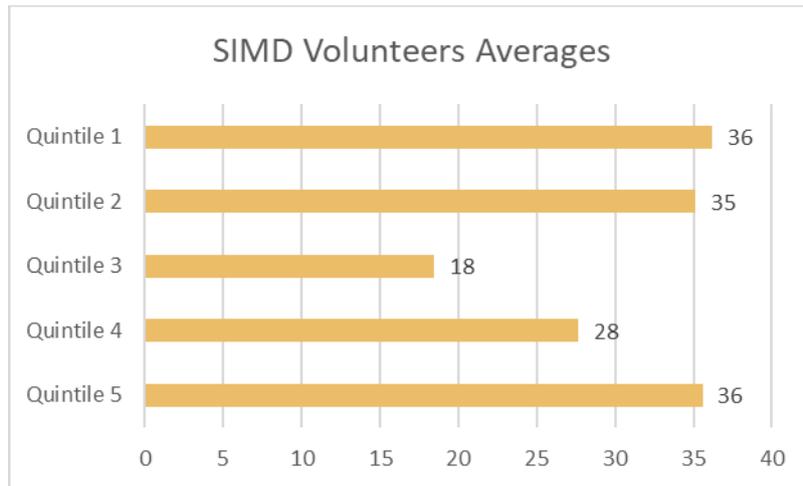


Figure 14- Volunteers by SIMD

### Volunteers and Rurality

Figure 15 shows that the largest average number of development trust volunteers came from rural small towns with 48. However, there were only three groups who came from rural small towns, making this finding unreliable. The next two largest averages are those from urban areas (1- Large Urban Areas and 2- Other Urban Areas) at around 40 volunteers respectively.

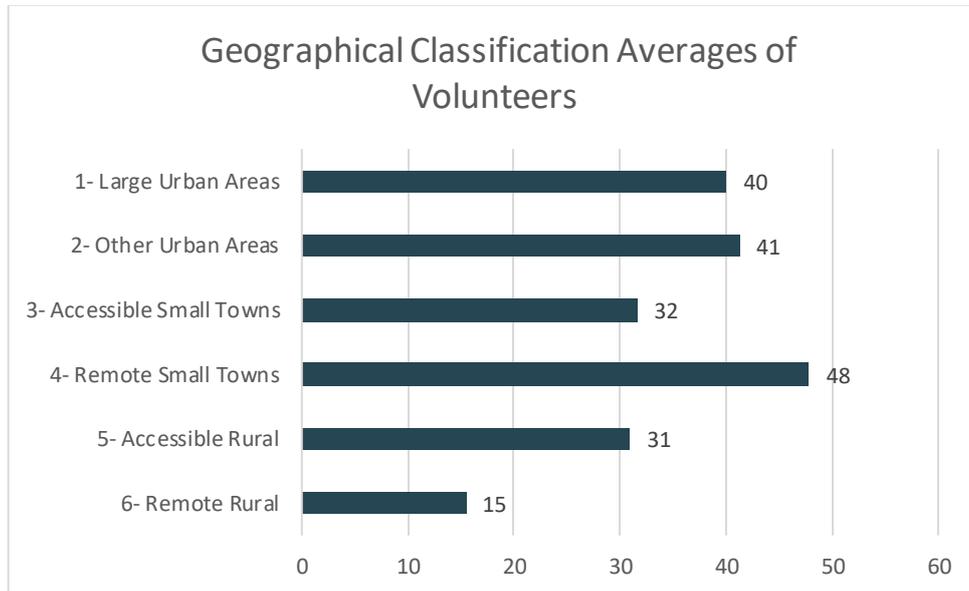


Figure 15- Volunteers by SURC

Figure 16 below shows the distribution of development trust volunteers comparing groups with and without assets. A higher proportion of non-asset owners have the smallest category of volunteers (43%) compared to asset owners (35%). The same can be said for groups with 11 – 20 volunteers. However, this narrative is countered by groups with over 50 volunteers, as organisations without assets have marginally more than those with assets. This could be explained by the fact that some asset types can also be liabilities, requiring time and capacity for little reward, as buildings and land can be damaged and in need of repairs. As such, this could be off putting for development trust members or supporters to volunteer their time.

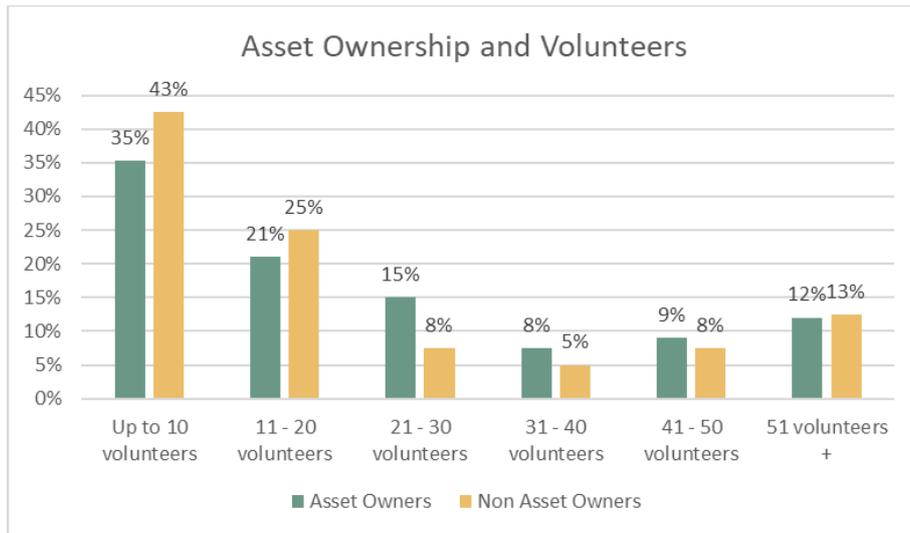


Figure 16- Asset Ownership and Volunteer Numbers

Whether or not a group has the resources to employ individuals influences the activity of volunteers. As shown in Figure 17, a large proportion of groups without staff have under 10 active volunteers with 56% of non-employing groups having up to 10 individuals volunteering their time for their development trusts. Meanwhile, the distribution of development trusts with staff is more even with more groups having larger numbers of volunteers. The R value of 0.5 indicates a linear relationship between employment and volunteers. With staff paid to dedicate their time, volunteers have better access to support and training and to this end, more volunteers can be attracted towards organisations. Whilst staff can focus on core development trust work, volunteers can be involved in more activity-based work.

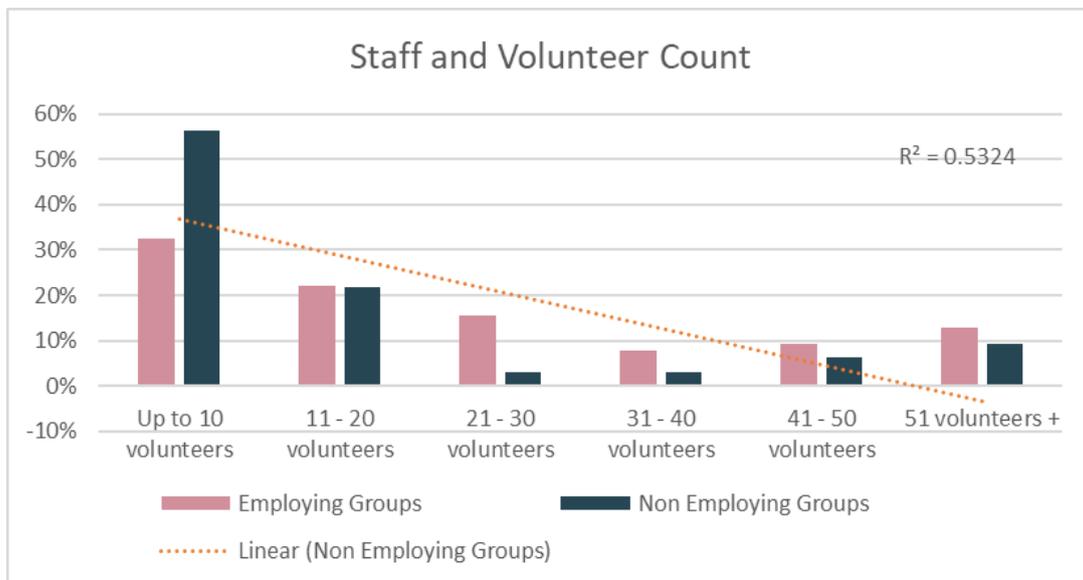
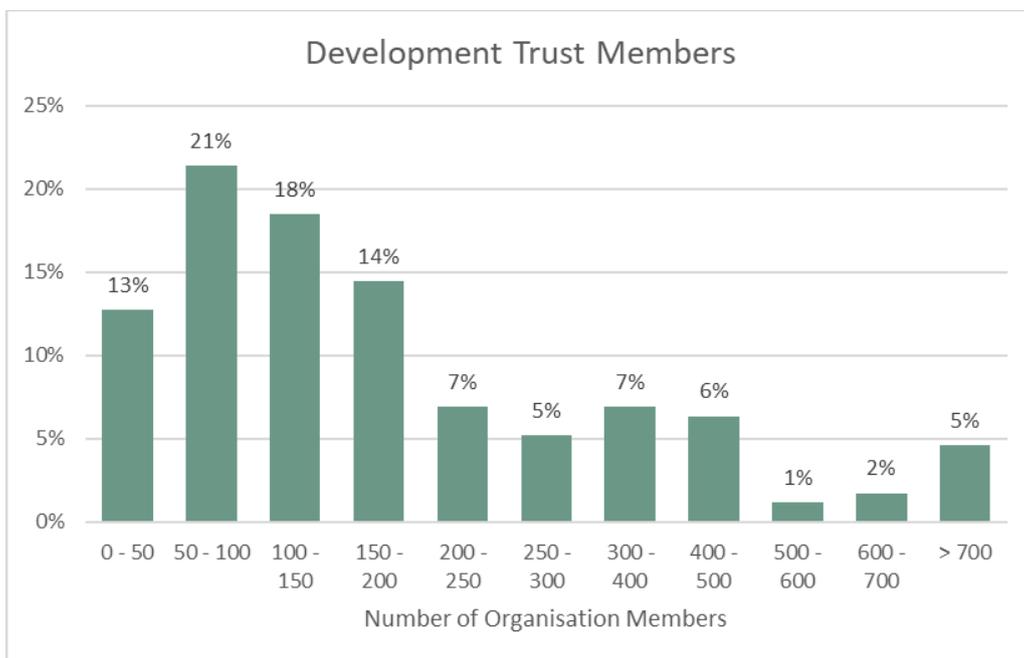


Figure 17 - Staff and Volunteer Count

## Membership

A pre-requisite of development trusts in their governance is to be led by their members. As well as being central for decisions on their growth, impact, and plans, development trust membership keeps the organisation engaged and embedded in the local community.

DTAS members were asked to give an exact number of their current membership. **The average number of organisational members for all development trusts was 212.** When considering the distribution of all organisations' membership, 21% of groups have between 50 to 100 local people signed up as members. To look at the survey results on a wider scale, two thirds (66%) of organisations have up to 200 members with 12% having between 201 and 300 members. See Figure 18 below.



*Figure 18- Development Trust Membership*

Figure 19 shows the distribution of members by SURC. The largest average number of members came from those from remote small towns with 440, 228 higher than the national average. It is, however, important to note that there were only three responses in the survey from this geographical profile and is therefore an anomaly in the data. DTAS members from large urban areas were the next largest group with an average of 298. The smallest two averages came from those in rural areas (5- Accessible Rural & 6- Remote Rural), both with averages of under 200. This might simply be explained by the area of benefits' population, with both accessible rural and remote having smaller populations.

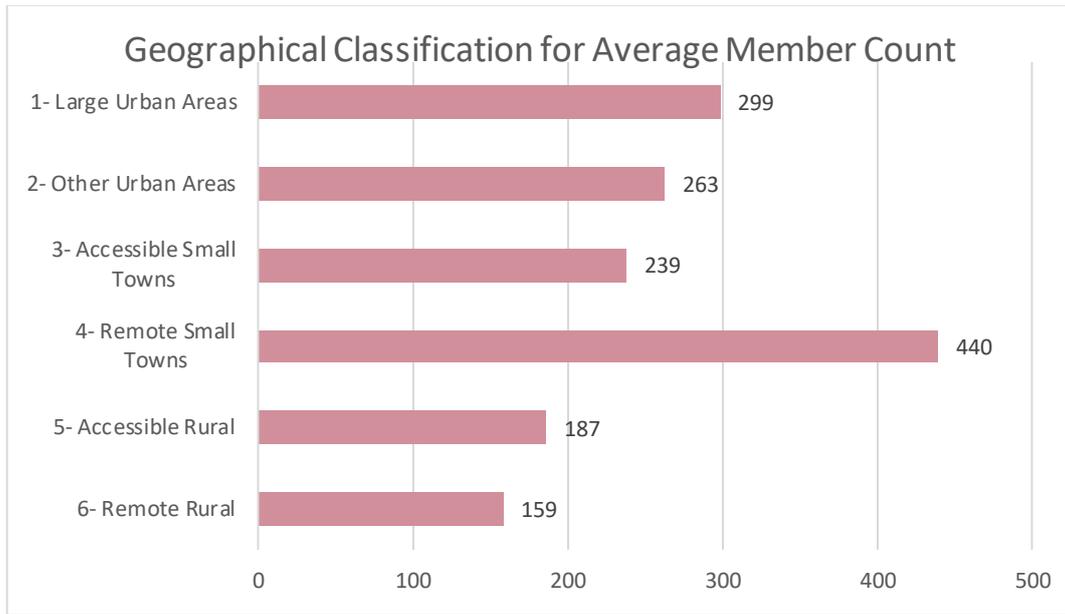


Figure 19 - Member Count (SURC)

### Members and SIMD

Plotting SIMD against average member count shows that development trusts from quintile 1 on average have the largest membership with 313 members. Communities from SIMD quintile 1 tend to be in densely populated urban areas with more residents and thus can bring in more development trust members.

Figure 20, with an R value of 0.97, this indicates a very strong correlation between SIMD and average member count. The lowest figure was from SIMD quintile 5 with 142 average members. This could be explained by the fact that affluent communities are not in need of the services delivered by development trusts as much as other communities given the economic wealth of residents.

The visibility and identifiability of service delivery is key to the membership of development trusts. If development trusts have effective communication on their activities delivered, this can help increase membership. On the other hand, if local authorities and their services are effectively identifiable in communities, this can make it difficult for development trusts to establish themselves as service providers.

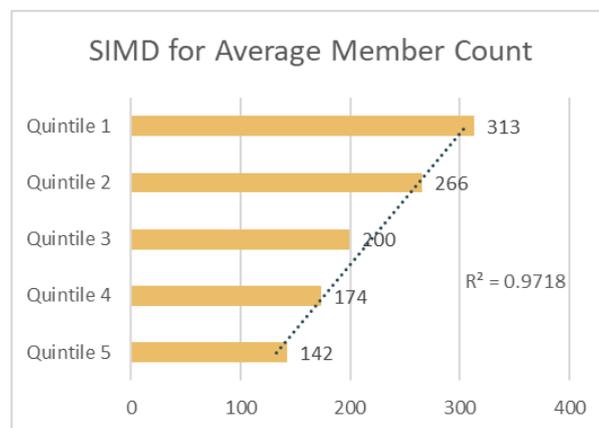


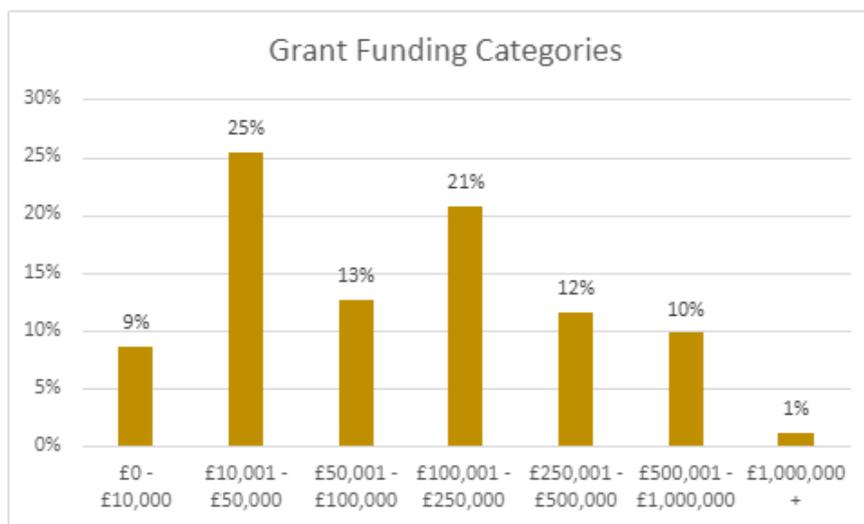
Figure 20 - Member Count by SIMD

## Funding and Income

### Grant Funding

Grant funding is vital to the everyday running of development trusts. Whether funding comes from the local authority, the Scottish Government or enterprise agencies, grant funding is a substantial component of groups' finances, both restricted and unrestricted. It should be noted that the following figures are referring to grant funding data from our members survey. Therefore, potential explanations are made for development trusts' grant funding rather than any assumptions about all third sector organisations in Scotland.

Figure 21 below illustrates the different levels of grant funding that organisations reported to have received according to their latest annual accounts. One in four development trusts (25%) received between £10,000 and £50,000 in grant funding with just over one in five (21%) receiving £100,000 – £250,000 annually. DTAS members receiving up to £10,000 made up 9% of the membership whilst 11% gained over £500,000.



*Figure 21- Grant Funding Categories (£)*

When looking at the differences in grant funding geographically (Figure 22), the largest average sum of grant funding is received by development trusts in large urban areas with £252,002 annually, with the next largest group of awardees coming from remote rural areas with £205,297, followed by remote small towns (£185,696). The areas which received the least amount of grant funding on average were other urban areas (£118,073) and accessible rural areas (£123,524).

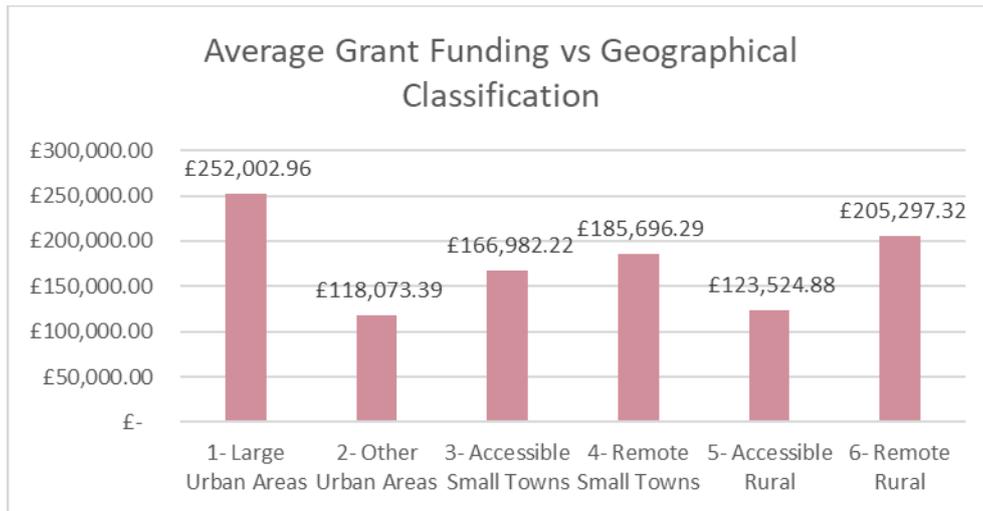


Figure 22- Average Grant Funding by SURC

Using deprivation as an indicator for average grant funding shows that development trusts from SIMD quintile 1 receive the most grant funding, by a considerable margin. With an average of £256,452 received annually, this figure portrays that grantees might prioritise funding development trusts from deprived areas, potentially indicating that the more affluent an area is, the less grant funding receives. It might also be that DTs in deprived areas can access more funding opportunities because of the wide range of challenges they are likely to try and address. Groups from SIMD quintile 5 conversely receive a significant amount less of grant funding on average with £73,490. With an R value of 0.6, there is clear evidence of a statistically significant negative correlation between grant funding and deprivation.

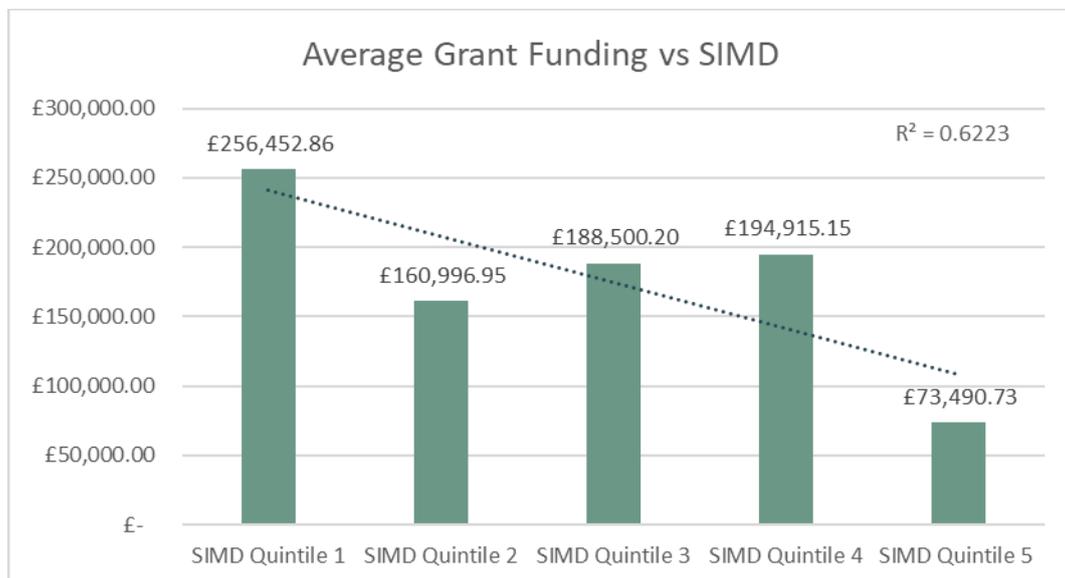


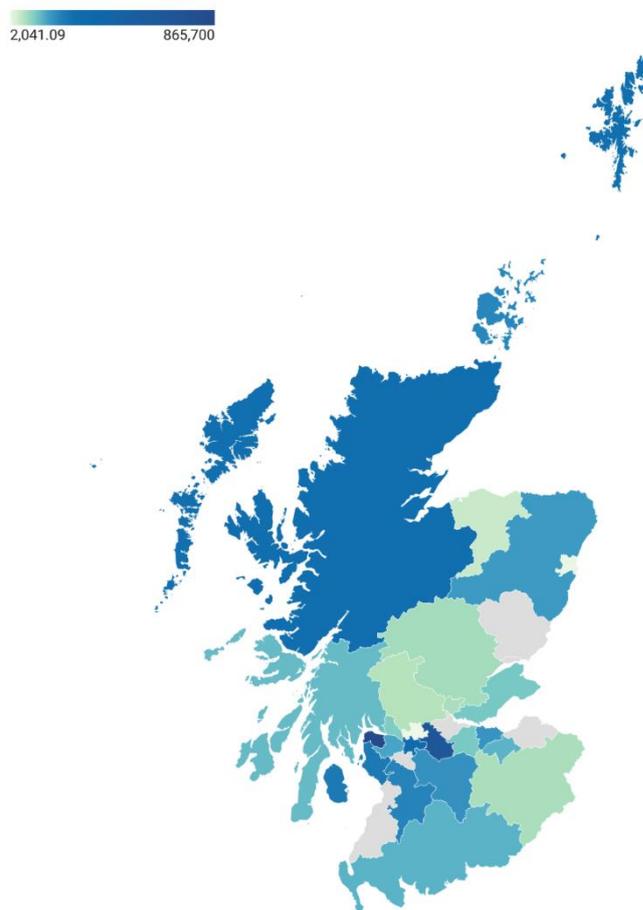
Figure 23 - Average Grant Funding by SIMD

When looking at the distribution of grant funding across local authority areas, there is a stark contrast across the country: trusts in the Inverclyde Council area received the most average grant funding (however, given the size of the development trust in the area, it is an outlier in the data). Trusts in the North Lanarkshire Council area were the second largest receivers of grant funding (£641,586),

followed by the trusts in the Glasgow City Council area (£296,141) and the Highland Council area (£278, 053).

Trusts in Island local authority areas were among those with the most grant funding with trusts in Shetland Islands, Na-h Eileanan Siar and Orkney Islands areas all receiving an average of over £200,000. This could be related to the high scopes of service delivery by trusts in these areas, but also issues such as higher building costs. The council areas were trusts received the least amount of average grant funding were Aberdeen City (£7,400) and East Dunbartonshire (£2,041). See Figure 24 below.

### Average Grant Funding by Local Authority



Source: Development Trusts Association Scotland • Map data: © Crown copyright and database right 2019 • Created with Datawrapper

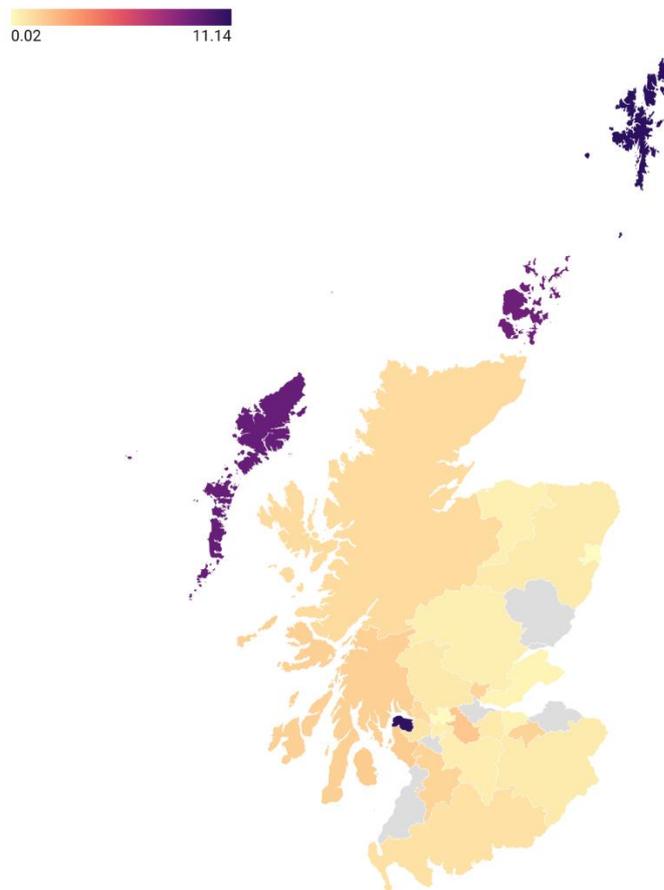
Figure 24- Grant Funding by Local Authority Heat Map

Figure 25 uses the average grant funding income per local authority area per capita, obtained by calculating the average grant funding received in each local authority area divided by the population of each council area. The choropleth map illustrates the difference that population size can have when considering grant funding, and the need for this additional lens to draw firmer conclusions.

Glasgow City council area receives on average one of the highest averages in terms of grant funding, however Figure 25 reveals that per capita, it receives one of the lowest amounts with £0.48 of grant funding per inhabitant. With a high population density in Glasgow, grant funding is spread thinly.

In contrast, island council areas have the highest average grant funding per capita, with Shetland council area receiving £11.14 per inhabitant, Orkney council area receiving £9.17 per inhabitant and Na-h Eileanan Siar with £9.45. Given the population sizes in these areas, this might be explained by the lesser amounts of competition from other similar community/third sector organisations, along with the scope of service delivery by trust (and the higher building costs previously mentioned). As with Figure 24, Inverclyde council area is treated as an anomaly given the scale of the development trust.

### Average Grant Funding by Local Authority per capita



Map data: © Crown copyright and database right 2019 • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 25 - Average Grant Funding by local authority per capita

## Grant Reliance

The survey asked development trusts, on a scale from 1 to 5, how reliant they were on grant funding (with 1 being not reliant on grant funding at all and 5 being very reliant).

The survey found that grant dependency is prevalent amongst DTAS members with **almost half of respondents (46%) stating they were very reliant on grant funding**. Only 8% of organisations felt that their trust was not reliant at all on grant funding, with 38% choosing options 3 and 4.

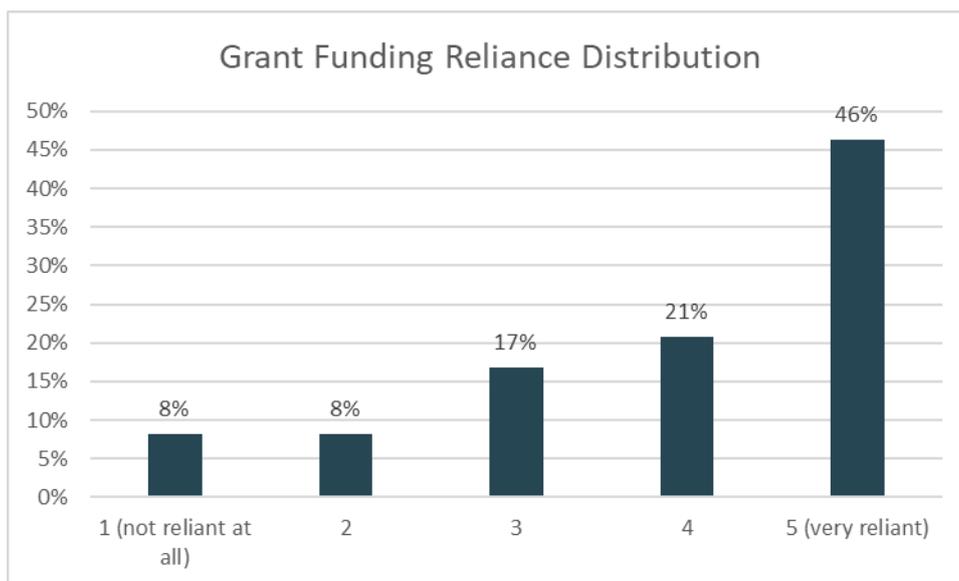


Figure 26 - Grant Funding Reliance Distribution

The trusts who answered that they were not at all reliant on grant funding are in areas with varying levels of deprivation. Figure 27 shows the SIMD levels of these development trusts. 21% are in SIMD quintile 5, 43% are in SIMD quintile 3 and 14% are in quintile 1. The overrepresentation in quintile 3 lines up with the fact that most development trusts are in SIMD quintile 3 (Figure 2).

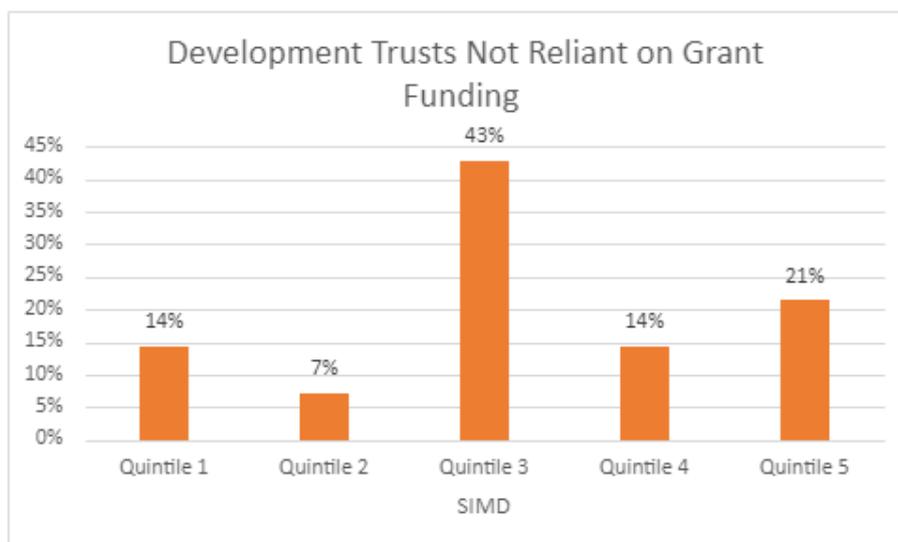


Figure 27- Development Trusts not reliant on Grant Funding by SIMD

Additionally, these groups come from all over Scotland, with 50% coming from rural areas, 36% from urban areas and 14% from small-towns. Of these groups, 50% both owned at least one asset and employed staff, suggesting the economic sustainability that can come with asset ownership and employment. **35% of groups owned their own renewable energy installation** and **29% have community benefit funds coming into their communities**, illustrating the emergence of renewable energy as a source of alternative income for development trusts and the potential that this source of funding has in the community sector.

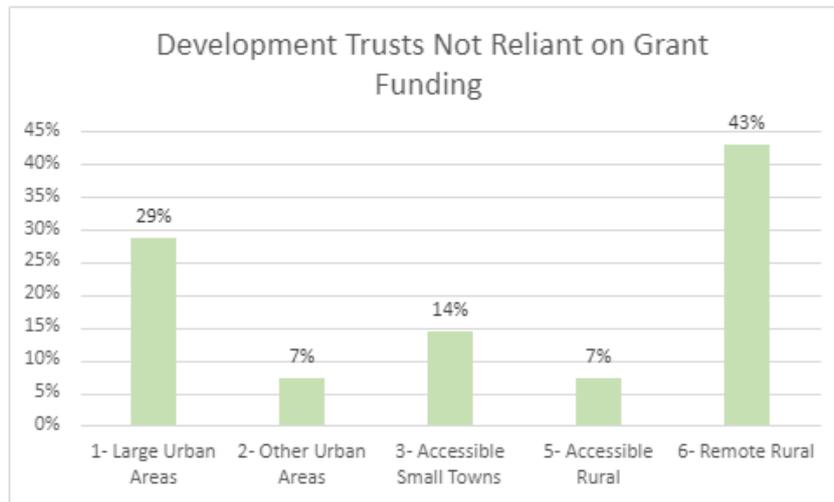


Figure 28- Development Trusts not reliant on Grant Funding by SURC

## Asset Ownership

Asset ownership is an important factor in considering reliance on grant funding as assets can help to generate new sources of income for the trust. When first considering the organisations who are not at all reliant on grant funding, there is no difference between groups who do and do not own assets. However, Figure 29 shows that 52.5% of non-asset owners are very reliant on grant funding, compared to 36% of asset owners. There is a moderate relationship between asset ownership and grant reliance as the R value is 0.6.

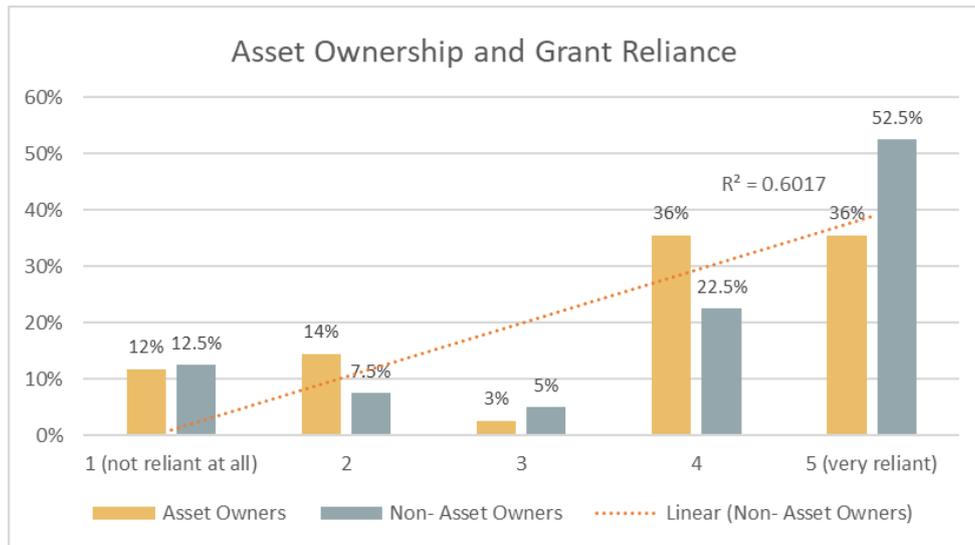


Figure 29- Asset Ownership and Grant Reliance

## Employment

To get a better understanding of grant funding reliance, it is important to investigate employment's effect on groups' reliance on grant funding. 16% of development trusts without staff are not reliant at all on grant funding, compared to only 6% of development trusts with staff. This could be explained by the fact that employing staff requires using funds to pay wages. Therefore, groups who do not employ staff have freed up finances, giving them more financial stability. However, this assumption is challenged by the other findings of Figure 30 which shows that employing DTAS members are less likely to rely entirely overall on grant funding compared to non-employing groups. 53% of groups without staff are heavily reliant on grant funding compared to 45% of groups with staff.

Additionally, there is a more even distribution in grant reliance for development trusts employing staff, with more groups falling in between the extremes of 1 (not reliant at all) and 5 (very reliant). This could be explained by staffs' capacity to source and generate new income streams for the development trust, as opposed to development trusts not employing staff.

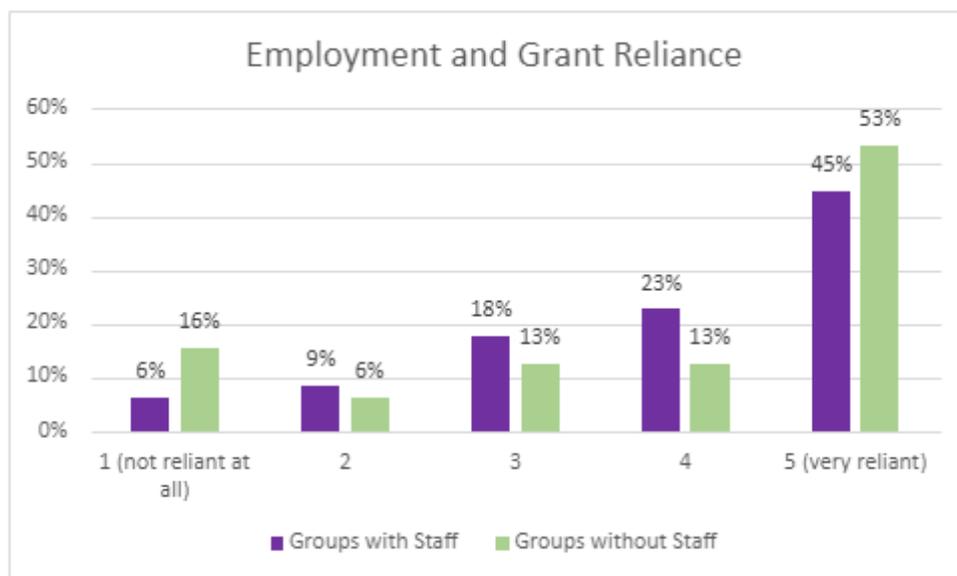


Figure 30- Employment and Grant Reliance

Asset ownership, renewable energy ownership, enterprising initiative, and community benefit funding have become key tools in which development trusts can move away from grant funding reliance and become more financially sustainable. There is a clear difference between the average grant funding received in local authority areas and the average grant funding per capita – for example, while densely populated places receive on average higher levels of grant funding, these places typically receive much lower average grant income per inhabitant. Other factors impacting grant funding will be addressed later in this report.

## Earned Income

This survey found a total of £16,032,848 reported earned income per annum, amounting to 33% of reported total annual income.

Most survey respondents, **83%**, report receiving some form of earned income. The average value of earned income is **£92,675 per annum**, ranging from a minimum of £3 per year to a maximum of £2.3 million per year. See Figure 31 for a detailed distribution of earned income amounts. The development trust with the highest earned income per annum is based in the Western Isles<sup>9</sup>.

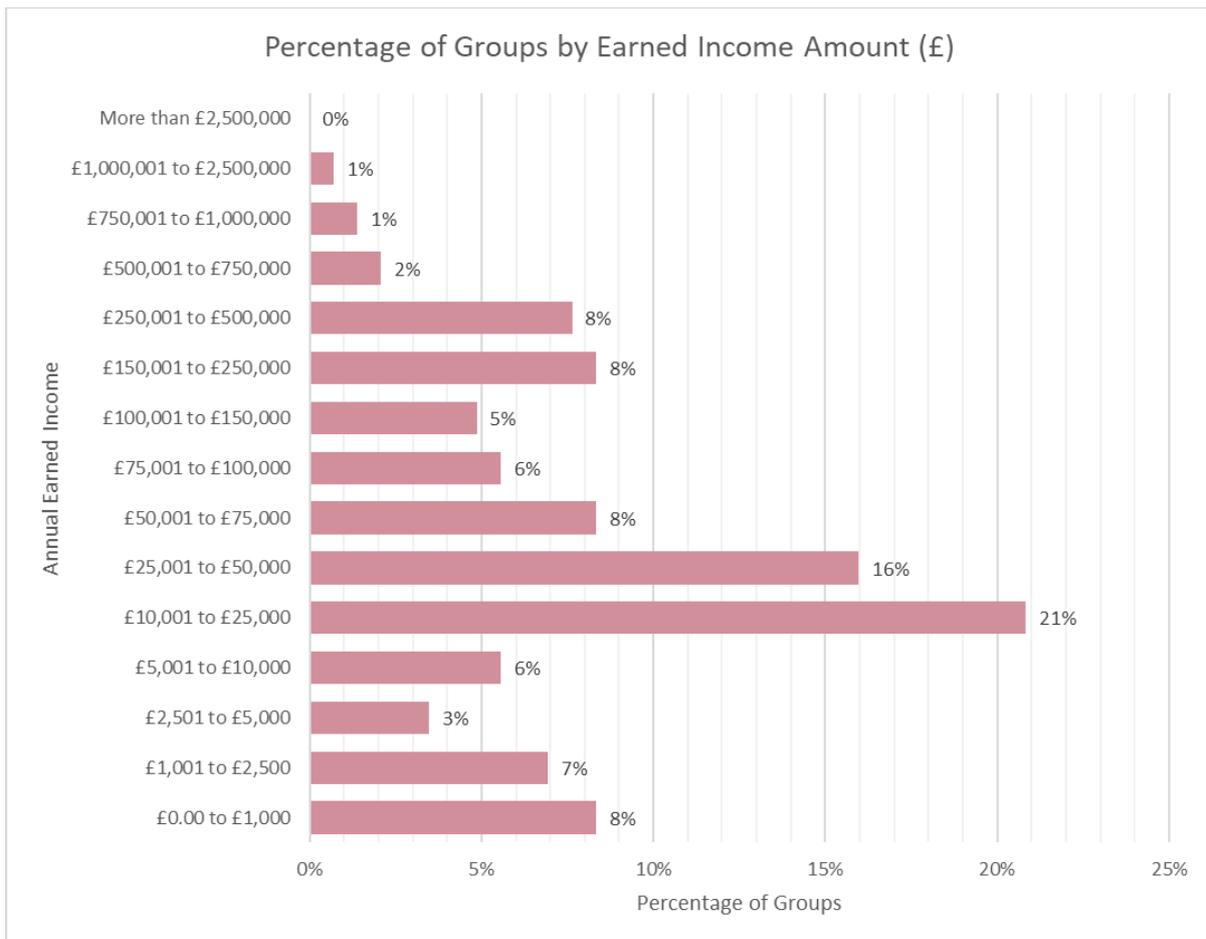


Figure 31- Development Trusts by Earned Income (£)

<sup>9</sup> This is likely due to the correlation between renewable energy ownership and high earned income.

Another key figure to understand earned income is the percentage of a group's total income which is earned. On average, earned income constitutes 33% of total annual income. Figure 32 outlines where groups fall in relation to the proportion of earned income in their annual income figures. As evidenced for 28% of development trusts, over 60% of their total income is earned income. On the other hand, a large proportion of development trusts (43%) report their earned income as less than 20% of their total annual income. With few groups falling in the middle of these two figures, this indicates two main profiles of groups: those with a majority of their income coming from earned income sources, and those with a majority of their income coming from other sources, notably grants, with very few groups having an even balance of both.

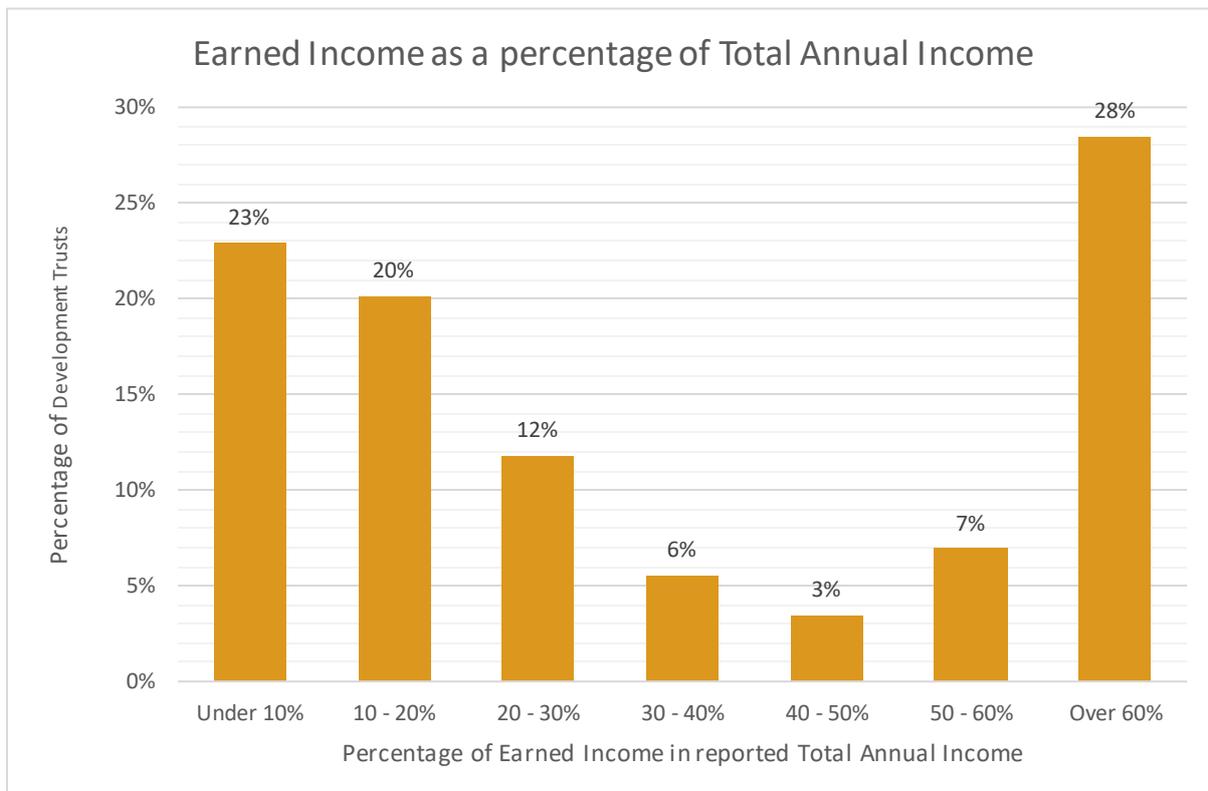


Figure 32 - Earned Income as % of Total Annual Income

### Earned Income and Rurality

Below is a breakdown of earned income by rural, urban, island and small-town development trusts. Island communities stand out with 92% of island development trusts having some source of earned income, the highest average annual earned income at £215,937, and the highest percentage of earned income in total income, at 49%.

