



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting – June 2025

We met, via Teams, on 24 June for a Trustee Meeting. The focus of the evening was to review the current position on funding and budget for the following funding year, review monitoring reports, key governance documents and to discuss key issues impacting on our planning going forward.

Statements and Grant-making Reports

As usual, we reviewed reports prepared by Foundation Scotland setting out information on the current position on awards and funding and the monitoring reports received on awards made. It is always interesting to review this feedback and to hear from recipients.

We had a particular focus on the Education and Training Fund and the recent impact study by Foundation Scotland exploring a variety of E & T Funds administered by them across Scotland, including our Fund. While this report is still to be finalised, it gave us useful insights into how our fund is operating, the impacts and outcomes and also areas for potential change/improvement. We will use this study to review our arrangements and we expect to complete this work during the summer. We also agreed to allocate £40,000 to the E & T Fund for this funding year. This is the same amount as we allocated in the previous year.

Budget and next Funding Round

We are still awaiting a response on our request to Temporis Capital to increase the payment from Blackcraig Wind Farm and we continue to push them to respond.

Our budget for the funding year starting on 1 June therefore had to be based on the sums they are currently paying as well as the payments due in respect of Windy Rig Wind farm. As we have previously stated this means that in real terms the amount available in each year is reducing. We concluded that supporting the Education and Training Fund, our key anchor organisations and key Community Action Plan project continues to be important and allocated monies to cover these. The Glenkens & District Community Action Plan is also due for a review after the Local Place Plans are completed and, as this is a fundamental component of our Fund Strategy, we allocated some funds to cover this. This means that it

is likely that the monies available in the next two open grant making round (applications for the first round close on 17 September) will be smaller than in previous years. In the funding year commencing 1 June 2026 we should be in receipt of an additional £112,000 per annum from Red Rock Power Ltd for Benbrack Wind Farm which will alleviate the current constraints.

Emma Hutchison is available on emmah@foundationscotland.org.uk or 07912 759 623 if you are aware of any groups who would like guidance on a potential application and we encourage early engagement and discussion.

Governance Issues

We carried out our annual review of all our key governance documents which required minimal change. The only material change was to our Code of Conduct to reflect the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) coming into effect this summer.

Other issues

Scottish Power Energy Networks have confirmed that the community benefit arrangements set out in the recent guidance from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero will apply in relation to Kendoon Tongland.

We continue to engage with the developers in our area. This is positive with support for GDT and the model we have in the area. However, until the timing of the construction and commissioning of the Kendoon Tongland line is firmed up, the dates for new wind farms is still uncertain.

Community Benefit Arrangements

The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero are currently seeking views on potential mandatory community benefits for low carbon energy infrastructure and shared ownership schemes. Information can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-benefits-and-shared-ownership-for-low-carbon-energy-infrastructure>

The closing date for responses is 16 July and the outcome could have profound implications for how we operate and develop. GDT will therefore be responding to the community benefits part of this consultation and we discussed our approach at the meeting. Our key concern is the complexity and compliance driven nature of the framework suggested. We believe it will lead to an erosion of the influence and voice of the impacted communities in how these monies are utilised efficiently and effectively to deliver good outcomes for the community as a whole. The long-term nature of these arrangements is not adequately addressed and we feel that the proposal is also likely to curtail the ability of arrangements to evolve and change as the needs of the impacted community evolve and change over time.

Our response will draw on the response with did to the recent Scottish Government Consultation on the Good Practice Principles where we consulted widely across the community on and our experience over the last eight years in dealing with these issues across multiple communities with multiple developers and multiple sites.

Awards since May

None

Foundation Scotland

Our Fund Administrator, Foundation Scotland, recently undertook a 'Response Fund' programme and as part of this work, distributed a one-off, unrestricted £500 Cost Of Living uplift to each organisation its partners, such as GDT, had supported in the 2024/25 financial year. More than 20 organisations across the Glenkens & District received this award, resulting in £12,000 being invested in our local organisations.

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 ensure we are complaint with the new OSCR requirements

We will prepare and submit a detailed response to the DESNZ consultation.

We will update our Education and Training Fund to reflect the learning from the Foundation Scotland Study