GLENKENS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRUST
Key Principles and Past Decisions Guidance for Trustees
September 2026

1 Purpose of this Document

This document details the key underpinning principles and strategically relevant decisions which have supported and informed the work of Glenkens & District Trust and its strategic direction to date. We want to inform all interested parties about how we do things, our key relationships and potential flow of funds and also the key decisions we have made and our approach to the future.

Transparency of decision making and accountability are part of our core values. As we get more mature it becomes even more important that we document our evolution and the rationale for actions we have taken, so that those in the wider community and those who take over in the future can understand the journey we have all been on and can build a successful future.

We will review this annually at the beginning of each fund year, 1 June, to ensure it is still accurate, and retain previous versions as part of our corporate record keeping.

2 Making a Difference

GDT is a funder not a doer and will not take a development or delivery role in projects.

It will use a number of funding options in addition to open grant making to maximise the outputs from the available monies. This could involve the commissioning of research etc. to assist community groups.

It will actively engage with other organisations and communities to ensure it is informed about all Community Action Plans across the area of benefit, so it understands the key priorities within the area and keeps its Funding Strategy relevant to the wishes of the community.

In addition, having three Trustees as active Members of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group will facilitate good two-way communication.

It will not, as GDT, take forward investment in any shared ownership on wind farms or related activities. Its focus is on ensuring community benefit monies are paid and the outputs are maximised.

The Fund currently is not large enough for the Trustees to consider that a Local Energy Discount scheme would be effective use of the limited funds at this time. While they appear to have some impact, the Trustees are currently of the opinion that this downstream intervention does not tackle fuel poverty or net zero targets at

the domestic level and that there are more impactful and progressive uses for the monies.

4 Relationships with Community Councils and Foundation Scotland

Overview of collaborative approach

GDT recognises that Community Councils play a key role in local democracy and perform an important function in listening to and representing the views of local communities. In recognition of this role, Community Councils have formed the backbone of GDT's governance since it was formed in 2011, and we strengthened this in 2020 when we revised our governing document.

Community Councils form the Trust's membership and nominate the majority of GDT's Trustees. This enables a flow of information from the Trust's meetings to Community Councils and vice versa, and enables a positive relationship built on shared aspirations for the communities we serve.

Over the last few years, GDT and its Members have worked cooperatively to ensure effective and efficient working arrangements, to present a collective voice to third parties, and to support the purposes of GDT as well as the important role played by Community Councils. Our shared objective is to maximise the benefits for the wider community from community benefit monies payable now or in the future.

Roles in wind farm developer engagement

GDT also recognises that Community Councils have an important role as statutory consultees in relation to the consents process for wind farm developers. The Community Councils will often take a role liaising with developers during a wind farm construction process on matters such as turbine transportation, in order to minimise impacts on their communities.

GDT and member Community Councils have agreed a clear division of responsibilities in relation to engagement with wind farm developers in the area. This enables the Community Councils to focus on the planning and construction aspects and creates a clear division between the consent process and the community benefit arrangements, which GDT takes a lead on negotiating and agreeing.

GDT has a neutral stance on the merits or otherwise of developments and will not advocate for or against renewable energy developments.

This clarity of roles, mutually agreed, creates a united front to present to developers on the topic of community benefit arrangements.

This approach gives developers confidence to work with us and enables us to more effectively influence how they work with our communities. This is evident in the recent formation of a Glenkens Developer Group that GDT lobbied for, which has

been created to enable developers both to share information about developments in the area and to seek to better co-ordinate potential impacts of construction and consultation or engagement events with local communities. It also enables GDT to be more effective in sharing information about what it has been doing and its plans as it can be done collectively with developers rather than individually. This saves time and effort from the volunteers in GDT. Glenkens Community & Arts Trust also participate in these calls as the party supporting the delivery of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan, in order to update developers on what is happening in community development and planning in the area.

A folder setting out the various agreements/status of negotiations will be maintained to ensure that there are clear records of arrangements.

Relationship with Foundation Scotland

Scottish charity Foundation Scotland has been appointed to support and advise GDT in its grant making work and in meeting its governance responsibilities. Foundation Scotland is very experienced in this type of community benefit work throughout Scotland. It supports GDT in its governance arrangements, to ensure that it is managed effectively, complies with all legal and regulatory requirements and maintains good records to evidence what it does.

Foundation Scotland also provides fund administration services. It works with us to develop and agree the Glenkens & District Community Fund Strategy, hosts the application forms on its website and manages the assessment and payment processes. Foundation Scotland does not make decisions on fund allocation. GDT Trustees retain full responsibility for decisions around grant awards and commissions.

The arrangements between GDT and Foundation Scotland are set out in appropriate contractual arrangements and currently all Foundation Scotland's fees are paid by the developers making community benefit payments. There are no monies paid directly from the Glenkens & District Community Fund to Foundation Scotland in respect of the current services they provide. If new monies come into the fund, then any additional fees will depend on the position of the developer and the contractual terms agreed at the time.

