

SURF AWARDS 2024

Awards



SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice : celebrating success

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2024



The 2024 SURF Awards is delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government, and with additional support from Creative Scotland, Scotland's Towns Partnership, and Scottish Procurement Alliance.

“Last year we celebrated 25 years of acknowledging and learning from those committed to making improvements in our communities. As we move forward, we need to recognise that the environment we operate in is becoming more challenging as budgets come under greater pressure. Faced with these additional challenges, it is important that we continue to provide a platform to celebrate the achievements of those who go above and beyond in making improvements in our communities. The efforts of all of those considered for the SURF Awards are considerable and deserve to be applauded.”



Brian MacDonald
Chair, SURF

SURF AWARDS 2024

2024 marks 26 years of the SURF Awards, showcasing, promoting and sharing the learning from best practice examples of ‘what works’ within 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 2024 SURF Awards. Projects range in scale, activity and geography, from smaller scale community activity in Cranhill, to arts and wellbeing programmes in Inverclyde, and larger scale investments in Kilmarnock. We hope all 15 will inspire those working in regeneration projects throughout Scotland, and provide opportunities for learning.

Sharing Best Practice

The SURF Awards celebrate the best of community regeneration, highlighting initiatives that are tackling some of the key issues that exist within their community. Fostering inclusion, offering opportunities and providing a platform for connection, this year’s 15 projects showcase best practice examples of what can be achieved, even in the face of ongoing resource challenges, and wider societal adversity. The SURF Awards shortlist, and wider application process, highlights what can be accomplished when people work in partnership to achieve a collective goal.

SURF provide an opportunity for others to learn from ‘what works’, and often ‘what didn’t’, through a series of shared learning events. Providing a space for people to come together and share ideas, discuss challenges, and ultimately learn more about what is working in communities across Scotland, and how this can be transferred elsewhere.

SURF thanks all of the applicants who took time to share their story, and whose work supports communities throughout Scotland to strive for what often seems unachievable, providing positive outcomes for Scotland’s communities.

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:

- **Creative Regeneration**
- **Removing Barriers to Employability**
- **Housing and Regeneration**
- **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 Narture CIC (see p6), DFN Project SEARCH Ninewells (p8), Kirkhope Steading (p10), Bute Community Forest (p12) and Molendinar’s Flourishing (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: Creative Scotland, Scotland’s Towns Partnership, and Scottish Procurement Alliance.

SURF could not operate as Scotland’s Regeneration Forum without the active support, knowledge and experience of our 300+ member organisations: especially our 5 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 largely been a turbulent and challenging period for Scottish community regeneration.

If you would like to know more about the SURF Awards, including a series of free 2025 events featuring the winning projects and the outcomes of past processes, please visit: www.surf.scot/surf-awards

Results

Contents & Category Results

Creative Regeneration

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



Winner: **Narture CIC** – page 6

Also shortlisted: Creative Recovery Inverclyde and Music Broth – page 7

Removing Barriers to Employability

Purpose: to recognise a project that supports community regeneration by providing skills and employability support to help people fulfil their potential.



Winner: **DFN Project SEARCH Ninewells** – page 8

Also shortlisted: Lone Parents, Poverty & Work and Family Finances Key Workers – page 9

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. This category is supported by Scottish Procurement Alliance.



Winner: **Kirkhope Steading** – page 10

Also shortlisted: Water Row Phase 1 and An Faire Mor Housing – 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.



Winner: **Bute Community Forest** – page 12

Also shortlisted: Cranhill Development Trust and Conversion of Sanday Kirk – 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 Scotland's Towns Partnership.



Winner: **Molendinar's Flourishing** – page 14

Also shortlisted: Kilmarnock Place-Based Projects and Kenmore District Revitalisation – page 15



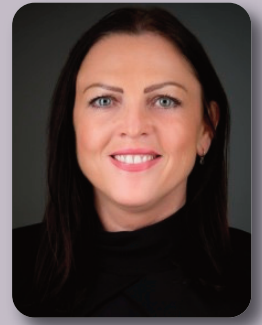
"Quokkas are known to be the happiest animals in the world. They like to co-exist peacefully with others, even popping into the local shops. You could say that they are living well locally!"

SURF AWARDS 2024

Recognising good practice across the country



“People make places, as we see with the community-led local innovation, vision and determination which lies at the heart of improving so many. It is fantastic to celebrate inspirational examples from across Scotland where real imagination and collaboration is unlocking projects, which are allowing communities to invest in their assets to create more sustainable places for the future. They are blazing a trail for others to follow.”



Kimberley Guthrie
Chief Officer,
Scotland's Towns Partnership

Independent judging panel – and the projects they assessed

The 2024 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.

Creative Regeneration

Karen Dick (Creative Scotland)
Lisa Givens (Toonspeak Young People's Theatre)
David McDonald (Creative Lives)
Aneel Singh-Bhopal (West of Scotland Regional Equality Council)

Removing Barriers to Employability

Emily Bennett (Young Enterprise Scotland)
Trudi Sullivan (Scottish Government)
Blyth Deans (Third Sector Employability Forum)
Caroline McGhee (Impact Arts)

Housing and Regeneration

Heather Robertson (Scottish Government)
Heather O'Donnell (Scottish Procurement Alliance)
Alisdair Clements (INCH Architecture)
Martin McKay (Clyde Gateway)

Community Led Regeneration

Chris Holloway (Foundation Scotland)
Donnie Nicolson (Bellsmyre Development Trust)
Craig Wilson (Historic Environment Scotland)
Viv Sawers (Govan HELP)

Improving Scotland's Places

Mhairi Donaghy (Scotland's Towns Partnership)
Irene Beautyman (Improvement Service)
Gill Gunn (Scottish Government)
Rob Davidson (South of Scotland Enterprise)

Regeneration initiatives from across Scotland were nominated for the 2024 SURF Awards, highlighting the wide range of interventions that are addressing social and economic problems in communities throughout Scotland.

From the Scottish Borders to Orkney, 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.



Creative Regeneration

Winner

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Narture CIC

What is the aim of the project?

