

SURF



www.scotregen.co.uk

SURF Awards



2014

Awards



SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice : celebrating success

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2014



The Scottish Government

The SURF Awards are delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government, and with additional support from Creative Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, PAS and Architecture + Design Scotland

“SURF is delighted to be in its second decade of hosting our annual regeneration awards. Our revised categories reflect the fact that we continue to grow the breadth of regeneration in Scotland, and we in SURF are pleased to recognise that change. I continue to be inspired by the endeavours of those whose efforts we recognise through our awards. I am sure that this year’s shortlist will inspire further activity in regeneration.”



Brian MacDonald,
Chair, SURF

The 2014 SURF Awards



This publication profiles the 15 initiatives which were shortlisted for the 2014 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration. We hope the examples of innovation and excellence presented here will provide encouragement and inspiration for everyone working or volunteering in support of community regeneration.

Different Strokes

The 2014 SURF Awards feature five themed categories. They have been designed to reflect diverse regeneration contexts and responses all over Scotland.

The five categories are:

- **Preparing for Employment**
- **Community Led Regeneration**
- **Town Centre Regeneration**
- **Creative Regeneration**
- **Infrastructure and Social Benefits**

Our 20-strong independent judging panel considered the applications over an intensive two-month process of assessments and visits. Working in teams of four, the judges were tasked with narrowing down applicants to three short-listed initiatives per category and then ultimately selecting just one winner.

Themes and Trends

Many of this year’s winning and shortlisted projects successfully married demand and assets to transform neglected community

spaces into welcoming and productive facilities that offer meaningful social and economic opportunities for local people.

For example, our judging panel were highly impressed with the extensive community-led development of communal gardens and growing spaces in Dundee (Every1’s Garden, p12), Edinburgh (North Edinburgh Grows, p10) and Lewis (Horshader Community Growing, p6). All three category-winning projects engage local people in addressing a myriad of local issues. The shared focus is on providing healthy fresh food, work & volunteering opportunities, and welcoming shared spaces for all community members and groups to use and enjoy.

This year’s winners also demonstrate the value of maximising regeneration opportunities from assets such as small businesses (see WorkingRite Pioneers, p4) and at-risk historic buildings (see Glengate Hall, p8).

On pages 16-17, you can find out how last year’s five category winners have got on since receiving their SURF Award certificate at the end of 2013.

Team Efforts

The SURF Awards process, like many of the projects highlighted in this publication, is made possible only with the support of a number of dedicated partners. SURF is particularly grateful for the support of the Scottish Government, which has been our key SURF Awards partner since 2003. On pages 18-19, you can read about what SURF and the Scottish Government are doing to support improved policy and practice in regeneration activities.

This year we were delighted to receive additional support from Creative Scotland, sponsor of the Creative Regeneration award, from Skills Development Scotland, sponsor of the Preparing for Employment category, and from PAS and Architecture + Design Scotland, joint sponsors of the Town Centre Regeneration award.

We are also highly appreciative of the generous efforts of our judging panel, who give their time freely to travel the length of Scotland and visit all of the shortlisted projects. Our panel comprises representatives of national regeneration-related organisations and community groups; you can find out who they are on p15.

Lastly, SURF could not function as Scotland’s independent regeneration network without the active support, knowledge and experience of our 280+ member organisations: especially our 13 key delivery partners, who are listed on p20.

If you would like to know more about the SURF Awards, please visit the dedicated section of our website:

www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards

Results

Contents & Category Results

Preparing for Employment

Purpose: To highlight best practice in the use of work experience as a basis for delivering effective employability support to young people in the 16 to 25 age category. This category is supported by Skills Development Scotland.



Winner:
WorkingRite Pioneers (Edinburgh) – page 4

Also shortlisted: Aberdeen Foyer Training & Hospitality; Glasgow Marriott/Clyde Gateway Hotel & Hospitality Academy – page 5

Community Led Regeneration

Purpose: To highlight best practice in the involvement of communities in leading regeneration strategies and processes.



Winner:
Horshader Community Growing (Lewis) – page 6

Also shortlisted: The Glencorse Centre (Auchendinny, Midlothian); Isle of Jura Community Shop – page 7

Town Centre Regeneration

Purpose: To highlight best practice in improving a town centre through regeneration activity. This category is supported by PAS and Architecture + Design Scotland.



Winner:
Glengate Hall (Kirriemuir, Angus) – page 8

Also shortlisted: Beyond the Finish Line (Glasgow); Super Saturdays (Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire) – page 9

Creative Regeneration

Purpose: To highlight best practice in placing the arts and creativity at the heart of community regeneration efforts. This category is supported by Creative Scotland.



Winner:
North Edinburgh Grows – page 10

Also shortlisted: AFLOAT (Coigach, Wester Ross); The Stove Network (Dumfries & Galloway) – page 11

Infrastructure & Social Benefits

Purpose: To highlight best practice in achieving community regeneration outcomes from investments in infrastructure.



Winner:
Every1's Garden (Dundee) – page 12

Also shortlisted: Athletes' Village – City Legacy (Glasgow); Regeneration of Stane Gardens & South Calder Water (Shotts, North Lanarkshire) – page 13



Preparing for Employment

Winner

This category is sponsored by Skills Development Scotland



WorkingRite Pioneers

What is the aim of the project?

To help vulnerable 16-17 year olds that are disengaged from education, employment and training programmes to raise their aspirations and develop work & life skills through the development of an innovative workplace-centred employability programme.



Trainee Gareth at work

Where is it taking place?

Over the past year, the WorkingRite Pioneers programme has piloted in Edinburgh.

What has been achieved?

Established in late 2013, 12 young people were enrolled in the programme's first intake. The Pioneers model is based on matching participants with an appropriate small local employer for a placement of between three and six months. The programme features a high level of support from WorkingRite's Youth Employability Coordinator and participants benefit from a gradual introduction to the workplace, a four week induction process, a workplace mentor, on-the-job training and a weekly allowance.

Of the initial 12 trainees, three found jobs or apprenticeships following the programme's conclusion, five progressed to a further WorkingRite-supported work experience opportunity at a more proficient level, one progressed to a sports coaching course and another applied to join the army. Two failed to complete the programme, but still benefited from induction support and some skills training. During an independent post-programme



First aid is among the training provided

evaluation, trainees reported being more confident, better at turning up on time, better at working with others, and having improved workplace 'stamina' following their participation.



