

# SURF



# SURF Awards



## 2022

# Awards



SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice : celebrating success

# The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2022



Architecture & Design Scotland  
Aitheansachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba



The 2022 SURF Awards is delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government, and with additional support from Architecture & Design Scotland, Creative Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scotland's Towns Partnership and Skills Development Scotland.

“The SURF Awards were established with the aim of recognising the inspirational groups and organisations who enrich lives through community regeneration initiatives. Past winners have emphasised that their recognition, through the Awards, has helped cement achievements within their communities and has acted as a catalyst for regeneration efforts elsewhere. To all of those shortlisted for the 2022 Awards, I offer you my congratulations and thank those involved in community regeneration initiatives throughout Scotland.”



Brian MacDonald  
Chair,  
SURF



## The 2022 SURF Awards

2022 marks 24 years of the SURF Awards, showcasing and sharing best practice, and promoting learning from ‘what works’ in regenerating Scotland’s places. Each year the SURF Awards has celebrated some of the most impressive outcomes in tackling physical, social and economic decline in communities throughout the country.

This publication profiles the 15 projects shortlisted in the 2022 SURF Awards. Projects range in scale, activity and geography, from smaller scale community hubs in Dornoch and Bressay to arts and film programmes in Forres, Kilmarnock and Hawick and larger scale investments in Kirkintilloch, Glasgow and Alloa. We hope all 15 will inspire those working in regeneration projects throughout Scotland, and provide opportunities for learning.

### Showcasing Best Practice

Despite external factors, including a pandemic and a cost of living crisis, organisations and community volunteers have excelled in delivering services, meeting needs and bringing people together to tackle the challenges faced in their community.

The 2022 SURF Awards showcase best practice examples of community groups and other organisations delivering cohesive responses to meet community need and ambition. These include regenerating town centres, providing employment and training opportunities for young people, and supporting wellbeing and wider regeneration ambitions via creative activity. The SURF Award shortlist, and wider application process, again shows what can be achieved when people work in partnership to achieve a collective goal.

SURF thanks all of the organisations, community groups and volunteers throughout Scotland who continually demonstrate an unwavering determination to provide communities with positive outcomes, whilst navigating uncertainty and external challenges.

### Themes and Outcomes

The SURF Awards has five categories, which reflect regeneration activity at all scales, from community led initiatives to large-scale partnership investments. They are:

- **Housing and Regeneration**
- **Creative Regeneration**
- **Supporting Youth Employability**
- **Community Led Regeneration**
- **Improving Scotland’s Places**

This year, our 20-member panel of expert judges independently considered category applications over an intensive two-month process of assessments and site visits. Working in category teams, the judges were tasked with narrowing down all nominees to a shortlist of 15, and ultimately selecting just one winner per category.

These winners were Taighean a’ Chaiseil (see p6), Alchemy Film & Arts (p8), The Larder (p10), Bressay Development Ltd – Speldiburn (p12) and Living Alloa (p14). Our judging panel were highly impressed with the outcomes all initiatives achieved, and in the commitment, thoughtfulness and community-centred vision behind their respective planning and development journeys.

### Special Thanks

SURF is grateful to the Scottish Government, which has been our key SURF Awards partner since 2003. On pages 18-19, you can learn about what SURF and the Scottish Government are doing to support improved policy and practice in regeneration.

We appreciate the time and effort of our judges (you can see who they are on p5), and the additional support from our category partners: Architecture & Design Scotland, Creative Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scotland’s Towns Partnership, and Skills Development Scotland.

SURF could not operate as Scotland’s Regeneration Forum without the active support, knowledge and experience of our 300+ member organisations: especially our 7 key delivery partners, who are listed on p20.

Finally, we are grateful to everyone involved in the SURF Awards since its inception, for helping us to better understand and promote ‘what works’ in what has been a severely turbulent and challenging period for Scottish community regeneration.

**If you would like to know more about the SURF Awards, including a series of free 2023 events featuring the winning projects and the outcomes of past processes, please visit: [www.surf.scot/surf-awards](http://www.surf.scot/surf-awards)**

# Results

## Contents & Category Results

### Housing and Regeneration



*Purpose:* to recognise and promote the achievements of all housing providers in ensuring that their investments are planned and delivered in a way which produces substantial, lasting benefits to resident communities and the shared aims of wider regeneration partners.

*Winner:* **Taighean a' Chaiseil** – page 6

*Also shortlisted:* Tomintoul and Glenlivet Affordable Housing and 21 Main Street, Wigtown – page 7

### Creative Regeneration



*Purpose:* to reward best practice in placing artists, arts and creativity at the heart of community regeneration efforts. This includes highlighting creative organisations and projects which support the ongoing recovery and rebuilding of their communities. This category is supported by Creative Scotland.

*Winner:* **Alchemy Film & Arts** – page 8

*Also shortlisted:* Findhorn Bay Arts and Centrestage – page 9

### Supporting Youth Employability



*Purpose:* to recognise a project that supports community regeneration by providing skills and employability support to help young people aged 16-29 years fulfil their potential. This category is supported by Skills Development Scotland.

*Winner:* **The Larder** – page 10

*Also shortlisted:* "Kickstart" – Social Housing Creating Social Change and Elgin Youth Development Group – page 11

### Community Led Regeneration



*Purpose:* to reward best practice in a regeneration project which features representatives of a community of place or theme in a leading role. This category is supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

*Winner:* **Bressay Development Ltd – Speldiburn** – page 12

*Also shortlisted:* Montrose Playhouse Project and The Dornoch Hub – page 13

### Improving Scotland's Places



*Purpose:* to identify, celebrate and share the positive impacts of participative planning and regeneration processes in Scottish places. This category is supported by Architecture & Design Scotland and Scotland's Towns Partnership.

*Winner:* **Living Alloa** – page 14

*Also shortlisted:* Kirkintilloch and Laurieston – page 15



*"Penguins evolved to become aquatic birds, rather than take flight, to better survive their habitat. In a similar way, to respond to community need, organisations and community groups have to remain nimble and adapt to the ever changing environment in which they operate."*

# SURF

# Awards

Recognising good practice  
across the country

Bressay Development Ltd  
- Speldiburn

Taighean a' Chaiseil

The Dornoch Hub

Elgin Youth  
Development Group

Findhorn Bay Arts

Tomintoul and Glenlivet  
Affordable Housing

Montrose Playhouse Project

Kirkintilloch

Living Alloa

Laurieston

The Larder

"Kickstart" - Social Housing  
Creating Social Change

Alchemy Film & Arts

Centrestage

21 Main Street, Wigtown

“The SURF Awards capture a refreshing, positive picture of exceptional work being done across Scotland. Visiting the finalists is an inspiring, uplifting and sometimes even emotional experience. Organisations right across the country have responded strongly to the pandemic, building and retaining new and creative approaches. Every finalist has shone amongst a very strong field of entries, showing the strength of community in this country. The judges congratulate all finalists and winners and commend the outstanding contribution they make.”