To make participatory cultural activities available to all by championing town centre regeneration.

Where is it taking place?

Based in the town of Ayr in South Ayrshire.

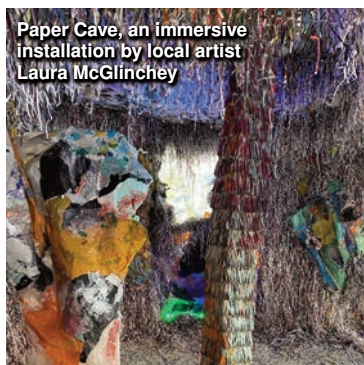


What has been achieved?

Narture CIC is transforming empty, run-down properties into vibrant creative hubs. The organisation's efforts are breathing new life into neglected areas, revitalising not just the appearance of the town but also its community spirit and economic prospects. Ayr's town centre has long struggled with empty shops and a dwindling cultural scene; its High Street was recently named the second worst in Scotland, and the town has seen a steady outflow of creative talent to larger cities.

By combining food and the arts, where 'everyone is an artist' and encouraged to use their creative energies towards positive change, Narture are working to rejuvenate Ayr's town centre.

Narture's award winning Sourdough Bakery and acclaimed Artisan Café, are currently the main income generators of the social enterprise. The bakery specialises in handmade sourdough produce, baked daily; championing sustainable, healthy ingredients, and supporting local businesses. Narture Studios and Make at 34 & 30 Newmarket Street houses seven local artist studios, a community dark room, and a Riso printer. The space hosts a shop selling local makers wares, exhibitions, events, workshops, and talks based on Narture's three



core pillars of food, creativity and wellbeing. As part of their social purpose, Narture also donate produce to local food banks. Narture's objective is to re-invest all surplus profits into creative projects, as an instigator of town centre regeneration.

These spaces, once derelict, have become thriving centres of creativity and wellbeing. The Café, initially established as an exhibition space, has hosted various creative events, such as "Water Salt Grain," a collaborative bread-making exhibition, and "Paper Cave," an immersive installation by local artist Laura McGlinchey. These events embody Narture's mission to offer artists platforms to create, showcase their work, and engage directly with the public.

Narture's work not only revitalises Ayr's physical spaces but also nurtures the social fabric, proving that creativity can be a powerful tool for community development and economic regeneration.

Who is running it?

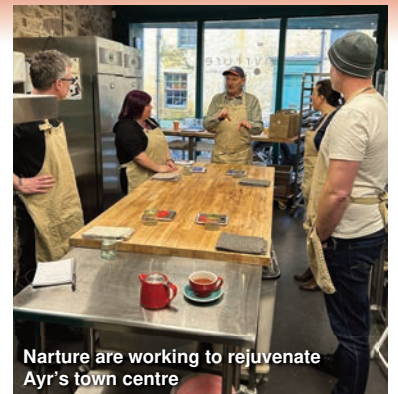
Narture CIC was set up during the COVID-19 pandemic by artist father and daughter team Robert and Saskia Singer.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by Narture's inspiring approach to challenging perceptions of Ayr, named as the "worst seaside town" in a national survey, through cultural and creative regeneration.

The judges recognised the strong partnerships with local businesses and third sector, education, public and community organisations, as well as the creative sector. The development of previously empty shop units into spaces for a variety of creative, community and wellbeing uses, including the café and award-winning bakery, demonstrates sustainability at the heart of the project. The judges liked the project's focus on supporting locally based artists, helping to build careers and providing employment opportunities, while offering opportunities for local people to participate in creative activities.

With driven and determined leadership and an ambition to transform the town centre, the judges believe that Narture's projects will help Ayr to rise and flourish.



Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.narture.co.uk/>

Contact: Saskia Singer, Co-Founder, Narture CIC: 07515 902916, saskia@narture.co.uk

category sponsored by



Shortlisted

Creative Recovery Inverclyde

What is the aim of the project?

To encourage individuals in recovery to explore their creativity.

Where is it taking place?

Based in Greenock and working throughout Inverclyde.

What has been achieved?

Creative Recovery Inverclyde is an arts initiative embedded within the Your Voice's Lived Experience Network, specifically designed for individuals in recovery from alcohol and drug misuse. The project merges the experiences of people in recovery with the expertise of participatory and community artists from across Scotland.



Its primary goal is to create a supportive space for creative expression, connection, and experimentation, using art as a tool for personal healing and community rebuilding. Building on strong relationships with local partners, the project offers a wide range of artistic activities. These include film, sculpture, moving image, sound, writing, theatre, and performance. From the initial concept to the final delivery, participants play a critical role in determining the direction of the project, ensuring that the creative work reflects their experiences, needs, and aspirations.

Creative Recovery Inverclyde has delivered profound practical benefits for both individuals and the wider community. Participants in recovery have gained a renewed sense of identity and purpose, often discovering new talents and passions that contribute to their healing process. The project has significantly boosted self-confidence, emotional resilience, and mental health among those involved.

The project's success in elevating local artistic ambitions is exemplified by the national recognition of projects such as the film "Walking to Connect," which was featured at the Alchemy Experimental Film and Moving Image Festival.

Who is running it?

Led by the Your Voice, Inverclyde Community Care Forum and delivered in collaboration with local partners and freelance artists.

Why did the judging panel like it?

An essential grassroots community project rooted in Greenock and deeply valued by participants, the judges were impressed by the impact of the project on an individual and a community level, challenging stigma and changing perceptions and lives. The project demonstrates inspiring creative practice across artforms, focussed on the needs and ambitions of the participants through their recovery journey, and offers crucial support in several areas, including social isolation, loneliness, physical and mental health. The judges believe that the project provides a lifesaving service for those who had taken part and highlighted the healing power of the arts.

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.yourvoice.org.uk/creative-recovery-inverclyde>

Contact: Martita Dunn, Recovery Development Worker, Your Voice, Inverclyde Community Care Forum: 078848 82223, Martita.dunn@yourvoice.org.uk

Music Broth

What is the aim of the project?

To make music playing, learning and enjoyment accessible to all.

Where is it taking place?

Based in the Govanhill area of Glasgow and working throughout Scotland.

What has been achieved?

Music Broth is Scotland's loudest library and holds over 3000 musical items, many generously donated from across Scotland. The team restore and repair instruments for the Music Broth circular economy sharing library, to be distributed and loved by new hands, especially those who wouldn't otherwise be able to access music.



From tin whistles to drum kits, trumpets to bass amps, Music Broth have everything musical you can think of. The project supports anyone wishing to be musically creative, providing instruments for learners and established musicians alike, to take home long-term or short-term, or for occasional use of unusual instruments for recording.

The library supports over 2000 people annually with instruments, workshops, events, and showcases in the Music Broth spaces, and through outreach projects across Scotland. Formal survey responses indicate that through getting involved with Music Broth 72% of people felt less isolated, 82% coped better and 71% felt part of a community.

Music Broth have developed new thematic music initiatives, such as The Solace Choir, Beatbox Scotland, a Trans Jams group, Refugee Festival Scotland yearly events, and an annual showcase titled Unsilent Night. Several of the participants have gone on to further education in music, prize winning, and careers as rising artists.

Who is running it?

Music Broth are grassroots social entrepreneurs and musicians who innovatively created the first musical instrument and equipment library in the UK in 2018.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the innovation and reach of Music Broth, supporting people and communities marginalised from the mainstream when it comes to engaging with music. The unique service offered by Music Broth, one of a handful of music libraries in the world, has evolved into much more than providing access to instruments. The project encompasses learning and development, a deep understanding of the wider needs of communities, strong partnerships and a wide and knowledgeable volunteer base. The judges think that Music Broth's commitment to sustainability, giving old or unused instruments a new life, was a best practice approach to supporting the circular economy.

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.musicbroth.org/>

Contact: Jen O'Brien, Founding Director, Music Broth: 0141 4780799, hello@musicbroth.org

Removing Barriers to Employability

Winner

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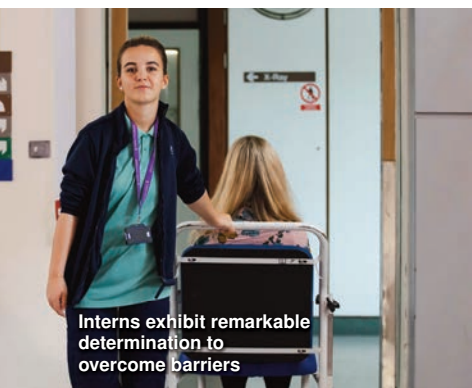
DFN Project SEARCH Ninewells

What is the aim of the project?

To support young people with diverse additional needs into meaningful employment.

Where is it taking place?

Based at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee.



Interns exhibit remarkable determination to overcome barriers

What has been achieved?

In a region with high unemployment rates and a significant population of individuals with learning disabilities, this partnership is delivering a vital employability service which is addressing critical local needs. What distinguishes this project is its innovative delivery model, centred around strong employer

connections. Through this real focus on understanding joint needs, and the needs of the learners, the team have created a hugely successful partnership that addresses areas of key skills shortage within NHS Tayside, whilst transforming the lives of the learners and their families in ways they could never have imagined possible.

For these young people, the dream of gaining meaningful employment was simply out of reach. The Dundee and Angus regions have some of the highest rates of people living with disabilities, as well as elevated poverty and youth unemployment levels. In response, Dundee and Angus College, and its partners, are dedicated to breaking down barriers and providing a structured, supportive pathway to meaningful employment. This commitment aims to create a more inclusive and skilled workforce in the region.

The course is tailored to meet the unique needs of each intern, emphasising their strengths and abilities. Interns choose three work placements aligned with their skills and interests, ensuring a personalised experience. The DFN Project SEARCH team, consisting of a Job Coach and Lecturer, provides ongoing guidance throughout the year. Practical skills learned during placements are reinforced through academic learning, creating a comprehensive development process. Support is highly individualised, with one-on-one training provided until the intern can perform their job independently. As interns gain confidence, staff gradually step back, allowing them to take full ownership of their roles. Each intern also has a department mentor who offers continuous support and guidance.

The DFN Project SEARCH programme has profoundly impacted lives and reshaped perceptions of disability and neurodiversity

through its holistic approach. Interns exhibit remarkable determination to overcome barriers and build strong relationships with colleagues. Their commitment has sparked influential conversations with senior management, contributing to a cultural shift within NHS Tayside.



Practical skills learned during placements

Who is running it?

A partnership between Dundee and Angus College, Dundee Health and Social Care, and NHS Tayside.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed with the approach taken to support young people with complex barriers to employment. Partnership working is key to the success of this programme and was demonstrated by the attendance, at the visit, of ten colleagues from partner organisations, as well as five beneficiaries. The judges particularly enjoyed the opportunity to visit the young interns in their working environment within Ninewells Hospital and to hear directly from department managers about how beneficial it is to them to be able to support an intern.



The course is tailored to meet the unique needs of each intern

There is a huge amount of support throughout the 36 week programme as well as an extensive aftercare period to ensure sustainability. An additional benefit of the programme has been a wider recognition of the needs of employees with disabilities, not just those within Project SEARCH. These include a job explanation pack for each department and the establishment of an EDI working group.

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.dfnprojectsearch.org>

Contact: Leanne Macdonald, Lecturer, Dundee and Angus College: 07738 886376, l.macdonald@dundeeandangus.ac.uk

Shortlisted



Family Finances Key Workers

What is the aim of the project?

To develop a support system that helps lift families out of poverty.

Where is it taking place?

Working across Glasgow.

What has been achieved?

The Glasgow Life team take a person-centred approach to lifting families out of poverty by supporting parents to increase household income through sustainable employment and improved financial capability. The team offer an intensive mentoring service, matching parents to a key worker who will work with them for as long as they need. Sometimes this is just a few weeks, for others this is a longer-term commitment.