Trainee Alison with workplace mentor

The programme team did not expect the teenage participants to be job-ready at the end of the programme, given that they faced considerable barriers to the labour market. The level of support and the gradual increase of time spent in the workplace over several months was seen as key to its success. The Edinburgh programme is set to continue and WorkingRite also intends to establish a second delivery location in Glasgow.

Who is running it?

WorkingRite, a UK-national youth employment charity, manage the programme with funding provided by J.P. Morgan. Trainees for the Pioneers programme are recruited by Edinburgh Cyrenians. In addition to working with small local employers that have a real desire to support and develop a young person, training and activities sessions are delivered in partnership with other agencies, including The Rock Trust, LGBT Scotland, the NHS, and Red Cross.

Why did the judging panel select it as the winner?

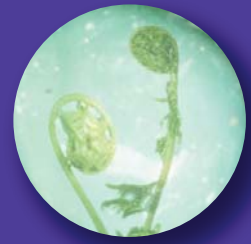
The judges felt the Pioneers programme was a truly innovative work experience programme targeted at young people disconnected from the labour market. The panel particularly valued the commitment of project staff and the ever-evolving programme, including the current focus on engaging with the young person's family as a starting point, in addition to equality training, budgeting, and confidence building.

The judges admired the programme, which successfully uses incentives to encourage positive behaviours and attendance, which results in high progression rates. WorkingRite has built successful partnerships with other agencies and this ensures that the programme is able to draw on the expertise of its partners. The project team make extensive efforts to ensure they deliver the appropriate placement, and go on to provide high levels of support to both the employer and young person.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.workingrite.co.uk

Contact: Vikki Young, Youth Employability Coordinator,
WorkingRite: 0131 476 1050 or vikki@workingrite.co.uk



Shortlisted

Aberdeen Foyer Training & Hospitality

What is the aim of the project?

Aberdeen Foyer seeks to improve the personal and employability skills of young people some distance from the labour market, including those at risk of homelessness, and support them into sustainable employment.

Where is it taking place?

Based in Aberdeen, the initiative provides employability support to service users across the city and in Aberdeenshire.



What has been achieved?

The Foyer has 19 years' experience of delivering training and employability support for young people. Much of this support is provided in-house, where clients can access a range of complementary services including support for mental health issues and drug/alcohol misuse, specialist learning programmes for those with literacy or numeracy issues, advice on housing and accommodation, and general counselling. These services help them to cope with problems in their life and improve their focus on employability and training.

In 2013, the initiative worked with 502 clients. Of these, 63% moved directly into a positive destination of training, education or employment. Additionally, 72% enhanced their future prospects by achieving a recognised qualification and/or training certificate.

Who is running it?

Aberdeen Foyer is a social enterprise and registered charity. Much of its services are delivered in partnership with other organisations, including Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Jobcentre Plus, NHS Grampian, North East Scotland College, Prince's Trust Scotland, and Skills Development Scotland.



Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges valued the variety of programmes, including sport, music and art, that Aberdeen Foyer used to engage with young people from some of the hardest to reach groups. They saw that Aberdeen Foyer's support continued through to employer placements and beyond, and that many of the young people sought ongoing support throughout their journey. The judges also noted the importance placed on preparing employers for the young people who would be placed with them, and in ensuring that all the staff were supportive.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.aberdeenfoyer.com

Contact: Leanne Sinclair, Business Development Manager,
Aberdeen Foyer: 01224 373 881, lsinclair@aberdeenfoyer.com

Glasgow Marriott/Clyde Gateway Hotel & Hospitality Academy

What is the aim of the project?

To improve the work readiness of a group of young people by enabling them to develop the skills, behaviour and attitudes that employers demand through a meaningful work placement in the hospitality industry.



Where is it taking place?

This initiative works with pupils from four secondary schools in Glasgow and provides work experience in the city centre Marriott Hotel.

What has been achieved?

Three academy programmes were completed to mid-2014, with 28 graduates completing a 10 week work placement, which included assignment to a mentor and regular review sessions. All young people received training to Marriott brand standards, including cultural awareness, Starbucks barista training, general employability skills and accredited certifications in food hygiene, safe sale of alcohol, and customer service.

Following the placement, 50% of these pupils progressed into employment, 29% went on to College/University, and 21% returned to school. Of the 14 pupils progressing into employment, 11 jobs were secured directly with the Marriott. Not one young person dropped out, and all benefited from improved employment and education prospects.

Who is running it?

The programme started in 2013 and is operated in partnership between the Clyde Gateway regeneration agency and the Glasgow Marriott Hotel.



Why did the judging panel like it?

This programme was an effective joint venture with Clyde Gateway and the Marriott Hotel, with excellent links with four local schools. The judging panel saw the hospitality programme featured a high quality of industry training, and welcomed the high proportion of participants progressing into work. The judges noted the high level of involvement of Marriott staff as mentors to the young people and saw how this helped the young people to gain confidence.

Where can I find out more?

Web: Project video on YouTube – <http://goo.gl/c7BccF>

Contact: Natalie Phillips, Community Benefits Project Manager
(Acting), Clyde Gateway: 0141 276 1574,
natalie.phillips@clydegateway.com

Community Led Regeneration

Winner

Horshader Community Growing

What is the aim of the project?

To use community-grown fruit and vegetables as a basis for alleviating social and economic challenges in three rural and remote island settlements.



Sale of local produce addresses fuel poverty

Where is it taking place?

The villages of South Shawbost, Dalbeag and Dalmore on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.

What has been achieved?

In 2005, a community development trust was established to help the three villages respond to rapid cultural and social changes. Among these changes were the shift from a traditional economy centred on crofting, fishing and weaving to one more dependent on public sector service jobs, and the large numbers of young residents migrating to the island's main town, Stornoway, and mainland Scotland.

Following interest from private developers in erecting wind turbines on community owned land in exchange for a modest financial return, local community members chose to task the trust with developing a turbine themselves. A £2 million 900kW Enercon turbine was subsequently built and the income stream is directed by the Trust towards tackling local issues and improving quality of life.



The project launched in January 2014

These new resources supported the development of a Growing Project in January 2014. It provides four food-growing polytunnels that supply year-round fresh fruit and vegetables for the community. It also offers accessible covered allotment tunnels for community members to use, and a programme of workshops that provides advice and ideas on



Food is grown in four polytunnels

growing produce and the preparation of healthy meals.