## EARNED INCOME AND RURALITY

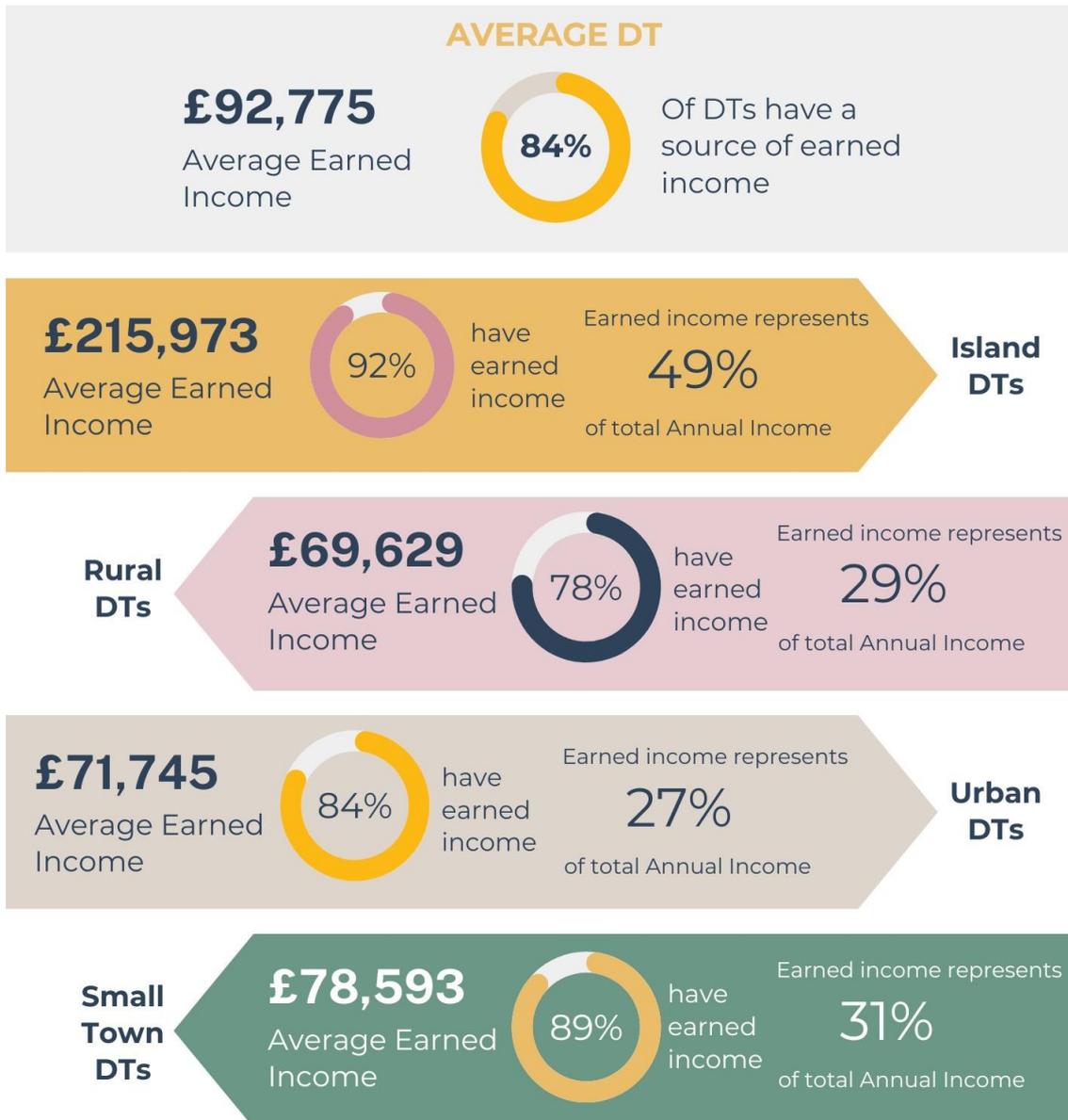
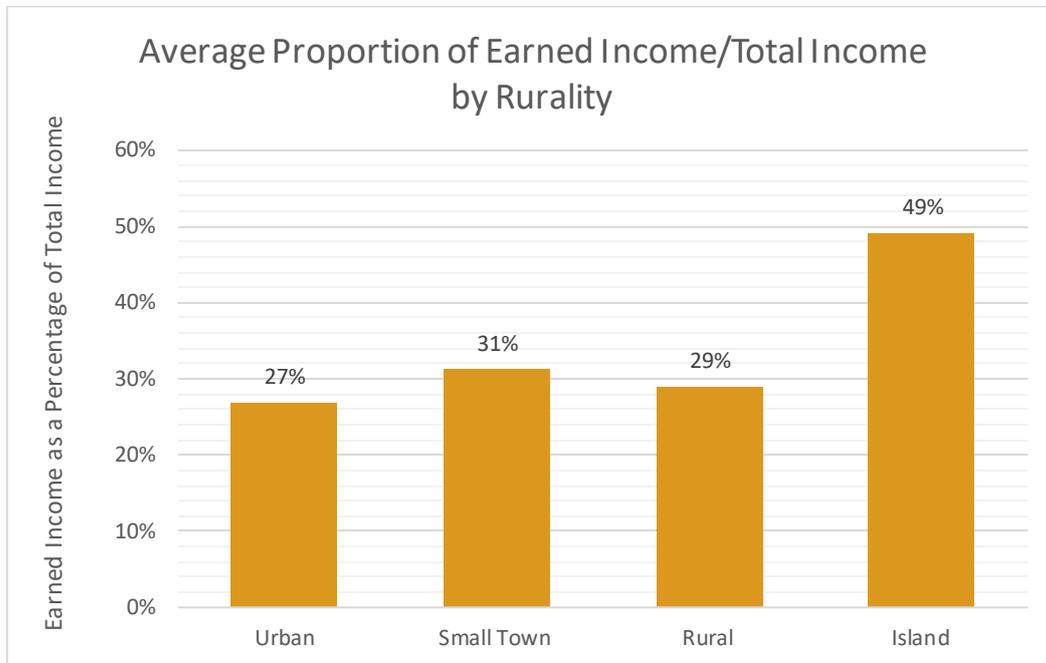


Figure 33 - Earned Income and Rurality

From the above infographic we can see that the percentage of groups who receive earned income, and the average values of that earned income are somewhat altered by rurality on the mainland, with small town development trusts earning the most on average and rural development trusts earning the least.

However, these changes are minor when assessing the difference in earned income between island-based and mainland-based development trusts (whether urban, rural, or small town). **Average earned income for island-based development trusts is more than double the total average, and more than triple that of urban and rural development trusts.**

On average, earned income constitutes 33% of the total annual income reported by development trusts. When analysed by urban, small-town, rural, and island development trusts there are only marginal differences in the earned income/annual income split of mainland groups, with most reporting an average split, but a significant difference for island groups. See Figure 34 below.



*Figure 34 - Average proportion of earned income/total income by rurality*

### **Earned Income and Deprivation (SIMD)**

There was only a weak linear correlation when plotting earned income against SIMD quintiles (see Figure 35). Most island communities, who have higher earned income levels, are in SIMD quintile 3, (which might affect the results).

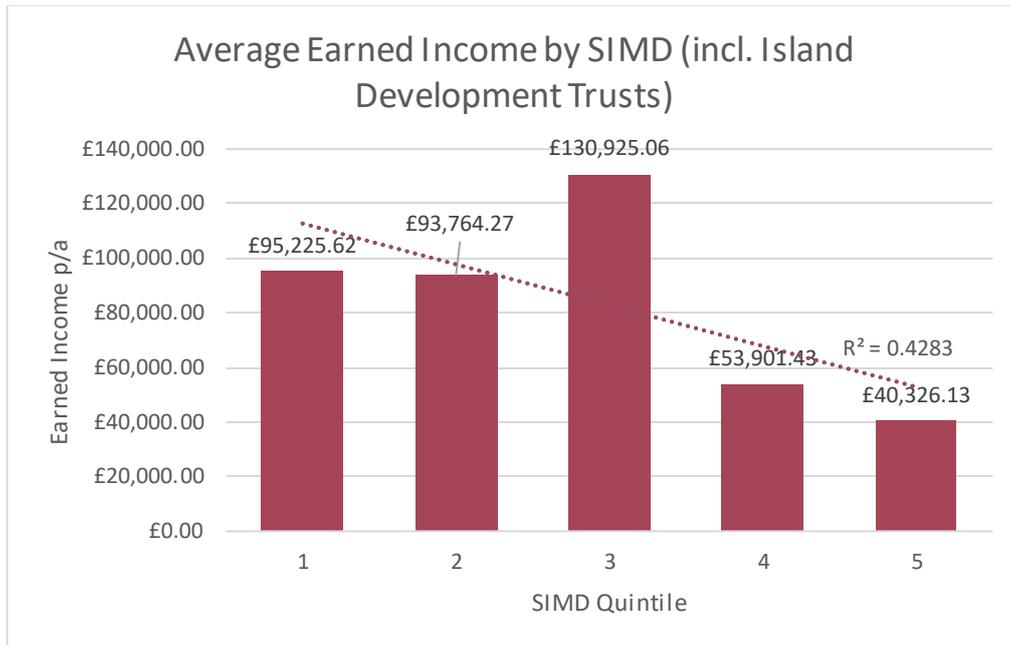


Figure 35- Earned Income by SIMD (Including Islands)

When island groups are removed from the analysis, Figure 36 reveals significant findings. The R squared value of 0.8 demonstrates this strong negative linear relationship, meaning groups in more deprived areas (SIMD quintiles 1 and 2) are more likely to have a higher earned income, almost double that of groups in more affluent areas (SIMD quintiles 4 and 5). This trend can perhaps be attributed to the prevalence of service level agreements in urban working-class communities, specifically in Glasgow City. These agreements allow development trusts to provide services such as youth work, employment advice, and other key services while receiving funding to provide that service.

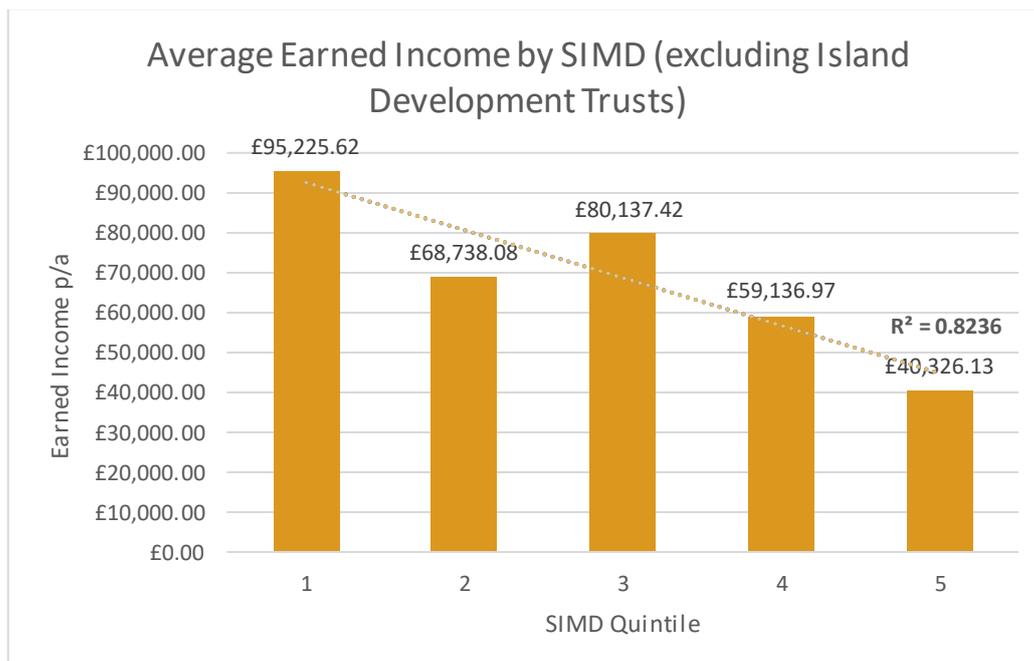
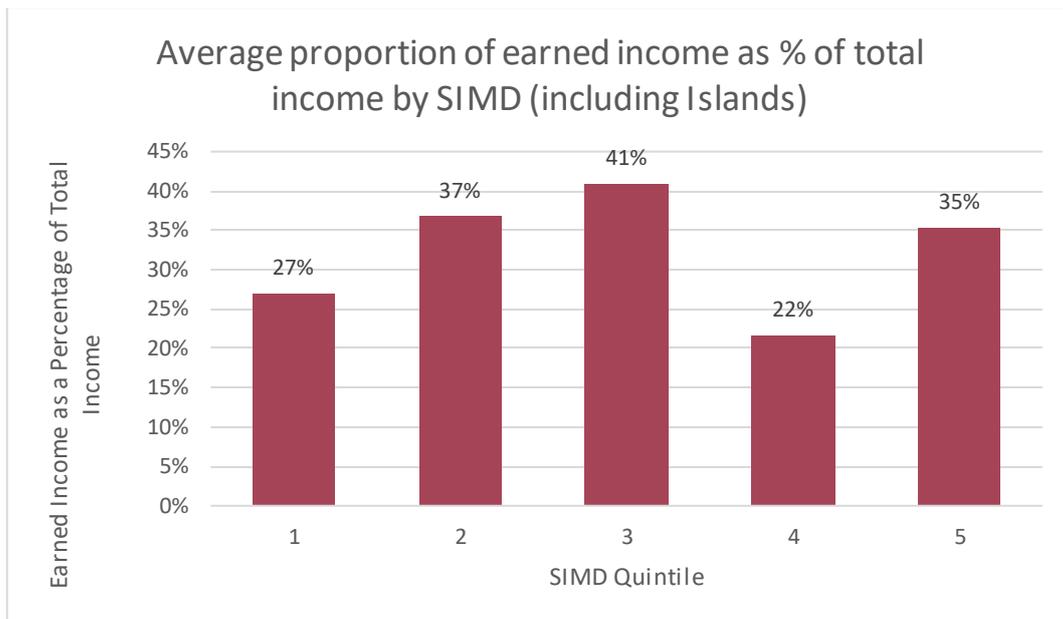


Figure 36 - Average Earned Income by SIMD (Excluding Islands)

However, when looking at the proportion of earned income as a percentage of a group's total annual income, areas in SIMD quintile 1 do not have a significantly larger proportion of earned income (Figure 37). Earned income represents 27% of total income for groups in SIMD quintile 1, and 35% of total income for groups in SIMD quintile 5. A possible reason for this is that although groups in SIMD quintile 1 evidently generate more income in value, they additionally receive more grant funding, meaning the proportion of earned income as a percentage of total income is lower than for other groups. The proportion of earned income for groups in between SIMD quintiles 1 and 5 fluctuates, with no significant linear trend.



*Figure 37 - Average proportion of earned income as % of total income by SIMD (including Islands)*

However, once again it is evident that groups in SIMD quintiles 3 are receiving the highest proportion of earned income, this is likely skewed by island-based groups. When filtering out island groups, that percentage in SIMD 3 drops down to 32%.

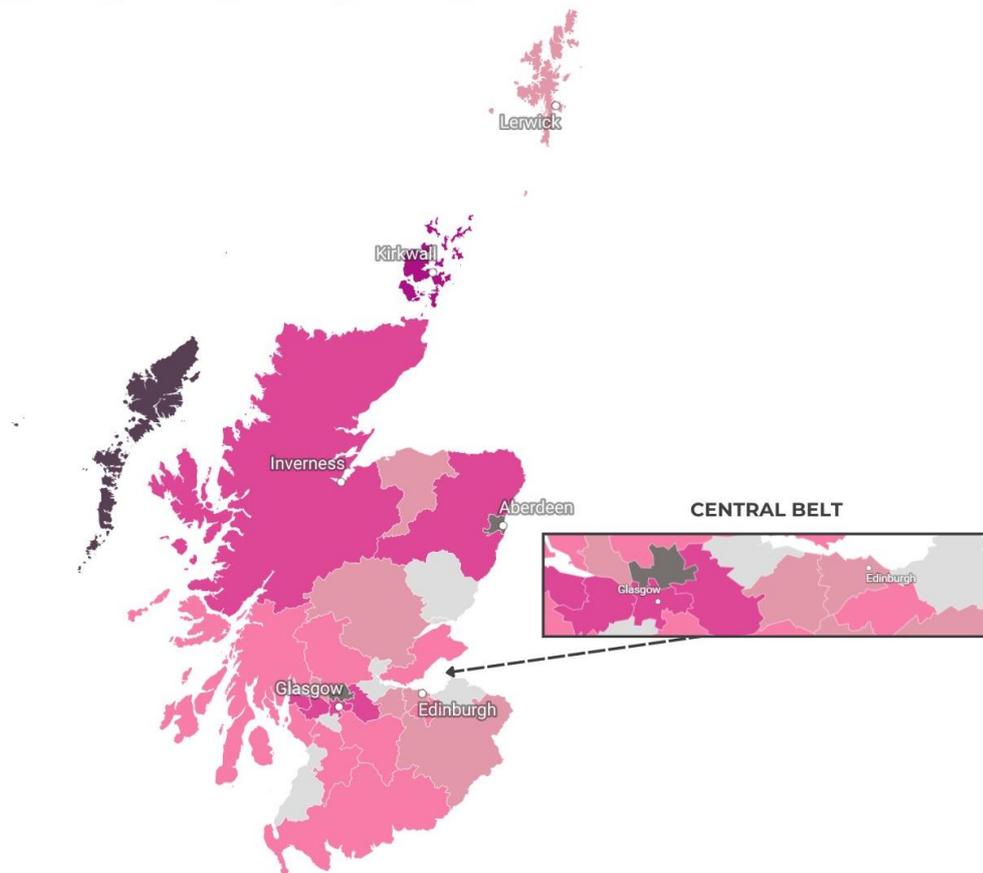
## Earned income by Local Authority

There is huge variance in levels of earned income between different geographic locations. The below heatmap (Figure 38) highlights local authorities with the highest level of average earned income per annum. Na-h Eileanan Siar have the highest average earned income, with groups generating over £500k a year. Orkney islands follow, with an average income generation of £266k per year. **Departing from the trend towards high average earned income in the islands, groups based in the Shetland islands generate on average £25,000 a year.**

Areas in the central belt, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, Glasgow, and North Lanarkshire, all have significant levels of earned income. Areas with the lowest earned income generation are West Lothian, East Dunbartonshire, and Aberdeen City. However, there are slight limitations with these findings due to low responses as some local authorities, such as Aberdeen City, only have one development trust in DTAS membership.

### Average Earned Income p/a by Local Authority

Under 10k
  10k - 50k
  50k - 100k
  100k - 200k
  200k - 400k
  400k - 500k
  Over 50



Map data: © Crown copyright and database right 2019 · Created with Datawrapper

Figure 38 - Earned Income by Local Authority Heat Map

When looking at the percentage of earned income as a proportion of total income the figures change depending on the local authority, see Figure 39. Some areas previously highlighted as having high levels of earned income, such as Inverclyde, Glasgow, and North Lanarkshire, demonstrate a below average proportion of earned income as a percentage of their total income (under 30%). This is consistent with the above findings that urban areas, and areas of high deprivation (SIMD quintile 1), have higher than average values of earned income but that earned income represents a lower-than-average proportion of their total income (under 30%).

Similarly, despite Highland local authority having a high average value of earned income, this income represents only 28% of their total income.

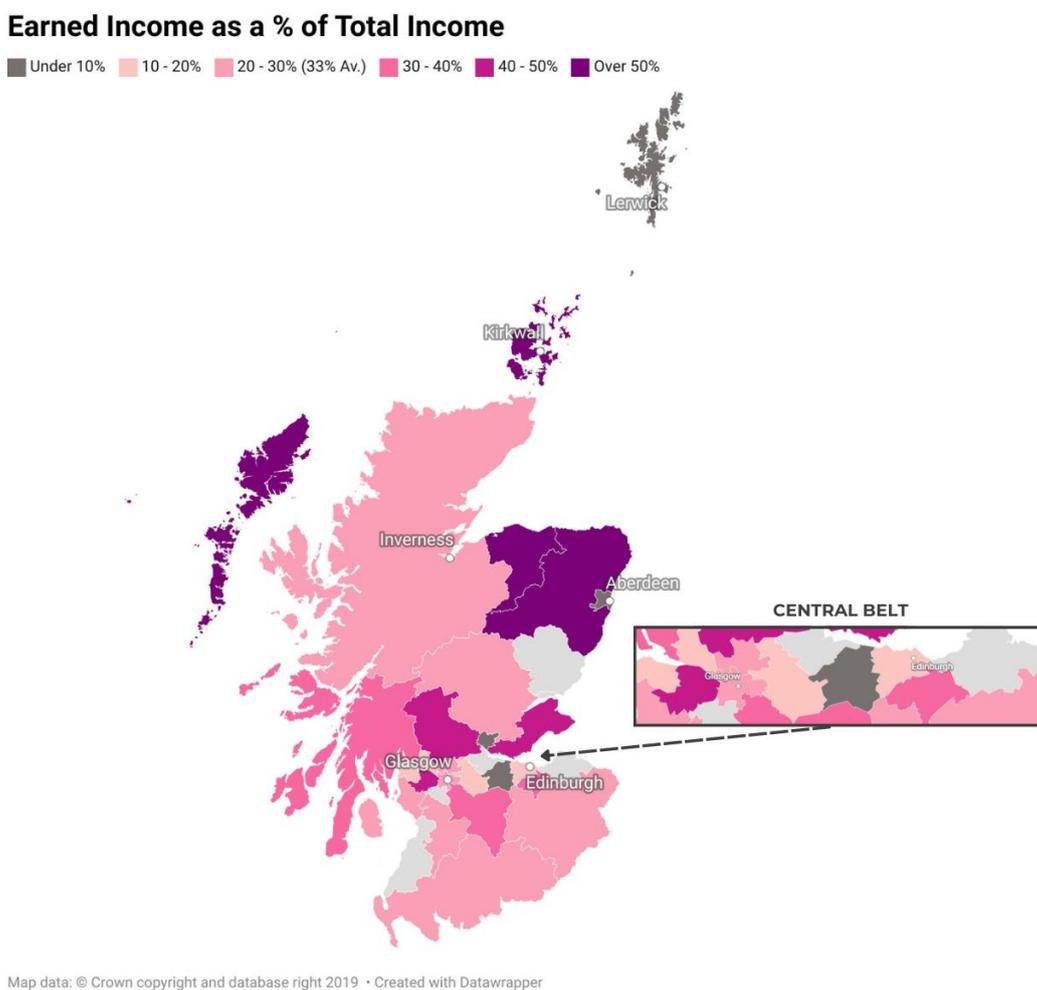


Figure 39- Earned Income as a % of Total Income Heatmap

Most island local authorities remain consistent with high earned income values, representing a large proportion of their total income, 57% for Orkney and a staggering 71% for the Western Isles. Once again, Shetland Islands seems to be highly grant reliant as trusts report low values of earned income and that earned income represents under 10% of their total income. This is consistent with Figure 25 which showed the Shetland Islands had the highest grant funding per capita out of all Scottish local

authorities. Aberdeenshire also remains consistent with a high level of earned income representing 52% of their total income.

Moray has a below average value of earned income, but that earned income represents over 50% of their total income. Similarly, Stirling and Fife both have lower levels of earned income, but this represents over 40% of their total incomes.

Conversely, Inverclyde, Glasgow, and North Lanarkshire, which all displayed a high average value of earned income have a below average proportion of earned income making up their total annual income.

### **Earned income over time:**

There has been a decline in the total amount of income earned by development trusts since 2019, and a decline in the proportion of earned income to total annual income. The 2019 DTAS members survey found that development trusts generated a total of £30.7 million in earned income per year, representing 53% of total reported annual income. **The 2023 survey finds a decrease to 33% in earned income.** This is an alarming figure, the reasons for which are unknown, but could very potentially be an impact of the Covid pandemic (e.g. a rise in grant funding during and shortly after the pandemic), or a rise in community benefit funding leading to less need for income generation among development trusts. However, these figures are likely to change in the coming years as pandemic-related grant funding comes to an end and further cuts to available grant funding roll in, potentially leading groups to invest in alternative sources of funding and income generation.

Other factors that impact the level of earned income groups generate includes asset ownership, renewable energy ownership, and community benefit funding. These factors will all be discussed in their respective sections.

## Alternative Finance

For the survey, the Democratic Finance Team identified seven different models of alternative finances (Renewable Energy - Community Benefit Funds, Crowdfunding, Philanthropic Giving, Community Lottery, Legacy Giving, Community Shares, Community Bonds). The survey was interested in asking DTAS members which of these options they are currently engaging in and if they are planning to pursue any other options in the future.

Figure 40 shows that **64% of DTAS members are engaging with alternative finance models in some form**, illustrating the need for finding new streams of income. Most groups (31.8%) engaging in alternative finance are only pursuing one source of alternative finance with 22% of groups using two models. However, 35% of DTAS members do not currently engage in generating funds this way.

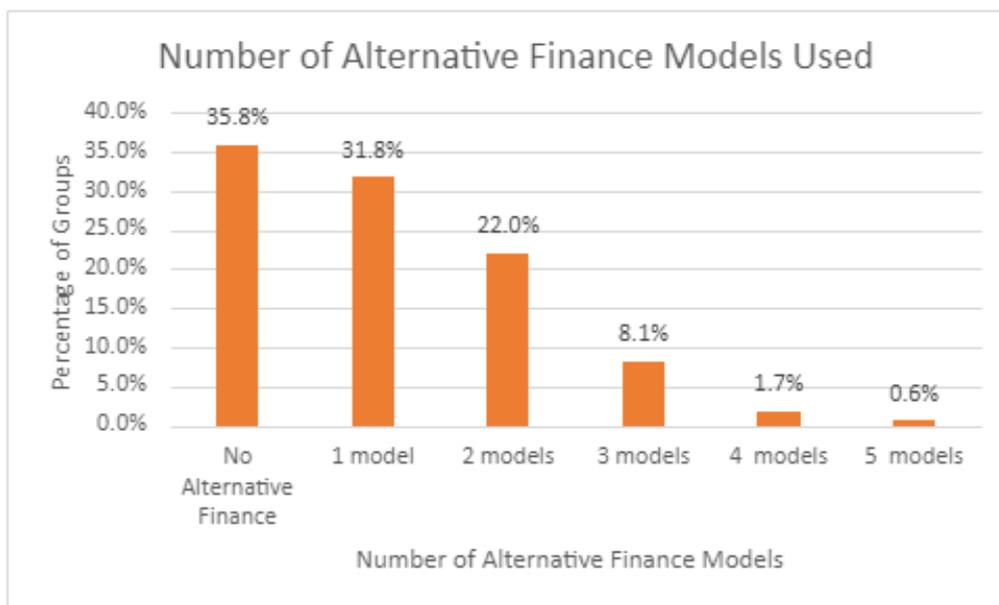


Figure 40- Number of Alternative Finance Models

Figure 41 below depicts the popularity of different alternative finance options for development trusts. Renewable Energy (CBFs) is the most used form of alternative finance, with 24.7% of groups engaging with renewable energy developers to create Community Benefit Fund arrangements, supplying their communities with annual payments. Crowdfunding, Philanthropic Giving and Community Lottery have all been used to a similar extent amongst members with 17.4% to 20% of development trusts engaging in alternative finance. Community Shares and Community Bonds were the least popular models of alternative finance currently used with 3.7% and 1.1% respectively.

