



GLENKENS
& District Trust

GLENKENS & DISTRICT TRUST

Annual Report & Accounts

2022-2023

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Chair's Report

It is now five years since I was appointed Chair and the Glenkens & District Trust (GDT), a community-owned and led vehicle, took on the role of making decisions on how the community benefit monies from the Blackcraig wind farm should be used. Working in partnership with fund distributing charity Foundation Scotland we have distributed over £1 million to local organisations to date and become a key organisation in our local area.

We remain focused on carrying out our activities effectively and well to secure the best outcomes for our area and the people who live here. Our Fund Strategy is aligned to the priority themes in local Community Action Plans and through a mixture of open grant making, commissioning and targeted awards we have sought to maximise how we use the monies to support these themes.

This is particularly significant because, while there is a significant pipeline of potential wind developments in and around our area of benefit, this year has seen two key developments which may also be the last increases to the community benefit fund size for a number of years; additional income of £54,000 from the Schrodgers Greencoat Windy Rig wind farm and an agreement in principle that GDT will distribute a third of the community benefit monies from the Red Rock Power Ltd Benbrack Wind Farm, around £112,000 per annum.

However, the fund we distribute will not grow in line with inflation, so the amount available for distribution will remain at c.£300,000 per annum for the foreseeable future. Any monies from Benbrack will not be payable until at least 2026 and other developments are unlikely to be commissioned until nearer the end of this decade.

This, aligned with the increased costs for applicants and the difficult funding landscape, has led us to review our Fund Strategy to ensure we can support our communities as effectively as possible during this period. We will need to keep our strategy under review as we move forward and GDT potentially faces some difficult decisions on how we prioritise the spend from the fund over the next few years.

With new streams of income coming in, we have also moved to new arrangements to reflect this – applications will be made to the 'Glenkens & District Community Fund' with the Trustees then allocating awards from the individual windfarm funds. This will give applicants a more straightforward process and give a firm foundation for the future. This fund arrangement replaces the 'Blackcraig Community Fund' arrangement that the community has become familiar with.

Our new Education and Training Fund has also been very well received with £47,228.77 awarded to 34 individuals. We cover the information about the fund and its components later in this annual report.

We are careful to retain a neutral position on any wind farm development in our area, with Community Councils dealing with the consent and construction issues. With the support of our member Community Councils, we remain focussed on ensuring that, if any wind farm is commissioned, the community benefit monies are paid by the owners in line with best practice and that the community remains at the heart of any decision making on how monies are utilised. This last point is, in our view, crucial to the successful future of community benefit in our communities.

With this in mind, we have actively engaged with all wind farm developers in our area and sought to build effective, open, and trusted relationships to articulate why we are a community who can make effective use of these potentially transformational sums of money in the longer term. We need to plan for the future while doing our current role well!

There is also increasing interest in how community benefits are utilised from both regional and national bodies. Thanks to our good practice and our partnership with Foundation Scotland, GDT has participated in two key community benefit publications this year, which also have wider interest for the community.

The first is a co-authored report by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Foundation Scotland, the Crown Estate and Community Woodlands Association called 'Community Benefit: A bridge to empowerment'.

The second is significant in our region and is the Biggar Economics Report commissioned by South of Scotland Enterprise, mapping the scale of potential onshore wind developments and associated community benefits in the region for the coming decades.

Foundation Scotland has also recently commissioned a study from the University of Strathclyde to look at the design, operation and governance of community benefit funds with the aim of bridging the gap in knowledge and understanding about community benefit funds and to be a resource to inform and influence evolving good practice.

Finally, the Scottish Government have recently published the Onshore Wind Sector Deal for Scotland, which among a range of topics, also covers community benefits.

The Trustees have sought to keep abreast of these discussions and to input where we can. Too often the actual voice of community members is not sought and or listened to, but we endeavour to make ourselves heard. Our key objective is to ensure the community remains at the heart of decisions on how any community benefit monies are used. We recognise the importance of being effective in discharging this role and want to learn and share best practice. We also want to work with national and regional bodies who will support us to do the job well. To this end we will take forward work on this important topic over the next year or so.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow GDT trustees, Community Council Members and Associate Members for their support and Foundation Scotland for the expertise they bring to the work of the Trust.