Initially, the team focus on building trust by dealing quickly and effectively with the most pressing issues for the family, often this involves food and heating, managing debt, and/or benefits advice. With the support of their Key Worker, parents then complete a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA) and agree an action plan, designed to identify barriers to progression, the steps they can take themselves, and additional help they will need to achieve their goals. These support sessions continue at a time and place which suit the parents, fitting in with employment and childcare commitments.

Using the HNA and action plan as their base, the team lever the resources of a network of city partners and wider support to ensure each parent has the structured support they need to secure and maintain sustainable employment and achieve their wider goals.

In 2023-24, the programme supported 92 parents to achieve person-centred, flexible learning outcomes identified as key barriers to progressing into employment.

Who is running it?

Delivered by Glasgow Life and utilising local partners.

Why did the judging panel like it?

A hugely vital service for parents in Glasgow, the project has supported 338 parents, since inception, to increase their household income through supporting them to overcome barriers to employment. The judges were really impressed with the individualised and tailored support offered to families through the Flexible Training and Support Fund, as well as the excellent support provided by dedicated case workers.

The support provided is holistic and person-centered and case workers will continue to support a family for as long as they need. The judges really appreciated being able to hear from current and past participants who spoke openly about their journey, with one participant describing the service as 'life-changing'.



Lone Parents, Poverty & Work

What is the aim of the project?

To develop employment programmes that empower lone parents.

Where is it taking place?

Working across Fife.

What has been achieved?

The Lone Parents, Poverty & Work project bridges the gap between lone parents and employment, recognising that income from work is crucial in tackling child poverty. Launched in 2022, the project develops partnerships with employers to offer guaranteed interview programmes and personalised support.

Recruitment in Scotland's social care sector has long been a challenge, with many employers struggling to find and retain skilled staff. In response, the project partnered with Gowrie House, a care home under the Care Concern Group. This collaboration aims not only to address staffing shortages but also to provide sustainable employment opportunities for lone parents.

The approach is holistic, offering a comprehensive support system that ensures candidates are prepared for long-term success. Working closely with Gowrie House, Fife Gingerbread identified that flexible, part-time auxiliary roles suited both the business's needs and the parents' schedules. This led to the creation of a bespoke traineeship programme, providing training, funded placements, and personalised support to four lone parents living in poverty.

In 2024, the project will launch its most ambitious initiative yet. In collaboration with Fife Council's Education sector, Fife Gingerbread will offer six lone parents a unique opportunity to gain training and experience as Pupil Support Assistants in local schools. This programme is designed to match the skills of lone parents with term-time roles that accommodate school hours, ensuring sustainable employment and better outcomes for their families.

Who is running it?

Delivered by Fife Gingerbread in partnership with local employers.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were really impressed by the individualised and holistic support provided to lone parents. The project knew the participants really well as individuals which was central to the support being given and success of the programme. Innovative partnerships with employers have not only provided employment opportunities for lone parents within the project but have helped to change approaches and attitudes when recruiting lone parents. The project provides flexible training opportunities to fit around childcare as well as personalised training and qualifications. It was great to speak to some of the parents who had benefited from the programme, some of whom had been out of work for a number of years.



Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/work-money-and-learning/family-finances-approach>

Contact: Marlene Bryceland, Project Manager, Glasgow Life: 07917 940723, marlene.bryceland@glasgowlife.org.uk

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.fifegingerbread.org.uk/lone-parents-poverty-and-work>

Contact: Louise Park, Project Coordinator – Lone Parents, Poverty & Work, Fife Gingerbread: 07719 056314, louise.park@fifegingerbread.org.uk

Housing and Regeneration

Winner

SURF AWARDS 2024

Kirkhope Steading

What is the aim of the project?

To purchase and convert a disused stone farm steading into affordable housing.

Where is it taking place?

Located near the village of Ettrickbridge in the Scottish Borders.

What has been achieved?

An independent housing needs study carried out by Rural Housing Scotland in 2019 confirmed the need for affordable housing in the local area. Many estate houses in the valleys had been sold as holiday homes or now housed retired couples. Very little housing was therefore available to rent, and the private rents charged were outwith the reach of most local young people.

Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company (EYCDC) used the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the farm buildings and carry out some feasibility work. EYCDC built five houses for rent, consisting of three 3-bed houses and two 2-bed homes, all A rated for energy efficiency. The team also converted one side of the stone steading into a business unit with four workshop spaces downstairs



and three office spaces upstairs, one of which can be used for conferences or co-working.

The project delivers a direct economic and social benefit for the area. The build period created or sustained 11 jobs for over a year, partially during difficult Covid restrictions. The wider economic benefit to the community comes from nine new tenants working for local business and public services. The social benefit comes from families now having children in the local playgroup and primary school, helping to sustain both. One tenant has restarted the local indoor bowling club in Ettrickbridge.

Three of the work spaces are rented by local valley residents who can now work closer to home, including a weaver who runs workshops, further attracting more people to the valley. The business hub, now named Kirkhope Mill, is reducing rural isolation and adding networking opportunities. The Mill has already hosted several conferences and learning visits from other groups. The provision of workspace and affordable living space has had a positive impact on the demographics of the valleys, making it possible for young people to have a future in their own community, helping to sustain the community long-term.

Who is running it?

Delivered by EYCDC, which has over 240 community members who live within the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were very impressed by this cohesive and sensitive rural development which had been driven from the outset by an established and urgent demand for affordable, energy efficient housing in the local area. The judges noted that the viability of the development had been supported by the integration of much-needed workspaces and were delighted to hear how much this quality project had transformed lives, including during discussion with residents and those occupying workspaces.

The Community Development Company's commitment and determination to deliver the project to help secure the long-term future for the area was clear for all to see. The judges were pleased to hear how it is sharing the learning from the project alongside developing new projects to support the sustainability of the development and surrounding area.



Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://ettrickandyarrow.org.uk/projects>

Contact: Vicky Davidson, Project Manager, EYCDC: 07846 505630, vicky@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk



Shortlisted

An Faire Mor Housing

What is the aim of the project?

To deliver affordable housing to meet the needs of an island community.

Where is it taking place?

Located on Colonsay, an island in the Inner Hebrides.