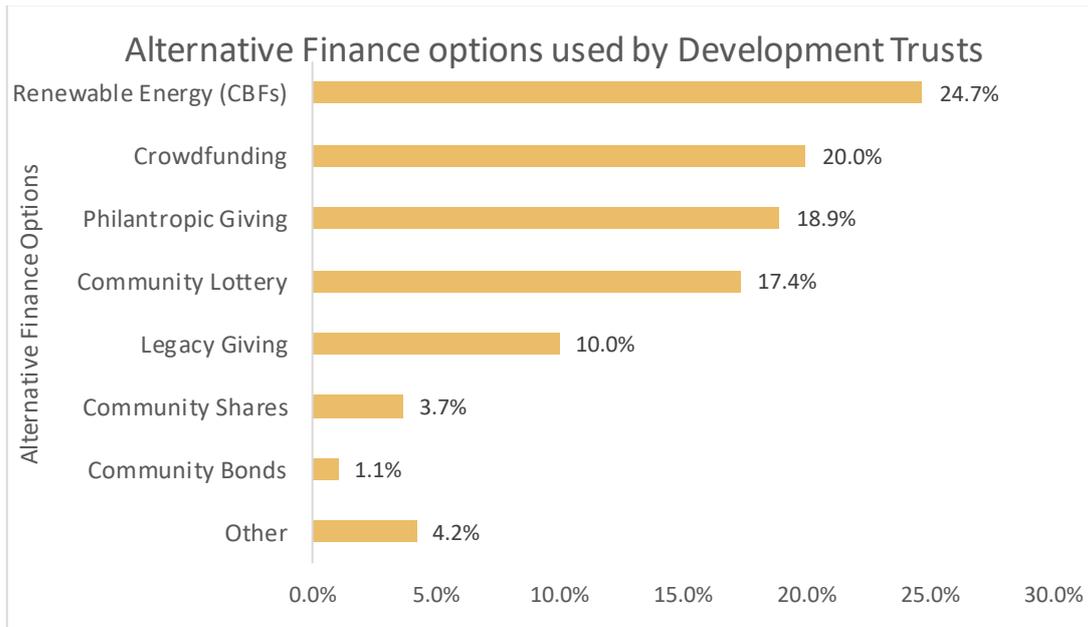


Figure 41 - Alternative Finance Types

Figure 42 uses the four most popular alternative finance models to explore how different geographical areas influence the use of alternative financing for development trusts. In each of the four models, **development trusts from remote rural areas were the biggest users of alternative finance.**

- Crowdfunding was the most popular form of alternative finance for development trusts in 1- Large Urban Areas (23%) and 5- Accessible Rural (23%), whilst engagement in small-towns was very low (0%).
- Over half of development trusts (52%) using Philanthropic Giving came from rural areas whilst 28% were from urban areas and 20% came from small-towns.
- Community Lottery is the alternative form which development trusts from all geographic classifications have most evenly engaged with. 4 out of 6 of the geographical categories recorded between 15% and 21% use of a Community Lottery, making it the most popular alternative for groups from 2- Other Urban Areas and 3- Accessible Small Towns.
- Over half of groups (60%) engaging with Renewable Energy (Community Benefit Funds) came from 6- Remote Rural, making it the most popular form of alternative finance for these rural DTAS members to engage with.

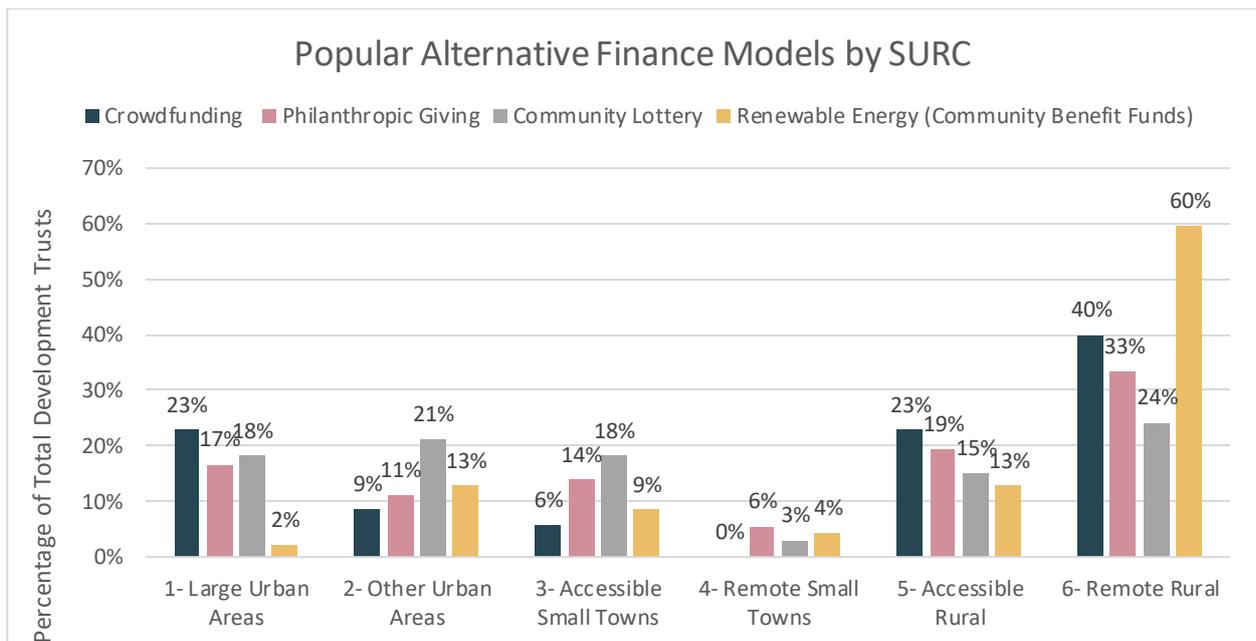


Figure 42 - Popular Alternative Finance Models by SURC

Figure 43 shows alternative finance trends by SIMD levels:

- The largest proportion of development trusts who engage with Crowdfunding are from SIMD quintile 3 (34%), making it the most popular finance model in the category. Additionally, Crowdfunding was the most favoured option for SIMD quintile 5 (16%). SIMD quintile 1 recorded the lowest use of Crowdfunding with 5%.
- Philanthropic Giving: Groups from SIMD quintile 4 reported the highest engagement with Philanthropic Giving with 39%. This option has not been popular with SIMD quintiles 2 and 5 (both 8%).
- Community Lottery was the most evenly distributed alternative finance model amongst the quintiles as 4 out of 5 of the categories were between 15% and 27% with the only outlier being SIMD quintile 5 (9%).
- Renewable Energy (Community Benefit Funds) was highest with SIMD quintiles 2 (30%) and 3 (32%) but was low in development trusts from the most deprived areas (10%) and the most affluent areas (6%) which could be explained by location given rural development trusts' access to open space for renewable energy developments.

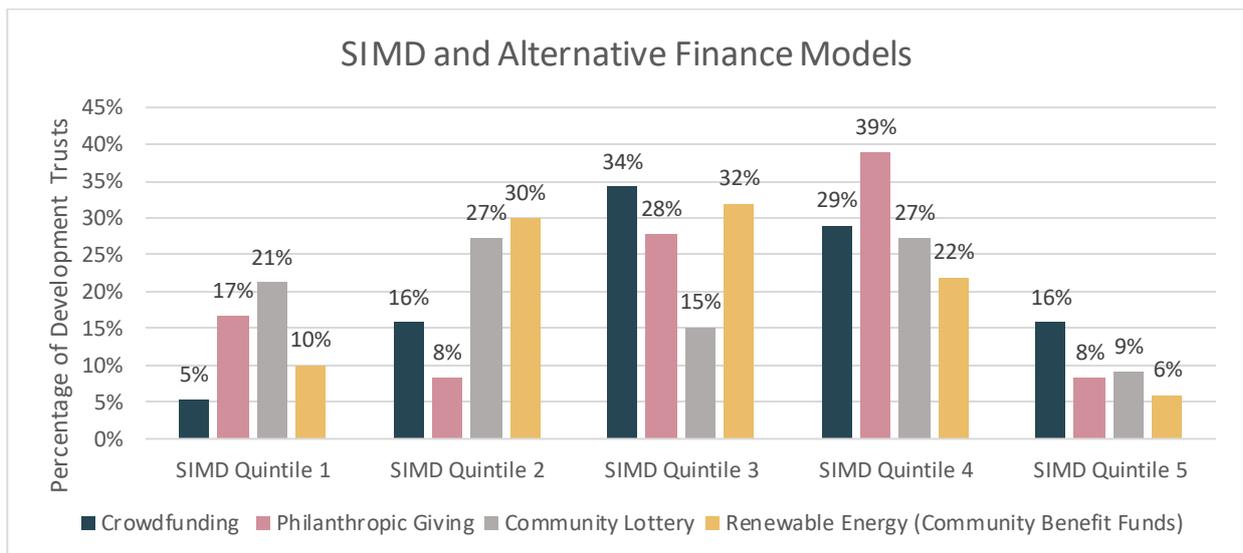


Figure 43 - SIMD and Alternative Finance

Respondents were asked what alternative finance options they planned to employ for their development trust in the future (see Figure 44). The opportunities presented by renewable energy continue to prevail for development trusts with 19% of respondents planning to capitalise on this source of income, making it the most popular choice. Closely behind were Philanthropic Giving (18%) and Crowdfunding (16%). Notably, 15% of DTAS members do not plan to use any form of alternative finance.

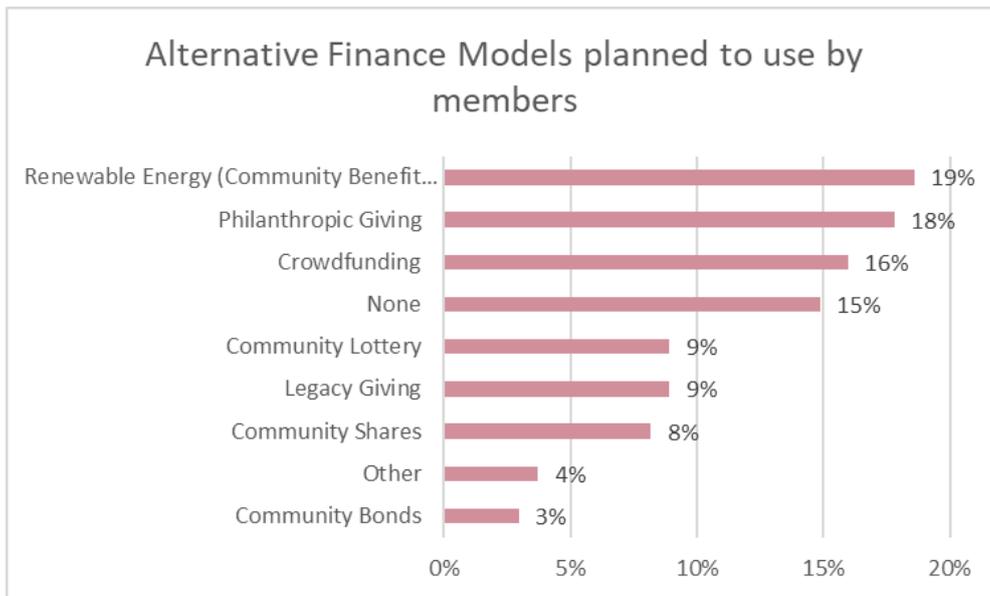


Figure 44 - Alternative Finance Models Planned to use

## Renewables

### Renewable Energy Ownership

According to the Energy Savings Trust, there is an estimated 908 MW of community and locally owned renewable energy capacity from 26,290 installations in 2022<sup>10</sup> and this includes 100% community owned installations and developments with an aspect of shared ownership.

**Currently, only 18% of our surveyed membership owns their own renewable energy installation and even fewer, 3%<sup>11</sup> have an element of shared ownership in a RE development.**

---

<sup>10</sup> <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/report/community-and-locally-owned-energy-in-scotland-2022-report/#:~:text=An%20estimated%20908%20MW%20of,GWh%20of%20renewable%20energy%20annually.>

<sup>11</sup> Surveyed DTAS members with shared ownership in renewable energy development are: Huntly Development Trust, Ekopia Social Investments Limited, Fintry Development Trust, Lochgoil Community Trust Limited, Lesmahagow Development Trust

### Geographic and rural spread:

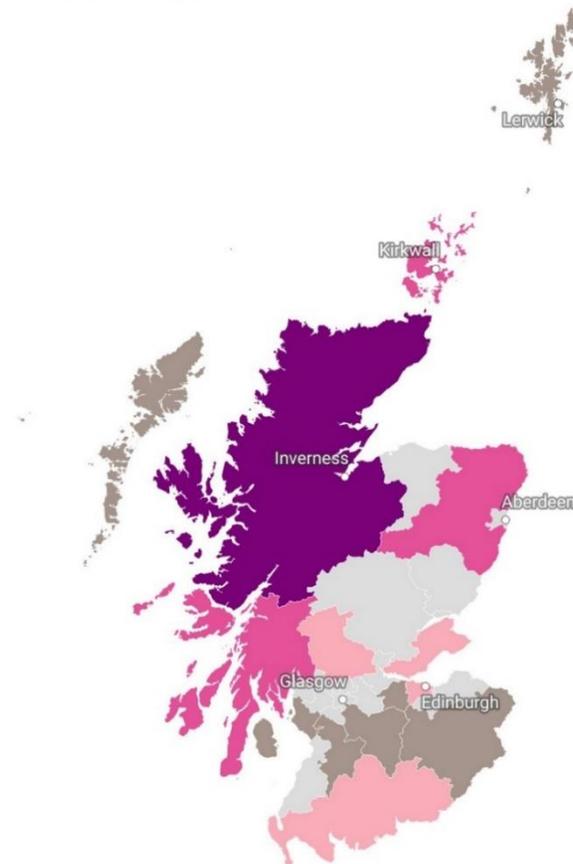
Of development trusts that own renewable energy installations, 29% are island groups, and 45% are rural mainland groups. Only 16% are small town groups and 10% urban groups. Split by SURC, 65% of those groups are SURC 6- Remote rural.

Most groups that own renewable energy are in SIMD quintile 3 with just one group based in an area of high deprivation (SIMD quintile 1) owning a renewable energy installation. However, as previously stated, SIMD is not an accurate measure of deprivation in rural areas.

In terms of local authority, over 50% (52%) of development trusts who own renewable energy are in the Highlands, Orkney Islands, Argyll and Bute, and Aberdeenshire. As seen by the heatmap (Figure 45), the central belt is virtually devoid of development trusts who own renewable energy installations. This is likely because of the concentration of urban settlements in this area, and the low renewable energy ownership among urban development trusts. The only groups in this area who own their own renewable installations are Action Party, Linlithgow Community Development Trust, and Balerno Village Trust.

### Percentage of DTs who own Renewable Energy Installations

< 5%
  5%–10%
  10%–15%
  ≥ 15%



Map data: © Crown copyright and database right 2019 • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 45 - Renewable Energy Ownership Heat Map

## Renewable Energy Ownership trends

### Asset types

Groups who own their own renewable energy installation own more types of assets than those who don't own renewable energy installations. Renewable Energy owning groups own an average of 4 types of assets each, compared to an average of 2 types of assets each for groups.

### Activities

Groups that own their own renewable energy installations deliver an average of 12 activities per week each, 3 more activities a week than the average for groups who do not own renewable energy installations (9 activities per week).

### Grant Funding

In terms of amounts of grant funding received, there is no noticeable variation between groups with renewable energy installations and those without. The only point to note is that the only member surveyed who receives over £2.5 million in grant funding also owns a renewable energy installation.

**Despite little variation between grant amounts received there is a noticeable difference in grant reliance trends between groups that own their own renewable energy installations and those who do not (Figure 46).**

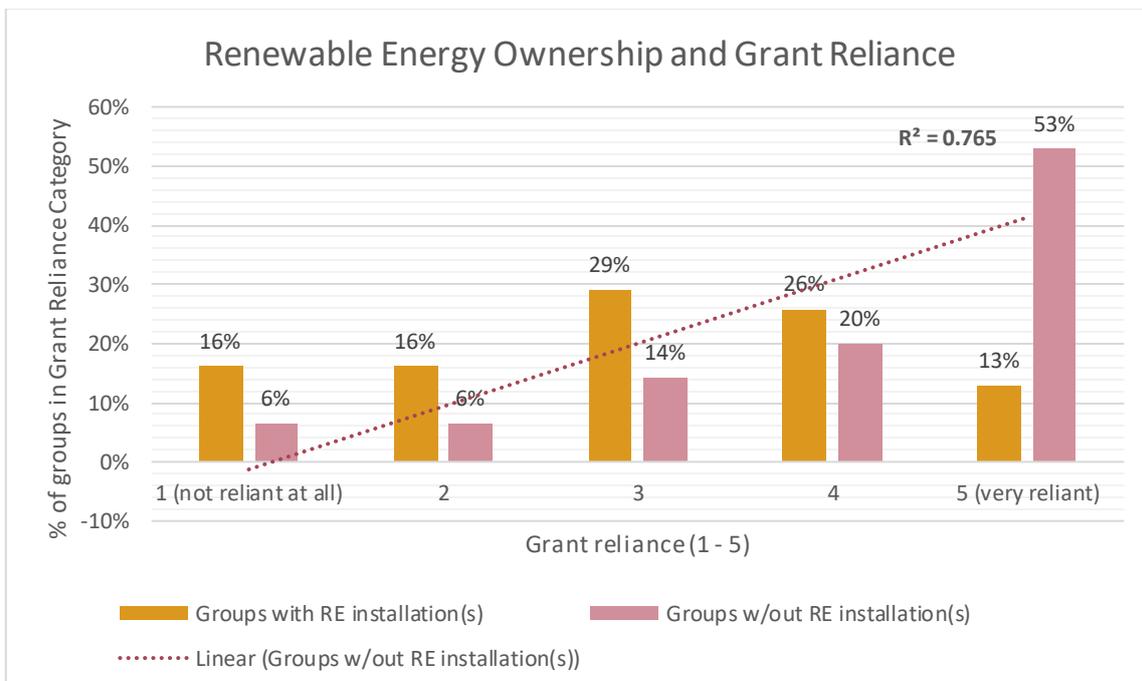


Figure 46 - RE Ownership and Grant Reliance

The R value of 0.76 in Figure 46 indicates a strong positive linear trend between development trusts and grant reliance for groups without renewable energy installations, meaning there is increasing grant reliance among development trusts without renewable energy installations.

Figure 46 On average **46%** of groups surveyed reported being very grant reliant on a scale of 1 to 5 where 5 is very reliant on grant funding, and **8%** reported being a 1 (not reliant at all). Figure 46, shows how these values change drastically when split into renewable energy owning and non-owning groups. Of the groups that do not own any renewable energy installations, **53%** reported being very reliant on grant funding, with only **6%** reporting being non reliant. Of groups that own renewable energy installations, only **13%** reported being very reliant on grant funding with **16%** not reliant at all on grant funding and the majority of renewable energy owning groups falling on the lower end of the grant reliance scale. **There seems to be innate financial benefits to owning RE installations for development trusts and as such, presents an opportunity for development trusts to be more financially independent.** With the emergence of renewable energy in the development trust movement, its impact on grant reliance should be further investigated.

## Earned Income

Unsurprisingly, 100% of groups with a renewable energy installation report some level of earned income, most likely coming from the renewable energy installation itself. An interesting finding is that the level of earned income reported by these groups is typically much higher than for groups without renewable energy installations. As seen by the below graph (Figure 47) almost all groups with RE installations reported earning more than £10,000 a year, only 3% of those groups earn less than £10k a year compared to 30% of groups who do not own renewable energy installations. The split in distribution of earned income is evidenced in the higher ranges of earned income; only 1% of groups who don't own renewable energy installations reported an earned income of over £500k, compared to 17% of renewable energy owning groups in the same earned income bracket.

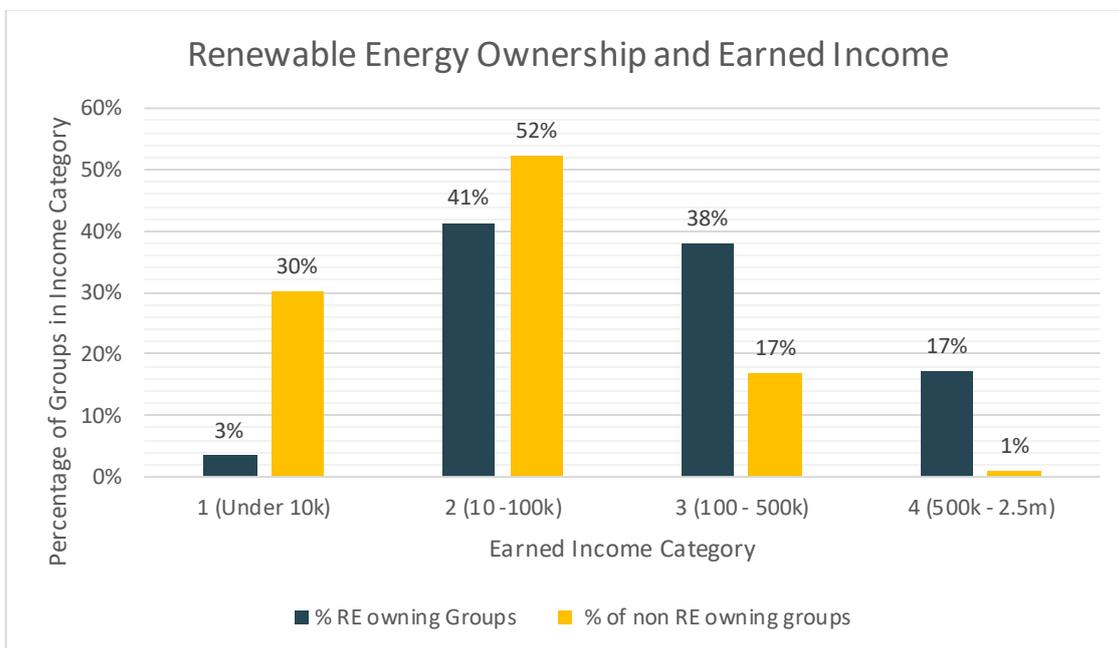


Figure 47 – Renewable Energy Ownership and Earned Income

## Community Benefit Funds

Community benefit funds typically refer to financial contributions made by large developers of renewable energy developments to the communities near these developments. The goal of community benefit funds is to ensure that communities receive some form of benefit from the developments occurring in their area. Community benefits are not strictly from renewable energy developers and can come from a range of sources such as landfill funds, transmission infrastructure, woodlands, and other natural capital projects. However, renewable energy developments, specifically onshore wind developments, are one of the most relevant sources of community benefit funding payments for the DTAS membership.

### **Community Benefit Funding trends from DTAS membership:**

One distinction not made in the members' survey questionnaire is who groups are receiving community benefit funds from (large developers, international developers, community owned installations) - and, if they own their own renewable energy installation, is that where their community benefit funding is coming from. To understand this, we have assumed that members who are both in receipt of community benefit funds and who own their own renewable energy installation receive monies solely from their own installation. 31% (12) of the groups that receive CBF own their own renewable energy installations<sup>12</sup>.

23% of surveyed members receive community benefit funds. On average these arrangements last for 18 years, with the maximum recorded length of community benefit funds being 96 years (Tweedsmuir Community Company) and the shortest being 11 months (Carradale Community Trust<sup>13</sup>).

The average annual value of community benefit funding is £85,301, with the maximum being £672,783 and the lowest value being £2,000. **Despite this huge range, most groups in receipt of community benefit funds (75%) receive less than 100k per year.**

Community benefit funding is an invaluable source of often unrestricted, long-term funding for development trusts, enabling trusts in receipt to deliver an extensive range of projects and services for the local community.

For example, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston has used part of their community benefit funding of £375,345 per annum to deliver an apprenticeship scheme for local young people, a community owned local medical facility, and 12 new affordable homes for rent.

---

<sup>12</sup> This statistic is also somewhat unreliable as there are 31 groups that answered yes to owning renewable energy installations, but only 12 that answered yes to both owning renewable energy and receiving community benefit funding.