Every application to the Open Grant fund goes through an eligibility check, due diligence and assessment process by Foundation Scotland. This also involves discussion with the applicant. Based on this a written report including a recommendation is prepared. All the reports are reviewed within Foundation Scotland at a senior level to ensure quality and consistency. They are then provided to GDT Trustees well in advance of the meeting to enable the Trustees to make informed decisions. Trustees are given the opportunity to raise points of clarification in advance of the meeting to ensure they have sufficient information in order to make good decisions at the meeting.

Foundation Scotland also runs the application process and decisions on applications

for the Education and Training Fund. GDT has delegated the decision making on applications to this fund to Foundation Scotland in order to facilitate quick decision making. Key criteria for awards are agreed and Foundation Scotland reports regularly on awards made and End of Grant Reporting received. The GDT Education and Training Committee oversees this on behalf of GDT Trustees.

Foundation Scotland also supports GDT in respect of the other fund distribution methods it uses such as commissioning research and strategic grant making. Foundation Scotland has national experience and expertise in these areas which it shares with GDT.

Foundation Scotland holds the monies paid by developers in respect of Glenkens & District Community Benefit Fund monies and manages all the necessary controls and processes to safeguard these monies and to pay them to recipients. It also maintains all the records in relation to awards including issuing the necessary award letters, overseeing the satisfaction of any conditions, making payments and ensuring end of grant reports are received and reviewed.

The support Foundation Scotland provides enables the Trustees to focus on effective use of the monies.

Details on the monies received annually and the arrangements underpinning them are set out in the section on monies received into Glenkens & District Community Fund below.

Foundation Scotland also supports GDT in negotiating and finalising arrangements with new developers and projects.

5 Monies Received into the Glenkens & District Community Fund

This table sets out the monies due to be received in this fund for the fund year starting 1 June 2026.

Wind Farm	Payer	Payee	Amount
Blackcraig	Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd	Foundation Scotland	£264,650
Windy Rig	Greencoat Ltd	Foundation Scotland	£42,348[1]
Windy Rig	CREFL	GDT	£18,301[2]
Benbrack	Red Rock Power Ltd	GDT	£111,833
		Total	**£437,132**

[1] This amount reflects the shares of the overall fund allocated to New Galloway and Dalry Community Councils respectively, which they agreed should be put into the area wide fund

In future years, all except the monies from Blackcraig are index linked.

GDT, on receipt of the CREFL and Red Rock Power Ltd monies into their bank account, makes a transfer of the amount to Foundation Scotland. This money is treated as a donation to Foundation Scotland and is held by them in a restricted fund (Glenkens & District Community Fund) with decisions on utilisation made by GDT.

GDT also receives an additional 10% of the monies paid by CREFL for GDT to use on administration costs.

The contractual provisions underpinning these monies are all different and reflect the position of all the parties at the time payments commenced.

In line with the Scottish Government Good Practice Principles these arrangements, other than Blackcraig, will be subject to regular review, usually specified as happening every five years.

6 Glenkens & District Community Fund Distribution

GDT uses various mechanisms to ensure it maximises the outputs from the community benefit monies. These include:

- Open grant making
- Education and Training Fund
- Development Funding/commissioning
- Targeted/Strategic award making

The following principles underpin our approach.

1. Any Community Benefit Monies received in the future, by GDT or by any individual or subgrouping of GDT Members, should be on the basis that the Area of Benefit for these funds will be the Community Council Areas set out in the GDT Constitution, taken as a collective whole i.e. a "One for all, all for one" approach. An example of this was the decision by New Galloway & Kells and Dalry Community Councils respectively to put their share of the monies from Windy Rig Wind Farm into the fund. More details are set out below.

[2] Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Limited (CREFL) holds 33% of the Windy Rig Community Benefit Fund for the benefit of people resident in the CREFL operating area, defined as the Carsphairn Community Council area. As part of the Fund Framework, it was agreed that CREFL would provide 25% of the 33% it receives from Greencoat to the Glenkens & District Trust, for the purpose of facilitating cross-area projects and cross-community working, and to support groups planning cross-area projects.
A written Memorandum of Understanding is in place between GDT and CREFL in relation to the Windy Rig Community Benefit Fund arrangements.

2. Any Community Benefit Monies will be consolidated into a Glenkens & District Community Fund which will be available to all communities in the GDT area of benefit, providing a single streamlined application and monitoring process.

3. We will seek to align Fund years and reporting mechanisms from our donors to minimise workload and maximise efficiency.

4. Awards will be made on the merits of the project and in accordance with the priorities set in GDT's Fund Strategy. This Fund Strategy is informed by any current Community Action Plan/s in operation in the area of benefit. The Glenkens & District Community Action Plan brings together shared ambitions across seven of the communities in the area of benefit. In addition, the Dunscore, Glencairn and Carsphairn community planning processes are incorporated into the Fund Strategy.

