



SURF
Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network

SURF – sharing experience : shaping practice



The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2013

Information paper

Organised by SURF in partnership with the
Scottish Government

www.scotregen.co.uk





SURF – sharing experience : shaping practice

About the SURF Awards

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration are organised and delivered by SURF in partnership with the Scottish Government.

The purpose of the SURF Awards process is:

- To recognise and reward best practice and innovation in community regeneration;
- To promote and disseminate best practice across Scotland as means of sharing knowledge and experience, and thereby enhancing future policy and practice;
- To highlight the role that regeneration projects have in improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

The SURF Awards are open to any project or initiative, taking place in Scotland, which is currently in place or which has been completed within two years of the closing date.

Why You Should Enter

Demonstrating Value

The SURF Awards are widely recognised as the most prestigious in the field of Scottish community regeneration. Past winning and shortlisted projects report that recognition in the SURF Awards process has been beneficial in demonstrating their success and value to partner bodies and funding agencies.

Recognition and Team Building

The SURF Awards process is helpful in increasing wider awareness of the often underappreciated hard work that goes into regeneration projects large and small. It also supports team-building through the recognition of the contribution of partners, management, staff and volunteers.

Showcasing Success

One winning project in each of five award categories will be presented with a certificate from Scottish Government Minister for Housing and Welfare at a high profile celebratory dinner event on Wednesday 4 December in Glasgow. Winning projects will also be showcased in a variety of SURF and Scottish Government events, publications and websites in 2014.

National Profile

A special SURF Awards publication will highlight all shortlisted entries. It will be widely distributed to over 3000 regeneration stakeholders and key policy-makers across Scotland.

Building on Best Practice

The five winning projects will be offered additional opportunities to consolidate and build on their current success via free consultancy support services courtesy of Hall Aitken, Rocket Science, Blake Stevenson, Firstport, and Community Links Scotland.



About SURF

As Scotland's independent regeneration network, SURF uses its extensive cross-sector membership of over 250 organisations to explore current practice, experience and knowledge in community regeneration. SURF provides many opportunities for the sharing of information and ideas through its annual programme of activities and informal networking.

The outcomes of this interactive process are used to constructively inform and influence the development of more successful regeneration policy and practice. SURF does this through its links with relevant networks and policy-makers in national and local government and other regeneration related agencies.

Further information is available on our website: www.scotregen.co.uk.

About the Judging Panel

Applications to the 2013 SURF Awards will be assessed by an experienced and independent panel of 20 judges; four per category, selected from national organisations and community organisations actively concerned with regeneration in Scotland. All judges give their time and expertise freely to support the SURF Awards process.

What is Community Regeneration?

SURF takes a wide view of regeneration as encompassing social, physical, economic, ecological and cultural activities across all geographies and sectors. While each aspect can be an important part of the process, SURF believes that successful and sustainable strategies to regenerate struggling communities will be holistic and community focused. Lastly, SURF recognises the enhancement of individual and community wellbeing as the ultimate goal of any authentic regeneration process.



About the Application Process

We know that those involved in regeneration at all levels are very busy, so the SURF Awards application form and process is designed to be as brief and clear as possible.

Projects can be nominated for a SURF Award by email, post or fax. Applications can either be self-nominated or by a third party.

Projects are only allowed to enter in one category in any given year.

The judges will wish to visit at least three short listed projects in each category before deciding upon an overall winner. The category winners will be announced at a celebratory awards dinner in Glasgow on the evening of Wednesday 4 December 2013.

While we will welcome and acknowledge all applications, due to the number of entries we receive and the limited resources available, we regret that we are not able to provide feedback on projects that are not shortlisted.

Award Entry Categories

There are five categories of entry in the 2013 SURF Awards:

Town Centre Regeneration (see page 4)

Support to Work (see page 5)

Infrastructure and Social Benefits (see page 6)

Creative Regeneration (see page 7)

Community Led Regeneration (see page 8)

In making your entry, you are asked to respond directly to the judging criteria for the category you wish to enter.

How to Apply

SURF Award applications should consist only of a completed application form for the selected category.

Responses to the five or six category criteria will be the only information that the independent SURF Awards judging panel will use in making their assessments.

Please do not supply any other materials or information as this will not be made available to the judges for consideration.

Category application forms are available by following the links in the relevant category pages on pages 4-8, or by visiting the 'SURF Awards' section of the SURF website: www.scotregen.co.uk.

You can also request a hard copy by contacting the SURF staff team on the details below.

Completed application forms can be submitted by post, email or fax.

The closing date for applications to the 2013 SURF Awards is 2pm on **Monday 19 August 2013**.

For any queries about how to submit an application for the 2013 SURF Awards, please call Derek Rankine at the SURF office on 0141 585 6879 or send an email to derek@scotregen.co.uk.



Town Centre Regeneration

The 2013 SURF Award for Best Practice in the Development of Sustainable Town Centres

Context – There is an increased focus on the importance of revitalising town centres to deliver a wide range of inter related social, economic and cultural benefits across Scotland’s towns and neighbourhoods.

Purpose – To highlight and reward good practice in improving a town centre through regeneration activity. This award will be presented to a project that enhances and links elements such as local culture, identity, commerce, assets and civic participation.