What has been achieved?

Affordable housing has been an overriding issue identified by the community. Colonsay Community Development Company (CCDC) has sought to provide more affordable accommodation for over 14 years but had been frustrated by the lack of available land at an affordable cost.

In 2018, a way forward was agreed with Colonsay Estate for the purchase of a site in the main settlement on Colonsay. The fish farm company, MOWI, spoke with CCDC about a need for workforce accommodation. MOWI supported CCDC in the acquisition and development of a community-led development for housing and business units, which will accommodate up to 24 housing units and two business units. This initial phase of the development contains two houses for low-cost home ownership, four houses for affordable rent and two business units, which have been built by CCDC. The site also includes three discounted serviced self-build plots and three houses for MOWI to provide worker accommodation.

The housing has been allocated through a policy designed by CCDC, which seeks to house the homeless and attract young people and families to the island. The ability to house a new member of staff has allowed the primary school to become fully staffed for the first time in nearly two years.

Upon completion of this, and other committed housing projects, there will be more occupied houses than second homes on Colonsay.

Who is running it?

Led by CCDC with support from Communities Housing Trust and Argyll and Bute Council.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The excitement around the delivery of affordable homes and modern purpose-built business units supporting much needed local employment demonstrated their importance to the judges. The housing was delivered to an excellent standard following a long, challenging, community driven process requiring dedication and stamina from a largely volunteer team with a can-do attitude. Housing demand was acute, addressing seasonal homelessness, precarious housing situations driven by predominance of 'second houses'.

It was clear the homes will positively impact people's lives, encourage people to live on the island, which is necessary to maintain the viability of year-round wider island life.



Water Row Phase 1

What is the aim of the project?

To transform a key area into a vibrant sustainable neighbourhood.

Where is it taking place?

Located in Govan in Glasgow.

What has been achieved?

Govan has long been recognised as an area requiring targeted regeneration due to its high levels of poverty, unemployment, and social deprivation. A primary need identified for the area is affordable, high-quality housing. The Water Row development has transformed the underutilised Water Row site into a vibrant, inclusive neighbourhood that serves both current and future generations.

The project has delivered 97 new energy-efficient, affordable homes that addresses local housing shortages, provides varied housing options, and caters to a range of residents. The inclusion of affordable homes is crucial to tackling housing inequalities and supporting social cohesion in an area with high levels of deprivation. Additionally, the development incorporates community-controlled commercial spaces, designed to support local businesses and social enterprises, which will stimulate economic activity, create jobs, and generate income for the community. The development emphasises a mixed-use approach, combining residential, commercial, leisure, and civic uses to create a lively hub that reflects Govan's unique historical and cultural character.

Key features include the revitalisation of the waterfront, enhanced public spaces, and improved connectivity through the newly developed Govan-Partick Bridge, which links Water Row to the broader city infrastructure. Water Row has been developed through a collaborative, design-led approach involving extensive local stakeholder and community engagement to ensure the project meets local needs and aspirations.

Who is running it?

Led by Govan Housing Association in partnership with Glasgow City Council and Central Govan Action Plan.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges enjoyed the palatable sense of optimism in Govan on completion of the Water Row development, delivering new homes for mid-market rent with ground floor commercial units. The project makes admirable contributions to placemaking, defining a new square and river relationship with the new bridge. The team's passion for the project was evident, while the impact of the partnership approach taken by the professional delivery team, and detailed community engagement strategy were clear. The commitment to regenerating this strategically important site and reinvestment of surplus from the social enterprise development management company were highly commended.



Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://colonsay.org.uk/projects/affordable-homes/>

Contact: William Young, Director, CCDC: 07443 951097, william.t.young@outlook.com

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://getintogovan.com/opportunities/water-row-masterplan/>

Contact: Jamie Mallan, Director of Community Enterprises, Water Row Company Ltd: 0141 6483465, jamie.mallan@govanhousinggroup.org

Community Led Regeneration

Winner

SURF AWARDS 2024

Bute Community Forest

What is the aim of the project?

To increase access to woodland assets, through recreation and environmental education activities.



BCLC have hosted 34 group meetings in the woodland

Where is it taking place?

Within 160 hectares of mixed woodland at the northern end of the Isle of Bute.

What has been achieved?

The Isle of Bute has a thriving local community, but suffers from deprivation with parts of the main town, Rothesay, amongst the most 20% deprived in Scotland.

Despite these challenges, Bute Community Land Company (BCLC) has created greater opportunities for the local economy, recreation



Bute Forest's eco lettings business The Charcoal Huts

and tourism, the environment, and education by delivering numerous improvements, including offering local employment, and volunteering and training opportunities, where people can spend time in the forest and learn new skills.

Bute Community Forest was initially created in 2009 when over

92% of the eligible local population voted for its purchase, and created the largest community buy-out of a woodland asset of its time. BCLC has worked hard over the last 2-3 years to re-engage with the local community and, this year, have delivered 25+ community events attracting 520 island residents and visitors. The aim is to enable every island child aged 3-11 to access the forest for

nature and outdoor learning, and this year alone, BCLC have delivered 50 nursery forest school sessions, for 350+ pre-5 child visits.

In addition, BCLC have hosted 34 group meetings in the woodland, supporting specific demographics from within the community and beyond, including facilitating formal Branching Out sessions and informal 'blether & brew' sessions; these groups enable people with mental health difficulties to access the woodland and receive the many benefits. The team have also supported refugee communities by hosting 'get together' events, with the most recent barbecue attracting 30 people.

Since opening in 2023, Bute Forest's eco lettings business The Charcoal Huts, an innovative offering to the island, has proved popular, with 60% of weekends booked in the first year, and many people booking in for short stays throughout the week.

Who is running it?

Led by BCLC, the Bute Forest community consists of 300+ existing members, plus the wider local population of the Isle of Bute.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judging panel were particularly impressed by the engagement of the nursery and primary school children with the community forest and nature. The panel also applauded the drive, enthusiasm and sheer pleasure shown by staff and volunteers when interacting with the groups and visitors through utilising the island's heritage, history and folklore.