Chair, Glenkens & District Trust



Who We Are

Our Mission

As a fund distribution body our role is to **resource, enable and stimulate community development** in the Glenkens and surrounding communities defined as the Community Council areas of Balmaghie, Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael & District, Dalry, Dunscore, Glencairn, the Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish and Parton.

Our Members

Our members are the Community Councils of Balmaclellan, Balmaghie, Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael and District, Dalry, Dunscore, Parton and the Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Parish. The Trust felt it was important to maintain a link to democratically elected bodies. Members are the only bodies with the power to vote at our General Meetings.

We also have Associate Membership open to any individual, institutions organisations and bodies who support and want to engage with the work of GDT.

Governing Document

Glenkens & District Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with the charity number SC042489. Our governing document is our constitution which was last amended on 9 December 2020.

We hold regular meetings of trustees and communicate openly on what is discussed at these meetings. We have in place relevant policies and guidance to ensure we have an effective governance framework. Details can be found on our website www.glenkenstrust.org.uk

Charitable Purposes

The purposes of the Trust as set out in our governing document are:

- to advance citizenship and community development by distributing Wind Farm Community Benefit money and other grants, to local groups, organisations, or individuals according to criteria and need as defined from time to time, as well as commissioning and providing funding for, projects that will benefit local communities within the Community Council Areas,
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement, including the preservation or conservation of the natural environment or particular parts of it and the promotion of sustainable development. "Sustainable development" means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and
- the prevention or relief of poverty including preventing those who are poor from becoming poorer, as well as preventing those who are at risk of being poor from becoming poor.

Trustees

GDT's membership comprises the Community Councils in our area of operation that choose to join. Each of the Member Community Councils can nominate a trustee and we can have up to five independent trustees. The Constitution requires the person nominated by each Community Council Member to be either a member or associate member of that Community Council and requires the Community Council to take into account any role description/skills matrix provided in making that nomination. This has been provided as part of the Members' Handbook available on our website.

Trustees can, by two thirds majority, appoint an independent trustee based on their skills, experience, background, profession, expertise, and any other relevant factors. During the year the role of independent trustee has been promoted locally with a pack setting out the requirements being freely available and applications sought.

Trustees

Stephen Connelly
Independent
Appointed November 2023

Giles Dearden
Independent
Appointed August 2023

William Dickson
Appointed by Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham
Community Council

Des Hadnett until September 2022
Appointed by Balmaghie Community Council

Denise MacDonald Kiernan
Appointed by Balmaclellan Community
Council

Thomas Marshall
Appointed by Parton Community Council

John McGaw
Appointed by The Royal Burgh of New
Galloway & Kells Parish Community Council

Richard Middleton
Appointed by Crossmichael and District
Community Council

Geoff Monk
Appointed by Balmaghie Community
Council

Morag Paterson
Appointed by Dalry Community Council

Matthew Shedden
Independent

Fiona Smith (Chair)
Independent

Graham Walker
Appointed by Dunscore Community
Council

Trustee Remuneration

The trustees did not receive any remuneration during the period nor were any expenses reimbursed.

What we delivered this year

1

Resourcing and enabling community development activities

- We agreed 20 awards from Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund, enabling numerous organisations to deliver projects and services to meet community need. You can read more about the Fund on pages 8 to 15
- We distributed small grants to every Community Council in the fund area of operation, to enable local micro funding of projects
- We agreed a new Fund name, the 'Glenkens & District Community Fund' and harmonised arrangements to be implemented in 2023-2024, reflecting that new multiple sources of income will be distributed by the Trust
- We maintained an effective working relationship with the Community Action Plan Steering Group, which published its first progress report against the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan.

2

Positive Partnership Working

- We worked alongside our member Community Councils, ensuring a clear feedback mechanism is in place to and from our meetings
- We built our relationships with local community anchor organisations which are instrumental in delivering community development across the area of benefit
- We continued to liaise with wind farm developers, successfully influencing developers to hold a joint meeting of those companies with existing and pipeline projects in the area
- We continued to work positively in partnership with Foundation Scotland, a grant making charity with expertise in community benefit which has worked with GDT since the Fund was established in 2019. The combination of our respective strengths has proved a successful recipe for the Fund and communities benefiting from it
- We have been approached by other groups with an interest in community benefits to understand our approach and share knowledge.

What we delivered this year

3

Maximising funds for long term benefit

- We reached an agreement in principle with Red Rock Power in relation to the Benbrack wind farm which will secure an additional £112,000 per annum for our communities from around 2026
- We agreed arrangements in relation to the portion of the Windy Rig wind farm administered by Carsphairn Renewables Fund Ltd. which will result in an additional £18,000 per annum being available for distribution across our fund area, taking the total funds available from Windy Rig to £54,000 per annum
- We maintained regular contact with the numerous developers across the area to ensure a good understanding of our approach
- We engaged with regional and national bodies to articulate how we do things and what we need to deliver well
- We worked with Foundation Scotland to use their expertise and work towards building a longer term strategy.

4

Keeping our communities updated

- We continued to add content on our website and Facebook page, aiming to make information easily accessible
- We made reports available from every board meeting within one week of our meetings, circulated to our Members and posted on the website, aiming to make information open and transparent
- We approved the Fund annual report prepared by Foundation Scotland for Blackcraig Wind Farm Scotland Limited, which is available on our website.

Fund Snapshot

Overview

As explained in the accounts on p16, Fund income and expenditure is not reflected in the Trust's financial arrangements. All wind farm funds have their own reporting year which is usually linked to the operational date of the windfarm and our local fund is no different. The fund year runs from the 1st June to 31st May each year; while GDT's own financial and reporting year runs from the 1st September to 31st August.

Therefore what follows is a short snapshot of activity that Trustees directed within the GDT financial year 2022–2023, drawing from the Fund's annual report. You can read the full annual Fund Report prepared by Foundation Scotland to 31st May 2023 on our website.

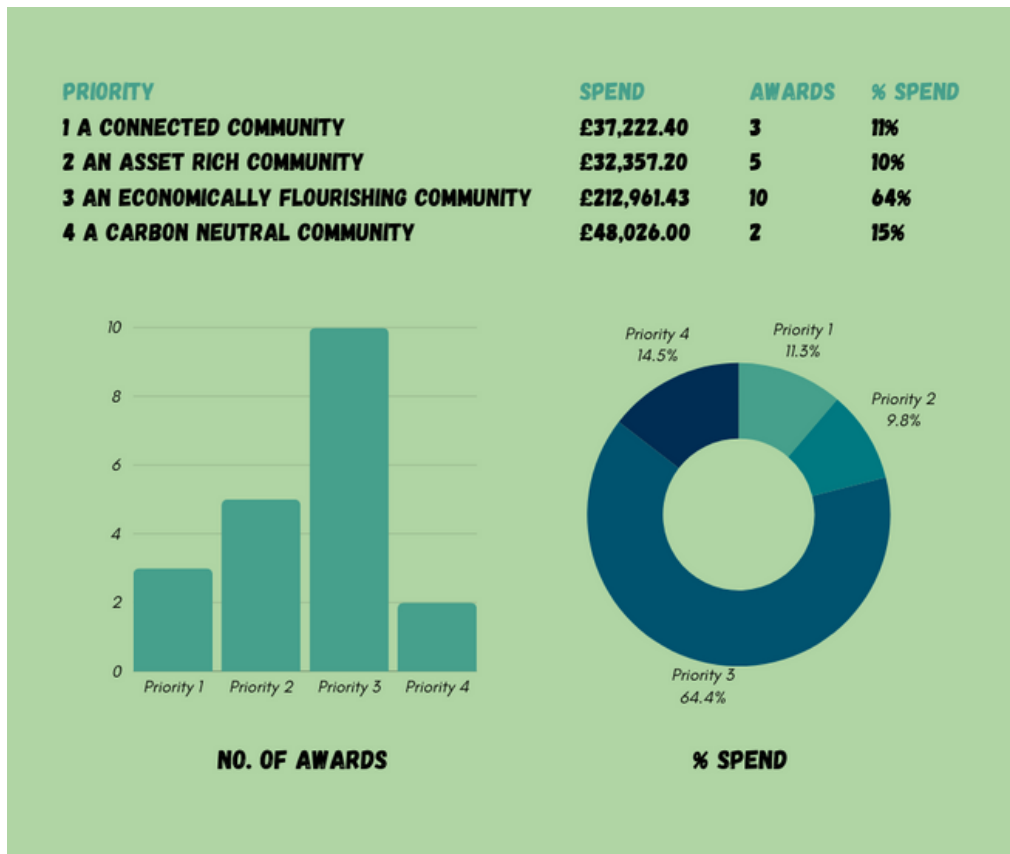
Trustees reviewed the fund strategy during the year and there have been no changes to the fund priorities. While the 'what' has stayed the same, some of the 'how' has differed, with the introduction of multi-year awards of up to three years. The Trustees hope that multi-year awards can provide a level of stability to projects, particularly where staff costs are involved. You can read about two examples of this on p11 and p13. It is also hoped that, through multi-year awards, projects will be able to leverage greater sums into the community by demonstrating local confidence in and support for key local organisations to national bodies and funders.