The initiative has been successful in creating stronger social networks, promoting healthy lifestyles and increasing the supply of high quality and affordable fresh food locally. The latter achievement is particularly valuable in the context of the area's high elderly population, its 47% fuel poverty rate and the 36 mile round trip to the nearest supermarket.

Who is running it?

The Growing Project is led by Horshader Community Development Trust, a charitable organisation whose members include almost all adults in the three villages. The Trust works in formal partnership with the local authority, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Why did the judging panel select it as the winner?

The initiative has been a clear success in meeting its goals of tackling poverty and health issues. The project is about much more than this, however, and the judges saw that it serves as a hub for the local community, bringing families and generations together in practical activities that have helped to grow the community as well as the produce.

The judges noted the effective arrangement in which the Growing Project benefits from the income generated by the Community Development Trust, and the Trust benefits from the increased community involvement generated by the Growing Project. This process helps further strengthen local commitments to delivering community benefits and tackling poverty. The panel was impressed by the level of voluntary involvement and were also delighted to see the comprehensive partnership links that had been established between local residents, project staff, project volunteers, and a range of supportive agencies. There was a real sense of symbiotic teamwork from everyone involved.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.facebook.com/HorshaderGrowing

Contact: Angela Macleod, Development Manager, Horshader Community Development Trust: 01851 710 241, angela@horshader.com



Shortlisted

The Glencorse Centre

What is the aim of the project?
To rebuild a closed-down village hall, sports centre and outdoor space.

Where is it taking place?
In the village of Auchendinny in Midlothian.

What has been achieved?
The old Glencorse Centre was a timber-clad community hall and sports facility located on just over an acre of land that is owned in trust for the community. It was built in the early 1970s with an anticipated lifespan of 20 years, and was forced to close in 2007 due to structural decay in the timber frame.

Between 2007 and 2012, the local community raised £1.2 million to fully replace the building with a modern, ambitious and sustainable hub. The new centre, which opened in January 2014, contains a café, a large hall, a meeting room, changing facilities, a new children's play area, an all-weather sports pitch, additional football pitches, and a community garden.

The centre is popular with a wide range of community members, who can attend fitness classes, a pensioners' lunch club, parent/toddlers and breastfeeding groups, and Community Learning & Development activities. It also accommodates a volunteer-run café, which is open six days per week, and cultural events such as live music and craft fairs. As a result, it has become the centre of a rural area that had no other amenities and has breathed life back into a village that lost its sense of community.

Who is running it?
The Glencorse Association community group runs the centre, and developed it with funding and support from Midlothian Council's regeneration department and the Scottish Rural Development Programme.



Why did the judging panel like it?
The judges found Glencorse Centre to be a bright, well-designed and welcoming community facility that has been the result of seven years of hard work by a very committed group of local people. As demonstrated by the high level of usage by a wide range of local groups, the project has responded effectively to demand across the local community and the committee have shown great enthusiasm in developing their programme accordingly.

Isle of Jura Community Shop

What is the aim of the project?
To improve quality of life for residents of an economically challenged island by maintaining its only shop.

Where is it taking place?
The island of Jura, the eighth largest in Scotland, is situated in the Inner Hebrides off Scotland's west coast. The island has a population of 200, and the shop is located in the village of Craighouse.

What has been achieved?
Jura Development Trust was set up in 1997 to implement a wide range of projects to improve island life, including securing the future of a mainland passenger ferry, promoting tourism and improving the village hall. Since 2012, the Trust has undertaken a lengthy and complicated process to retain a village shop and post office, which led to securing a £653k grant in 2013 for purchase, refurbishment, extension, and revenue support.

The new Jura Community Shop opened in April 2014. It provides a lifeline to local citizens, especially those elderly or immobile who would have faced a five hour return ferry to the closest supermarket on the nearest island, Islay. The shop also supports the local tourism industry and visiting sailors, encourages the retention of families, and provides meaningful work and volunteering opportunities.

Who is running it?
Jura Development Trust incorporated Jura Stores Community Interest Company as a separate, independent organisation to run the shop. The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland provided the £653k grant, and additional support was provided by, among others, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Argyll & Bute Council.



Why did the judging panel like it?
There is a clear and fundamental need for a shop on Jura. The actions of the local community have been essential in taking the project forward from concept to reality. The judges were impressed with the level of local commitment and ongoing consultation and engagement. The proportion of residents who have been involved either directly with the Community Interest Company, or in related voluntary activities, is extremely high. The panel noted that the shop has been successfully developed as a community hub and not just a place where people can buy their messages.

Where can I find out more?
Web: <http://glencorsecentre.org.uk>

Contact: Caroline Wylie, Development Officer, Glencorse Centre:
caroline.wylie@glencorseassociation.org.uk

Where can I find out more?
Web: www.juradevelopment.co.uk/shop/

Contact: Sarah Compton-Bishop, Community Project Officer, Jura Development Trust: 01496 820 161, scomptonbishop@gmail.com

Town Centre Regeneration

Winner

This category is sponsored by PAS and Architecture + Design Scotland



Glengate Hall

What is the aim of the project?

To enhance a town centre by bringing a neglected and historically significant local building back into use.

Where is it taking place?

In Kirriemuir, a town in Angus with a population of 6000.

What has been achieved?

Glengate Hall, originally built in 1846, served Kirriemuir as a church and, later, a popular town hall. It became vacant in 2005, however, and soon featured on the Buildings at Risk Register.



Exterior view post-redevelopment

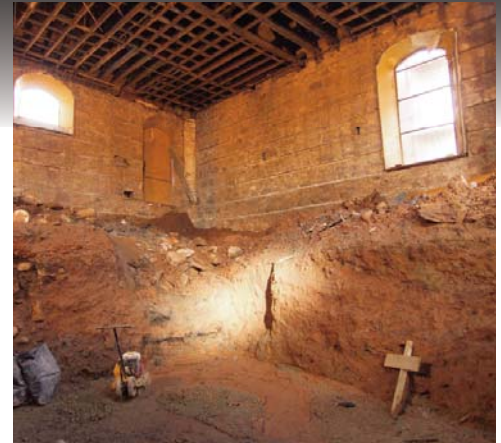
Angus Council approached the owners in 2012 to ascertain whether there were any plans for the declining building. When the owners reported that they were not in a financial position to use the building, Angus Council officers initiated a collaborative process to enable its conservation and restoration. At this point, the building had been vacant for almost a decade, and was deteriorating rapidly. Whilst planning permission had been granted to use the building for residential accommodation, the owner required financial and practical assistance to make the project viable.