<sup>13</sup> Carradale CT do not directly receive community benefit funding like other organisations, they apply for grants from several local community benefit funds. Grants are distributed on a yearly basis, hence the 11-month timescale they listed on their survey response.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust uses a part of their community benefit funding to deliver grants for local community groups, for student residents undertaking a further or higher education course or training, for sports clubs as well as the Knockie Fund for residents suffering the effects of fuel poverty.

### **Geographic and rural spread:**

77% of groups who receive community benefit funds are based in rural areas, with 67% of those rural groups based on mainland Scotland. Island development trusts are more likely to own a renewable energy installation than receive community benefit funds, with 36% of island groups owning an energy installation and only 16% receiving community benefit funds.

When looking at local authorities, 64% of development trusts who receive community benefit funds from renewable energy installations are in the Highlands, Scottish Borders, Argyll and Bute, and Dumfries and Galloway. Like the distribution of renewable energy ownership, the central belt is a cold spot for community benefit funds receipt. Once again this is likely because of the concentration of urban settlements in this area.

### **Asset ownership among groups receiving community benefit funds:**

On average 77% of members surveyed own at least one asset, this percentage is higher than average among groups who receive community benefit funds. 87% of members in receipt of community benefit funds own an asset, compared to 74% of members not in receipt of community benefit funds. There is no significant difference in the different types of assets these groups own.

### **Grant reliance among groups receiving community benefit funds:**

There is only a marginal difference in grant reliance between groups that receive community benefit funds and groups that don't. On average **46%** of groups surveyed reported being very grant reliant on a scale of 1 to 5 where 5 is very reliant on grant funding, and **8%** reported being a 1 (not reliant at all). Surprisingly **49%** of community benefit funds receiving groups reported being a 5 (very reliant) on the grant funding scale and **10%** reported being a 1 (not reliant at all). This over-reliance on grant funding is likely because groups in receipt of community benefit funds class it as a grant, and this highlights the dependency on community benefit funds as a core source of income. Similarly, there is little variation between the amount of grant funding received by groups with community benefit funding and groups without.

### Annual income/earned income split among groups receiving community benefit funds.

Groups who earn some form of community benefit funds report much lower values of earned income compared to groups who do not earn community benefit funds (excluding groups who own their own renewable energy installations). As evidenced by Figure 48, the majority (44%) of groups who receive community benefit funds report £0 in earned income. This indicates a reliance on community benefit funds as a main source of funding, particularly because of its long timescale, at the cost of establishing a source of earned income.

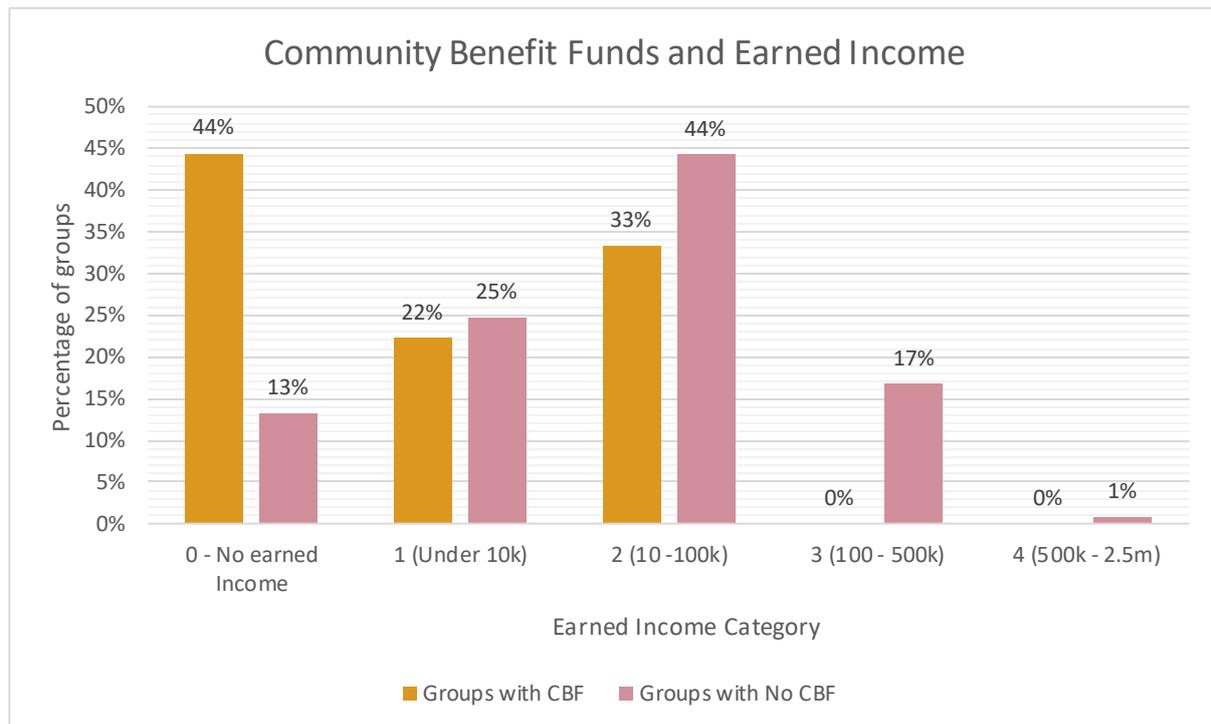


Figure 48 – Community Benefit Funds by Earned Income Categories

The overwhelming lack of income generation and above average indices of grant reliance among groups in receipt of community benefit funds could point to a need to explore income generation to reduce dependence on community benefit funds (especially when these are not guaranteed or reliable in the long-term). Additionally, these findings indicate that ownership of a renewable energy installation offers a more secure source of sustainable earned income and is likely preferable than community benefit funds in that sense. However, there are a multitude of factors to consider and not all development trusts have the capacity or necessary conditions to own their own renewable energy installation, or to be in receipt of community benefit funds for that matter.

## Assets

### Asset Ownership

77% of surveyed members own some type of physical asset<sup>14</sup>. The most common types of physical assets owned by members are buildings, land/woodland/forestry, and vehicles. On average most asset-owning groups own two different types of assets (Figure 49). Only a 6% of asset-owning groups own 6 different types of assets.

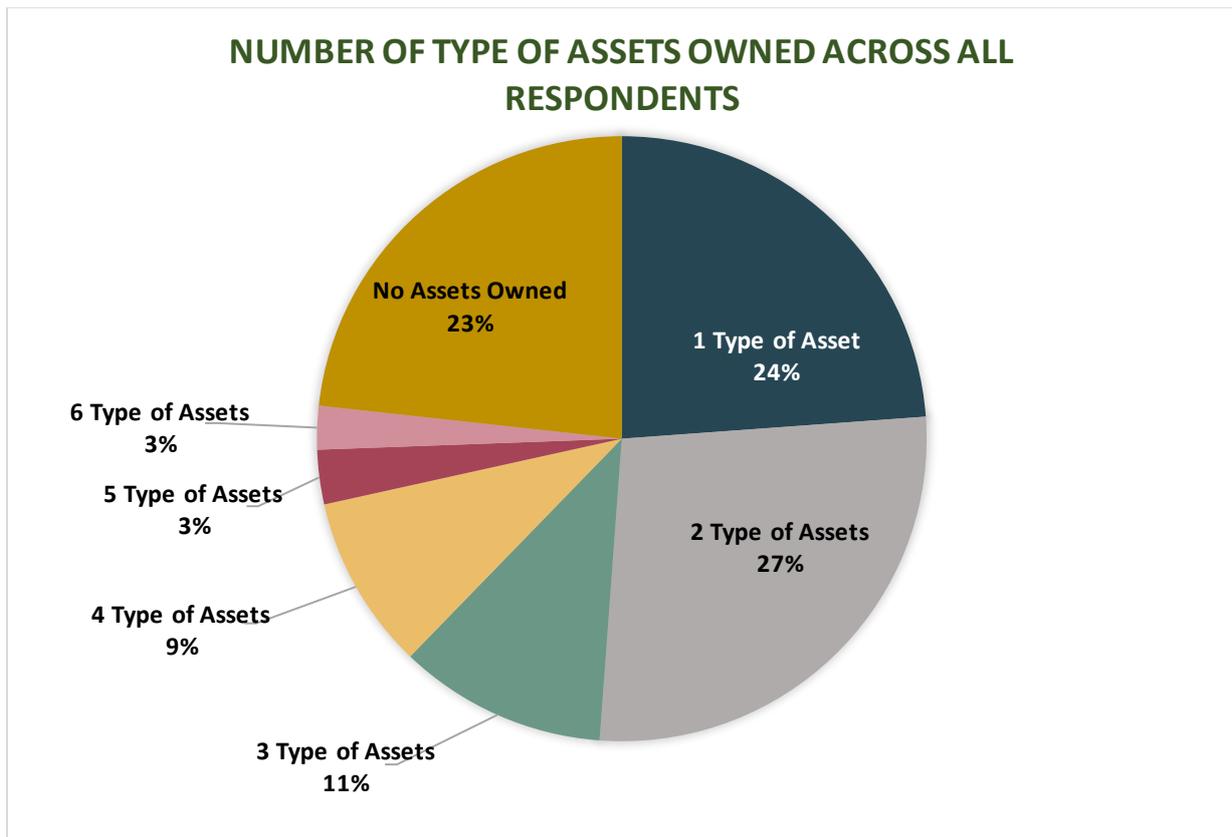


Figure 49 - Varieties of Assets Owned

60% of development trusts in island communities own at least one vehicle. This is perhaps unsurprising as many island communities have long had to provide their own basic services especially around public transportation. Groups based in small-towns are more likely to own vehicles than those in rural areas, with 22% small-towns development trusts owning a vehicle compared to only 18% from rural areas. In contrast only 6% of urban development trusts own a vehicle.

<sup>14</sup> Physical assets include renewable energy installations, shared ownership of renewable energy installations, housing, vehicles, land/woodland/forestry, buildings and other types of assets such as: path networks, machinery and equipment, pontoons/slipways/marine installations, sheds/portacabins.

## Asset Ownership and SIMD

SIMD quintile and asset ownership follows a bell curve distribution (see Figure 50), with most asset owning groups falling within SIMD quintile 3 with low asset ownership among groups in the most deprived areas (SIMD quintile 1) and those in the most affluent areas (SIMD quintile 5). As previously stated in this report, SIMD better captures deprivation in urban areas, and rural areas are often categorised as SIMD quintile 3 but can contain pockets of deprivation which are overlooked.

Asset ownership among groups in SIMD quintile 1 is low which is related to low urban asset ownership. However, there is still almost double the percentage of asset owning groups in SIMD quintile 1 than in SIMD quintile 5. These findings are consistent with a soon to be published report by the Community Ownership Support Service, which indicates that groups in the most affluent areas (SIMD quintile 5) have the lowest levels of asset ownership. A possible reason for this is that communities in affluent areas often do not need to deliver essential services or save local assets by taking them into community ownership, as these communities are more likely to be able to pay for private rendering of previously statutory services or perhaps suffer from less statutory service closures. However, further analysis is needed to understand the causality of such a trend.

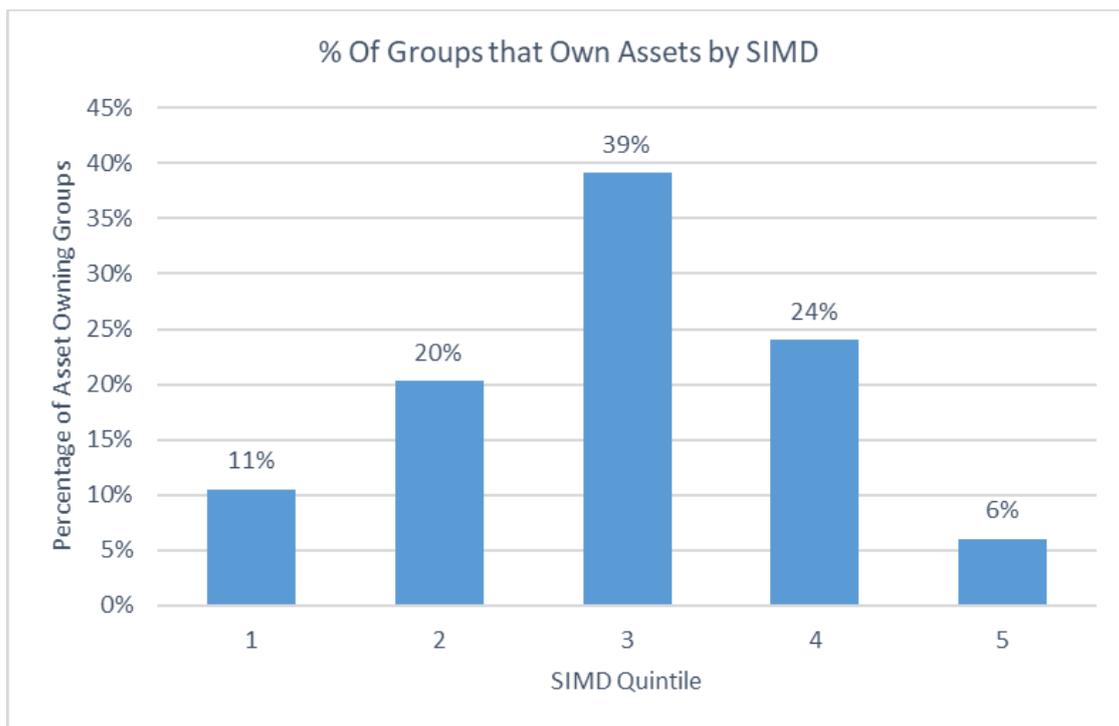


Figure 50 - Asset Ownership by SIMD

## Geographical Split of Asset ownership

Historically, community ownership in Scotland has been stronger in rural areas. According to the Scottish Government's community ownership in Scotland publications 2022<sup>15</sup>, 79% of all community owned assets are held in rural areas. Only 13% of community owned assets are held in urban areas and 8% are held in small-towns.

Community ownership statistics among asset owning DTAS members mirrors those historic ownership trends. Evidenced in the below piechart, almost half of all asset-owning members surveyed are based in rural areas (SURC 5 and 6).

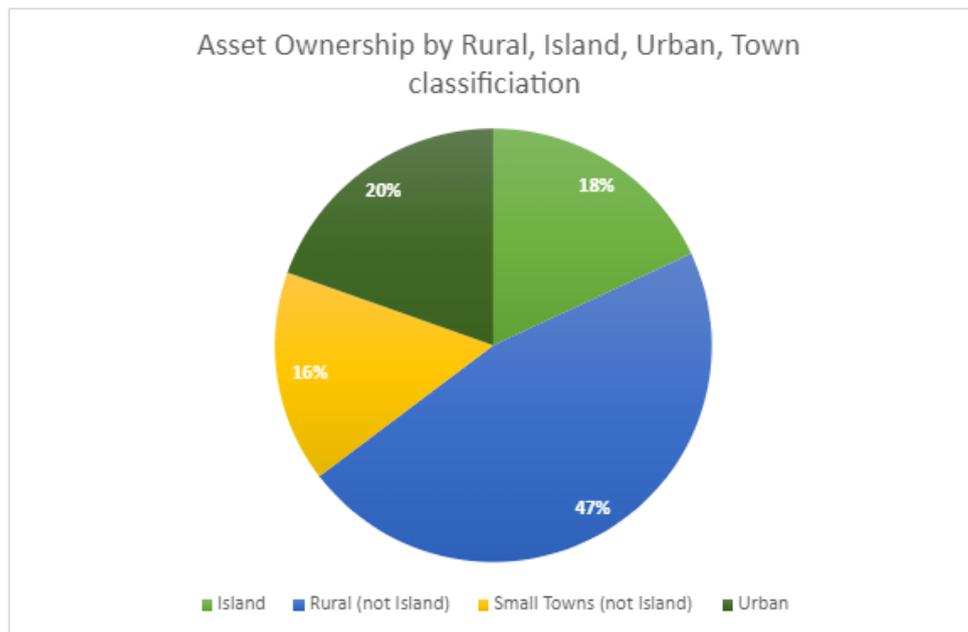


Figure 51- Asset Ownership by Rurality

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-ownership-in-scotland-2022/pages/assets-by-urban-rural-classification-2020-2022/>

According to Table 3, rural, island and small-town groups are far more likely to own assets than urban groups. Only 53% of all urban groups surveyed own an asset, compared to a staggering 96% of island groups, and 86% of rural groups. Though small-town development trusts represent a small proportion of the total percentage of asset owning groups (16%), when looking at asset ownership among this group, 78% of all small-town development trusts surveyed own an asset.

*Table 2 - Asset Ownership by Rurality*

Category	% Asset Owners (in category)	% Of Total (Asset Owners)
Island	96%	18%
Rural (not Island)	86%	47%
Small Towns (not Island)	78%	16%
Urban	53%	20%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

Rural, island and small-town members are also more likely to own a variety of assets. On average, island groups own 3 or more types of assets and rural (non-island) groups 2 types of assets. Small-town members own an average of 1.7 types of assets, urban development trusts own an average of 0.8 types of assets. Island development trusts are far more likely to own land/woodland/forestry than their urban and small-town counterparts. Only 14% of urban development trusts own land, compared to 68% of island development trusts. Island development trusts are also the most likely grouping of development trusts to own housing. On average, whilst 16% of asset owning development trusts own housing, a staggering 32% of all island development trusts own housing.

The aforementioned research undertaken by COSS<sup>16</sup> indicates that urban community groups taking on an asset, for lease or ownership through the Asset Transfer legislation are far less likely to get their application approved than groups based in rural areas.

When split by local authority,<sup>17</sup> areas with below average percentage of asset ownership were (on average 77% of Development trusts own at least one asset):

*Table 3- Lowest Asset Ownership Rates Local Authority*

Local Authority	% of development trusts that own assets
Glasgow City	33%
Fife	56%
Edinburgh, City of	63%
Midlothian	67%
North Ayrshire	67%
North Lanarkshire	67%

<sup>16</sup> COSS Asset Transfer Report, soon to be published.

<sup>17</sup> Only local authorities in which over 50% of DTAS members in that local authority had responded to the survey were used for these figures.

These findings are consistent with findings on rurality which indicate that groups in urban areas (SURC 1 and 2) are less likely to own an asset.

The COSS report found that 66% of all asset transfer requests in large urban areas were approved versus 89% of all asset transfer requests approved in remote rural areas. The same research also found that community groups based in urban areas were more likely to have an asset transfer application for a lease accepted than one for ownership. There are several speculative reasons why urban communities are less likely to own assets, and more likely to lease or manage them: for example, property speculation in urban areas increases competition for properties, higher presence of communities of interest in urban areas, higher indices of deprivation in urban communities (SIMD),<sup>18</sup> potential prejudice against deprived areas and a lack of adequate support in managing assets.

Low asset ownership in urban areas likely correlates with the prevalence of vacant and derelict land in deprived urban communities. An estimated 55% of communities in deprived areas live within 500 metres of a vacant and derelict landsite, and a large proportion of Scotland's vacant and derelict land is in urban areas.<sup>19</sup>

Additionally, there is likely a correlation with the density of black and minority ethnic populations in urban areas and the lower rates of asset ownership in these areas. Initial work done by Community Land Scotland's Community Ownership Hub indicates that groups supporting ethnically diverse communities report difficulties in obtaining assets, with alarming evidence of exclusion and prejudice<sup>20</sup>. They have commissioned further research on the issue, but it is evident that more is needed to understand this dynamic.

---

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/asset-transfer-requests-evaluation-part-5-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015/documents/> page 50

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5f73555fbfe93\\_VDL%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations.pdf](https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5f73555fbfe93_VDL%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> <https://communityownership.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Research-Brief-Inclusion-and-CLO-1.23.pdf>

### Asset ownership trends:

There were some key trends that were seen across all groups that own assets:

Development trusts who own assets are more likely to have a paid member of staff than those who do not own any assets. **85% of asset owning development trusts employ paid staff, compared to 70% of development trusts who do not own an asset.**

Development trusts who own assets deliver on average 3 more activities per week than those who do not own any assets. Asset owning development trusts deliver 10 activities per week on average and those who do not deliver 7 activities a week on average (Figure 52).

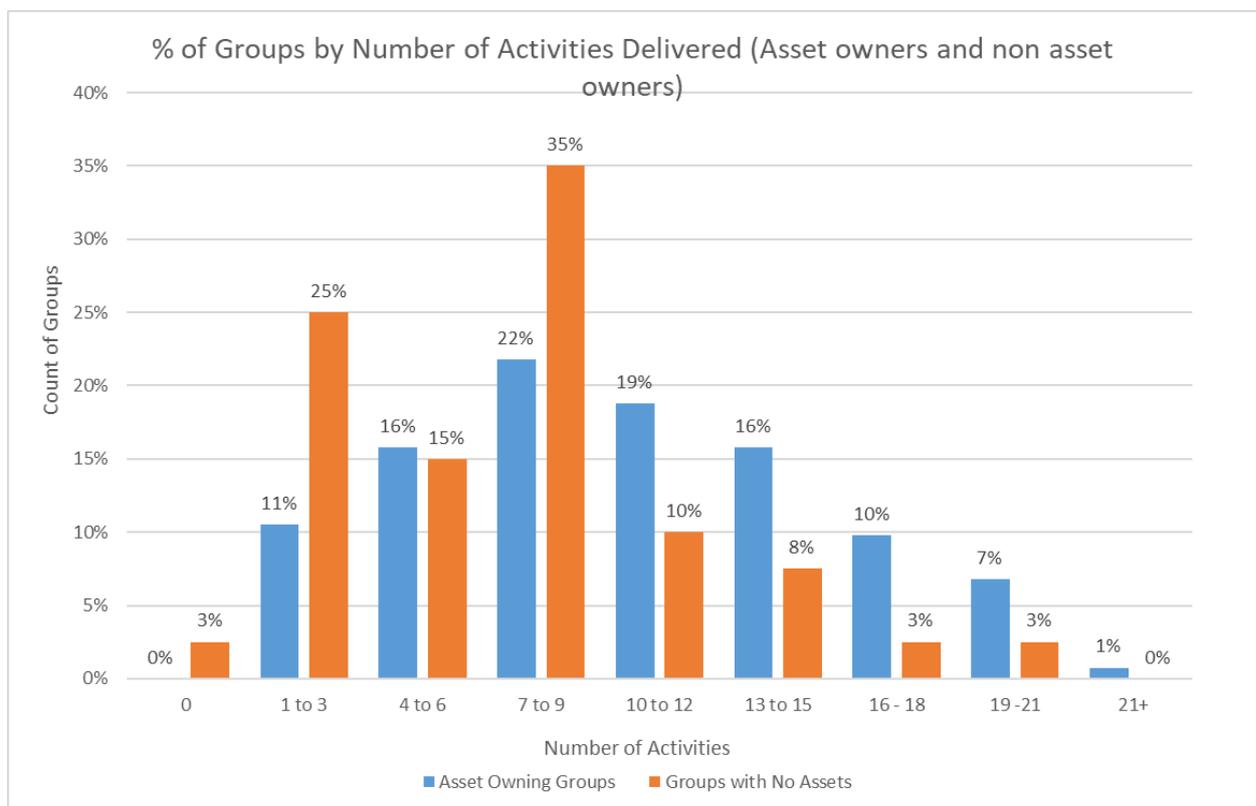


Figure 52- Activities Delivered by Asset Ownership

### Assets and Earned Income

More asset owning groups have a source of earned income than those who do not own an asset. **85% of asset owning groups report having a source of earned income, compared to 78% of groups without assets.**

The average value of annual earned income is almost four times as much for asset owning groups than for those without assets. **On average asset owning development trusts earn £111,552 per year, compared to £29,907 per year earned by groups without assets.** Moreover, on average, asset owning

DTAS members' earned income makes up 37% of their annual income, over half that of members without assets (19%).

Levels of earned income are also moderate predictors of asset ownership. Groups with higher earned income are more likely to own an asset than those with lower levels of earned income.

When analysing this trend looking at the percentage of earned income in total income the figures are slightly different. Initially, there is no significant linear correlation between the percentage of earned income a development trust reports as part of their total income and the likelihood they own an asset, with an R squared value of 0.1.

However, development trusts that report earned income as 40-50% of their total income do not fit the overall trend. Figures are likely skewed for this demographic as there are only 5 groups whose earned income proportion fall between 40-50%. With such a small sample, one response can substantially affect the overall figure. If these entries in the 40-50% income proportion category are filtered out, the R value for these variables goes from an insignificant value of 0.1 to a strong correlation of 0.72. This indicates that groups with a higher proportion of earned income are also more likely to own an asset.

#### Asset Leasing:

Overall, 35% of groups surveyed lease an asset, either land or a building. Within that 35% there is an even split between groups who lease only land, only buildings and those who lease both.