Elaine Walls  
Senior Partnership Manager  
SD&D Equality,  
Diversity and Inclusion,  
Skills Development Scotland

## Independent judging panel – and the projects they assessed

The 2022 SURF Awards were independently judged by a panel of 20 representatives drawn from national regeneration-related bodies and community groups. Each panel member, listed below, gave their time freely to evaluate, shortlist, make visits to, and agree a winner from, project nominees in the respective categories. SURF is grateful for the extensive time and effort they contributed.

### Housing and Regeneration

**Kirsty Henderson** (Scottish Government)  
**David Stewart** (Scottish Land Commission)  
**Kate Christie** (Lintel Trust)  
**Eugene Mullan** (Smith Scott Mullan)

### Creative Regeneration

**Karen Dick** (Creative Scotland)  
**Karen Orr** (RIG Arts)  
**Heather MacNaughton** (Historic Environment Scotland)  
**Donnie Nicolson** (Bellsmyre Development Trust)

### Supporting Youth Employability

**Elaine Walls** (Skills Development Scotland)  
**John Connell** (Move On)  
**Garry Williamson** (Scottish Enterprise)  
**Blyth Deans** (Third Sector Employability Forum)

### Community Led Regeneration

**Wilma White** (The Furniture Project (Stranraer) Ltd)  
**Jamie Mallan** (The Tannahill Centre)  
**Rachel Searle** (Foundation Scotland)  
**Ian Philp** (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)

### Improving Scotland's Places

**Mhairi Donaghy** (Scotland's Towns Partnership)  
**Kirsty Macari** (Architecture & Design Scotland)  
**Harry Brickell** (Scottish Government)  
**Maggie Broadley** (CoCreate)

Regeneration initiatives from across Scotland were nominated for the 2022 SURF Awards, highlighting the wide range of interventions that are addressing social and economic problems in communities throughout Scotland.

From Dumfries and Galloway to Shetland, these projects represent a wide spread of sectors and scales, with diverse public, private and third sector delivery models, and budgets that range from under £50k to tens of millions.

Whilst only 15 shortlisted projects are featured in this publication, SURF appreciated the opportunity to learn about the important community regeneration work evident in every initiative that was put forward for consideration.



# Housing and Regeneration

# Winner

SURF Awards  
2022

## Taighean a' Chaiseil

### What is the aim of the project?

To preserve an active and thriving community, retain a local primary school and increase the availability of affordable housing.

### Where is it taking place?

Located in Staffin in the north-east of the Isle of Skye.

### What has been achieved?

A declining and ageing population, falling school roll, high levels of health and economic deprivation and lack of affordable housing stock were significant barriers to the rural community's future sustainability. Staffin Community Trust (SCT) embarked on a partnership with the Communities Housing Trust (CHT) and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association (LSHA) to design and deliver a £1.6m regeneration project to address the housing, health and business needs of Staffin.

A £1.6m regeneration project to address the housing, health and business needs of Staffin



In 2022, six new family homes were built and are now occupied. A new health centre, is leased to NHS Highland, and two new business units were also constructed. The project is delivering wide-ranging social, economic and health benefits to a community, in the top 20% of most deprived areas in the Highlands.

The new homes are occupied by families, bringing new life to the area and increasing enrolment in the local primary school, safeguarding it against closure and preserving a vital community facility. In addition, some of the homes have been rented by locals who were previously housed in unsuitable conditions, and their moves have in turn freed up other local housing stock at the affordable end of the market for locals looking for smaller properties.

With the new health clinic, residents can access care in a more accessible setting, and also have the ability to access a wider range of services than were previously available. This will help address the rural health deprivation suffered locally, particularly for the elderly and those with additional mobility and support needs.

Securing an aquaculture marine company on a long-term lease for the business units will support vital new employment in the village and also provide long-term economic benefits. Income from the leases of the homes and other premises will provide reliable resources to be used to achieve future community aims.



Six new family homes were built and are now occupied

### Who is running it?

A key aspect of the project was the collaborative partnership between SCT, CHT and LSHA, which ensured a mixed-use development could be delivered.



The new homes are occupied by families, bringing new life to the area

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judging team felt that the project had overcome significant hurdles to secure and develop the site, which was common grazing land that had suffered from peat bog ground conditions. The judges felt the project responded well to identified local needs, and resulted in a well-balanced, mixed-use, sustainable development which benefits the wider community. The new development blends seamlessly into its surroundings and demonstrates the positive impact that a strong partnership approach can bring, by going beyond a housing solution to deliver economic and health benefits. The determination, patience and co-operation among partners was very strong and the judges could clearly see that the process has given confidence to Staffin Community Trust to build on this successful delivery and consider future developments.

### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.skyecomuseum.com/why-staffin](http://www.skyecomuseum.com/why-staffin)

Contact: Hugh Ross, Development Officer, Staffin Community Trust:  
01470 562 464, [staffin.ido@gmail.com](mailto:staffin.ido@gmail.com)

# Shortlisted



## Tomintoul and Glenlivet Affordable Housing

### What is the aim of the project?

To meet the need for more affordable housing opportunities.

### Where is it taking place?

In Tomintoul, a village within the Cairngorms National Park in Moray.

### What has been achieved?

Tomintoul is a fragile rural community and the existing housing stock can be broadly described as low efficiency. The majority was built either during the 18th Century or the subsequent boom in the 1970s and 80s.



For the community to revive, grow and attract new young, economically active residents and businesses, the shortage of affordable housing needed to be addressed. In response, Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT) set to deliver a new net-zero affordable housing development that incorporated renewable and low carbon technologies, such as solar panels, electric car chargers and air source heat pumps, to help reduce fuel poverty and increase residents' disposable income.

The development of 12 properties on the site of the former Tomintoul Secondary School has provided a mix tenure development, managed by the Communities Housing Trust on behalf of TGDT. Eight of the properties are being retained as community-owned for affordable let, and four of the properties are being sold on the open market at a discounted rate.

This development is helping to stabilise the village population and support key local services. As the allocations policy prioritises young families, it will also help to address the falling primary school role and secure this important facility.