The building now provides nine housing units

The extensive redevelopment was completed successfully under tight timescales on a constrained site. This resulted in the creation of nine units of affordable housing, four one-bedroomed flats and five two-bedroomed properties, all based within one of the town's landmark buildings. Not only does the project improve and increase town centre living capacity, it also brings vitality back to the town centre, creating an attractive living space and ensuring safety in occupancy. The development will provide affordable housing for a period of at least 10 years with a guarantee of no rent increase during this time.

Upon completion, the owner invited local community members to view the refurbishment. They remembered its changing uses over time, including ecclesiastical use, a dance hall and playgroup; memories that can now be continued with its new function.



The project was completed to tight timescales

Who is running it?

The initiative is a collaboration involving the private sector, and local & national government agencies, primarily Perthshire-based housing developer P. J. Redford Homes Ltd, Angus Council and Historic Scotland. A £225k investment was provided by the Scottish Government's Empty Homes Loan Fund, and a further £255k by the Kirriemuir Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme.

Why did the judging panel select it as the winner?

For the SURF Awards panel, Glengate Hall presented a strong example of integrated physical, social and economic regeneration that has greatly enhanced the town centre of Kirriemuir. The judges recognised the clear vision and 'can do' attitude of the local authority, and the innovative grant and loan funding arrangement that was used to bring the building back into use.

While the tenants highlighted the benefits of living within the town centre, being close to amenities and services, their personal stories demonstrated a sense of pride in their new homes as well as increased personal wellbeing. It is clear that the project has much potential as a catalyst for other regeneration initiatives in the town, and that further learning could be explored to identify its application elsewhere.



Exterior view prior to redevelopment

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.angus.gov.uk/kirriemuircars/

Contact: Lorna Redford, Director, P J Redford Homes Ltd:
01821 642 239, redfordhomesltd@aol.co.uk



Shortlisted

Beyond the Finish Line

What is the aim of the project?

To bring together the social enterprise model with the energy and enthusiasm of young people, with the goal of contributing to urban regeneration outcomes through the creative use of empty or underused spaces.



Where is it taking place?

In Glasgow city centre.

What has been achieved?

Beyond the Finish Line developed as part of the legacy vision for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, and is



based on a review of research that demonstrated the positive effect of social enterprise interventions in town and city centre regeneration.

Fifteen young people aged 16 to 30 were selected for the initiative and given a comprehensive package of support to help them develop their own social enterprises. They were provided with one-to-one business mentoring support, a free city centre workspace, advice from industry experts, and funding of up to £2014 to open for business during the Commonwealth Games.

The result of this investment was the creation of 12 social enterprises operating in central Glasgow, including new food production, construction waste recycling, and furniture upcycling businesses. This has visibly revitalised previously empty high street spaces, stimulated the local economy by increasing footfall, and created a significant social impact.

Who is running it?

Beyond The Finish Line is delivered by the social enterprise development agency in partnership with Icecream Architecture and with support from the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland and Glasgow City Council. Several local businesses acted as mentors, including IKEA, Boomerang Studios and Eco Chic.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the support given to aspiring young social entrepreneurs. In meeting some of the entrepreneurs, it was clear that the expert advice, training and access to resources had allowed bright ideas to develop into social businesses, some of which had significant potential. They were further impressed by the number of projects that had been supported, particularly given the limited Commonwealth Games timescale, and by the resourcefulness, ambition and talent of the young entrepreneurs.

Super Saturdays

What is the aim of the project?

To boost a town's economy by promoting the retail offer within its centre in order to attract new custom and promote repeat visits.



Where is it taking place?

In the town of Fraserburgh in Aberdeenshire.

What has been achieved?

Shopping trends in Fraserburgh have changed considerably in recent years, with Saturday being one of the quietest trading days for most retailers as shoppers turn to leisure and recreational activities at the weekend.

In response, monthly 'Super Saturdays' were developed to celebrate and promote the town centre with monthly themed events that feature a variety of product stalls alongside free entertainment and leisure opportunities such as live music and cooking demonstrations. The footfall on Saturdays has increased substantially as a result of the high-profile and popular events, and the shops, cafes and restaurants that take stalls have benefited from increased custom in their bricks and mortar premises.

On the back of this greater demand, new town centre businesses have emerged, including a delicatessen that sells healthy and locally sourced produce. Employment opportunities have risen accordingly. Super Saturdays have also provided an effective communications channel for local groups, with the result of greater participation in arts classes, sports clubs and other community activities.

Who is running it?

Super Saturdays is a community-run initiative, developed and managed by Fraserburgh Development Trust with support from local businesses and Aberdeenshire Council.



Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the clear impact that the project had on the town centre. From relatively small beginnings, Super Saturday now has 46 stalls and is oversubscribed. Before Super Saturdays there were 34 empty units in the town centre, now there are just eight. The judges also saw value in the development of links with Aberdeenshire Council's regeneration strategy. The project identified a clear need, and in using the resources and talents in the local community to address that need, Super Saturdays has proved an undoubted success.

Where can I find out more?

Web: <http://www.firstport.org.uk/projects/beyond-the-finish-line>

Contact: Laura Smith, Head of Operations, Firstport:
0141 221 2322, laura@firstport.org.uk

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.facebook.com/pages/Fraserburgh-Super-Saturdays/450310835039839

Contact: Mark Jackson, Director, Fraserburgh Development Trust:
01346 510 513, office@fraserburghdevelopmenttrust.org

Creative Regeneration

Winner

This category is sponsored by Creative Scotland



North Edinburgh Grows

What is the aim of the project?

To create and maintain a welcoming outdoor space for local people of all ages and backgrounds.

Where is it taking place?

The community garden is attached to the North Edinburgh Arts Centre in the middle of the city's Muirhouse area.



Sand & water play area

What has been achieved?

Prior to its redevelopment, the half-acre of land used for the community garden was an unattractive vacant space located to the immediate rear of the popular arts centre. In the context of the neighbourhood's high levels of multiple deprivation and lack of good quality green spaces, this initiative successfully brought the local community together to transform the unused local asset into an attractive growing space.

Artworks feature across the garden



Developed with inspiration from other community gardens in Scotland, such as previous SURF Award winner

The Hidden Gardens in Glasgow, as well as international exemplars in New York, Paris and Rotterdam, the North Edinburgh Grows garden was formally opened in June 2014.