This was enabled by the Agreement held between Blackcraig Windfarm (Scotland) Ltd and Foundation Scotland being put on to a longer term footing than the previous year to year arrangement. With this longer term arrangement, the Fund was also able to plan further ahead, setting up two rounds of funding per year and advertising those dates in advance, giving potential applicants greater ability to develop their funding strategies.

The Board also undertook a listening exercise to understand how existing grantees were being impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and whether there was any risk of funded projects not completing due to rising costs. The majority of funded projects reported minimal impacts on their existing projects, with one exception. Given the results of this exercise the Trustees made no amendments to the Fund strategy relating to inflation; but did make the strategy clearer around support for core costs.

The second significant change was the introduction of the Glenkens & District Education and Training Fund which aims to improve access to opportunity and to improve livelihoods through enabling people to access skills needed to enter into or retain employment. You can read more about this sub fund on p14.

Awards Made by Fund Priority



Distribution by Fund Type



Fund Priorities

Spotlight on: Glenkens Community & Arts Trust



Fund Priority 1: A Connected Community

The 2020 Glenkens & District Community Action Plan highlighted a short-term priority action was to 'invest in an effective communication tool for the whole community'. In 2021, work was commissioned by Glenkens and District Trust and delivered by the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT, a local anchor organisation and development trust) to consult with local people and organisations and identify options to develop this communication tool for the community of Glenkens.

Following on from this, in early 2022 GCAT was awarded £15,880 to develop, build and maintain a new website for the community, the Glenkens Hub. During the course of the year the Hub website was developed and it was launched in March 2023 at www.glenkens.scot.

The Hub aims to meet the needs of residents, organisations and businesses across the Glenkens, featuring news stories from all around the area, events and activities, a community noticeboard and information from all the community groups, village halls and Community Councils, as well as advertising jobs or volunteering opportunities and business and service listings. Local reports and resources are brought together in one place, and the Hub hosts the online version of the high valued printed newsletter also delivered by GCAT, the Glenkens Gazette. The Hub has brought together a range of information previously scattered across a range of on and offline resources and met a need for smaller groups who may not want or be able to develop their own websites to have a dedicated online space, bringing information together under one roof efficiently and effectively. Helen Keron, Executive Manager of GCAT said:

"It's fantastic to see one of the key priorities that the communities set out in 2020 coming to fruition in such an accessible and useful way. Many thanks are due to all who worked and volunteered on it – it's been a real team effort!"