### Who is running it?

TGDT is a community led regeneration company which provides opportunities for employment, enterprise and cultural regeneration.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges felt that re-using a long derelict site in central Tomintoul delivered significant benefits. The team were impressed by the way the new homes were designed to match the existing streetscape and by the quality and space standards in the new homes. Using CARES funding to equip each home with a car charger, heat pump, sun amp and integrated solar panels demonstrated a long-term vision.

Workspace provision in some of the homes also widens opportunities for new business ventures or WFH, encouraging younger people to stay in the community.

### Where can I find out more?

**Website:** [www.tgdt.org.uk/tomintoul-glenlivet-development-trust/](http://www.tgdt.org.uk/tomintoul-glenlivet-development-trust/)

**Contact:** Oliver Giles, Operations Manager, Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust: 07787 436837, [oliver@tgdt.org.uk](mailto:oliver@tgdt.org.uk)

## 21 Main Street, Wigtown

### What is the aim of the project?

To secure a positive outcome following the loss of a key local service.

### Where is it taking place?

Known as Scotland's Book Town, Wigtown is situated in Dumfries and Galloway.

### What has been achieved?

South of Scotland Community Housing (SOSCH) and Wigtown and Bladnoch Community Initiative (WBCI) worked in partnership to secure community ownership of a former Bank of Scotland. The property has been redeveloped as two affordable homes, a community-run bunkhouse and community garden and growing space.



Following community engagement and appraisal of local need, a demand was identified for affordable homes for families, that would also be accessible for older residents, and affordable visitor accommodation.

When engagement with the bank proved challenging, the partners successfully enacted Community Right to Buy, utilising the Scottish Land Fund to acquire the property from Lloyds Banking Group. SOSCH and WBCI then worked to develop a team of project partners and stakeholders to secure a funding package for capital redevelopment.

Completed in 2022, delivery reinstated a large family apartment over the upper floors, a new fully-accessible apartment to the rear of the property and a bunkhouse in the former bank office.

The delivery of much-needed affordable homes within the centre of Wigtown delivers a range of local benefits. The housing has secured permanent homes for people living and working in the town, as well as children in the rural school.

### Who is running it?

The repurposing of the building was delivered by SOSCH, in partnership with WBCI.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the use of Community Right to Buy to bring an empty building back into productive use, seeing it as a significant achievement. The team were also impressed by the extensive community engagement, which not only supported this development but will inform future WBCI projects. The partnership with SOSCH reduced the risk of a complex housing led regeneration initiative. Delivering the project to help preserve the high street was significant, while developing the bunkhouse will generate income and longer term employment opportunities.

### Where can I find out more?

**Website:** [www.sosch.org/project-work/](http://www.sosch.org/project-work/)

**Contact:** Mike Staples, Chief Executive, South of Scotland Community Housing: 07775 957702, [mike.sosch@outlook.com](mailto:mike.sosch@outlook.com)

# Creative Regeneration

# Winner



## Alchemy Film & Arts

### What is the aim of the project?

To use film as a tool to bring people together, have conversations and make positive change.



Devising and delivering digital and outdoor film projects

### Where is it taking place?

In the Scottish Borders town of Hawick.

### What has been achieved?

Hawick is famous for cashmere, rugby, and its Common Ridings. Since 2010, thanks to the work of Alchemy, Film and Arts can be added to this list. Alchemy complement the town's multiple identities by providing year-round access to cultural and creative learning opportunities and delivering Scotland's biggest experimental film festival. SIMD lists areas in Hawick amongst the most deprived in Scotland. Deindustrialisation, depopulation, rising unemployment, a lack of public infrastructure and youth flight inform - and are exacerbated by - a lack of creative provision.



Alchemy initiated Film Town, a three-year pilot programme

A 2018 Scottish Borders Council/Future Hawick feasibility study identified Alchemy as a key agent in the establishment of a local film and media hub for local young people. In response, Alchemy initiated Film Town, a

three-year pilot programme that has successfully expanded into a community engagement and creative learning strategy encompassing all of its current projects. Alchemy work with artists, first-time filmmakers and non-arts organisations, including regional and national services, to collaborate on films that allow participants and partners to express themselves on issues relevant to them through creative and experimental means.

To address the impacts of COVID, Alchemy responded to local need by devising and delivering digital and outdoor film projects with partners such as Borders Additional Needs Group, Hawick Archaeological Society and communities in Newcastleton to reduce the effects of rural isolation during lockdown. This allowed groups to connect with service users through filmmaking technologies at a time when the effects of digital exclusion were especially acute.

Across 2021-22 Alchemy launched two programmes: Outwith, a year-long filmmaking and professional development project engaging fifty 16-25-year-olds across the Borders; and Viewfinders, a two-year filmmaking and digital skills development project working with teachers from all seven of Hawick's primary schools. Viewfinders addressed a lack of regionwide infrastructure for creative youth programmes and a need for greater digital and media literacy among teachers, following the earlier than anticipated roll-out of iPads in schools due to COVID-19.



A two-year filmmaking and digital skills project working with all seven of Hawick's primary schools

### Who is running it?

Alchemy is a film and arts organisation working with communities and artists locally and internationally, using film as a means of starting conversations and making positive change.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the breadth of groups and communities which Alchemy Film & Arts were engaging with across Hawick, the wider Scottish Borders, nationally and internationally. The strength of partnership development, reaching across higher and further education, heritage, culture and the third sector, was clear. Alchemy's year-round structured and supportive approach offers multiple marginalised groups and communities the opportunity to be creative using all aspects of filmmaking, and more. For example, the Viewfinders programme, supporting teachers across seven local primary schools to develop filmmaking and digital skills, shows that creativity can be used in all aspects of learning, from maths to biology. The judges considered this an innovative approach to embedding creative learning across the curriculum, with clear benefits to teachers and pupils. The judges were particularly impressed by Alchemy's determination to embed 'Film Town' as a meaningful driver for change for communities in Hawick and beyond.

### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.alchemyfilmandarts.org.uk](http://www.alchemyfilmandarts.org.uk)

Contact: Michael Pattison, Director, Alchemy Film & Arts: 01450 367 352, [michael@alchemyfilmandarts.org.uk](mailto:michael@alchemyfilmandarts.org.uk)

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# Shortlisted

## Findhorn Bay Arts

### What is the aim of the project?

To bring increased creative opportunities and investment to the region.

### Where is it taking place?

Based in Findhorn in Forres and working throughout Moray.