160 local residents participated in the launch picnic, with visits to the centre rising by over 1,000 in the following ten weeks. In addition to

providing a beautiful walled garden space with a wide range of native plants and fruit trees, the land also hosts a play area, gardening plots for local groups, and home-grown fruit and vegetables for the centre's community cafe.

Visitors are encouraged to stay and relax with high quality seating and a distinctive range of integrated artworks to enjoy, including a sculptural sandpit, insect hotels and a willow dome. The garden also facilitates an impressive variety of local group activities, including 'introduction to gardening' workshops, community meals, and opportunities for volunteering and employability training.

Who is running it?

The garden was developed and managed by the North Edinburgh Arts charity, with support from a Big Lottery Fund in Scotland 'Community Spaces' grant, Anta Architects, Acorn Contractors, and the City of Edinburgh Council's 'Community Payback' team.

The garden opened in June 2014



Why did the judging panel select it as the winner?

The judges felt that North Edinburgh Grows is a fantastic project operating in an area affected by a lack of local amenities and limited volunteering and employment opportunities. The project integrates creativity with community participation, and it was clear that the users of the garden felt a real sense of ownership of the space.

The panel was particularly impressed with the determination, vision and resilience demonstrated by local people and partners, and the positive impact of an artist residency. The garden presents a fine example of good practice to influence and inspire broader regeneration plans for the area.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.northedinburghgrows.wordpress.com

Contact: Kate Wimpres, Director, North Edinburgh Arts:
0131 315 6410, director@northedinburgharts.co.uk



Shortlisted

AFLOAT

What is the aim of the project?
To support the reinvention of a struggling rural community by embedding an artist to make a film about a collaborative construction of a wooden vessel.

Where is it taking place?
In the remote west Highland community of Coigach, Wester Ross.



What has been achieved?
Among other challenges, the people of Coigach face scarce opportunities for employment and a general decline in community spirit linked to a falling school roll, changes in crofting and polarised views on renewable energy. Over 18 months, South African artist Neville Gabie tracked – and filmed – local people as they worked together to inject new energy into the community through the collaborative building of a wooden skiff.

The 27 minute short film follows the construction process from a wooden boat shed over a winter to the community's use of the skiff both socially and in rowing competitions. By showing that shared enterprise can construct something even stronger than a robust sea-faring boat, Gabie's film has much to say about what community is and how it can be sustained over challenging points of transition. The AFLOAT process and film has had a significant local impact, for example in helping draw new tourists to the area through an annual Coigach Regatta and contributing to burgeoning interest in coastal rowing and boat-building.

Who is running it?
Neville Gabie produced the film in close collaboration with Coigach Community Rowers and the wider community. It was commissioned by Inverness Old Town Art.

Why did the judging panel like it?
AFLOAT beautifully captures the spirit and resilience of a remote community and has considerable potential to inspire other communities. The film's artistic vision was very strong and the intergenerational representation at the judges' visit to Coigach showed the strength of the genuine community engagement and local 'buy in' to the project. The creative influence in the film-making process was subtle but appeared to have touched the whole community, and the judges saw that the artist clearly became one of the community as the initiative developed.

Where can I find out more?
Web: www.nevillegabie.com/works/afloat/

Contact: Susan Christie, Curator, Inverness Old Town Art:
susechristie@googlemail.com

The Stove Network

What is the aim of the project?
To establish a comprehensive network of talented and committed artists for the purpose of engaging with existing community arts activities and creating new opportunities for culture-led regeneration processes.

Where is it taking place?
The Stove Network, founded in 2011 and now comprising 130 members, has an office on Dumfries High Street and is active across Dumfries & Galloway.



What has been achieved?
The member-based collective champions the creative regeneration of urban and rural communities in the region. Its members are engaged with a wide range of relevant projects, just some of which are:

- A series of 14 creative town centre regeneration projects in Dumfries, funded by the local authority and Creative Scotland;
- Supporting the physical regeneration of Creetown, Stranrear and other places by engaging with local communities in the production of public artworks;
- Promoting the regeneration potential of the River Nith through its 'Nithsraid' art festival and sailing race;
- Delivering the inaugural Environmental Arts Festival Scotland, which resulted in more than 4000 visits to 28 local events.

Who is running it?
The Stove Network is an independent company, and has raised over £400k of project funding from a wide range of partner and funding organisations.



Why did the judging panel like it?
Despite being at an early stage in its journey, the collective has made great strides in their vision for the creative regeneration of Dumfries and the wider region. The local need for youth engagement and a community 'hub' based around creativity is clearly articulated. Its creation maximises the value of talented artists in the region and its activities are ambitious and innovative. The judges were impressed by members' enthusiasm, passion, and vision for the future, and its early success in delivering on empowerment and regeneration goals.

Where can I find out more?
Web: www.thestove.org

Contact: Matt Baker, Curator, The Stove Network:
matt@thestove.org

Infrastructure and Social Benefits

Winner

Every1's Garden

What is the aim of the project?

To transform a derelict builder's yard into an attractive and productive community garden for an economically challenged city area.

Where is it taking place?

In the Hilltown area of north Dundee.

What has been achieved?

The MAXwell Centre is a well-established and vibrant community facility that offers financial and legal advice, educational, craft and vocational sessions, and local councillor surgeries. In early 2012, a community consultation exercise indicated that local residents would like a space to grow their own fruit and vegetables. Noting that the

A wide range of groups use the facility



back of the centre was overgrown and unused, plans were put in place to source funding and support to develop this area into a large, productive garden.

The Every1's Garden opened in April 2014 and features allotment-style plots, raised beds and a polytunnel, which

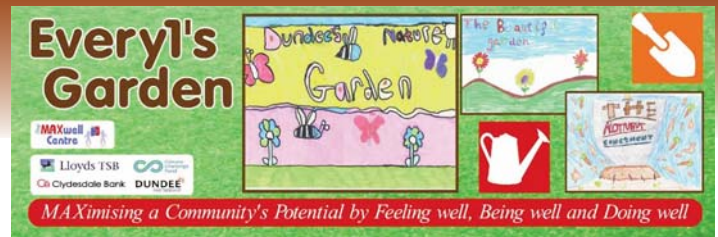
are tended by individuals, community groups and four local primary schools. All community members are encouraged to use the garden as they see fit, such as for a relaxing walk, and to harvest some healthy vegetables. The garden also operates many regular activities, including:

- Community barbecues, healthy eating workshops, and growing clubs;
- A children's club, running four days a week in the summer and featuring arts, crafts, games and gardening;
- Supported gardening and volunteering opportunities to assist people with chaotic lifestyles, mental health issues and physical disabilities;
- An outdoor classroom, which hosts educational visits and is available for use by other community groups;
- Provision of healthy, fresh produce to those directed to the initiative from Dundee Foodbank, for which the garden acts as a valuable referral point.