They were also impressed by the group's ability to generate commercial income through the Charcoal Huts initiative and the very positive response to the crowd funding appeal in raising over £9k locally, as well as having this total matched by other supportive sources.



The team have also supported refugee communities

Overall, the project is clearly demonstrating regeneration by giving new purpose to an otherwise forgotten area of the island, whilst creating new effective partnerships and finding creative ways to interact with their natural environment and manage the community woodland sustainably.

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.buteforest.org.uk/>

Contact: Richard Whitcomb, Chair, BCLC: 07826 068450, richard.whitcomb@buteforest.org

Shortlisted



Cranhill Development Trust

What is the aim of the project?

To promote resilience, tackle poverty, and address social exclusion.

Where is it taking place?

Situated in the Cranhill area of Glasgow.

What has been achieved?

Cranhill Development Trust (CDT) is an integral part of its community, responding successfully to the complex needs of Cranhill since 2002. The Trust started with one member of staff and has grown to be a vibrant hub supporting around 2,000 people annually.



The Trust have introduced local services that would not otherwise be accessible to Cranhill residents due to poor transport links, digital exclusion, and lack of knowledge of where to access support. This includes: employability and welfare support; health and wellbeing activities, including a popular holiday programme and community gardening sessions; and learning and development, certificated courses, and volunteer opportunities. Through these activities the Trust are helping to create an inclusive, healthier, and happier community, and has resulted in social and economic benefits for families, and a reduction in generational poverty and trauma.

CDT are safeguarding local services by providing a community shop and post office. The Trust's net-zero workshops support community based solutions to move towards net-zero. ESOL support provides an opportunity for New Scots to improve their English skills, allowing them to participate fully in their community, gain employment, understand their rights, and make meaningful connections.

In November 2023, CDT purchased their building from the Church of Scotland, bringing the building into community ownership.

Who is running it?

CDT are a registered charity governed by a Board of 10 Directors, the majority of whom are local residents.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The panel were impressed with the dedication and longevity of the Trust, creating community cohesion in an area bereft of alternative services and support. The judges commended the level of community consultation on all developmental issues and the willingness of the Trust to consider any opportunity that would benefit their community.

The team also liked the unique and valued features of the community shop/post office, and the attraction of the community and market gardens both in purpose and visual appeal. Overall, it was apparent to the panel that providing services, courses and addressing essential needs in Cranhill is the overarching ethos of the Trust.

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.cranhilldt.org.uk>

Contact: Marie Ward, CEO, Cranhill Development Trust: 0141 774 3344, marie@cranhilldt.org.uk

Conversion of Sanday Kirk

What is the aim of the project?

To preserve Sanday Kirk as a vital community asset.

Where is it taking place?

Located on Sanday, one of the Orkney islands.

What has been achieved?

The need to preserve the Sanday Kirk was paramount for the community. The building not only holds historical and cultural significance, but it also serves as a key venue for essential life events. Without intervention, the Kirk would have likely become another derelict structure, contributing to the decline of the community's infrastructure and spirit.



Instead, through the efforts of Friends of Sanday Kirk (FOSK), who took ownership of the building in 2023, they have been able to transform the building into a thriving community hub that continues to serve as a cornerstone of island life.

In addition to traditional uses, such as weddings, christenings and funerals, the Kirk has expanded its role as a community hub by introducing a variety of activities that are non-religious and open to all, such as drop spinning, board games, and storytelling sessions.

The Kirk hosts a regular Gathering Ha', where people who might otherwise be isolated can come together to socialise. This intergenerational gathering is free of charge and provides a welcoming space for all members of the community to mingle and enjoy each other's company. The Kirk offers a reason to get out of the house, interact with others, and feel part of the wider community.

Who is running it?

The Sanday Kirk is now managed by FOSK.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed with the speed at which the group had organised themselves to purchase the church and the wide range of people involved in the campaign, the vast majority not being original Orcadians. The judges also liked the range of ideas for events to be delivered from this new community hub, including a proposed visitor reading room. The team were also impressed with the wealth of local groups that were supportive to developing an additional community facility.

It was clear to the judges that the friendly and welcoming environment offered by the Kirk is helping to overcome challenges around loneliness and isolation in a rural environment. There is also a close connection with, and coordinated approach towards, the community council agenda.

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://m.facebook.com/p/Friends-of-Sanday-Kirk-Ltd-100092438743021/>

Contact: Friends of Sanday Kirk: friendsofsandaykirk@hotmail.com

Improving Scotland's Places

Winner

SURF AWARDS 2024

Molendinar's Flourishing

Sandwiched between motorways, Blackhill and Provanmill sit three miles north-east of Glasgow City Centre, and are in the bottom 2% of the SIMD. Flourishing Molendinar is a grassroots programme that looks to redesign the infrastructure in the community to most benefit those who live there, rather than those passing through.



St Paul's Youth Forum (SPYF) is a crucial community anchor organisation. Since 1997, SPYF have been transforming the area, reducing youth crime by 97%, based on 2006 levels. The last few years have seen further significant change, from the reopening of Molendinar Community Centre, to the creation of a community farm, and the opening of a world-class community golf facility. The community also designed the first grassroots travel infrastructure project in Scotland.

The Community Centre creates spaces and activities for all. From advice surgeries with partner agencies, a Recovery Cafe, a programme of daily after-school activities for primary school children, to a weekly veg barra, there is something for everyone. The Community Café, situated within the centre, is the only public indoor

gathering space within the community. Over the past year it has served more than 4000 customers. Blackhill's Farm provides training opportunities for local people and an outdoor gathering space. Over 350 people came to the summer fun day.

On Bikes, a social enterprise bike shop, enables profits to



be put back into the community. SPYF are currently working with Barlinnie Prison to upskill inmates as bike mechanics, with the bikes then being donated for free to people in the community. 2,000 bikes have given out over the last year to local school children living in the 20% most deprived SIMD areas. By training people to cycle safely, SPYF are enabling people to move around the local communities and beyond. The team have recently begun offering adapted cycles to ensure everyone can ride a bike.