Criteria – Entries will be expected to demonstrate:

NEED:

- The demand for the project and the appropriateness of the response

ENGAGEMENT:

- Substantial partnership working in project development and implementation

OUTCOMES:

- Practical benefits for the people living and working in and around the town centre

SENSE OF CHANGE:

- Improvements in ‘pride of place’ and image

SUSTAINABILITY:

- A realistic strategy for the viability of the town centre in the longer term

A 2013 SURF Awards application form for the Town Centres category is available at the following link:

<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Awards-town-centre.pdf>



This SURF Award category is supported by Architecture + Design Scotland



Support to Work

The 2013 SURF Award for Best Practice in employability services for people with additional support needs

Context – Welfare Reform at a UK Government level has placed a requirement on many people with additional support needs to undertake work-related activity or seek work. Learning from services that successfully support people into sustained employment is essential to help others fulfil their potential in the labour market.

Purpose – To highlight and reward good practice in the provision of employability services for people with additional support needs. This award will be presented to a project or employer that supports community regeneration by delivering effective employability support that achieves sustained job outcomes for disabled people, or those with additional support needs, of any age group.



Criteria – Entries will be expected to demonstrate:

UNDERSTANDING:

- An appreciation of the difficulties and barriers faced by people with additional support needs when seeking work

FLEXIBILITY:

- Individualised and tailored support focusing on individuals' skills, ability and experience

COLLABORATION:

- Evidence of appropriate and effective partnership engagement, including strong links with employers, both in design of services and supporting transition to work

EFFECTIVENESS:

- Skilled, trained and highly committed staff

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Excellent outcomes and successful transitions into sustained employment

TRANSFERABLE LESSONS:

- The potential to offer learning outcomes and models of good practice to share with other employability initiatives

A 2013 SURF Awards application form for the Support to Work category is available at the following link:

<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Awards-support-to-work.pdf>

This SURF Award category is supported by the Scottish Government's Employability Team



Infrastructure and Social Benefits

The 2013 SURF Award for Best Practice in Delivering Social Benefits from Investments in Infrastructure

Context – Both the UK and Scottish Governments have placed a strong emphasis on increasing investments in infrastructure projects to improve economic prospects and achieve social benefits such as increased employment and more accessible services, places and related opportunities.

Purpose – To reward best practice in achieving community regeneration outcomes from investments in infrastructure. This award will be presented to a project that demonstrates substantial added value in accruing social benefits from an infrastructure development activity.

Criteria – Entries will be expected to demonstrate:

NEED:

- The demand for the project and the appropriateness of the response

ENGAGEMENT:

- Substantial and productive community engagement in the planning process

COOPERATION:

- Effective partnership collaboration in producing a practical strategy

OUTCOMES:

- Evidence of practical and substantial community regeneration outcomes for the area(s) and/or target community(ies)

SUSTAINABILITY:

- A realistic plan for sustaining the aims of the project and ensuring its legacy

A 2013 SURF Awards application form for the Infrastructure and Social Benefits category is available at the following link:

<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Awards-infrastructure.pdf>



Creative Regeneration

The 2013 SURF Award for Best Practice in Creative Regeneration Processes

Context – With limited conventional funding available to regeneration projects across Scotland, there is an increased interest in artistic and creative processes to identify, celebrate and build on existing local assets as a basis for community regeneration.

Purpose – To reward best practice in placing the arts and creativity at the heart of community regeneration efforts. This award will be presented to a project that demonstrates effective partnership working with artists and/or crafts-people in support of community participation and empowerment as part of a process aimed at regenerating a community.

Criteria – Entries will be expected to demonstrate:

NEED:

- The demand for the work of project and the productive engagement of artists and/or crafts-people as part of an appropriate response

ENGAGEMENT:

- Substantial involvement from the community in the conception, design and operation of the project

COOPERATION:

- Appropriate and effective partnership engagement

EMPOWERMENT:

- Evidence of increased community cohesion and empowerment

OUTCOMES:

- Practical benefits from the work of the project and indications of increased wellbeing within the area and/or target community

SUSTAINABILITY:

- A realistic strategy for the viability of the project in the longer term and/or ensuring its legacy

A 2013 SURF Awards application form for the Creative Regeneration category is available at the following link:

<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Awards-creative-regen.pdf>



This SURF Award category is supported by Creative Scotland



Community Led Regeneration

The 2013 SURF Award for Best Practice in Community Led Regeneration

Context – There is an enhanced appreciation at all levels of the additional value communities can offer when they take a lead role in initiating, designing and delivering local regeneration activity. Increasing support for community led regeneration is one of three central objectives of the Scottish Government’s National Regeneration Strategy. Its forthcoming Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill is expected to set out increased powers for community groups undertaking regeneration activities.

Purpose – To reward best practice in the involvement of communities in leading regeneration strategies and processes. This award will be presented to a project or initiative where representatives of the community of place or theme are taking a leading role in a regeneration effort. Entrants will be expected to demonstrate:



NEED:

- The demand for the project

LOCAL LEADERSHIP:

- High level involvement of the local community in the conception, design and operation of the project

ACTIVITY:

- Enhanced levels of participation and cohesion within the community concerned

OUTCOMES:

- Benefits for the wider community, including positive impacts in preventing or offsetting deprivation or exclusion

COOPERATION:

- Evidence of committed partnership activity

SUSTAINABILITY:

- A practical vision for the viability of the project in the longer term

A 2013 SURF Awards application form for the Community Led Regeneration category is available at the following link:

<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Awards-community-led.pdf>

Please see page three for more information on how to submit an application for the 2013 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration