



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting – August 2025

Reports from all our meetings can be found on [this page](#) of our website under the heading ‘Summaries of our Board Meetings’

Remember the closing date for applications to the next funding round is 17 September

We met on 26 August for a Trustee Meeting. This was an opportunity for the Trustees to review the current and future strategy for Glenkens & District Trust and for us to take stock of both where we are now and what may happen in the future. This enables us to plan and ensure we have robust and effective governance and administrative arrangements in place to enable us to meet future demands and challenges.

We have all learned a lot over the last seven years and the community benefit space has developed and changed during this time and will continue to do so. We believe it is important that we have a plan to ensure we can continue to deliver on our mission to *resource, enable and stimulate community development* across our area of benefit and that we build on the strong foundations we have in place.

There is a pipeline of potential new developments which will provide additional monies as well as increasing scrutiny and focus on how these monies are utilised. In addition, there is an increasing focus from the developers who provide the funding on the governance arrangements to ensure the resilience and effectiveness of the organisations they entrust with these monies in the short, medium and longer term. As communities, we need to be able to demonstrate robust processes and careful stewardship of these funds.

Against this background we agreed a number of governance actions that we will progress over the next few months and report back as these are finalised.

We are also planning to arrange an event, probably early next year, to celebrate what our community groups have delivered using community benefit funds and more information will be available on this in due course. We also want to highlight the key role that these monies have had in enabling delivery against the actions in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan as a precursor to the refresh of the plan due next year.

We also discussed some clarification to the wording of the Fund Strategy for our Education and Learning Fund and this will be published soon along with some Frequently Asked Questions to support potential applicants. We are planning to attend the Skills and Jobs Fair being held in Dalry School on 30 September between 4 and 6 pm.

Response to Consultations

In response to the UK Government's [recent working paper on community benefits](#) we, the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust and the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group were among over 40 organisations from across Scotland who came together to voice support for Scotland's good practice on community benefits by signing an open letter that can be found [here](#):

Informed by over two decades of hard-won learning by local communities and project developers, the open letter highlights how Scotland now has the most experience in community benefits practice from renewable energy technologies in the whole of the UK.

All signatories believe that any future UK Government policy on community benefits should:

- Build on the foundation of good practice already developed here in Scotland
- Acknowledge there is a shared desire to go further and create greater impact
- Enable, not constrain, the continuing development of best practice

The open letter calls on the UK and Scottish governments to ensure future policies build on the "accessible guidance, flexible structures and good governance" already promoted in Scotland's "world-leading" Good Practice Principles.

GDT has also submitted a detailed response and a summary can be found [here](#).
A full copy of the response is available on request.

Areas of focus over the next quarter

We will continue to actively engage with the numerous developers in the area and maintain up to date information on their status and develop our plans to address this

We will progress the actions from this meeting.

We will publish the new information on the Education and Learning Fund.

We will progress arrangements for the Celebration Event

Foundation Scotland will assess the applications received at the closing date.