#### Deprivation and Rurality trends

Groups in SIMD quintile 1 are most likely to lease an asset than groups in other SIMD categories. **52% of groups in SIMD quintile 1 lease an asset, compared to about 30% of groups leasing assets in SIMD quintiles 2, 3, 4, and 5.**

Concurrently, groups in large urban areas (SURC 1) are far more likely to lease an asset than those in other SURC categories, **64% of groups in large urban areas lease an asset compared to around 30% of groups in SURC 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.**

Development trusts with higher levels of earned income are more likely to lease an asset than those with lower levels of earned income.

## Activities

Activities are the means for DTAS members to provide services for their communities. Whether the activities are aimed at reducing social barriers, generating income, teaching new skills, or improving life for residents more generally, the delivery of activities is central to development trusts' existence and purpose. Development trusts were asked how many activities they were currently delivering. The results from the survey show that **the average number of activities delivered by each development trust across the membership was 9**, showing the versatility of the DTAS membership.

Figure 53 below shows the proportion of the number of different activities delivered annually. The largest proportion (36%) deliver 6 to 10 activities for their community, with the next largest group delivering between eleven and fifteen activities with 23%, showing the capability of DTAS members. A minority of development trusts are delivering over 21 activities (2.3%).

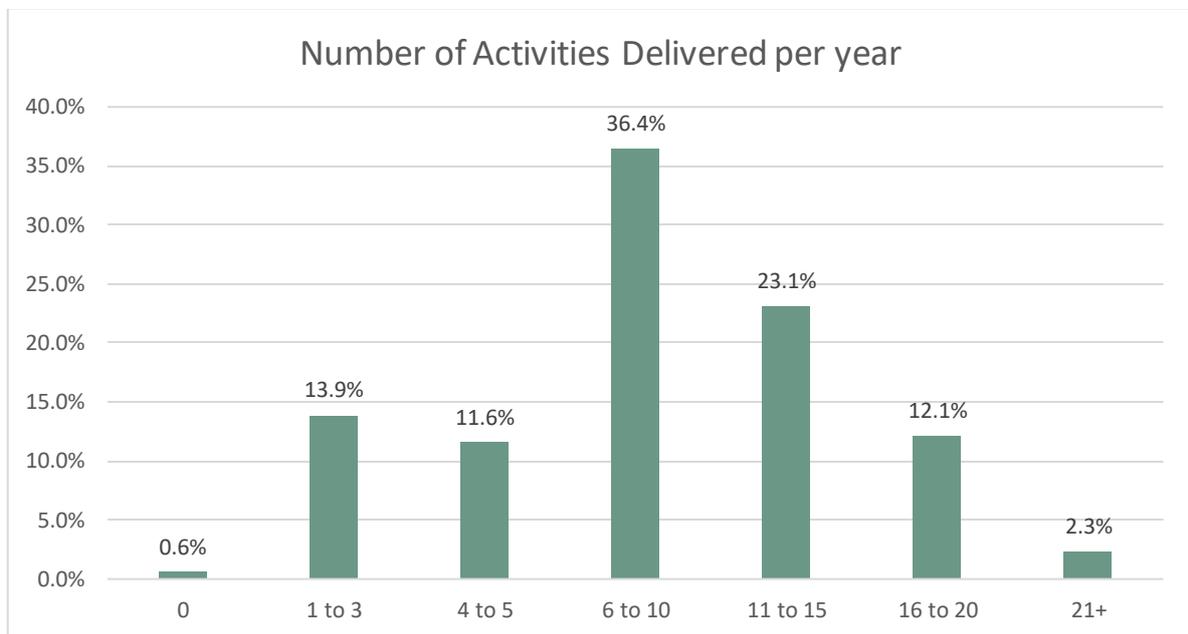


Figure 53- Number of Activities Delivered by Development Trusts Annually

Respondents were also asked what activities their trusts were aspiring to deliver in the coming year (Figure 54). An increasing percentage of DTAS members were planning to deliver 1 – 3 services for their members (from 13.9% to 16.8%), while the proportion of groups pursuing between 11 to 15 activities dropped from 23.1% to 15.6%.

Conversely, there is evidence of groups aiming to pursue more activities with a small increase in groups delivering between 16 and 20 activities and the same effect for groups hoping to deliver over 21 activities.

These findings illustrate that development trusts are diverse in their aspirations for delivery as well as capacity to either pursue more or fewer activities, painting a varied picture of the development trust movement.

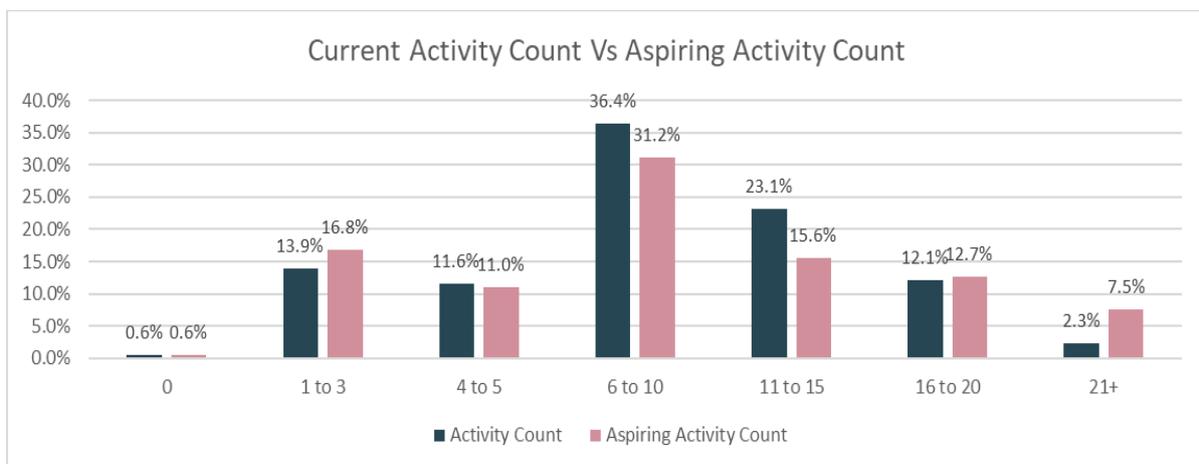


Figure 54- Current vs Aspiring Activity Count

## Popular Activities

Figure 55 displays the most popular activities delivered by development trusts. These activities cover a diverse spread of services, reflecting members' wide range of social, environment and economic priorities and remits. Events/Festivals/Markets were the most popular activities engaged with by the DTAS membership, showing the importance of development trusts across Scotland in bringing their own communities together. Development trusts have been prioritising reducing social barriers, increasing inclusion, and improving social cohesion.

Activities which have an environmental focus such as biodiversity and habitat restoration, community growing/allotments and climate action have become dominant in development trusts' activities. With rising climate change concerns, it seems that communities are aiming to improve their environmental impact and encourage regenerative and ecologically friendly practices.

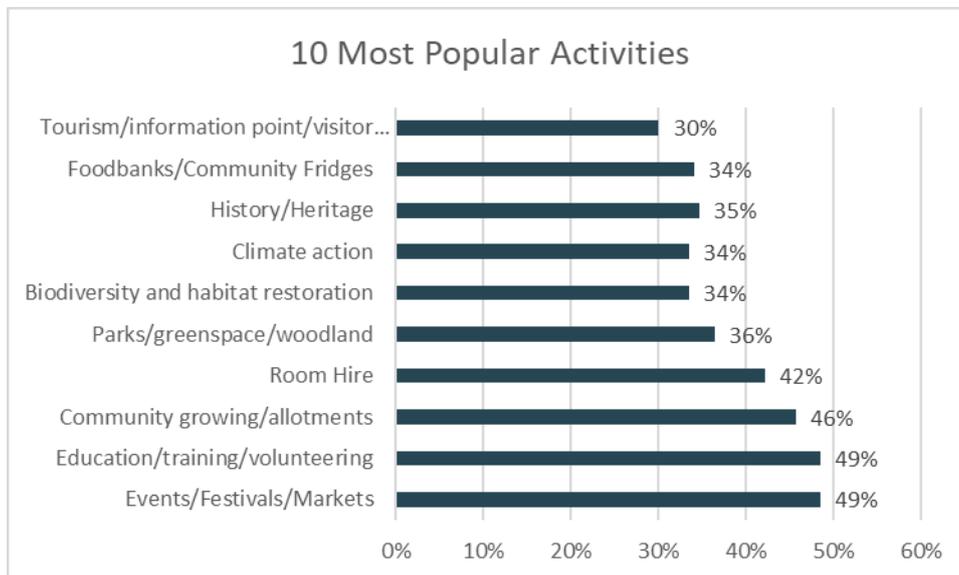


Figure 55- Top 10 Activities

Many of the most popular aspiring activities are the same ones which groups are currently engaging with habitats and organically grown food still being prevalent (Figure 56). The two aspiring popular activities which did not appear before in the current most popular activities were active travel and community/sports centre, potentially showing development trusts' shift towards having sport and exercise as priorities for their communities. This matches the cuts to public services and the many planned closures of leisure facilities across Scotland: it seems development trusts are planning to step into these spaces to ensure their communities do not lose access to these key services.

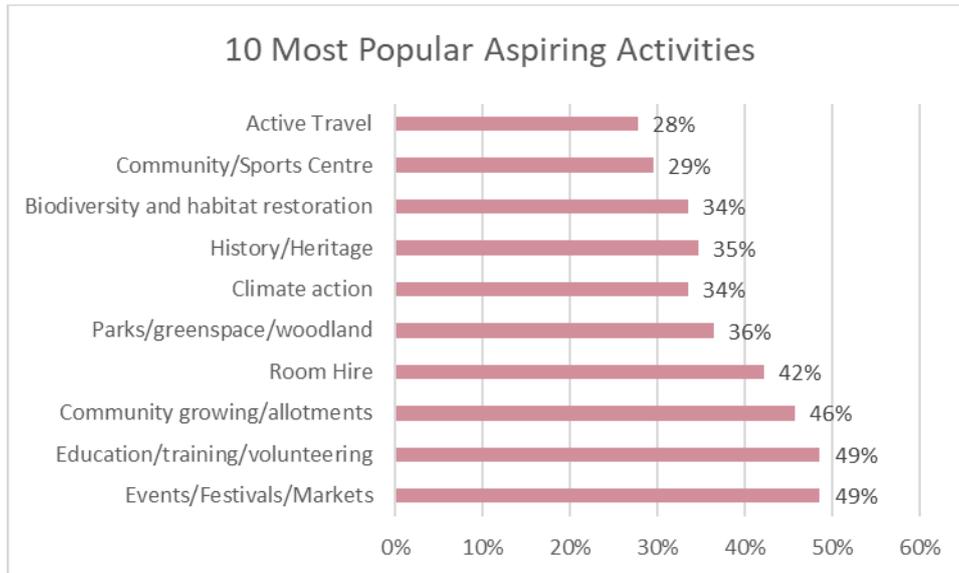


Figure 56 - Top 10 Aspiring Activities

## Employment

Employing staff has a significant effect on development trusts' capacity to deliver activities. With the resource to have individuals managing the business of their community organisation, DTAS members who employ staff can deliver more services for their community. This is reflected in Figure 57: 18% of employing groups and 61% of non-employing groups deliver between 1 and 5 activities. For development trusts delivering over 6 activities, groups who hire staff have better representation than those without staff.

Whilst 15% of development trusts with employees provide between 16 and 20 activities, there were no development trusts without staff delivering this number of activities. The R value of 0.84 shows a strong correlation between employment and activity count. Having employees on top of volunteers and board members gives development trusts more scope to explore new opportunities for their members and local communities.

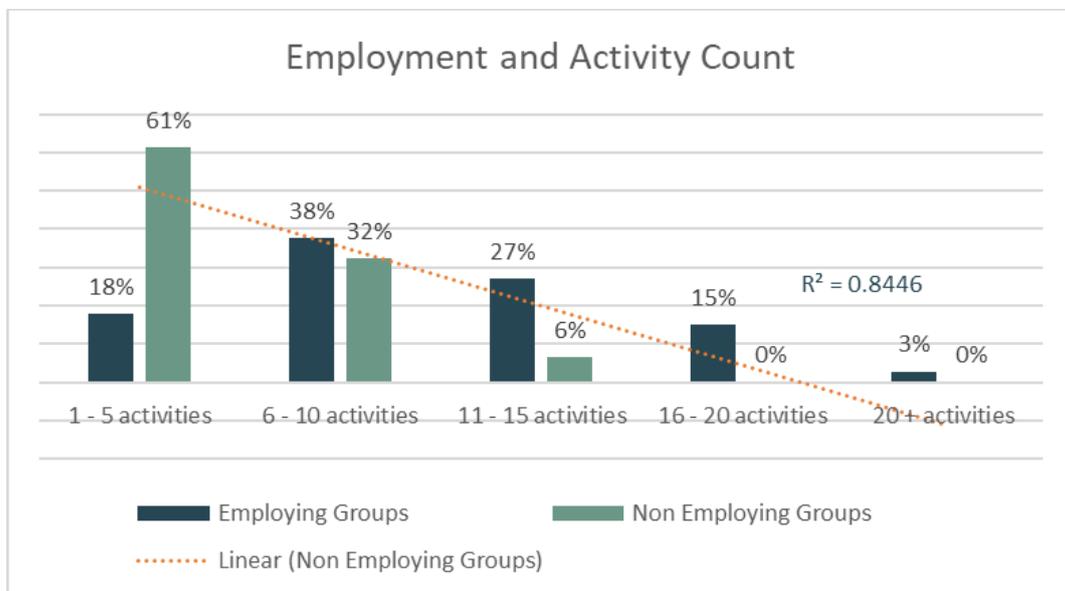


Figure 57 - Employment and Activity Count

### Popular Activities by Geographical Classification:

Room hire and events/festivals/markets were the two activities that featured in every geographical profile identified (urban, small-town, rural and island).

Urban DTAS members have their own specific profile of activities (Figure 58): there is an emphasis on urban members to provide opportunities to further skills and/or access employment. Education/training/volunteering and employability/placements appeared as top activities, which can relate to the presence of many urban members in SIMD areas (with generally higher levels of unemployment and/or less financial means to access private training and education). Over 40% of urban members are engaging with community/ sports centre which could be due to closures of public facilities with development trusts stepping into this space.

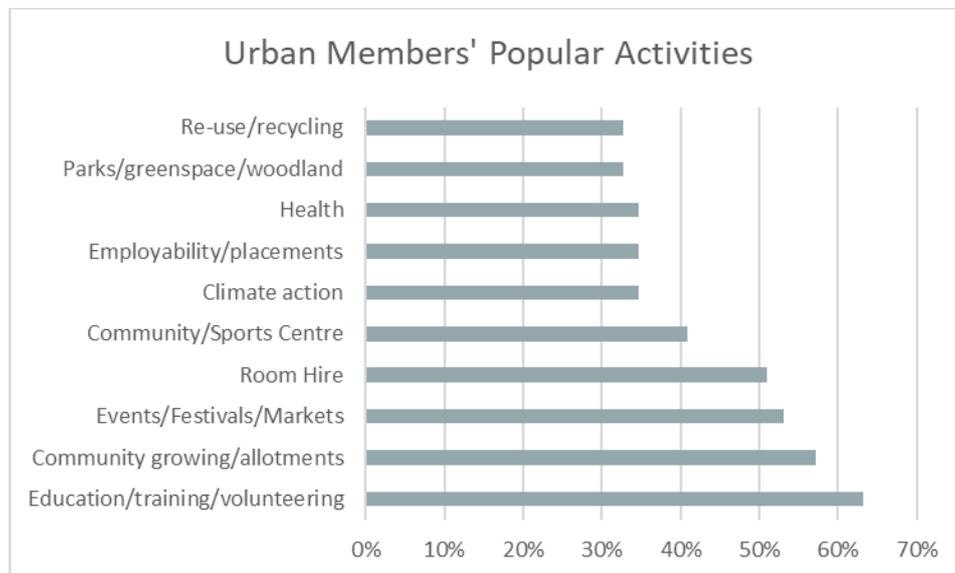


Figure 58 - Urban Development Trusts' Activities

A notable finding from development trusts from small-towns (Figure 59) was that foodbanks/community fridges was the most popular activity which groups engaged with, showing that many small-towns struggle with food security and the onus is on development trusts to alleviate this problem. Additionally, this activity can also be undertaken to address food waste, which might be the main reason it is undertaken in some areas. Small-town DTAS members deliver other much needed services for their communities with health and elderly services featuring in the top ten activities. Whilst education/training/volunteering was a prominent activity in urban, rural and island development trusts, this was not as popular in small-towns.

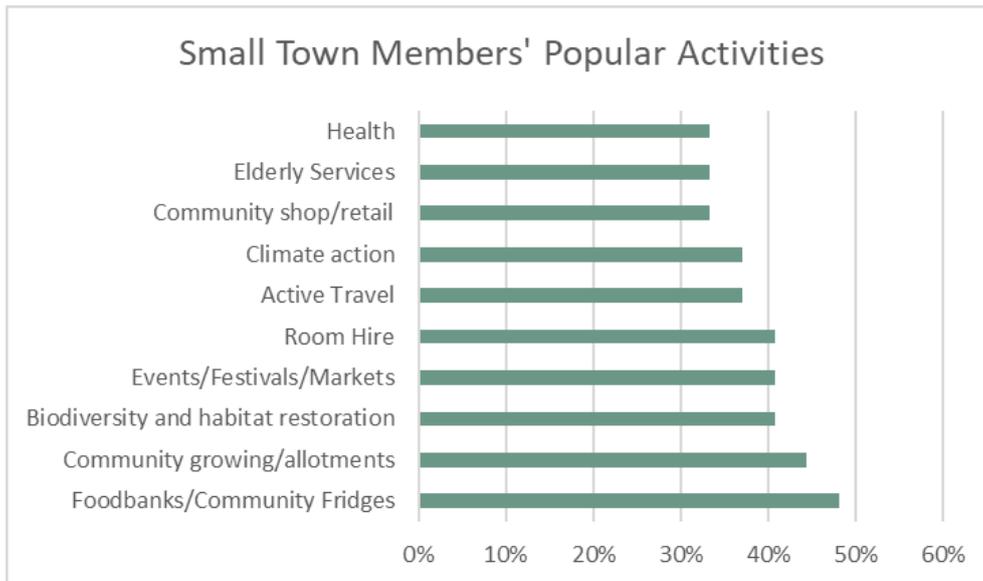


Figure 59 - Small Town Development Trusts' Activities

Rural development trusts also seem to be pursuing potential streams of income from inside and outside their communities through tourism/information point/visitor accommodation activities and room hire (although these are not always income generators, depending on the delivery model) (Figure 60). Rural development trusts additionally support their residents in several ways, through grant giving, foodbanks/community fridges, and education/training/volunteering, showing the variety of assistance they provide. Grant giving was the tenth most popular activity in rural development trusts. Given that 67% of those development trusts who receive community benefit funds are from mainland rural areas, many groups have the available financial resource to act as umbrella organisations who grant funds to smaller community organisations in their communities.

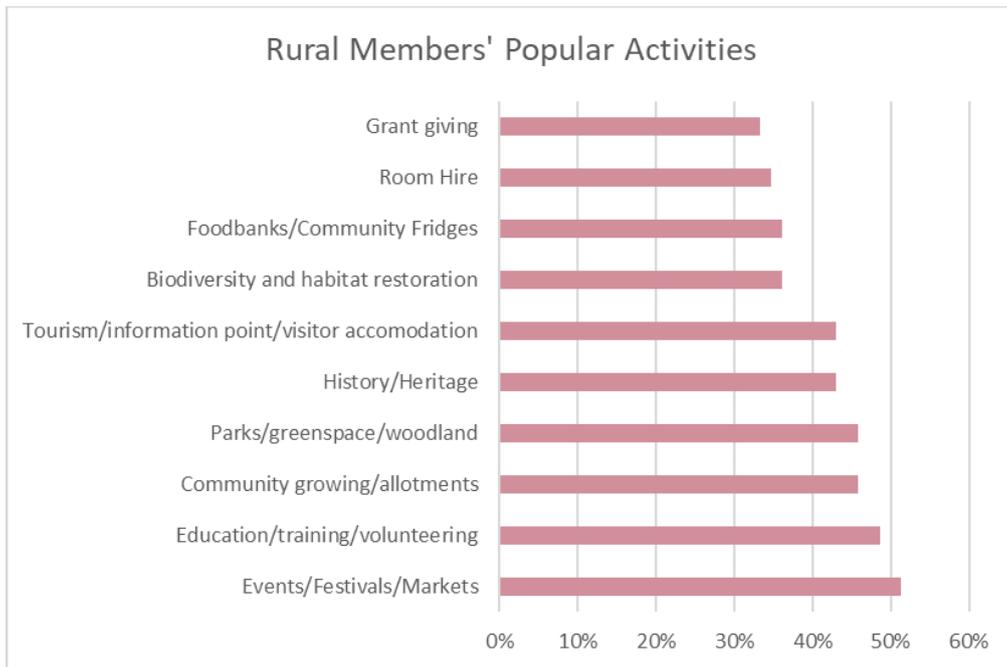


Figure 60 - Rural Development Trusts' Activities

Island development trusts deliver activities which not only serve their communities but can also contribute to their economic sustainability. This is reflected in housing and community shop/retail being in the most delivered activities. By addressing the pressing need for accommodation, island development trusts not only fulfil a vital community requirement but can also, in the long-term, generate revenue through affordable housing projects for rent or ownership. Community shop/retail plays a crucial role in sustaining island economies. By owning and managing these establishments, development trusts ensure residents have access to essential goods while simultaneously stimulating local commerce and generating income through sales.

Similar to rural development trusts' most popular activities, grant giving featured in the top ten activities (Figure 61). As previously mentioned, 36% of island development trusts own renewable energy installation and thus can have the financial means to support smaller organisations.

The other notable most popular activity was harbours/pontoons. With often unreliable transport services, harbours and pontoons are crucial to allow residents to make journeys to and from their home, tackling the issue of connectivity with other islands and the mainland.

Whilst island organisations share a lot of the same top activities as other geographical areas, this profile of development trusts are the only one with housing in the top ten of activities. Given the housing crisis in island communities, development trusts have sought to address this challenge. With the housing crisis now affecting so much of Scotland, DTAS sees more and more mainland groups trying to address this too.

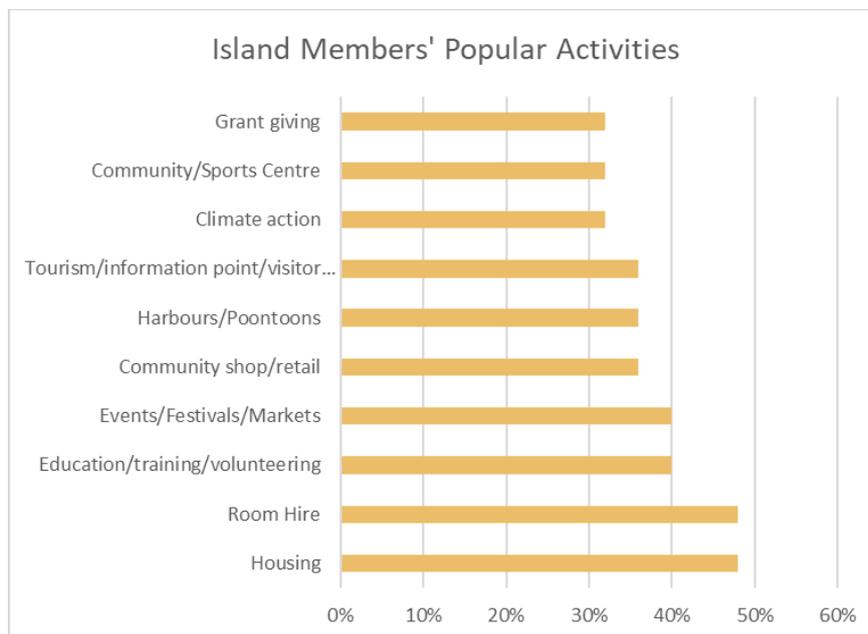


Figure 61 - Island Development Trusts' Activities

## SIMD and Activities

Education/training/volunteering and events/festivals/markets feature across the five SIMD quintiles.

The DTAS members from SIMD quintile 1 are engaged in activities that help improve their communities' social and economic situations. With welfare/income advice, elderly services, foodbanks/community fridges, employability/placements and education/training/volunteers, these services provide much needed support to residents through means of care, food, health, training, and advice (Figure 62). An explanation of SIMD quintile 1 groups engaging in these activities could be due to the absence of appropriate level of services offered by statutory bodies and the needs of the residents having to be met through other channels, such as the community sector.