Who is running it?

The garden is run by MAXwelltown Information Centre, an independent voluntary organisation. The development grant was provided by Dundee City Council through its Community Regeneration Forums.

The garden is popular with local children



Why did the judging panel select it as the winner?

Successful infrastructure is not always about large scale investment. Every1's Garden is located in, and serves, a community with significant challenges. The judges saw that it has been created on a realistic, practical and local scale, with substantial social benefit outcomes.

Maximum creative use has been made of limited resources and facilities. From the project leader and his team to the volunteers and young people taking part, it was clear to the judges that everybody involved knows what they're doing and why they're doing it. Following full consultation and engagement with local people, groups, schools and businesses the planning and design of Every1's Garden is closely based on what was actually needed and wanted.

Every1's Garden was developed from 2012



What the judges experienced during their visit was a bunch of committed, enthusiastic and professional staff and volunteers, determined to deliver for the people of their community in an approach consistent with the motto painted on the gable wall of the adjacent MAXwell Centre: "MAXimise a Community's Potential by Feeling Well, Being Well and Doing Well".

Contact Details:

Web: www.themaxwellcentre.org.uk

Contact: Kate Treharne, Project Development Worker,
The MAXwell Centre: 01382 802 628, ktmaxinfo@gmail.com



Shortlisted

Athletes' Village – City Legacy

What is the aim of the project?

To transform a contaminated and disused brownfield site into an attractive and lively residential community with 700 high-quality new homes.

Where is it taking place?

The Athletes' Village is located on an 88 acre site in Dalmarnock, in Glasgow's east end.

What has been achieved?

One of the most significant recent urban developments in the UK, the Athletes' Village was commissioned in 2009 and constructed on time and on budget for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. In the short term, it provided accommodation for 6500 athletes and officials during the Games in a convenient location within three miles of Glasgow city centre.

It is now being redeveloped into a desirable urban community with 700 homes, a 120 bed care home, green spaces, water features, riverside walks, cycle paths, and efficient road and public transport infrastructure. Of the 700 permanent homes built at the Athletes' Village, ranging from two-bedroom apartments to four-bedroom detached houses, 400 will be available for rental and 300 for private sale. All of the initial 242 homes released for sale were reserved in a three month period, with hundreds of people on a waiting list for the remaining homes.

Who is running it?

The development was planned and built by the City Legacy Consortium, which comprises four companies with a strong track record in housing and regeneration: CCG, Cruden, Mactaggart & Mickel Group and WH Malcolm. The Consortium worked in close partnership with Clyde Gateway, Glasgow 2014 Ltd, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Housing Association, the Scottish Government, Thenu Housing Association, and the West of Scotland Housing Association.

Why did the judging panel like it?

This project presented a major challenge – how do you design a massive athletes' facility that can be readily adapted to normal housing after the Commonwealth Games? City Legacy formed a partnership of developers that might normally be found in competition with each other. Together they tackled a huge project with a short lead-in time and under difficult environmental and financial constraints. The results are remarkable. On their visit, the judges were inspired by the scale of the job, the layout of the site, the quality of its energy-efficient housing, and the efforts made to take account of the needs of future householders. The panel look forward to seeing the project completed, the houses occupied, and the creation of a vibrant new and successful community in Dalmarnock.



Regeneration of Stane Gardens & South Calder Water

What is the aim of the project?

To restore contaminated, low-maintenance land used for public recreation and dog walking into an attractive community park with a natural meandering watercourse.

Where is it taking place?

In the town of Shotts in North Lanarkshire.

What has been achieved?

In 2011, North Lanarkshire Council became aware that the former industrial land of South Calder Water and Stane Gardens had become contaminated below the surface with metals, inorganic and PAH compounds that exceeded public and environmental safety criteria. This area, a mix of unused scrubland with a small park area used by dog walkers, had also seen an increase in anti-social behaviour such as quad bike racing and underage drinking. In response, a £3.5m plan for land remediation, river restoration, and park landscaping was developed and implemented.

The site has since been transformed into a small country park in the heart of Shotts that reflects community demand for improved local facilities, with a new and improved network of paths, footbridges and riverside walkways. The works programme has successfully decontaminated the land and is helping to facilitate the return of a natural habitat and above-ground waterway that can support otters, water voles and other native flora and fauna.

Who is running it?

The project was led by North Lanarkshire Council and co-funder The Water Environment Fund, which is administered by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. The main external contractor was WSP Environment & Energy.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges are impressed at this initiative's sound approach to context – looking at historical use compared with current use and needs – and, critically, its engagement with the local community *prior* to commencement. As well as necessary improvements to the land and to water quality, the project has enabled the 'designing-out' of anti-social behaviour, installed public art projects, and set aside a dedicated area for young folk from local schools to maintain. The formation of a strong and creative working partnership of Council officials, community representatives, environmental agencies and contractors is producing a great outcome for local people and the environment: a facility for the whole community to enjoy.



Contact Details:

Web: <http://www.citylegacy.co.uk>

Contact: Marion Vasquez, Marketing and Sales Coordinator,
City Legacy Consortium: 0141 332 0001,
marion.vasquez@macmic.co.uk

Contact Details:

Web: www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/stanegardens

Contact: Andrew McPherson, Environmental Health Manager,
North Lanarkshire Council: 01236 638 575,
mcpersona@northlan.gov.uk

SURF Awards

Recognising good practice
across the country

Horshader
Community Growing

AFLOAT

Super Saturdays

Aberdeen Foyer
Training & Hospitality

Glengate Hall

Every1's Garden

Athletes' Village –
City Legacy

North Edinburgh Grows

Beyond the
Finish Line

WorkingRite Pioneers

Isle of Jura
Community Shop

The Glencorse Centre

Glasgow Marriott/
Clyde Gateway Hotel &
Hospitality Academy

Regeneration of Stane
Gardens & South
Calder Water

The Stove Network

“The measure of how things are really working in a country lies in engagement with what people are doing on the ground. The SURF Awards process is an excellent opportunity for this ground-up and honest learning. And this brings responsibilities: how can we all do better more often? I like that challenge.”