### What has been achieved?

Findhorn Bay Arts (FBA) is a creative producer of cultural events and activities, driven by a passion to celebrate and promote Moray as a place of outstanding arts and culture. FBA have established a year-round programme of high-quality arts and cultural activities for young people and their families, locals and visitors alike, including the flagship biennial Findhorn Bay Festival.



Despite the disruption and uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the organisation pivoted, adapted, and redesigned programmes, working in collaboration with partners from across the sector and local community to deliver an extensive programme of activities across Moray and beyond.

The team believed it was incredibly important to ensure that creative events and activities continued to take place, wherever possible, throughout the pandemic. The staff wanted to give local communities access to a wide range of cultural activities to help people connect, smile, and laugh in equal measure.

Since September 2020, FBA have delivered a programme of festivals, events, residences and commissions. The programme supports artists locally, nationally and internationally.

All of Findhorn Bay Arts' present work is an important resource in the recovery from the pandemic, providing local communities with an opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and experiences.

### Who is running it?

FBA were established in 2012 as a non-profit organisation and company limited by guarantee, and in 2020 became a charity.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm from Findhorn Bay Arts to provide opportunities for artists and communities to shape their own cultural lives. The wide range of work, building on previous projects and aligning with national initiatives, brings a vibrant cultural life to towns, villages, and individual streets. The judges noted the innovative and adaptive approach to using creativity to bring local community spaces back into use in rural areas. The judges appreciated that Findhorn Bay Arts' works as a facilitator in the area, enabling community members to develop and take forward their own plans.

### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.findhornbayarts.com](http://www.findhornbayarts.com)

Contact: Kresanna Aigner, CEO/Creative Director, Findhorn Bay Arts:  
01309 673137, [director@findhornbayarts.com](mailto:director@findhornbayarts.com)

## Centrestage

### What is the aim of the project?

To allow people in East Ayrshire to participate in creative and expressive arts.

### Where is it taking place?

Located in the heart of Kilmarnock's Cultural Quarter.

### What has been achieved?

Centrestage, Ayrshire's Arts Academy, is a fully accessible community hub incorporating creative, educational, sporting and community spaces.

While Centrestage offers impressive facilities, it is not the building that is the most notable aspect of this project. It is the vital role it plays in community and civic life in East Ayrshire.

The organisation works deep within communities with the founding ethos that anyone, regardless of their age, background or experience, can participate in the arts, and in doing so will gain life-changing social benefits.

As a result, Centrestage has transformed the lives of so many, not only through the delivery of a huge and diverse range of arts programmes, including musical theatre, dance, drama, creative arts and enterprise, but through the organisation's role as a community champion.

The transfer of ownership of the former Kilmarnock Academy building from East Ayrshire Council to Centrestage has allowed the development of the 'Centrestage Village'. This move has offered more opportunities for the organisation to work with and support new and existing local and regional organisations and partners. The asset transfer in 2019 was, in itself, a triumph, and a demonstration of what can be done when communities and organisations from across the public, private and third sectors come together.

### Who is running it?

Centrestage work with a range of local partners and the community.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by Centrestage's drive to provide a centre of excellence focussed on creative and performing arts, while bringing together a range of social, developmental and personal services. The high standard of the restoration and re-design of the Kilmarnock Academy complex, completed by a local firm, with care and consideration of the heritage of the building and surrounding landscapes, was particularly impressive, given the significant challenges of the last few years. The development provides the town, and wider Ayrshire region, with a truly inspirational resource for all communities.



### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.centrestagemt.org.uk](http://www.centrestagemt.org.uk)

Contact: Viki Nocker, Marketing and Communications Manager,  
Centrestage: 07974 979033, [Viki.nocker@centrestagemt.org.uk](mailto:Viki.nocker@centrestagemt.org.uk)

# Supporting Youth Employability

# Winner



## The Larder

### What is the aim of the project?

To provide educational and work pathway support for young people unable to identify their next step.



### Where is it taking place?

Based in Livingston and working throughout West Lothian.

### What has been achieved?

The Larder believes in the power of food and the transformational nature of learning, and envision a Scotland without hunger and for every person, regardless of their start in life, to reach their full potential.

The organisation offers issue-based, youth-work and key worker sessions addressing topics such as, cookery, employability, resilience, trauma, mental-health, Adverse Childhood Experiences, team building and confidence. All of the services are needs-led and each individual learner is empowered to develop their own support plans. The Larder create a space for young people to become confident in themselves, in identifying their needs and in setting goals.

The team place a high value on personal lived experience and recognise that each learner is uniquely placed to understand their own circumstances and engineer their own solutions. This provision increases the skill base, giving learners the confidence to create their



own social innovations that will positively change their life. 31% of the staff team are graduates of The Larder training programmes and continue their learning in a supported work environment.

Sessions are flexible to the individual, avoiding traditional 'classroom' approaches. Young people are free to get up and walk around, use fidget toys or jump on the exercise bike, whilst they engage in the sessions. The team offer varied learning materials for those with reading or writing differences, scribe and support where needed.

Throughout the training, the team employ the methodology of the Triangle Outcome Star Model, which provides a visual chart to evidence the distance travelled and the outcomes achieved for each individual. The outcomes that are established are relevant to each individual's personal circumstances, challenges and aspirations. In addition, 1:1 sessions are used to complete individual learning and personal development plans and goal setting.



Throughout the past 12 months, the programme has supported 238 young people. 82% gained qualifications and 77% entered a positive destination. Through continuous learner feedback and evaluation, 100% experienced greater confidence.

### Who is running it?

The Larder is a charity that changes lives, supports communities and campaigns for a better and more equal society.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judging panel felt that not only did The Larder have an excellent vocational model, where young people have the opportunity to learn and develop in real-life working environments, but that they have a fantastic progression model. During the visit the team were shown effective evidence of how a young person progresses through the different stages of employability. This went from confidence building and barrier removal all the way to work experience and vocational qualifications. There was real sense of connection with the participants on the programmes, as their holistic approach to individuals allows them to identify the best support to put in place. The cafe and teaching kitchen were extremely impressive and after speaking to the young people on site it was very obvious how much they were gaining from the opportunities.

### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.thelarder.org](http://www.thelarder.org)

Contact: Garry Walker, Training Manager, The Larder: 01506 412819, [garry@thelarder.org](mailto:garry@thelarder.org)

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# Shortlisted

## “Kickstart” - Social Housing Creating Social Change

### What is the aim of the project?

To provide support for young people to progress to positive destinations.