Golf IT, a local world-class golf facility, is not only making the sport accessible, affordable, and inclusive but it is also developing a series of learning and volunteering programmes. Along with key community partners, St Paul's bike programme has contributed to the success of Golf IT's Fairways to Learning Programme. Targeting young people aged 16 plus, the programme is a blend of personal development, experiential learning, and accredited awards.

The judges were really inspired and impressed by the collective impact of the projects being delivered supporting a 'Flourishing Molendinar' with a clear plan to alleviate the worst impacts of social, economic and environmental challenges – through focus on 'eating, education, empowerment and exercise'. Their youth work programmes have massively reduced youth crime. Their community growing, gardening and community larder have helped reduce isolation and support healthy eating. The re-opened community centre provides services and activities the community need and is home to the new gym business operated by one of their former young people.



SPYF have led the development of a transport project, using innovative approaches to engage young people, which will make cycling, walking and wheeling safer. SPYF's partnership with Golf It is bringing new opportunities with apprenticeship and work programmes.

Where can I find out more?

Website: <http://www.spyf.org.uk/>

Contact: Neil Young, Team Leader, SPYF: 07748 808488, neil@spyf.org.uk



Shortlisted

Kenmore District Revitalisation

Historic Kenmore, in Perthshire, is largely a holiday destination, with the old village of Kenmore being the hub and main attraction for visitors. However, the area had fallen into steep decline. The fabric of the area had no investment for many years, infrastructure had no improvements or maintenance, and public services had reduced.



Working collaboratively with all sections of the local community over the past two years, Kenmore and District Community Council (KDCC) are improving the area, its amenities, and attractiveness for residents and visitors.

The local Taymouth Castle was bought and restored by private developers, saving it and its grounds from ruin. The development is already bringing hundreds of permanent, quality jobs to the area. The Taymouth Castle Estate (TCE) also bought up many of the holiday homes nearby, returning these to permanent residences for families.

Community events were very few and there was little opportunity for people to mix, or for new residents to meet other villagers. Quiz nights and Winter Warmer events, are now organised by KDCC and have proved to be very popular, whilst also helping to tackle isolation within the elderly community.

The beach and village square have been cleaned, renovated and made safe. Street lighting in the village square has been repaired and improved and new fences, picnic benches and street furniture have been installed. The village toilets had been closed for 20 years, at the request of KDCC, TCE refurbished the toilets and surrounds, created new sewage works, and fully maintain them. In response to community requests, the village shop, which had closed, has been bought by TCE and re-opened under new management.

The judges were really impressed with the positive partnerships the community have worked hard to establish between the new private developer, Perth and Kinross Council, community organisations, and businesses. This has helped to deliver some excellent examples of real change for the community which are creating a sense of hope, increased community participation and renewed prosperity for this small rural community. The changes made in a short space of time will have long lasting impact and the community are now invigorated to develop a community plan and take forward new projects, including ownership of a key community space – the Reading Rooms.

Kilmarnock Place-Based Projects

The Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) is a five year Scottish Government investment programme covering 2021-2026. Applicants from across East Ayrshire can apply to East Ayrshire Council for funding, with the majority of applications coming from Kilmarnock, the largest town in East Ayrshire. Half of the funded projects are in Kilmarnock's most deprived areas.



A significant part of the PBIP is the Shop Front Improvement Scheme. Many local and national businesses have taken advantage of the scheme to improve the physical appearance of their units, including AJ Cosmetics who received funding to invest in interior enhancements and quality equipment. This led to increased footfall and the employment of two new staff members.

The funding provided to community groups has a profound impact, ensuring these organisations remain vital to their communities. Bonnyton Community Centre utilised funding to renovate an unusable kitchen. The new facility enables the centre to support families in need by providing food outwith school terms and offering cooking and budgeting classes, directly addressing food poverty. Centrestage Flicks used funding to install advanced cinema equipment and secured a partnership with Screen Scotland, allowing them to create a skills incubator, bridging the gap between formal education and careers in the screen industries.

The PBIP has made significant strides in transforming up to 10 hectares of vacant and derelict land across East Ayrshire. In response to the growing demand for tennis in Kilmarnock, the Kilmarnock Tennis Club successfully completed a Community Asset Transfer of a disused bowling club, at risk of becoming an eyesore, and transformed it into a new tennis, padle, and pickleball court.

The judges felt the strong sense of passion, pride and commitment of the Council and the community organisations delivering regeneration in Kilmarnock, seeing and hearing about some of the many projects supported through the Place Based Investment Programme. It was great to see the level and depth of community engagement, which was described to the panel as 'insightful' for involving communities in the decision-making process. The 'Sharing the Love' events are connecting community groups to share, learn and prioritise.

The judges were impressed by East Ayrshire Council's use of a Place and Wellbeing Outcomes framework to help inform investment priorities and assess positive impacts, and by the implementation of Community Wealth Building principles to maximise the level of investment retained in the local economy.

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.kenmore-and-district-cc.org.uk/>

Contact: Colin Morton, Communications Officer, KDCC: 07561 105250, colinmcmorton@gmail.com

Where can I find out more?

Website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvnlfvScFg>

Contact: Sharron Kilday, Community Led Regeneration Officer, East Ayrshire Council: 07784 886734, sharron.kilday@east-ayrshire.gov.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 2023 category winners for an update. Here are their stories.

Creative Regeneration Wild Skies Shetland

Winning the award has been a real boost for us. We loved the beautiful things said about us in the awards publication so much that we have quoted them in many a funding application! We continue to combine all sorts of creative activities with our focus on the skies. We formally launched our Sky Trail, accompanied by traditional and contemporary music. Shetland's famous Wool Week held a lace-knitting class inspired by Wild Skies. Professional contemporary dancers came to learn more about us and potential venues for atmospheric outdoor dancing. We showed our film *An Asteroid Called Unst* in a Viking Longhouse.



The photo reflects our focus on combining arts with the skies and regeneration. The most visited site on our Sky Trail is at the Viking boat *Skidbladner*, where this beautiful photo was taken. Visitors are an important part of the economy of our island of Unst.