Spotlight on: The Loch Ken Trust



Fund Priority 2: An Asset Rich Community

Loch Ken Trust promotes the natural, cultural and recreational assets of the Loch Ken area. Historically, the area was supported by a dedicated Ranger Service provided by Dumfries and Galloway Council, but this service was cut in 2019. With the loss of this service Loch Ken Trust began to receive increasing complaints of noise, littering, fouling, and damage to the Loch's environment, which only intensified during 2020.

In April 2021, using match funding from Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund, Loch Ken Trust were able to launch the Loch Ken Ranger Service, one of the very first community-led Ranger Services in Scotland.

In 2022 the service responded to more than 1,000 incidents including fly-tipping, wildlife crime and dirty camping, although the Ranger's work goes beyond just mitigating short-term harms – they see their role as 'Looking after today, for the sake of tomorrow'. The Ranger has been working to repair and revive paths and walkways to improve access around the loch, and has been delivering a range of education sessions, both in partnership with schools and for the wider community.

In recognition of the unique and vital service the Loch Ken Ranger is providing for the community, in 2023 Glenkens District Trust made its most significant award to date – £60,000 over three years, to continue the post. Early funding provided Loch Ken Trust the ability to demonstrate the impact of the Ranger's role and this new period of funding will provide stability to the staff role going forward and potentially a base for work to grow even further. In response to the award, Mungo Bryson, Chair of Loch Ken Trust, said:

"Loch Ken Trust is absolutely delighted to receive such a strong show of support from the Glenkens community and the Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund...From this firm foundation, we will be looking to develop Loch Ken Ranger Service over the next three years into a service that we can all be proud of."

Spotlight on: Dumfries & Galloway Citizens Advice Service



Fund Priority 3: An Economically Flourishing Community

As the full impact of inflationary pressures became clearer in 2022, there were growing societal concerns around how those who may be at risk of falling into hardship might struggle to find support. At the local level, the GDT Trustees had been discussing an optimal approach for the Fund to respond to the cost of living crisis, balancing the relatively constrained funding pot with the need to meet ongoing community demand on the Fund and a concern that a hardship fund would only be a sticking plaster and not help to resolve financial hardship.

With that all in the mix, GDT agreed to provide targeted funding to a body who could provide specialist signposting, support and advice, to help maximise the value of any funded intervention. Foundation Scotland brokered a conversation with the local Citizens Advice Bureau about service provision in the area. Dumfries and Galloway Citizens' Advice (D&GCAS) had recently undertaken demand analysis in the area that provided a strong evidence base for demonstrating local unmet need. This led to a targeted award.

The grant will enable D&GCAS to provide a face-to-face outreach clinic once a week for the next two years at community venues in the Glenkens, providing generalist welfare and debt advice and signposting to other sources of help and support and saving people the 30-50 mile round trip to the nearest advice clinic. In addition, D&GCAS will promote the outreach service through an active programme of community engagement that will ensure people know about the service and are able to use it.

On receiving this award Phil Stewart, CEO of D&GCAS, said:

"Our objective in growing our service reach into the Glenkens is to ensure that no-one is left behind when it comes to accessing the advice, support and assistance that they need during these very challenging times. This valuable piece of funding from Glenkens & District Trust will enable us to deliver a service where and when it is needed to the benefit of the community."

Spotlight on: Galloway Community Transport



Fund Priority 4: A Carbon Neutral Community

Started in 2001 as the Glenkens Transport Initiative and re-named in 2019 as Galloway Community Transport, GCT is a subsidiary SCIO of Glenkens Community & Arts Trust, whose services include a community bus service, demand responsive transport, group transport hire (self-hire or driver provided), a patient transport service, school transport, weekly shopping services to Castle Douglas and Newton Stewart, and excursions to places of interest. The group also manages an e-car and e-bike hire service. On average, between 500 and 600 people benefit from GCT's transport services each month. GCT also provides volunteering opportunities and paid casual employment to between 20 and 30 people, as well as part-time employment for two local staff.