Diarmaid Lawlor
Head of Urbanism,
Architecture + Design Scotland

Independent judging panel... and the projects they nominated

The 2014 SURF Awards were independently judged by a panel comprising 20 representatives drawn from national regeneration-related bodies and voluntary community groups. Each judge gave their time freely to assess, shortlist, make visits to, and agree a winner from, project applications in the respective categories.

The 2014 SURF Awards judging panel members are listed below. SURF is highly appreciative of the considerable time and effort they provided to what is an essential part of the process.

Preparing for Employment

Michelle Gibson (Skills Development Scotland)
Chris Holloway (Resilient Scotland)
Helen Keenan (Princes Trust)
Laura Mack (Skills Development Scotland)

Community Led Regeneration category

David Allan (Scottish Community Development Centre)
Fiona Ballantyne (Scottish Community Development Network)
Pamela Maxwell (Community Volunteer)
Tam Munro (Community Volunteer)

Town Centre Regeneration category

Petra Biberbach (PAS)
Diarmaid Lawlor (Architecture + Design Scotland)
Kevin McGowan (Scottish Government)
David Stewart (Scottish Federation of Housing Associations)

Creative Regeneration category

Moya Crowley (The Portal)
Kirsten Logue (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)
Jemma Neville (Voluntary Arts Scotland)
Anna Stuart (Community Volunteer)

Infrastructure & Social Benefits category

Lucy Casot (Heritage Lottery Fund)
Robert McDowall (Lintel Trust)
Tam McGarvey (Community Volunteer)
Sandy Watson (Scottish Enterprise)

From Dumfries and the Borders to Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles, the initiatives nominated for the 2014 SURF Awards operate in communities across the length and breadth of Scotland.

They also represent a wide cross-sector spread of initiatives led by public bodies, private companies, community groups and other third sector organisations. In addition, a great deal of diversity is evident in the scale of all nominated projects, which range from budgets of under £10k to multi-millions.

While only 15 nominated projects ultimately made the shortlist featured in this publication, SURF is grateful to every initiative that entered for helping us understand the important community regeneration work that they are all involved in.



The 'Infrastructure & Social Benefits' judging team on a project visit (from left - Sandy, Tam, Lucy & Robert)

SURF Awards...

Each December, some of the best regeneration projects in the country get a well-earned boost by receiving a SURF Award. But what happens next? We asked each of the 2013 category winners for an update. Here are their stories.

2013 'Town Centre Regeneration'

category winner:

Stromness Townscape Heritage Initiative

We were delighted to accept the SURF Award for Town Centre Regeneration on behalf of the Stromness community and delivery partners, who embraced the project and helped ensure its success. The Stromness THI project came to an end in 2014, but the work of the preceding five years



resulted in a wide range of positive outcomes, such as success in attracting new business and residents into the town centre, a strong legacy in new educational and tourist opportunities and bringing six long-term vacant buildings back into use.

These outputs have enhanced the environment for the community and visitors, with lasting relationships among key partners being created, contributing towards the long term economic sustainability of the town and allowing the town to approach the future with a renewed confidence. The award was an acknowledgement of the scheme's holistic approach to regeneration, helping support the long term viability of the town. Receiving such an award raised the profile of the project locally and nationally, encouraging key partners to consider further regeneration projects within Orkney and fresh investment in the public realm.

James Green, Senior Planner, Orkney Islands Council

Website: www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/Stromness-THI.htm

2013 'Support to Work'

category winner: **Project SEARCH Scotland**

Everyone involved in the Project SEARCH Scotland programme was incredibly proud to win a SURF Award in 2013. There are now eight sites in Scotland providing training in a real work environment, established in partnerships including the local college, a supported employment service and a prestigious local



business. Each of the Scottish sites are proudly displaying their winning SURF award certificates.

As outlined in the recent report by Sir Ian Wood, giving young people the skills that businesses are actually looking for can only enhance their chance of getting a job. At a time when youth unemployment is a national priority, Project SEARCH Scotland is achieving on average a 70% rate of students going into employment.

The Glasgow Project SEARCH site, hosted by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Clyde College and the Glasgow City Council Supported Employment service featured on a SURF Awards promotional video. From a cohort of 12 young people with a learning disability or autism, one person left the programme, and all of the remaining 11 students secured jobs of 16 hours or more on at least the minimum wage. This is a tremendous achievement for the Glasgow partnership.

We are ambitious to develop the existing success into every local authority area in Scotland. Unfortunately, there is no more funding available to continue the programme. We are, however, working on a bid to the Big Lottery Fund to take this winning project to other areas. We would like to congratulate all the finalists for 2014 in getting to this stage and wish the winners every very success.

Maura Lynch, Deputy Chief Executive, Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability

Website: www.sclld.org.uk/sclld-projects/project-search

2013 'Community Led Regeneration'

category winner: **Oban Phoenix Cinema**

Winning a SURF Award was the culmination of much work by staff members and volunteers at the cinema. It has certainly given us a great boost to the confidence of the work of the cinema, and was a great platform on which to celebrate our way forward.

We have, however, had a difficult time since winning the award.

Core staff members decided to move on, and we decided as a board that we needed to pick up on the expertise of others to run a



Not just for Christmas!

cinema. At this moment in time, we are in a state of flux and engaged with developing new relationships with other independent cinemas in Scotland. We feel that there is more that we need to do in order to grow and develop. Most importantly, we need to prove we are a business that can stand on our own two feet. Our second year of trading is complete and we realise that we need to look at diversification in order to build a sustainable business. So here is to year three – come and visit us soon!

Louise Glen-Lee, Chairwoman, Oban Phoenix Cinema

Website: www.obanphoenix.com

2013 'Infrastructure & Social Benefits' category winner: **Orkney Micro-Renewables**

Orkney Micro-Renewables was delighted to win a SURF Award, as it recognised the hard work and success of our project, especially considering the quality of projects we were up against. In 2013, at our busiest, we were installing eight turbines a week through two teams of installers and associated subcontractors. This made a significant contribution to the local economy. Half of these turbines were free turbines on hosted sites, installed to reduce fuel poverty.