5. GDT recognises that retaining key facilities and services can be as critical to the community as new initiatives. In approaching funding there is a clear recognition that, given the nature of our rural community, it is often difficult for key services to be self-sustaining in the longer term. GDT will take account of this in reaching funding decisions, such as in relation to supporting ongoing staff and running costs.

By demonstrating this area-wide approach to wind farm developers, we are increasing our ability to negotiate and agree suitable terms and are also evidencing that we can and do work across the wider community and are focused on achieving the best longer-term outcomes for the community. In addition, these principles increase efficiency, reduce costs, and simplify the application process for community groups and therefore ultimately make more money available to the community as a whole.

Education and Training Fund

Glenkens & District Trust's Education & Training Fund (E&T Fund) was established in 2022 to provide individual grants to adult residents in the area of benefit who were seeking to undertake education and training activities.

Its establishment was prompted by several factors, most notably in response to two local Community Action Plans (2020 Glenkens & District Community Action Plan and 2016-21 Glencairn & Moniaive Action Plan) which share key priorities such as reducing rural isolation, creating access to opportunities, and building economically flourishing communities.

There is a separate E&T Fund Strategy in place, and GDT has an established E&T subgroup that operates under the terms outlined in its Terms of Reference.

Currently £40,000 per annum is allocated to the E&T Fund.

Targeted Strategic Awards:

Anchor Awards Programme

In Autumn 2024 the GDT Board agreed a new approach to proactively funding anchor organisations, based on positive feedback to the approach at the July 2024 AGM.

The definition of an anchor organisation for the purposes of GDT's fund distribution is that it should fulfil *all* of the following criteria:

- be independent and community led
- providing services and activities
- owning or managing community assets (such as land and buildings)
- often (but not always) employing staff
- generating their own income streams, such as by trading goods or services
- bringing in additional funding which benefits the community
- playing a nurturing and developmental role in relation to support for local groups
- providing a voice to the views of local people in the shaping and delivery of community services and activities, both their own and others' - and being able to show how related consultation has taken place
- able to show how they make a difference in the community
- playing a leadership role in relation to their local Community Action Plan.

The rationale and decision-making behind this approach is fully documented in Board Papers.

Community Action Plan Projects

Over the last few years certain activities/projects identified in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan have become important foundations for other community projects. Two such projects are The Glenkens Hub and the Glenkens Community Spaces Network. Both are run by the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust and since 2021 an award of c. £18k per annum has been made to support them.

This award is currently made possible through an agreement between Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) and Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Limited (CREFL). Since 2023, CREFL has given 25% of its Windy Rig Wind Farm community benefit funds to

the Trust specifically to facilitate cross-area projects, support cross-community working, and assist groups planning collaborative initiatives. The intention is for this funding to continue to be used to support these projects going forward, subject to satisfactory review of performance and delivery.

Community Council Grants

These funds are for local distribution at the discretion of each Community Council, as long as the purposes are charitable. The funds are made available from two sources:

i) The majority of the funds in this 'pot' are from the Blackcraig Wind Farm. The first £22,000 of this fund is ringfenced to be distributed as Community Council Grants to the communities of Balmaclellan, Balmaghie, Carsphairn, Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael, St John's Town of Dalry, Dunscore, Glencairn, Parton and the Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells. Balmaclellan, as the host community, receives £4,000 per annum, with the others receiving £2,000 per annum

ii) Under the arrangements with Windy Rig where Dalry and New Galloway have opted to each contribute their full allocation into GDT's Community Fund, GDT agreed that the first £2,000 of this is ringfenced to be distributed to St John's Town of Dalry and New Galloway and Kells under the Community Council Grants. Each receive £1,000.

Each Community Council is required to provide an End of Year report and latest signed accounts in advance of release of the following year's payment.

7 Find out more

GDT maintains a website www.glenkenstrust.org.uk, which hosts full details of its governance arrangements, funding strategy, funds awarded, GDT Trustees, Annual Reports and Meeting Reports from each meeting.

GDT also maintains a Facebook page and YouTube Channel (Glenkens & District Trust), and issues paper posters and flyers to all Community Councils when funds open for applications.

The Foundation Scotland website contains all details of how to apply for:

- Open Awards: Glenkens & District Community Fund | Foundation Scotland
- The Education and Training fund: Glenkens & District Education and Training Fund | Foundation Scotland

Details of the GDT Fund impact to mark its 7-year anniversary in February 2026 can be found here: GDT presentation - Flipsnack

8 Process to keep this guidance up to date

The intention is to keep this paper updated to ensure that it continues to capture key decisions. This will enable better induction of new trustees as well as consistency in decision making. From time to time, it may well be appropriate to revisit some of these decisions as need and quantum change, and consideration should be given to this.

In the meantime, at the end of each meeting there will be an Agenda item to agree what, if any decisions need to be added.