### Where is it taking place?

McTaggart Construction are based in Dalry, North Ayrshire.

### What has been achieved?

McTaggart Construction has supported over 100 young people annually through employment, education and training initiatives since the creation of the Sustainable Communities programme in 2018.



In 2021-22, as the industry emerged from the impact of COVID-19, the team aimed to look at new ways of supporting communities where the organisation has social housing projects. With the UK having record numbers of youth unemployment post lockdown and the ever increasing skills shortage faced by the construction industry, McTaggart looked at the UK Government Kickstart Scheme as a potential new initiative. The scheme supported young people aged 16-24 to gain a 6-month paid work placement with recognised employers.

47 young people have completed the programme and have successfully progressed to permanent employment or registered apprenticeships with McTaggart Construction and partners. 11 have progressed to college or further training programmes and 21 young people entered into opportunities with other employers or went on to gain paid jobs using the skills and training.

19 young people decided the industry was not for them and were further supported to look for an alternative positive destination by the McTaggart Construction team or directed to suitable further support.

### Who is running it?

The Kickstart programme was delivered by McTaggart Construction with investment from Developing Young Workforce.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The use of the Kickstart programme was not only innovative but highly successful in allowing McTaggart, and their partners, to develop and train young people, in order to create suitable apprenticeship opportunities. The construction industry has always been a sector that has struggled to offer training and development that realistically displays what is required to work in that industry. The model that McTaggart have introduced shows that it can be done. McTaggart recognise that young people are the future of construction and are implementing a model that could be a milestone in changing how young people are identified and recruited in the future.

## Elgin Youth Development Group

### What is the aim of the project?

To provide paid employability programmes for young people aged 16-24 facing employment barriers.

### Where is it taking place?

Based in Elgin, Moray.

### What has been achieved?

Elgin Youth Development Group (EYDG) provide employability programmes for young people not in education, employment or training, who are under-employed, have a disability or mental health issue, are care leavers or at risk of offending. EYDG provide a supportive, friendly environment for people to learn new skills at a pace which suits their needs, whilst helping them appreciate the responsibilities of employment.

Most trainees begin a 16-week EYDG trainee programme, working 12 hours per week in EYDG's training cafe in The

Warehouse, social enterprise The Inkwel or in youth work services. Placements range from catering, hospitality and facilities to social media and youth work. Young people learn skills such as customer service, barista training, catering, cleaning, and admin. They can also gain qualifications, including first aid and food hygiene. The trainees are supported with CV development and identifying work opportunities.

EYDG also offer 52-week placements for targeted individuals, working alongside the Rank Foundation, and have supported the Kickstart Scheme, along with Moray Employment Recruitment Scheme, for those with multiple barriers to work.

Of the 36 programme participants: 16 gained employment; 10 have gone to college; 5 are still on placement; and 2 moved to a partner organisation for specialist support. The remaining three are being supported to secure a positive destination.

### Who is running it?

The programme is delivered EYDG, who work in collaboration with the Moray Pathways network.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The warmth and sense of putting the needs of young people first is very evident as soon as you enter the premises. The staff at EYDG are committed to allowing young people to develop at a pace that is suitable for their individual needs. They have a fantastic site and facilities that young people all have input to or responsibility for. The staff have developed resources and materials to support young people on-site to complete tasks as independently as possible. The Employability Hub, based in the space, is an excellent model that could, and probably should, be rolled out across the country.



### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.mctaggartgroup.co.uk](http://www.mctaggartgroup.co.uk)

Contact: Ross Hammell, Community Benefit Manager, McTaggart Construction Ltd: 01294 832195, [rosshammell@mctaggartconstruction.co.uk](mailto:rosshammell@mctaggartconstruction.co.uk)

### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.elginyouthcafe.org](http://www.elginyouthcafe.org)

Contact: Clair Ferguson, Chief Officer, Elgin Youth Development Group: 01343 548300, [office@elginyouthcafe.org](mailto:office@elginyouthcafe.org)

# Community Led Regeneration

# Winner



## Bressay Development Ltd – Speldiburn

### What is the aim of the project?

To address the potential loss of a vital community hub.



Activities for children offset interaction opportunities lost with the school closure

### Where is it taking place?

With a declining population, the island of Bressay, east of mainland Shetland, faces several challenges.

### What has been achieved?

In the early 2000s, Bressay's population began to decline, falling from 384 in 2001 to around 340 today. The population was also ageing and depleting numbers of children attending Bressay School contributed to its closure in 2014. Although alternative education provision was found off-island, the closure resulted in the loss of vital communal space. Situated centrally in the island, the school had also been the heart of the local community, an important hub bringing together neighbours of all ages.

There was strong desire within the community to repurpose the school and multi-court to retain communal space and ensure community ownership of the facilities. Community feedback identified an appetite for amenities to be provided on the island, rather than relying on services available in Lerwick, a ferry-ride away. Residents felt there was a need for enhanced catering facilities for locals, visitors and those



Community feedback identified an appetite for amenities to be provided on the island

passing through to visit the nearby Noss National Nature Reserve, as well as flexible spaces for meetings, events, exhibitions and business start-ups.

The Bressay Community Development Association created a new entity, Bressay Development Ltd, to progress an asset transfer of the building. At first leasing, and in 2021 completing the purchase of the former school building. Bressay Development Ltd have created Speldiburn, a thriving community hub serving locals and visitors alike. Speldiburn provides vital social and community facilities, alongside volunteering and employment opportunities. The project helps support a wider programme of work for the benefit of the Bressay community.

The welcoming café, with accessibility provision for visitors with additional mobility needs, provides affordable and high-quality catering and a social space for locals. The Under-5s group, and other children's activities, offset interaction opportunities lost with the school closure. The meeting spaces offer more accessible business and social options than those available in Lerwick, and regularly accommodate parties, funerals and other bookings for residents who would have otherwise had to source provision off-island.



Bressay Development Ltd have created Speldiburn, a thriving community hub

### Who is running it?

Bressay Development Ltd is a non-profit organisation committed to working with groups both on and off the island.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judging panel got a strong sense that the project is delivered by the community for the community and that considerable thought is put into maximising use of the space and activities offered to have as broad an appeal as possible.

The judges were particularly impressed by the hub's ability to accommodate a considerable range of needs and by the leadership team's determination for it to be attractive and useful to as many members of the community as possible. Recognising the size of the island population, it was striking the amount of energy and commitment that had clearly been dedicated to deliver the project and create a facility that is so useful to the whole community. Links have also been established with other island communities to coordinate activities to benefit residents and visitors.

### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.bressay.org](http://www.bressay.org)

Contact: Aimee Labourne, Development Officer, Bressay Development Ltd.  
01595 820706, [development@bressay.org](mailto:development@bressay.org)

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# Shortlisted

## Montrose Playhouse Project

### What is the aim of the project?

To transform a derelict former swimming pool into a community hub for arts and education.

### Where is it taking place?

Based in Montrose in Angus, the project benefits residents in north Angus and lower Aberdeenshire.

### What has been achieved?

What began as a simple regeneration idea for a community cinema has developed into a multi-dimensional facility which will act as a catalyst for social change in the community. The Playhouse opened in Oct 2021 and the new facility includes an adaptable three screen cinema, education and exhibition spaces, retail space and a café bar.

From the outset, community support was strong. Local people and businesses took it upon themselves to raise funds and attend fundraising events which



allowed the group to settle insurance costs, utilities and carry out smaller works to the building. Arguably, the most impressive achievement pre-build was the strip out of the building by over 80 local volunteers and businesses.

A dedicated Social Development Officer has implemented a number of programmes aimed at reducing levels of deprivation in the local area. These include, a pre-loved school uniform market, a fruit and veg stall which runs every Wednesday in the foyer to help address food poverty and a Kids Club event on a Saturday and Sunday at £3 per film, which gives those in lowest income households access to cultural events and films.

### Who is running it?

A working partnership between Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO, a group of local volunteers, and Angus Council.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges agreed that the energy and commitment over many years by a dedicated group of volunteers had delivered a very high-quality facility with flexible space. Its primary function is as an accessible cinema and this is evidenced by the impressive footfall being achieved during this first year.

The building design is sensitive and sensible with an all ability and programming approach which even tries to consider bus timetables. The project has created 28 jobs and a significant number of volunteering opportunities as well as creating a space where people feel safe to socialise.

## The Dornoch Hub

### What is the aim of the project?

To transform an old Police Station into a multi-purpose community hub.

### Where is it taking place?

In Dornoch, an area with an above average elderly population, in the county of Sutherland in the Scottish Highlands.

### What has been achieved?

The Dornoch Area Community Interest Company (DACIC) was formed in 2007. DACIC lodged a Community Right to Buy (CRtB) application for the Dornoch Courthouse in 2013 but a sustainable business case could not be made. However, in December 2017, Board Members toured the redundant Dornoch Police Station and an Asset Transfer Request was lodged in April 2018. The Scottish Land Fund supported a community consultation on potential uses for the building, and as a result a feasibility study was carried out and the plan to create a business, creative and wellbeing hub was born.



Following purchase and refurbishment, The Dornoch Hub is now home to 13 organisations in the main building, the garages form a gym, kennels and a food larder, and the four-bedroom hostel provides seasonal staff accommodation. A conference room, community room and hot desk office are also available to hire.

The Hub aims to address issues of deprivation and the challenges faced by the elderly population. Attending workshops or classes can improve employability skills, social development and mental health & wellbeing through learning new skills.

### Who is running it?

Managed by DACIC, working in partnership with local and national organisations.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed with the conversion of this former Police station following an asset transfer process. The full occupancy of the building from opening demonstrates the need for premises within the local business community. DACIC considered community needs when allocating space which has resulted in services now being available in the community that weren't previously.

DACIC's enterprising spirit has enabled them to establish a high-quality, sustainable facility. The judges liked the project's capacity to address both local commercial and community needs and that the sound financial management demonstrated would allow the group to undertake further beneficial projects in the future.

### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.montroseplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.montroseplayhouse.co.uk)

Contact: David Paton, Chairman, Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO:  
07715 107013, [themontroseplayhouse@live.co.uk](mailto:themontroseplayhouse@live.co.uk)

### Where can I find out more?

Website: [www.dornochhub.co.uk](http://www.dornochhub.co.uk)

Contact: Joan Bishop, Chair, The Dornoch Area Community Interest Company: 01862 810533, [joan.bishop@outlook.com](mailto:joan.bishop@outlook.com)

# Improving Scotland's Places

# Winner



## Living Alloa

Alloa is a town of 20,000 on the River Forth and is the commercial and administrative centre of Clackmannanshire. It has a proud industrial heritage, including fishing, coal mining, glassmaking, textiles and brewing, with much of this located in the town centre. Industrial decline brought multiple challenges to the town. Factories have been replaced by supermarkets, but there are still vacant land and buildings as well as a decline in retail and population in the town centre, which lies in one of Scotland's most deprived areas.



A vacant public toilet was transformed into an active travel and town centre hub

Public consultation about the town centre was undertaken using the Place Standard Tool. This was led by Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI) and supported by the Council and business community via Alloa First. A 3-day drop-in session was held in a vacant shop and links to local access panel, mental health support groups and older people's forum ensured hard to reach voices were heard. Surveys were done in pubs, hairdressers and the Credit Union and an adapted 5-minute paper version of the tool was created, to make participation easier.

Over 300 responses were received. Collectively, these exercises helped identify priorities for action in the town, with a focus on three key areas: care and maintenance; safety; and work, economy, influence and sense of control. A set of projects emerged that reflected these priorities and would support the new residents.

In response to these challenges, Clackmannanshire Council, community, third sector and businesses have come together to shift the dial on the social, economic and environmental issues facing the town centre. As a key component of that, Living Alloa has transformed a derelict town centre site into a stunning development of 60 dementia-friendly flats, transformed a vacant public toilet into an active travel and town centre hub, and delivered a package of streetscape projects. These improvements make the town safer, more attractive and easier to move around in.

The physical regeneration of the former Co-op site has been an important landmark for the town. The multi-agency design process ensured that this has delivered a new iconic

building which re-establishes former street patterns. It also complements the investment made a decade ago in re-developing the Category A listed Speirs Centre, directly opposite, as the area's main library, community access point and Registrars.



Consultation processes ensured hard to reach voices were heard

The judges were inspired with the place-based approach in Alloa that has rejected a quick physical makeover in favour of a 'forever' project that is rooted in delivering positive long-term outcomes for people and place. Strong local leadership has nurtured community and business support through a clear strategic plan to address local needs and opportunities.



Public consultation about the town centre was undertaken using the Place Standard Tool

The town centre housing, active travel hub and public realm projects have delivered new high quality facilities on prominent sites, creating a more active, attractive and accessible place. These early projects have been a catalyst to bring stakeholders together. A broad group of partners are invested in delivering a positive future for the town over the next decade.