This year, however, we have installed just one turbine! There has been a severe downturn in renewables in Orkney following cuts in renewables subsidies and grid constraints. We always knew this could happen, and so we worked hard to build enough of a customer base that we could, in theory, survive on servicing and repairs alone. We invested heavily in our own turbines, which subsidises the rest of the business, and will continue to focus on the servicing and maintenance element of our project.

Steven Walters, Director, Orkney Micro Renewables

Website: www.orkneymicrorenewables.com

2013 'Creative Regeneration' category winner: **The Portal, Govan**

Winning the 2013 SURF Award was a great boost for the Portal and a real endorsement of the value and commitment of local people and volunteers.

This recognition raised the Portal's profile on a local and national level and gave us the opportunity to network in a wider



context, develop new partnerships and promote the methodology of community development through creative participation.

Since winning the award, we have launched the very successful 'Creative Steps' programme in partnership with Mental Health Resource centers across Glasgow, building on the accomplishments of local peer support projects. We continue to deliver the 'Making Art Matter' programme with partners across the area and have several exciting community collaborations underway. With partners, we are also developing a 'Community Collective', with best practice and community empowerment being the core message.

Throughout 2014, we have been working with SURF as part of their Alliance for Action programme, which features Govan as a case study area. Its specific purpose is to strengthen local outcomes and influence wider policy considerations for community regeneration. The Portal would like to thank SURF for their support and recognition. We are delighted that 2014 has been another productive and rewarding year.

Angela Ross & Moya Crowley, Plantation Productions

Website: <http://plantation.org.uk/about/the-portal/>



“Too many Scottish communities are suffering from problems they did not create. But they are not passive – the SURF Awards highlight the kinds of successful collaborations that go on every day in Scotland’s communities. It is vital that we do everything we can to sustain and learn from the successful examples profiled in this publication.”



Andy Milne,
Chief Executive, SURF



As Scotland’s independent regeneration network, SURF’s overall objective is to address poverty and inequality in Scotland’s disadvantaged communities.

SURF is the primary arena for debate on community regeneration in Scotland. It acts as a channel for information, consultation and policy proposals, based on the knowledge and experience of its extensive membership and wider connections.

SURF network activity includes seminars, conferences, policy exchanges, research programmes, an annual awards for best practice, responding to policy consultations, and distributing information and publications.

This all provides a truly independent network to explore current practice, experience and knowledge, with which to positively influence the development of more successful regeneration policy and practice.

SURF was established in 1992 as a not-for-profit social enterprise. It is directed by a board of voluntary directors drawn from its extensive membership.

We have a database of 3000 regeneration contacts and a membership of over 280 organisations from across Scotland.

SURF members range in size from small community groups to large private companies and also include local authorities, academic institutions, housing associations, charities and professional bodies.

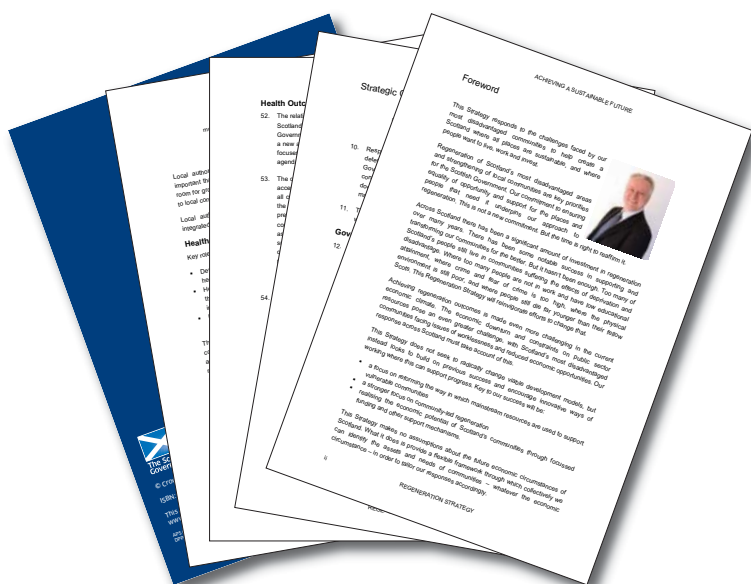
Further information on SURF’s activities, and how to get more involved, is available on our website: www.scotregen.co.uk



“The SURF Awards provide an excellent opportunity to showcase Scotland's community-led regeneration initiatives. This Government believes that empowering local people to make decisions brings positive change within their communities. The shortlisted projects demonstrate that a collaborative approach to regeneration, capitalising on local assets, delivers more resilient communities.”



Derek Mackay, Scottish Government Minister for Transport and Islands



Achieving A Sustainable Future

The Scottish Government is committed to community-led regeneration. Effective change can only be secured when communities themselves play a part in delivering that change.

Our Regeneration Strategy sets this out – and recognises that regeneration needs to be tackled in a holistic way that addresses the physical, economic, and social needs of our communities. A key focus is providing support for community anchor organisations and we will continue to invest in them through the People and Communities Fund.

We want to build on the assets of local communities – and for those communities to determine how services should be delivered to meet their distinctive needs.

We believe that we can unlock more of Scotland's potential through the Community Empowerment Bill. The purpose of Bill is to break down barriers - to make it easier for communities to get the services that they want, making things better for themselves.

But the Bill does not stand alone. It is one of a range of policies aimed at empowering communities and improving outcomes. The Scottish Government will continue to collaborate with partners, including communities themselves, to tackle issues of inequality to help make communities stronger and more resilient.

To find out more about the Scottish Government's regeneration policies, visit:
www.scotland.gov.uk/regeneration

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration is delivered by SURF in partnership with the Scottish Government



SURF Awards Learning Workshops

With support from the Scottish Government, SURF will be arranging workshop events in May 2015 to explore transferable lessons from the success of the five winning SURF Awards projects.

To receive information on these free informal learning exchange events, please sign up for our mailing list at the following link or contact the SURF events team on 0141 440 0122.

www.scotregen.co.uk/stay-informed

Building on Best Practice

SURF Award winning projects are provided with free consultancy support services to help them build on their success in 2015. SURF is grateful to the five partner organisations listed here for their generosity in providing these capacity building services.



Members and Sponsors

SURF is very grateful for all the support it gets from over 280 member organisations, and in particular from its 13 sponsoring members. Their backing provides the political, administrative and financial independence that helps SURF play a unique role in linking policy and practice across all of the sectors concerned with regenerating Scotland's communities.