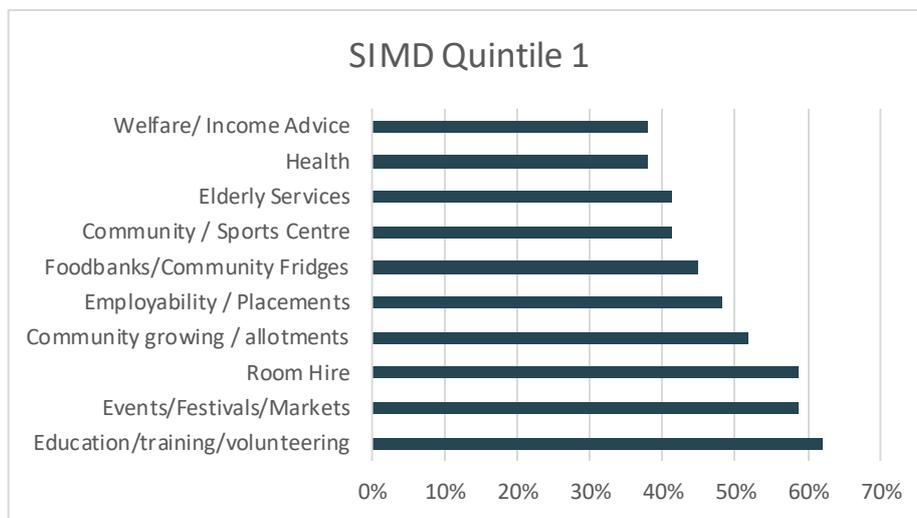


Figure 62 - Activities SIMD Quintile 1

Development trusts from SIMD quintile 2 were engaged in a variety of services including those which promote healthy lifestyles (community/sports centre and sports/leisure) however this could also be explained by development trusts stepping into the space of previously publicly run services. Similar activities emerge from the previous SIMD quintile 1 with events/festivals/markets, education/training/volunteering and foodbanks/community fridges being prevalent. See Figure 63 below.

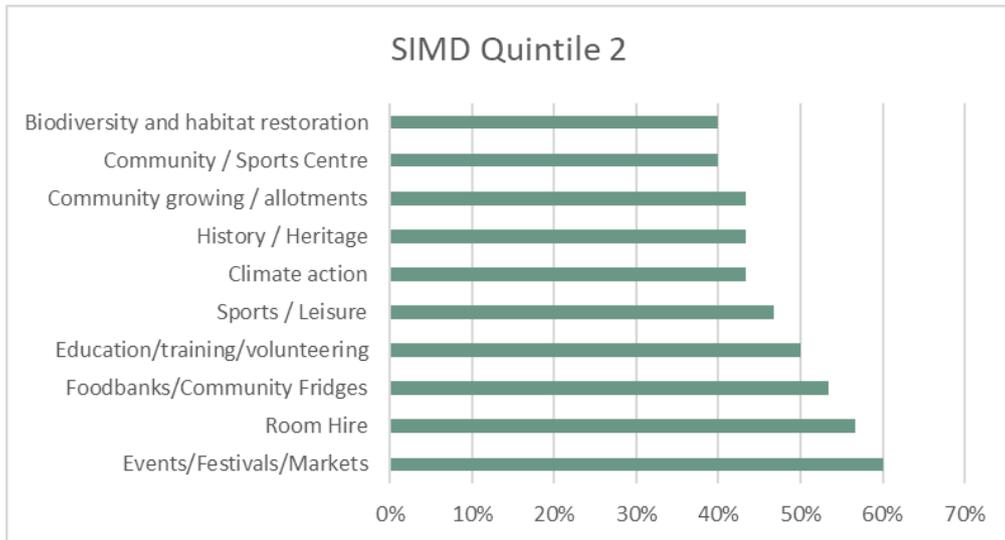


Figure 63 - Activities SIMD Quintile 2

DTAS members in SIMD quintile 3 also deliver a wide variety of activities (Figure 64). There is a focus on the protection of the environment and historic landmarks with history/heritage, biodiversity and habitat restoration and community gardens all prevalent. There is evidence of providing accommodation, services and grants for their communities through housing, community shop/retail and grant giving.

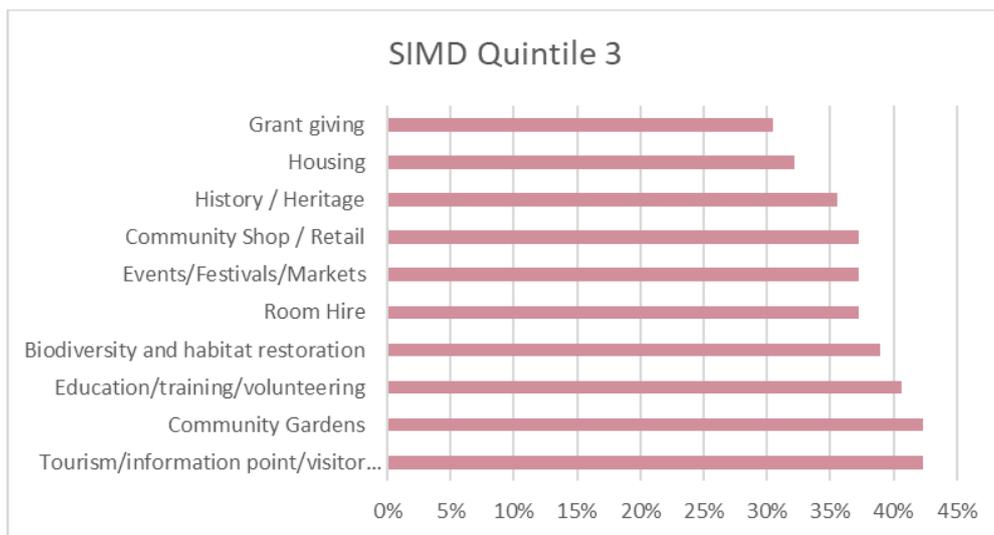


Figure 64 - Activities SIMD Quintile 3

Similar activities emerge for SIMD quintile 4 with tourism/information/visitor accommodation and community shop/retail, grant giving, history/heritage, and parks/greenspace/woodland all being popular. The two main differences with the previous quintile were that events/festivals/markets became the most popular activity with 55% of organisations delivering these activities and community media was also included in the top ten activities (Figure 65).

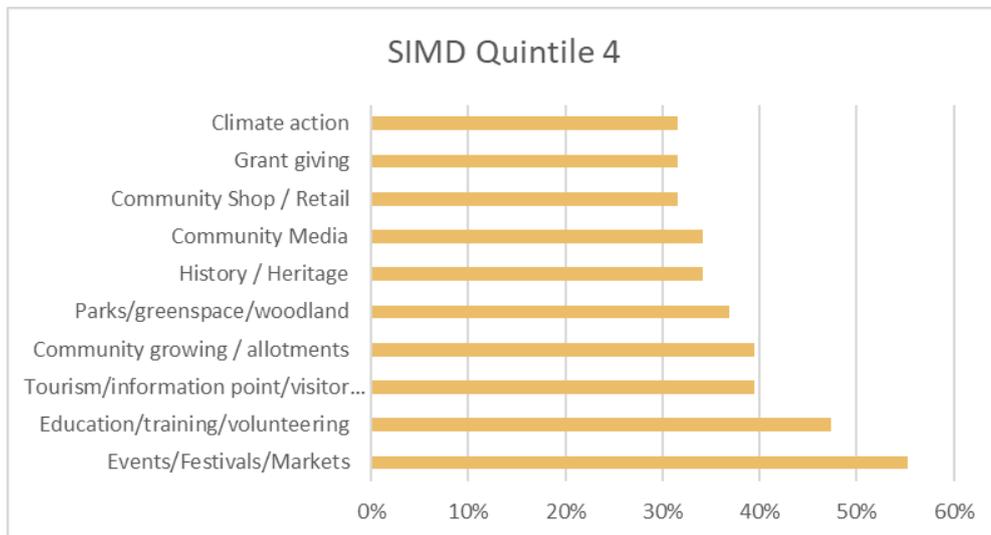


Figure 65 - Activities SIMD Quintile 4

There is an evident focus for SIMD quintile 5 on climate and protection of the environment with the top four activities being biodiversity and habitat restoration, community growing/allotments, parks/greenspace/woodland, and climate action. This would suggest that affluence in communities allows development trusts to focus on environmental issues rather than pressing social and economic issues of the local area. An example of an urban-based community group working in this space is Glasgow Eco trust.<sup>21</sup> More information can be found in the Annex on page 94. Foodbanks /community fridges was among the top reported activities, which suggests two possible explanations. One explanation could be that this is a popular activity because these development trusts are aiming to address food waste in their communities. Alternatively, this could point to the existence of pockets of deprivation within affluent areas. It is also possible that a combination of these factors is contributing to the prevalence of foodbanks/community fridges as a top activity.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.glasgowecotrust.org.uk/>

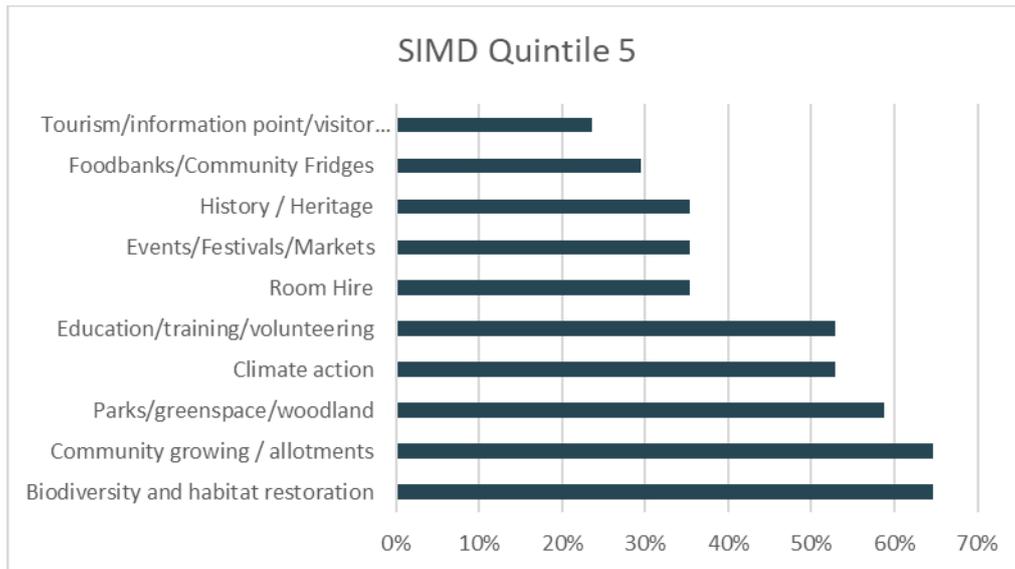


Figure 66 - Activities SIMD Quintile 5

Using SIMD as an indicator for deprivation when investigating the top activities of development trusts reveal a number of findings:

- Education/training/volunteering is always in the top five most popular activities.
- Events/festivals/markets consistently appears in all the top ten activities.
- Room Hire is present in all top ten activities except for SIMD quintile 4.
- Apart from SIMD quintile 3, community growing/allotments features across all quintiles' top ten activities.
- Employability/ placements, elderly services and welfare/income advice only feature in SIMD quintile 1's top ten activities.
- Community/sports centre features in only SIMD quintiles 1 and 2's top ten activities.
- Tourism/information point/visitor accommodation and history/heritage feature in SIMD quintiles 3, 4 and 5 top ten activities.
- Environmental activities are in all the top ten no matter the SIMD ranking, but they are especially high in SIMD quintile 5 where the top four most popular activities are linked to the environment.

All development trusts seem to prioritise the delivery of services which support their communities' needs and priorities. Evidently, education/training/volunteering is at the forefront of all development trusts' priorities regardless of deprivation level, showing development trusts' push to better equip their communities with new skills and aptitudes. As development trusts also significantly rely on volunteers, it is not surprising this activity is the most popular. Similarly, bringing residents together for social events is of importance to communities across Scotland.

As has been mentioned SIMD fails to effectively capture rural deprivation and as such, few conclusions can be made about SIMD quintile 3 as this is the quintile many rural DTAS members sit in. There are however similarities with SIMD quintile 4, sharing seven of the same top activities.

More generally, SIMD as an indicator and the notion of "deprivation" has its limits, as we pointed out in the Glossary of Terms.

## Conclusions, Common Challenges Faced by Development Trusts:

Development trusts across Scotland, as represented by the DTAS membership, face a myriad of challenges and opportunities in their mission to support and develop their communities. As the findings of the report highlight, these challenges are influenced significantly by levels of deprivation (measured by SIMD) and the rural/urban classification of these communities, as well as the unique challenges faced by island communities.

### **Staffing and Members:**

The impact of SIMD is particularly pronounced in the people aspects of development operations, staffing, membership, and volunteers.

Development trusts in more deprived areas, SIMD quintile 1, are more likely to employ a paid member of staff and have more than double the average number of paid staff. This trend is mirrored almost exactly by urban/rural classifications, with urban development trusts having almost double the number of staff than those in other rural classifications.

Development trusts in SIMD quintile 1 also tend to have higher member counts, with an average of 313 members. Again, this trend is similarly observed in groups located in urban areas with higher population densities. Such similarities between urban development trusts and development trusts in areas classed SIMD quintile 1 is likely because 53% of the urban members surveyed are based in areas of high deprivation (SIMD quintile 1).

### **Grant Funding and Earned Income:**

The impact of deprivation can also be seen on earned income and grant funding. Organisations in SIMD quintile 1 have higher average earned incomes, and higher average amount of grant funding.

When filtering out island development trusts (due to their exceptionally high earned income), there is a strong linear correlation between earned income values and SIMD. With development trusts in more deprived areas (SIMD quintile 1) having more than double the total average earned income than those in the most affluent areas (SIMD quintile 5), £95,225 and £40,326 respectively. These findings are congruent with the high earned income seen in development trusts in urban central belt areas of Renfrewshire, Glasgow, and North Lanarkshire.

The higher value of earned income in deprived urban areas likely reflects the opportunities that arise out of partnership service delivery in these areas, where development trusts can generate income by delivering services and renting premises to partners such as Skills Development Scotland.

In terms of grant funding groups in the most deprived areas receive more than three times as much in grants than those in the most affluent areas. North Lanarkshire Council area and (£641,586), Glasgow City Council area (£296,141) had the highest amount of average grant funding per development trust. However, because of these areas having dense populations, their grant funding per capita is among the lowest of Scottish local authorities.

When looking at earned income as a percentage of total annual income, a comprehensive understanding of the impact of rurality and deprivation is gained. On average earned income constitutes 33% of total annual income of a development trust, for those based in urban areas earned income makes up only 27% of their total annual income (this percentage is the same for development trusts in SIMD quintile 1 areas). Overall, urban areas have a higher total earned income value than

other mainland development trusts but have low grant funding per capita and earned income makes up a below average or average proportion of their total annual income.

Conversely, island development trusts have the largest amount and proportion of earned income. On average, island groups' earned income makes up almost half of their total annual income (49%), close to double the proportions of development trusts in urban development trusts. In monetary terms, island development trusts on average earn £120,000 more than the national average for earned income, showing their financial sustainability. Additionally, island communities have both the highest levels of grant funding per capita, are engaged in multiple alternative financial models and are embodying enterprising initiative.

Another challenge faced by development trusts is increasing reliance on grant funding, and reduced proportion and amount of earned income. 67% all development trusts report being very reliant, or just below that, on grant funding, with little variation when adjusted for SIMD, and SURC. Since the last DTAS member survey was conducted in 2019, the amount of earned income reported by members has decreased to 33%. While the 2019 survey did not ask groups to report their reliance on grant funding, from the drastic decrease in total earned income, we can infer that grant reliance has likely increased since then.

#### **Alternative sources of Income:**

Given the rise in grant dependency and decreasing income generation, alternative sources of funding and income generation are becoming increasingly relevant to development trusts. The survey found that 64% of DTAS members engage with alternative finance, highlighting the necessity for diversifying income streams. Renewable Energy emerged as the most popular model, with 24.7% of groups participating, followed closely by Crowdfunding, Philanthropic Giving, and Community Lottery. Development trusts in rural areas showed higher engagement in alternative finance sources across the board. Crowdfunding was most prevalent in large urban areas, and Philanthropic Giving more popular in rural regions.

Looking ahead, renewable energy opportunities remain a priority for 19% of respondents, indicating a sustained interest in leveraging this income source, followed closely by Philanthropic Giving and Crowdfunding. However, a notable portion (15%) of DTAS members have no plans to utilise any form of alternative finance in the future.

Renewable energy ownership and community benefit funding have started to play a more significant role in development trusts' pursuit of financial sustainability. The survey found that groups who own renewable energy installations are less likely to be grant reliant, all have a source of earned income, and earn on average a higher amount of earned income than groups who do not own these installations. This is a significant finding, especially given the geographic inequity of renewable energy ownership, with rural and island-based development trusts representing almost all renewable energy ownership, with only 16% coming from small-towns and 10% from urban areas.

Community benefit funds, like renewable energy installations, can be tools for financial sustainability as they can provide long-term regular funding. On average groups in receipt of community benefit funds receive £85,301 per year, not an insubstantial amount of funding. However, within groups in receipt of community benefit funding, there is drastic geographic inequality as 77% of them are based in rural areas, with 67% of those rural groups based on mainland Scotland. Interestingly, community

benefit fund receiving groups report a higher grant reliance and a lower earned income than average, indicating a dependence on these funds, potentially in lieu of income generation.

### **Activities and Services:**

Development trusts from across the network deliver varying activities and services for their communities. When taking both rurality and deprivation into account, we can note that (often urban) DTAS groups from SIMD quintile 1 focus on activities that support their communities with better access to the job market such as education/training/volunteering, welfare/income advice and employability/placements featuring in their top ten activities. On the other hand, SIMD quintile 5 development trusts' top activities are centred around improving the environment with biodiversity and habitat restoration, community growing/allotments climate action, parks/greenspace/woodland as the top four activities.

As previously mentioned, SIMD is an indicator that generally overlooks rural deprivation, thus limiting our ability to draw conclusions on this. Although rural and small-town development trusts share half of their top ten activities, the former tend to deliver services for the needs of their communities whilst the latter carries out activities that pursue streams of income. Island groups prioritise activities which aim to overcome the challenges associated with island life such as housing and harbours/pontoons. This reflects the current housing crisis on the islands which has echoes on the mainland too.

The report found a strong link between asset ownership and service delivery. Asset owning development trusts deliver 10 activities per week on average and those who do not deliver 7 activities a week on average.

### **Assets**

However, asset ownership and leasing patterns reflect stark geographical disparities, with 77% of development trusts owning physical assets, primarily in rural and island areas. A staggering 96% of development trusts in island communities own at least one asset, with many owning more than two types of assets. Similarly, 86% of development trusts in rural areas are asset owners, and 78% of development trusts in small-towns own an asset. In contrast, urban communities have a much lower rate of asset ownership with only 53% of communities owning an asset; this lower rate of ownership can be due to property speculation, prevalence of vacant and derelict land, and lack of available spaces in densely populated areas among other barriers to ownership.

Asset ownership by SIMD follows a similar trend with most asset owning groups falling within SIMD quintile 3, typically rural and island communities, and with low asset ownership in the most deprived and most affluent areas, typically urban groups. Interestingly development trusts in deprived urban communities were found more than twice as likely to lease an asset than their counterparts in small town, rural and island communities.

### **General Cross category trends**

- Organisations with higher annual incomes are more likely to employ paid staff.
- Groups who employ staff have higher number of volunteers on average, compared to most groups without staff who are likely to have under 10 volunteers. Staff are often needed to support ambitious volunteer programmes, for training and management purposes.

- Asset ownership positively correlates with activity count and earned income, indicating its potential importance for financial sustainability.
- Groups in receipt of community benefit funds are more reliant than average on grant funding. A further comparison of this trend needs to be done.

## Policy Context, Opportunities and Challenges

Our strategy over the next 3 years is continuing to build our dedicated member support and help for aspiring communities to set-up a development trust and to join the movement, providing the advice and assistance to communities to thrive in challenging times. We aim to move past communities having to address market failure and to a place where strong community infrastructures are invested in due to their proven ability to positively impact on economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Scotland. Community wealth building, land reform, addressing depopulation in rural areas and the democracy matters policy work remain high on our priorities going forward, reflecting the needs of our members and the wider community-led sector. Lobbying and participating in advisory groups within these areas and providing evidence and insights for positive change to happen remains a priority.

## Renewable Energy and Community Benefit Funding

One of several key policy areas that affects development trusts around the country and will increasingly impact them in the coming years is shared ownership and community benefit funding from renewable energy development, especially onshore wind. Currently there are 8.8 gigawatts of installed onshore wind capacity in Scotland, with a commitment from Scottish Government to more than double that capacity to 20GW by 2030<sup>15</sup>.

Shared ownership is defined by the Scottish Government as “any structure which involves a community group as a financial partner over the lifetime of a renewable energy project”<sup>16</sup>. These figures account for 45% of the Scottish Government’s goal to install 2 gigawatts of community/locally owned renewable energy installations by 2030. Given this goal, community owned renewables and shared ownership arrangements are set to more than double in the next 6 years, representing an incredible opportunity for community-led organisations across Scotland.

Community benefit funding from these developments is also set to grow dramatically. Between 2018 and 2022, onshore wind projects have committed an estimated £106 million in community benefits<sup>17</sup>. Scottish Government Good Practice Principles on community benefits from onshore renewable energy advocates for community benefits in the value of £5,000 per installed MW per annum. With the Scottish Government’s 2030 wind energy goals community benefit fund payments could amount to an estimated £50 million per year.<sup>18</sup>

### Challenges with the Community Benefit Funding Landscape:

Despite the opportunities community benefit funding enables there are several challenges associated with the equity and governance of this valuable source of funding. Some of these key challenges were identified by our members during our DTAS Debates sessions:

- Geographic inequalities in the distribution of community benefit funding;
- Lack of equity and transparency in governance and distribution models
- Lack of substantial guidance and understanding of community benefit funds in communities.

The complexity of negotiating community benefit funding deals with developers is a challenge for development trusts and poses a barrier to ensuring they get the best deal. There is a significant gap in support for development trusts in negotiating fair and equitable agreements, particularly in the face of the growing number of renewable energy projects.

## Local Democracy

As part of the Scottish Government's Local Governance Review, Democracy Matters<sup>22</sup> has been at the forefront of DTAS' policy priorities. Through facilitated conversations across Scottish cities, towns and villages surrounding local decision making, the Scottish Government has been seeking to empower communities and promote democracy at a local level. Democracy Matters conversations have been ongoing since 2018, giving communities of place and interest the opportunity to discuss their democratic systems and institutions and how these can improve.

The Scottish Government opened their second stage of consultation in Autumn 2023 with new prompts for communities to discuss support, powers, relationships with statutory bodies amongst other issues. Democracy Matters offers the chance for community control over decisions affecting local people, presenting a huge opportunity for the development trust movement in their scope, capability and potential. As such, DTAS has taken a dynamic approach to this policy agenda in different ways.

In partnership with the Scottish Community Development Centre<sup>23</sup>, DTAS has facilitated 'Deep Dive' sessions with different communities to not only enable development trusts to express views on how decisions are made locally, but also to inform DTAS' organisational position on the wider systemic changes that need to take place for democracy to function more at a local level.

Additionally, to understand DTAS members' experience on the subject, the first DTAS Debates session tackled the topic of local democracy, inviting development trusts to share their experiences of decision-making in their communities and what challenges they have faced. The event yielded extensive information, opinions, challenges, and good practice examples.

To read more about how our members have been engaging with local democracy, see the Annex section of this report. Whilst A Heart for Duns hosted one of the 'Deep Dive' sessions, Carluke Development Trust have reimaged how their local institutions can better serve its community.

In February 2024, DTAS submitted its consultation response to the government on Democracy Matters.<sup>24</sup>

---

<sup>22</sup> <https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/democracy-matters/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.scdc.org.uk/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://dtascot.org.uk/sites/default/files/fileattachments/DM2%20DTAS%20Consultation%20Response%20-%20February%202024.pdf>

## Fair Work:

Fair Work First is a Scottish Government flagship policy. The vision is for Scotland to be a leading Fair Work Nation by 2025. Fair Work First is part of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET). There are seven fair work principles including payment of at least the real Living Wage and appropriate channels for effective workers' voice.

## Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Workplace Wellbeing:

The UK Equality Act 2010 provides the legal foundation for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) policies in various sectors and organisations. The act enshrines legal protections for persons based on the characteristics of age, disability, gender identity and gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

An effective EDI policy aims to integrate equity, diversity, and inclusion of all these characteristics at all levels of the organisation and all internal and external processes. It should create a commitment to learning and training staff on these issues and ensure the onus is not placed on minoritised staff to enforce good behaviour. Additionally, it should establish procedures for discrimination based on these characteristics and ensure monitoring processes are in place to assess the effectiveness of the policy over time and integrate staff feedback.