**Where can I find out more?**

**Website:** [www.clacks.gov.uk/property/livingallooproject/](http://www.clacks.gov.uk/property/livingallooproject/)

**Contact:** Grant Baxter, Principal Placemaking Officer, Clackmannanshire Council: 07929 865481, [gbaxter@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:gbaxter@clacks.gov.uk)

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SITIP SCOTLAND'S  
TOWNS  
PARTNERSHIP



# Shortlisted

## Kirkintilloch

Kirkintilloch, East Dunbartonshire's largest town, has a vital community and economic role beyond the local level, which is captured within the city-region's Clydeplan. But a decade ago, like other Scottish towns, Kirkintilloch faced diminishing vitality and viability of the town centre, alongside public spaces and issues of connectivity, resulting in a lack of civic pride and identity loss for the town and its people.

Growing investment and actions delivered via strategic initiatives such as the Millennium Link, Kirkintilloch's Regeneration Initiative, Kirkintilloch Masterplanning, and the community initiative 'YourKirky', have played a significant role in delivering a holistic regeneration for Kirkintilloch, and reviving the image of the town as a desirable place.



In recent years, increased collaboration between East Dunbartonshire Council, community groups, and other stakeholders have stirred core behaviour change in planning and delivering places and services.

Kirkintilloch has seen encouraging improvement in economic and cultural activities, thereby overcoming some of the key challenges of the past. Physical improvements to wider public realm and infrastructure have enhanced the accessibility and attractiveness of the town. This has led to increased footfall, and a boost for economic activities, which is evident from low vacancy rates and concentration of new business at Cowgate.

The local authority's strategic plans and programmes, such as the Antonine Wall projects, Business Gateway support, Kirkintilloch Gateway Masterplan and the Kirkintilloch Canal Festival, are focused on business, employment and tourism. Combined, they have further attracted investment and entrepreneurs from a range of public and private sector investors, enhancing the local economy and tourism offers in recent years. This collaborative approach has helped to blur the lines between top-down and bottom-up efforts, to deliver place-based solutions.

The judges were enthused by the demonstration of civic pride and the can-do attitude of the community initiative, Your Kirky, which has been instrumental in delivering an inclusive approach. Kirkintilloch is emerging as a town for the future – community, businesses and Council have collaborated to create a safe and attractive high street, connected with the wider town centre through good public realm, play and recreation, and the imaginative use of existing spaces. The strong and growing independent business base creates a place that is attracting growing customer numbers.

## Laurieston

Laurieston, in the Gorbals area of Glasgow, is benefitting from a £140m revitalisation spend which will see four phases delivered over a nine-year period. This includes over 1,000 mixed tenure homes with a proportion constructed for social rent in partnership with New Gorbals Housing Association (NGHA), flexible commercial space, community facilities, open space and recreation areas. Ultimately, the project aims to build and regenerate the community through development.

Urban Union and New Gorbals Housing Association (NGHA), in partnership with local third-sector arts organisation WAVEparticle, are collectively committed to involving the local community in all aspects of Laurieston, with the aim of creating more social and economic opportunities for residents.



As part of this a five-year 'Arts and Living Strategy' has been established for the area, with the aim of exploring and connecting residents to the rich history of Laurieston, its people, places, interests, inspirations and aspirations. Projects undertaken include partnering with various local workers and private suppliers to create growth and employment opportunities within the area.

As one of Glasgow's eight Transformation Regeneration Areas, great importance is placed on embedding the new development into the community, and connecting Laurieston residents to opportunities in the Gorbals and other parts of the city. For example, for the last five years Urban Union have ensured that every child, within the area, from the local primary schools received a free ticket to the Citizen's Theatre Christmas show. The developer also works in partnership with the Gorbals Ideas Fund, a community led Participatory Budgeting programme, facilitated and supported by NGHA. The programme launch in 2019 and has funded 26 projects.

The judges were impressed with the careful long-term approach to realising the vision over the past decade. This has delivered a place that reflects on the heritage of its past while also celebrating its modern local heroes. Laurieston is a high-quality place that has a real sense of home for its residents, with excellent public and private spaces. It has been delivered within a strong overall design framework and clear vision, but with enough variety across each phase to create an attractive and contemporary urban neighbourhood.

### Where can I find out more?

**Website:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mQDKY-7ial&t=72s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mQDKY-7ial&t=72s)

**Contact:** Alistair Kyle, Team Leader, Regeneration & Town Centres, East Dunbartonshire Council: 07768 554881, [Alistair.Kyle@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Alistair.Kyle@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

### Where can I find out more?

**Website:** [www.urbanunionltd.co.uk](http://www.urbanunionltd.co.uk)

**Contact:** Kirsty Parry, Sales and Marketing Director, Urban Union: 0141 5304000, [kirsty.parry@urbanunionltd.co.uk](mailto:kirsty.parry@urbanunionltd.co.uk)

# SURF Awards...

Every year, 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 2021 category winners for an update. Here are their stories.

## Housing and Regeneration

### Step Up – Step Down at the Telford Centre

The Step Up – Step Down cottages are fully occupied with happy residents who find the balance between independent living and the safety net of a Care Home next door an ideal middle ground.

Care at Home staff reap the benefit of the “cluster” by reducing travel time, and everyone has welcomed activities such as the fruit growing project, kick-started in the shared garden. The Key Worker units delivered by the community in parallel are also complete and occupied, offering housing opportunities to locally employed people.



The next phase is to review the Care Home and complete the wish expressed by the community at project inception – maximising high need/late/end of life Residential Care spaces in the village by catering for lower level need outwith the Care Home.

The project is also actively being emulated elsewhere in the Highland region, meaning other communities will benefit from the work pioneered in Fort Augustus.

## Supporting Youth Employability

### Move On: Employability Fund

Winning the SURF Award was a fantastic achievement for Move On and helped emphasise and reward all of the hard work frontline staff have input to the employability courses to make them innovative and successful.

Since winning, there has been a real shift in the

employability landscape in Glasgow as the Employability Fund is now a thing of the past. In planning for this, we have introduced a number of new initiatives.

Last year, we piloted the ‘Driver Employability Training Scheme’. This is a programme aimed at 20-25 year olds looking to gain their driving licence which will help them secure employment in a sector where being able to drive is essential.

Also, we have recently become an accredited RTITB Training Centre and offer forklift training on site. We have recently partnered with GCVS to be a lead delivery partner for the Long Term Unemployed Programme.