(Photo: Robbie Brookes)

Removing Barriers to Employability ABZWorks Employability Support

Winning the award in the Removing Barriers to Employability category at the 2023 SURF Awards was an incredible moment for everyone involved in developing and delivering employability support for care experienced young people in Aberdeen. It served as an opportunity to reflect and celebrate all that had been achieved by the young people, professionals and partners and inspired us to continue to improve and create more success stories together.

The successes from the original project have been embedded into usual practise and in 23/24 we saw a further increase in the number of care experienced young people engaging with our service. We continue to commission WorkingRite to deliver a bespoke programme, to offer paid work experience and maintain strong links and dialogue with young people and the professionals supporting them, to ensure we can deliver the best person-centred holistic support for each and every individual.



Housing and Regeneration Goathill Housing and Care Home Project

The last 12 months has enabled residents and staff to settle into the new development with very positive feedback on the quality of accommodation and facilities being provided. While recruitment to enable the campus to operate at full capacity progresses, the existing residents are enjoying the new opportunities of the enhanced personal living space and the support of the dedicated staff team.



What happened next...

Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Social Care, and Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, then Minister for Local Government officially opened the Development on Monday 25 March 2024.

Ms Todd, who herself has island connections, said: "It is wonderful that this development enables people with care support needs to live and thrive within their community. This development is a great example of what joint working can achieve and I commend Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, the IJB and Hebridean Housing Partnership for the delivery of a project that will provide support for many years to come."

Community Led Regeneration Govan HELP – The Govan Pantry

Govan HELP was delighted to win the SURF Award for Community Led Regeneration in December 2023. Winning the award meant so much to the team of volunteers and staff who work tirelessly to deliver the service each week for the Govan community. There was an increased sense of pride and achievement across the whole team, and the award was confirmation of the amazing work they all do each week.



The Govan Pantry has continued to be a vital resource to the local community in Govan, now in its fourth year of operating and with over 3,300 people registered to use the service from the Govan area, we are still supporting between 250 and 300 people each week to

have affordable access to basic food and essential items, helping often limited budgets to go further. In the last year we have been supported by 28 wonderful volunteers who have given us 3855 hours of their time, an average of 75 volunteer hours per week.

Improving Scotland's Places Vibrant Gala Project

Shortly after winning the award, we were invited to speak with the regional MSP Craig Hoy, who was keen to understand what aspects of our work might apply elsewhere across the South of Scotland. We were also invited to share our experiences of placemaking at the Heads of Planning Conference, held in Galashiels.

Day-to-day focus has been on the following projects:

1. We have provided financial and volunteer support to development of the BID Steering Group in preparation for a ballot in November.
2. We have continued to develop proposals, in partnership with Scottish Borders Housing Association, to re-purpose one of the empty town centre retail units as a mixed residential, community and commercial space.
3. We have driven the formation of a town team and, with consultancy support, are in the process of drafting our local place plan.

And we managed to get our sheep seats installed – Daisy, Dolly, Shaun & Jock!



“The SURF Awards highlight that regeneration projects make a real difference to Scottish communities, and the people who live there. This is demonstrated by the committed work of this year’s 15 shortlisted initiatives who, despite increased pressure on demand for services and in the face of unprecedented challenges, showcase what can be achieved when people come together, working in partnership, to make a lasting change within their communities.”



Emma Scott,
Events, Information and
Communications Manager,
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 9 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



“The SURF Awards has gone from strength to strength in showcasing what can truly be achieved by communities leading on making positive change to social, economic and physical regeneration of their local places. Regeneration plays a crucial role in supporting the delivery of our national ambition for all of Scotland’s communities to thrive and flourish.

As we continue to navigate an extremely challenging financial position, we must take the opportunity to celebrate and learn from this year’s shortlisted projects as they can provide inspiration to others, demonstrating the art of the possible. I am delighted to return back to the SURF Awards ceremony again, and I look forward to meeting those involved in driving these inspiring projects forward.”



Tom Arthur,
Scottish Government
Minister for Employment
and Investment

Place-Based Regeneration

Place-based regeneration continues to be a priority for Scottish Government as we work towards the delivery of the four missions set out by the First Minister in his Programme for Government (2024/25) - eradicating child poverty; growing our economy; tackling the climate emergency and improving public services. The cross cutting nature of regeneration, and the many positive outcomes it can deliver, means that it has a key role in addressing these priority issues.

The aspiration to enable people and communities to have a stronger voice in the decisions that impact their places remains at the heart of our approach to place-based regeneration. We continue to support the development of community organisations that are key to delivering successful and sustainable change. There is clear evidence that our approach is delivering a wide range of positive impacts - regeneration projects we have supported have created jobs; refurbished historic buildings and landmarks; and supporting community facilities and services. Additionally, our funding programmes have been shown to act as a catalyst to attract additional funding, and to enhance already funded projects.

However, we recognise the current financial situation is one of the most significant challenges we face, and has led to a number of difficult decisions being taken which have impacted our regeneration programmes.

In order to overcome these challenges and realise our shared ambitions, it is important that we take advantage of new and arising opportunities. Five years on, the Place Principle has become more important now than ever - to work together, to overcome organisational and sectoral boundaries, identify opportunities for effective collaboration, and combine knowledge and resources to maximise impact of our investment.

Sharing of best practice and learning of the impact of our regeneration policy and programmes is a key focus for the Scottish Government, and events such as the SURF Awards are crucial in enabling others to adopt or adapt what has already worked. For Scottish Government, there is also the opportunity to reset our relationship with UK Government, and consider how we align our respective regeneration ambitions and better target resources to ultimately deliver the best impact for Scotland’s local people and places.

Against this challenging backdrop, we welcome the ongoing work and dedication of SURF and communities across Scotland in supporting community led regeneration.





SURF Awards Learning Workshops

With support from SURF Awards partners, SURF will be arranging workshop events in 2025 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 to our mailing list via the SURF website at the following link or contact emma@surf.scot

www.surf.scot

Members and Sponsors

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