The services GCT provide, in providing accessible alternatives to car journeys, are key to moving towards a more carbon neutral community, but following an Energy Savings Trust Fleet Review GCT started to go the extra mile to reduce its carbon footprint. They have expanded their fleet to include a wheelchair accessible electric car, e-bikes, and a new electric minibus. Through a two-year grant of £25,000 to contribute to staffing costs, GCT will be able to increase its work with local partnerships, increase knowledge and skills in carbon neutral transport solutions, secure funding for future projects, and transition towards a zero emissions fleet.

Talking about the impact of the grant, the GCT Manager said:

“Thanks to the funding from Blackcraig, we have been able to employ our Administrator, who deals with much of the day to day running of GCT’s operations. This includes handling all the patient transport requests and many of the membership bookings. These bookings have enabled children and adults in the Glenkens to get to various events and undertake lots of exciting activities! The administrator also helped produce a funding bid to help us secure a new low-emission diesel bus which we hope will further enable GCT to become carbon neutral in the very near future.”

Spotlight on: Education & Training Bursaries



The Education and Training Sub Fund

2022 saw the introduction of the Glenkens & District Education and Training Fund which aims to improve access to opportunity and to improve livelihoods. A range of costs can be supported, including course fees where these cannot be paid for from other sources, and support costs like travel, subsistence, accommodation and childcare.

34 awards were made between 1st of September 2022 and 31st August of 2023, committing a total of £47,228.77. Analysis of the awards made to date shows that around two thirds of the sub fund benefits local young people aged 16 to 25 and a further third of the beneficiaries were aged between 26 – 65. Half of the awards made related to support costs linked to taking up the opportunity to become a university undergraduate away from home; and a third related to short courses, mostly focused on learning new skills or building on existing skills to increase employability.

Anna's Experience

"I requested funding to cover travel expenses whilst I undertook a Return to Practice nursing course at university. This was because having worked in third sector and social care services since I originally graduated 10 years ago, I had let my nursing registration lapse as I hadn't required it. I decided that now my children were older I would like to pursue my original plan to work within Children and Adolescent Mental Health.

The Return to Practice course arranged for me to do my required 450 practice hours in Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary. As a single mum, with no other means of income, the drop in wages I needed to take in order to complete this training was significant and was jeopardising my ability to undertake the course. However the grant I received via the Education and Training fund meant the heavy burden of travel expenses throughout the course was significantly alleviated enough that it meant I could afford to do it.

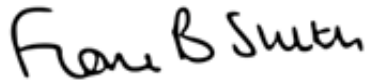
I am now delighted to say I completed all the required academic and practice elements of the course and have re-registered as a mental health nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. I was also, subsequently offered, a full time position within the Dumfries and Galloway Child and Adolescent Mental Health team. I could not have done this without the kind financial assistance I received."

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona B Smith". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Print name: Fiona Smith

Designation: Trustee

Date: 10th February 2024

Annual Accounts

Policy on Reserves

As the Trust does not employ staff or own assets, the Trust's policy is not to hold any significant level of reserve.

At the year-end there was £423.38 unrestricted funds. While this balance is minimal the Trustees do not anticipate this being a material issue as it incurs little, if any direct costs.

Income and expenditure for the period ended 31 August 2023

INCOME	
Honarium - community event	£75.00
EXPENDITURE	
Expenditure in period	£0.00
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	
	£75.00
MOVEMENTS IN BANK ACCOUNT	
Opening Balance	£348.38
Income for period	£75.00
Closing balance	£423.38

Note to the accounts

The community benefit funds that the Trust awards are held by Foundation Scotland due to contractual arrangements with the windfarm owners and between GDT and Foundation Scotland. This is why Fund income and expenditure is not reflected in the Trust's finances. A full annual report on fund finances is produced each year and is available on our website.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Glenkens & District Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on page 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Stephen Thorpe Davie
66 Main Street
Dalry
DG7 3UW

Date: 10th February 2024

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Foundation Scotland for assisting with the design and layout for this report.

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SCO42489