## Scotland’s Most Improved Place

### Regenerating Fraserburgh

We were thrilled to win the SURF award for Scotland’s Most Improved Place in 2021. It gave Fraserburgh a spring in its step and was a fitting reward for many years of hard work from many partners across the public, private and third sectors.

We haven’t stood still since though! Our major town centre Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, ‘Fraserburgh 2021’ has come to an end, resulting in over 20 improved buildings, a public realm enhancement scheme, a new heritage trail and a Japanese-themed public garden to celebrate the birthplace of the famous Scottish entrepreneur Thomas Blake Glover. The programme culminated in a wonderful day of tours and storytelling in June to mark the end of over 6 years of work.

# What happened next...

This year has also seen our focus turn to the beach area. Fraserburgh has a wonderful waterfront just 10 minutes' walk from the town centre. Whilst our coast is most known as a surfing hotspot, we are keen to see what else it can offer to the local economy and community wellbeing.



We have started the process of developing a vision and masterplan for this area, so watch this space.....!

## Community Led Regeneration

### The Furniture Project (Stranraer) Ltd

Winning the Community Led Regeneration award in December 2021 was a huge boost to all of our staff and volunteers and a fantastic way to end what had started as a very uncertain year due to the pandemic lockdown.



Since sharing our win on our social media page, we have received many positive responses from customers, community groups and local businesses.

We have seen an increase in sales, donations, volunteers and an overall growth within our business.

Customers have told us they have confidence in buying from us as we have been recognised with this national award.

Being successful in winning this award has encouraged us to apply for other local and national awards. We now have several sitting comfortably alongside our SURF Award in a cabinet displayed within the showroom. It is a great source of discussion with customers and visitors to our facilities.

## Creative Regeneration

### RIG Arts

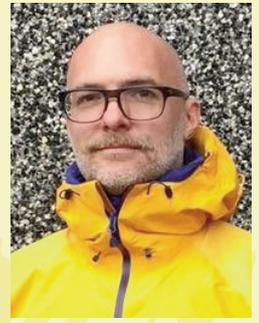
RIG Arts have achieved a diverse, engaging programme of participatory projects and inspiring events with co-design and creativity at their core. RIG has harnessed new innovative approaches to continue to inspire ambition and unlock potential.

Winning SURF was a great honour. To have the quality and impact of our work acknowledged at a national level has elevated RIG Arts' profile and reputation. We were able to grow in scope and ambition, make national connections, and meaningfully collaborate with new partners and communities.

Over the past year, RIG Arts has led delivery and has been a key partner in two ambitious projects as part of Creative Scotland's national Culture Collective network. We were invited to lead an Unexpected Garden as part of Dandelion. We are also leading Inverclyde's creative consultation for a co-created COVID-19 community memorial as part of Remembering Together.



“The nominees for SURF Awards this year are a rich list of projects that have people and place at the heart of them. None of the projects exist in isolation but are the successful result of collaborations within communities, often in the face of challenges. They all exemplify the SURF approach to regeneration: holistic with the intended beneficiaries meaningfully involved. In 2023, we look forward to sharing the learning, the pitfalls and the workarounds, from each of these exemplary projects with communities across Scotland, as we seek to understand how Scotland can make these successes easier to replicate.”



Euan Leitch  
Chief Executive,  
SURF



**As Scotland’s Regeneration Forum,  
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 debates, conferences, place-based initiatives, 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 is a registered charity founded in 1992. It is directed by a Board of 10 Trustees drawn from its extensive membership.

We have a database of over 3000 regeneration contacts and a membership of over 300 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.surf.scot](http://www.surf.scot)



“The SURF Awards share real stories based on partnership, action and trust. These communities have pulled together the people, resources and opportunities in their place to change their futures for the better. What they do is inspiring and they continue to show us the difference we can make on the ground by working together to a common purpose.

The Place Based Investment Programme invests in communities making change happen in the places they live: helping to regenerate their surroundings, revive their town centres, build wealth in their community, and create places that enable us to live well locally.

These projects continue to make a real impact locally on their economy, the environment, and the needs and aspirations of their communities.”



Tom Arthur

Scottish Government Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth



### Place Based Community Led

We know that someone’s life in a place can be changed by the way in which interventions come together. We know that communities can be transformed when investments are brought together and shaped by a real understanding of the places they live. And we know that this needs a whole system commitment which confronts the full circumstances of people’s life experiences in the places they live - a person centric and place based approach.

So, the Place Based Investment Programme is more than a series of funds and initiatives around empowering communities, funding regeneration, and town centre action. It is designed to make sure that all place based investments understand the place in which they are made, how their contribution will help deliver the changes needed, and how local communities can shape their future. At a local level, it says to communities: Here is the totality of what we are trying to do in terms of strategic priorities. How is this relevant to you in this place? How could we do it better with you?

This means working collaboratively in every community in a way that listens to the distinct voices of that community and responds to the very specific needs of the people who live there. Building on the proven potential of communities of place and of interest to use their distinct geographical knowledge, expertise and commitment to successfully respond and adapt to big challenges in their own way. A place based, community led approach which provides a challenge to the assumptions we make about places without their participation – with the scaffolding to do things differently.

## Making A Difference On The Ground

**No matter the scale of the need and the size of the ambition – people can and do make change happen.**

Places across Scotland have made impressive progress locally across a wide range of themes to achieve better outcomes. Led by communities, using all resources available, and working collaboratively - delivering programmes, projects and initiatives, involving:

- food, green spaces, outdoor recreation, leisure, and sport facilities;
- culture and heritage, digital, art, and monuments;
- public realm, street design, transport, paths, and accessibility;
- retail, business, hospitality, and visitor accommodation;
- housing, health, wellbeing, community and multi-purpose facilities.

Over 300 projects across Scotland received place based investment fund grants totalling 38 million in 2021/2022. The grants ranged in scale from £10,000 to £1,300,000 and used in partnership with other funding sources have nurtured an extraordinary range of local action that will make a real difference on the ground.



# SURF Awards Learning Workshops

With support from the Scottish Government, SURF will be arranging workshop events in 2023 to explore transferable lessons from the success of the five winning SURF Awards projects.

To receive information on these free and informal learning exchange events, please sign up for our mailing list at the following link or contact the SURF events team on [events@surf.scot](mailto:events@surf.scot)

[www.surf.scot/stay-informed](http://www.surf.scot/stay-informed)

# Members and Sponsors

SURF is very grateful for all the support it gets from over 300+ member organisations, and in particular from its 7 key delivery partners. 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.