The importance of instituting effective EDI policies in development trusts is deeply intertwined with these organisation's responsibilities and commitments to their communities as anchor organisations. By embracing EDI, development trusts can ensure that their initiatives are equitable and inclusive, benefiting all members of the community, particularly those typically underserved or underrepresented members, and taking steps to address systemic inequalities.

To read about one of our members, Woodland's Community Development Trust, who has instituted anti-racism as an organisational priority, go to the Annex of this report.

## DTAS Role and Response to Membership Needs and Priorities

DTAS has a responsibility to evolve the support that we provide in line with the needs of our members. The dedicated support that we provide for development trusts takes on a wide range of priorities that will support local people to maintain good governance, to be enterprising, strategic and includes access to a wide range of expert help and advice. In addition, we'll be launching a standard mark, enhanced training and events programme and thematic learning and partnership opportunities in the next years.

*'Supporting communities to thrive, through our community-led network and national place-based sustainable action'*

### Community Ownership Support Service:

With so many options for communities to take on public, private and faith buildings, a key priority for the COSS Team going forward will be supporting the rationalisation of these opportunities to ensure that communities are taking on the assets that best meet the needs of their communities rather than liabilities.

### Democratic Finance Scotland:

Data from the 2023 members survey revealed that alternative sources of funding are increasingly becoming a priority for DTAS members. Given the interest identified, the Democratic Finance Scotland programme team will continue to work directly with Development Trusts to diversify and increase their income using democratic finance sources and tools.

**Democratic Finance Sources** (new ways of bringing in money) include:

- Community shares
- Community bonds
- Grassroots legacy and philanthropic giving
- One-off community lotteries

**Democratic Finance Tools** (new methods for fairer distribution of money) include:

- Creation of local legacy funds from renewable energy developments, e.g. Community Benefit Funds or Community Shared Ownership
- Better use of Common Good funds and assets
- Creation of bespoke underwriting or match funding products for the community sector

### DTAS Debates

Engaging DTAS members in discussion about national issues has become an important priority for DTAS. Thanks to the Research and Insights Team, a new quarterly event has been introduced to engage with members and discuss issues facing development trusts across Scotland. Through tackling a different topic for each event, the series aims to be a space for members to come together and share stories and experiences of similar challenges. With presentations from panellists from development trust backgrounds and guest speakers followed by Q&A discussions with attendees, DTAS is giving a platform for new ideas and healthy discourse within the Scottish community sector.

The first event in November 2023 dealt with local democracy in response to the Scottish Government's policy consultation on Democracy Matters whilst the second in February explored the landscape of community benefit funds. The most recent DTAS Debates took on the important topic of burnout among individuals involved in development trusts. Summaries of all sessions can be found on the DTAS website.<sup>25</sup>

## Regional Events

DTAS facilitates regular events for its members, bringing together development trusts from across different areas of Scotland. Regional events provide member organisations with bespoke advice and support to navigate local authority specific challenges. Additionally, these events serve as an opportunity for networking, partnership building and collaboration between neighbouring development trusts.

## Community Learning Exchange

Community Learning Exchange is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Scottish Community Alliance (SCA)<sup>26</sup>. It is a small grants programme for peer-to-peer learning visits to support local community activity.

As a member of SCA, DTAS organises themed and regional visits, and endorses DTAS Members to access this fund themselves, helping them find the best host organisation.

Spending the day with a more established DTAS member can be invaluable to help development trusts learn and be inspired to move forward in their own journey.

This is all about connections, building mutual support and positive relationships across the development trust network with lasting impacts:

- Stronger collaboration and partnership working, including solidarity in common goals between neighbouring development trusts.
- Improved project and strategic planning, due to learning lessons from the experience of others.
- Increased confidence and capability in dealing with common challenges and barriers.

---

<sup>25</sup> <https://dtascot.org.uk/news-events/news-events>

<sup>26</sup> <https://scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk/>

## Annex

### Case Studies

#### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

##### *Woodlands Community Development Trust*

The Woodlands area is a diverse community located near central Glasgow, hosting a large population of Asian communities, students, and other young professionals. An estimated 30% of the population of the group's area of benefit are individuals from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Woodlands CDT has been around since 1986, when the charity was gifted 13 gap sites by the council, housing was built on most of these plots of land and the charity subsequently went dormant. In 2010 the group was revived with the goal of turning the one remaining site into a community garden. The community garden was the original project, from which the charities activities have grown out of. Since 2010 the charity has grown significantly and now employs 10 part-time staff across a range of programme areas. Staff are supported by a diverse team of volunteers and guided by a board of trustees consisting of 8 local residents.

The rapid and widespread popularisation of the Black Lives Matter movement after the brutal murder of George Floyd in 2020 resulted in local people of colour (POC) identifying the need for a forum to discuss their experiences with racism in their community and invite non-POC to educate themselves on these experiences. The subsequent creation of an online discussion and reflection book club in the community, which focused on books by POC authors, proved extremely popular. The online forum worked to continue community cohesion, keep socially in touch during lockdown, and importantly served as a precursor to the groups thriving anti-racist community library, the first of its kind in Glasgow. As lockdown restrictions eased, the group began to meet outdoors, and discussions led to the formation of Scotland's first anti-racist community library.

##### Anti-racist community library:

The anti-racist community library runs as a fortnightly popup mainly in Millenium Park, a local park very frequented by the local Asian community. It has proved extremely popular providing reading options for children and adults alike, at various reading levels, completely free of charge. In its first 18 months just under 300 different people took out over 1200 book loans. Due to its popularity the library has become a central pillar of the work delivered by Woodlands and is now recognised as a core service. The library is complemented by cultural programming with seasonal events which give a platform to local POC artists/performers as well as a well-attended anti-racist film club, that uses film as a medium to provoke discussion and learning. A regular user of the library notes that:

*“The library has gently helped me to reconnect and thrive in my POC identity. It has helped me look at my heritage with different lens. I am more comfortable, more aware and more confident in my POC background now.”*

The group also began delivering POC only support groups after noticing the benefits the space provided. POC-only sessions were introduced to enhance the already beneficial qualities of the library: providing a chance for POC to be the majority in a space, and share their experiences, troubles, and feelings in a judgement-free third space. These spaces and services have also proved popular among

people of mixed backgrounds, that don't fit neatly into any existing POC groups that may be organised around specific ethnicities, religions or focused on asylum seekers.

Another community member says, of the benefits of a space like this:

*“We are minoritized and it sometimes feels like there's hardly any of us. But there's loads of us and we want to connect with each other. Being able to do that through the library's POC support groups has been so healing.”*

All this work and core programme delivery around anti-racism has shone a light on the organisation's internal workings, and oversights around racial justice. The group has been working with CEMVO, a national intermediary supporting the ethnic minority voluntary sector and its communities, to produce a 3-year anti-racist plan for the entire organisation. This plan focuses on the staff, board, and volunteer profile of the charity as well as the organisation's community programming, communication strategy and training needs; all with a view to ensure the charity is led by POC voices and responding to their community. WCDT has also published an anti-racist community toolkit, with strong input from volunteers, to raise awareness and educate on the causes, impacts, and scale of racism within local neighbourhoods.

Recently the group has also focused fundraising efforts on improving the accessibility of their community garden. This award-winning garden is now 13 years old, and its original infrastructure was not built with mobility and accessibility in mind. They are working with disability experts to advise on what improvements can be made, and how they can integrate those needs into the eventual refresh of the space.

Other widely utilised and cherished services ran by woodlands CDT include their family support sessions, veg box scheme, climate futures programme, mental health support, community cafe, meeting, and event spaces, and of course their community garden.

## Climate Action

### *Broadford & Strath Community Company (BSCC)*

#### ***Creating a strong, self-sufficient, and eco-friendly community.***

The Broadford & Strath Community Company was set up 2003, to continue and develop the work of Broadford Environment Group. From its onset sustainability has always been at the core of its mission and general community development work has developed as its remit has widened.

Since 2014 a major focus for the group has been the Growers Hub<sup>27</sup>, a multi-use space in and around the community woodland. The main activities of the hub are creating community allotments to enable more people to grow their own produce, involving young people through partnerships with local nursery and playgroups, schools, and further education college, and developing a horticultural therapy programme. The hub was created on the former forestry site which BSCC purchased on behalf of the community in 2011. The Growers Hub has been funded by the National Lottery Community Fund for 6 years, prior to that various environmental funds helped the group set it up. The group has secured short term funding from 2021 to employ a community gardener<sup>28</sup> to help deliver their array of community growing projects and are currently fundraising for the continuation of this important post.

Adjacent to the Growers Hub is the community owned campsite Camping Skye. Camping Skye is a trading subsidiary of BSCC and was developed with funding from the National Lottery Fund, Highland and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust. It was at this point that BSCC secured Strengthening Communities funding, facilitated by DTAS, to support the development of the new trading company and to develop organisational capacity. The campsite has become a highly successful tourist facility, encouraging visitors to stay in the area and bringing in valuable income for the local community. It also provides desperately needed local employment. The income generated from the trading subsidiary also supports the work of the charity.

Going forward BSCC will focus more on the development of its Community Woodland<sup>29</sup>. They are currently developing a 10-year action plan with some support from the Highland Council Community Regeneration fund<sup>30</sup> and will be looking at environmental, social, and economic benefits the woodlands can provide. The woodland is relatively small but a great asset for the local community, and an invaluable space to hold a variety of the trust's projects such as the Growers Hub. It is hoped that additional woodland can also be acquired by the community.

Tourism is an important income generator for the area, and therefore a key priority for BSCC is encouraging sustainable tourism that benefits the local community. Active and low carbon travel is a key strand of the group's sustainable tourism strategy and environmental activity. They have a long track record of developing paths networks<sup>31</sup> and are involved in overseeing a major cycle path project

---

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.broadfordandstrath.org/project/growers-hub/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.broadfordandstrath.org/project/community-gardener/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.broadfordandstrath.org/project/community-woodland/>

<sup>30</sup>

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/283/community\\_life\\_and\\_leisure/1027/community\\_regeneration\\_funding](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/283/community_life_and_leisure/1027/community_regeneration_funding)

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.broadfordandstrath.org/project/path-network/>

The Skye Cycle Way.<sup>32</sup> They have recently been awarded funding to support a community paths feasibility project.

Waste reduction further feeds into the groups environmental aims and they are part of the Highland Community Waste Partnership<sup>33</sup>, a 3-year project supported by Keep Scotland Beautiful that employs 3 part time project officers (1 FTE). The partnership has several partners working independently and the group has delivered projects such as: supporting businesses to reduce cardboard waste through reuse and recycling, repair and composting workshops, climate cafes, and clothes swap events.

Like many development trusts in our network who deliver such a broad and varied level of service one of the key challenges for the group going forward is funding. BSCC has received funding from several sources to set up its varied programme of projects however long-term and continued funding remains an issue. Funding for the group's successful Growers Hub project is set to run out at the end of this financial year and is proving challenging to replace as few funders want to support follow-on funding for successful projects, and core roles.

Alongside funding constraints for projects, the organisation finds itself stretched in many directions, with little core funding for staffing, which can be a huge challenge. This was underscored by a recent strategy day facilitated by DTAS. Some projects, such as the development of two public conveniences<sup>34</sup>, previously run by the local authority, and the establishment of the South Skye community campus<sup>35</sup>, have taken up significant amounts of volunteer and project officer time. These capital projects also incur huge legal and accountancy costs not always covered by grant funding.

Although challenging times for the Broadford and Strath Community Company, and many others, the resilience and experience within the community never ceases to amaze. The development work carried out over the years will support the charity and wider community in years to come but some additional support in the meantime would make all the difference to the community.

---

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.broadfordandstrath.org/project/skye-cycle-way/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.broadfordandstrath.org/project/waste-partnership/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.broadfordandstrath.org/project/public-toilets/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.southskyecampus.org/>

### *Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust (KLCT)*

#### **Sustainable community regeneration, creating a better future together!**

From the initial phases of its development the Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust (KLCT) aimed to take forward the sustainable regeneration of its community, identified as one of the most economically fragile communities in the Highlands. In 2021, KLCT conducted a comprehensive community survey with over 600 replies, almost all households that make up the community submitted at least one reply. From this consultation a Community Action Plan for the area was created, integrating climate action and sustainability into community regeneration. On issues of sustainability the community identified sustainable transport, local food systems and access to land as key issues.

With COVID tackling food insecurity became a priority and the trust began its food distribution initiatives, culminating in a community fridge set up to provide non-judgmental access to fresh produce and other goods as well as tackle food waste from local shops. Despite widespread demand for the community fridge service the introduction of stricter supermarket policies around sell-by dates has created a legal barrier to distributing surplus supermarket food to the local community. However, the service continues with funding from the postcode lottery and a focus on encouraging community growing.

The community fridge is now located in the re-use hub<sup>36</sup>, which also sells low cost second-hand clothes, household items and bric-a-brac. This space was set up to provide a judgement-free communal space that people could socialise while also using the services available. The second-hand shop has been widely successful and saved a range of items from landfill. In many ways the trust has been a victim of its own success and has had to temporarily pause donations to the second-hand shop as there simply aren't enough staff to deal with the organisation and running of such large donations.

A critical issue in the community, like in many rural communities across the country, is the lack of a functioning and reliable public transport system. The trust offers its own community transport van<sup>37</sup> and plans to expand this service in the future due to high demand. The service has also had the positive effect of minimising social isolation, particularly for elderly residents of the community. Additionally, the trust runs an electric vehicle charging point<sup>38</sup>, identified by the local community as a priority for the area to facilitate EV use and facilitate sustainable tourism.

As with many organisations tackling climate change a key part of the work is to reframe the idea of the climate crisis and integrate climate action into daily activities. One way the trust has done this has been through climate education and integrating heritage into climate activities, this has been particularly successful in involving younger generations with climate action. The trust has been working with local school pupils and providing outdoor education classes through their forest school<sup>39</sup> and has plans to expand this work with their proposed "college of the environment". Projects engaging with the area's Viking heritage, such as shield making workshops, have also proved a successful way for young people to engage with the outdoors and develop an interest in preserving local forests.

---

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.lochalsh.uk/projects/lochalsh-reuse-and-recycle-hub/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.lochalsh.uk/projects/lochalsh-loves-local/sustainable-transport/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.lochalsh.uk/community-amenities/car-charging-point/>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.lochalsh.uk/projects/plock-of-kyle/forest-school/>

The trust also provides a ‘tremendous tree trail’<sup>40</sup> for children, adults and visitors to appreciate the community woodland and expand their knowledge of local flora. Similarly guided group ‘health walks’ are available for inactive individuals who are looking to get more active and enjoy the outdoors. A digital skills-sharing project<sup>41</sup> conducted in 2020 has also proved extremely popular, specifically around community food growing.

---

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.lochalsh.uk/projects/plock-of-kyle/treetrail/>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UctwBfcmy2OR8-zcmzznbQ3g>

## *Glasgow Eco Trust*

### ***Community-led climate action - making a difference for people, place and planet!***

From its onset over 20 years ago Glasgow Eco Trust has held the environment, sustainability and climate action as its foundational principles. The Trust started life as Dumbarton Road Corridor Environment Trust (DRCET) through the now defunct Scottish Government Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIP) programme, a precursor to the current idea of community planning partnerships.

DRCET arose out of an 18-month long community consultation which resulted in the publication of a 20-year Environmental Vision<sup>42</sup> for Yoker, Scotstoun and Whiteinch in west Glasgow. DRCET, which re-branded as Glasgow Eco Trust in 2018, was the organisation best placed to deliver this 20-year environmental vision. DRCET was one of several organisations that the SIP helped initiate, many of which are still active today including DRC Generations, DRC Youth Project and Kingsway Community Connections.

Originally, the Environmental Vision was to lead to the creation of two community organisations, a development trust, and a specific environmental trust. However, a second organisation was never set up and Glasgow Eco Trust became the de-facto development trust and environmental trust for the area. Changes within the council, such as changes to electoral wards and importantly the change from the Social Inclusion Partnership to the Community Planning Partnership, inhibited the inclusion of the environmental vision into the Glasgow City Plan as a Local Area Plan. In addition, the thriving, very active and successful SIP Community Forum was disbanded as the community were told that the new Community Planning Partnership would take over this role, which never materialised.

Glasgow Eco Trust stepped in to fill the void of the previous community forum and established the DRC local network to re-connect many local organisations and reaching out to community councils, schools and other local stakeholders and which is still running today.

One challenge the Trust has experienced is with relationship building with employees within the public sector including Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Life, Wheatley Homes Glasgow (formerly Glasgow Housing Association) and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. There is constant change and restructuring within these organisations with many roles and personnel changing every 12-24 months. As a result, new relationships must often be developed from scratch as there has been minimal retention of local knowledge or any formal handover.

Despite these challenges Glasgow Eco Trust has successfully delivered environmental and social projects to residents around its 5 core themes: transport, food, resource use, energy, and spaces. Their most successful project to date was the building of the Heart of Scotstoun Community Centre which was completed in 2011 and handed over to the community in 2022.

The Trust aims to offer climate-friendly solutions and behavioural changes in these areas while reframing the idea of climate change as part of a much larger, complex, interconnected issue covering inequalities, health and wellbeing and more. Examples of these programmes include: De'is On Wheels

---

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.glasgowecotrust.org.uk/our-history>

community bike workshop<sup>43</sup>, cost of living and food insecurity advice<sup>44</sup>, community garden and community clean-up projects<sup>45</sup> and the Food and Climate Action partnership project<sup>46</sup>.

The community bike workshop alone has encouraged the re-use of 1,939 bikes since 2014, avoiding the emission of an estimated 32,284 kgs of CO2. The Trust also works to lobby for wider systems change as they recognise individuals are limited in their response to the climate crisis. For example, their active travel and sustainable transport plan<sup>47</sup> advocates for improved public transport, open spaces and policies that encourage active travel.

As with many trusts capacity and funding are key issues. The Trust uses an income spectrum ranging from in-kind support and fundraising from individuals through to grant fund raising and earned income. Over the past decade the Trust has moved from being heavily reliant on just two grant funders to now having several grant funders, a growing in-kind support and earned income at over 20% and growing. This has allowed the Trust to build up both their levels of reserves and unrestricted income which has given them greater resilience to deal with unexpected issues, including the pandemic, and greater flexibility to be able to respond to and meet community need as it arises.

The Trust is supported by its Community Green Team<sup>48</sup> volunteer and training programme. It has also had to innovate when it comes to fundraising from individuals. In addition to taking part in fundraising activities such as the Kilt walk, they recently launched a pioneering community flight donation scheme<sup>49</sup> that offers a community-led alternative to official carbon offset schemes and provides an untapped source of unrestricted funding. Glasgow Eco Trust is based in a community with high deprivation and high inequality, often people interacting with and using the Trust are individuals with low-incomes but statistically they will have a lower carbon footprint than high-income households. The flight scheme is one way of targeting those higher income households and redistributing those funds into community-led climate-action making a difference for people, place and planet.

---

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.glasgowcotrust.org.uk/Listing/Category/deils-on-wheels>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.glasgowcotrust.org.uk/news/worrying-about-money-leaflet-published>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.glasgowcotrust.org.uk/Pages/Category/community-spaces>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.glasgowcotrust.org.uk/blog/introducing-our-new-community-activator>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.glasgowcotrust.org.uk/sustaining-choices-action-plan-for-whiteinch-scots-toun>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.glasgowcotrust.org.uk/green-team-volunteering>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.glasgowcotrust.org.uk/donate/flight-donation-scheme>

## Democracy Matters

### *Carluke Development Trust*

#### **Re-imagining local democracy, through local democracy**

Hailing from South Lanarkshire, Carluke Development Trust was established in 1999 and joined DTAS back in 2001. The trust is developing its own Community Energy Project, starting with solar panel installation on South facing roofs on community buildings. Along with neighbouring development trusts, Lanark Development Trust and WATIF, CDT have established the Clydesdale Community Benefit Company to enable ongoing delivery of future local energy projects. Their recent flagship achievement has been securing £2.3 million in grant funding for the Carluke High Mill, a grade A listed historic mill. The project will renovate the mill into a variety of community spaces whilst cultivating a community garden in the land surrounding the mill.

After engaging with the first phase of Democracy Matters back in 2019, Carluke Development Trust started to discuss their towns' local institutions and the need for a succession plan for its existing organisations. Rather than sustaining both the Community Councils and the Development Trust, Carluke residents questioned whether they should try to combine the remits of both into a democratic development council. Through merging the two Carluke organisations into a single community anchor development council, this would remove the bureaucracy between the development trust and community council, bringing more voices to the table. This new organisation would link community involvement and democratic decision making, a key aspect of Democracy Matters. The development council would negotiate with the existing local authority to draw down agreed powers and responsibilities to take ownership over. The formation of the development council would exclude party politics, prioritising local views and concerns.

Central to this idea is that this could be extrapolated to other areas of Scotland, with local places at the heart of decision making in their areas. Carluke's unique ideation has taken shape through the One Carluke Action Network<sup>50</sup> (OneCAN), involving local stakeholders from the local schools and churches as well as business owners and councillors. OneCAN has extended its coverage in South Lanarkshire to the surrounding villages, broadening its reach from 13,500 to 18,500 people. OneCAN has an easy-to-use website which facilitates residents to create their own community groups, events and newsletters, creating an inclusive and active forum for residents to engage and participate in. Through supporting Carluke's emerging organisations, OneCAN is empowering its community to take action, fitting into the Democracy Matters agenda.

What is holding back Carluke Development Trust from pursuing further opportunities into OneCAN is the lack of resources and capacity for current staff. OneCAN, as things stand, cannot be given the required attention to fully explore the opportunities within local democracy as well as CDT's every day running of a development trust. Local democracy, combined with local economic development and addressing our Net Zero journey are crucial to all place-based community anchor organisations. Further progressive investment is required to fully address and progress these issues.

---

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.onecarluke.org.uk/>

## *A Heart for Duns*

### **A united place-based approach for a better future**

Located in the historic Borders market town, A Heart for Duns<sup>51</sup> was created to manage the Volunteer Hall in the town's centre in 2017. With support from the Scottish Land Fund, the trust was able to purchase the hall and transform it into a community hub. Since then, A Heart for Duns continues to be a key space for the community for film clubs, community lunches, gigs and workshops. The trust hosted one of DTAS' Deep Dive Conversations on Democracy Matters 2, asking questions about local issues that are affecting the Duns area and what powers lie with the community in addressing those. Whilst important conversations arose at the event on the need for of a nearby care home and the lack of available spaces for community groups to access, these issues came as no surprise to trustees and staff. Thanks to regular community consultations across Berwickshire, the development trust has been the focal point for local matters affecting Berwickshire communities.

As advocates of the opportunities presented by the Planning (Scotland) Act of 2019, AHfD has capitalised on Local Place Planning (LPP) regulations since it came into law. LPPs give communities the statutory right to put forward proposals for development and the use of land, allowing local voices to be heard and embedded in Local Development Plans made by the Scottish Borders Council. Motivated to have a larger say in the plans for their area's future, AHfD saw the potential of the new regulations and decided to take the lead in the Community Led Planning Process in collaboration with other community groups. Given its interests were similar to that of the surrounding villages and hamlets, the development trust has sought to include voices from the wider area. The purpose of the partnership has been to be proactive and positive in creating a vision for the future of Duns and District with a view to improve the quality of life, environment and opportunity for the local community. The group is comprised of the Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Services, members of the community council, residents of supported living groups amongst others.

Once establishing the partnership, the Berwickshire Working Group facilitated meetings selected groups from schools, clubs and projects to hear what residents wanted for the future of their area. To gather responses and collect data, the working group have used the Place Standard Tool to structure conversations about place, both physically in terms of spaces and transport links, as well as social aspects such as influence in decision making and safety. Given the Place Standard Tool was being practiced by the local authority in the LDP, it was vital for the Community Led Planning team to employ this tool as well to legitimise amendments from communities' voices. In collecting different responses, analysing key themes, and creating an LPP, AHfD has become attuned to the concerns of its members and surrounding area.

Whilst it has been acknowledged that this place-based policy has provided a mechanism for meaningful engagement with the statutory authorities, there remains distinct barriers for AHfD and the Berwickshire Working Group. Much of the statutory funding being ring fenced has meant that the burden has fallen on the volunteers of community groups. AHfD's trustees and staff say that in order to facilitate greater community empowerment and decision making, there needs to be more flexibility in the funding for the community sector and a culture change from the Scottish Borders Council. Duns and the wider Berwickshire area has experienced an absent and centralised local authority that has

---

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.aheartforduns.org/>

failed to engage with its population and therefore must forge better relationships with the local community sector.